



DISPLAY POLICY

The Marion Community Library plays a vital role at the heart of the community by promoting full and equal access to information, encouraging the love of reading, enabling life-long learning, and empowering creativity. It will provide a responsive connection between the community's needs, its collections, information technology, and diverse programming, by, in part, providing a variety of displays, both physical and virtual, that inform and enrich the lives of people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.

Principles and Criteria

The responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director. The Library Director 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

In addition, the library draws upon other community resources in developing displays and exhibits and may partner 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 controversial. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the library does not constitute an endorsement by the Marion Community Library or the Marion Community Library Association of the content of the display or exhibit or of the views expressed in materials on display.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that everyone can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. In representing various sides of a question, the library thus provides citizens with reliable sources of information on which to base intelligent decisions in their daily lives.

The library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons; displays which may be considered frank or offensive to some are permitted if they adhere to the library's Display Policy and contribute to the furtherance of its mission.

Only parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children to library resources. The display of materials is not inhibited by the possibility that works may inadvertently be seen by or come into the possession of children and young adults.

Labels will be provided only as viewpoint-neutral directional aids to facilitate access by making it easier for users to locate materials. The materials are displayed on open shelves and are equally accessible to all users, who may choose to consult or ignore the directional aids at their own discretion.

The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements are basic to the above policy.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons: In the event, a patron has questions or concerns regarding a library display, the following procedures should be used:

1. The patron is referred to a staff member.
2. This staff member makes every attempt to satisfy the patron's concern by clarifying the established display policies on an informal, positive, one-to-one basis.
3. After the interview, the staff member notifies the Library Director in a brief written statement as to the date, circumstances, and the result of the patron's concern.
4. A patron who wishes to pursue their question further is referred to the Library Director. A concern taken to this level constitutes a formalized complaint.
5. During the interview with the patron, the Director fills out one copy of the Request for Re-Evaluation of Library Materials form.
6. The Director then reviews the display in question and prepares a written recommendation within ten (10) days.
7. A patron who wishes to make their objection known even further can forward their complaint directly to the Marion Community Library Association board for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
8. A copy of the complaint submitted to the Board is forwarded to the President of the MCLA.
9. The MCLA board sends its recommendation to the Library Director.
10. The Library Director then reviews their original decision in the context of the MCLA board recommendation and confirms or sends a revised opinion to the patron in writing, with a copy sent to the MCLA board.
11. The decision on the complaint is then final and without further appeal.

On-Loan Display Items

Patrons must submit an "On-Loan Display Items" form, acknowledging the lender, the date range of the loaning period, and a brief historical summary of loaned item(s).

There is no guarantee that the items submitted will be displayed. Final decisions on which submission(s) are to be displayed are made by the Library Director or Marion Community Library Association.

Items submitted for display are done so at the owner's risk. The library accepts no liability for damage or theft, although great care will be taken when handling loaned items and every effort will be made to keep them safe.

Display items will be picked up in a timely manner following the conclusion of the display period noted on the corresponding "On-Loan Display Items" form. Owners of the display items will remove items at the agreed time. Display items not picked up within 30 days following the conclusion of a display or exhibit will be considered a donation to the Marion Community Library.

Appendix

On-Loan Display Items Form

Policy reviewed/approved by Marion Community Library Association Membership 04/14/2026

Contact Information:

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