

Scoville Memorial Library

Display Policy

Purpose:

The Scoville Memorial Library's Display Policy provides a basis for the display of library materials by qualified library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the Library's mission to be the center of lifelong learning and social interaction for our community by offering an expertly curated collection, inspiring and enriching programs for all, spaces for group experiences as well as quiet reflection, and innovative services.

Principles:

The Library recognizes the importance of displays as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. With a strong emphasis on fostering a love of reading, lifelong learning, and creativity, we build responsive connections that address the diverse needs of our community. Our extensive collections, digital services, and engaging programs work in harmony to achieve this goal. A key aspect of our approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

Displays are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents, represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents. Library displays reflect our commitment to the community and our belief that a vibrant library is essential to its strength.

Criteria:

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by the librarians who are professionally trained to curate and develop displays. The 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.

Any display of items by an individual which may be of interest to the community (e.g., arts and crafts work, historical material, photographs, etc.) shall first be approved by the Library Director. Such items are displayed in the Library entirely at the owner's risk and the owner or exhibitor must sign a release form before the item is put on display.

Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Scoville Memorial Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship:

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 to be controversial.

The choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. The 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 predicated on the customer's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself. Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children.

The Scoville Memorial Library 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 Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays, or programs to individuals who are residents of the Town of Salisbury. Please refer to our Material Review and Reconsideration Policy for more information on this process.

All library materials, display, and programs are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in Section 46a-64 of the CT General Statutes.

APPROVED BY CT STATE LIBRARY 9/9/2025

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 9/19/2025