

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
5:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- IV. Approval of Minutes - July 8, 2026 regular meeting
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
 - A. Historical Advisory Commission Report
 - B. Director's Report
- VII. Financial Report
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Resignation of Commissioner Amira Haidar
 - B. Welcome New Commissioner
 - C. Grant Notification
 - D. Library Material
- IX. Old Business
 - A. Esper and Bryant Renovations Update
 - B. Library Millage
 - C. Staffing Update
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Next Meeting - October 14, 2026
- XII. Adjournment

Director's Report

September 2026



Strategic & Operational Wins

Professional Development: The Director completed the required workshop for new Directors: *Pathway for New Directors in Michigan Public Libraries*.

Staffing Transition Status: Full-time staff continue to adapt to current capacity constraints. Meanwhile, Library Administration is actively implementing solutions to address recent departures and resolve staffing shortages.

Library hosted the August City Council meeting: To accommodate an expected larger audience, the City relocated the August 18, 2026 meeting to the Library Auditorium. Thanks to strong cross-departmental collaboration, the event ran smoothly and without issue.

Grant Award: The Library has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Library of Michigan, further supporting our effort to integrate STEAM programming into our core offerings.



Bryant and Esper Branch Modernization

Project Status: Weekly meetings continue between City staff, Library representatives, and project managers. Construction is underway, and despite occasional routine delays, proactive management is keeping the project on schedule.



Growth & Community Impact

Engagement Growth: Our digital library offers a rich variety of resources for patrons of all ages, with two outstanding options designed specifically for senior citizens: *GetSetUp* and *SeniorPlanet*. Both offer a wide range of classes, articles, videos, and activities to help older adults learn new skills, save money, exercise, make new friends, and so much more.

SparkLab Usage: Eleven new patrons registered and there were eight paid services. There were 18 different machine uses.

Processing: The department is busy since the new ordering cycle began. A total of 438 items were added to the system this month.

MAP (Michigan Activity Pass): This resource provides library cardholders the opportunity to discover and explore participating cultural destinations, parks, campgrounds and recreation areas in the state at a discounted rate. In August, Dearborn cardholders utilized this 67 times.

Automation: The D-Lab is now staffed by full-time employees. This space had 10 users, with 31 video cassettes and 52 audio cassettes digitized and 298 photo scans completed, all free of charge for our patrons.

SENIOR PLANET
FROM AARP

GetSetUp



Programs and Outreach

Teacher Appreciation Day: This all-day, drop-in program was designed specifically for PK-12 educators, homeschool instructors, and paraprofessionals. Library staff informed teachers about how to obtain a library card, provided tours, demonstrated how to access numerous free databases and showcased library collections.

Activities: Community members of all ages participated in a wide range of summer library programs. Popular offerings included Book and Cook, author lectures, storytimes, and crafts, with staff also presenting story times at Dearborn Homecoming. The Summer Reading Challenge wrapped up with a celebration featuring fun activities, a foam party, and a Kona Ice truck.

Tutoring: The Adult Services Manager organized a *Homework Help* program where teen volunteers will assist elementary and middle school students with homework in subjects such as math, science, and reading. The program will run Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:00–7:30 p.m. throughout the school year.



Community Connection

The Henry Ford Centennial Library consistently features timely displays for patrons, who especially enjoy the upcoming concert listings paired with featured music CDs. The library also highlights current events, such as a recent display honoring Dolly Parton highlighting the library's partnership with her Imagination Library initiative.



Library Millage

 **VOTE YES**
ON AUGUST 4

**SUPPORT
DEARBORN
LIBRARIES**



Vote yes to renew the Dearborn Library Millage. Paid for by the Dearborn Library Millage Committee.

A heartfelt thank you to our community for resoundingly voting "YES" on the August millage renewal! We are deeply grateful to everyone who cast their vote in support and to the dedicated volunteers who gave their time and energy to champion our library.

EXPENDITURE TO BUDGET FOR CITY OF DEARBORN												
Balance As of 08/31/2026												
GL Number	Description	25-26 original Budget	26-27 Original Budget	Monthly Allocation For Period 08/31/2025	Monthly Allocation For Period 08/31/2026	End Balance 06/30/2026	26-27 Amended Budget	YTD Balance 08/31/2026	Activity For 08/31/2026	Encumbrance 08/31/2026	Available Balance 08/31/2026	% Bdgt Used
Fund: 271 LIBRARY FUND												
Account Category: Revenues												
Department: 0000												
271-0000-311.10-00	PROPERTY TAXES / TAXES-REAL PROPERTY	5,787,000.00	8,323,930.00	482,250.00	0.00	6,234,162.36	8,323,930.00	8,445,792.24	(12,614.24)	0.00	(121,862.24)	101.46
271-0000-311.10-05	TAXES-REAL PROPERTY / WAYNE COUNTY C	20,000.00	20,000.00	1,666.00	0.00	10,627.17	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
271-0000-311.10-10	TAXES-REAL PROPERTY / T.I.F.A.	(145,300.00)	(136,800.00)	(12,108.00)	0.00	(144,399.58)	(136,800.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(136,800.00)	0.00
271-0000-311.20-00	PROPERTY TAXES / TAXES-PERSONAL PROP	641,000.00	624,000.00	53,416.00	0.00	607,375.75	624,000.00	827,748.00	0.00	0.00	(203,748.00)	132.65
271-0000-311.20-05	TAXES-PERSONAL PROPERTY / PRIOR YEAR	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,431.93	2,000.00	(1,442.80)	(1,442.80)	0.00	3,442.80	(72.14)
271-0000-311.30-00	PROPERTY TAXES / TAXES-COMM'L/IND FA	31,000.00	30,000.00	2,583.00	0.00	1,544.46	30,000.00	1,843.09	0.00	0.00	28,156.91	6.14
271-0000-311.60-00	PROPERTY TAXES / BROWNFIELD AUTHORIT	(16,800.00)	(9,400.00)	(1,400.00)	0.00	(16,716.74)	(9,400.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(9,400.00)	0.00
271-0000-319.30-00	PENALTIES & INT ON TAXES / DELINQUEN	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	2,214.77	300.00	31.52	16.93	0.00	268.48	10.51
271-0000-330.05-14	STATE SHARED REVENUE / LOC COMM STAB	1,657,935.00	1,739,394.00	138,161.00	0.00	1,857,250.89	1,739,394.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,739,394.00	0.00
271-0000-361.10-05	INTEREST / INTEREST-CURRENT	206,848.00	181,748.00	17,237.00	0.00	223,790.76	181,748.00	12,824.56	12,921.45	0.00	168,923.44	7.06
Total Dept 0000		8,181,683.00	10,775,172.00	681,805.00	0.00	8,781,281.77	10,775,172.00	9,286,796.61	(1,118.66)	0.00	1,488,375.39	86.19
Total For Department		8,181,683.00	10,775,172.00	681,805.00	0.00	8,781,281.77	10,775,172.00	9,286,796.61	(1,118.66)	0.00	1,488,375.39	86.19
Department: 5000 HISTORICAL COMMISSION-HISTORICAL COMMISS												
271-5000-330.01-90	FEDERAL / OTHER	10,000.00	10,000.00	833.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
271-5000-347.65-05	HISTORICAL MUSEUM / MUSEUM MEMBERSHI	4,000.00	4,000.00	333.00	0.00	4,080.00	4,000.00	325.00	50.00	0.00	3,675.00	8.13
271-5000-347.70-55	SALES / OTHER	250.00	250.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
271-5000-347.70-63	SALES / MUSEUM COLLECTION	1,000.00	500.00	83.00	0.00	70.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
271-5000-347.90-00	CULTURE/RECREATION / OTHER	14,476.00	8,176.00	1,206.00	0.00	10,380.00	8,176.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	5,676.00	30.58
271-5000-365.90-00	CONTRIBUTIONS / DONATIONS FROM PRIV	10,000.00	10,000.00	833.00	0.00	13,129.60	10,000.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	9,985.00	0.15
Total Dept 5000 - HISTORICAL COMMISSION-HISTORICAL COMMISS		39,726.00	32,926.00	3,308.00	0.00	27,659.60	32,926.00	2,840.00	2,565.00	0.00	30,086.00	8.63
Total For Department HISTORICAL COMMISSION-HISTORICAL COMMISS		39,726.00	32,926.00	3,308.00	0.00	27,659.60	32,926.00	2,840.00	2,565.00	0.00	30,086.00	8.63
Department: 5100 LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES												
271-5100-330.01-90	FEDERAL / OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,496.00	1,474.31	1,474.31	0.00	21.69	98.55
271-5100-330.04-30	STATE / CULTURE & RECREATION	112,000.00	112,000.00	9,333.00	0.00	119,541.26	112,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	112,000.00	0.00
271-5100-330.07-12	LOCAL GOVERNMENT / WAYNE CO-LIBR PEN	100,844.00	101,833.00	8,403.00	0.00	359,994.82	101,833.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	101,833.00	0.00
271-5100-341.80-35	NON-RESIDENT FULL SERVICE / LIBRARY	500.00	500.00	41.00	0.00	1,837.97	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
271-5100-341.80-40	NON-RESIDENT FULL SERVICE / COPIER/N	23,000.00	15,000.00	1,916.00	0.00	25,982.48	15,000.00	3,094.70	1,568.15	0.00	11,905.30	20.63
271-5100-351.40-00	FINES / LATE LIBRARY MATERIALS	10,000.00	10,000.00	833.00	0.00	10,518.71	10,000.00	1,376.03	810.66	0.00	8,623.97	13.76
271-5100-363.20-05	FACILITIES / LIBRARY ROOMS	500.00	2,500.00	41.00	0.00	2,043.55	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
271-5100-365.90-00	CONTRIBUTIONS / DONATIONS FROM PRIV	500.00	500.00	41.00	0.00	1,408.26	500.00	172.92	0.00	0.00	327.08	34.58
271-5100-366.80-00	REIMBURSEMENTS / OPERATING EXPENSES	20,000.00	16,000.00	1,666.00	0.00	17,613.08	16,000.00	234.65	234.65	0.00	15,765.35	1.47
271-5100-369.90-00	MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER	800.00	900.00	66.00	0.00	3,533.24	900.00	69.45	27.00	0.00	830.55	7.72
271-5100-369.90-02	OTHER / CASH OVER/SHORT	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	(57.54)	500.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	476.00	4.80
271-5100-369.90-22	OTHER / SPARKLAB	700.00	500.00	58.00	0.00	1,647.88	500.00	171.33	122.63	0.00	328.67	34.27
271-5100-369.90-24	OTHER / DIGITALIZATION	500.00	0.00	41.00	0.00	17.69	0.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	(6.00)	100.00
Total Dept 5100 - LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES		269,344.00	260,233.00	22,439.00	0.00	544,081.40	261,729.00	6,623.39	4,243.40	0.00	255,105.61	2.53
Total For Department LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES		269,344.00	260,233.00	22,439.00	0.00	544,081.40	261,729.00	6,623.39	4,243.40	0.00	255,105.61	2.53
Revenues		8,490,753.00	11,068,331.00	707,552.00	0.00	9,353,022.77	11,069,827.00	9,296,260.00	5,689.74	0.00	1,773,567.00	83.98
Account Category: Expenditures												
Department: 1605 FINANCE DEPARTMENT-ACCOUNTING DIVISION												
271-1605-941.80-20	DEBT SERVICE / BOND PRINCIPAL	145,502.00	150,827.00	12,125.00	0.00	145,501.01	150,827.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,827.00	0.00
271-1605-943.80-70	DEBT SERVICE / BOND INTEREST	78,152.00	72,873.00	6,512.00	0.00	78,152.51	72,873.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,873.00	0.00
Total Dept 1605 - FINANCE DEPARTMENT-ACCOUNTING DIVISION		223,654.00	223,700.00	18,637.00	0.00	223,653.52	223,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223,700.00	0.00

