

Dakota County Library Advisory Committee
September 11, 2025
Farmington Library
5:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
 - a. Citizen Comment sent to the Library Advisory Committee

All meetings of the Library Advisory Committee are open to anyone who may wish to observe the proceedings. Individuals who wish to address the Committee on an issue pertaining to the library will be given the opportunity during the public comment period.

3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the July meeting minutes.
 - b. Statistical Reports
4. Farmington Library
 - a. Report from Branch Manager Barbara Svoboda
5. Request for Reconsideration of Materials
 - a. The Holocaust by Clara MacCarald
 - b. O.K. is Gay by Vincent X. Kirsch
6. Annual Work Plan
7. Directors Report
8. Updates from Committee Members
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting

November 13, 2025
Galaxie Library
Apple Valley

Citizen Comment to the Library Advisory Committee

Andrew Kirsch

I address you as a citizen of Dakota County and a grandfather of three young children who I am unable to bring to our libraries because of some materials in the children's collections that are not age-appropriate. Now I know that in the world of libraries, there is nothing that will get the hair to stand up on the back of the neck faster than to raise a concern about appropriate content. Yet out of concern for my grandchildren's welfare and access, I ask for your action on an important issue that has surfaced.

Some quick background: When I corresponded with Director Stone and some County Commissioners about my concerns, I was urged to submit some books that concerned me using the Request for Reconsideration process, so I made a request to relocate two such books out of the children's collection. At this time, I am not asking you to agree with me about any specific materials, but only give me a fair hearing as regards one specific, but chilling position taken by the Library Review Board.

The Dakota County Library Review Board rejected my requests for relocation citing a variety of reasons, but the merits of my requests were eclipsed by a stark assertion they made concerning Minnesota Statute 134.51. As communicated to me by email from their representative, Mr. Russell Cogar, relocation was impossible **"because these two titles would have their access to Dakota County Library customers limited if relocated to other collections."** This claim was not substantiated by a legal ruling or even legal opinion, so would appear to be simply their ad-hoc interpretation of the law. Tonight, I wish to point out three reasons why this claim is utterly invalid and ask that this Committee advise the Library System to withdraw this objection and adopt a valid interpretation of the Statute.

The first reason is that the Statute requires, in Subdivision 5, part (a) that "a governing body of a public library must adopt a policy that establishes procedures for ... reconsideration of library materials." As part of the governing body of our library system, your voice needs to be heard on this matter. The current Reconsideration form asks the requestor (question 6) "What would you like your library to do about this material?" and nominally offers only two options: have it relocated or withdraw it from the library. Since the current Statute excludes "banning" (removal) of books, relocation is the only option; without it, the Library System would be failing to provide a procedure that can, in fact, reconsider materials in a way that leads to any action no matter how strong the merits of the request. Assuming the Library System would play by the same rules as they impose on requests by citizens, the collections would be frozen for all time as regards placement within our libraries.

Which brings me to the second reason you ought to reject the Review Board's interpretation of the Statute, namely their assertion that any relocation to another collection in the library would limit or restrict access. In fact, it says in Subdivision 4 that "Nothing in this section limits a public library's authority to ... restrict access to books or other materials legitimately based upon ... legitimate pedagogical concerns, including ... the appropriateness of potentially sensitive topics for the library's intended audience ..." [among other reasons]. This is precisely the reason for my requests, and while you may or may not agree with my assessment of any specific book, a blanket rejection of

any relocation to other collections surely contradicts that statute and should be withdrawn and that reason should not be reused on any other such requests.

Thirdly, the Review Board's interpretation is remarkable also because it appears to reject two core components of our library system – the use of the catalog and assistance of the staff. I was informed that “Relocating this title would limit access for our intended audiences who only browse the collection and not necessarily use the catalog and/or ask a staff member for assistance.” I can't imagine trying to find books without recourse to one or both of these funded resources. Somehow these very normal and empowering resources for improving access are to be described as a limit to access? This can't be right.

