

Book Selection Policy

Teton County Joint City County Library Board

Updated 5/19/2023

I. Objectives of the library

The Choteau/Teton Public Library provides free service to all individuals in Teton County and the surrounding area. The objective of the library is to select, organize, preserve and to make freely and easily available library materials to the people of the area to aid them in the pursuit of education, information, research, recreation, and creative use of literature.

The library seeks to promote endeavors which will stimulate and expand the reading interests of all patrons and to coordinate this work with that of other educational, social, and cultural groups in the community in cooperative effort.

In selection of books and other materials, the Choteau/Teton Public Library adheres to the principles adopted by the American Library Association (ALA) in its [Library Bill of Rights](#) and [Freedom to Read Statement](#) and endorses the ALA stand that the freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The library does not promulgate beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given work equivalent to endorsement of the viewpoint of the author expressed therein. One of the essential purposes of the library is to provide a resource to the individual to examine many points of view so they can make their own decision. The library does not attempt to please all patrons by elimination of items selected after due deliberation under the guidelines expressed herein but welcomes any expression of opinion by patrons.

II. Responsibility of Selection

The Joint City-County Library Board delegates the selection of library materials and development of the collection to the library director and the staff. Ultimate responsibility for materials selection policy lies with the Board of Trustees.

III. Use of the Library

Responsibility for the reading materials of children rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection of material for the adult collection is not restricted by the possibility that children may obtain material their parents consider inappropriate.

IV. General Guidelines for Selection

The objective of selection is to collect those books that will inform, entertain, and contribute to the enrichment of mind and spirit. Selection is based upon principle rather than prejudice and judgement rather than censorship.

All library materials must meet at least the minimum of the following criteria to be included in the collection:

- a. Importance as a record of the times;
- b. Relation to existing collection and scarcity of information in that subject area;
- c. Relative importance in comparison with other works on the subject;
- d. Content that is timely, timeless, authoritative and significant in subject matter;
- e. Materials that meet high standards of quality in content, expression and format;
- f. Should be of immediate or anticipated interest to individuals or to the community;
- g. Should include the widest possible subject coverage consistent with the needs of the community;
- h. Price and ease of use.

V. Maintaining the Collection

The same criteria will be used in weeding materials from the collection as are used in their acquisition. The Library Director will use their own judgment in removing materials from the collection to maintain the collection in its most useful and attractive condition.

Books which are deteriorating will be repaired, rebound, or discarded. Materials which are no longer useful to the library may be sold for the benefit of the library.