

INFO 234-Selection Policy

1. I selected [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library's Collection Development selection policy](#). I saw inclusive language from its library mission statement where it says, "ensuring that every member of the community has access to a vast array of ideas and information". Collectively addressing "every member" is inclusive language as well as is "To serve the needs of a diverse community, the Library selects materials in a broad array of subjects and varying subject depth". This language speaks about "community" and subject variety. According to the ALA's article on "[Why Do I Need A Policy?](#)" the article examines subjects like the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library does when the ALA lists that it "Ensures a diversity of viewpoints on all topics, including those that may be considered controversial". The library also discusses its "representation of diverse points of view". This is important now more than ever because book banning and censorship are increasing their numbers. During Banned and Challenged Books Week, the [ALA](#) reports, "4,240 unique book titles targeted for censorship, as well as 1,247 demands to censor library books, materials, and resources in 2023". Now more than ever are a "diverse community" and "diversity of viewpoints on all topics" including those that are "controversial" are important to have as standard literature.
2. To me, I believe that there is bias in every subject. Since I am looking toward "diversity" and "community", each one carries with it subjective opinion on topics. Topics that are coming from a diverse community are biased at their very core. This isn't necessarily bad, but every voice isn't going to be something one agrees with. And, as librarians, various voices are important to showcase even if they are "controversial".

References

None. (2024). Collection Development. San Jose State University.

<https://www.sjlibrary.org/policies-procedures/san-jose-public-library-collection-development>

None. (2024). Why Do I Need a Policy? American Library Association.

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/why>

None. (2024). Book Ban Data. American Library Association.

<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/book-ban-data>