

The Gloversville Public Library commits itself to the citizens of the Gloversville Enlarged School District to be a community resource that provides access to information and technology as well as educational and cultural events while remaining a center for research and literary pursuits.

~~The Library is identified and defined principally by its holdings of materials and information resources.~~ The Library acts to fulfill its mission by selecting, acquiring, organizing, preserving, maintaining, and providing access to a collection of materials, both print and non-print, and to electronic resources that address the interests and needs of the members of our diverse and complex community.

Intellectual Freedom

The Library supports the "Library Bill of Rights" and the "Freedom to Read" statements adopted by the American Library Association. These documents are included as Appendices.

The Library makes available a wide diversity of ideas and viewpoints in support of an informed citizenry and a democratic society. The Library supports the individual choice and judgment of its users in seeking information, and upholds the freedom of library users to read, view, and listen to materials of their choosing.

Materials are not marked, labeled or sequestered to show approval, disapproval, or judgments as to suitability of content for a particular audience.

Materials are not excluded, removed, proscribed, or suppressed because of their creator's origin, background, or views, or because they represent a particular aspect of life, frankness of expression, or controversial subject matter.

Concerns about Library material should be made to the Director. Objections not resolved in discussion may then be made in writing, using the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials* form. Upon receipt of a completed form, the Director will review the material, make a decision, and notify the complainant. The library user may appeal that decision to the Board of Trustees.

No challenged library material will be removed from the Library under any legal or extra-legal pressure. Only under court order will library materials be removed from the shelves.

Materials Selection

The Library provides a collection that balances viewpoints across a broad spectrum of opinion and subject matter in formats suitable to a variety of learning and recreational interests and skills. Decisions to select or retain an item are based on the merits of each work or information source as it relates to the goals and coverage of the collection. The Library considers the value of each item in its entirety and within the context of the collection, not on specific passages or sections within the item itself.

The Library maintains three collection development goals:

- to furnish current material for both adult and juvenile patrons readers
- to provide access to current reference material
- to maintain a local history collection

Book and/or library materials selection is the responsibility of the Library Director ~~in accordance with the selection policies as adopted by the Board of Trustees. Inclusion of an item does not constitute endorsement by the Board of Trustees.~~ The Director may authorize members of the Library's staff to aid in material selection.

The main points to be considered in the selection of materials are:

- individual merit
- popular demand
- suitability for the Library's clientele
- existing Library **and consortium** holdings
- budget

Suggestions for purchase from the public are welcome and will be given serious consideration within the limits of these policies (see also *Donations, Bequests and Gifts Policy*).

Selection of materials for adults is not constrained by possible exposure to children or young adults. Responsibility for children's use of Library collections rests with parents, guardians, or caregivers (see *Circulation Policy*).

Adopted January 17, 2006 by the Board of Trustees of the Gloversville Public Library

Reconsideration of Materials

Whenever possible, a library user expressing concern about library materials should be referred to the Director. The Director should explain the library's selection policies and criteria and why the item(s) in question have, or have not, been added to our materials collection.

If the patron still has concerns about the material after discussing it with appropriate staff or if the complainant does not wish to discuss the material with a selector, the complainant is invited to complete a "Patron Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form. Upon receipt of a completed form, the Director will appoint a Reconsideration Committee made up of materials selectors, subject specialists, and Trustees to review the material. The Reconsideration Committee will make a decision about the item in question and will notify the complainant of that decision. If that decision is unsatisfactory, the complainants may appeal the decision to the Director and, if desired, ultimately to the Board of Trustees.

"REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS"
Gloversville Public Library

Title: _____

Type (circle one): Book/Periodical/Other: _____

Author: _____

Publisher: _____

Request initiated by: _____

Address: _____

Do you represent (circle one):

 Yourself

 An organization (name, address and phone): _____

 Other group (name) _____

Please use the back of this form or attach another form for the following questions;

1. To what in the work do you object? (Please be specific; cite pages)
2. Did you read the entire work? What parts?
3. What do you feel might be the result of reading this work?
4. For what age group would you recommend this book?
5. What do you believe is the theme of this work?
6. Are you aware of judgments of this book by literary critics?
7. What would you like your library to do about this work?
 - Do not lend it to my child
 - Return it to the staff selection committee/department for re- evaluation.
 - Other (please explain)
8. In its place, what would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject treated?

Signature: _____

Date: _____