

A STATEMENT FROM THE AMARILLO ADVISORY LIBRARY BOARD GOVERNING MATERIALS SELECTION GUIDELINES OF THE AMARILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY

It is the function of the Amarillo Public Library to provide materials for all ages, from earliest childhood through maturity, on subjects of human interest, taking into consideration budget limitation, human understanding, and local needs.

The aim of the materials collection is to make available print and nonprint materials that will meet the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational interests of the people of Amarillo. To fulfill this purpose, the Library endeavors to maintain a carefully selected collection of representative materials of permanent value and of current interest.

It is the policy to buy materials that will encourage development of the individual and the community; that will enable the citizen to form his own opinion and give him help in whatever field of endeavor he may be engaged; that will make him aware of the great advances in science and more appreciative of the arts; that will make his leisure time more pleasant, more interesting, and more worthwhile. In following this policy, the Library may provide materials, possibly argumentative, representing the several points of view. For budget reasons, the Library can acquire only a limited number of the thousands of print and nonprint items issued annually. Selection is based upon principle rather than personal opinion, reason rather than prejudice, and judgment rather than censorship.

The children's collection is selected to provide pleasurable reading for reading's sake and to provide information in fields of knowledge which are of interest to children. It is the hope of the Library Board that children of all ages and abilities may be served and that the collection will stimulate their imagination, their mental growth, and develop their appreciation of good literature and illustrations.

Gifts are evaluated in the light of the above policies before they are placed in the library collection. Recommendations from citizens are encouraged with respect to purchases and are also subject to evaluation.

In materials selection, the Amarillo Public Library subscribes to the [Library Bill of Rights](#), the [Freedom to Read Statement](#), and the [Freedom to View Statement](#) of the American Library Association. In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Amarillo Public Library is providing Internet access as an informational resource to all its patrons. The Internet is an unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it enables access to some materials which may be seen as offensive by some.

The Library staff will guide users to sources on the Internet which will enhance the Library's collection and are appropriate to the Library's mission and service roles. It is not, however, possible to apply the same selection criteria which are applied to other materials. Individuals using the Internet within the Library must accept responsibility for determining whether the content is appropriate for their informational needs. Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their children.

The content of the collection is strictly a professional responsibility and rests with the Director of Library Services, who operates within the framework determined by the Library Board.

(Based on Book Selection Policy of C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland, Philosophy of Library Service of Richmond Public Library, California, and Enoch Pratt Free Library Book Selection Policy.)

(October 1959) (Reworded 1996)

MEDIA SELECTION

There is a growing awareness of film as a vital source of information and as an art form in today's society. Films provide the citizen with information about his work, his community, the world, and his place in it. The Library, in accordance with the general Materials Selection Policy, will acquire video recordings that will meet the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational interests of the people of Amarillo. To fulfill this purpose, the Library will maintain a carefully selected collection of representative materials of permanent value and of current interest. Thus, instructional films, how-to films, children's visuals, documentaries, plays, management and training video recordings, nostalgia, and feature video recordings emphasizing timeless subject matter as well as classics are appropriate to this collection's scope. Amarillo Public's video recording collection will evolve to fill an important gap in the community in the provision of video recording access to difficult to locate subjects and video recordings of merit that are no longer available from current suppliers.

For budget reasons, the Library can acquire only a limited number of the many video items issued annually. Selection is based upon principle rather than personal opinion, reason rather than prejudice, and judgment rather than censorship. To assure the acquisition of quality video materials, the following characteristics will be considered in relation to each title requested:

- **FAVORABLE REVIEWS:** The video recordings to be acquired will be those materials which, in the opinions, of reputable reviewers or experts within the subject area, present ideas and information in an accurate and well-organized manner and which employ a style of presentation appropriate for the medium, the subject matter, and the intended audience.
- **APPROPRIATENESS OF THE SUBJECT TO THE COLLECTION**
- **APPROPRIATENESS TO THE INTERESTS AND SKILLS OF THE INTENDED USERS**
- **TECHNICAL QUALITY:** The technical quality of purchased video recordings shall meet professional standards, i.e., sound formats should be clear and visual formats should be in focus and have consistent and accurate color tones.
- **AUTHORITY AND COMPETENCY OF THE FILM MAKER**
- **COST**

The Library recognizes that many materials (print and nonprint) are controversial and that any given item may offend some library user. Selections will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection and to serving the interests of the citizens of Amarillo.