

ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA



CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
303 E. B STREET • ONTARIO, CA 91764
July 12, 2022 • 6 PM

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Bumstead Lanthripe Lawliss Mena Ricci

INTRODUCTIONS

MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR June 14, 2022 /

Bumstead Lanthripe Lawliss Mena Ricci

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Public Comment portion of the Library Board meeting is limited to 15 minutes total, with each speaker allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. Additional speakers are allowed 3 minutes each at the end of the meeting. Prior to consideration of each old or new business agenda item, a speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to comment on that specific item. Under provisions of the Brown Act, the Library Board is prohibited from taking action on oral requests.

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR June, 2022 /

Bumstead

Lanthripe

Lawliss

Mena

Ricci

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STAFF REPORT

1. Library of Things (Heather Witherow)
2. Ontario Promise Corps (Rachelle Lopez)
3. Adult Literacy (Jana Waitman)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Material Review - Appeal

BOARD COMMENTS

As a reminder, please make sure board comments pertain to the library and library business.

Bumstead

Lanthripe

Lawliss

Mena

Ricci

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Book Displays (August 2022)

ADJOURNMENT

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OVITT FAMILY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
215 East C Street
June 14, 2021
(Subject to Board approval)

CALL TO ORDER This meeting was called to order by Board Member Crisol Mena at 6:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Elizabeth Ricci, Board member

MEMBERS PRESENT Board members Ricci, Mena, and Anne Lawliss were present.

MEMBERS ABSENT Library Board President Nancy Bumstead and Library Board Member Gina Lanthripe were absent.

ALSO PRESENT Library Director Shawn Thrasher. Library Services Manager Kelly Zackmann.

INTRODUCTIONS
No Introductions

MINUTES
Motion: Moved by Ricci, seconded by Lawliss and unanimously carried to approve the May 10, 2022 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
City Council Representative Debra Dorst-Porada was present.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Monthly Statistical Report for May 2022.

Motion: Moved by Lawliss, seconded by Ricci and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Calendar for May 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Library Director Shawn Thrasher spoke about the following items:

1. Fourth of July Parade: The Library will have an entry and participants will meet on the morning of July 4th, time is TBD but likely around 7:30am. The status of the Gary Ovitt

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float is unknown. Participants should wear red, white, and blue and Thrasher will email details to the board.

2. KinderGo training dates: To participate in KinderGo, the training is mandatory. If a board member wants to participate but cannot make one of the dates, let Thrasher know and they will set up a separate date.
 - a. Wednesday, July 13 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 - b. Thursday, July 14 from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 - c. Monday, July 25 from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 - d. Tuesday, August 2 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
3. Early Literacy Donations – two \$5,000 donations.
 - a. Paul Hofer Family Donation: \$5000. The library will be giving away workbooks and cloth books for children ages 0-12 months, and felt sheets for ages 18-24 months. Felt sheets are little shapes that can be sorted into colors, shapes, and so on.
 - b. Ontario Fire Union also donated \$5000 for early literacy and joined Once Upon a Cuento bilingual story time on Tuesday, May 17 to give their check to the Friends of the Library. Children at the program received a free book and a pack of activity cards to help learn alphabet and numbers. One of the parents told Sofia Araya, who was hosting the program: “This is amazing. We get all of this? I just moved here and this is my first time to this library. Gosh, I want to cry! This is so amazing!”
 - c. Over 770 books have been purchased with these two donations to add to the home libraries of families in our communities. Home libraries have been shown to increase literacy skills.
4. Staffing challenges.
 - a. Like everywhere right now, the library is facing staffing challenges with PT employees. The library relies on PT employees to staff our desks and to do some programming. A shortage is difficult for the library. The library is down multiple PT employees for a variety of reasons, and recruitment has been tough for some of these positions. For example, a recent recruitment had only 17 candidates; we usually get around 100. We will be working with HR to find some strategies for recruitment. This is a problem at both branches, although the impact is greater at Ovitt.
 - b. One strategy in the process at Ovitt was combining two service points – the media desk and the computer assistance desk into one central desk. The media desk is going to be turned into a workstation for patrons. This will save some staffing in the long term, as we can schedule fewer staff. It is supposed to be done in the next few weeks.

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- c. Unfortunately, the Ovitt Lightspeed makerspace will be closed some hours for at least a few weeks while we train existing staff on using the room, and eventually hire and onboard new staff. Lewis Lightspeed will remain open by appointment.
- d. The library is exploring the making the Model Colony History room by appointment only or reducing its hours.
- e. None of this is permanent, but in the short term, the library must figure out scheduling strategies to help during these shortages.

Ricci asked if the library advertises to all ages, students to senior citizens. Thrasher responded that it depends on the job. For library assistants, the position usually requires library experience. The page position is entry level and pays low, making it less competitive. Mena asked if we have a posting with Workforce Development and Tamika Tonga, the county representative. Thrasher responded yes and that Tonga has assisted getting temp employees and regular employees. Mena asked if we can post to Chaffey High School to students who need job permits. Thrasher said he would explore this.

STAFF REPORT

Better Prepared Together (Sagar Patel)

Sagar Patel, City Emergency Manager, narrated a PowerPoint presentation about emergency preparedness.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

Council Member Porada commented on the importance of the different types of ready-to-go cans and the 2-3 year expiration date on most cans. She also spoke about the importance of insurance and how it covers the dwelling and not the contents of the home. Full coverage would be needed. Ricci commented about her house burning down and how you should video tape the contents of your home ahead of time to ensure items are replaced at the same value. If you have a vault, add receipts there. Lawliss comment that jewelry insurance is usually an add-on. Ricci comment that older homes likely have asbestos, and you should check if your home insurance covers its removal. Porada stressed it was important for employees to have 2 weeks of preparedness so they can go back to work without worrying about home. Mena asked that the CERT classes be moved to another day besides Tuesday (or schedule additional courses on a different day). Mena asked about where the hub would be in a disaster. Patel replied it would depend on the disaster. Mena suggested the library as a great resources center and that there could be flyers displayed in the library. All board members and Porada expressed their thanks to Patel for presenting.

