



Library Display Policy

Purpose

Otis Library (the “Library”) is a trusted informational and cultural hub that provides free resources for personal growth and lifelong learning, including temporary and permanent displays and exhibits (“Displays”). The Library is a community resource for people of all ages, races, creeds, national origins, sexual orientations, and political or social views as well as other categories and groups. The contents of Displays are selected, evaluated, and made accessible in conjunction with the Library’s mission and in accordance with protections against discrimination as set forth in Section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Principles and Criteria

The Library provides space for displays that may include, but are not limited to, Library materials, art, educational, cultural, civic, and historical exhibits, and thematic and seasonal displays.

Library staff are professionally trained to curate and develop Displays that represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints and are relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of Norwich community members. Displays should support voluntary inquiry, dissemination of information and ideals, and promote free access to ideas. Displays represent are intended to provide for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents.

When not in use to promote Library materials, programs, and services, display spaces may be available to community groups or individuals engaged in educational, cultural, civic, or historical activities. The exhibition of a community group or individual’s materials does not in any way constitute and endorsement by the Library of their policies or beliefs, and signage will be provided to that effect.

Displays by community groups or individuals are accepted at the discretion of the Library’s Executive Director, who has the right to review and inspect the materials before the Display is installed. The Executive Director may refuse a Display if it does not conform with the law, Collection Development Policy, or other policies of the Library. A decision not to accept materials for Display by a community group or individual may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Library does not exclude or censor display content based on the origin, background, or views of those contributing to it. Displays are a resource for the dissemination of information and ideas, promoting free expression and access to diverse ideas.

Otis Library affirms and incorporates the principles of the American Library Association's:

- Library Bill of Rights
- Freedom to Read Statement
- Freedom to View Statement

Request for Reconsideration

The Library recognizes that some materials, displays, or programs may be controversial or objectionable to certain members of the community. At the same time, it is the Library's responsibility to provide access to a broad range of viewpoints and resources, while supporting the principles of intellectual freedom.

The Library values the right of individuals to express concerns about specific displays. However, the Library limits requests to reconsider displays to individual residents of Norwich, Connecticut.

Norwich residents may visit the Library's website, otislibrarynorwich.org/policies/ to review the Request for Reconsideration Policy and access a Request for Reconsideration of Display Form.