



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Collection Response

Huntsville, ALA (September 28, 2023) — Libraries are dynamic spaces where we constantly evaluate and adjust our collections to better serve the diverse needs and interests of our community. Moving books can sometimes be part of this process. Huntsville Madison County Public Library staff have been reviewing materials that could be included in the list of books of concern generated by the Alabama Public Library Service.

It is our intention to maintain and retain our collection without compromising its service to the diverse community that we serve. We will not move specific titles because individuals or groups may find them objectionable.

We recently asked our staff to examine the collections at our ten branches to determine what books might need to be moved. We feel it is important that librarians, who are trained in collection development, should be the ones who make decisions about book placement. As library professionals, we are always willing to evaluate our collection in light of community concerns. While a news report states that we have been specifically targeting LGBTQ+ books, that is not true. While some groups have expressed concern about books dealing with this subject matter, the specific review related to ensuring that books containing sexually explicit content of any kind were located in an age-appropriate category.

Considering staff and community feedback, the library has paused making any changes to the location of any books. Library staff and board members will continue to discuss any book challenges and keep the collection intact. As we move forward in dealing with this issue, we will do our best to listen to all concerns and remain true to the ultimate purpose of the public library to serve all of our community.

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For more information contact:
Jay Hixon, Public Relations Director
jhixon@hmcpl.org
256-970-6266