



Pelham Public Library
24 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076
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www.pelhampublicLibrary.org

Collection Development Policy

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Pelham Public Library's Collection Development Policy is to guide the staff in the selection of materials of all types, to fulfill the mission of the Library, and to inform the public of the policies regarding the selection of materials in the Library collection. This policy will be reviewed and revised as the need arises. Collection development at the Pelham Public Library is based on the American Library Association's (ALA) principles of intellectual freedom and equal access for all. The Library maintains a collection for the general public that represents a broad spectrum of opinion and subject matter, in diverse formats, suitable to a variety of learning and recreational interests that is responsive to changing interests and needs. The Library should not attempt to collect materials at a comprehensive or research level for any subject area other than local issues. A broad range of materials should both serve and await the needs of the library's patrons.
2. The Library recognizes that materials selected for the collection may be controversial and that any given item may offend any individual. Selections will be made, not on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to building the collection, and to serving the needs of library users in accordance with the library's stated purpose.

Content of Collection

3. The Library Director is responsible for collection development coordination and supervision, and is accountable for the growth and maintenance of the collection. Selected staff members have responsibility for collection development for specific collections, subject areas, or formats. All staff members make suggestions for new and replacement materials. In addition, staff and the Director consider the interests and requests of the Pelham community.
4. Every attempt is made to acquire titles by local authors that are published by mainstream publishers. Titles by local writers that are self-published are not added to the collection unless there is a compelling reason to do so, such as valuable/rare local content or high local interest.
5. The Library will maintain its membership in the statewide NHAIS electronic system. Books and other materials that are not in our collection can often be borrowed through this network. We will accommodate our patrons' inter-Library loan requests whenever possible. The service is free to the patron (unless there is a fee from the sending Library), but not unlimited, depending on available staff and resources.
6. The following criteria serve as the foundation of materials selection:
 - a. Patron demand and interests
 - b. Space limitations
 - c. Budget
 - d. Community significance and relevance

- e. Existing Library holdings
- f. Availability of the materials or information elsewhere

7. Additional points considered for selection of materials:

- a. Material is judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not by a part taken out of context.
- b. Materials with objectionable language or vivid descriptions of sex and violence when dealt with realistically within the context of the materials will not be rejected solely on this basis.
- c. The Library does not act in loco parentis. The responsibility for children's choices in reading material rests with the parents and legal guardians. Selection of library material will not be limited by the possibility that it may come to the attention of, or review by, minors.
- d. The lack of a review or an unfavorable review shall not be the sole reason for rejecting a title which is in demand.
- e. Due to limited budget and space, the Library cannot purchase all materials that are requested.

Programs and Resource Displays

- 8. The Pelham Public Library and its Board of Trustees endorse and support the Library Bill of Rights and the American Library Association interpretation resulting in Library Initiated Programs as a Resource.
- 9. Events will be planned to meet the interests and needs of community members and will represent the wide range of ideas and views contained in our materials collection and patrons. They will represent the Library's mission of free access to information. These activities may be held at the Library, virtually, or at another location. Events should not be excluded solely because they may be considered controversial. Community members may propose events to be sponsored internally by the library by contacting the library director or appropriate programming librarian. Sponsorship of an event by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Library, the Library Board of Trustees, or the Town of Pelham as to the content or the views expressed. If an event is not selected for internal sponsorship by the library, it may instead be hosted at the library by an external organization in accordance with the library's meeting room policy. Events will be selected for internal sponsorship on the following criteria:
 - a. Patron demand and interests.
 - b. Space limitations.
 - c. Budget limitations.
 - d. Community significance and relevance.
 - e. Existing Library events and programs.
- 10. Library displays are planned, organized, and/or implemented by Library staff. The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in Library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Library, the Library Board of Trustees, or the Town of Pelham as to the content, display or exhibit, or the views expressed in materials on display.

