

# **The Goshen Free Library**

**John James Memorial Hall**  
**42 Main Street • Goshen, Massachusetts**

## **Materials Selection Policy**

---

Adopted by the Trustees July 30, 2018

Goshen Free Public Library endeavors to provide collections, programs, and services that help meet the information, cultural, and recreational needs of the community and foster a lifelong love of reading and learning. The library seeks to provide a welcoming atmosphere for everyone, regardless of age, sexual orientation, race, creed, ability, or financial situation. Library materials, including books, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs, magazines, games/puzzles, and museum passes, are selected with the intent of fulfilling this mission.

### **Responsibility for material selection**

The library director is responsible for the selection of library materials, based on the selection policy adopted by the board of trustees.

### **Criteria for selecting materials**

The library director selects materials based on his/her judgment and expertise, patron recommendations, suggestions of other librarians, reviews, and lists of most requested items at other libraries. Criteria include current appeal or permanent value, importance as a reflection of the time in which we live, relation to the existing collection, quality of presentation, and ability to engender thoughtful participation in current affairs of the community, country, and world. In addition to the above criteria, children's materials are chosen for their ability to advance development of their reading skills, stimulate their curiosity and imagination, and help them understand themselves and the world in which they live.

### **Supplementing the library's collection**

The library's small size and budgetary constraints make it impossible to provide a collection that can meet all needs, so its resources are supplemented with materials borrowed through the automated resource sharing network provided by CWMARS and the Massachusetts Library System (MLS).

### **The use of library materials**

Goshen Free Public Library's collections are available during regularly scheduled library hours. Responsibility for the use of materials from the adult portions of the collections by children and young adults lies with their parents/guardians.

### **Collection maintenance**

Because of space constraints, it is necessary, periodically, to withdraw materials in order to make room for new ones. The same criteria used for selecting new materials apply to withdrawing materials, except that in order for an item classified as “Special Collections” to be withdrawn, the decision to do so must be approved by both the library director and the entire board of trustees.

### **Gifts**

While space limitations restrict the library’s ability to accept donations of books, monetary gifts for the purchase of new materials are always welcome, with the selection of materials determined by the director, based on the selection criteria enumerated above. If the monetary gift is intended as a memorial, a book plate bearing the name of the person to be memorialized will be affixed to the purchased item/s; otherwise the donor of the monetary gift will be named on the bookplate (unless he/she wishes to remain anonymous).

### **Intellectual freedom**

Goshen Free Public Library follows the principles promulgated in the American Library Association’s *Library Bill of Rights* and *Freedom to Read Statement* (see ALA.org).