

Library Display Policy

The -Turner Memorial Library (WTML or “the Library”) recognizes the importance of displays as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. A key aspect of our service is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds. 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 our community.

Purpose

The Display Policy of the Library exists to provide guidelines for the display of library materials by library staff as well as the public display areas, and informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made. It is intended to ensure that all members of the public are provided with consistent and equitable services from the Library.

Roles and Responsibilities for Library Displays

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by library employees throughout the library who are professionally trained to curate and develop displays.

Principles and Criteria for Library 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 community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Partnerships with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The 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 Library provides displays created or curated by librarians or staff members of the Library as well as allowing displays created by members of the public or community groups to be exhibited in the Library. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the 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 to some patrons. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated patron approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the displays and to serving the interests of Library patrons.

Selection of materials for Library displays will not be restricted by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The 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.

Review and Reconsideration of Library Displays

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to individual residents of Glastonbury. Please see the Library's Review and Reconsideration Policy for further information on this process.