Reader's Advisory and Collection Highlights (Abby Martinez and Jana Waitman)

Abby Martinez, Library Assistant, and Jana Waitman, Senior Librarian, narrated a PowerPoint presentation about reader's advisory, book talking, and collection highlights.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

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Ricci asked if the library does any cooking classes in the library. Waitman replied we have had some small cooking classes in the past, but the library is limited by our presentation space. Ricci suggested a canning class with a master canner. Cooking your own food helps save money and we can educate young people. Lawliss commented she is impressed by our Manga collection and the sociology collection. Mena commented she was proud of the library's collection and thanked the presenters.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mena asked analysis training. Thrasher replied that we will take suggestions on presenters and look forward to making connections with the library.

Ricci commented that she would love to see a cooking class and participate as a teacher in one.

Lawliss commented that she attended Serving with a Purpose and that it was great and a wonderful event. The conference sold out.

Porada commented we are looking for Tai Chi teachers. Porada also commented that the museum has a new exhibit "Creating a New Legacy," part of the Then & Now: Women Artists of the Pomona Valley, a collaborative exhibition developed with eh Chaffey Community Museum of Art.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items listed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ricci adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectively Submitted

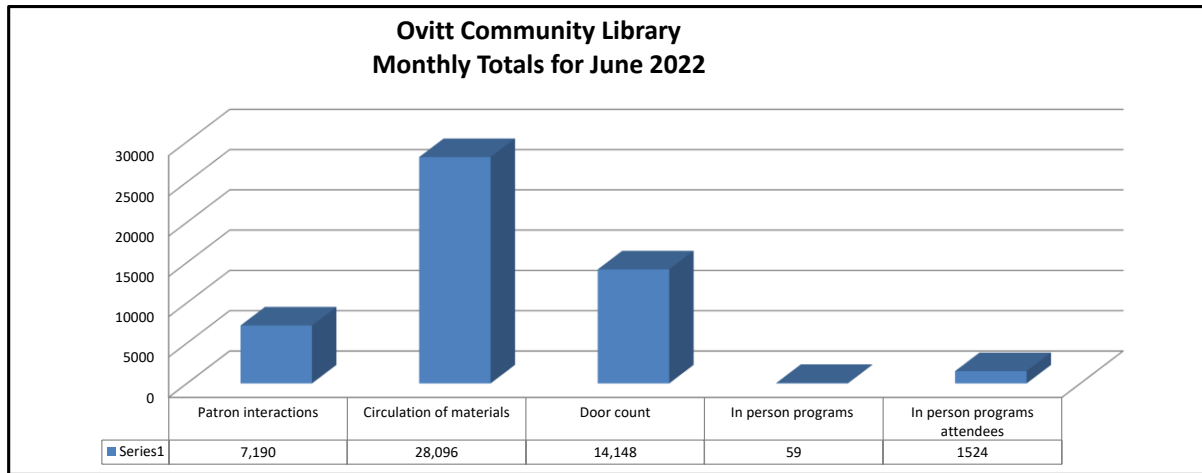
Jana Waitman, Senior Librarian

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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APPROVED:

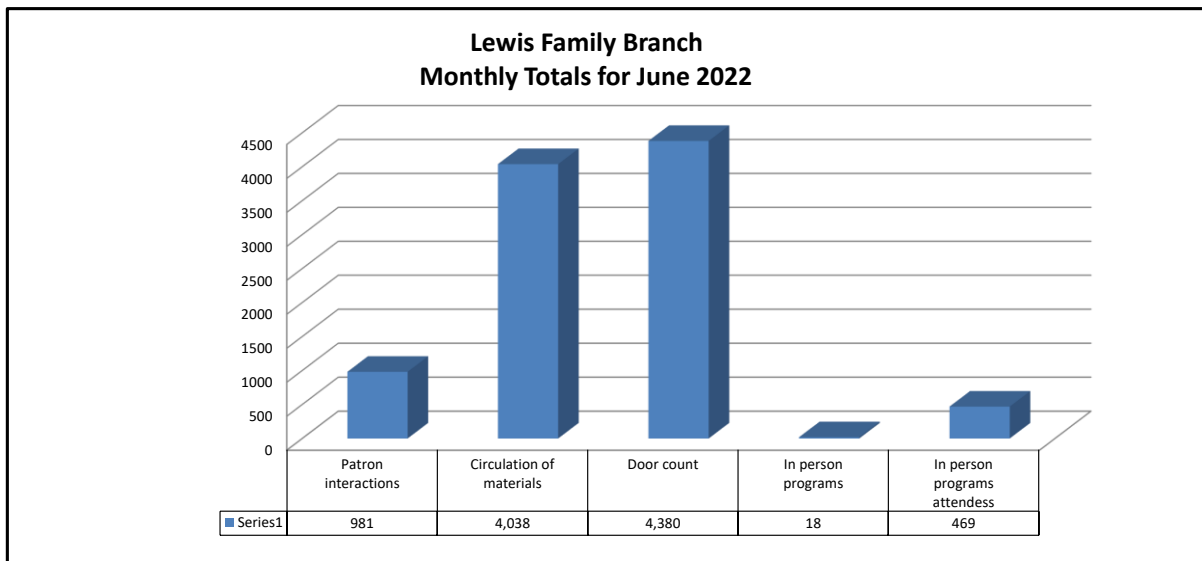
**City of Ontario Ovitt Community Library
Total Statistics for the Month of June 2022**

Site	Patron interactions	Circulation of materials	Door count	In person programs	In person programs attendees
Ovitt	7,190	28,096	14,148	59	1524



**City of Ontario Lewis Family Branch
Total Statistics for the Month of June 2022**

Site	Patron interactions	Circulation of materials	Door count	In person programs	In person programs attendees
Lewis	981	4,038	4,380	18	469





CITY OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY LIFE & CULTURE

Agenda Report
July 12, 2022

SECTION: STAFF REPORT

Department: Library
Prepared By: Heather Witherow
Staff Member Presenting:
Heather Witherow
Approved By:

Action: Choose an item.

SUBJECT

Definition of and presentation on a "library of things."

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

A "library of things" is any collection of non-traditional library materials loaned to patrons. The materials may include items such as kitchen appliances, hand tools, gardening equipment and seeds, electronics, toys and games, science kits, craft supplies, musical instruments and more.

