

Selection Policy

It is the purpose of the Portville Free Library to provide informative and entertaining materials to all residents of the Portville community. The library will try to provide materials on a wide variety of subjects while keeping an appropriate focus on the interests and informational needs of the people in the area.

Within the limits of the fiscal realities, the library will attempt to provide materials representing all sides of controversial issues so that freedom of expression of ideas and the individual's search for the truth will be honored.

Selection procedures for all forms of library materials at all levels from adult to pre-school will aim to find the best resources available, relying on professionally published reviews and highly considered judgement of the staff and patrons. Selection will be guided by the value of the work as a whole, transcending the specific words, phrases, or incidents of which it is made. Many works important in our culture contain specific elements that some individuals may find objectionable, however, the whole work may be a valuable contribution.

The selection and availability of library materials at the Portville Free Library assumes that the responsibility for children's use of the library materials rests with the parent or guardian. The library will select materials for children and young adults, which are suitable for these age groups, through use of appropriate selection tools and reviews. Whenever possible, these materials will be clearly labeled and shelved in areas specifically designated for the various age groups. Personnel trained to work with these age groups will be on duty to aid when needed.

Materials offered to the library as gifts will be accepted with the understanding that the library is free to keep or reject them for the collection. Any items not added to the collection may be given to another institution, discarded, or sold at the library's book sale.

Honorary and Memorial gifts are encouraged. The library staff will assist the donor in selecting suitable material.

In summation, it should be clearly understood that the library believes that the freedom to read and reach decisions independent of coercion or censorship is a basic right of the library's patrons. This policy is supported by the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.

Questions raised concerning this policy will be directed to the Library Director/Manager and ultimately to the Library Board of Trustees.

Revised 1/2022