Policy Statement
The Library Board recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library collection. The Board further recognizes that democracy functions only if the full range of human ideas is accessible to the people and if proponents of various points of view are able to fully and openly make their cases, however popular or unpopular they may be. The principle is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which protects the free expression of ideas. It is exemplified by public libraries which provide access to those ideas in accordance with the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights. Thus, the library collection, protected by the First Amendment, is a diverse and inclusive marketplace of ideas which are contained in varied and divergent materials.

Regulations

1. The customer’s choice of library materials for personal use is an individual matter. While a person may reject materials for oneself or one’s children, they cannot exercise censorship to restrict materials access to any others. Responsibility for the use of materials by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians.

2. A resident of the library’s legal service area who objects to an item already in the collection or made electronically accessible by the library should discuss the reason(s) with a librarian for an explanation of the library’s criteria for selection, acquisition or access.

3. If a resident’s concern remains unresolved, after reading, viewing or listening to the entire item, the resident may submit a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form to the Library Director.

4. A resident may have no more than three active requests at a time.

5. If the resident is not a library cardholder the Library Director may require proof of residency.

6. The item in question will remain in circulation during the reconsideration process.

7. Items previously reviewed and retained by the library within the past 365 days shall not be reconsidered for re-cataloging or removal.

8. The Library Director shall assign two or more librarians who are familiar with the age group, genre, and format of the item in question to review the form, the item, the context of the portions of concern to the work as a whole, any critical reviews of the work and item statistics. Within 30 days of receipt of the form and a copy of the item, the librarians shall submit independent reports on their findings to the appropriate Department Head with a recommendation on the disposition of the item.
The Department Head shall review the committee’s recommendation to reach a decision to retain, re-catalog, or remove the item and notify the Library Director within 30 days of the receipt of the reports. The Library Director shall notify the resident of the decision.

9. A written appeal of the decision may be made to the Library Director within 30 days. The Library Director will review the documentation and render a decision within 30 days of receipt of the appeal and notify the resident. The decision of the Library Director is final.

10. The Library Director will report all requests and decisions to the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, the Michigan Library Association, and PEN America.

11. The library collection will be organized and maintained to facilitate access. Materials shall not be specially labeled, sequestered or altered because of controversy surrounding the materials.

Approved: October 25, 2023
Clinton-Macomb Public Library Board of Trustees