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Collection Development Policy

Approved by Board of Trustees April 2010

Collection Development Mission – *The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library (FBHCL) Board of Trustees and Library Director strive to provide the materials, services and facilities necessary to meet the current and anticipated future informational and recreational reading needs of the FBHCL service area.*

The Board recognizes that within FBHCL’s service area there are individuals and groups with diverse interests, backgrounds and needs and the library was created to serve these people. The Board, therefore, declares as a matter of policy that:

The Collection Development Policy is based on and reflects FBHCL’s stated mission, vision, goals and values.

- Library materials, in a variety of formats, including licensed electronic resources and online databases, shall be selected and retained on the basis of their value for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all the people of the community in conformance with FBHCL’s mission.
- Some of the factors which will be considered in adding to or removing materials from the library collection shall include: present collection, composition, interest, demand, timeliness, audience, significance of subject, diversity of viewpoint, effective expression and limitation of budget and facility.
- No library materials that meet FBHCL’s selection criteria shall be excluded because of the origin, background or view of the author or those contributing to its creation. Not all materials will be suitable for all members of the community.
- FBHCL shall be responsive to public suggestion of titles and subjects to be included in the library collection. Gifts of materials may be accepted with the understanding that the same standards of selection are applied to gifts as to materials acquired by purchase, and that any gifts may be discarded at FBHCL’S discretion.
- FBHCL is not a library of historical record. To ensure a vital collection of continuing value to the community, except in the area of local history, materials that are not well used may be withdrawn.
- The library collection shall be organized and maintained to facilitate access. There shall be no prejudicial labeling, sequestering, or alteration of materials.
- Selection is vested in FBHCL’s director, and under his or her direction, in members of the staff who are qualified by reason of education and training.
- The Board believes that reading, listening to, and viewing library materials are individual, private matters. While one is free to select or to reject materials for oneself, one can not restrict the freedom of others to read, view or inquire. Parents have the primary responsibility to guide and direct the reading and viewing habits of their own minor children. FBHCL does not stand “in loco parentis” [In place of a parent].

- The Board of Trustees recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in FBHCL's collection. A library customer questioning material in the collection is encouraged to talk with the Director. To formally state his/her opinion and receive a written response, a customer may submit the form provided for that purpose. Material that has been questioned will remain in the active collection until the Board has made a determination of its status.
- This policy shall only relate to materials specifically selected by FBHCL. Customer access to information available publicly on the Internet shall be governed by a separate policy.

The Board of Trustees adopts and declares that it will adhere to and support: The Library Bill of Rights, adopted by the American Library Association, the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View statements, adopted by the American Library Association.