

Sully Community Library Materials Selection Policy

Introduction and Scope

The purpose of the Sully Community Library is to provide circulating and reference materials to meet the needs of the citizens of Sully, Jasper County, other registered borrowers in the surrounding area or any open-access Iowa resident regardless of age, sex, origin, background or views. It is the policy of the library to select materials that will fulfill informational, occupational, educational and recreational needs.

The “Library Bill of Rights” adopted in the Sully Community Library By-Laws is the basic set of principles upon which the library bases its selection policy.

1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other library materials should be chosen for value of the interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should library materials be excluded because of the race or nationality or the social, political, or religious views of the authors.
2. Libraries should provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times; no materials be proscribed or removed from the library because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Censorship should be challenged by libraries in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment. This Board believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject for himself library materials which he does not approve of, he cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others to use library materials.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. This library is not responsible for selections taken by minors.

Acquisition of Library Materials

Responsibility for material selection and all library activities rests with the Library Director who works under the authority of and the policies determined by the Library Board. The director attempts to identify community needs, to determine areas of the collection that are inadequate, as well as those areas that need to be updated.

Because it is difficult to determine all community interests and needs, the director welcomes recommendations from the public, Library Board and staff. Such requests are subject to the normal selection criteria.

Each item selected for the library is judged on its own merit. Materials purchased will not be marked to show approval or disapproval of their contents or any parts thereof. No book will be sequestered except to protect it from injury or theft. Patron concerns regarding the presence or absence of any library materials shall be presented to and reviewed according to the “Procedures for Reconsideration of Library Materials” outlined below.

Procedures for Reconsideration of Library Materials.

1. All complaints should be referred to the Library Director.
2. The complainant must file with the Director a completed "Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form.
3. The Director will present the form to the Library Board.
4. The Library Board will review the complaint at its next regularly scheduled board meeting.
5. The Library Board will arrive at a decision regarding the request and the complaining patron will be notified of the decision reached.

Accepted 8/15/94

Amended 6/5/00

Last Reviewed 2020

To Be Reviewed 2023