

## **11. Material and Program Selection Policy**

1. Ultimate responsibility for selection lies with the Board of Trustees. However, the Board shall delegate to the Library Director the authority and the responsibility for selection of the library materials and library programs and for the development of the collection.
2. The Board of Trustees of the Exeter Public Library endorse those sections of The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statements which concern themselves with book selection and library initiated programs. The Library Director shall always have copies of these statements available for those who wish to study them.
3. All materials and programs chosen for the Exeter Public Library shall be judged individually on the basis of merit, subject matter, reader interest and need in a balanced library. Materials selected shall be reviewed in recognized professional journals that provide unbiased, authoritarian evaluations.
4. No material or program shall be excluded on the basis of a single idea, word, phrase or passage lifted out of context. The author's intent and the merit of the whole book shall be the basis of choosing a book.
5. In areas considered controversial, more than one point of view shall be represented by materials and/or programs in the Library. They may represent points of view sometimes considered unorthodox or unpopular by the majority.
6. While collections for adults and children are housed in separate areas, the Library will not act in loco parentis, censor, label or restrict access to library materials or programs because of a person's age, race, religion, gender or socio-economic status. Parents are the appropriate judges of their own children's library materials and staff members encourage those who wish to supervise their children's borrowing, to accompany them on their library visits.
7. In the event that a patron objects to an item or items in the collection or a program, he/she shall be asked to fill out a Request for Reconsideration Form provided by the Library. Consideration shall be made by the Library Director and the Policy Committee who shall present a written decision to the requestor within six (6) weeks. The decision may be appealed before the Board of Trustees within thirty (30) days.
8. Materials which are no longer useful to the Exeter Public Library shall be systematically weeded from the collection according to accepted professional practices. Such material may be sold, distributed to other institutions or destroyed.