

Materials Selection and Deselection Policy

SELECTION/DESELECTION POLICY STATEMENT

The Fullerton Public Library selects and deselects materials based on the subject knowledge and expertise of professional librarians assigned to collection development, along with recommendations from the public and other library staff, professional and popular media reviews, and evaluation of review copies from publishers. Budget and space limitations require a focus on materials that appeal to a broad range of users, rather than the academic, highly technical or otherwise specialized collections which are the mission of the Fullerton's universities and research institutions. No materials are excluded or removed from the Library on the basis of the author's race or nationality, or their political, social, or religious beliefs. Materials dealing with controversial views are judged as entire works, not on isolated passages or sections.

SELECTION/DESELECTION POLICY OBJECTIVES

In support of the American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#) and [Freedom to Read Statement](#), the Library affirms the public's right of access to a broad spectrum of reading, listening and viewing materials, and upholds the right of any individual to secure information, even if the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others.

Selection (acquisition) and deselection (removal) of materials is carried out in conjunction with the following policy objectives:

- The Library's collections seek to meet the broad and diverse interests of the community and respect both the Library's autonomy and the specific needs of the community it serves.
- The Fullerton Public Library strives to serve as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas.
- Library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole.

- The Library acknowledges and affirms the right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences.

SELECTION/DESELECTION POLICY METHODOLOGY

The Board of Trustees of the Fullerton Public Library, appointed by the Fullerton City Council, is responsible for the resources in the library. Selection is delegated by the Board of Trustees to the library professional staff (librarians) and approved by the Library Director. Selection responsibilities are carried out by individual librarians assigned to various collections and subjects. Professional staff adhere to the following guidelines in making their selections:

Engaging in open, continuous two-way communication with library patrons and recognizing that individuals have different ways of expressing their needs based on age, language, economic status, culture, or other characteristics

- Interacting with patrons with understanding, respect, and responsiveness
- Handling all requests equitably
- Working in partnership with one another to understand and respond to community needs
- Understanding and responding to rapidly changing demographics, as well as societal and technological changes
- Recognizing that materials of varying complexities and formats are necessary to satisfy diverse needs of library users
- Balancing individual needs and broader community needs in determining the best allocation of collection and staffing budgets for acquiring or providing access to materials and information
- Seeking continuous improvement through ongoing measurement
- Reviewing the collection on a regular basis to identify areas of community interest that may need to be strengthened

Professional library staff use the following criteria to evaluate materials for selection or deselection. An item or resource need not meet all of these criteria in order to be acceptable.

- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Cost
- Importance as a document of the times
- Relation to the existing collection and to other materials on the subject
- Attention by critics and reviewers
- Potential user appeal
- Requests by library patrons
- Authority
- Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
- Skill, competence, and purpose of the author
- Reputation and significance of the author
- Objectivity
- Consideration of the work as a whole
- Clarity
- Currency
- Technical quality
- Representation of diverse points of view
- Representation of important movements, genres, or trends
- Vitality and originality
- Artistic presentation and/or experimentation
- Sustained interest

- Relevance and use of the information
- Effective characterization
- Authenticity of history or social setting

REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Community members have the right to voice concerns or submit formal complaints about library materials. Fullerton Public Library has established the following procedure to handle these objections.

A community member wishing to have the materials reconsidered must complete a Request for Reconsideration form, available inside the Library, and return the completed form to the Library Director. Only requests from Fullerton Public Library cardholders in good standing will be considered. Requests from outside parties or organizations, or from individuals other than Fullerton Public Library cardholders, or from individuals with temporary library cards, will not be considered.

The Library Director will make determination based on Fullerton Public Library's Materials Selection/Deselection Policy and inform the community member of the decision reached within two (2) weeks of receiving the request.

A community member may appeal the determination of the Library Director within 10 days of receiving the determination by submitting a written request to reconsider to: Fullerton Public Library, c/o Library Director, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 or by submitting an email to libraryreference@cityoffullerton.com. The written request shall set forth the grounds and reasons for the request. The Library Board of Trustees shall consider the request within 30 working days of the Library Director's receipt of the Request for Reconsideration. The Board's decision shall be issued in writing within five (5) working days after the hearing. The decision of the Library Board shall be final.

In considering formal Requests for Reconsideration, the Fullerton Public Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom that are inherent in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights, adopted by the Council of the American Library Association. When materials are questioned, the Fullerton Public Library seeks to defend the principles of intellectual freedom rather than the materials themselves.

Approved by the Library Board on March 27, 2025.