

# MATERIALS SELECTION

## *Chisholm Public Library*

Recognizing the advisability of a well-defined policy outlining the Chisholm Public Library's selection of books and other library materials, this policy is intended to guide and direct the selection and purchase of all library materials which are made available to the library's patrons. "Materials" shall include, but not be limited to, all print and non-print media: books, periodicals, books on CD, newspapers, DVD's, and computer databases.

The Chisholm Public Library contributes to an informed, connected community by providing books, technology, and special programs that support early literacy, academic achievement, and encourage people of all ages to become lifelong learners.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The library shall provide materials in all subject areas and in varied formats, print and non-print. Emphasis shall be placed on those areas of demonstrated local and regional interest, but not to the exclusion of materials on any subject.

Among the specific criteria to be considered are:

1. Reputation of the author
2. Reputation of the publisher or producer
3. Significance of the subject to the region
4. Evaluations of reviews and inclusion in standard bibliographies
5. Format
6. Interest of Chisholm Library Patrons

As a general practice, works of known quality and authorship will be considered. However, works of emerging and lesser-known writers and creative persons will be identified and acquired especially in the case of local and regional artists and authors.

In selecting materials, the Director shall be guided by, but not restricted to, a number of standard bibliographies and reviewing aids. In addition, suggestions and requests from other librarians and members of the public will be considered.

### CONTROVERSIAL MATERIALS

In seeking to accomplish its stated mission through this policy, the Chisholm Public Library subscribes to the following paragraphs of the *Library Bill of Rights*:

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Recognizing that we live in a varied and multi-cultural society and in a complex and fast moving age, the Chisholm Public Library selects its materials from a broad spectrum of subjects, interests, points of view, and tastes. Some selections may be unpopular with some library patrons, but we accept the responsibility set forth in the *Library Bill of Rights* and expanded upon by the *Freedom to Read Statement*, Article 2:

“Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.” Questions and debate are healthy and desirable to a free society; therefore, Chisholm Public Library will vigorously resist censorious pressure and other attempts to force removal of materials from its collection. Patrons objecting to materials in the collection will be invited to state their concerns in writing and the complaint will be handled in accordance with “*Procedures for Handling Patron Complaints about Library Materials.*”

#### **CHILDREN’S MATERIALS**

Chisholm Public Library shall apply the same principles and criteria to the selection of children’s materials as to materials selected for adults. We shall strive to acquire books and other media of high quality for children, but “librarians and governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority on the private relationship between parent and child.” We will not act to restrict the reading, listening, or viewing of any piece of materials acquired within the guidelines of this policy. This position, set forth in two American Library Association statements, “Free Access to Libraries for Minors” and “Restricted Access to Library Materials,” is that, “parents—and only parents—have the right and responsibility to restrict children—and only their children—to library resources.”