



# Display Policy

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The purpose of York Public Library's Display Policy is to summarize the framework by which our displays are created. The York Public Library (YPL) creates a variety of ongoing displays geared to inform and enrich the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds. The Display Policy provides a basis for the selection of materials by a trained and dedicated staff and informs the public about the principles and criteria used when selecting materials for display.

## **Selection Objectives**

YPL will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays as well as offer those materials that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

Acceptance of a display initiated by an outside organization does not constitute an endorsement by the York Public Library of the content or of the views expressed in materials on display.

YPL may draw upon other community resources in developing displays and may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays.

**Staff will be mindful of the intended audience in the available spaces, the accessibility of materials and resources, and the timely exchange of new topics.**

Only parents and legal guardians, however, have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children to library resources. The display of materials is not inhibited by the possibility that particular works may inadvertently be seen by or come into the possession of children and young adults.

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by the library's staff.

## Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Availability of display space

## Affirmation of Intellectual Freedom

The York Public Library values a free and inquiring society, does not support censorship, and affirms its support of the *Library Bill of Rights*, *Free Access to Libraries for Minors*, and the *Freedom to Read Statement*.

## Controversial Materials

The Library recognizes that any given item may offend any given patron. Language, situations, or subjects that may be offensive to some community members, however, do not disqualify material whose value is to be judged in its entirety.

Materials on controversial issues that present only one side of a question or are written in a violent, sensational, or inflammatory manner will ordinarily not be selected, however no item shall be judged for exclusion based on single passages out of context. Selection of materials for display will not be made on the basis of anticipated public approval or disapproval, but solely on the criteria set forth in this policy.

Those filing a Request for Reconsideration must be a legal resident of or own property in the Yorks/Cape Neddick.

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for how their children use the Library. Selection of Library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that they may come into the possession of their children.

Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of their contents and no materials will be sequestered, except to protect from damage or theft. Item(s) will remain in the collection during the Reconsideration process.

Patron concerns should be addressed to the Library Director. Patrons who wish to request an item be withdrawn from the display shall complete a "Request for Reconsideration" form *in its entirety* and submit it to the Library Director. The Director and two senior staff members will read/view the title in its entirety. The Director will respond to the patron in writing within 30 days. One item per form. The same item/title can be challenged no more than once per calendar year.

If the patron does not agree with the Director's decision, s/he may appeal to the YPL Board of Trustees. Any such appeal will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the YPL Board of Trustees. Executive Committee members will read/view the item and make their

recommendation to the full Board. The full Board will vote and the Board Chair will respond to the patron in writing. who will respond to the patron in writing within 30 days after the Board vote. Their decision will be final.

**Approved by the York Public Library Board of Trustees April 10, 2025**



## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you represent self? \_\_\_\_\_

Or an organization? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Resource on which you are commenting:

\_\_Book \_\_Movie \_\_Magazine \_\_Audio Recording \_\_Digital Resource \_\_Newspaper \_\_Other

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author/Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. What brought this resource to your attention?

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### 3. Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?

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**4. What concerns you about the resource?**

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**5. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?**

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**6. What action are you requesting the Board consider?**

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