Gifts and Donations

11. The Pelham Public Library accepts donations of books and other materials. The Library retains the authority to accept or reject gifts with the understanding that the same standards of selection are applied to gifts and donations as to materials acquired by purchase. Upon receipt by the Library, gifts and donations become the sole property of the Library to use or discard as it sees fit. Staff make all decisions as to the use, housing, and final disposition of donations. A receipt acknowledging the gifts for tax purposes will be given to the donor if requested at the time the donation is made; The Library does not evaluate or appraise gift materials for tax purposes.

Maintaining the Collection

12. The withdrawal of materials from the collection is known as weeding. Weeding of all Library collections is a continuous process and is carried out in order to provide the most current, useful information available, as well as to maintain the vitality and attractiveness of the collection. Weeding also helps to prevent the overcrowding of shelves, and to free up needed space for new and highly desired materials. Decisions concerning both weeding and replacement of materials will be consistent with criteria for selection. Though some materials may meet the criteria for weeding, they may be retained due to their unique nature. The overall objective is to increase the usefulness and/or circulation of the collection.
13. The following criteria serve as the foundation for withdrawing materials from the collection:
 - a. Out of Date or inaccurate information
 - b. Badly worn or damaged physical condition
 - c. Insufficient use –
 - i. Works no longer of popular interest (e.g., older fiction)
 - ii. Multiple copies of previously popular works
 - iii. Topic no longer relevant
 - iv. Lack of physical space
 - v. More current material in collection
14. Disposal of weeded materials is at the discretion of the Library Director, either through book sales, donations, or proper trash disposal.

Challenged Resources and Request for Reconsideration

15. The Board of Trustees of the Pelham Public Library believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject material of which one does not approve, one cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others.
16. Utilizing Library materials is an individual, private choice. Full, confidential, and unrestricted access to information is essential for patrons to exercise their constitutional rights. Libraries and staff fulfill their role as resources for upholding the constitutional promise of access to information for all.
17. To ensure this, the Pelham Public Library and its Board of Trustees endorse and support the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. They subscribe to the principles put forth in the ALA Labels and Ratings Systems, the ALA Resolution on the Removal of Challenged Materials, Freedom to View Statement, and Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials.

18. Final responsibility for what any individual reads, listens to, or views must lie with that individual, or in the case of a minor, with the parent or guardian of the minor. The Library does not act in loco parentis. Selection of materials for the Library is not limited by the possibility that those materials may come into the possession of minors, or others who might find the content controversial, objectionable, or offensive.
19. The procedure for users who wish to petition the Library to reconsider any part of its collection is as follows:
- a. A Pelham cardholder/resident ("Petitioner") receives a *Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources* form (available at the main floor circulation desk). A copy of this form is included in the appendix of this policy.
 - b. The form must be fully completed and submitted to the Library Director. Incomplete forms will not be reviewed. The challenged material will remain in the collection while it is being reviewed. The Director will appoint a Materials and Program Review Committee consisting of the selector, department head, and such other staff as the Director deems advisable. Each committee member will be provided with a copy of the request and will review the materials in question. The Director may reserve the right to contact requestor prior to appointing a committee.
 - c. The Materials and Program Committee shall convene to discuss their individual written assessments on the earliest date possible.
 - d. The Library Director will issue a written decision to the Petitioner within 30 days.
 - e. If the Petitioner wishes to appeal this decision, the Director will arrange for the request to be added to the public agenda of the next regularly scheduled Pelham Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.
 - f. The Board of Trustees will consider the request and determine whether the Library's selection criteria have been adhered to. The Petitioner is free to attend the public portion of the Board meeting.
 - g. A representative member of the Board of Trustees will contact the Petitioner with a written determination. Decisions of the Pelham Board of Trustees are final and are made within 60 days of the receipt of the appeal.
 - h. Should more than three (3) requests be received within a one (1) month time period, we reserve the right to extend the deadline for response. All requests will be considered within a reasonable timeframe.

Appendix

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

The Freedom to Read

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a

small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections. We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture.

We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what

people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

ALA Labels and Ratings Systems

Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections or in resources accessible through the library. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the library. Likewise, the ability for library users to access electronic information using library computers does not indicate endorsement or approval of that information by the library.

