

IFPL Board Position Statement Regarding Collection and Access

May 17, 2023

In accordance with our mission statement:

“The Idaho Falls Public Library provides materials of popular interest to the community, emphasizes and encourages reading by children, supplements the learning and educational needs of the community, and furnishes timely, accurate information.”

We strive to serve every member of our community.

On March 31 we had a board meeting to discuss HB314 that was passed and was awaiting the governor's signature. We also discussed the implications of that bill to our library. As a result of our discussion we crafted a letter asking the governor to veto the bill, which he did several days later.

We feel that we need to protect the rights of and serve all taxpayers and users of the library. We are also compelled to preserve the First Amendment Rights of all.

We respect the role of parents to make individual choices for their families. With that as our guide, our IFPL Circulation Policy states:

REGISTRATION AND LIBRARY CARDS

“Parents/Legal guardians are legally responsible for all Library materials borrowed on their dependent’s card(s). Parents/legal guardians are responsible to supervise and monitor their child/children’s use of the Library and Library materials.”

“Children below the age of eighteen (18) are required to have a parent or legal guardian appear in person at the Library to obtain a Library card. The parent/legal guardian is required to present photo identification and proof of residency within City limits prior to registering a child for a Library card.

Under this Policy, when registering a child for a Library card, a parent or legal guardian must select either a restricted or unrestricted Library card to be issued to that child.

1. Unrestricted Card. An unrestricted card allows a child to check out everything in the Library, except for adult graphic novels, Blu-Ray and DVD movies.

2. Restricted Card. A restricted card allows a child to check out materials ONLY from the children's Library collection located on the first floor of the Library.

NOTE: Adult graphic novels and DVD/Blu-Ray movies may only be checked out by Library cardholders who are over eighteen (18) years of age and only using the Library card issued to them.

A Library cardholder must be present for their Library card to be used.

Library cardholders who loan their cards to others may be subject to a suspension, restriction, or loss of their borrowing privileges.

If a Library card is lost, a replacement may be requested at any Library service desk. Photo identification must be presented at time of Library card replacement. If a card is not reported stolen, the Library cardholder is responsible for all items checked out on the card issued to them.

The Library reserves the right to request photo identification before allowing use of a Library card."

We have professional, experienced, master-degreed librarians that curate our collection. This can include but is not limited to, items from reviews, public requests, best seller lists and award winning lists. Please refer to our collection policy on the library website.

Note that on the page of our website pictured below, we have a [Request for Reconsideration of Materials](#) that can be submitted by a patron when they encounter an item they believe should be reviewed. This form goes to the director and is reviewed by the board. This is one method we use to assure that materials are placed in the proper section of our library. With over 360,000 items in our catalog, it would be impossible for our staff to view every page of every item. We will always apply the law. When reviewing materials we often seek legal counsel to make sure our decisions continue to follow the law.



