



**TERRYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 238 MAIN STREET, TERRYVILLE, CT 06786 860-582-3121**

## **Resource Selection Policy**

The resource selection policy of the Terryville Public Library has been formulated to serve as a guide for authorized personnel in the selection of library resources, and to inform the public clearly as to the principles upon which selection of library resources are made.

The Terryville Public Library subscribes to the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the related supportive documents of the American Library Association.

### **Criteria for Selection**

The selection of books and other library resources, whether acquired by purchase or gift, will be based on the following criteria:

1. The appropriateness of the resource in relation to the interests and needs of the library users and of the community as a whole.
2. The value of the resource for educational, informational, cultural, and recreational purposes.
3. The timeliness of the information.
4. The contribution of the resource toward strengthening the existing collection by expanding its scope.
5. The accuracy, authoritativeness, and competence of the presentation.
6. Requests from individuals to which the above criteria can be applied.
7. The permanent value of the resource based on literary or scholarly excellence and other inherent qualities, considered without regard to demand.
8. Budgetary limitations.

It is the goal of the library to build a balanced collection characterized by resources of current popular interest as well as materials of permanent worth. While popular demand is a significant basis for selection, it must be borne in mind that many great works of scholarship and literature are keystones of modern knowledge and culture but may not necessarily be high demand items. It is library policy to select, along with popular demand items, resources of permanent value, regardless of whether or not they will be widely used.

Textbooks will not be considered for purchase unless such items constitute the best available source of information in a subject. Such resources must serve the general public and the adult learning community in order to be considered.

Multiple copies of resources will be ordered to meet community needs and interests. However, multiple copies cannot be purchased in response to student demands which the school system should properly be expected to meet.

It is not the library's policy automatically to replace every item when lost or worn out. Need for replacement is weighed in relation to the number of duplicate copies already owned; existence of adequate coverage in the subject field; other similar resources in the collection; and the demand for the specific author, title or subject.

## **Resources for Children and Young Adults**

The children's collection contains resources most suited to the abilities and interests of library users from pre-school to grade 6, while young adult resources are those most suited to the abilities and interests of library users from 7th grade through high school.

Both children and young adult resources will be selected with the same care and judgment and follow the same criteria as adult resources.

It is the library's policy to allow children and young adults free access to the adult collection for the use of advanced resources for personal and educational enrichment.

The library recognizes and accepts the role of the parent or legal guardian in supervising the reading resources of the child. The library staff cannot be expected to know the content of every book in the library or to supervise the reading of every young person who uses the library. The staff is not in a position to judge parental concern and control of reading resources for juvenile users.

Selection of library resources for the wider community cannot be inhibited by the possibility that specific items of an advanced nature may come into the possession of children.

The library has a responsibility to provide books and other resources presenting several diverse points of view concerning the problems and issues of our time. It must, therefore, be understood clearly that ownership of library resources does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the library of the ideas or viewpoints expressed within these resources.

Selections of library resources are not made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval by specific individuals or groups, but solely on the merits of the works in relation to building the collection and serving the needs of library users and the community as a whole. While the library is aware that one or more persons may take issue with the selection of specific items, the library does not have to remove from the collection items purchased in accordance with the criteria specified above. Nor will resources be marked in such a way as to show approval or disapproval.