

Adult Audiovisual Collection Development Policy

The library collects feature films, both new releases and classics, as well as instructional titles on a variety of subjects. The adult audiovisual collection also includes documentaries and compilations of classic and current network and cable television shows.

The Special Services Coordinator is responsible for selecting titles and maintaining this collection. Selection sources include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ❑ *Baker and Taylor Catalog*
- ❑ *Library Journal*
- ❑ *Facets*
- ❑ *Video Librarian*
- ❑ *PBS Catalog*
- ❑ Specialized catalogs
- ❑ Online sources
- ❑ Patron suggestions
- ❑ Donations

The library recognizes that some audiovisual materials may be controversial and that a specific item may offend some patrons. Selection decisions are not made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but to provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials that represent the diversity of views and expression within the community. The Board of Library Trustees upholds the principles of intellectual freedom as stated in the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" (Appendix II), the "Freedom to View" statement (Appendix XI), and the "Statement on Labeling" (Appendix V.)

Though the Leominster Public Library makes every effort to be responsive to the needs and interests of the community, it cannot expect to fill every patron request from its own shelves. Through its membership in C/W MARS, the library can call upon the resources of other member libraries for audiovisual materials not available locally. Interlibrary Loan, however, is not a substitute for the development of adequate collections based on the needs of the library's service area and patrons. If a particular title is requested by two or more patrons in a three-month period, it will be considered for purchase.

The library is dedicated to protecting the right of individuals to decide for themselves which library materials to use. Unlike public schools, libraries do not act "in loco parentis," and it is deemed the responsibility of parents to determine what their children may read, hear, or view. The selection of material for the Adult Collection is not restricted by the possibility that young people may obtain materials their parents may not consider appropriate. The library is committed to offering collections of materials in a variety of formats, including audiovisual, in age-appropriate areas: specifically, children, teens, and adults.

Many of the titles selected for the adult audiovisual collection carry Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) ratings of "G," "PG," "PG-13," and "R." The ratings

are a voluntary system used by many, but not all, members of the motion picture industry, and offer viewers an opinion, not an absolute standard of judgment. Though legally they are not required to do so, signatory members of the MPAA (major studios) have agreed to submit all of their theatrical releases for rating, and few mainstream producers are willing to bypass the rating system due to potential effects on revenues. The library also purchases films that are released without an MPAA rating. These include independent films, foreign films, direct-to-video films, made-for-television films or documentaries.

Neither the movie industry nor the library can relieve viewers, especially parents, of their basic responsibility to educate themselves about the content of a particular work. Recognizing this, the library provides resources to help patrons make informed decisions about what to view. Published reviews of films and videotapes, along with reference works which provide information about the content, subject matter and recommended audiences, are always available in the library.

Adopted August 14, 2006