Labels

Labels on library materials may be viewpoint-neutral directional aids that save the time of users, or they may be attempts to prejudice or discourage users or restrict their access to materials. When labeling is an attempt to prejudice attitudes, it is a censor's tool. The American Library Association opposes labeling as a means of predisposing people's attitudes toward library materials.

Prejudicial labels are designed to restrict access, based on a value judgment that the content, language or themes of the material, or the background or views of the creator(s) of the material, render it inappropriate or offensive for all or certain groups of users. The prejudicial label is used to warn, discourage or prohibit users or certain groups of users from accessing the material. Such labels may be used to remove materials from open shelves to restricted locations where access depends on staff intervention.

Viewpoint-neutral directional aids facilitate access by making it easier for users to locate materials. The materials are housed on open shelves and are equally accessible to all users, who may choose to consult or ignore the directional aids at their own discretion.

Directional aids can have the effect of prejudicial labels when their implementation becomes proscriptive rather than descriptive. When directional aids are used to forbid access or to suggest moral or doctrinal endorsement, the effect is the same as prejudicial labeling.

Rating Systems

A variety of organizations promulgate rating systems as a means of advising either their members or the general public concerning their opinions of the contents and suitability or appropriate age for use of certain books, films, recordings, Web sites, or other materials. The adoption, enforcement, or endorsement of any of these rating systems by the library violates the Library Bill of Rights. Adopting such systems into law may be unconstitutional. If such legislation is passed, the library should seek legal advice regarding the law's applicability to library operations.

Publishers, industry groups, and distributors sometimes add ratings to material or include them as part of their packaging. Librarians should not endorse such practices. However, removing or destroying such ratings—if placed there by, or with permission of, the copyright holder—could constitute expurgation. Some find it easy and even proper, according to their ethics, to establish criteria for judging materials as objectionable. However, injustice and ignorance, rather than justice and enlightenment, result from such practices. The American Library Association opposes any efforts that result in closing any path to knowledge.

Adopted July 13, 1951, by the ALA Council; amended June 25, 1971; July 1, 1981; June 26, 1990; January 19, 2005. [ISBN 8389-5226-7]

Freedom to View

The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. 5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council

Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials

Library collections of nonprint materials raise a number of intellectual freedom issues, especially regarding minors. Article V of the Library Bill of Rights states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

The American Library Association's principles protect minors' access to sound, images, data, games, software, and other content in all formats such as tapes, CDs, DVDs, music CDs, computer games, software, databases, and other emerging technologies. ALA's Free access to libraries for minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights states:

. . . The "right to use a library" includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, literacy skills, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.

. . . [P]arents—and only parents—have the right and responsibility to restrict access of their children—and only their children—to library resources. Parents who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children. Librarians and library governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child.

Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

Policies that set minimum age limits for access to any nonprint materials or information technology, with or without parental permission, abridge library use for minors. Age limits based on the cost of the materials are also unacceptable. Librarians, when dealing with minors, should apply the same standards to circulation of nonprint materials as are applied to books and other print materials except when directly and specifically prohibited by law.

Recognizing that librarians cannot act in loco parentis, ALA acknowledges and supports the exercise by parents of their responsibility to guide their own children's reading and viewing. Libraries should provide published reviews and/or reference works that contain information about the content, subject matter, and recommended audiences for nonprint materials. These resources will assist parents in guiding their children without implicating the library in censorship.

In some cases, commercial content ratings, such as the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) movie ratings, might appear on the packaging or promotional materials provided by producers or distributors. However, marking out or removing this information from materials or packaging constitutes expurgation or censorship.

MPAA movie ratings, Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) game ratings, and other rating services are private advisory codes and have no legal standing (Expurgation of Library Materials). For the library to add ratings to nonprint materials if they are not already there is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to post a list of such ratings with a collection or to use them in circulation policies or other procedures. These uses constitute labeling, "an attempt to prejudice attitudes" (Labels and Rating Systems), and are forms of censorship. The application of locally generated ratings schemes intended to provide content warnings to library users is also inconsistent with the Library Bill of Rights.

