

Orem Public Library Display Policy

Display Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines the Orem Public Library's display philosophy, selection, and criteria policies for all of the library's displays. This includes areas such as:

- Main displays located in the lobbies and common spaces of the Library
- Cover outs, Stack Top and end cap displays
- Thematic display tables and shelves
- "New", "Award Winning" and other criteria-based displays
- Staff and Resident Recommendation shelves
- Artistic/multimedia displays, and craft displays from Library outreach programs
- Selections used within Outreach programming
- Displayed materials in and around reference desks
- Promotional & marketing-based posters, digital signs, internet content, and more
- Collaborative displays and events in conjunction with other community organizations

Display Philosophy

The library is guided by the principles of a freedom to read and intellectual freedom that can be more fully explored in the American Librarian Association's Library Bill of Rights, including the following statement:

"We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. ... We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights."

Displays are an important part of the Orem Library's offerings and efforts to connect residents to these essential rights. Therefore, display policy should allow for an abundance of topics, with appropriate weight and priority given to each topic. The displays should recognize the role of the Orem Public Library in providing the books and materials to the residents and then allowing the book and author to present a particular point of view. The display process should also clearly define the responsibility and professional and creative purview of various library staff. Ultimately, the library displays are the responsibility of the Library Director and administrative team.

Display Selection

Displays play a helpful role in highlighting materials and circulation. With dozens of locations throughout the library where displays are regularly curated, key stakeholders within the library select materials for display based on the professional judgment of library staff and the following criteria:

- The various needs and interests of library patrons
- The item's purpose, quality, enduring significance or interest, context within the genre as a whole, accuracy of the information, comprehensiveness, representation of many (often competing or controversial) points of view, and suitability of subject and style for intended audience

- Historic, current, and anticipated significance of the author, creator, or publisher
- A variety of perspectives, including (but not limited to): race, ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, age, political thought, and occupation
- Local interest or local history and Current regional and national interests
- Relation of materials to the existing library collection, or other resources in the community
- Industry standard critical resources that provide recommendations to discover, review, and select materials, such as professional journals and reviews.

Display Implementation

The selection of library materials for displays in the library is made by library personnel (as shown in the [Display Creation and Approval Matrix](#)). These selections are then presented for discussion to the Library Advisory Commission annually. Following review, library supervisors will follow the [Implementation Plan](#) schedule to make assignments with reference and collection staff regarding the preparation and management of the displays in their respective work areas using themes and disciplines outlined in the Implementation Plan. The Library Advisory Commission presents a report on library operations, including data on the previous year's displays, annually as part of their city council report.

Not all materials will be to every patron's taste or interest, but the library seeks to ensure that all patrons find representation within the displays. The library does not define what is interesting or acceptable for the Orem community at large. Inclusion of materials in displays does not indicate endorsement by the library or the City of Orem of any theory, argument, or statement contained in library materials. Materials are not excluded from displays for representing challenging or competing subject matter. The library acknowledges every patron's right to develop their personal interests free of judgment or embarrassment.

Suggestions for topics are collected from staff, residents, the Library Advisory Commission, and other sources constantly. An annual library advisory commission meeting helps provide direction for major topics and trends each year. Other topics are then presented to staff regularly in meetings, where they are assigned a curation source (childrens, teen, adult reference, media, etc), or identified as a potential component of outreach programming, library blog topic, or other outlet. Other minor displays in areas of the library may exist to display materials in support of general topics or programming as appropriate and include basic signage to communicate the topics. These topics are included and reviewed in the Implementation Plan. The library organizes displays and content based on a number of factors including age appropriateness; however the library does not presume to claim from parents and guardians the responsibility to determine what content is appropriate for children and teenagers.

Items excluded from displays include materials normally held in Closed Stacks collections that are rare, prone to theft or vandalism, physically inappropriate for display spaces, or irreplaceable and materials that have significant pornographic (as defined by the Utah State Code Section [76-10-1203](#)) content or which display material "harmful to minors" (as defined by Utah Code Section [76-10-1201](#)) as determined by the library's collection development staff. (For our policy on Collection Development, please see here.)

Display Feedback and Escalation Process

A [Library Display Feedback](#) form can be found on the library website or at one of the reference desks if Orem Library cardholders wish to provide suggestions for topics for future displays, or feedback regarding current displays. These forms will be reviewed by the Library Director or a Division Manager. If the display is found to be inconsistent with the criteria listed above, it may be changed or removed.

Presented to Library Advisory Commission May 2023.