EXPENDITURE TO BUDGET FOR CITY OF DEARBORN

Balance As of 08/31/2026

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Fund: 271 LIBRARY FUND												
Account Category: Expenditures												
Total For Department FINANCE DEPARTMENT-ACCOUNTING DIVISION		223,654.00	223,700.00	18,637.00	0.00	223,653.52	223,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223,700.00	0.00
Department: 1660 FINANCE DEPARTMENT-TREASURER												
271-1660-791.68-45	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE / REFUND P P	5,000.00	5,000.00	416.00	0.00	697.61	5,000.00	283.97	283.97	0.00	4,716.03	5.68
271-1660-791.68-46	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE / REFUND REA	30,000.00	30,000.00	2,500.00	0.00	178,647.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00
Total Dept 1660 - FINANCE DEPARTMENT-TREASURER		35,000.00	35,000.00	2,916.00	0.00	179,344.61	35,000.00	283.97	283.97	0.00	34,716.03	0.81
Total For Department FINANCE DEPARTMENT-TREASURER		35,000.00	35,000.00	2,916.00	0.00	179,344.61	35,000.00	283.97	283.97	0.00	34,716.03	0.81
Department: 5000 HISTORICAL COMMISSION-HISTORICAL COMMISS												
271-5000-711.10-10	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / SALARIES	159,260.00	168,039.00	13,271.00	0.00	159,883.24	168,039.00	24,044.84	19,028.66	0.00	143,994.16	14.31
271-5000-711.10-20	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / WAGES, P	104,774.00	107,222.00	8,731.00	0.00	64,458.57	107,222.00	11,045.76	10,024.98	0.00	96,176.24	10.30
271-5000-711.10-30	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / OVERTIME	1,439.00	4,110.00	119.00	0.00	2,054.29	4,110.00	743.98	743.98	0.00	3,366.02	18.10
271-5000-711.10-40	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / OVERTIME	1,473.00	1,841.00	122.00	0.00	0.00	1,841.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,841.00	0.00
271-5000-711.21-05	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / HOSPITAL/MED.IN	18,464.00	22,878.00	1,538.00	0.00	20,304.00	22,878.00	4,407.55	2,644.53	0.00	18,470.45	19.27
271-5000-711.21-20	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / DENTAL INSURANC	1,327.00	1,246.00	110.00	0.00	1,186.56	1,246.00	275.85	165.51	0.00	970.15	22.14
271-5000-711.21-25	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / DEATH/DISMEMBER	222.00	233.00	18.00	0.00	216.62	233.00	33.10	26.13	0.00	199.90	14.21
271-5000-711.21-30	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / LONG-TERM DISAB	348.00	361.00	29.00	0.00	370.47	361.00	56.66	44.73	0.00	304.34	15.70
271-5000-711.21-50	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / POST EMPLOYMNT	2,693.00	2,693.00	224.00	0.00	2,240.00	2,693.00	448.00	448.00	0.00	2,245.00	16.64
271-5000-711.21-55	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / HCSP	4,527.00	4,527.00	377.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,527.00	937.50	562.50	0.00	3,589.50	20.71
271-5000-711.22-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / FICA/MEDICAR	20,115.00	21,017.00	1,676.00	0.00	16,854.64	21,017.00	2,645.81	2,203.52	0.00	18,371.19	12.59
271-5000-711.23-20	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS / GENL EMPL	22,493.00	20,279.00	1,874.00	0.00	22,493.00	20,279.00	3,380.00	1,690.00	0.00	16,899.00	16.67
271-5000-711.23-80	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS / 401A	8,649.00	9,177.00	720.00	0.00	9,390.45	9,177.00	1,527.95	1,219.04	0.00	7,649.05	16.65
271-5000-711.26-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / WORKERS COMP	174.00	181.00	14.00	0.00	288.84	181.00	51.25	47.62	0.00	129.75	28.31
271-5000-711.30-90	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES / OTHER PROF.	24,624.00	26,200.00	2,052.00	0.00	17,246.00	26,200.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	24,200.00	7.63
271-5000-711.34-04	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES / TECHNOLOGY SV	18,406.00	22,234.00	1,533.00	0.00	18,406.00	22,234.00	3,706.00	1,853.00	0.00	18,528.00	16.67
271-5000-711.34-80	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES / PROGRAM SERVI	1,000.00	1,200.00	83.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00
271-5000-711.41-35	PUBLIC UTILITIES / ELECTRIC CITY BUI	13,500.00	15,000.00	1,125.00	0.00	10,171.65	15,000.00	2,833.13	1,459.78	8,540.22	3,626.65	75.82
271-5000-711.41-55	PUBLIC UTILITIES / FUEL CITY FACILIT	9,000.00	10,000.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	20.01	20.01	0.00	9,979.99	0.20
271-5000-711.41-80	PUBLIC UTILITIES / WATER & SEWAGE CI	7,000.00	8,000.00	583.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,300.00	6,700.00	16.25
271-5000-711.43-01	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / REP & MAINT,	6,000.00	7,000.00	500.00	0.00	3,747.57	7,000.00	391.25	391.25	623.25	5,985.50	14.49
271-5000-711.43-15	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / GROUNDS MAINT	2,700.00	300.00	225.00	0.00	390.00	300.00	40.00	40.00	0.00	260.00	13.33
271-5000-711.43-32	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / PARKING LOT R	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
271-5000-711.43-60	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / OPERATING EQU	700.00	750.00	58.00	0.00	46.97	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
271-5000-711.43-64	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / MUSEUM COLLEC	2,800.00	3,500.00	233.00	0.00	976.26	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	0.00
271-5000-711.43-82	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / COPIERS R & M	800.00	800.00	66.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00
271-5000-711.52-10	INSURANCE & BONDS / GENERAL INSURANC	3,848.00	8,540.00	320.00	0.00	3,848.00	8,540.00	1,424.00	712.00	0.00	7,116.00	16.67
271-5000-711.53-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / COMMUNICATIO	5,014.00	23,837.00	417.00	0.00	23,854.31	23,837.00	2,747.38	2,747.38	14,050.11	7,039.51	70.47
271-5000-711.55-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / PRINTING & B	9,000.00	11,000.00	750.00	0.00	5,973.30	11,000.00	1,590.00	1,590.00	0.00	9,410.00	14.45
271-5000-711.58-10	TRAVEL / STAFF TRAINING & TRAN EXP	1,250.00	2,000.00	104.00	0.00	500.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
271-5000-711.60-10	SUPPLIES / OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,000.00	2,500.00	166.00	0.00	1,947.53	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
271-5000-711.60-20	SUPPLIES / POSTAGE	2,000.00	2,500.00	166.00	0.00	1,418.98	2,500.00	228.96	228.96	0.00	2,271.04	9.16
271-5000-711.61-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / OPERATING SU	2,000.00	2,500.00	166.00	0.00	293.72	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
271-5000-711.61-90	OPERATING SUPPLIES / EQUIPMENT - NON	100.00	100.00	8.00	0.00	241.93	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
271-5000-711.62-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / REPAIR & MAI	1,200.00	1,500.00	100.00	0.00	1,101.21	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
271-5000-711.65-00	HISTORICAL COMMISSION / MEMBERSHIPS	800.00	800.00	66.00	0.00	783.25	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00
271-5000-711.68-80	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE / LICENSES,	330.00	330.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.00	0.00
271-5000-980.44-04	RENTALS / FACILITY LEASE	31,978.00	18,337.00	2,664.00	0.00	31,978.00	18,337.00	3,056.16	1,528.08	0.00	15,280.84	16.67
271-5000-980.96-34	CONTRIB TO INTERNAL SERV / FACILITIE	80,000.00	20,000.00	6,667.00	0.00	80,000.00	20,000.00	3,333.34	1,666.67	0.00	16,666.66	16.67
Total Dept 5000 - HISTORICAL COMMISSION-HISTORICAL COMMISS		572,008.00	555,732.00	47,652.00	0.00	507,165.36	555,732.00	70,968.48	53,086.33	24,513.58	460,249.94	17.18

