

Austin Fletcher Memorial Library

Library Display Policy

1. Purpose

The Display policy of the Austin Fletcher Memorial Library of Hampton CT (the "library") provides a basis for the display of library materials by library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the library's mission, which is:

"The Fletcher Memorial Library is committed to serving the ongoing needs of the greater Hampton community by providing free access to a diversity of ideas, information, and experiences with the goal of promoting the love of reading, lifelong learning, and creativity."

2. Introduction

The library recognizes the importance of displays and programs as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. With a focus on encouraging lifelong reading, learning, and community creativity, the library hopes to connect the diverse needs of the library community, and the library's diverse collections, digital services, and engaging programs.

An important aspect of the library's approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and backgrounds. These displays serve as a tangible expression of our dedication to the community and exemplify the library's belief that a vibrant library contributes to a strong community. Library displays are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents, represent a wide range of varied and divergent viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents.

This policy applies to all library displays.

3. Principles and Criteria

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director. Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. Librarians use the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Availability of display space

- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- The library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits

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 controversial.

The library provides displays and programs created or curated by librarians as well as displays created by members of the public or community groups to be exhibited in the library. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the library does not constitute an endorsement by the library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the CT general statutes.

4. Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The choice of library materials used by patrons is an individual matter. The library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual but strongly believes that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of library materials is predicated on the library patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship.

Library selections for use in displays will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself.

5. Library Display Policy

Selection of display materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently be read, heard, or seen by minors. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American

Library Association's (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and all relevant interpretations.

6. Procedure to Request Reconsideration of a Library Display

The library limits consideration of requests to reconsider library materials, displays or programs to individuals who reside in Hampton CT. Please see the Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, and accompanying Material Review and Reconsideration form, both of which appear on the library website, for further information on this process.

7. Policy Location

This policy is housed on the library's website at fletchermemoriallibrary.org Physical copies are also available from the Library Director.

Approved by the FML Board of Trustees on September 24, 2025