There are several reasons for a library to have a library of things collection. One reason is to lend items that patrons may need but cannot afford to purchase. Another reason is to allow patrons to try out items and equipment before committing to a purchase. Thirdly, a library may provide activity kits for education or entertainment that include more than just books, such as games

and flash cards. Finally, items may be loaned to patrons that are needed for a specific project, class, or for short term such as a calculator for a math class or a hotspot for portable internet access. An added benefit of a library of things is that shared items help to reduce consumption and landfill waste.

Many libraries across the nation have a library of things that include a myriad of items. For instance, Rancho Cucamonga Public Library provides special glasses for children who are diagnosed with colored blindness; Yorba Linda Public Library loans sewing machines; Newport Beach Public Library loans a “recording bundle” that consists of a microphone and a device that can connect a musical instrument to a computer for recording; Placentia Public Library loans pressure washers for special household cleaning projects; Sacramento Public Library loans household tools; New York Public Library loans ties, briefcases and hand bags for those who may need them for job interviews.

In 2015, the Lewis Family Branch received a grant from the California State Library to create kits called brain building backpacks for ages 5-12, primarily focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) related topics, but also including topics such as financial literacy and foreign language learning including Spanish and Mandarin. The kits come with activities, books and a journal. Additionally, Lewis Family Branch developed early childhood backpacks that help little learners meet various milestones between birth and 12 months old and between 24 and 36 months. The backpacks come with five activities and twenty activity cards. Patrons can place holds on the brain building backpacks and request to pick them up at either location.

Other kits include Lewis Family Branch Lightspeed Kits, added in May 2021 which come with a piece of Lightspeed makerspace related equipment, such as Cricut Joy or a solar powered robot, as well as a book and an activity; Ovitt Family Community Library Family Fun Packs, added in March 2018 that include “game night” with four different board games, “sports day” with outdoor sports equipment such as a football and badminton set, and another fun pack with a star gazing telescope. These fun packs were funded by Friends of Ontario City Library to encourage family activities. Ovitt also created conservation backpacks with books and manipulatives in August 2016 that include educational topics for elementary-aged youth such as plants, recycling, and fossils, which coincided with the development of the Civic Center Community Conservation Park, as tools to learn about conservation and the ecosystem.

Both locations have mental health backpacks for youth which come with books on subjects such as friendship, anxiety, grief and empathy. They include

materials and instructions to help parents teach their children about the various topics.

The last year saw the library's Library of Things grow considerably. Through a State of California Library grant, the library acquired 31 wi-fi hotspots, and 19 Chromebooks, available at both locations. The Friends of Ontario City Library have funded the annual internet service fees on the hotspots for the next year.

In February 2022, Ovitt acquired digital blood pressure monitors as part of a pilot program in partnership with the American Heart Association.

In June 2022, Ovitt added Texas Instrument scientific calculators for patrons to borrow, due to high demand from patrons.

Ontario City Library Library of Things

Presented By:
Heather Witherow
July 12, 2022





Ontario City Library's Library of Things

Brain Building Backpacks



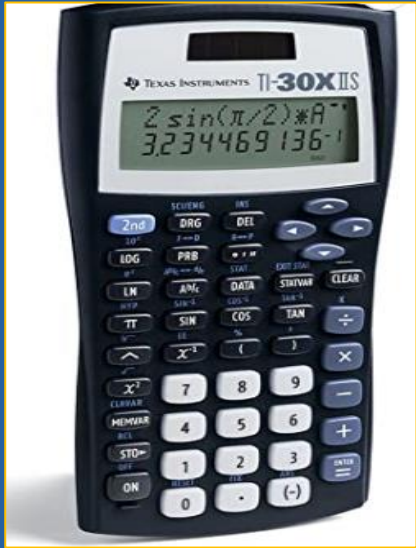
Lightspeed Kits &
Family Fun Packs



Family Mental Health Kits



Library of Things – Single Items



Library of Things – Future

Thank you for your time!

Questions?





CITY OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY LIFE & CULTURE

Agenda Report
July 12, 2022

SECTION: Click or tap here to enter text.

Department: Ontario City Library
Prepared By: Rachelle Lopez
Staff Member Presenting:
Rachelle Lopez

Approved By:
Action: Choose an item.

SUBJECT

Ontario Promise Corps, 2021-22 early literacy grant project.

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Background

In August 2019, the Community Life & Culture agency was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, commonly known as AmeriCorps, an independent United States government agency that encourages local volunteerism through community service. This initial \$75,000 award was intended to help the agency plan and develop programs and services to address low literacy rates among economically disadvantaged youth in Ontario. The Ontario City Library, in conjunction with the Ontario Recreation and Community Services Department, Hope for Housing and Ontario Montclair School District's Promise Scholars, worked to create and implement

different program components of this city-wide initiative, which is called Ontario Promise Corps.

The following year, the agency was awarded \$400,000 from the same entity to execute the planned programs and services, and \$328,998 for 2021-22, shared among Recreation and Community Services, Hope for Housing, Ontario-Montclair School District, and the Ontario City Library.

The library's portion consists of implementing early literacy programming, initially called Every Child Ready to Read, designed as workshops for children and their caregivers. The workshops are led by AmeriCorps participants, trained by library staff, to serve as Early Learning Advisors.

Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) is a parent education initiative that teaches parents and caregivers how to support early literacy and learning development. The initiative provides the tools and strategies needed to provide quality parent and caregiver education and put library resources into the hands of parents and caregivers. Participants of ECRR workshops learn five practices of early literacy: singing, talking, reading, writing and playing, and learn ideas on how to use these practices during hands-on activities with their children.

Lewis Family Branch Manager Heather Witherow and Lewis Family Branch Youth Services Librarian/Circulation Supervisor Rachelle Lopez oversee the program. Rachelle directly supervises the advisors and serves as the project developer. Heather facilitates the administrative components and manages marketing and publicity for the programming.

Purpose of the Initiative

- *Problem/Need:*
 - San Bernardino County has high rates (exceeding 45%) of parents who do not read with their 0-5-year-old children. Target neighborhoods have many barriers including high poverty (85% of students receive free/reduced meals), only 44% of children ages 3-5 are enrolled in preschool or kindergarten, and many students and parents are learning English as a second language. Parent educational attainment is low with two out of every five parents without a high school diploma. Cumulative barriers are reflected in a key measure: Third grade students in the Ontario-Montclair School District have low literacy scores. The program seeks to address early

family literacy levels through targeting both the child and their child's caregiver.

