

## Statement on Censorship (Adopted 4/16/15)

In order to meet the stated mission and goals of the Library, materials of various formats will be collected on the widest possible range of ideas and viewpoints. In doing so, the Library acquires many unpopular and controversial materials. The Jackson County Public Library holds censorship to be a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject for himself books and other materials of which he does not approve, he cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others.

Library materials will not be marked or labeled to show approval or disapproval of the contents or to indicate particular philosophies outlined in the work. To take this action is to establish in a user's mind a judgment before s/he has had an opportunity to examine the work personally.

No cataloged book or other item will be placed on closed shelves, except for the express purpose of protecting it from injury or theft if previous incidents have proven the item to be in significant jeopardy while on open shelves.

Finally, the decision of what a minor may read is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that certain controversial or graphic materials may come into the possession of children.

## Requests for Reconsideration Procedures (Adopted 4/16/15)

All requests for reconsideration of materials will be handled in the following manner:

1. The staff member receiving the complaint will ask the patron to fill out the appropriate form. When the completed form has been received; it will then be submitted to the Director.
2. The Director will ask the appropriate department head to locate as many reviews of the title as possible.
3. The Director will also ask other members of the library staff to review the title in question. While the material is under consideration, it will not be removed from use pending final action.
4. Time for discussion of the title will be scheduled with all staff that are reviewing the material.
5. After the discussion at the meeting, the members will submit their recommendations to the Director in writing.
6. The Director will take all factors under advisement and come to a decision. This will be communicated to the complainant in writing.
7. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Director's decision, then he/she has the right to appeal the matter to the Library Board in writing within 30 days.
8. The Library Board will then hear the complainant's position, as well as the Director's at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
9. The Library Board is the final authority.