EXPENDITURE TO BUDGET FOR CITY OF DEARBORN

Balance As of 08/31/2026

GL Number	Description	25-26 original Budget	26-27 Original Budget	Monthly Allocation For Period 08/31/2025	Monthly Allocation For Period 08/31/2026	End Balance 06/30/2026	26-27 Amended Budget	YTD Balance 08/31/2026	Activity For 08/31/2026	Encumbrance 08/31/2026	Available Balance 08/31/2026	% Bdgt Used
Fund: 271 LIBRARY FUND												
Account Category: Expenditures												
Total For Department HISTORICAL COMMISSION-HISTORICAL COMMISS		572,008.00	555,732.00	47,652.00	0.00	507,165.36	555,732.00	70,968.48	53,086.33	24,513.58	460,249.94	17.18
Department: 5100 LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES												
271-5100-721.10-10	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / SALARIES	2,076,715.00	2,140,728.00	173,059.00	0.00	2,064,551.44	2,140,728.00	307,838.31	244,335.33	0.00	1,832,889.69	14.38
271-5100-721.10-20	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / WAGES, P	894,851.00	900,686.00	74,570.00	0.00	809,367.85	117,086.00	22,069.74	13,788.75	0.00	95,016.26	18.85
271-5100-721.10-30	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / OVERTIME	37,899.00	39,560.00	3,158.00	0.00	32,198.37	39,560.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,560.00	0.00
271-5100-721.10-40	PERSONNEL SERVICES, S & W / OVERTIME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
271-5100-721.11-30	OTHER PAY / LONGEVITY PAY	37,680.00	39,071.00	3,140.00	0.00	48,200.00	39,071.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	35,071.00	10.24
271-5100-721.21-05	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / HOSPITAL/MED.IN	283,204.00	348,332.00	23,600.00	0.00	316,071.18	348,332.00	68,332.08	40,638.24	0.00	279,999.92	19.62
271-5100-721.21-20	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / DENTAL INSURANC	25,082.00	24,176.00	2,090.00	0.00	23,835.18	24,176.00	5,563.33	3,315.93	0.00	18,612.67	23.01
271-5100-721.21-25	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / DEATH/DISMEMBER	2,830.00	2,642.00	235.00	0.00	2,729.32	2,642.00	414.31	325.17	0.00	2,227.69	15.68
271-5100-721.21-30	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / LONG-TERM DISAB	2,889.00	2,767.00	240.00	0.00	3,312.49	2,767.00	478.36	374.22	0.00	2,288.64	17.29
271-5100-721.21-50	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / POST EMPLOYMNT	108,280.00	98,380.00	9,023.00	0.00	96,713.99	98,380.00	15,306.39	13,159.61	0.00	83,073.61	15.56
271-5100-721.21-55	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE / HCSP	30,187.00	30,178.00	2,515.00	0.00	31,000.00	30,178.00	6,375.00	3,750.00	0.00	23,803.00	21.12
271-5100-721.22-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / FICA/MEDI	210,747.00	218,934.00	17,562.00	0.00	216,440.42	218,934.00	23,613.94	18,506.48	0.00	195,320.06	10.79
271-5100-721.23-20	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS / GENL EMPL	290,826.00	257,400.00	24,235.00	0.00	290,461.59	257,400.00	42,299.69	23,247.31	0.00	215,100.31	16.43
271-5100-721.23-80	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS / 401A	102,776.00	105,864.00	8,564.00	0.00	111,313.64	105,864.00	16,867.38	13,357.43	0.00	88,996.62	15.93
271-5100-721.26-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / WORKERS C	9,485.00	12,753.00	790.00	0.00	11,595.81	12,753.00	1,492.20	1,173.09	0.00	11,260.80	11.70
271-5100-721.27-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / CAR ALLOW	2,000.00	2,500.00	166.00	0.00	2,323.22	2,500.00	19.58	19.58	0.00	2,480.42	0.78
271-5100-721.30-25	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES / EDP SOFTWARE	167,755.00	161,975.00	13,979.00	0.00	143,623.92	161,975.00	3,954.48	229.98	4,500.00	153,520.52	5.22
271-5100-721.34-04	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES / TECHNOLOGY SV	399,263.00	653,636.00	33,271.00	0.00	399,263.00	653,636.00	108,940.00	54,470.00	0.00	544,696.00	16.67
271-5100-721.34-85	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES / CITY SERVICE	206,056.00	222,201.00	17,171.00	0.00	206,056.00	222,201.00	37,034.00	18,517.00	0.00	185,167.00	16.67
271-5100-721.34-90	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES / OTHER SERVICE	24,750.00	25,200.00	2,062.00	0.00	23,606.02	25,200.00	2,879.44	1,984.70	24,644.31	(2,323.75)	109.22
271-5100-721.41-35	PUBLIC UTILITIES / ELECTRIC CITY BUI	45,000.00	45,000.00	3,750.00	0.00	28,117.79	45,000.00	2,884.45	1,385.82	30,614.18	11,501.37	74.44
271-5100-721.41-55	PUBLIC UTILITIES / FUEL CITY FACILIT	30,000.00	30,000.00	2,500.00	0.00	36,527.61	30,000.00	(557.75)	110.26	29,889.74	668.01	97.77
271-5100-721.41-80	PUBLIC UTILITIES / WATER & SEWAGE CI	16,000.00	12,000.00	1,333.00	0.00	11,230.78	12,000.00	4,349.18	4,349.18	1,650.82	6,000.00	50.00
271-5100-721.43-01	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / REP & MAINT,	54,500.00	50,100.00	4,541.00	0.00	10,280.03	50,100.00	2,618.77	2,214.79	20,290.71	27,190.52	45.73
271-5100-721.43-32	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / PARKING LOT R	3,200.00	0.00	266.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
271-5100-721.43-60	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / OPERATING EQU	22,000.00	21,450.00	1,833.00	0.00	13,425.24	21,450.00	7,581.32	0.00	0.00	13,868.68	35.34
271-5100-721.43-80	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / OFFICE EQUIPM	2,200.00	3,000.00	183.00	0.00	1,183.31	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
271-5100-721.43-82	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE / COPIERS R & M	4,000.00	18,000.00	333.00	0.00	19,606.48	18,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	0.00
271-5100-721.44-70	RENTALS / ALARM SYSTEM RENTALS	8,150.00	8,800.00	679.00	0.00	7,498.26	8,800.00	4,148.65	2,641.65	4,623.35	28.00	99.68
271-5100-721.51-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / COMMUNITY	24,200.00	24,200.00	2,016.00	0.00	23,025.50	24,200.00	2,474.27	0.00	0.00	21,725.73	10.22
271-5100-721.52-10	INSURANCE & BONDS / GENERAL INSURANC	147,664.00	134,316.00	12,305.00	0.00	147,664.00	134,316.00	22,386.00	11,193.00	0.00	111,930.00	16.67
271-5100-721.53-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / COMMUNICA	54,101.00	45,153.00	4,508.00	0.00	30,377.54	45,153.00	857.52	777.37	6,190.40	38,105.08	15.61
271-5100-721.55-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / PRINTING	5,000.00	8,000.00	416.00	0.00	1,872.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	50.00
271-5100-721.58-10	TRAVEL / STAFF TRAINING & TRAN EXP	19,600.00	17,300.00	1,633.00	0.00	9,467.81	17,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,300.00	0.00
271-5100-721.60-20	SUPPLIES / POSTAGE	2,500.00	2,500.00	208.00	0.00	123.89	2,500.00	(1.73)	(1.73)	0.00	2,501.73	(0.07)
271-5100-721.60-35	SUPPLIES / EDP SUPP/SOFTWARE-NON CAPL	5,000.00	6,000.00	416.00	0.00	2,841.31	6,000.00	52.99	52.99	1,303.47	4,643.54	22.61
271-5100-721.61-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / OPERATING	83,800.00	109,350.00	6,983.00	0.00	83,036.81	110,846.00	7,960.68	5,067.50	8,394.06	94,491.26	14.75
271-5100-721.61-00-271200	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / OPERATING	0.00	(50.00)	0.00	0.00	49.98	(50.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(50.00)	0.00
271-5100-721.61-01	OPERATING SUPPLIES / CHILDREN'S SERV	5,000.00	0.00	416.00	0.00	4,211.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
271-5100-721.61-03	OPERATING SUPPLIES / YOUNG ADULT SER	3,000.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
271-5100-721.61-90	OPERATING SUPPLIES / EQUIPMENT - NON	35,875.00	84,350.00	2,989.00	0.00	53,425.74	84,350.00	0.00	0.00	8.53	84,341.47	0.01
271-5100-721.65-00	LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATION / MEMBERSHI	7,000.00	7,000.00	583.00	0.00	995.00	7,000.00	3,395.00	0.00	0.00	3,605.00	48.50
271-5100-721.68-79	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE / CREDIT CAR	3,500.00	3,500.00	291.00	0.00	3,629.98	3,500.00	264.56	264.56	0.00	3,235.44	7.56
271-5100-721.68-80	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE / LICENSES,	5,190.00	3,200.00	432.00	0.00	5,021.55	3,200.00	28.27	16.29	0.00	3,171.73	0.88
271-5100-721.74-50	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT / OPERTG EQUIP DAT	6,500.00	10,000.00	541.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
271-5100-721.74-70	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT / LIBRARY MATERIAL	560,000.00	577,800.00	46,666.00	0.00	387,170.05	577,800.00	57,286.73	31,283.70	71,463.30	449,049.97	22.28
271-5100-721.99-01	EXPENDITURE CREDITS / GENERAL FUND	(2,400.00)	(2,400.00)	(200.00)	0.00	(2,400.00)	(2,400.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)	0.00	(2,000.00)	16.67

