

**FORT LUPTON
PUBLIC & SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**425 S. Denver Ave.
Fort Lupton Colorado**

**POLICIES
&
BYLAWS**

Revised 04/18

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PURPOSE

The mission of the Fort Lupton Public and School Library is to provide all people with access to information for education, enlightenment, and entertainment.—Rev. 1996

GENERAL LIBRARY OBJECTIVES

We believe that all people have a right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity, and intellectual activity. The primary objective of the Library is to serve the information needs of people in the Library area, which encompasses the City of Fort Lupton and that portion of Weld County within the boundaries of School District Re-8. The Library shall honor the ALA (American Library Association) guidelines in offering free and equal access to information, and not deny or limit access because of its allegedly controversial content.

In conducting its programs, the Fort Lupton Public and School Library will maintain non-partisanship and objectivity to support the individuality and ethnicity of the citizens and will provide service with sensitivity, courtesy, and respect. The Library will develop partnerships with community groups to understand better the needs of its diverse citizens and will use every practical means to satisfy their information needs. The Fort Lupton Public and School Library will provide access to a wide variety of materials, by, about, and in the language of the local ethnic populations.

Service will include but not be limited to:

1. Providing free basic service to every person desiring Library access.
2. Maintaining an atmosphere of conscientious responsiveness and interest.
3. Exploiting all reasonable opportunities for utilization of local, regional, state, national, and international information systems.
4. Identifying the community needs and wishes of distinct population segments.
5. Exerting deliberate efforts to inform non-users of the advantages of available Library services.
6. Assuming a leadership role in the community in promoting culture, quality of life, enlightened citizenship, and continuous self-education.
7. Supporting the School Library Bill of Rights, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, the Freedom to View Statement, and the ALA Statement on Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.

MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

The materials selection policy supports the purpose and objectives of the Library. Ultimate responsibility for selecting and discarding of materials, as for all Library activities, rests with the director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Library Board. However, to assure the broadest spectrum of backgrounds possible, recommendations for selection are shared by staff, teachers, and other users. Within budget limitations those resources which will best satisfy the needs of the clientele will be selected according to the following established criteria:

1. Permanent value
2. Accurate information
3. Authoritativeness
4. Author's reputation and significance
5. Reputation and standing of publisher
6. Clear presentation
7. Social significance
8. Price
9. Scarcity of resources on the subject
10. Availability of material elsewhere
11. Presentation of all sides of controversial issues
12. Balancing of special group interests with general demands
13. Inclusion of materials which some may consider unconventional, unpopular, unorthodox, or unacceptable:

(a) Ideologies

The Library should, without making any effort to sway the users' judgment, make available basic factual information on an ideology or philosophy which exerts a strong force, either favorably or unfavorably, in government, current events, politics, education, or any other phase of life.

(b) Sex and Profanity

Materials presenting accents on sex should be subjected to a stern test of literary merit and reality by the librarian. While we would not in any case include the sensational or over dramatic, the facts of sexual incidents or profanity appearing should not automatically disqualify a resource. Rather the decision should be made on the basis of whether the material presents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and whether the material is of literary value. Education and factual material on the level of the users should be included in the Library collection.

(c) Science

Medical and scientific knowledge should be made available without any biased selection of facts.

Providing connections to global information, services, and networks is not the same as selecting and purchasing materials for a Library collection. Determining the

accuracy or authenticity of electronic information may present special problems. Some information accessed electronically may not meet the Library's selection or collection development policy.

CENSORSHIP

Censorship must be exercised by the patron for himself alone. The director and the Library Board cannot restrict the freedom of selection of the patron, and neither can the patron restrict the freedom of selection of other patrons. It is left to each user to determine what is appropriate. Parents and legal guardians who are concerned about their children's use of resources shall provide guidance to their own children. Library patrons who are residents of the Fort Lupton Public & School service area who object to materials may fill out a "Request for Reconsideration" form. The librarian who receives the request will temporarily remove the material from circulation and forward the request to the Fort Lupton Public and School Library director. The Library Director will consider the request and respond to the request within 21 days.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the response, the Library Board will conduct a final review. A quorum of the Public and School Library Board shall provide the complainant with a written decision regarding the material within 40 days of the final review request. If the complainant is not satisfied, he/she may file a written request for appeal. If the complaint is filed on behalf of a Re-8 student, the request for appeal is filed with the Board of Education. The request for appeal will be filed with the City Council if on behalf of an adult or other public patron. This request must be filed within five calendar days from the date on which he/she received the decision of the Public and School Library Board.

A quorum of the Board of Education or City Council (see above) or its designated agent shall render a written decision to the complainant within 40 days from the receipt of the appeal. The decision of the Board of education or City Council or its designated agent will be final. Once a decision has been made, the materials will not be reconsidered for a period of one year.

The re-evaluation of the material shall be based on the original criteria used for selection of materials. (See "Materials Selection Policy" and "Criteria for Selection of Materials") Additionally, no materials shall be excluded because of the writer's race or nationality or his political or religious views. The value of any material shall be judged as a whole, considering the purpose of the materials, rather than individual, isolated expressions or incidents in the work.