Along the same lines I was informed that “Dakota County Library customers with youth may not want to look for this title in the Teen Collection or Adult Collections...” May not want to? Since when is that a basis for library policy? Do you apply this standard in all cases? Some other customers with youth may not want to look for the book “A Clockwork Orange” in the teen section but that's where they will find it there, and without any great hardship. “May not want to” is a completely insufficient reason to rule out, a priori, any movement of books among collections.

I hope that you find at least one or more of my three reasons sufficient to immediately (at your Sept 11, 2025 meeting) and formally advise the Review Board to no longer claim that the Statute prohibits them from considering relocation of books within our libraries. If you decide that you want to study the matter beyond that date, I ask that you at least advise the Board to avoid use of that quite possibly illegal objection unless and until it becomes clear that it is, at least, consistent with the Statute (my first two reasons). Please keep in mind that even in the unlikely event that a court later rules that relocation is not permitted, such action can easily be reversed at little cost.

Until you take one of those actions, I and every other citizen of this County is deprived of a means to call into question even the location of any materials in the library system that you and I pay for. Please right this wrong.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Kirsch



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: 07/10/2025
Time: 5:30pm
Minutes prepared by: Chrissy Harrington
Location: Heritage Library

Attendance:

- Ann Matthews-Baussion District 2
- Robin Cerio District 3
- Kari Cahn District 4
- Lee Knutson District 5
- Patricia Schoenecker District 7
- Olivia Tri At-Large Youth
- Margaret Stone Director
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson Deputy Director
- Michael Wiese Project Manager Dakota County Capital Projects Management
- Samantha Turnock Mendiola Design Principal HGA
- Tamar Ribnick Principal HGA
- Chrissy Harrington Sr Library Administration

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Robin Cerio at 5:30pm. There were no public members in attendance during this meeting.

Consent Agenda

- The Consent agenda from May 8, 2025, meeting was approved unanimously.

Heritage Library: Margaret Stone Library Director

- Margaret Stone presented the Heritage Library update due to Branch Manager Stephanie Opstad receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award Sponsored by the Lakeville Lion's Club at the same time as the meeting
- Heritage Library Celebrated the library 25th Anniversary on February 27th 2025
- Heritage Library has several new staff contributing their talents to library efforts
- The Heritage License Center parking lot has been very busy these past couple of months due to the deadline for the Real ID and the parking lot has been full
- Heritage has added Feeding your Baby which is a partnership with Dakota County Public Health that provides staff and resources, along with a certified lactation consultant once a month after Baby Storytime.
- Heritage Library had hosted the largest county Fixit Clinic of the year last month
- 88 residents brought in 109 items and 69 were fixed keeping 530.25 pounds out of the landfill
- Heritage staff is working with the (YAS and) Friends of the Library to plan for OneBook, OneLakville 2026
- Lynette Cargill (a current Library Advisory Committee Member) is the new President of the Heritage Friends of the Library
- Heritage Friends of the Library is hosting an open house/membership drive on July 17th 2025 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Friends of the Heritage Library annual Book Sale is September 18th-21st 2025
- The Adult Services Librarian is fluent in Spanish and has increasingly/regularly provides translation support for our customers
- The Adult Services Librarian partnered with ISD 194 Adult Basic Education to show English Language Learners resources, technology and spaces available to them
- Tomas Araya will be the library's artist in residence in the fall and will facilitate an event at the Heritage Library
- Summer Discovery Program is going great this summer with 2,500 summer readers so far and have had 15 volunteers supporting the program

Burnhaven Renovation

- Presenters were: Michael Wiese Project Manager Dakota County Capital Projects Management
- Samantha Turnock Mendiola Design Principal HGA and Tamar Ribnick Principal HGA
- Burnhaven Renovation started in the Spring of 2025
- Samantha Turnock Mendiola from HGA Architect Firm walked the committee members through the design plan for the Burnhaven Library

- The proposed design includes an enhanced children's area, moving and making the space more functional for the public meeting room, adding a quiet zone and additional study and conference rooms
- Kari Cahn made the motion Patricia Schoenecker second to recommend the design. Library Advisory Committee Members approved unanimously to recommend this design plan to the Dakota Board of Commissioners

Request for review of Self-Service Hours access denial

- The committee members reviewed a request to reverse revoked Self-Service Hours access registration
- The committee considered that the user agreement states not to loan Self-Service Access card to others and the staff's explanation to the customer not to loan the card. Knowing who is accessing the library and responsible for guest is an important safety feature of Self-Service Hours. The customer continues to have access to the library during staffed hours.
- A motion by Patricia Schoenecker and seconded by Oliva Tri to retain revoked Self-Service Hours access to this customer. The vote passed unanimously.

