

SPECIAL: PHILOSOPHY OF THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A philosophy of service constantly develops, broadens, grows, and changes. It is useful from time to time, to evaluate where we are as an institution. What follows is a summary of the Library's current philosophy.

A community establishes a library to provide its public with service. Through its elected representatives, the community itself decides what services it wants (and is willing to pay for) and, to a large degree, how those services are to be delivered.

After receiving input from the Trustees and the wider community, the staff attempts to provide the type of service the public wants, in the manner the public requires, as economically as possible. The Staff response is constrained only by economic, legal and practical considerations.

That response should be two-fold. First, after ascertaining what the community wants, resources are allocated by the priorities established by the public and interpreted by the Library's Board of Trustees. The collection is developed to fulfill the needs of the public. It should not reflect the interest, biases, whims or passions of the Staff, but should reflect those of the community, taken collectively and in proportion.

Second, our public also decide the manner in which services are delivered. What is convenient, comfortable, necessary, wanted, or expected by the collective public always takes precedence over the way the staff would like to deliver or is used to delivering services.