APPROPRIATE INTERNET USAGE

Library staff should never act as "internet cops." It is not and should not be the duty of library staff to censor what (i.e., content) patrons are accessing on the internet. Any such monitoring constitutes unconstitutional content-based censorship. When a patron

accesses (or is suspected of accessing) unlawful materials via the internet, library staff may contact the appropriate law enforcement authorities to enforce the law, rather than attempt to enforce the law themselves. Knowing what materials are actually obscene or child pornography or "harmful to minors" (in the case of a juvenile) is extremely difficult and applicable statutory and case law are the only "true" guidelines. Thus, only courts have the authority to determine, pursuant to due process considerations, whether materials accessed online by a patron are actually obscene, child pornography or "harmful to minors." (Note the same analysis applies if a patron is sending [or is suspected of sending] unlawful materials via the internet from public library computers; library staff should contact appropriate law enforcement officials to enforce the laws.)

Internet "behavioral" problems should be addressed by library staff in the same way as other general library behavioral problems, such as making too much noise, inappropriate conduct in the library (i.e., sexual acts), and similar disorderly behavior.

Access to the internet at the library is a privilege and not an absolute right. Public library internet access computers are not private; library or school district personnel may access "tracing" files to maintain system integrity and to investigate suspected violations of law or policy. Patrons should be informed that other patrons may be able to access such information. Users should be fully aware that websites visited and images viewed may not be "private" because the library, and its access to the internet via computer terminals, is necessarily public in nature.

Adapted From:

Internet Safety Policy Guidelines by Cathy Harris Helms. *Georgia Library Quarterly* 40 no2 19-23 Summer 2003.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Library shall safeguard the privacy of each user. Information about the patron and his use of the Library shall be free of surveillance and disclosure. The Library recognizes that children and youth have the same rights to privacy as adults.

Any information supplied to the Library or gathered by it shall not be given, made available, or disclosed to any individual, corporation, institution, government or other agency without a valid process order or subpoena. Upon presentation of such a process or subpoena, the Library shall resist its enforcement until such time as proper showing of good cause has been made in a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Library shall safeguard the following information about Library patrons:

1. A patron's name or whether an individual is a registered borrower or has been a patron.
2. A patron's address.
3. A patron's telephone number.
4. The Library's circulation records and their contents.

5. The Library's borrowers' records and their contents including internet usage.
6. The number or character of questions asked by patrons.
7. The frequency or content of a patron's lawful visits to the Library or any other information supplied to the Library or gathered by it.
8. The titles or subject of materials ordered from other libraries for individuals.
9. The presence of an individual patron in the Library at a given time.

GIFTS

The same principles of selection which are applied to purchases apply to gifts. Gifts of books or other materials are accepted with the following provisions:

1. Gifts shall not necessarily be housed in a special location.
2. Gifts will be kept by the Fort Lupton Public and School Library only if they can be of active value to the collection.
3. If the Library cannot use the material, it may be offered to other libraries or organizations before disposal or sale.
4. Specialized materials which would have infrequent or no use should be given to a research Library or other appropriate agency.

Monetary gifts may be accepted by the Library Board and shall be managed by the Library Board Trust Committee.

ART PURCHASE POLICY

Fort Lupton Public and School Library, in an effort to encourage local artists, shall purchase local art to be displayed in the Library.

At the direction of the Library Board, work produced by local artists in the Fort Lupton area shall be sought and recommended for purchase by the Art Committee. The same principles of selection used for the purchase of Library materials will apply to the purchase of local art. Funds for the purchase of local art shall be sought from local clubs, individual donations, and the Library budget. Artists shall be encouraged to donate samples of their artwork to the Library. Withdrawal of any art purchased by the Library shall follow the usual withdrawal procedures for other Library materials.

USE OF FACILITIES

The conference room and other rooms in the Library complex will be made available primarily to cultural and educational groups. Priority will be given to Library-sponsored functions. Youth groups may be scheduled if there is adequate adult sponsorship. The rooms may not be used by anyone to promote his/her own business or for financial gain. The rooms will be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members. Meeting in the

Library does not constitute sponsorship or acceptance by the Library of the views of the group using the facility. Citizens may appeal staff decisions on use of the room to the Library Board. Scheduling will be handled by the Library staff coordinated through the high school for times when the Library is not open. The Library director shall establish a rolling three month reservation system for use of space at the library. There will be no use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs on the premises.

LOAN POLICIES

The Library is supported by the taxpayers of Fort Lupton and that portion of Weld County within the boundaries of School District Re-8. Basic services will be granted free of charge to everyone in the service area and holders of Colorado Library Cards. Visitors who do not have valid Library cards may be given Library privileges on recommendation of a responsible local resident. Library cards shall be issued free of charge. No fines shall be charged for overdue materials, but list price shall be charged for damaged and lost items. This applies to all users of the Library. All print and non-print materials are loaned according to an established period deemed reasonable by the Library staff. Materials may be renewed if the items have not been requested by another patron. No patron shall be permitted to borrow materials from the Library while he or she has overdue materials or while an assessment against him or her remains unpaid, however, all materials and equipment may be used in the Library.