Director's Report

- Pride Month efforts went well with minimum disruptions
- 14,000 youth have participated in the Summer Discovery Reading program so far
- If the child or teen meets their goal by the end of the summer, they receive a book
- In a survey it states that 99 percent of people read more in the summertime than any other time of the year
- The library Van on the Go outreach program has served over 10,000 people so far this year
- The Dakota County Library Foundation will start selling tote bags and sticker at each of the 10 libraries location soon to bring more awareness in how the Dakota County Library helps supports the libraries
- Libre Office will be replacing Microsoft Office on most public computers at all libraries in the next couple of months
- The 2026 budget is still in progress all divisions have been asked to propose budget cuts. The library was asked to propose budgets cuts.
- Margaret announced that she will be retiring in September and her last day with the Library will be September 26th 2025
- There will be a retirement party for Margaret on September 26th from 2pm-4pm at the Wescott Library

Updates from Committee Members

- Kari Cahn said that the road construction on Highway 3 (Robert Trail) has had some disruption when accessing the Robert Trail Library
- The city of Rosemount is putting a roundabout in front of Rosemount High School which is a few blocks from the Robert Trail Library
- Robin Cerio said that she appreciated that Wescott Library put a sign on the front door telling patron's that the door is broke to be carful when coming in and out of the door, the door has now been fixed.

Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 7:00pm

Adjournment/Next Meeting

Date: September 11th, 2025

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Farmington Library- Farmington

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Number of People Entering Library														
Year	Metrics	Total (In)												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	BLC - Sensource	18,471	18,250	19,684	21,991	19,182	20,861	23,269						141,708
	ELC - Sensource	18,214	17,364	21,396	21,187	19,685	24,927	25,753						148,526
	FLC - Sensource	7,478	6,282	8,178	7,151	7,229	10,464	8,478						55,260
	GLC - Sensource	21,766	21,161	25,512	24,436	22,980	25,470	27,591						168,916
	HLC - Sensource	7,016	6,560	8,080	8,463	7,194	8,726	9,306						55,345
	ILC - Sensource	8,713	8,021	9,824	12,509	9,940	11,193	11,379						71,579
	LLC - Sensource	12,513	11,516	8,178	14,056	12,638	15,403	16,040						90,344
	RLC - Sensource	11,724	11,280	13,795	12,921	12,445	14,116	14,941						91,222
	SLC - Sensource	8,413	8,593	9,098	11,853	11,852	10,722	8,944						69,475
	WLC - Sensource	13,860	12,683	15,325	2,875	0	0	0						44,743
	Total	128,168	121,710	139,070	137,442	123,145	141,882	145,701						937,118
2024	BLC - Sensource	17,393	18,552	19,546	19,034	18,171	19,494	20,585	19,941	19,653	21,771	19,848	16,427	230,415
	ELC - Sensource	17,640	16,943	18,944	19,478	17,435	22,606	23,211	20,977	17,910	21,094	19,246	15,355	230,839
	FLC - Sensource	6,721	7,095	8,201	7,415	6,834	9,470	9,139	8,349	6,566	8,071	6,690	5,856	90,407
	GLC - Sensource	22,989	22,186	22,359	23,774	22,151	23,542	25,095	23,898	23,193	25,758	21,970	18,482	275,397
	HLC - Sensource	6,791	6,585	8,072	7,634	6,959	8,188	9,073	13,330	7,127	8,940	6,901	10,179	99,779
	ILC - Sensource	8,679	7,877	8,675	11,042	8,211	9,865	9,540	9,598	8,569	10,740	8,610	6,851	108,257
	LLC - Sensource	11,191	11,325	11,572	12,439	10,903	13,859	14,448	13,330	12,540	12,448	11,662	10,179	145,896
	RLC - Sensource	11,883	12,289	12,939	13,740	11,988	12,325	13,200	11,667	11,229	12,564	11,664	9,670	145,158
	SLC - Sensource	34	5,469	10,820	10,411	8,503	7,939	7,014	6,425	8,310	10,192	8,794	6,279	90,190
	WLC - Sensource	13,888	13,459	13,330	13,781	12,245	14,366	15,406	14,960	13,840	14,826	14,113	11,408	165,622
	Total	117,209	121,780	134,458	138,748	123,400	141,654	146,711	142,475	128,937	146,404	129,498	110,686	1,581,960

