Piedmont Valley Library Collection Development Policy

The mission of the Piedmont Valley Library is to provide a collection of materials for the education and entertainment of the citizens of all ages who patronize our library.

I. Responsibility for Materials Selection.

The collection should reflect a variety of subjects and viewpoints to serve the community. A variety of formats will be offered and will include print and non-print materials. Final responsibility for selection of library materials rests with the Library Director.

Criteria for Selection

1. The importance of the subject matter to the collection
2. Appeal to the current patrons of the library
3. Timeliness or permanence of the material
4. Price and availability of budgeted funds
5. Format
6. Condition and quality
7. Content adds to local history and literature of western South Dakota

It is the right of any registered patron to recommend library materials to be added to the collection. Such recommendations shall be made in writing on forms made available at the circulation desk. The director and staff will consider such recommendations with the established evaluation criteria.

II. Gifts and Donations

Refer to General Policies.

III. Maintaining the Collection

The decision to withdraw materials from the collection rests with the librarian. The criteria for this decision is based on the condition of the material, age and usefulness of the material, especially in the area of science, and circulation of the material.

Withdrawn materials shall be marked appropriately and may be sold, traded, donated or destroyed according to SD Law 14-2-49.

IV. Censorship

While anyone is free to reject for him or herself any library materials of which he/she does not approve, no individual may restrict the freedom of others to read or use any library material.

No library can make everything available. Our library follows the criteria for adding or discarding materials stated previously, not to be influenced by individuals who attempt to practice censorship.

V. Reconsideration of Material

It is the right of any registered patron in good standing to question any materials selected by the library. Such questions shall be presented in writing with forms made available at the circulation desk. Such questions shall be specific as to the title, format, and nature of the material being questioned. If the patron is not satisfied with the librarian's resolution to the request, the Library Board of Trustees will consider the request with any supporting documentation at their next regularly scheduled meeting and will give their decision in writing to the registered patron.

The following policies apply to the reconsideration process:

-A reconsideration form must be filled out for each title. Single forms addressing multiple titles will not be considered.

-A maximum of two requests per month will be processed.

-A title can only be submitted for reconsideration once every three years.

-The item in question will remain in the circulating library collection during the reconsideration process.

Any determination regarding whether any matter or material is obscene may be appealed to the Piedmont City Council, in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law 22-24-56. Any determination made by the Piedmont City Council as to whether any matter or material is obscene is subject to judicial review in the Fourth Circuit Court of Meade County.

VI. Minor Access to Materials

South Dakota State Law 22-24-56 requires that all libraries in South Dakota develop and implement a local policy that establishes measures to restrict minors from accessing obscene matter or materials. South Dakota State Law 22-24-27(11) defines obscene materials as:

(a) The dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
(b) Which is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sado-masochistic abuse or sexual conduct;
(c) Lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

In compliance with South Dakota law, the library does not collect materials found to violate Section 22-24-27(11).

With respect to the use of library materials by children, the decision as to what a minor may read is the responsibility of the child's parents or guardian. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that books may inadvertently come into the possession of minors.

Revised and adopted November 25th, 2024
Piedmont Valley Library Board of Trustees

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Amy Soyland, Chair

14-2-49. Discard of old library materials--Marking--Disposition. Any public library may discard over-duplicated, outdated, inappropriate, or worn library materials; provided, that such materials shall be marked clearly with the words: "Discarded, _____ public library" wherever the property label of such library appears. Such discarded materials may be given to other libraries or to nonprofit agencies, destroyed, offered for public sale, or traded to a vendor for future library material purchasing credits.