EQUIPMENT POLICY

Audiovisual and similar equipment shall be loaned to library card holders 18 years of age or older at the discretion of the media specialist and/or the Library director. In exercising such discretion, those individuals shall be governed by the following minimum criteria:

1. Loans for educational uses shall receive first priority.
2. Loans shall be made only for purposes which are legal.
3. Loans shall be made only to users who are financially and otherwise responsible and who are qualified to operate and care for the equipment being loaned.
4. Security deposits may be required where deemed necessary to ensure proper use and return of the equipment. In the event of loss or damage, other than ordinary wear and tear to any equipment loaned, the user shall be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of such equipment.

Specialty checkout will follow the High Plains Library District checkout policies. Reasonable extenuating situations will be determined by the Fort Lupton Public & School Library Director.

LIMITATIONS

The use of the Library may be denied for due cause. Objectionable conduct, creating a disturbance, destruction of property, failure to abide by the rules of operation, or interference with services to others may be considered sufficient grounds to effect temporary curtailment of services at the discretion of the director. Further, the Library reserves the right to deny service to anyone whose actions are unlawful or violate or restrict the right of others to use the Library.

HOURS OF SERVICE

Decisions on the opening or closing of the Library may be made by the Library director with the needs of the users considered paramount. Library hours will be posted on social media and on the doors (if possible) with the Library Board notified by email.

The Library will be closed for New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Graduation Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday, December 24th and Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve, or as agreed upon with the City and School District.

INTER-LIBRARY COOPERATION

Sharing of resources is essential in serving the information needs of all users. Technology promotes the free flow of materials from Library to Library. The Library staff shall encourage our patrons to borrow materials unavailable in our Library and the lending of our materials wherever needed and all reasonable efforts will be expended to assure the highest quality service possible. Any borrower of the Library will be offered all services possible to supplement local holdings.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS

The Library recognizes that some services can best be provided through cooperation with other libraries, and therefore, is a member of the High Plains Library District and the Colorado Library Consortium (Clic). The Library seeks to contribute to, as well as receive from, the cooperative projects in which it is involved.

PERSONNEL

Hiring procedures for Library director will follow guidelines which are outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement. The Library Board is responsible for making recommendations to City Council for hiring and discharging the Library director. The Library staff is hired for a one-year term with annual recommendations for renewal to the personnel officer who in turn shall make recommendations to City Council.

Time with pay is allowed staff members to attend Library conferences and other professional meetings. As far as possible, the privilege of attendance at such meetings is rotated among members of the staff belonging to the associations. The Library budget should include sufficient funds to pay institutional memberships in the Library association. It should also include money for Library Board memberships in the state Library associations and for at least one in the American Association of Library Trustees. Funds should also be provided for representative staff and Trustee attendance at state, regional, and national meetings.

It is the duty of staff to provide the highest quality service possible. Each member of the staff must keep uppermost in mind that service comes before time schedules, personal convenience, or personal opinions.

Any staff member having a complaint or personal grievance should feel free to bring it to the attention of the director. Criticism within the Library should be constructive. Staff members and Library Board members do not criticize the Library or associates in public.

It is important that each employee completely understands the policies and service programs of the Library. Toward this end, staff meetings are held regularly during working hours. The purpose of these meetings is to inform staff members of actions taken by the Library Board; to present and explain matters of policy; to discuss professional problems, new trends, procedures, and materials; and to consider matters involving the staff and its interests. All staff members are urged to take part in the discussion of common problems and to offer suggestions for changes in policy and procedures.

UNATTENDED CHILD

1. **Responsibility** for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are unattended.
2. **Supervision of children: Children age 10 and younger** should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver (of at least 12 years of age) who acknowledges responsibility for the child during their entire stay in the library. Parents or caregivers of these children are expected to remain in the library while children are attending library programs.

Older children able to maintain proper library behavior may use the library while unattended, otherwise they should be adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Staff may, as needed, notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers whose children need additional supervision.

3. **In the case of unattended and disruptive children, library staff members have authority to intervene in situations, such as but not limited to the following:**
- a. An unattended child is found frightened or crying in the Library
 - b. An unattended child is perceived to be endangering him or herself, or that another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child
 - c. An unattended child exhibits specific inappropriate behavior
 - d. An unattended child has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time

After evaluating the situation, Library staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. Staff may videotape disruptive children for the sole purpose of showing to parents/guardians. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be placed in the care of the Fort Lupton Police Department.

If the child is repeatedly left unsupervised, parents will be notified that their child is no longer permitted to use the library unattended.

Parents are responsible for their children's behavior while in the library. Children and young adults who are disruptive in the library or on library property interfere with library service to all patrons. **The Library is not a daycare institution and the staff members are not babysitters. It is a public institution where all patrons have an equal right to quality library service in a friendly and peaceful environment.**

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The role of the Fort Lupton Public and School Library is to maintain a healthy and clean environment for all library users. Animals are therefore prohibited in the library except for service animals or animals that are part of a library program. (9/21/17)

OTHER

Bylaws and Policy shall be void if in conflict with the Intergovernmental Agreement, school district policy, city regulations or state law.