BRADFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

AUGUST 2014

The authority and responsibility for the selection of library materials are delegated to the Director and, under his or her direction, to other staff members as needed. No employee may be disciplined or dismissed for the selection of library materials when the selection is made in good faith and in accordance with the written policy required to be established pursuant to Illinois Library Law. Suggestions from patrons are welcome and will be considered using the same criteria as all other selections.

In accordance with the recommendations of Serving Our Public: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries, BPLD will allocate not less than 12% of its operating budget on materials for patrons every year. These materials will be selected in a variety of formats including, but not limited to, print, video, audio and electronic media. Each type of material must be considered in terms of its own excellence and the audience for whom it is intended. No single standard can be applied in all cases. Some materials may be judged primarily in terms of artistic merit, scholarship or value to humanity; others are selected to satisfy the information, recreational or educational interests of the community.

Reviews in professionally recognized periodicals are a primary source for materials selection. Standard bibliographies, book lists by recognized authorities, including best seller lists and the advice of competent people in specific subject areas may also be used.

The policy for selection of books for Young Adults and the Juvenile section of the library is to choose the best new books and replace older titles which have proven their worth.

The library will keep the collection vital and useful by retaining or replacing essential materials and by removing, on a continuous basis, those works that are worn, outdated, of little historical significance or no longer in demand. Materials which are removed from the library collection may or may not be made available for public purchase at book sales.

The library will collect any local history available if feasible. The library will also, to the best of its ability, continue to house the bound Bradford Republicans and even in their worn condition keep the integrity of these newspapers. As of August 2014 the Bradford Republicans are digitized and available online.

Textbooks as such will not be purchased. Legal and medical works will be purchased only if they are of a popular nature written for the layman.

The Bradford Public Library District endeavors to build a collection representing varying points of view. The choice of library materials by users is an individual matter. Responsibility for appropriateness of the reading materials of children and young adults rests with their parents or legal guardians. While a person may reject materials for himself or herself and for his or her children, he or she cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to the materials by others. The library supports intellectual freedom.

Reviewed and Approved July 15, 2019

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