- *Target Population:*

- a) Economically disadvantaged children 0-5 years of age and their caregivers from affordable housing complexes, school sites, and community centers in highest need census tracts.
- b) Number of direct high need beneficiaries: 168 0-PreK children and their primary caregivers.
- c) All children and their caregivers meet the criteria as living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, described as such because area school population consists of 79-95% of students who qualify for free/reduced price meals. Participants are recruited from multiple affordable housing complexes and community centers in target neighborhoods.

- *Intervention/Activities:*

- o The AmeriCorps Early Learning Advisors work to build relationships in the targeted neighborhoods to help identify isolated and underserved caregivers with children ages 0-5 years, then recruit participants in these neighborhoods. They gather community input to identify the best times for the eight week Every Child Ready to Read curriculum and culminating celebration. Multiple series of workshops are held during the winter, spring and summer cycles.

- *Outputs and Outcomes*

- o The target outcome is for 80% of children whose caregivers participate in at least 16 hours of early family literacy training will show a 5% gain in early literacy skills between pre- and post-evaluation and an increase in school readiness.

2021-22 Grant Year Changes

Workshops

The workshops have been rebranded as "Raising Little Learners," and is an 8-week workshop program for children ages 0-5 years and their parents and caregivers. Each workshop is led by Kennedy Flores and Gabriella Ortiz, the current AmeriCorps Early Learning Advisors, who have developed workshop presentations under the guidance of Rachelle Lopez that align with the Ontario City Library's Little Learners, Big Futures agency strategic objective (ASO). This

summer, the workshops will also be offered in Spanish, and the workshops will be offered off-site at Veterans Memorial Park. Workshops for this program year will continue until September 2022. Funding in the amount of \$343,999 has been pre-approved for an additional year, and the advisors are encouraged to reapply and continue their service implementing this programming.

Evaluation Tool

Due to implementation challenges with our former evaluation tool, staff worked with a grant consultant on recreating a more accurate and useful tool. This tool is now called "The Early Family Literacy Tool" and has already received positive feedback from participants.

Ontario Promise Corps Early Family Literacy Grant Project Update

Presented By:
Rachelle Lopez, Youth Services Librarian
and Circulation Supervisor
July 12, 2022





AmeriCorps

RAISING LITTLE LEARNERS WORKSHOPS



Meet Our Early Learning Advisors!



Kennedy Flores

Early Childhood
Advisor



Gabriella
Ortiz

Early Childhood
Advisor

Curriculum

- Every Child Ready to Read Curriculum
- The 2nd Edition of ECRR Simplified
- Five Early Literacy Practices



Every **CHILD**
Ready **READ**
© your library™



a

Workshops

b

Session Dates	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
	11/30-1/18	2/15-4/5	5/3-6/21	7/21-9/8
Statistics	13 Adults 17 Little Learners	9 Adults 13 Little Learners	14 Adults 17 Little Learners	TBD

- Workshop Dates
- Workshop Order
- New Location



c

Raising Little Learners Presents...

S.T.E.A.M. FOR LITTLE LEARNERS

Help your child get ready to read!



Todos los NIÑOS listos para LEER en la biblioteca

little learners BIG FUTURES

AmeriCorps California

ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY

Every CHILD Ready to READ your library

1

WHAT IS S.T.E.A.M.?



4

little learners BIG FUTURES AmeriCorps California

Follow our social media pages for updates!

Facebook: @CityofOntarioCLC



Instagram: @OntarioCLC



Twitter: @OntarioCLC



#OntarioCityLibrary

We have programs for all ages!

14

Nightly Night Storytime

Families welcome
Monday, June 13 & July 11, 2022
6:00 - 7:00

Make bedtime fun with stories, songs and activities that encourage socialization and literacy concepts.



Don't forget to check out the Ontario Living Magazine for upcoming events!

Visit: <https://www.ontario.ca.gov/OntarioLivingMagazine>

IT'S TIME FOR AN ACTIVITY!

Wind

Supplies:

- Cardstock
- Paint
- Straw

Squeeze paint onto a piece of cardstock. Using a straw, blow the paint on the cardstock! See what happens when you use the air in your lungs against a liquid.

Rain!

Supplies:

- Cardstock
- Liquid Watercolor
- Wooden Easel
- Tray
- Pipette

Time to experiment with gravity! Place your cardstock on an easel and place the easel on a tray. Fill your pipette with liquid watercolor. Starting from the top, slowly squeeze the water out!

Snow!

Supplies:

- Instant Snow
- Colored Water
- Tray

Have fun enjoying the wonders of snow! Activate your instant snow with some colorful cold water. Use your hands or a popsicle stick to mix the water into the "snow".

13

5 PRACTICES

WRITING

When doing fun science experiments, write down what you think will happen or observations you have about the experiment!

Make your own colorful book with construction paper and crayons about a favorite animal. Draw the animal and jot down some fun facts about them!

6

CITY OF ONTARIO



WHAT ANIMAL ARE YOU? ANSWERS

Time to find out what animal you are! Write down how many of each color you circled and find out the answer at the bottom.

Purple	Orange	Red
Blue	Green	Yellow

<p>Purple: Monkey Talkative, noisy, funny, playful</p> <p>Orange: Dog Generous, thoughtful, charming, excitable, neat</p> <p>Red: Lion Active, lots of noise, proud leader, solitary</p>	<p>Blue: Bear Sleepy/lazy, likes to eat, likes attention, peaceful</p> <p>Green: Elephant Smart, friendly, loves family, confident, calm</p> <p>Yellow: Bunny Quiet, quick learner, shy, passionate</p>	
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LIBRARY scavenger hunt

Have fun exploring the Lewis Family Branch Library!
Place a sticker on the square of the item you found!

Playaway view	A green dragon	Summer-themed Book Return	A pretty tree on the wall
A starry night sky	Parent shelf	A clock	Board book
A CD	An airplane	A flag	A printer
A book about colors	Wavy purple mountains	Halloween-themed book	New children's books
Charlie the library bat	Ontario library logo	Hanging planets	A 3D printed octopus

Hacer tu propia tarjeta de la librería

Que hacer:

- Dibuja tú mismo en la caja
- Escribe tu información en el espacio
- Corta la tarjeta de la librería en esta hoja

Su cara aquí:

No olvides de divertirte en tu biblioteca local!

