Blauvelt Free Library

Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for the selection, acquisition, and withdrawal of library materials in alignment with the Library's mission. The Blauvelt Free Library strives to curate a collection that balances materials of historical and lasting value with contemporary resources that support our role as a community hub for education, information, and entertainment.
The Board of Trustees delegates the responsibility for materials selection to the Library Director. Under the Director's supervision, professional staff manage and develop the collection.

Intellectual Freedom

The Blauvelt Free Library is committed to the principle of intellectual freedom. We provide free and open access to all materials in our collection without judgment or restriction. Items are not labeled to reflect opinions or perspectives. The Library's decision to purchase a title does not imply endorsement of its content or views.

Collection Overview

The Blauvelt Free Library works to offer a diverse and comprehensive collection that meets the needs of the general public and reflects the ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity of our community.
Through our membership in the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS), we provide access to the collections of 46 libraries, regional academic libraries, and

other libraries nationwide via interlibrary loan. This extensive network allows us to meet patron needs beyond our physical collection.

Collection Categories

Museum Passes
The library collection includes purchased museum passes that allow patrons of all ages to learn, explore and pursue educational and recreational resources outside of the library.

Adult Materials
The adult collection includes:
Fiction and non-fiction in hardcover, paperback, large print, magazines, eBook and Audio book format
Genre-specific sections:

- Mystery, suspense, science fiction/fantasy, poetry, short stories and graphic novels
- Select reference and local history materials

Audiovisual materials:

- DVDs, Blu-rays, music CDs, books on CD, video games, Periodicals and newspapers (current and back issues)
- Reference databases accessible via our website

The Adult Reference Librarians are responsible for curating and maintaining the adult collection.

Teen Materials
Intended for students in grades 6–12, the teen collection features:

- Fiction and non-fiction in various formats
- Audiovisual materials, magazines, and games

The Head of Youth Services is responsible for maintaining the teen collection

Children's Materials
Serving children from birth through grade 5 and their families, the children's collection includes:

- Fiction and non-fiction picture books, easy readers, chapter books, learning kits, and encyclopedias

- Audiovisual materials: DVDs, music CDs, books on CD, video games and eBooks
- Reference databases

The Head of Youth Services oversees the development and maintenance of the children's collection.

Material Removal
The Blauvelt Free Library continuously reviews its materials and items may be removed based upon the following criteria:

- Poor condition or damage to the item
- Lack of circulation
- Space restrictions
- Inaccurate, outdated content
- No longer relevant to community needs
- More copies than needed

Challenges -Request for Reconsideration of Material

Freedom of speech is a principle that supports the freedom of an individual or a community to articulate their opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship, or legal sanction. Our library strives to provide a diverse collection which represents a variety of viewpoints and does not take a position on materials. We welcome expressions of opinions from our patrons concerning our materials. If a patron feels a piece from our collection does not seem to follow the criteria above, he or she may complete a "Request for Reconsideration" form which can be obtained from the Director. Once the form is completed, the request will be considered carefully by the Director. Once a decision is reached, a written response will be sent. If the response is unsatisfying, the patron may then send a request to the Board who will respond after the next regular meeting. Before any item is removed, the appropriate librarian shall be given an opportunity to explain why the item merits retention.