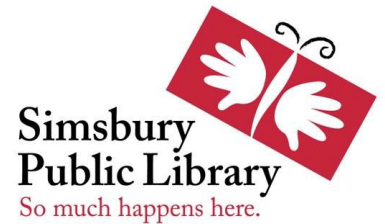


Library Material Display Policy



Purpose

The Simsbury Public Library's Material Display Policy provides a basis for the display of library material by Library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the Library's mission which is:

To educate and enrich the community, allowing them the opportunity to be inspired, discover and connect with new ideas and information by providing free and equal access to information, resources and experiences.

Guidelines

The Simsbury Public Library recognizes the significance of displays in enhancing the library experience for our community. With a strong focus on encouraging the love of reading, lifelong learning, and creativity, we establish responsive connections between the diverse needs of our community, our vast collections, our digital services, and an array of engaging programming. A key aspect of our approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds. These displays serve as a tangible expression of our dedication to the community and exemplify our belief that a vibrant library contributes to a strong community.

Principles & Criteria

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director. However, displays are approved by department supervisors, and the day-to-day responsibility is shared by professional and paraprofessional staff throughout the Library. Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, material and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Availability of display space
- Historical, cultural, informational, or educational significance or value
- Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits and programs
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions or events
- Library displays may be co-sponsored with other community departments, agencies, non-profits, businesses, educational institutions or individuals

The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Simsbury Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the material on display.

Intellectual Freedom & Censorship

The choice of Library material by patrons is an individual matter. The Library recognizes that some material may be controversial or offensive to an individual, but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of Library material is predicated on the patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself.

Selection of material will not be inhibited by the possibility that material may inadvertently come into the possession or be seen by minors. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to Library material by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which material is appropriate for their children.

The Simsbury Public Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, and the Library Bill of Rights.

Procedures for Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

In the event a patron has questions or concerns regarding a Library display, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The patron is referred to the Supervisor, or staff member in charge.
 - The Supervisor or staff member in charge makes every attempt to satisfy the patron's concern by clarifying the established display policies on an informal, positive, one-on-one basis.
 - After the conversation, the Supervisor or staff member in charge notifies the Library Director, and their Supervisor if applicable, in a brief written statement of the date, circumstances, the patron's concern, and the outcome of the conversation.

2. A patron who wishes to pursue their question further is referred to the Library Director or their designee as soon as possible. A concern taken to this level constitutes a formal complaint.
 - The patron will be sent the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Policy and Form to complete and return
 - The display and material will be reviewed by the Library Director in addition to a member of the Library staff with expertise in the relevant subject area to ensure the content aligns with the Library's guidelines and Collection Development & Management Policy. Upon completion, a written recommendation will be prepared by the reviewing staff member.
 - The Director notifies the patron in writing of their decision on the complaint regarding the display of the material. The patron may follow the appeal procedure as outlined by the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Policy.

~ Approved by the Library Board of Trustees May 20, 2024