

# Selection, Anti-Censorship, and Reconsideration Policy

11/20/2023 | Revision 02

## A. Selection/Anti-Censorship Policy

The Board of Maroa Public Library, recognizing the pluralistic nature of this community and the varied backgrounds and needs of all citizens, regardless of race, creed, or political persuasion, declares as a matter of materials selection policy that:

1. Materials selection shall be vested in the Library Director, and, under the director's direction, such members of the staff who are qualified by reason of education or training. Any book or library materials so selected shall be held to be selected by the board.
2. The roles of the Maroa Public Library include Community Information Center, Popular Materials Library, Children's Library and Programming, and Reference Library. These roles shall be realized through providing free and open access to the ideas and information available on all subjects and in all media. Maroa Public Library shall select and make available material for the enlightenment, cultural development, and the enjoyment of its public of all ages and levels of ability and interest. All materials shall be available to all.
3. Recognizing that budgetary and space constraints limit the library's ability to purchase material, librarians shall evaluate material on the basis of their value of interest, information and enlightenment for all people of the community.
4. Qualitative standards shall be used, including recommendations from acceptable professional and commercial reviews. Popularity and community demand shall be among the major criteria for selecting material. Consideration shall be given to material which may be of interest to a few patrons as well as that of interest to many patrons.
5. No book or library materials shall be excluded because of the race, nationality, religion, political, or social views of the author.
6. The Maroa Public Library Board adopts and declares that it will adhere to and support the ALA Freedom to Read Statement, the ALA Library Bill of Rights, and the "Freedom to View" statement of the American Film & Video Association.
7. The Maroa Public Library believes that censorship is an individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject for oneself materials, which do not meet with the individual's approval, one cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others.
  - a) The Maroa Public Library defends the principles of the freedom to read and declares that whenever censorship is involved no book or library material shall be removed from the library save based on personal, political, or religious beliefs, or on the grounds that the content is controversial or offensive to some.
  - b) The library does not endorse or promote the ideas, opinions, or viewpoints expressed in any materials in our collection. Rather, we believe that our patrons have the right to access a diversity of perspectives and to form their own opinions based on their own critical analysis.
  - c) The library will resist any attempt to censor or restrict access to our collection, whether it comes from individuals or organizations within or outside of the library.

## Maroa Public Library District

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- d) We uphold the American Library Association's Bill of Rights, which states that "Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment."
- e) The library board and staff reserve the right to place materials in the age section we deem appropriate based on the content of the materials. This decision will be made based on publisher recommendations, professional judgment, and consideration of age appropriateness of the content, as well as the potential interest and needs of our patrons.

9. Materials which are no longer useful will be weeded from the collection according to accepted professional practice. Such materials shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Library Director.

10. The Board encourages gifts of money, real property, and/or stock to be used to improve library services. Items donated for the library's collection will be added or discarded at the discretion of the Library Director.

11. Complaints regarding any item in the collection will be handled according to the library's Reconsideration Policy.

## **B. Reconsideration Policy**

If patrons object to specific materials in our collection, we encourage them to express their concerns and engage in respectful dialogue with library staff. We will provide access to alternative materials that may address similar topics or themes.

If a patron remains dissatisfied, formal complaints only by registered card holders may be made and will be handled as follows:

1. The concerned patron will be offered the opportunity to discuss her/his concern with the Library Director and/or staff person responsible for selection. If the patron is dissatisfied with this discussion and wishes to pursue the issue, she/he will be required to complete and submit a Reconsideration Form.
2. The Director will review the complaint and Reconsideration Form and will respond in writing.
3. If the issue is still not resolved to the patron's satisfaction, the complaint will be taken to the Library Board, along with any supporting documentation from the patron and/or the Library Director.
4. The Board will prepare a written response to the patron.

## Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Your name:

Home address:

Title of Challenged Resource:

Author:

Call Number:

Date of Publication:

Type of media: (circle one)

book video audio online resource other (please specify):

Please describe why the above material is being challenged:

Why does this resource not fall within the collection development policy of the Library?

Did you read, view or listen to the entire resource?

Would you like this item to be removed, or balanced with another title?

In place of this item, would you care to recommend other materials that you consider to be of equal or superior quality to this work? Please specify.