

East Haddam Library System Display Policy

Purpose

The East Haddam Library System's (EHLS) Display Policy covers the display of library materials by library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the library's mission, which is: "The East Haddam Library System engages the imagination, inspires curiosity, and fosters lifelong learning in a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible environment."

Principles and Criteria

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. The importance of displays and programs is recognized by the Library. Displays and programs are resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. 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
- The Library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

Library-initiated displays and exhibits should be provided for the interest information, and enlightenment of all residents and should represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints. They should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial. Displays provide access to content that's relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents. A display or exhibit topic by the Library or by members of the public does not constitute an endorsement by the EHLS 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 CT General Statutes.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The EHLS 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.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

The EHLS System limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to residents of East Haddam. Please see our *Material Review and Reconsideration Policy* and *Request for Reconsideration Form* available on the Library's website or at the circulation desks of each Library for further information on this process.