

Scotland Public Library

Library Display Policy

**Purpose**

The Scotland Public Library’s Display Policy provides a basis for the display of library materials by library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the library’s mission.

***Mission Statement: The Scotland Public Library, founded in February 1895, functions to collect, organize and preserve informational and recreational books and other materials for public use, without discrimination of any kind.***

**Policy**

The Scotland Public Library recognizes the importance of displays and programs as resources 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 responsive connections between the diverse needs of our community, our collections, our digital services, and an array of engaging programming. A key aspect of our approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds. These displays serve as a tangible expression of our dedication to the community and exemplify our belief that a vibrant library contributes to a strong community. Displays are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents, represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents.

**Principles and Criteria**

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director. Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. Library staff use 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 community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
* Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
* The Scotland Public Library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The Scotland Public Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

The Scotland Public Library provides displays created or curated by librarians, as well as allowing displays created by members of the public or community groups to be exhibited in the public library. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the library does not constitute an endorsement by the Scotland Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the 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 Connecticut 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 of access to 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. No library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs cancelled, because of origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program or because of the origin, background or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program. The library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to individual residents of Scotland. Please see the Library Material and Reconsideration Policy, which is available on the library website.

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 Scotland Public 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.

**Brochure Handouts**

The Scotland Public Library will only display and make brochures available to the public for non-profit organizations. The library will not display or distribute personal, commercial, or profit-making handouts and reserves the right to reject materials that are deemed inappropriate. Brochures will be placed in easily accessible locations in the library at the discretion of the Library Director based on space, date of event, and length of time needed to promote an event. Acceptance to display brochures for public availability does not constitute or imply endorsement by the library.

Policy adopted by the Scotland Public Library Board of Directors on October, 14, 2025.