

Rochelle Park Free Public Library Material Selection Policy

A. PURPOSE

The Rochelle Park Free Public Library serves as a major resource for providing information, education, guidance, enjoyment and cultural interests of the citizens of the community. The Library acquires, makes available, and encourages the use of materials in all media which:

- Help people know more about themselves, their community, their country and their world
- Supplement formal study and encourage informal self-education
- Stimulate thoughtful participation in the affairs of the community, the country, and world
- Give access to a variety of opinions on matters of current interest and encourage freedom of expression
- Assist the individual to grow intellectually and spiritually and to enjoy life more fully

B. RESPONSIBILITY AND CRITERIA

All responsibility for a well-rounded collection rests with the Library Director who operates within the framework of policies as established by the Board of Trustees. Materials chosen shall meet principles set by the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution; the Library Bill of Rights, adopted by the American Library Association; the Freedom to Read Statement, adopted by the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council; and the People's Right to Libraries Statement, adopted by the New Jersey Library Association.

Professional staff will use recognized collection tools such as Library Journal, Booklist, New York Times Book Review, and School Library Journal for purchasing new materials. Good judgment is the keystone for the ultimate addition of any new purchase.

Textbooks are not and will not be a part of usual purchases.

Requests for purchases of current materials may be made at the Library or online. Requests will be considered using professional selection standards.

Censorship is a matter of individual decisions. Every patron has the right to accept or reject material for personal use and does not have the right to restrict it for others. In the case of children, appropriate choices are solely the responsibility of the parents. Librarians cannot assume the private relationship role between parent and child.

C. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Outdated, worn, damaged or lost materials will be assessed by appropriate staff members. Replacement will be determined by availability of current or updated content.

D. POLICIES OF SELECTION

General Criteria:

1. Suitability of physical form for library use
2. Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
3. Present and potential relevance to community needs
4. Appropriateness and effectiveness of medium to content
5. Insight into human and social condition
6. Importance as a document of the times
7. Relation to existing collection and other materials on subject
8. Reputation and/or significance of author
9. Skill, competence, and purpose of author
10. Attention of critics, reviewers, and public

Specific Criteria for the Evaluation of Works of Information and Opinion

1. Authority
2. Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
3. Objectivity
4. Clarity, accuracy and logic of presentation
5. Representation of challenging, though extreme or minority point of view

Specific Criteria for the Evaluation of Works of Imagination

1. Representation of important movement, genre, trend, or national culture
2. Vitality and originality
3. Artistic presentation and experimentation
4. Sustained interest
5. Effective characterization
6. Authenticity of historical or social setting