Marketing



An Essential Element
Marketing Tools
Social Media and Flier
Ontario Living Magazine

Marketing

a

b



Point # 1

Worked with Housing Department to obtain list of underserved areas



Point # 2

Located other schools, community organizations and housing complexes that fit our target population

c



Point # 3

Created our Outreach Plan

Examples of our Marketing



Raising Little Learners Workshops

Join us for an 8-week program this fall!

Ages 0 - 5 *Feel empowered by learning how to be your child's first teacher.*

Each workshop will share books, simple early learning activities and other resources to help your child prepare for reading success!

For more information and program dates please call (909) 395-2273 or email OPCEarlyLearning@ontarioca.gov.

Registration is required.
Lewis Family Branch • 3850 E. Riverside Dr.

  **BIG FUTURES**



Raising Little Learners presents...
Parent and Caregiver Workshop

Tuesday, May 3rd
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Join us for a fun 8 week program!

  **BIG FUTURES** 



Raising Little Learners® Workshops

A Little Learners, Big Futures program presented by Ontario Promise Corps and Ontario City Library.

WORKSHOPS
• 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM •

- NOVEMBER 30: PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS WORKSHOP
- DECEMBER 7: FUN WITH PARENTS AND CHILDREN
- DECEMBER 14: FUN WITH LETTERS
- DECEMBER 21: FUN WITH WORDS
- DECEMBER 28: FUN WITH MATH AND SCIENCE
- JANUARY 4: S.T.E.A.M. FOR LITTLE LEARNERS
- JANUARY 11: LIBRARY TOUR / Q&A
- JANUARY 18: ART PROCESS WORKSHOP

GET COZY WITH A BOOK!
JOIN US FOR AN 8 WEEK INTERACTIVE PROGRAM!

We will provide parents and caregivers with tools to help their Little Learners become successful readers!

For more information and to register, email OPCEarlyLearning@ontarioca.gov or call (909) 395-2273.

Mayer Paul S. Lean • Mayer pro Tem Alan D. Wagner
Council Members Jim W. Bowman, Debra Dort-Parada and Ruben Valencia

 [@CityOfOntarioCLC](https://www.facebook.com/CityOfOntarioCLC)  [@ontarioclc](https://www.instagram.com/ontarioclc)  [#ontarioclc](https://twitter.com/ontarioclc)  **BIG FUTURES** 

Outreach

a

1

- Outreach Umbrella

2

- School Districts

3

- Partnerships

4

- Scripts

5

- Organization

6

- Updates

c

Evaluation & Data Collection

a



Outputs and Outcomes



Data Collection

c



b

Our Goals for the Program

b

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Locate underserved areas in the City of Ontario

Build relationships in these targeted neighborhoods

Create 8 workshops for parents and caregivers of children ages 0-5 years and accomplish our outputs

Parents and caregivers will demonstrate an increase in their early literacy awareness, knowledge, plans and methods and we will accomplish our outcomes

a



a

c

Thank you and how you can help!

We Welcome All Questions!

OPCEarlyLearning@OntarioCA.gov

Early Learning Advisors

909-395-2273

b





CITY OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY LIFE & CULTURE

Agenda Report
July 12, 2022

SECTION: STAFF REPORTS

Department: Library
Prepared By: Jana Waitman
Staff Member Presenting:
Jana Waitman

Action: Report & File

SUBJECT

Liftoff to Literacy

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Liftoff to Literacy is the Ontario City Library's adult literacy program for participants 18 years and older. In the program, an adult learner is paired with a volunteer tutor for literacy tutoring. Learners determine their reading goals then work with their tutor towards accomplishing those goals in one-to-one tutoring sessions. The program is open to Ontario residents and services are held virtually or in-person at either library branch.

ProLiteracy, an international nonprofit organization that supports literacy programs that help adults learn to read and write, reports that approximately 43 million adults in the United States struggle with reading and write at a 3rd grade

level; this contributes to unemployment, crime, and lower tax revenues. Children whose parents have low literacy skills are more likely to struggle with reading. However, adult reading programs help community members struggling with their literacy skills to improve their quality of life and positively impact their children's education.

During the last year, Ontario City Library has had thirteen learners enrolled in the program. The library currently has eight active tutoring pairs. To support the program, the library has received a California Library Literacy Services grant, which is administered by the California State Library. In addition to learning and classroom supplies, the grant funds provide salary for a part-time staff member dedicated to literacy services.

Partnerships play a significant role in the library's literacy program. Chaffey Adult School and nearby libraries communicate regularly to exchange information about services. Additionally, adult students are referred to the appropriate program that would best help the student achieve their goals. Students who need more formal education such as high school, GED, or ESL courses are referred to Chaffey Adult School. Students who need basic literacy assistance are often referred to the library's literacy program, either to supplement their formal classes or to receive basic level assistance.

Liftoff to Literacy staff are planning two future projects. A recognition night is scheduled for Thursday, November 3rd and will celebrate the hard work of the learners and tutors in the program. Additionally, an anthology will be self-published in the fall and will contain writings by the participants in the program.

Those wishing to participate in the Liftoff to Literacy program should contact the library at (909) 395 – 2205 or email Literacy@OntarioCA.gov. Volunteers can apply on the City's website on the recruitment webpage.

Liftoff to Literacy

Adult Literacy Program

Jana Waitman
Senior Librarian
July 2022





Why Adult Literacy?



Photo Credit Becky Ruppel

Benefits of Literacy Programs



Ontario City Library Presents
LIFTOFF TO LITERACY

FOR ADULT LEARNERS AND TUTORS

Have a reading goal? We can help! The Ontario City Library is seeking adult learners who wish to improve their reading skills.

Learners and tutors will work together through one-on-one instruction.

Would you like to be a tutor? Become a volunteer tutor and help adult learners achieve their literacy goals.

For more information,
please call (909) 395-2205 or
email LiteracyOntarioCA.gov.



Mayor Paul S. Leon • Mayor pro Tem Alan D. Wagner
Council Members Jim W. Bowman, Debra Dorst-Parada and Ruben Valencia



Learner Goals





Liftoff to Literacy Pairs





California Library Literacy Services Grant



Adult Literacy Classroom

Participant Roles



Photo Credit Becky Ruppel

Partnerships





Future Literacy Projects





Potential Participants



Adult Literacy Classroom



Questions?

