



## Inclusive Collection Talking Points

### **Why is it important for Richland Library to cultivate and maintain an inclusive collection?**

- Richland Library is committed to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion. As a library system, we are unwavering in our dedication to fostering a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and represented and acknowledge our responsibility as an inclusive public organization by providing safe spaces where ALL PEOPLE can connect, thrive and belong.
- Free and convenient access to the widest range possible of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas, allowing individuals to learn, create and share, are essential values of Richland Library.

### **How does Richland Library select materials for its collection?**

- Richland Library staff undergo specific training in the selection and acquisition of library materials. They follow collection development criteria to aid in the selection of library items.
- The selection of items in our collection is based on more than a dozen criteria, including:
  - interest of the community
  - importance of subject to the balance of the collection
  - literary, artistic or technical value
  - reputation and standards of creator, publisher or producer
- The Library seeks to build a collection representing a broad spectrum of knowledge and diverse opinions.
- As part of our [collection development policy](#), Richland Library strives to reflect the challenges, aspirations, attitudes and ideals of our society while also encouraging self-awareness and growth.

### **What rights do parents have regarding their children's reading?**

- We fully support the right of every parent to guide their children's reading, and always encourage parents and children to talk openly about the materials that they are reading.
- While we do believe a parent has the right to guide their child's reading journey and set restrictions, we also believe that no one person or group should have the right to deny access to other children or limit the materials and programs available to other families in the community.



access freely.

**How can parents access their child's library usage?**

- Library account information regarding children 13 and under can only be distributed to a parent or guardian.

**How can customers ensure they receive content that aligns with their interests?**

- Richland Library staff is happy to help you select materials, programs or resources that are appropriate for you and your family.

**Does the Library contain books in their collection that some may find obscene or pornographic?**

- Richland Library recognizes that some materials that may offend, shock or bore one reader may be appropriate, meaningful or significant to another. Richland Library believes customers have the right to make choices best for themselves and their families, but no one person or group should have the right to deny access or limit the materials and programs available to others.

**What Should I Do If...**

**A customer wants to submit a formal challenge of library materials?**

- If the customer wants to issue a formal challenge of an item, access and print the [Reconsideration of Library Materials form](#). The form may also be shared with the customer by email.

**A customer wants me to remove a display or book from my location?**

- Confirm their comments will be shared with administrative staff for review.

**A situation escalates?**

- Ask for the customer's name and contact information and let them know someone will be in touch in the coming days. Then pass that information along to your manager in a timely manner.
- Contact Anika Thomas or Georgia Coleman for support if necessary.
- Follow the procedures outlined in the Richland Library Code of Conduct if applicable.

**Please note, if media reach out to staff directly – via phone, email, or in person – with questions, provide them with the following contact information for our Community Relations arm of the Marketing and Communications department:**

- Kimberlei Davis | Media Relations Specialist  
803.351.5616 | [kdavis@richlandlibrary.com](mailto:kdavis@richlandlibrary.com)
- Anika Thomas | Community Relations Manager  
803.530.4621 | [athomas@richlandlibry.com](mailto:athomas@richlandlibry.com)



## Key Messages

- As part of our collection development policy, **Richland Library strives to reflect the challenges, aspirations, attitudes and ideals of our society** while also encouraging self-awareness and growth.
- **We fully support the right of every parent to guide their children's reading**, and always encourage parents and children to talk openly about the materials that they are reading.
- **Richland Library staff is happy to help you select materials, programs or resources** that are appropriate for you and your family.

### **If a situation becomes challenging/escalates:**

- Ask for the customer's name and contact information and let them know someone will be in touch in the coming days. Then pass that information along to your manager in a timely manner.
- Follow the procedures outlined in the Richland Library Code of Conduct if applicable.

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