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Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



	BLC - Sensource	15,134	13,336	17,516	15,626	16,283	17,753	17,847	18,349	16,528	19,931	17,822	15,953	202,078
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Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



KPM Circulation by Branch Year Month - CURRENT YEAR

Metr	Current Year Physical Circulation (Symphony)								
Libr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	56,059	53,227	62,172	57,312	54,258	66,205	71,490	20,883	441,606
B	44,295	40,735	46,392	45,088	41,743	48,694	52,407	14,664	334,018
E	62,977	57,887	66,494	64,260	65,941	79,196	83,112	24,685	504,552
F	20,265	18,845	21,210	21,016	19,250	22,572	22,985	6,946	153,089
H	19,358	18,610	21,279	20,784	18,972	23,286	25,037	6,957	154,283
I	16,008	15,129	18,074	18,117	17,898	21,834	22,596	6,882	136,538
IL L	627	459	496	412	416	409	504	131	3,454
L	36,102	33,444	39,787	37,086	35,103	43,749	44,245	13,348	282,864
ON LI NE		7		1	2	2	1	1	14
R	35,364	33,197	39,539	36,283	35,035	42,664	43,419	11,231	276,732
SS P	10,429	10,993	13,002	16,062	19,117	20,205	21,555	6,668	118,031
W	31,725	28,722	33,693	15,333	5,429	2,489	2,744	689	120,824

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



KPM Circulation by Branch Year Month - PREVIOUS YEAR														
Year	Metrics	Physical Circulation (Symphony)												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2024	A	58,380	58,015	61,587	59,080	54,193	65,114	72,122	67,891	58,840	57,175	58,201	51,657	722,255
	B	43,590	42,487	48,353	44,547	43,406	48,720	51,424	49,370	45,035	46,218	45,783	41,712	550,645
	E	64,095	59,967	65,117	62,095	59,526	72,184	78,676	73,328	62,238	62,601	62,167	56,286	778,280
	F	20,071	20,387	23,658	22,384	20,376	24,190	25,131	22,870	20,308	21,081	20,419	18,352	259,227
	H	19,442	18,537	21,017	20,676	19,800	22,233	24,822	23,483	20,476	20,473	19,486	17,564	248,009
	I	17,365	15,992	17,332	16,435	15,506	17,330	18,649	18,096	15,898	16,273	16,245	13,751	198,872
	ILL	1,144	940	960	938	1,558	1,050	1,664	1,536	1,424	598	483	513	12,808
	L	37,231	35,567	40,242	39,396	35,415	44,191	47,694	45,013	36,685	36,814	36,962	34,339	469,549
	ONLINE		1	1	1			2	1			3	2	11
	R	34,337	35,003	37,993	37,946	33,346	38,243	41,361	37,469	34,088	35,301	35,378	32,271	432,736
	SSP	532	5,489	15,843	14,743	13,039	13,642	15,029	14,811	12,164	12,056	11,519	10,178	139,045
	W	35,764	33,879	33,828	32,977	31,175	35,485	37,770	36,549	31,010	32,877	31,635	28,495	401,444
	ZTC	691	734	835	865	582	533	478	616	466	587	504	479	7,370
	Total	332,642	326,998	366,766	352,083	327,922	382,915	414,822	391,033	338,632	342,054	338,785	305,599	4,220,251

