

Material Selection Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Hampton Bays Library, recognizing the diverse nature of the community and the varied backgrounds and needs of all citizens, affirms as a matter of material selection policy that:

1. Library materials should be selected for values of interest, information, recreation and enlightenment of all the people of the community.
2. In no instance should any material be excluded because of the race, nationality, or religious views of the creator. It is the obligation of the Library to provide material representing all points of views concerning the problems and issues of our time – international, national and local.
3. Material of sound factual authority shall not be removed from the Library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
4. All material shall be judged as a whole. No work shall be judged for exclusion by taking single passages out of context and basing condemnation of that material on such lifted passages.
5. The Board of Trustees believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject materials of which one does not approve; one cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others to read, listen, or view materials.
6. The Board of Trustees supports the principles of the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements, adopted by the American Library Association (attached).

Responsibility for Selection

Ultimate responsibility for material selection rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Library Board. Under his/her direction, the professional staff who are qualified for this activity due to education, training, and experience will make informed decisions in order to build and maintain broad and well-rounded collections. Materials are selected with the aid of standard reviewing periodicals, as well as various best-seller lists. Staff members and library users are encouraged to participate by suggesting titles for possible purchase. Gifts of books and other materials will be subject to the same criteria described above. Staff will decide on a case-by-case basis regarding the replacement of lost or damaged materials.

Reconsideration

Anyone wishing to make a formal complaint may do so by filling out the form “Request for Reconsideration of a Library Material” (available at the Circulation and Reference desks). The Library Director and Professional Staff will consider the request and a response will be made to the complainant. If the complainant wishes to appeal the staff decision, an appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees.

Adopted July 10, 2018