



Harwinton Public Library

Display Policy

Purpose

The Harwinton Public Library's Display Policy establishes the purpose of displays of Library materials within the building, and the criteria used to evaluate if a display meets the purpose.

The Harwinton Public Library recognizes the importance of displays as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas, and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by patrons. Displays are curated to align with the Library's Mission to meet the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the citizens of Harwinton, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents. Displays are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. Displays represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints.

Principles and Criteria

The final responsibility for the display of Library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by librarians who are professionally trained to curate and develop displays. Library staff use the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

Availability of display space

Community needs and interest

Timeliness, connection to other community, statewide or national programs or current events

Historical, cultural, or educational significance

Relation to Library collections, programs, exhibits and resources

The Library provides displays created or curated by librarians or staff members of the public Library. The Library may also partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits. All displays within the Library, whether created by librarians or co-sponsored with another entity, must meet these criteria.

The Library will strive to include a wide range of opinions and viewpoints in displays, and to curate displays that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Displays should not exclude topics, books, media, or 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 Harwinton Public Library of the content and 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 general statutes.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The selection of Library materials by patron 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 predicated on the patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selection will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself.

Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently be seen by minors. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which Library materials are appropriate for their children. The Harwinton Public Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, and the Library Bill of Rights.

Procedures for Reconsideration of Library Displays

The Library's Materials Review and Reconsideration Policy outlines the procedures whereby concerned individuals may question materials, displays, or programs within the Library. The Library limits requests for reconsideration of displays to Harwinton residents. Please see our **Request for Reconsideration** form for further information on this process.

This policy is available on our website at <https://www.harwintonlibrary.org/about-us/policies/>

A hard copy may be requested at the Library.