

HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

DISPLAYS POLICY

Purpose

The Hall Memorial Library offers displays of library and other materials in support of its mission to serve and support the members of the community by providing materials and experiences for their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs. With a devoted focus on encouraging the love of reading, lifelong learning, and creativity, we work to establish responsive connections between the diverse needs of our community, our varied collections, our digital services, an array of engaging programming and thoughtfully curated displays.

Policy

The Library will curate displays and exhibits of library materials, objects and artifacts, and informational literature that will represent a range of varied and diverging viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents.

Principles and Criteria

Responsibility for displays and exhibits rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Board of Library Trustees. The Library Director may delegate display management to members of the staff who are professionally trained to curate and develop such displays. These staff members are guided by this policy and use their professional skills and training, Library collections, equipment and facilities, and feedback from the community in planning and delivering quality and relevant Library displays and exhibits that support the interests, informational needs and enlightenment of all residents.

Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Availability of display space
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs.

The Library may partner with other Town departments, community agencies, organizations, and individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits, in recognition of the importance of displays as a resource for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents

Individuals may be invited to mount a display or exhibit that meets the stated criteria.

Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Hall Memorial Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

Selection of materials for display will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. Responsibility for the reading, listening and viewing habits of children rests with their parents or legal guardians.

The Hall Memorial Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and all relevant interpretations.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

Library displays are meant to be viewed and enjoyed by all visitors to the Library, but requests to reconsider material, displays or programs is limited to residents of Ellington. Please see our Statement of Concern Policy and reconsideration form for further information on this process.

9/2025

Approved by the State Library 9/2025

HML LBOT 10/14/2025

