

CENSORSHIP

***Materials Selection**

***Handling Complaints**

Prairie du Chien Memorial Library subscribes to the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association which affirms its beliefs in the following basic policies:

1. Selection is based on the merits of the work in relation to the needs, interests and demands of the Prairie du Chien community. The Library Bill of Rights states, in part, that "In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality or the political or religious views of the writer. There should be the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times --... and books or other reading material of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."
2. The library does not promote particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given material equivalent to endorsement of the viewpoint of the author expressed therein.
3. Censorship of materials, urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of moral or political opinion, or by organizations which would establish or coerce a concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment through the recorded word.
4. The library also subscribes to the Freedom to Read Statement prepared by the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council. (See attached)
5. The library maintains and revises a form for patron complaints. (See attached)
6. Responsibility for the reading of children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that the material may accidentally come into the hands of children.

Reviewed and re-affirmed by the Board of Trustees, 15 March 2004