

Martin County Library Collection Development Policy

The primary goal of the Martin County Library collection is to provide library materials for the educational, recreational, and informational needs of the people in its service area.

The Library Board expresses its support of the staff responsible for the selection of library materials, and delegates to such staff the authority to purchase library materials that are considered essential, useful and within the scope of this selection policy.

The Martin County Library does not engage in censorship of materials. The Library and its board recognize the right and privilege of each person to select the materials they wish to utilize, and that no one is obliged to read, hear, or view that which they do not like.

The Martin County Library selects material for people of all ages. The selection of materials is not restricted based on perceived appropriateness of a particular age.

The library reserves the right to refuse any monetary or material donations and gifts for the library's collection.

The following are examples of the general criteria used when selecting library material:

- Items that are well-regarded by library review sources, patron requests, staff suggestions and popular items.
- Items that are useful, factually accurate, significant and needed in a subject matter/area.
- Items that reflect the diversity of opinion available in today's society, allowing each library user to reach their own conclusions about a topic.
- Items for all ages, and for various language, education and comprehension levels.

Martin County Library

Weeding and Withdrawal of Library Items

The library maintains an active, useful and current collection. Library staff regularly reviews the collection. The following are examples of the general criteria used when weeding library material:

- Misleading, inaccurate or out of date information.
- Materials in poor condition.
- Materials that haven't been used or circulated over a specified period of time.
- Duplicate materials.
- Materials available elsewhere.

Once an item has been withdrawn from the collection, it will continue to remain property of the library and will go through the following removal steps:

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| Step 1 | If of possible need, the item may be offered to other county departments or the jail. |
| Step 2 | The item may be sold by the library in order to fund other projects or purchases. |
| Step 3 | The item may be donated to a local library support group, local school or a non-profit group not affiliated with the library. |
| Step 4 | Once an item has gone through the above procedure and is determined to no longer have any value, it will be recycled. |

Martin County Library Request for Reconsideration

Minnesota State Law (Minn. Stat. 134.51) prohibits the ban, removal or restriction of access to library materials based solely on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas or opinions it conveys. The Martin County Library will not consider any requests for reconsideration that contravene state law. Additionally, the library will not consider any requests for reconsideration that are for a title, program or display that has been through the process within the previous three calendar years.

The Library Board respects the right of persons to express their opinions, negative as well as positive, with respect to materials, programs and displays at the library. However, negative attitudes of persons or groups toward any material, program or display shall not mean its removal from the library collection.

Request for Reconsideration Process:

- 1) A member of the public fills out the request for reconsideration paperwork.
- 2) The library director, or another professional librarian, will review the request and decide on the material, program or display in question within 30 days.
- 3) If not satisfied, the petitioner can appeal the decision to the Martin County Library Board at the board's next official meeting. The library board's decision is final.
- 4) All requests for reconsideration for materials must be reported to the state of Minnesota, and will be done by the library director on behalf of the library board.

This policy was amended and approved in October 2024.

Request for Reconsideration Form for Library Materials

Martin County Library

110 N. Park St.

Fairmont, MN 56031

Date_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Phone_____

Email Address_____

1. Library material on which you are commenting, include title/author/etc.:
2. Have you examined the entirety of the material?
3. What concerns you about the material? Please include citations and page numbers.
4. Who would be negatively impacted by this material and how? Please include citations and page numbers.
5. What title(s) would you suggest replacing the material with, please include professional reviews of any suggestions.
6. What action are you requesting be made regarding this material?
7. By signing this form, I confirm that this request for reconsideration does not contravene state law (134.51), which prohibits the ban, removal or restriction of access to library materials based solely on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas or opinions it conveys.

Signature_____

Request for Reconsideration Form for Library Programs and Displays

Martin County Library

110 N. Park St.

Fairmont, MN 56031

Date_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Phone_____

Email Address_____

1. Library program or display on which you are commenting:
2. If commenting on a program, did you attend the program in its entirety?
3. What concerns you about the program or display? Please be specific.
4. Who would be negatively impacted by this program or display and how? Please be specific.
5. What action are you requesting be made regarding this program or display?

Signature_____