

BERTHA BARTLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY
STORY CITY, IOWA

CONTROVERSIAL MATERIALS POLICY

The Library endorses the *Freedom To Read* statement prepared by the American Library Association, the Freedom to View statement adopted from EFLA and The Library Bill of Rights. (See Appendix).

Because of the rich diversity of human experience and opinion, it is inevitable that some materials in the Library's collection will be objectionable to some people in the community.

The Library, in a very real sense belongs to the whole community, to the minority as well as the majority. It has a real responsibility to serve that community in all its variety. That responsibility includes providing for the needs and the interests that may offend a few or even a great many people.

A great effort is made to provide a balanced collection. The Library attempts to represent all sides of controversial issues within the limits of budget and space.

In no case does the library take an official stand on any public question. The function of the library is to provide information, not advocate specific points of view.

The Library welcomes comments and criticisms of its collection. However, no citizen in a democracy has a right to prevent another from using any specific material by demanding its removal from the Library's shelves. Anyone wishing to make a formal complaint may do so by filling out the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form. The form will be considered by the Board of Trustees and their decision will be final.

Adopted 5/89

Reviewed 4/94, 8/98, 3/02