



MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

The Highwood Library & Community Center provides a broad range of printed and digital popular materials that support the recreational, educational, and cultural needs of the community. The Library's selection of materials sustains the principles embodied in the ALA Library Bill of Rights, ALA Freedom to Read, and ALA Freedom to View statements.

In selecting and acquiring materials, the Library recognizes the following general principles:

- A. The existence of the Interlibrary Loan and Find More Illinois, the ability of the Library to borrow from other regional libraries, and the rich library resources in the RAILS network permits the residents of Highwood to have access to a wealth of information and materials. The Library will seek to address the residents' needs for popular, current materials.
- B. Ultimate responsibility for materials selection rests with the Executive Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Library Board. The Executive Director determines the budget, guidelines, and organizational structure for the staff who select materials. Selectors, with input from other staff, choose appropriate materials for their collection areas, monitor circulation, weed to keep their areas current with need and demand, see that materials are in good physical condition, and spend their budget in a timely and organized manner.
- C. The library staff will attempt to select materials that represent a wide range of viewpoints and will do its best to exercise impartiality in all selection activities. The addition of an item to the collection does not represent an endorsement by the Library of its content. All sides of controversial issues will be represented in the Library's collection as far as budget, space, and availability of materials allow. The race, religion, nationality, or political views of an author, the frankness or coarseness of language, the controversial content of an item, or the endorsement or disapproval of an individual or group in the community will not cause an item to automatically be included or excluded. Processing and shelving of materials does not reflect a value judgment of the materials.
- D. Children are not limited to materials in the juvenile collection, although juvenile collections are kept together to facilitate use. The Library assures free access to its holdings to all patrons who are free to select or reject for themselves any item in the collection. Responsibility for materials selected for a child must rest with their parent or guardian, not with the Library.



E. In addition to the requirements of the general public served, materials will be selected to meet the needs of such groups as local businesses; the professions; government; community organizations; the homebound; the visually, physically, and mentally disabled; individuals with learning disabilities, adult beginning readers, and of people for whom English is not the principal language. Adult, young adult, and children's collections will serve as supplementary sources for student use, but materials selected for students must also be useful to the general reader.

F. All criteria in materials selection are measured by the professional judgment, knowledge, and experience of library staff.

G. Materials currently provided for library patrons include books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, music, video games, and films in physical, digital and/or streaming formats.

H. The Library's collection is one that is intended to be current, useful, and circulating. The criteria for weeding (i.e., the periodic discarding of library materials) are continuing accuracy, frequency of use, physical condition, and relevance. Replacements and updated editions are purchased when warranted.

I. The Library will encourage and accept gifts with the understanding that gifts of materials will be added to the collection only when they meet the same standards required of purchased materials. Gift materials which do not meet those standards, are out-of-date, are unneeded duplicates, or are in a format unsuitable for library use, may be given to the Friends of the Library for book sales, exchanged, or recycled. A letter for tax purposes will be sent to the donor if requested at the time the donation is made. Whenever a gift is no longer needed or useful, it will be disposed of in the same manner as materials purchased.

J. The Library will review the selection of a specific item upon request of a member of the community. The form "Request for Reconsideration of Library Material" may be submitted to the Executive Director, who will then study the request, where appropriate appoint a staff committee to review the work, and will determine whether the item will remain in the collection. The item being questioned will remain in the collection and available to the public unless a final decision is made to remove it. The Executive Director will send a written decision to the person making the request. The library user may appeal the Executive Director's decision to the Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board is final.

Approved: August 24, 2026