

NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

DISPLAY POLICY

Purpose

The New Britain Public Library's Display Policy establishes guidelines for the display of library materials by staff, informs the public of the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and supports the overall mission of the library, which is:

"The New Britain Public Library aspires to give every resident the opportunity to become successful and well-informed by offering resources, services and experiences that build skills and provide enrichment."

Policy

Displays are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents and represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints. Additionally, library displays provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents. The New Britain Public Library recognizes the importance of displays as a resource for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. Library displays are created by librarians who are professionally trained to curate and develop displays, and displays are intended to inspire individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds, promote programming and highlight new materials.

Principles and Criteria

The Library Director is ultimately responsible for displays, though library employees share in the task of planning and constructing displays on a regular basis. The following criteria is used by library staff when selecting display topics, materials, and resources:

- Needs and interests of the community
- Availability of space
- Civic, historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to programs, exhibitions, or events at the local or national level
- Relation to library collections, exhibits, resources and programs
- The Library may collaborate with community agencies, educational institutions, organizations or individuals to create and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The library will aim to represent a wide range of viewpoints in library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that are relevant to patrons of varying ages, with a multitude of interests and information needs. Displays and exhibits initiated by the library should not exclude books, media, resources or topics solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

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Public Participation in Library Displays

The Library may permit displays that are created by the public or groups within the community to be exhibited in the Library. The Library will consider content, materials or displays volunteered for distribution from the public and approve or reject based on the same criteria that they use to create for the Library. New Britain Public Library does not endorse the content or viewpoint expressed in any display, exhibit or materials within said display or exhibit.

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

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. The library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of library materials is based on the community member's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself.

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider or remove materials, displays or programs to New Britain residents. Please see our Reconsideration Policy for further information on this process.

The Library upholds the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements of the American Library Association. These documents can be accessed through the following links:

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

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

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

Just as these statements uphold the First Amendment and the reader's right to information, they extend to The Library's ability to display the content distributed in the collection and materials from the community. The Library will use its discretion, regarding content that may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. Race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and political or social views will not be used to guide the inclusion or exclusion of displays.