EXPENDITURE TO BUDGET FOR CITY OF DEARBORN												
Balance As Of 08/31/2026												
GL Number	Description	25-26 Original Budget	26-27 Original Budget	Monthly Allocation For Period 08/31/2025	Monthly Allocation For Period 08/31/2026	End Balance 06/30/2026	26-27 Amended Budget	YTD Balance 08/31/2026	Activity For 08/31/2026	Encumbrance 08/31/2026	Available Balance 08/31/2026	% Bdgt Used
Fund: 271 LIBRARY FUND												
Account Category: Expenditures												
Department: 5100 LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES												
271-5100-980.44-04	RENTALS / FACILITY LEASE	656,773.00	524,183.00	54,731.00	0.00	656,773.00	524,183.00	87,363.84	43,681.92	0.00	436,819.16	16.67
271-5100-980.96-34	CONTRIB TO INTERNAL SERV / FACILITIE	849,463.00	3,132,114.00	70,788.00	0.00	1,108,614.00	7,315,714.00	522,019.00	261,009.50	0.00	6,793,695.00	7.14
271-5100-980.96-80	CONTRIB TO INTERNAL SERV / EMPLOYEE	90,000.00	92,000.00	7,500.00	0.00	90,000.00	92,000.00	30,666.68	30,666.68	0.00	61,333.32	33.33
Total Dept 5100 - LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES		7,660,091.00	10,253,849.00	638,320.00	0.00	7,566,466.26	13,655,345.00	1,422,856.66	849,506.30	207,572.87	12,024,915.47	11.94
Total For Department LIBRARIES-LIBRARIES		7,660,091.00	10,253,849.00	638,320.00	0.00	7,566,466.26	13,655,345.00	1,422,856.66	849,506.30	207,572.87	12,024,915.47	11.94
Expenditures		8,490,753.00	11,068,281.00	707,525.00	0.00	8,476,629.75	14,469,777.00	1,494,109.11	902,876.60	232,086.45	12,743,581.44	11.93
Fund 271 - LIBRARY FUND:												
TOTAL REVENUES		8,490,753.00	11,068,331.00	707,552.00	0.00	9,353,022.77	11,069,827.00	9,296,260.00	5,689.74	0.00	1,773,567.00	83.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		8,490,753.00	11,068,281.00	707,525.00	0.00	8,476,629.75	14,469,777.00	1,494,109.11	902,876.60	232,086.45	12,743,581.44	11.93
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:		0.00	50.00	27.00	0.00	876,393.02	(3,399,950.00)	7,802,150.89	(897,186.86)	(232,086.45)	(10,970,014.44)	

PO BALANCES BY GL NUMBER FOR CITY OF DEARBORN

POST DATES 07/01/2025 - 08/31/2026
STATUS: ALL PO STATE: PURCHASE ORDERS

(Using Invoice Details)

Fund	GL Number	PO/Req #	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Orig Amt	Amt Rel	Balance
271							
	271-5000-711.41-35						
		Purchase Order					
	08/13/2026	P120538	22815	D T E ENERGY - DETROIT EDISON	10,000.00	1,459.78	8,540.22
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				10,000.00	1,459.78	8,540.22
	271-5000-711.41-35 TOTALS:				10,000.00	1,459.78	8,540.22
	271-5000-711.41-80						
		Purchase Order					
	08/07/2026	P120382	16020	CITY OF DEARBORN	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
	271-5000-711.41-80 TOTALS:				1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
	271-5000-711.43-01						
		Purchase Order					
	07/31/2026	P120175	90705	WYANDOTTE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	623.25	0.00	623.25
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				623.25	0.00	623.25
	271-5000-711.43-01 TOTALS:				623.25	0.00	623.25
	271-5000-711.53-00						
		Purchase Order					
	08/05/2026	P120270	15578	COMCAST	3,335.76	527.43	2,808.33
	08/05/2026	P120270	15578	COMCAST	6,678.24	1,055.92	5,622.32
	08/05/2026	P120270	15578	COMCAST	3,335.80	527.43	2,808.37
	08/05/2026	P120270	15578	COMCAST	3,338.52	527.43	2,811.09
	12/02/2025	116698	15578	COMCAST	3,213.16	3,213.16	0.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				19,901.48	5,851.37	14,050.11
	271-5000-711.53-00 TOTALS:				19,901.48	5,851.37	14,050.11
	271-5100-721.30-25						
		Purchase Order					
	08/25/2026	P120720	13136	LINKEDIN CORPORATION	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
	271-5100-721.30-25 TOTALS:				4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
	271-5100-721.34-90						
		Purchase Order					
	07/01/2026	P119415	11166	SHRED CORP INC	275.00	0.00	275.00
	07/01/2026	P119427	8618	ROCKET ENTERPRISE INC	5,700.00	1,736.25	3,963.75
	07/01/2026	P119602	3706	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	15,000.00	1,143.19	13,856.81
	07/08/2025	114362	8618	ROCKET ENTERPRISE INC	3,213.75	375.00	2,838.75
	03/05/2026	117720	6968	D/A CENTRAL INC	3,710.00	0.00	3,710.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				27,898.75	3,254.44	24,644.31
	271-5100-721.34-90 TOTALS:				27,898.75	3,254.44	24,644.31

PO BALANCES BY GL NUMBER FOR CITY OF DEARBORN

POST DATES 07/01/2025 - 08/31/2026
STATUS: ALL PO STATE: PURCHASE ORDERS

(Using Invoice Details)

Fund	GL Number	PO/Req #	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Orig Amt	Amt Rel	Balance
271							
	271-5100-721.41-35						
	Purchase Order						
	08/13/2026	P120538	22815	D T E ENERGY - DETROIT EDISON	32,000.00	1,385.82	30,614.18
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				32,000.00	1,385.82	30,614.18
	271-5100-721.41-35 TOTALS:				32,000.00	1,385.82	30,614.18
	271-5100-721.41-55						
	Purchase Order						
	08/07/2026	P120381	10294	CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY	30,000.00	110.26	29,889.74
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				30,000.00	110.26	29,889.74
	271-5100-721.41-55 TOTALS:				30,000.00	110.26	29,889.74
	271-5100-721.41-80						
	Purchase Order						
	08/07/2026	P120382	16020	CITY OF DEARBORN	6,000.00	4,349.18	1,650.82
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				6,000.00	4,349.18	1,650.82
	271-5100-721.41-80 TOTALS:				6,000.00	4,349.18	1,650.82
	271-5100-721.43-01						
	Purchase Order						
	05/28/2026	P118740	96367	SERENITY STOEN AND GROUT SERVICES,LLC	14,050.00	0.00	14,050.00
	07/01/2026	P119416	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	3,500.00	444.27	3,055.73
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	846.90	363.69	483.21
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	920.00	298.67	621.33
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	694.96	245.29	449.67
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	176.97	80.58	96.39
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	179.10	0.00	179.10
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	80.59	48.46	32.13
	07/10/2025	114485	14628	ERADICO PEST SERVICES AN EHRlich CO	1,612.00	288.85	1,323.15
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				22,060.52	1,769.81	20,290.71
	271-5100-721.43-01 TOTALS:				22,060.52	1,769.81	20,290.71
	271-5100-721.44-70						
	Purchase Order						
	07/01/2026	P119601	18018	GUARDIAN ALARM COMPANY	4,400.00	2,641.65	1,758.35
	07/01/2026	P119722	9371	REDGUARD FIRE & SECURITY	4,372.00	1,507.00	2,865.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				8,772.00	4,148.65	4,623.35
	271-5100-721.44-70 TOTALS:				8,772.00	4,148.65	4,623.35
	271-5100-721.53-00						
	Purchase Order						
	08/05/2026	P120270	15578	COMCAST	3,335.80	527.43	2,808.37
	07/01/2025	110668	4045	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	3,382.03	3,382.03	0.00
	07/01/2025	110668	4045	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	3,382.03	0.00	3,382.03
	12/02/2025	116698	15578	COMCAST	1,353.59	1,353.59	0.00

PO BALANCES BY GL NUMBER FOR CITY OF DEARBORN

POST DATES 07/01/2025 - 08/31/2026
STATUS: ALL PO STATE: PURCHASE ORDERS

(Using Invoice Details)

Fund	GL Number	PO/Req #	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Orig Amt	Amt Rel	Balance
271	271-5100-721.53-00						
		Purchase Order					
	12/02/2025	116698	15578	COMCAST	341.00	341.00	0.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				11,794.45	5,604.05	6,190.40
	271-5100-721.53-00 TOTALS:				11,794.45	5,604.05	6,190.40
	271-5100-721.55-00						
		Purchase Order					
	07/01/2026	P119519	14879	IMAGE PRINTING	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	271-5100-721.55-00 TOTALS:				4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	271-5100-721.60-35						
		Purchase Order					
	08/19/2025	115244	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	1,185.48	417.41	768.07
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	137.45	0.00	137.45
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	113.14	0.00	113.14
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	284.81	0.00	284.81
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				1,720.88	417.41	1,303.47
	271-5100-721.60-35 TOTALS:				1,720.88	417.41	1,303.47
	271-5100-721.61-00						
		Purchase Order					
	05/01/2026	P118329	34470	W W GRAINGER INC	775.85	765.01	10.84
	07/01/2026	P119690	14441	LOWER HURON CHEMICAL & SUPPLY CO	8,000.00	461.07	7,538.93
	08/19/2025	115244	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	1,479.03	1,479.03	0.00
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	78.44	0.00	78.44
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	19.47	0.00	19.47
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	19.95	0.00	19.95
	09/12/2025	115640	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	726.43	0.00	726.43
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				11,099.17	2,705.11	8,394.06
	271-5100-721.61-00 TOTALS:				11,099.17	2,705.11	8,394.06
	271-5100-721.61-90						
		Purchase Order					
	03/12/2026	117800	1440	C D W GOVERNMENT	2,017.48	2,008.95	8.53
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				2,017.48	2,008.95	8.53
	271-5100-721.61-90 TOTALS:				2,017.48	2,008.95	8.53
	271-5100-721.74-70						
		Purchase Order					
	07/09/2026	P119731	12906	GREEN BRAIN COMICS	2,200.00	0.00	2,200.00
	08/19/2025	115244	17032	AMAZON BUSINESS	1,553.52	734.41	819.11
	11/20/2025	116598	6760	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICE	96,010.10	49,204.36	46,805.74
	11/20/2025	116600	10799	OVERDRIVE INC	34,686.89	13,048.44	21,638.45