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Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Total eContent Circulation													
Metrics	Total eContent Circulation												
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	151,130	146,641	154,567	148,823	151,297	146,881	150,689						1,050,028
2024	141,325	132,519	138,965	131,642	136,255	127,953	133,413	131,703	131,828	134,196	134,588	139,519	1,613,906
2023	117,112	107,041	114,839	110,583	116,006	110,590	116,076	117,146	117,969	129,321	126,141	126,370	1,409,194
2022	108,022	98,045	106,109	101,727	105,746	97,535	103,563	106,146	103,486	106,304	103,120	105,814	1,245,617
Total	517,589	484,246	514,480	492,775	509,304	482,959	503,741	354,995	353,283	369,821	363,849	371,703	5,318,745
OverDrive Circulation													
Metrics	OverDrive Circulation												
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	137,233	126,720	139,728	134,943	137,384	132,665	135,892						944,565
2024	129,604	120,176	126,074	118,274	122,803	114,631	119,883	118,364	119,358	120,982	121,651	125,622	1,457,422
2023	104,680	93,787	102,783	98,727	102,864	98,148	104,125	103,773	105,272	117,125	113,191	114,778	1,259,253
2022	93,754	84,263	92,440	88,250	91,037	84,369	89,902	91,164	89,953	92,516	88,868	91,911	1,078,427
Total	465,271	424,946	461,025	440,194	454,088	429,813	449,802	313,301	314,583	330,623	323,710	332,311	4,739,667
Hoopla Circulation													
Metrics	Hoopla Circulation												
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	13,897	19,921	14,839	13,880	13,913	14,216	14,797						105,463
2024	11,721	12,343	12,891	13,368	13,452	13,322	13,530	13,339	12,470	13,214	12,937	13,897	156,484
2023	12,432	13,254	12,056	11,856	13,142	12,442	11,951	13,373	12,697	12,196	12,950	11,592	149,941
2022	14,268	13,782	13,669	13,477	14,709	13,166	13,661	14,982	13,533	13,788	14,252	13,903	167,190
Total	52,318	59,300	53,455	52,581	55,216	53,146	53,939	41,694	38,700	39,198	40,139	39,392	579,078

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Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Program Count									
Stat Year	Metrics								
	Audiences	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
2025	Adults	77	82	81	87	111	112		
	Youth	185	170	182	183	102	125		
	Total	262	252	263	270	213	237		
2024	Adults	36	44	54	55	58	47	49	
	Youth	136	142	165	170	98	160	201	
	Total	172	186	219	225	156	207	250	

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Program Attendance									
Stat Year	Metrics								
	Audiences	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
2025	Adults	788	979	845	730	497	705		
	Youth	5,410	5,176	6,544	8,711	3,327	8,436		
	Total	6,198	6,155	7,389	9,441	3,824	9,141		
2024	Adults	502	601	781	793	623	598	415	
	Youth	4,016	4,595	5,406	7,762	2,835	9,375	8,813	
	Total	4,518	5,196	6,187	8,555	3,458	9,973	9,228	

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



iLAB Reservation Attendance														
Year	Month	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
2025	Attendance	711	671	748	758	645	712							4,245
	Reservations	695	698	716	751	669	704							4,233
	Attendance % Change from Prev Year	3%	16%	10%	10%	0%	-16%							-45%
	Reservations % Change from Prev Year	18%	19%	19%	29%	-8%	-12%							-46%
2024	Attendance	689	580		688	644	843	734	828	699	635	718	664	7,722
	Reservations	589	585		583	725	797	689	806	801	826	729	745	7,875
	Attendance % Change from Prev Year	67%	53%		32%	5%	26%	-64%	46%	81%	55%	79%	36%	2%
	Reservations % Change from Prev Year	30%	32%		26%	38%	42%	4%	42%	76%	78%	43%	25%	25%

