

Materials Consideration Policy

Teton County Joint City County Library Board

Revised and updated, January 19, 2023

I. Introduction

The library board and administration are dedicated to the principles of intellectual freedom. Intellectual freedom is the right to access and use information. They believe the right to read is basic to the intellectual freedom of democracy and therefore adopt the following three basic documents on intellectual freedom as official policy of the library:

The Library Bill of Rights <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

The Freedom to Read Statement

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

The Freedom to View Statement

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement>

II. Selection and Intellectual Freedom

The Teton County Library Board believes censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject materials of which they do not approve, this right of censorship cannot be exercised to restrict the freedom of others. This board defends the right to read and declares that whenever censorship is involved no library material shall be removed from the library except through the process as defined by this policy.

III. Concerns and Reconsideration of Materials

Each individual holds beliefs and values which may at times be in conflict with those of others. However, citizens do have the right to request reconsideration of Library materials through the following process:

- a. Each concern is genuine and has a right to be heard. The first step is for the patron to discuss their concerns verbally and respectfully with the Director of the library.
- b. If the patron's concerns remain, a Patron Request for Consideration of Library Materials form must be completed and submitted to the Library Director.

- c. Upon submission, the Director will refer the request to a review committee. The review committee, as appointed by the Library Director, will consist of the Library Director, Library Staff, a board member, and two community members. Consideration by this committee will include the selection process, as found in the Library's Collection Management Policy. The committee will have 30 days to complete its review.
- d. The Director will then submit the recommendation of the review committee to the Teton County Library Board. The matter shall be included in the agenda of the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the decision of the review committee.
- e. Prior to the meeting, the Director shall notify the patron submitting the form of the time and place of the Board meeting where the matter will be discussed; provide a copy of the review committee recommendation; and invite the patron to attend the meeting.
- f. The Board shall act on the request at the meeting; record the written decision; and provide a copy to the complainant.
- g. The Board's action of the Patron Request for Consideration of Library Materials shall be final.