

Barker Public Library

Collection Development Policy

It is the purpose of the Barker Public Library to provide all residents of the Barker Central School District with services, programs, materials, media and information to meet their personal, educational, cultural and professional needs. The library will utilize both traditional and innovative methods to meet the service requirements of the majority of the community. The library hopes to serve as a bridge to better futures particularly for the young and disadvantaged. The library serves as a learning and educational center for all residents of our service area in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. The library cooperates with other institutions for services not provided in our facility and extends an open door for reciprocal and interlibrary services.

Purpose of the Collection Development Policy

This document provides the staff and public with an understanding of the purpose and nature of the library's collection. This document explains the criteria staff use for making decisions to add or withdraw items in the collection.

Responsibility

The Board of Trustees has the ultimate legal responsibility for the library's collection. Collection development and management are administered by the Director and implemented by the staff.

Principles

The Barker Public Library is dedicated to the free and open distribution of ideas. It is the responsibility of the library to provide a wide range of ideas, opinions and information necessary for the functioning of a democratic society. The library is dedicated to free and open use for all and the protection of the individuals' rights to decide for themselves and for their own children what library materials to use. The Board of Trustees upholds the principles of individual freedom as stated on the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" and "Freedom to Read" statements.

Library Programs and Services

The Barker Public Library offers a variety of programs and services that increases the need for certain types of materials. Free literature on topics of educational, cultural, social and recreational concerns is available in the library. A bulletin board offers notices of interest to the community as well.

Internet access for the public is provided. Access is available through public terminals or using wireless with devices brought in by the public.

The library maintains a close partnership with the Barker Central School in order to provide support services for their educational programs. An art show of student work is held annually.

The pre-school children's story hour is held three (3) times per month during the school year.

The New York State Summer Reading Program is featured during the summer months.

The library provides programming for adults on a regular basis, including a monthly book club.

The library provides programming for young adults including book talks.

A collection about the Village of Barker and Town of Somerset is housed in the Library.

Various community groups meet in the library, including the Boards of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and the Barker Garden Club.

The Friends of the Barker Public Library is a small group of dedicated volunteers who provide support to the library.

Overview of the Collection

- The library subscribes to a variety of periodical titles.
- The adult collection consists of fiction, nonfiction, large print, biography, reference, periodicals, DVDs, and books on tape and CD.
- The young adult collection (YA) consists of fiction, graphic novels, and nonfiction.
- The children's collection consists of picture books, fiction, nonfiction, periodicals, graphic novels, and books on CD.

Cooperative Collection Development

The Barker Public Library makes use of materials borrowed from other libraries through interlibrary loan based on an agreement with the NIOGA Library System, which has twenty-one (21) library members. Through this service, patrons can receive items that are not available locally. A bi-weekly delivery service funded by NIOGA delivers the items.

Development

The library collects only current materials in the area of Health, Medicine, Science, Technology, Law, Business, Computer Science and Sport. The Fiction, History, Cookery, Literature, Art and Architecture, Gardening and Biography offer broader guidelines.

Format

The Barker Public Library purchases materials in a variety of formats including hardcover books, paperbacks, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, MP3s and electronic resources.

Collection decisions are based on the needs of the community, and then attention is focused on the content required to meet the need. It is the library's responsibility to weave many considerations when purchasing an item. These areas include content, the potential use, the need, the purpose, the medium, and the format of the content to best meet the user's need.

Funding

Materials purchased for the collection of the Barker Public Library are paid for from funds provided by the annual operating budget. Monetary donations made to the Library are placed in a Gift and Donation Fund. All gifts made to the Barker Public Library are expended in a manner consistent with the Collection Development Policy. The library makes every effort to purchase items in subject areas or formats specified by the donor. All items will be subject to the same criteria as other areas of the collection. The library will identify materials purchased with donated funds by means of a bookplate that names the donor.

If items are lost or damaged, the person who borrowed the item pays for the cost of the item.

Gifts

All gifts and other items given as gifts will be received with the understanding that they shall be accepted or rejected subject to the approval of the Director and/or the Board of Trustees.

Donated books may not be added to the collection because of such factors as duplication, lack of community interest or inadequate shelf space.

Selection Process

Materials are selected after the Director consults a variety of online media services.

Responsibility for the collection lies with the Director. Additional staff may work on weeding, ordering and collection management.

When selecting nonfiction materials for the collection, considerations include the author's competency, overall excellence of the material, superiority in treatment of controversial issues, appropriateness to the level of the user, and potential usefulness to the collection. The library attempts to purchase a wide variety of fiction titles to satisfy the needs of all its borrowers. Titles chosen are purchased on the basis of appeal for a specific audience and the literary reputation of the author.

The library welcomes requests for purchase of materials. Requests will be subject to the same criteria for selection as other materials. Selection of materials is an ongoing process, which includes the removal of materials no longer appropriate, and replacement of worn or lost materials that are still valuable to the collection.

Challenging Material

The library makes available a “Statement of Concern” form for people who have a concern about material in the library collection or exhibited materials/displays. The form is filled out and returned to the Director of the library. The Director will evaluate the original reasons for the purchase of the materials and/or application for display. If the person chooses, the Director will respond to the person voicing the concern. If there are any remaining concerns, they will be brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees.

Weeding

The term weeding is used to describe the activity of seeking out items that are no longer useful or appropriate for the collection. These items are then discarded and may or may not be replaced. The purpose of discarding items from the collection is to maintain an accurate and current collection for library patrons. Materials that are inaccurate, outdated, unused or in poor condition, detract from the collection and take up shelf space are chosen for weeding. Special attention is paid to medical, computer science and technology sections to ensure their timeliness and accuracy.

Preservation

The Barker Public Library is committed to providing appropriate physical and environmental care to the materials in its current collection. Appropriate temperature and protection from the elements, as well as shelving, dusting and storage of books will help protect the collection from deterioration.

Adopted April 24, 2016

Reviewed and revised May 10, 2021