The interests of young people, like those of adults, are not limited by subject, theme, or level of sophistication. Librarians have a responsibility to ensure young people's access to materials and services that reflect diversity of content and format sufficient to meet their needs.

Adopted June 28, 1989, by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 2004.

Resolution on the Removal of Challenged Materials

“Libraries: An American Value” states, “We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services.” The American Library Association declares as a matter of firm principle that it is the responsibility of every library to have a clearly defined written policy for collection development that includes a procedure for review of challenged resources. Collection development applies to print and media resources or formats in the physical collection. It also applies to digital resources such as databases, e-books and other downloadable and streaming media.

Content filtering is not equivalent to collection development. Content filtering is exclusive, not inclusive, and cannot effectively curate content or mediate access to resources available on the Internet. This should be addressed separately in the library’s acceptable use policy. These policies reflect the American Library Association’s *Library Bill of Rights* and are approved by the appropriate governing authority.

Challenged resources should remain in the collection and accessible during the review process. The *Library Bill of Rights* states in Article I that “Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation,” and in Article II, that “Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.” Freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution of the United States, but constitutionally protected expression is often separated from unprotected expression only by a dim and uncertain line. The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution requires a procedure designed to examine critically all challenged expression before it can be suppressed.¹ This procedure should be open, transparent, and conform to all applicable open meeting and public records laws. Resources that meet the criteria for selection and inclusion within the collection should not be removed.

Therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extra-legal,² to regulate or suppress resources in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protected expression is not abridged.

Notes

1. Bantam Books, Inc. v. Sullivan, 372 U.S. 58 (1963).

2. “Extra-legal” refers to actions that are not regulated or sanctioned by law. These can include attempts to remove or suppress materials by library staff and library board members that circumvent the library’s collection development policy, or actions taken by elected officials or library board members outside the established legal process for making legislative or board decisions. “Legal process” includes challenges to library materials initiated and conducted pursuant to the library’s collection development policy, actions taken by legislative bodies or library boards during official sessions or meetings, or litigation undertaken in courts of law with jurisdiction over the library and the library’s governing body.

Adopted June 25, 1971; amended July 1, 1981; January 10, 1990; January 28, 2009, and July 1, 2014, by the ALA Council.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources

The Pelham Library Board of Trustees has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of Library materials and resources to the Library Director and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those materials and resources. Completion of this form is the first step in those procedures. Incomplete forms will not be considered. If you wish to request reconsideration of a Library material or resource, please return the completed form to Jennifer Greene, Library Director, Pelham Public Library, 24 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076. Fill out one form in its entirety for each item for which reconsideration is requested.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I represent: ☐ Myself ☐ Organization/Group (Name _____)

Have you reviewed the Library's Collection Development Policy? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Resource on which you are commenting:

____ Book/Magazine/Newspaper

____ Display/Exhibit

____ Video/Video Game

____ Audiobook/Music CD

____ Electronic Information/eBook/eMagazine

____ Library Program

____ Other

Title _____

Author/Producer _____

Copyright/Issue/Program Date _____

Type of material (book, DVD, magazine, etc.) _____

1. What brought this resource to your attention?

2. Have you read the Library's criteria for selection, including the Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement, along with the other appendices attached, as stated in PPL's policies?
3. Did you read, watch, or listen to the entire work? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. If no, what parts did you read, watch, or listen to?
5. What specifically concerns you about this resource? *Please be specific and cite pages or sections.*
6. What of value is there in this resource?
7. For what age group would you recommend this resource?
8. Are there resources you would suggest that could provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?
9. Are you aware of critical judgment of this resource? If yes, please summarize such judgments.
10. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this resource?
11. What would you like the Library to do about this resource?
☐ Withdraw it from the Library collection
☐ Move to a different collection. Explain _____
☐ Other. Explain _____

Cardholder/Resident Signature _____ Date _____

_____ Below to be completed by PPL Staff _____

Date received: _____ Director initial: _____ Committee meeting: _____

Patron notified of decision: _____ Board of Trustees notified: _____ Board Meeting: _____
Final decision: _____