

Policy #19 Display Policy

Purpose

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library creates displays in alignment with the Library's mission to provide informational, educational, cultural, and creative resources to the community. Displays are created:

- To serve the interest, information needs, and enlightenment of all residents;
- To represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints;
- To promote voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and lifelong learning;
- To provide access to content that is relevant to research, independent interests, and educational needs;
- To support intellectual freedom and promote a culture of inquiry and exploration.

Principles & Criteria

The Library Director, under the direction of the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library Board of Trustees, is responsible for the oversight of Library displays. Professionally trained librarians are responsible for planning and curating displays for all ages to include a variety of topics and viewpoints. Library Assistants may work with Librarians to curate Library displays. Library staff utilize 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, state, or national resources, exhibits, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, or programs
- Seasonality and timeliness
- Current events and trends

In addition to displays created by Library staff, the Library provides display space – including but not limited to display cases, art display areas, and public bulletin boards – that can be used by members of the public or community organizations. Public displays do not fall under the scope of this policy, and approval of a display or exhibit by the Library does not constitute endorsement by the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library of the content of the display or exhibit. Information about using Library display space can be found in the Solicitations & Public Display Policy on page 157 of the Policy Manual.

Intellectual Freedom & Censorship

The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, The Freedom to Read Statement, and the Free Access to Libraries for Minors Statement have been endorsed by the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library Association Board of Trustees and are integral to this policy. They can be found on pages 8-14 of the Policy Manual. It is the right of the individual not to read, view, or hear materials that the individual considers objectionable. It is never the right of any Library user or users to deny access to Library materials to others. All library materials,

including displays, are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Library limits considerations of requests to reconsider displays to residents or taxpayers of Coventry. All reconsiderations must be submitted in writing following the Library's Material Review and Reconsideration Policy found on page 125 of the Policy Manual.

Adopted September 2025