PO BALANCES BY GL NUMBER FOR CITY OF DEARBORN

POST DATES 07/01/2025 - 08/31/2026
STATUS: ALL PO STATE: PURCHASE ORDERS

(Using Invoice Details)							
Fund	GL Number	PO/Req #	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Orig Amt	Amt Rel	Balance
271	271-5100-721.74-70						
	Purchase Order						
	Purchase Order TOTALS FOR ACCOUNT:				134,450.51	62,987.21	71,463.30
	271-5100-721.74-70 TOTALS:				134,450.51	62,987.21	71,463.30
FUND 271 TOTALS:					328,138.49	96,052.04	232,086.45
Report Total:					328,138.49	96,052.04	232,086.45



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

3410 Belle Chase Way, Suite 100 • Lansing, MI 48911 • (517) 394-2774 • www.milibraries.org

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October 31, 2022

Dearborn Public Library Commission
Marcel Pultorak, Chair
c/o Julie Schaefer, Interim Library Director
16301 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Dear Mr. Pultorak and Commission Members,

In light of the current situation taking place in the Dearborn Public Schools and the extreme rhetoric surrounding the book challenges that are taking place, we wanted to write to you with information that you might find useful. As you know, libraries fill a role central to any functioning democracy: upholding the rights of citizens to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment. And in the spirit of that role, we owe it to every citizen of Michigan to make sure there is material of interest to them on our library shelves. Throughout Michigan and our nation, there is an unprecedented uptick in challenges and book bans in our public and school libraries, most dealing with books, programs and displays that bring focus to race, gender, and/or LGBTQIA+ topics.

A recent national public opinion poll conducted by the nonpartisan research firm Embold Research on behalf of EveryLibrary shows that 75% of American voters - Republicans, Democrats and Independents - oppose book banning. Just 8% of voters believe "there are many books that are inappropriate and should be banned." These statistics indicate that the actions of a small, vocal minority are giving the impression that our schools and libraries are full of offensive materials, which is simply not the case.

While censorship is nothing new, the Michigan Library Association (MLA) is addressing this outbreak of challenges as a Constitutional issue. Because disagreements of opinion are inevitable; material challenges are a fact of life in education and librarianship, and that is the reason the reconsideration process is formalized. MLA recommends that your collection development policy and formal reconsideration process be followed with precision by anyone wishing to bring a title to your attention that they consider to be unconventional, unpopular, or unacceptable. Meticulous implementation of your policies is foundational to transparency, credibility, and trustworthiness. MLA does not endorse limiting access to any book prior to a formal challenge or before the conclusion of the reconsideration process.

As champions of access, MLA wants to make clear that we wholeheartedly recognize that individuals have the right and responsibility to make decisions about what materials are suitable for themselves and for their own families. We also stand united in our belief that no one has the right to make rules restricting what other people read, or to make decisions for other families.

It is important to note the precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court on this topic. In 1982, the Court determined that removing books from a school because certain people simply disliked the ideas contained in those books violated the First Amendment rights of students. Simply put, if a board decides to remove materials from a library's collection based on subject matter, they are putting the library at risk of lawsuits alleging unconstitutionality.

Librarians are public servants who work to support access, literacy, and democracy. MLA is proud of the hard work being performed by these highly educated, trained and certified librarians which qualifies them to develop, curate and weed collections that meet the broad and varied interests and needs of their community. This is a core tenant of librarianship: to provide for the interests of all and to do so without bias, upholding the Constitutional promise of access to information for everyone. Librarians are committed information professionals who curate collections that allow every citizen to see themselves and the world around them in the books and resources their library provides, for all ages, all abilities, all interests, all races, all nationalities, all religions, the rich, the poor, the traditional and nontraditional families, those who identify as LGBTQ and those that don't.

Libraries are centers for learning and self-discovery, providing free and open access to information to all residents. Libraries provide not only books, eBooks, and audiobooks, but also afterschool programs for children, book clubs, internet access, computer lessons, personalized assistance for job seekers and English language learners, meeting rooms and study spaces. Librarians connect people with information and services that improve their lives and enable them to contribute to society. Libraries are cultural institutions in the heart of every community throughout Michigan with no cost at the point of service, contributing to the health and vitality of our communities.

Extremist rhetoric, shock value of reading aloud from pages of books that are delivered out of context and spreading misinformation serve only to divide us, as does censorship. Library values haven't changed – libraries have always supported access, literacy, and democracy.

As members of the Dearborn Public Library Commission, we know we can count on you to uphold First Amendment rights that are enshrined in the Constitution to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some individuals in our society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular, or unacceptable. We must all work together to give all Michigan citizens, and especially those living in Dearborn, the space to think critically, prepare and explore the real world and engage in civil discourse.

This can only happen if we protect the right of EVERY individual and student in Dearborn to freely exercise their right to read.

If I can answer any questions or be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact me at dmikula@milibraries.org

Sincerely,



Deborah E. Mikula
MLA Executive Director



REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

Dearborn Public Library

Please complete this form as fully as possible.

The individual submitting the request must be a resident of Dearborn/Dearborn Heights and hold a valid Dearborn Public Library card. The Administrative Panel will make the decision to keep the material in the collection, transfer it to a different area, or remove it entirely; and notify the patron of this decision within 30 days. If the individual is not satisfied with the decision, they may appeal to the Library Commission's sub-committee dedicated to this matter. Until a final decision is made, item(s) will remain in the collection. Fair and balanced consideration will be given to all requests.

Title/URL (Internet address) _____

Author (if applicable) _____

Request initiated by: _____
Name

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone Number: _____ ☐ Home ☐ Work ☐ Cell

Do you represent:
_____ yourself
_____ an organization _____
(Name of Organization)
_____ other group _____
(Name of Group)

FORMAT OF MATERIAL:

_____ Book _____ Audiobook _____ Film _____ Online Resource _____ Other

1. To what, in this material, do you object? (please be specific, e.g. cite page numbers, URLs) _____

2. Did you read/view/listen to the entire work? _____ Yes _____ No
If no, which parts have you read/viewed/listened to? _____

3. What do you believe may be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this work?

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? _____

5. Are you aware of judgments of this material by literary critics? _____

6. Additional comments (please attach a separate sheet, if necessary) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

10/12/2022

jQuery(document).ready(function(\$) { \$(''.custom-search-button').attr('aria-label', 'Website Search'); });



Dearborn
Public Library



DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Collection Development Guidelines

Translate »



Goal of the Collection Development Guidelines

The Dearborn Public Library strives to fill the informational, recreational, educational and cultural needs of our users. The policies outlined in these guidelines are designed to provide general direction for librarians and inform the public about the selection process. Materials shall not be excluded because of the origin, background or the personal views of the author, as outlined in the attached ALA Bill of Rights.

The purpose of these guidelines set forth here is to inform the public about the principles upon which selections for the Library collection are made. The term "selection" refers to the decision to add, retain or withdraw material. These guidelines apply to all library material in the collection.

General Policies and Procedures of the Collection Development Guidelines

Responsibility

Final responsibility for all material selection lies with the Library Commission. However, the Commission delegates to the Library Director authority to interpret and guide the application of the policy in making day-to-day selections.

Selection

Final responsibility for all material selection lies with the Library Commission. However, the Commission delegates to the Library Director authority to interpret and guide the application of the policy in making day-to-day selections. The Library has a professional staff that is responsible for purchasing items in different subject areas. These staff members choose material in a variety of formats based on current library selection criteria. Librarians each have specialized Subject Summary Sheets that give direction on how to purchase items, based on the subject. Librarians select from review sources to justify any purchase. The Library subscribes to Publisher's Weekly, Library Journal, and other professional journals to aid in selection choices.

The Dearborn Public Library supports the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View statements adopted by the American Library Association. All selections, before being purchased or accepted as gifts, are evaluated based on the following criteria and in the context of space and economic restrictions. All items will not necessarily be judged against all criteria but will be judged on those appropriate to each item. These same standards will determine the replacement, duplication, and withdrawal of library materials.

The Library will:

- Provide a collection that anticipates the needs of potential patrons
- Consider public demand as expressed through requests, comments or suggestions, and use these to develop the collection
- Consider the availability of similar or exact materials in other libraries or agencies
- Consider the need for various subjects and viewpoints
- Consider the appropriateness to the scope of the collection

Selectors will consider these characteristics when selecting:

- Popular interest
- Literary quality
- Reputation, qualification, and significance of author, publisher, producer, or illustrator
- Accuracy, currency, timeliness, objectivity, and validity
- Importance and uniqueness
- Physical quality and effectiveness of format
- Cost, suitability, and availability

The Library acknowledges a particular interest in local, county and state history. It will take a broad view of works by and about Michigan authors as well as general works relating to the State of Michigan and the City of Dearborn. However, the Library is under no obligation to add to its collection everything about Michigan or produced by local authors, printers or publishers with Michigan or Dearborn connections.

The individual branch library shall strive to meet the general needs of most of the people in their immediate neighborhood, taking into consideration the special interests and diverse populations within the community. The Henry Ford Centennial Library shall have collections of greater depth to serve the city with specialized resources needed less frequently or by few people.

Resources not owned by the Dearborn Public Library may be obtained through

suggestion purchase requests, The Library Network or MELCAT.

Schools ultimately have the responsibility of providing textbooks and curriculum material. Textbooks and curriculum material should be purchased for the collection only when they supply information in areas in which they may be the best--or the only--source of information on the subject. Selectors will avoid purchasing books with a "fill-in-the-blank" format.

