

Wicomico County Free Library Resource Development Policy

The services and policies of the Wicomico County Free Library (WCFL) reflect the following principles:

The Individual

Residents of Wicomico County have the right to information, the right to privacy and the right to be treated with respect.

Knowledge

The broad range of ideas in our world must be made available in the most appropriate and convenient format.

Inclusive

All individuals in our County's diverse population will feel that this is "their" library.

Partnership

The Library will collaborate with other organizations and agencies to help achieve the Library's mission.

Wicomico County Free Library's Resource Development Policy is based on these principles which were agreed to in 1998, and reaffirmed in 2002, by a planning committee composed of trustees, staff and community members. The term "resource" includes all sources of information and media which are available at the WCFL to meet the needs of the Wicomico County Library customers. "Resource" may include, but not be limited to: books, newspapers, magazines, video tapes, compact discs, audio tapes, DVDs, electronic databases, the internet, etc.

Responsibility for Resource Selection

Final responsibility for selection lies with the Board of Library Trustees. The Board of Trustees, however, delegates to the Director the authority to interpret and guide the application of the policy in making day-to-day selections. The Director will authorize other staff to apply this policy to resource selection.

Selection Criteria

Selection of Library resources, made by qualified staff authorized by the Director, shall be made on the basis of interest, information, and enlightenment to the residents of Wicomico County. No material shall be excluded because of the race, nationality, sex or the political, social or religious views of the author.

The following criteria are a guide for selection of a resource:

- The degree and accomplishment of purpose to meet the interests of Wicomico County Library users.

- Clarity and accuracy of presentation appropriate to the skills of the intended users.
- Relative importance in comparison with other materials on the subject.
- Relationship to existing resources.

Maintaining the Resources

Selection is only one aspect of resource development. Attention is also given to assessing the need for adding and discarding resources. These responsibilities are carried out by qualified staff authorized by the Director. Copies of titles may be added based on heavy demand by library customers. Withdrawals of resources may be done because of one or more of the following reasons: its information is out-of-date and/or inaccurate, it is damaged, it is a duplicate, it is no longer being checked-out by customers.

Use of Library Resources

The library recognizes that some resources are controversial and that any given resource may offend some library customer. Censorship is an individual matter and while anyone is free to reject materials of which he/she does not approve, he/she cannot exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of use and/or access to others. In regards to children, their freedom of access may be restricted only by their parents or legal guardian.