Thank you!





CITY OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY LIFE & CULTURE

Agenda Report
July 12, 2022

SECTION: STAFF REPORTS

Department: Library
Prepared By: Shawn Thrasher
Staff Member Presenting:
Shawn Thrasher

Action: Report & File

SUBJECT

Material Review Appeal

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Summary of Ontario City Library's Material Review Policy

Ontario City Library's Material Review Policy was revised and adopted by the Library Board of Trustees in April 2021. This policy allows library patrons to request that an item be analyzed and reconsidered as to where it is shelved in the library. To begin this reconsideration, a patron expresses a concern about an item by filling out a Material Review Form, which is submitted to the Library Director. A committee is then formed consisting of two library staff, a representative of the public in the form of the Library Board of Trustees President, and a Library Services Manager who facilitates the process. The committee meets twice. First, the committee meets to formulate a timeline and go over the criteria for material selection. Committee members then read the item in its entirety and makes a thorough analysis of the item based on the material review criteria.

A second meeting is held to discuss the item in question. The committee uses the following guidelines when making a recommendation about the item under reconsideration:

- A full reading/viewing/listening to the item(s).
- The Ontario City Library Material Selection Policy, revised and adopted by Library Board of Trustees in April 2021, which outlines the philosophy behind library selection and how the library selects materials. The full policy was submitted to the Library Board of Trustees as part of the agenda packet.
- Library journals and any other relevant and pertinent literary and review sources.
- Principles of intellectual freedom as outlined in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read statement.
- The library's mission, vision, and values statements.
- Avoiding passages or parts being pulled out of context.

A recommendation by the committee is made to the Library Director on what to do with the item being considered. The Library Director sends a letter to the patron who submitted the Material Review Form with the committee's recommendation. Upon receipt, if the recommendation is not what the patron desired, they have an opportunity to appeal the recommendation of the committee to the Library Board of Trustees. The appeal is added to the agenda for the next available Library Board of Trustees meeting. The appellant may speak on behalf of the appeal at this meeting.

The full Material Review Policy was submitted to the Library Board of Trustees as part of the agenda packet.

Request for Material Review, April 11, 2022

A Material Review Form was submitted on April 11, 2022 regarding *The Everybody Book: The LSGTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies, and Families* by Rachel E. Simon, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and illustrated by Noah Grifgni.

The full Material Review Form was submitted to the Library Board of Trustees as part of the agenda packet.

The book was published in 2020 by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. The publisher described the book as a:

"vibrant and beautifully illustrated book educates children about sex, gender, and relationships in a way that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Covering puberty, hormones, pregnancy, consent, sex, babies, relationships, and families, it uses gender-neutral language throughout and celebrates diversity in all its forms, including race, ethnicity, faith, bodies, gender, and sexuality. For use with children ages 8-12."

The Material Review Form submitted states that the book:

"presents itself (accurately) as a tool to foster "opening and encouraging channels of communication between parents and children" but "is placed in the

children's section where children of any age can read its explicit descriptions of sex without any conversation with a parent doing the damage the book aims to avoid."

"The book has graphic nude illustrations that may be appropriate for the topic when presented by a parent but are irresponsible to allow just any child to view."

The patron submitting the Material Review form suggested that the book be:

"moved to the part of the children's section labeled parents so that parents who want the resource can use it, but children who would be damaged by viewing this material (potentially alone) would not be treated negligently."

Library Shelf Location of *The Everybody Book* & Criteria for Nonfiction Selection

The Everybody Book is currently shelved in the Juvenile Nonfiction section, under Dewey Decimal number 306.7, where books about sex are cataloged.

The library's criteria for selecting all nonfiction are:

- Accuracy of information
- Current & projected needs
- Industry reviews
- Local school curriculum
- Patron demand
- For ebooks – licensing and budget

Juvenile Nonfiction is defined as material:

"geared towards kindergarten through middle school readers. Books contain various topics, viewpoints, and reading levels. Books cover broad categories including general interests, philosophy, psychology, religion, folklore, social sciences, languages, natural science, technology, arts, literary criticism, poetry, geography, biography, and history. We do not purchase textbooks."

Parents Shelf

As stated above, the patron submitting the Material Review Form expressed a desire to move the book to the parenting collection. The library's Parents Shelf is defined as:

"a collection of non-fiction materials for parents and guardians which include child-rearing, toilet training, teaching children reading, math, etc., nutrition, and a variety of other subjects."

Material Review Committee Recommendations

The committee met on April 21, 2022 and June 1, 2022. They recommended keeping the book in Juvenile Nonfiction. The Library Director sent a letter to the patron who submitted

the Material Review Form which outlined the reasons for the committee's recommendation. A full copy of this letter was included in the agenda packet.

Committee comments regarding their recommendation include:

- Books in the parenting collection are geared towards an adult audience.
- The subtitle of the book includes the words "Guide for Kids" which indicates that the book is for children.
- The American Library Association has included this book on two honor booklists for children under 18.
- In reference to illustrations, it is common for juvenile nonfiction discussing reproduction, development, and maturation to have similar illustrations.

Additional reasons include:

- Baker & Taylor, the library's book wholesaler, provides tools to assist library staff in cataloging items, one of which is to suggest age ranges for items. Baker & Taylor gives the intended ages of the book as Grade 2-3 for ages 7-8.
- Retail vendors such as Amazon, Target, and Barnes and Noble also give the book a range of ages from 7-12 years old.
- *The New York Times* is considered an industry standard for book reviews and booklists; they included the book on a list titled *15 LGBTQ Books for Kids and Teens Recommended by Queer Librarians, Educators, and Independent Booksellers*. The paragraph written about the book was included in the Library Board of Trustees packet, including a citation.