Censorship

The Library recognizes that some resources may be deemed controversial and that any given item may offend some library user. The Library does not promote particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given resource equivalent to an endorsement of the viewpoint of the author(s) expressed within. In general, the Library takes the position that the risk of not providing access to information and ideas is greater than the risk of providing it. Selections will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval but based on the merits of a work relative to the needs, interests, and demands of the community. Basic to this policy is the Library Bill of Rights, as adopted by the American Library Association (see Appendix).

Responsibility for the reading, listening, and viewing of library resources by children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that resources may come into the possession of children, and the Library does not have the right to act in loco parentis (in place of the parent).

Whenever censorship is threatened, from any source or regarding any type of material, nothing shall be removed from the Library until all proper steps for handling such complaints about library material have been completed, or by order of a court.

Request for Reconsideration

If a patron objects to the presence of any type of material in the library, he or she may request reconsideration of the item by filling out a Request for Reconsideration form. These forms are available from staff at the Reference Desk. The Administrative Panel will make the decision about whether to keep the material in the collection. If the patron is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal to the Library Commission. Fair and balanced consideration will be given to all requests.

Specific Rules and Regulations of the Collection Development Guidelines

Dearborn Public Library Local Author Guidelines

Dearborn Public Library welcomes the opportunity to support local literary and creative efforts. Local authors may submit their work for possible inclusion in the collection. Local authors are defined as residents or former residents of Dearborn or Dearborn Heights. Works about Dearborn and/or Dearborn Heights are included in this definition.

If you are a local author and you wish to submit work to the Dearborn Public Library, please see the guidelines on the library's website.

Retention

The same criteria that are used for selection will be used when removing material from the collection. The Dearborn Public Library follows the CREW method of evaluating material for withdrawal. (CREW: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries.)

Appendix

The Dearborn Public Library abides by the American Library Association's **Bill of Rights**, **Freedom to Read**, and **Freedom to View** statements to ensure that our library patrons have access to a broad range of ideas and concepts.

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.

1. 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 origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. 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.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meetings 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 18, 1948.

Amended February 2, 1961, and January 23, 1980, inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council.

The Freedom to Read

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.

Translate » n 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 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

Translate » ation 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 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.

A Joint Statement by:

- American Library Association
- Association of American Publishers
- American Booksellers Association
- American Civil Liberties Union

- Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
- Association of American University Presses
- Bureau of Independent Publishers & Distributors
- Children's Book Council
- Freedom of Information Center
- Freedom to Read Foundation
- Magazine Publishers Association
- Motion Picture Association of America
- National Association of College Stores
- National Book Committee
- National Council of Negro Women
- National Council of Teachers of English
- National Library Week Program
- National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of the U.S.A.
- P.E.N. - American Center
- Periodical and Book Association of America
- Sex Information & Education Council of the U.S.
- Women's National Book Association

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](#)

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.

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 possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to ensure 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 that 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, and 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.

Adopted February 1979

American Film and Video Association

Updated July 11, 2018

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Dearborn
Public Library



DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY

eResources Collection Development Policy

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This policy is intended to supplement Dearborn Public Library's current general Collection Development Policy.

eResources are digital in nature. The formats may consist of but are not limited to databases, links, eBooks, eBook delivery platforms, and audio/video/data file streaming or download services.

Selection Strategy and Criteria

Use of materials, in all formats, is the most powerful influence on the Library's collection. Other factors include reference and entertainment value, functionality, resource type, availability of print equivalent, and subscription cost. Selection and de-selection are both influenced by current and historic usage. The number of holds placed and patron requests are closely monitored and directly influence the purchase of additional copies of high demand titles and subscriptions to digital resources.

In addition to these considerations, the library attempts to meet the community's present and future needs as it adds titles, evaluates digital resources, considers emerging formats, and seeks to enrich the collection and maintain its overall balance.

No single criterion is applicable to all selection decisions. Some resources may be judged primarily for their artistic merit, scholarship, or value to humanity; others are chosen to satisfy the informational, recreational or educational interests of the community. Selection priority is given to resources that appeal to the largest audience of library patrons.

Librarians apply their judgment and experience in selecting and de-selecting according to the criteria listed below. Materials are judged as a whole rather than on isolated portions. When considering individual titles or other eResources in the selection process, librarians consult historic circulation data, along with reviews and other evaluative sources.

Dearborn Public Library selection criteria:

- Relevance to interests and needs of the community
- Local significance of the author or subject
- Contribution to the existing collection's strengths and weaknesses

- Current or historical significance of the author or subject
- Reputation and/or significance of the author/artist and publisher/producer
- Relevance to the experiences and contributions of diverse populations
- Price, availability in relation to Library materials budget
- Patron demand, reasonable belief of patron demand, ability to assist library staff in the performance of their duties
- Cross-platform resources that are compatible with a majority of popular operating systems and browsers, including mobile devices
- Resources that are easily deployable via the library's existing information technology network and website
- Resources provide content that may not otherwise be obtained through less costly or more efficient means

Availability:

- Dearborn Public Library will facilitate access via its website to all resources furnished freely by the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) to State of Michigan residents. The library may further facilitate access via its website to electronic services offered by The Library Network (TLN) and The Midwest Consortium for Library Services (MCLS).
- Resources may be made available for 24/7 remote access to the library's user base
- Certain items are offered through companies that are part of a consortium and Dearborn Public Library has limited control over selection and de-selection
- Dearborn Public Library strives to ensure that resources are in compliance with applicable accessibility regulations, guidelines and criteria

Retention:

An essential consideration in retaining electronic resources is patron use. A subscription resource that does not show significant use over a time period of a year or more through statistics made available from the vendor or from our web server could be replaced or removed. A resource's utility to the library staff in the performance of their duties will also be a consideration.

Request for Reconsideration:

Requests for reconsideration of resources included within Dearborn Public Library's website may be submitted by using the Request for Reconsideration Form. All requests for reconsideration must contain:

- Initiator's library card number
- Indication if representing yourself or an organization and organization represented
- The specific resource being questioned
- Specific reason(s)/concern(s) for request
- Requested remedy
- Acknowledgment that patrons have read Dearborn Public Library's eResources Collection Development Policy

Within 30 days of receipt of a request for reconsideration, library administration will reply in writing.

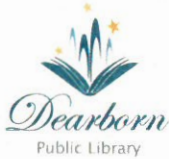
Disclaimers:

Dearborn Public Library does not knowingly include:

- Websites that are strictly commercial and have no informational content
- Subscription/commercial websites that provide free content with the sole purpose of enticing the user to purchase a subscription
- Websites or material that clearly violate U.S. copyright or other federal and state laws
- Dearborn Public Library reserves the right to omit any material or digital resource from its collections
- Inclusion of a resource does not constitute endorsement of a particular point of view

Dearborn Library Commission

April 12, 2023



Lending Lab Policy

Guidelines for Borrowing and Use

- A valid, full-service Dearborn Public Library card is needed to use the LendingLab. The card must be in good standing (active, no outstanding fees over \$10.00.)
- A signed Waiver and Acknowledgement of all LendingLab policies must be on file before checking out LendingLab Things. For library patrons under 18 years old, this Waiver and Acknowledgement must be signed by the parent or guardian.
- LendingLab Things must be checked out at a Service Desk, not self-checkout.
- Most LendingLab Things MUST be returned directly to a Service Desk at the library checked out from, not to other Branches, and not in drop boxes.
- Things will not be sent through delivery.
- Things may not be renewed.
- Things have Late Fees of \$2/day.

Reservations of Things

- Reservations for Things need to be placed in the LendingKey.
- There is a limit of 1 reservation at a time on a Thing.

Fines and Liability

- If the Thing is more than 45 days overdue, it is considered lost or converted to a patron's own use and the patron will receive a bill to cover the replacement cost. If a billed item is returned in good condition within 6 months, the fees will be removed from the patron's account.
- Michigan Penal Code, Act 328 of 1931, MCL 750.362 and 362 a, and Dearborn Code of Ordinances Sec. 14-105, provides that any person who converts for their own use or fails to return tangible library property shall be guilty of larceny, and be prosecuted for a misdemeanor.
- The library patron is solely responsible for the Thing and will be billed for the repair or replacement cost associated with any damage or loss of a Thing and/or accessories. Patron must cease using the Thing immediately and notify the Library if the Patron has any concerns about the safety or working condition of a Thing.
- Patrons are responsible for the safe and undamaged return of all containers, cases, etc. of LendingLab Things. Damage to containers, cases, etc may result in fees being placed on a patron's account.
- If a Thing is not returned clean, a patron may be charged a \$10 Cleaning Fee.
- A Thing may only be used and operated in compliance with the Library's policies and manufacturer's guidelines.



- The Dearborn Public Library is not responsible for the loss of data, manufacturing defects in quality or workmanship or materials inherent in any borrowed Thing, or any damage caused while using a Thing.
- The Dearborn Public Library is not responsible for any personal injury incurred through the use of a Thing.

Violations and Appeals

- The Library Director or designee may refuse to lend any of the Things if a patron has violated the Policy, including losing or damaging any component of a loaned item.
- The patron may appeal the Library Director or designee's decision to the Library Commission by filing a written appeal with the Library Commission Chair within 10 business days of the notice or refusal.



INDEMNIFICATION AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

1. In consideration for permission to participate in the Lending Lab program, and to use Lending Lab Things, I agree to release and forever discharge the Dearborn Public Library, the City of Dearborn, a municipal corporation, and the Library's and City's officers, agents, departments, elected and appointed officials, volunteers, and commissioners, from any and all claims, liabilities, and/or lawsuits, including legal costs and attorney fees, resulting from my access, participation in, or use of the LendingLab Things.
2. In consideration for permission to participate in the Lending Lab program, and to use LendingLab Things, I shall indemnify and hold harmless the Dearborn Public Library, the City of Dearborn, a municipal corporation, and the Library's and City's officers, agents, departments, elected and appointed officials, volunteers, and commissioners from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and/or lawsuits, including legal fees, resulting from or in any way related to participation in the LendingLab Program or the use of LendingLab Things and equipment belonging to the Dearborn Public Library. I intend for this agreement to be binding on me, my heirs, personal representatives, next of kin, spouse, and assigns.
3. I waive all rights of subrogation or recourse against the Dearborn Public Library with respect to the use by the Patron of LendingLab Things or equipment.
4. I have read this agreement, fully understand its contents and risks, and have signed it of my own free will. I have also read and understand the Policies of the Dearborn Public Library's LendingLab. I will abide by all policies, including taking responsibility for all replacement, repair, or cleaning fees of LendingLab Things and equipment.

