

# **STANLY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY**

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## **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY**

The Stanly County Public Library system acknowledges the importance of knowing the community in order to select the most appropriate materials. Stanly County is an agricultural-industrial community of 60,000 persons. Because the community will continue to change, the need to re-evaluate this policy at two-year intervals exists.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of the library is to provide information for recreational, educational, and cultural purposes in a variety of media, to encourage the use of this material, and to make it accessible to all citizens.

## **RELATION TO OTHER LIBRARIES IN THE COMMUNITY**

Stanly County Public Library is one of many libraries in the county. The Stanly County Schools, Stanly Community College and Pfeiffer University, in addition to several private schools, all provide libraries to support their educational activities. There may be medical and industrial library collections that are not readily available to the public that support business and consumer activity within the county. A special responsibility in collection development for the public library lies in selecting materials to support kindergarten through twelfth grade education goals within the county. The Library does not directly purchase materials to support the educational activities of Pfeiffer University or Stanly Community College. The Stanly County Public Library system seeks to have a comprehensive collection in order to serve all Stanly County citizens.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The selection of materials is made by the professional library staff using primarily book reviews and best seller lists but also considering suggestions by patrons and other staff members. The ultimate responsibility for selection rests with the Director of the Library, who is guided by the policies approved by the Library Board of Trustees.

## **CRITERIA**

The LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and the FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT are our primary selection guidelines. The materials are selected according to professional reviews, community

standards, and whether works are by local authors or of local significance. The Library will also consider the physical quality of the materials.

1. **Children's Material**  
Material for children is selected from critical reviews. Great emphasis is placed on material that stimulates the imagination and material that provides valid information. Responsibility for the material a child reads or uses rests with his/her parents or legal guardian.
2. **Young Adult Material**  
Young Adult Material is chosen to meet the special needs and interests of teenagers with emphasis on various perspectives of the teenage and adult world.
3. **Adult Material**
  - a. Fiction  
Selection is based on the author's literary reputation, critical or commercial success, or the degree of patron interest. The Library will strive for a balance between original, creative writing and light fiction and recreation.
  - b. Non-Fiction  
This material is selected with an emphasis on recent, valid, and authoritative information in all subject fields in an attempt to broaden and balance our information capabilities. Materials are also selected to provide ready access to current information in various fields of study.
4. **Reference**  
The reference collection includes materials selected to provide ready access to current information in various fields of study and will be coordinated to complement the numerous online and web-based resources available to county residents through our public Internet access.
5. **Local History and Genealogy Collection**  
A primary responsibility of the Library is to preserve the published works of local authors and of materials which deal with local subject matter. Since the preservation of Stanly County history, genealogy, and cultural heritage is of such special interest to the community, the Library makes every effort to collect and preserve all materials so identified.

The priority with which the Library develops the collection is:

- a. All published works by local authors regardless of the subject matter or literary merit.
- b. All historical or genealogical works on Stanly County and its communities.
- c. Historical or genealogical works on those counties from which Stanly was formed or has been inextricably associated.
- d. Historical or genealogical works on the State of North Carolina, or its various regions, counties, etc.
- e. Works of a general nature in local history and genealogy which support this research.

6. **Audio-Visual Material**

Audio-Visual Material is selected on the same criteria as printed material. The Library recognizes the importance of including non-print material in order to reach a wider segment of our population.

7. **Gifts and Memorials/Honors**

- a. The Library welcomes books and other materials, but these must be evaluated in the same manner as other acquired materials. Further guidelines on gifts can be found in the library's Gift Policy. In order for staff to maintain a balanced collection, donors of honor or gift materials are encouraged to choose from items or subject areas suggested by the professional library staff with regard to professional standards.
- b. Materials are removed from the collection when they become outdated or superseded by updated editions.
- c. The same selection criteria applies to the acquisition of new editions and revisions of older works as applies to new materials.
- d. Duplicate copies of materials in continuing demand are retained in storage for future use.
- e. When materials are in poor physical condition and a continuing demand exists, consideration will be given to replacement or rebinding.

#### RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Anyone wishing to file a request for reconsideration of library materials should fill out a *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material* form. The requests will be reviewed according to the guidelines set forth in the Procedure for Dealing with Request for Reconsideration of Materials. Appeals will be directed to the Director and the Board of Trustees.

(Approved December 3, 1981; amended June 10, 1993  
amended October 18, 2000; amended March 21, 2007)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS\*

Stanly County Public Library  
133 East Main Street  
Albemarle NC 28001

(The Stanly County Public Library Board of Trustees has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library resources to the librarians, and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those resources. Completion of this form is the first step in those procedures. If you wish to request reconsideration of library resources, please return the completed form to the Director of the Stanly County Public Library, 133 East Main Street, Albemarle NC 28001)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NC Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you represent yourself?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your organization?** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Resource on which you are commenting:**

**Book**                      **Textbook**                      **Video**                      **Display**

**Magazine**                      **Library Program**                      **Audio Recording**

**Newspaper**                      **Electronic Information/Network (please specify)**

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author/Producer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What brought this resource to your attention:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Have you examined the entire resource?**                      **Yes**                      **No**

**4. What concerns you about the resource? (Use other side or additional pages if necessary)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?** \_\_\_\_\_

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(Revised by the American Library Association  
Intellectual Freedom Committee  
June 27, 1995)