

Mission of the Dighton Public Library

The Dighton Public Library provides materials and services for the residents of Dighton, from infant to elder, for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information.

Collection Development Policy Statement

The Dighton Public Library strives to provide library materials that reflect the needs and interests of the Dighton community. Materials and services are chosen to reflect the diverse educational, information and recreational needs of its users. In addition to the collection's subject content, the Dighton Public Library recognizes that all types and formats of media, including, but not limited to print, non-print and digital resources, are an important part of the collection. As the library and its users function in a rapidly changing society, it is flexible about changes in communicative material, both in form and style of expression.

The Dighton Public Library endorses The Library Bill of Rights. The board recognizes its rights and responsibility to provide worthwhile materials of interest to its readers, including those of a controversial nature.

The library does not advocate particular beliefs or views. The selection of any given item is not an endorsement of the viewpoint expressed. Access to library materials shall be controlled only to the extent necessary to protect them from danger or theft. Selection of materials for younger readers is not restricted by the possibility that young people may obtain materials their parents deem inappropriate.

Responsibility for Selection

In accordance with MGL Chapter 78, Section 11, the Board of Trustees of the Dighton Public Library has custody and management of the library and contents within. The board authorizes the library director to administer the function of enforcing the collection development policy.

Selection

Dighton Library staff use a variety of tools to aid in awareness and selection of materials, including sources such as professional review journals, popular print and

broadcast media, bookstores, electronic interest groups, publishers' catalogs, purchase alerts and recommendations from patrons and staff.

Staff exercises judgment and local experience in the application of Materials Selection Criteria, including an assessment of the work's overall contribution to the collection. Factors such as budget, space availability and interlibrary loan availability also shape selection decisions.

Criteria:

- Level of funding for materials
- Relevance to Library's mission and service roles
- Local demand
- Current usefulness or interest
- Informational and recreational needs of community
- Authority and accuracy
- Importance as a record of the times
- Relevance to existing collection's strength and weaknesses
- High standards of quality in content and format
- Price and availability
- Suitability of format, durability and ease of use
- Relevance to the history of Dighton

In the development of the collection, the library recognizes that it is impossible for a small-sized public library to provide a balanced, comprehensive collection that is strong enough to meet all community needs. As a member of an automated resource sharing network (SAILS) and a state supported library system (MLS), the Dighton Public Library supplements its resources with materials borrowed from other libraries through these larger entities.

The Dighton Public Library attempts to represent all sides of controversial issues as far as availability of space, materials and budget allows. Selection is based on the criteria stated in this policy.

The race, religion, nationality, or political views of an author or creator; offensive language; depictions or descriptions of violence or sexually explicit activity; controversial content of an item; or endorsement or disapproval by an individual or

group in the community does not cause an item automatically to be included or excluded from the library's collection.

All public libraries contain materials that some patrons may find objectionable. Libraries may omit from the collection materials that some patrons feel are important. In either case, the library has procedures that patrons may use in requesting materials to be added to the collection as well as the reconsideration of materials.

Gifts and Donations

Accepting gifts and donations is an important way for the library to benefit from the generosity of the community it serves. Gifts and donations of materials are reviewed using the same criteria as library purchases and are subject to the Gift Policy of the Dighton Public Library.

Collection Maintenance

In order to maintain a collection that is current, reliable, useful, in good condition, well used and relating to the needs and interests of Dighton residents, materials are withdrawn on a systematic and continuing basis. This function is necessitated by limitations of space and acquisition of new materials.

Materials are withdrawn when they are seldom used, in poor condition, dated, inaccurate, superseded by a new edition or better resource on the subject, or in opposition to the selection criteria, as allowed by Massachusetts General Law. Each title is judged individually, and it is considered from the standpoint of its value to the community as well as in relation to other items in the collection.

The Board of Trustees of the Dighton Public Library approves the disposal of library surplus or unwanted property as permitted under MGL Chapter 78, Section 11 and MGL Chapter 30B, Section 15.

Special Collections

The Dighton Public Library maintains a local history collection based on important figures and events in Dighton history. The Local History Collection policy guides selection criteria of this collection.

Reconsideration

The choice of library materials by a library user is an individual matter. While a person is free to reject materials for oneself, they may not restrict the freedom to choose those materials by other library users.

The Dighton Public Library recognizes that certain materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some library users. Library users have the right to express concerns about library resources and have the objection taken seriously.

A library user who has concerns with library materials is encouraged to discuss them with library staff. This staff member will discuss the Materials Selection Policy and the application of selection materials. If the library user continues to request an item to be withdrawn from the collection, the library's procedure for reconsideration will be explained and followed. A separate Request for Reconsideration must be filled out for each item.

Disposal of Library Property

Massachusetts General Law allows the library to donate items at less than fair market value to non-profit organizations. Print and non-print materials that are withdrawn from the collection according to the Collection Maintenance guidelines are offered to the Friends of the Dighton Public Library [a 501(c) (3) organization] for re-sale. The board authorizes the library director to administer this function as permitted under MGL Chapter 30B Section 15 (g). The director is also authorized to develop and enforce rules and procedures to dispose of this property.

The Board of Trustees of the Dighton Public Library shall vote at their last meeting of the fiscal year to renew authority for the disposal of withdrawn library materials for the subsequent fiscal year.

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