AUTHORIZATION & PERSONAL INFORMATION

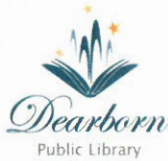
Name of Patron (please print) _____

Dearborn Public Library Card #: _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

IF THE PATRON IS A MINOR: Please fill out the back of this form.



IF THE PATRON IS A MINOR:

I attest that I am the parent/legal guardian of the minor patron named above and hereby give my permission for said minor to participate in The Lending Lab program and to rent/borrow Lending Lab Things. I am aware that this agreement is legally binding and that the minor patron is releasing all legal rights on behalf of the minor and the minor's heirs, personal representatives, next of kin, and assigns. In consideration for the minor to participate in the Lending Lab program and to use Lending Lab Things, I agree to release and forever discharge the Dearborn Public Library, the City of Dearborn, a municipal corporation, and the Library's and City's officers, agents, departments, elected and appointed officials, volunteers, and commissioners, from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and/or lawsuits, including legal costs and attorney fees, resulting from the minor's access, participation in, or use of the Lending Lab Things.

Name of Minor Patron's Parent or Guardian (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date: _____



Dearborn Public Library Local Author Guidelines

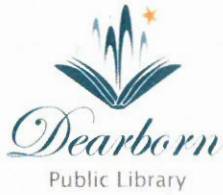
Dearborn Public Library welcomes the opportunity to support local literary and creative efforts. Local authors may submit their work for possible inclusion in the collection. Local authors are defined as residents or former residents of Dearborn or Dearborn Heights. Published works about Dearborn and/or Dearborn Heights are included in this definition.

These published works must meet some or all of the Library's selection criteria as detailed below:

- Contemporary significance or permanent value
- Literary quality
- Accuracy
- Authority and competency of the author, composer, film, source of information, etc.
- Relation of work to existing collection
- Format, ease of use, readability/clarity of picture, sound or electronic presentation
- Popular demand
- Physical quality (durability) of material in all media

The above principles are not ranked. Importance will vary, depending on the subject area. Additionally:

- At least one copy of the work must be donated to the Library and will not be returned regardless of inclusion decision. It becomes the property of the Library. Items not selected for inclusion in the collection will be donated to the Friends of the Library-Dearborn (FOLD) book sale.
- Authors will be notified of inclusion.
- Items added into the collection may be withdrawn, at a future date, in accordance with the terms of the Library retention policy.
- The Library accepts physical copies (books, CDs or DVDs). Digital formats can be donated, but certain restrictions apply—inquire directly with staff about this.
- Acceptance of a copy of a work into the collection does not guarantee that the Library will purchase additional copies, or accept into the collection future works donated by the author. If additional copies are purchased, they may not be purchased directly from the author/creator.
- Items submitted in a language other than English will require a translation of certain details including Title, Author, and Brief summary.
- Items will be added into the Local Author collection and identified as such.
- Dearborn Public Library bears no obligation for marketing an author's work.
- To submit work, please complete the Local Materials Donation Form (page 2) and submit it, along with the copy of the work to Henry Ford Centennial Library – Library Administration, 16301 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126-2330



LOCAL MATERIALS DONATION FORM

Dearborn Public Library

Item Information

Please print clearly or type

Item Title_____

Author Name_____

Brief Description_____

Type of Item: ___Book ___CD ___DVD

Price:

Author Contact Information

Name_____

Phone Number_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ ZIP_____

Email_____

Connection to Dearborn/Dearborn Heights: _____

Today's Date_____

Patron Suggestion Form

We Want to Hear From You!

At the heart of the Library's mission is your right to information, intellectual freedom, and free expression. Whether you have suggestions for new materials, displays, programs, or services, or simply wish to share your thoughts or concerns, we welcome your voice! Your feedback helps us shape a library that serves the community better.

Please fill out the form below, ensuring you include your name, phone number, email address and library card number. The Dearborn Public Library may contact you for more information using the information provided.

If you're a local author interested in donating your book, please visit our [Local Author Guidelines](#).

Are you a performer or presenter looking to share your talents with the community? Check out our [Program Proposal Form](#) to tell us about your interest.

ppodziko@dearborn.gov [Switch account](#)



* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email



Name *

Your answer

Library Card Number *

Your answer

Phone Number *

Your answer

Would you like to stay in the loop with all the exciting things happening at the Dearborn Public Library—like upcoming programs, new titles, resources, and more? We'd love to keep you updated! *

- ☐ Yes to all the library newsletters!
- ☐ Adult Specific
- ☐ Teen Specific
- ☐ Youth Specific
- ☐ Library Matters - a monthly newsletter featuring all things library
- ☐ None

Which of the Dearborn Public Library locations do you visit? (check all that apply) *

- ☐ Bryant Library
- ☐ Esper Library
- ☐ Henry Ford Centennial Library
- ☐ All Locations

What are you suggesting? *

- ☐ Materials (Books, DVDs, CDs, Magazines, Book Club Kits, etc.) Please continue with Materials Questions.
- ☐ Displays (Themed groupings of books and other materials) Please continue with Display Questions.
- ☐ Programs (Performers, lectures, book clubs, crafts, etc.) Please continue with Program Questions.
- ☐ Services (SparkLab, Book Delivery, Pop Up Libraries, Tech Time) Please Continue with Services Questions.
- ☐ Online Resources (hoopla, Libby, Press Reader, Brainfuse, etc.) Please Continue with Online Resources Questions.
- ☐ Recommend an improvement to Dearborn Public Library
- ☐ Other Questions/Concerns Please Continue with Other Questions.

Next

Clear form

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was created outside of your domain. - [Contact form owner](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

Does this form look suspicious? [Report](#)

Google Forms



THE *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 which 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 2nd, 1967; January 23, 1980;
inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996

THE *Library* BILL of RIGHTS

& THE

Freedom to Read STATEMENT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE

ALA American
Library
Association

OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

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.

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.

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.

To read the full Freedom to Read Statement, including the propositions, visit ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How do I handle difficult conversations with individuals seeking to ban books, especially parents concerned about what their kids are reading?

A: We must trust individuals to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We also believe that parents have the right to guide their children's reading and education. At the same time, individuals should not be making decisions for other readers or for other parents' children. Specifically, a small group of parents should not dictate what books other people's children are allowed to read.

Q: What if someone says that children are too young to begin reading a book that addresses sexually explicit topics?

A: We recognize that there will be disagreements over certain content. However, individuals should not be making decisions for other readers or for other parents about what is appropriate.

Services, materials, and facilities that fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of providing library services and should be determined on an individual basis.

Reading materials available in the library are available to students for personal selection; they are not required books. Banning these materials will remove access for all members of the community.

Q: What if someone argues that they don't want their children being taught political views that they find objectionable, such as critical race theory?

A: School educators and librarians are professionals who are trained to not impose their own thoughts and opinions on which ideas are right, but to make knowledge and ideas available so that people have the freedom to choose what to read. Further, librarians and educators respect the rights of parents to decide which books their children are exposed to. They work closely with parents to help them decide the best books for their children.

Libraries provide access to books that offer teachable moments for readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs.

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 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 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 (<http://www.publishers.org/>)

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers for Free Expression (<http://www.bookweb.org/abfe>)

The Association of American University Presses (<http://www.aaupnet.org/>)

The Children's Book Council (<http://www.cbcbooks.org/>)

Freedom to Read Foundation (<http://www.ft rf.org>)

National Association of College Stores (<http://www.nacs.org/>)

National Coalition Against Censorship (<http://www.ncac.org/>)

National Council of Teachers of English (<http://www.ncte.org/>)

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES



TO: LIBRARY PANEL
FROM: JOI HICKMAN
SUBJECT: M-RATED VIDEOGAMES
DATE: MARCH 20, 2023

Approved at this meeting

I would like to propose that we add M-rated video games to our collection.

According to Pew Research Center, 80% of teenagers, ages 13-17 play videos games and two-thirds of gamers are between the ages of 21 and 40, according to New York Times. According to Statista, in 2021, it was reported that the age distribution of U.S gamers were as follows: 20% under the 18 years old, 38% were in between 18 and 34 years old, 14% were in between 35 and 44 years old, 12% were in between 45 and 54 years old, 9% were in between 55 and 64 years old, and 7% were 65 years old or over.

As of July 11, 2022, the largest percentage of Dearborn Public Library cardholders is the 18-35 year old group at 26.88%. Relatively, under 18 years of age is 20.48%; 36-45 years old is 15.44%; 46-55 years old is 10.08%; 56-65 years old is 10.51%; and over 65 years old is 16.61%. Video games aren't just for kids under 12.

Adding M-rated games to the collection will allow these users to use their problem solving and critical thinking skills when accomplishing the objectives. These games also allow for users to expand their vocabulary. According to an example that was given by the ALA, "Games can enrich vocabulary and expose players to language roots e.g. fighting the flaming monster Incendius can plant the key to unlock the more ordinary word "incendiary" upon later exposure. Crone, spawn, inquisitor, hydromancer, lore keeper, magister, elemental, tainted, and evocation are other examples of vocabulary builders that can readily be found in games". Having these M-rated games can meet the developmental needs of teenagers because they encourage social interactions among others. They also encourage creativity and the opportunity for self- satisfaction when games allow for rewards and achievements. Games are growing in sophistication.

M-rated games will boost circulation numbers as well as increase interest in the collection. I propose to allocate 20% of the budget to M-rated games. This would leave 80% of the budget for the continued purchase of E, E10 and T-rated games.

