

BOOK SELECTION POLICY

Choteau/Teton Public Library

1. Objectives of the library

The Choteau/Teton Public Library provides free service to all individuals in Teton County and the surrounding area. The objective of the library is to select, organize, preserve and to make freely and easily available to the people of the area, within the limitations of space and budget, materials to aid them in the pursuit of education, information, research, recreation and creative use of literature.

The library seeks to promote endeavors which will stimulate and expand the reading interests of both children and adults and to coordinate this work with that of other educational, social and cultural groups in the community in cooperative effort.

In selection of books and other materials, the Choteau/Teton Public Library subscribes fully to the principles adopted by the American Library Association in its Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement and endorses its stand that the freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The library does not promulgate particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given book equivalent to endorsement of the viewpoint of the author expressed therein. One of the essential purposes of the library is to provide a resource to the individual to examine many points of view and make his own decision. The library does not attempt to please all patrons by elimination of items selected after due deliberation under the guidelines expressed herein, but welcomes any expression of opinion by patrons.

II. Responsibility of Selection

The Choteau Library Advisory Board of Trustees delegates the selection of library materials and development of the collection to the Library Director and the staff. Ultimate responsibility for materials selection policy lies with the Board of Trustees.

III. Use of the Library

Responsibility for the reading materials of children rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection of material for the adult collection is not restricted by the possibility that children may obtain material their parents consider inappropriate.

IV. General Guidelines for Selection

The objective of selection is to collect those books that will inform, entertain and contribute to the enrichment of mind and spirit. Selection is to be based upon principle rather than prejudice and judgment rather than censorship.

Every book (or other library material) must meet much of the following criteria as are applicable to its inclusion in the collection:

- a. Importance as a record of the times;
- b. Relation to existing collection and scarcity of information in that subject area;
- c. Relative importance in comparison with other works on the subject;
- d. Content that is timely, timeless, authoritative and significant in subject matter;
- e. Materials that meet high standards of quality in content, expression and format;
- f. Should be of immediate or anticipated interest to individuals or to the community;
- g. Should include the widest possible subject coverage consistent with the needs of the community;
- h. Price and ease of use.

V. Maintaining the Collection

The same criteria will be used in weeding materials from the collection as are used in their acquisition. The Library Director will use his or her own judgment in removing materials from the collection in order to maintain the collection in its most useful and attractive condition.

Books which are deteriorating will be repaired, rebound, or discarded, whichever is appropriate. Materials which are no longer useful to the library may be sold for the benefit of the library.