Library Board Role

The Library Board will evaluate the submitted Material Review Form, the committee's recommendation, and (if applicable) the appellant's statement and then conduct a vote on whether to uphold the recommendation of the committee or to overturn it.

received ~~April 11, 2022~~ April 11, 2022



ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY MATERIAL REVIEW FORM

NAME Gina Lanthorne
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NO _____
EMAIL [redacted] _____

Material Information

Type of Material (check one): Book Film Music CD Magazine Audio Book
 Graphic Novel / Manga Newspaper Other

Intended Audience (check one): Children Young Adult/ Teen Adult

Title and Author (if applicable) The Every Body Book by Rachel E. Simon

Supporting Information (Attach additional pages if needed)

Have you read, watched or listened to the entire material? Yes No

Why do you feel this material should be reviewed? (Cite specifics, including page numbers, etc.) _____

It presents itself (accurately) as a tool to foster "opening and encouraging channels of communication" between parents and children (p.8), to "jumpstart conversations in your family." However it is placed in the children's section where children of any age can read its explicit descriptions of sex without and conversation with a parent - doing the exact

Are you aware of any critical opinion (reviews) of this material? _____

I am aware of critical opinions about sexed in general, and specifically in California, as well as that of similar books for older children, but I am not aware of a review of this particular book. I am glad to find them though.

Have you read the library's materials selection policy? Yes No

Do you think that the selection of this material is in accordance with this policy? Please explain. _____

No. By placing this within grasp of any child, it does not support those parents who wish to introduce the sex topic to their children first and in their preferred way ("Supporting ~~the~~ right of each family to decide..." section 2 paragraph 5). A child can easily grab the book off the shelf and see the images before a parent can step in.

What do you suggest the library do about this matter? Move it to the part of the children's section labelled "parents," so that parents who want the resource can use it, but ~~the~~ children who would be damaged by viewing this material ~~alone~~ (potentially alone) would not be treated negligently.

damage the book aims to avoid. It also has graphic nude illustration that may be appropriate for the topic when presented by a parent, but are irresponsible to allow just any child to view. (p. 23-29, 34, 58, 72) and others

CITY OF



ONTARIO

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RUBEN VALENCIA
COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCOTT OCHOA
CITY MANAGER

June 1, 2022

Gina Lanthripe

Dear Gina Lanthripe,

On April 11, 2022 you submitted a material review for a library item titled The Every Body Book: the LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies and Families by Rachel E. Simon. We appreciate your concern over the use of this item in the library. Selecting materials that serve the needs of our community is a vital part of operating a library. We take this responsibility very seriously and have developed a Materials Selection Policy for selecting resources. This policy was adopted to create a library collection for all ages that supports lifelong learning and enjoyment, furnish timely and accurate information that responds to the needs of a diverse community, and supplements the community's educational needs. Specifically, the children's non-fiction collection, where this book was placed, is comprised of titles that are recommended for preschool and elementary school-aged children by publishers and the professional book reviewing media.

Following the measures set forth in the Material Review Policy, adopted by the Library Board of Trustees in April 2021, a committee was formed consisting of the Library Board president, two librarians, and a Library Services Manager to review the item.

The committee met once to set parameters, read the item separately, and then returned to discuss recommendations.

The committee considered the item using the following guidelines:

- A full reading of the item.
- Determine whether or not the item fits within the Ontario City Library Material Selection Policy.
- Review library journals and any other relevant and pertinent literary and review sources.
- Consider principles of intellectual freedom as outlined in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read statement.
- The library's mission, vision, and values statements.
- Weigh the values and faults against each other and the opinions based on the materials as a whole.

Additionally, the committee considered the following questions: Does the item fit within the general criteria of selection for other children's nonfiction material in the library's collection including accuracy of the information, current and projected needs, local school curriculum, and patron demand? What is the author's intended audience and intended age of the reader?

Ontario City Library's children's non-fiction collection is comprised of titles that are recommended for preschool and elementary school-aged children by publishers and the professional book reviewing media. The publisher of the book, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, recommends The Every Body Book: the LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies and Families for ages 8 (eight) through 12 (twelve).

Ontario City Library purchased 1 copy of The Every Body Book: the LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies and Families which has been on the shelves for over 1.5 years. Yours is the first material review request we've had to the book in that time.

In response to your request for reconsideration, the Material Review committee examined and discussed the book, with each member setting forth their individual recommendation. After consideration, the committee recommended that the item remain in the library's children's non-fiction collection with a change to the Dewey Decimal Classification from 306.7 (sexual relations - Class here interdisciplinary works on relations between the sexes, sex, sexual love) to 612.6 (reproduction, development, maturation - Class here genital system, comprehensive medical works on sex - Class interdisciplinary works on sex in 306.7).

The comments of the committee include the following:

- Books in the parenting section are generally geared toward an adult

audience. This book has a brief section in the introduction geared toward adults/parents, but the majority is geared toward children.

- The title of the book "The Every Body Book: The LGBTQ+ Inclusive **Guide for Kids** About Sex, Gender, Bodies, and Families" states that it is meant for children (bolded in this sentence for easier identification).
- The book has been recognized in, American Library Association's Rainbow Book list Top 10 **for Young Readers** and the American Association of Sexuality Educators Book **Award for Children Under 18**, those recognitions are intended for books for children/youth (bolded in this sentence for easier identification).
- In reference to illustrations, it is common for books in the children's non-fiction collection discussing reproduction, development, and maturation to have similar illustrations.

A notice of appeal to the decision may be made to the Library Board. The notice of appeal must be made in writing within 10 days after receiving the Committee's determination. Two copies of such notice shall be filed: One to the Library Director and one to the Library Board President, c/o Ontario City Library, 215 East C Street, Ontario, CA 91764. The Library Board will discuss at the next available Library Board meeting, at which time the appellant may speak on behalf of the appeal.

I hope you will continue to monitor and guide your children's reading choices. The library encourages all parents do this, as not every book is appropriate for every reader or situation.

Thank you,



Daisy Flores
Library Services Manager
(Acting Library Director)

Giddings, Caitlin. "15 LGBTQ Books for Kids and Teens Recommended by Queer Librarians, Educators, and Independent Booksellers." *New York Times*. April 20, 2022.

For late-elementary and early middle-school kids, there's a real need for explanatory nonfiction books that challenge some of our traditional thinking about bodies and gender, said Remy Timbrook, a librarian at the Oakland Public Library in Oakland, California. "We've had a lot of caregivers asking for books that explain these topics without being quite so binary or old-fashioned, so they don't make people feel bad about themselves when reading them." She praises *The Every Body Book: The LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids About Sex, Gender, Bodies, and Families* for its gender-inclusiveness in approaching big topics like puberty, hormones, pregnancy, and childbirth—and briefly even miscarriage, abortion, birth control, and safer sex. "Nobody wants to be erased, right?" Timbrook said. "Kids are always getting handed these classic books about growing up—having one that includes matter-of-fact descriptions and discussions of what it means to be cisgender or transgender is really important," she said, for validating and celebrating kids' realities.

