

LITERATURE DISPLAY AND DISTRIBUTION

Rockford Public Library adheres to the principle that the Library is the institution in our society which provides materials representing all points of view in all fields including political, social, and religious, no matter how controversial or objectionable these views may be to some people.

To support this basic principle and to foster positive relationships within the community, the following policy has been established:

1. Informational material of public interest from nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies may be displayed or distributed in branches where space is available. The primary purpose of such material must be to inform the public of the organization's programs, services, and events.
2. Material not permitted for display or distribution includes commercial advertising, personal and group sales material, business cards, as well as literature and audiovisual items primarily for the purpose of soliciting members, requesting donations, raising funds, or selling merchandise. Exceptions include Friends of the Library and Rockford Public Library Foundation materials, promotional items for local cultural organizations and special event fliers for local non-profit organizations. Other exceptions include local magazines and newspapers that are distributed free of charge and have prior approval from Rockford Public Library. Material for display or distribution will be permitted at the discretion of the Community Relations Officer.
3. Prior to an election, library locations may have available, on an equal basis, voter information and campaign literature about political candidates appearing on local ballots.
4. Prior to an election, campaign material relating to ballot issues may be placed in library branches for display and/or distribution to the public. If there is formal opposition to a ballot issue, equal consideration shall be given.
5. Petitions may not be displayed or circulated in library buildings or on library grounds. The only exception will be petitions related to Rockford Public Library.