

DISPLAYS AND HANDOUTS

DISPLAYS

Displays in the Library are primarily for the promotion of Library materials and services. The Library may seek outside assistance in creating a display on a particular topic, but the library retains complete control over the display content. Library display areas are not to be used as a public forum.

To encourage community discussion of current events and issues, JMRL shall maintain at least one "Freedom of Speech" display case for use as a public forum by community groups, organizations, and individuals. Each "Freedom of Speech" display case shall permanently incorporate the following quotation from the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall: "Above all else, the First Amendment means that government has no power to restrict expression because of its message, its ideas, its subject matter, or its content." In that spirit, "Freedom of Speech" displays shall be unfettered as long as they do not include defaming or obscene materials as defined by the United States Supreme Court, or material which could lead to a breach of peace or which advocate the violation of state or federal criminal laws.

Realizing most library visitors do not come to the library to view displays, the "Freedom of Speech" display cases shall be located in areas generally used only by adults at a minimum of 20 feet from the front door. Each "Freedom of Speech" display shall include a sign stating the sponsorship of the display.

Note:

- **The Library does not endorse any cause, opinion, or activity represented in "Freedom of Speech" displays.**
- Library materials must be incorporated into displays. For all displays, the individual, group, or organization must complete a Display Use Permission Form (JMRL Form: Section 4.51). Displays for the purpose of commercial advertisement are not permitted.
- All questions regarding a display will be decided by the Manager of the Department or Branch in which the display is located. Requests for reconsideration of displays shall essentially follow the same procedure as for library materials with final determination made by the Library Board of Trustees, if necessary.

HANDOUTS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

The Library posts and/or makes available to Library users community pamphlets, flyers, calendars, and other information from civic, cultural, educational, religious, and non-profit community groups and organizations for public awareness and convenience. The Library posts and/or distributes these materials at its discretion.

Note:

- This service does not indicate Library endorsement of a cause, opinion, or activity
- Prior to distribution, Library staff members will review all materials. Library staff members will consider patron interest and local space limitations and will utilize the following priorities, in descending order, when determining which materials to make available:

- a. Jefferson-Madison Regional Library announcements or publications
- b. Friends of the Library announcements or publications
- c. Local city/county government announcements or publications
- d. Commonwealth of Virginia announcements or publications
- e. Neighborhood civic, educational, cultural, recreational, religious announcements or publications
- f. Political information that is current; materials that are informational and pertain to an election being held within the next 45 days. Political posters supporting a specific candidate or issue are not permitted. Once the election is held, the material will be removed.
- g. Commercial publications containing information of general interest to Library users Branch Managers will respond to concerns of users about the propriety of handouts and postings in Branch Libraries. Users may appeal a Branch Manager's decision by writing to the Library Director. The Library Director will respond in writing to users who appeal local decisions or who have concerns about the propriety of materials authorized for posting or distribution. Users may appeal such a decision to the Library Board. Such appeals will follow the Library's Reconsideration of Library Materials policy.