

# Oswego Public Library Policy Book

## LIBRARY POLICIES

Approved by the Board: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### 1. ORGANIZATION

#### 1.1 Mission Statement

The Mission of the Oswego Public Library is to be the learning center for the Greater Oswego area and the place people turn to for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information. Community needs drive our services. We believe that library services should be delivered in a welcoming, convenient, and responsive manner.

Approved 10/3/06

#### 1.1a Introduction

The Oswego City Library was incorporated by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1854. Its chartered area to serve was the City of Oswego. Based upon an agreement with the Oswego City School District in 1929, the Library served the Oswego City School District even though the still stated **it** was chartered to serve the City of Oswego. All finances for the library were based upon the City's population (currently at 19,793). On June 30, 1999 all connection with the Oswego City School District ceased other than services provided for the library's Circulation system & internet connections. Based upon a public referendum, the library became known as the Oswego S.D. Public Library. As of July 1, 1999, the Oswego S.D. Public Library is governed by elected Library Board of Trustees, Staff and Volunteers. Employees who were formerly employees of the School District were now employees of the Oswego S.D. Public Library Board of Trustees, Staff and Volunteers. All employees are now civil service employees.

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#### 1.1b Policies Functions

A modern public library collects the printed and audio-visual materials needed to conduct the individual and group life of its community. It organizes and makes them convenient and easy to use. It interprets and guides the use of materials to enable as many persons as possible to apply in their daily lives the record of what is known.

Provision of materials means more than occasional availability. It means a supply sufficient to make the library a dependable source for more people most of the time. In addition to books, the public library selects and provides pamphlets, documents and other non-book sources in printed form, films, tapes, discs and other non-print recordings of knowledge and opinion. The materials

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are provided to: facilitate informal self education to all people in the community; enrich and further develop the subjects on which individuals are undertaking in formal education; meet the informational needs of all; support the educational, civic and cultural activities of groups and organizations; and encourage wholesome recreation and constructive use of leisure time.

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