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Library Display Policy

Contents

Library Displays	2
Purpose	2
Principles and Criteria	2
Intellectual Freedom and Censorship	3
Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons.....	3
Display Policy Review	4
CT Public Act No. 25-168, Section 323	4
Definitions.....	5
Library and other educational material	5
Public library staff member	5
Individual with a vested interest.....	5
Remove	5
ALA Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View Statements.....	5
Library Bill of Rights	5
Freedom to Read Statement	5
Freedom to View Statement	5

Library Displays

Purpose

The Babcock Library's *Library Display Policy* provides a basis for the library programs and library displays curated by Babcock librarians. This policy also informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which decisions for displays are made, and promotes the purposes of the Babcock Library's mission, which is:

The mission of the Babcock Library is to provide a welcoming and accessible environment for people of all ages pursuing lifelong education, technical support and knowledge, leisure and social interaction, and enrichment opportunities by offering expertise, resources, services, and experiences in a wide variety of formats.

Principles and Criteria

- 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.
- Library displays and programs should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents.
- Library displays and programs should represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints.
- Library displays and programs provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents.
- Babcock Library recognizes the importance of displays and programs as a resource for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by Ashford residents.
- Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. The ultimate responsibility for library displays and programs is held by the Babcock Library Director.
- A library display is a display offered to the public that is planned and facilitated by the public library staff members of the Babcock Library.
- Library displays and programs are created or curated by librarians, and must follow the Babcock Library's *Library Display Policy* and Babcock Library's *Library Program Policy*.

- Displays and programs may originate from members of the Ashford community and other non-profit or civic groups. Acceptance of a display or program by Babcock Library from members of the Ashford community and other non-profit or civic groups does not constitute an endorsement by the Babcock Library of the content of the display or program.
- Displays and Programs may be provided in-person, virtually, or a combination of both. Programs may be held on the site of the Babcock Library, within Knowlton Memorial Hall, at an off-site location, or virtually.

Community, Civil, Non-Profit Programs

Displays and programs may originate from members of the Ashford community and other non-profit or civic groups.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. The Babcock Library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual, but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of library materials is centered on the patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

The Babcock Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider materials, displays, or programs to individual residents of Ashford, Connecticut.

No library material, display, or program shall be removed, or program cancelled, because of the origin, background, or viewpoints expressed in such materials, display or program or because of the origin, background, or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program.

Library materials, displays, and programs shall only be excluded for legitimate educational purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices adopted in the Babcock Library's *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy*, Babcock Library's *Library Display Policy*, or Babcock Library's *Library Program Policy*.

Displays and programs may originate from members of the Ashford community and other non-profit or civic groups. Acceptance of a display or program by Babcock Library from members of the Ashford community and other non-profit or civic groups does not constitute an endorsement by the Babcock Library of the content of the display or program.

No library material, display or program shall neither favor or disfavor any group based on protected characteristics. Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes of Connecticut.

The completion of the *Request for Reconsideration of Babcock Library Materials* form does not guarantee either accession to the collection or removal from the collection, but does ensure library staff acknowledgement of user opinion, interests, and concerns. The library limits consideration of requests to reconsider materials, displays, or programs to residents of Ashford.

The Babcock Library's *Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy* and Babcock Library's *Request for Reconsideration of Babcock Library Materials* form are available on the [Babcock Library](#) website and directly from the Director of Babcock Library.

Display Policy Review

Babcock Library's *Library Display Policy* will be reviewed for updates and additions no less frequently than every three years from the date on which the Library Display Policy is approved by the CT State Library and Babcock Library Board of Trustees.

CT Public Act No. 25-168, Section 323

No principal public library shall be eligible to receive a state grant in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section if such principal public library does not maintain and adhere to a collection development, collection management and collection reconsideration policies and maintenance policy, a library display and program policy and a library material review and reconsideration policy that have been approved and adopted by the board of trustees or other governing body of such library pursuant to section 321 of this act. Such collection reconsideration, material review, and reconsideration policy shall offer residents a clear process to request a reconsideration of 487 of 745 Public Act No. 25-168 House Bill No. 7287 library materials. In the instance of a book challenge, these policies shall govern.

Definitions

Library and other educational material means any material belonging to, on loan to or otherwise in the custody of a public library, including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material and software.

Public library staff member means a staff member of a public library, a public librarian, any staff member whose assignment is in the public library or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a public library.

Individual with a vested interest means any individual residing in the town in which the public library is located or the town in which the contract library is located at the time a reconsideration form is filed.

Remove means deliberately taking library material out of a library's collection. "Remove" does not include the process of clearing (weeding) such a collection of any materials that are no longer useful.

ALA Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View Statements

Library Bill of Rights

"Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association, June 30, 2006
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> (Accessed August 29, 2025)
Document ID: d03f6aae-7e51-46b3-afed-50fa0809f8ca

Freedom to Read Statement

"The Freedom to Read Statement", American Library Association, July 26, 2006
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement> (Accessed August 29, 2025)
Document ID: 24cc13f0-22e4-4c16-ba92-d68ee65b9e28

Freedom to View Statement

"Freedom to View Statement", American Library Association, May 29, 2007
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement> (Accessed August 29, 2025)
Document ID: e526e16d-57d9-457e-a29e-9ef6a806fb9a