

Love of Reading & Community Connections & Lifelong Learning

August 14, 2017

Barbara Jenkins, President
Lane Library District Board
64 W. Oregon Avenue, Creswell OR 97426

Creswell, OR 97426

Dear

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of July 18. We discussed it at our Library Board meeting on July 25th and also reviewed the Creswell Library's selection policy and the American Library Association (ALA) guidelines for some of these issues. As a Board, we firmly agree with the ALA Bill of Rights - Article 2 that libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues and we endeavor to reflect that philosophy in our small library collection and services.

We appreciate your concerns and realize that the recent letter you received from Su Liudahl contained some inaccurate information. We are sorry that it did not correctly reflect the Library's selection policy. The Library's selection policy does not prohibit the purchase of faith-based books or religious publishers. Libraries, however, do need to be mindful that "collections should . . . provide access to diverse religious thought without becoming a proponent of any of them." (American Library Association – Library Bill of Rights – Interpretations).

As our selection policy and the ALA Bill of Rights articulate, an inclusive collection with different perspectives represented is what we strive to develop for the Creswell Library. However, the reality of our small size and limited budget make this ideal an ongoing challenge. The Library Director is charged by the Board with using her professional judgement to select the materials (within the budget constraints) that provide an opportunity for patrons to have access to a wide range of information and perspectives.

As in most public libraries, a smaller portion of the book budget is spent on non-fiction books, since the fiction materials are more heavily used. Requests from patrons are welcomed, but the Library Director needs to also consider the likely use of these items by other patrons. In order to provide the widest range of materials, the Library is committed to facilitating the loan of these items from larger libraries for a specific patron. However, we recognize that this is not always a quick solution with newly published or specialized items.

CRESWELL LIBRARY
64 W. Oregon Avenue
P.O. Box 366
Creswell, OR 97426

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www.creswell-library.org

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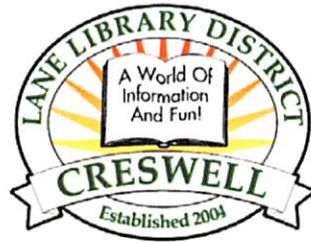
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Your letter is the first time a concern has been raised about the selection policy in the Library's eleven years and we all are interested in discussing and finding ways to best address the issues. The Board has asked Su to reflect on areas of high community interest regarding controversy topics and to consider acquiring books that present different perspectives on these topics. We do understand a patron's desire to buy from a specific publisher, but given the limited resources and the overall needs of the collection, the final decision is the responsibility of the Library Director.

We realize that some of the lack of clarity regarding collection issues may be due to the generic selection policy that was put in place when the current Library started. We will work on developing a clearer selection policy and will continue to reflect on how this Library can best address some of the issues you raised.

We are always pleased to have community members attend the Board meetings. Our agenda always includes an opportunity for public comment. I am happy to meet with you individually as well.

Sincerely,

Barbara

Barbara Jenkins

President, Lane Library District Board