MATERIAL REVIEW POLICY

The library has developed the following procedures to process a patron request for material review (reconsideration / inclusion of material).

Upon registering a concern about an item or items in the library's collection with library staff, the patron will be handed a copy of the Material Review form that includes the library's Material Selection policy. If multiple items are involved, the patron fills out a Material Review form for each item.

When patron returns the form, the form shall be transmitted to the Library Director. A written recommendation will be made and transmitted to the patron within 45 days of receipt of the patron's request.

For purposes of providing a recommendation regarding the patron's request, the Library Director shall form a review Committee ("Committee") that consists of the following members:

- One Library Services Manager, to be selected by the Library Director
- Two staff members, to be selected the Library Services Manager serving on the Committee
- The Library Board President
 - If the Library Board President is unable to take part, the Library Board Vice President shall fulfill this duty. The Secretary and remaining Board members can fulfill this duty as needed.

The Committee shall meet within one week after formation to formulate a timeline of action.

Each member of the Committee shall review the item(s) separately.

The Committee shall use the following guidelines as authorities when making their final recommendation:

- Full reading/viewing/listening to the item(s)
- Ontario City Library Material Selection Policy.
- Library journals and any other relevant and pertinent literary and review sources
- Principles of intellectual freedom as outlined in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read statement.
- The library's mission, vision, and values statements.
- Passages or parts should not be pulled out of context. The values and faults should be weighed against each other and the opinions based on the materials as a whole.

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The Committee shall meet once more within the prescribed time to discuss recommendations.

Although the material(s) may be checked out by a staff member to prepare for evaluation, the material(s) will not be either temporarily or permanently removed from the shelves during the evaluation period.

The Library Services Manager serving on the Committee shall write a recommendation based on the Committee's discussion and submit it to the Library Director.

The Library Director shall inform the patron of the Committee's determination in writing and inform the patron of the right to appeal the Committee's determination.

Notice of Appeal: A notice of appeal to the decision may be made to the Library Board. The notice of appeal must be made in writing within 10 days after receiving the Committee's determination. Two copies of such notice shall be filed: One to the Library Director and one to the Library Board President, c/o Ontario City Library, 215 East C Street, Ontario, CA 91764. The Library Board will discuss at the next available Library Board meeting, at which time the appellant may speak on behalf of the appeal.

Decision: The Library Board shall issue a written decision to the appeal within 60 days of the completion of the meeting. The Library Board shall have the power to affirm or reverse the written determination or to remand it to the Library Director or designee with instructions for reconsideration. The decision, except for remand, shall be a final determination for the purposes of judicial review.

Revised & Adopted by

Ontario City Library Board of Trustees

April 13, 2021

MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

The purpose of the Ontario City Library is to enrich the community by providing resources that support lifelong reading and learning enjoyment, furnish timely and accurate information that responds to the interests of a diverse community, and supplement the community's education needs in a welcoming atmosphere. The library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the *Library Bill of Rights*.

Strategic Library Roles

Reference and Community Information Center: Provide Ontario residents timely, accurate and useful information on local, personal, educational and job-related issues.

Popular Materials Library: Provide high demand reading, listening and viewing materials of current interest and/or long lasting value for all age groups.

Children's Services: Develop in children a lifelong enjoyment of reading and learning through services to them and their caregivers, focusing on infancy through 8th grade.

Young Adult Services: Provide teens high interest recreational and educational materials while offering them a safe and comfortable location for social interaction, focusing on grades 9 - 12.

Senior Services: Provide relevant materials and programming for older and retired adults with a special focus on homebound and limited access services.

Local History: The Library Board of Trustees adopted the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room Collection Policy in August 2019.

Selection and Maintenance of Library Materials

The Ontario City Library selects books and materials which best satisfy community needs within the scope of the Library's Mission, Vision, Values and Roles.

The library provides a marketplace of ideas and information adhering to the American Library Association *Freedom to Read* and *Freedom to View* statements; and affirming each individual's choice to read and view library materials. Inclusion in the collection is not an endorsement of any item, nor is exclusion a rejection; both are factors of establishing a collection representing diverse community needs.

Library staff selects and maintains all materials. The basic selection criterion is whether an item is of potential interest to the people served. Other considerations include permanent or timely value, readability, accuracy and authoritativeness, author's and/or publisher's reputation,

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importance and/or scarcity of material, price, format, and availability of the material elsewhere in the area.

Suggestions of authors, titles or subjects are welcome and considered by staff selectors. Contact any staff member to offer a suggestion or utilize the library's *Requesting Additional Books* feature on our website.

Ontario City Library supports the right of each family to decide which items are appropriate for use by their children. Responsibility for a child's access and use of library materials lies with the child's parent or guardian. Skilled staff members are available to offer guidance to parents upon request. The Ontario City Library recognizes the importance in a democratic society of individuals forming their own opinions on issues by use of library resources.

Items are not excluded because of the race or nationality or the social, political or religious views of the author. Items are not excluded because they may contain language, illustrations or images possibly offensive to some persons. Anyone who believes an item has been inappropriately selected or omitted should contact staff to report the situation and ask that the item be reconsidered.

Materials are openly available to all except in cases of reference need, fragility or security, in which case certain limitations may apply.

Library staff is responsible for discarding materials which are surplus to the collection, outdated, or too worn for use.

Gifts of materials or funds to enrich the library collection are welcome. The selection criteria presented here apply to all materials received. The Ontario City Library reserves the right to accept or refuse conditions placed upon gifts of materials or funds.

Revised & Adopted by
Ontario City Library Board of Trustees

April 13, 2021

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

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.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

The Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. 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.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the

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ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

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.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic

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society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association
Association of American Publishers

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression
The Association of American University Presses, Inc.
The Children's Book Council
Freedom to Read Foundation
National Association of College Stores
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Council of Teachers of English
The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

04/06/2021 KZ

S:\Policy & Procedures Manual\Section V\Library Board Policies\Materials Selection Policy

Freedom to View Statement

The **FREEDOM TO VIEW**, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the **First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States**. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council

Material Review: Appeal

Presented By:
Shawn Thrasher
Library Director
July 2022