Some of the Class VI rated libraries that have M-rated games in their collection are, Livonia, Northville, Ferndale, and Canton Public Library, with Canton having checkout restrictions.

There will not be any parameters on the M-rated games for our library, but the games will be kept behind the circulation desk in binders. Patrons will take empty case to the circulation desk for the M-rated videogame to be checked out.

Some popular M-rated game titles that patrons have asked for and showed interest in are:

- Call of Duty
- Halo Infinite
- The Last of Us (Part I & II)
- God of War
- Resident Evil Village
- Elden Ring

Games with subject keywords "strong sexual content", such as Grand Theft Auto would not be purchased. Common Sense Media and Entertainment Software Rating Board will be used to evaluate the M-rated games.

I would be purchasing these M-rated games for the following gaming systems:

- PlayStation 5
- PlayStation 4
- Xbox One

PROPOSED CHANGE

I propose for the library to start purchasing M-rated videogames for the videogame collection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joi Hickman
Librarian I, Youth Services
Dearborn Public Library

The Miller Test

It is the responsibility of public libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some individuals in our society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular, or unacceptable. As legislation here in Michigan and around the country attempts to ban books and criminalize our library workers, it is critical to know that LIBRARIES DO NOT HAVE OBSCENE MATERIALS ON THEIR SHELVES. It is also equally important to understand why reading a single paragraph or page out of context at a library board meeting is so misleading.

Obscenity is determined by the court of law. Federal law prohibits the possession with intent to sell or distribute obscenity, to send, ship, or receive obscenity, to import obscenity, and to transport obscenity across state borders for purposes of distribution (18 U.S.C.) Therefore, libraries cannot purchase obscenity on the open market and thus cannot have it on their shelves.

The Miller Test is the primary legal test for determining whether expression constitutes obscenity. As per the Supreme Court, materials MUST PASS ALL 3 PRONGS of the Miller Test. They are:

- whether the average person applying contemporary community standards would find the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
- whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and
- whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

Because publishers cannot sell obscene materials to anyone (including libraries), we guarantee that there are ZERO obscene books on the shelves of Michigan public libraries.

When a book gets challenged or banned, someone is trying to decide what is best for everyone based on their own beliefs and feelings. Many books offer new perspectives and insights from people with life experiences different from our own. Many books currently being targeted are those written by and about traditionally marginalized people and experiences including LGBTQIA+, BIPOC and women. Banning children from being able to see different cultures, same-sex couples, and languages in books, closes their world off, sending a clear message that certain ideas are not acceptable in society.

Intellectual freedom is a core value of the library profession and a basic right in our democratic society. Our goal is to protect Michiganders' right to read, oppose attempts to ban books from Michigan libraries, educate the public about the right to read, oppose any legislation that infringes upon Michigan citizens' First Amendment rights and ensure that librarians across Michigan will be entrusted to continue to do their jobs and serve the needs of ALL individuals and communities. We believe that while a specific book may not be the right fit for one person,

it may still be the perfect fit for another. Public libraries do not take on the role of a parent, and it is a parent's responsibility to decide what materials they will allow their own children to read. No one individual or group should make sweeping decisions that take that process of careful consideration away from the experts (librarians) and that choice away from readers.

From MLA news advocacy, 3-16-2023

An Overview of Collection Development

This document contains two communications created by MLA's Intellectual Freedom Taskforce. Part I concerns the collection development process and may be helpful when discussing how librarians make selection choices. Part II covers five topics that show up frequently in book challenges and discussion of censorship.

Part I - Collection development: how do librarians choose what to buy for the library?

When librarians choose what materials to purchase for their library, they consider a number of factors. What part of the collection (fiction? Nonfiction? Film and television?) are they buying for? What materials have already been purchased? How much space do they have on the shelf? How much money do they have in their budget? What materials will best inform their community? What materials will contribute to the variety of topics and perspectives that intellectual freedom standards compel a library to provide?

This process, with all the questions it involves, is called collection development. Collection development is a cornerstone of library services—if library workers did not do collection development, there would be nothing to lend the patrons!

Libraries have limited space, so librarians sometimes remove books from a collection based on condition (old books that are falling apart), low circulation (a book hasn't been checked out in a long time), or outdated information (such as science books written before major scientific discoveries). This process is called weeding, and it will be addressed more fully in a future newsletter.

When deciding what to purchase for the library collection, librarians consider whether a work has literary, political, artistic, and/or scientific value. They use a number of resources to help determine the answer.

One of the most important resources is reviews in trade publications. *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal* are three of the most important and well-respected trade publications, as are *School Library Journal* and *The Horn Book*, which focus on materials for children and young adults. The people who contribute reviews for these journals are literary professionals who often do or have done library work. Reviews in these publications help librarians determine the merits of a work and judge how well it would serve the needs of their library collection and their community.

Librarians also check to see what other librarians are doing. If several other libraries in a given area own a particular book, that indicates a high level of interest. If only a few other libraries own a particular book, that could indicate a lack of interest, or it could indicate a gap in local information access that the librarian decides should be filled. Librarians have extensive professional training that helps them make these judgment calls.



If an item is checked out frequently at other libraries, a librarian might decide to purchase a copy for their library to help meet demand. High circulation often indicates that a resource has value to the library's community.

Awards also help librarians determine what materials should be in their library. Librarians look to a variety of resources when considering award distinction, and they have plenty to work with: over one hundred literary awards are announced each year by respected literary organizations. For example, the Association for Library Service to Children awards the Newbery Medal for distinguished contributions to children's literature and the Caldecott Medal for distinguished picture books. The Stonewall Award honors titles for "exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender experience." Other well known accolades include the National Book Award, the Booker Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize. Since librarians consider artistic and literary merit when selecting books, awards are often a helpful guide.

Ideally, librarians would only need to consider their professional obligation to intellectual freedom when performing collection development. However, some librarians worry that if they purchase materials about certain topics—regardless of the merit those materials have—they will be threatened with censorship and loss of funding. Sometimes librarians choose not to purchase certain materials *specifically* because they are afraid of the repercussions. This is called self-censorship and is a response to a chilling effect in which the threat of bad consequences deters someone from exercising their legal right to free speech and meeting their obligation to build broad, diverse collections.

In our next communication, we will list some of the topics that frequently appear in challenged materials and may cause librarians to consider self-censorship. We will also discuss why materials with these topics belong in the library and how removing or restricting access to these materials violates intellectual freedom.

Part II - Commonly Challenged Topics

In our last communication, we explained collection development, or how librarians decide what to purchase for their library. In an ideal world, librarians would only need to consider their professional obligation to intellectual freedom when they did collection development. However, recent and ongoing censorship attempts across the country are targeting materials because they contain certain topics and perspectives that censors disapprove of.

It can be very easy to get side-tracked by arguments about justifying frequently challenged topics. Ultimately, every person has the right to moderate their own engagement with the materials in a library's collection. Any library patron may choose to stop reading a book or watching a film for any reason. However, these patrons are only responsible for themselves and may not dictate what other community members, including community members under the age of 18, may access.

Understanding what topics are most likely to be censored can help us be proactive in protecting intellectual freedom. Below are five topics that frequently appear in challenged and censored materials.

Sexual content

Some materials in library collections include sexual content. This content may be informational (such as a nonfiction book about sex education) or it may be part of a narrative (such as in a novel or a film). Library patrons may have varying degrees of comfort with this content and may choose not to engage or to stop engaging with a library item that includes sexual content. This does not mean that these materials should be censored, as restricting or removing the materials would violate the intellectual freedom rights of a library's patrons.

Some censors object to sexual content specifically because the sex and sexualities depicted are not heterosexual. Discriminatory removal of such content is a violation of intellectual freedom principles, which require librarians to select materials that represent a wide variety of experiences and perspectives.

Gender and sexuality

Censors may say that they object to books that reference gender and sexuality, but what they generally mean is that they object to books that reference genders other than "cis girl/woman" and "cis boy/man" and sexualities other than "heterosexual." A book that uses any gendered pronoun (such as "she" or "his") references gender, and a book about a cis girl and a cis boy falling in love references sexuality.

Nonfiction books about all genders and sexualities and fiction books that include characters from across the spectrums of gender and sexuality reflect the existence and lived realities of people all over the world. Libraries have a duty to provide materials on a wide variety of topics from a wide variety of perspectives; when librarians include materials about all genders and sexualities in their collections, they are fulfilling their professional obligation to foster intellectual freedom.

Critical race theory (CRT)

Critical race theory (CRT) is an academic theory applied to the study of law that draws on the work of Derrick Bell, Alan Freeman, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw and Richard Delgado. It is studied by law school students and legal professionals. Unless the material in question is a law textbook, libraries are unlikely to have materials involving critical race theory in their collection.

Depictions and discussions of racism

Race is a socially constructed category that affects the lives of people around the world. Depictions and discussions of racism in both fiction and nonfiction materials belong in libraries because they reflect reality. Librarians uphold the principles of intellectual freedom by providing access to a wide range of perspectives in their collection. This includes the perspectives of people who experience racism and are otherwise socially marginalized or oppressed. While some patrons may find these



depictions and discussions upsetting, the inclusion of materials in library collections is not dependent on the emotional reaction that patrons may have upon engaging with those materials.

Social emotional learning (SEL)

Social emotional learning (SEL) is an educational method first developed at Yale in the 1960s. SEL focuses on teaching children how to be aware of their own emotions and the emotions of others, how to foster interpersonal relationships and communicate within those relationships, and how to problem solve and hold themselves accountable. Some publishers develop books, particularly for young children, that can be used to help children learn these emotional awareness and communication skills. Social emotional learning has been linked to improved social behavior in children and reduction in children's emotional distress ([source](#)).

Materials in a library's collection that contain these topics have been chosen because a librarian, who is a trained professional, has determined that the materials have artistic, literary, political, and/or scientific merit. Any patron is free to not engage, or to stop engaging, with library materials containing these topics, but that is a matter of personal preference, not professional decision-making.