



Display Policy

Purpose

Community information is distributed and displayed in public areas of the library in order to support the library's mission which is to enrich the lives of our patrons by promoting literacy, lifelong learning and cultural enhancement to all generations of our diverse community.

The Beardsley Library supports the importance of displays and programs 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. With a strong focus on encouraging the love of reading, lifelong learning, and creativity, we establish receptive connections between the diverse needs of our community, which is a key aspect of our approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays.

Principles and Criteria

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

- Community needs and interest
- Availability of display space
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other communities or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- The library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

Library displays should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. Library displays should represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints. - Library displays provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents. Displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

The library provides displays created or curated by librarians or staff members of the public library as well as allowing displays created by members of the public or community groups to be exhibited in the public library. With approval from the Director, if the library accepts a display or

exhibition, this does not mean the library endorses the content or the views expressed in the 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 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 predicated on the customer's right to access 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.

Beardsley Library's Display Policy

Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The Beardsley Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and all relevant interpretations.

Material review and reconsideration policy with language that says the library limits consideration of requests to reconsider displays or programs to individual residents of Winsted.

APPROVED BY CT STATE LIBRARY 10/2025

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