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Internet Computer Sessions														
Year	Metrics	Internet - Number of Sessions												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	BLC		2,091	2,552	2,487	2,237	2,337	2,556						14,260
	ELC	1,513	1,555	1,774	2,001	1,951	1,935	2,021						12,750
	FLC	493	462	592	623	576	676	631						4,053
	GLC	2,254	2,123	2,683	2,630	2,352	2,264	2,571						16,877
	HLC	645	632	718	725	676	678	690						4,764
	ILC	542	566	698	863	722	769	897						5,057
	LLC	776	783	880	948	951	933	1,013						6,284
	RLC	1,012	905	1,172	1,086	1,094	1,145	1,308						7,722
	SLC	476	467	551	953	987	930	912						5,276
	WLC	2,733	2,612	2,940	757	227	215	245						9,729
	Total	10,444	12,196	14,560	13,073	11,773	11,882	12,844						86,772
2024	BLC	3,916	2,119	2,216	2,323	2,107	2,119	2,277	2,233	2,223	2,372	1,884	1,796	27,585
	ELC	1,624	1,748	1,742	1,911	1,628	1,682	1,724	1,758	1,680	1,816	1,435	2,540	21,288
	FLC	446	480	509	476	431	551	641	587	558	624	444	425	6,172
	GLC	2,206	2,319	2,310	2,512	2,159	2,076	2,252	2,467	2,355	2,475	2,105	1,933	27,169
	HLC	653	722	720	732	642	713	729	816	687	715	547	563	8,239
	ILC	543	546	631	646	564	674	659	700	645	655	555	512	7,330
	LLC	667	745	716	785	675	719	796	829	782	842	711	666	8,933
	RLC	1,082	1,047	1,068	1,190	1,097	1,094	991	1,121	971	1,122	881	777	12,441
	SLC		274	847	623	673	625	750	619	800	755	473	392	6,831
	WLC	2,118	2,223	2,129	2,077	1,914	1,852	2,128	2,851	2,862	3,150	2,736	2,428	28,468
	Total	13,255	12,223	12,888	13,275	11,890	12,105	12,947	13,981	13,563	14,526	11,771	12,032	154,456

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Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Self Service Hours Registered Users	
Library	Users
Apple Valley (Galaxie)	1,007
Burnsville (Burnhaven)	763
Eagan (Wescott)	1,362
Farmington	638
Hastings (Pleasant Hill)	344
Inver Grove Heights (Inver Glen)	680
Lakeville (Heritage)	471
Rosemount (Robert Trail)	750
Kaposia (South St. Paul)	363
Temporary Wentworth Library	513
Total	6,891

Library Codes			
Library Code	Building Code	Library Name	City
A	GLC	Galaxie Library	Apple Valley
B	BLC	Burnhaven Library	Burnsville
E	ELC	Wescott Library	Eagan
E-Res		E Resource only	
F	FLC	Farmington Library	Farmington
H	HLC	Pleasant Hill Library	Hastings
I	ILC	Inver Glen Library	Inver Grove Heights
L	LLC	Heritage Library	Lakeville
ONLINE		Placeholder for pickup libraries used in error	

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Self Service Hours Traffic														
Year	Metrics	Traffic												
	Library	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
2025	A	823	882	1,026	1,161	1,315	1,089	1,042						7,33
	B	1,325	1,555	990	1,587	1,448	1,275	1,821						10,00
	E	1,115	984	1,584	1,236	1,513	1,594	1,228						9,25
	F	1,324	1,134	1,203	1,183	1,179	1,619	1,496						9,13
	H	336	418	369	323	369	376	380						2,57
	I	1,379	1,373	1,667	2,036	1,957	1,718	1,943						12,07
	L	517	532	716	622	605	504	676						4,17
	R	425	577	712	592	578	553	563						4,00
	SSP	530	476	662	1,053	1,225	1,146	1,157						6,24
	W	685	917	1,067	244									2,91
	Total	8,459	8,848	9,996	10,037	10,189	9,874	10,306						67,70
2024	A							303	647	691	766	788	792	3,98

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Self Service Hours Checkouts														
Year	Metrics	Checkouts												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2024	A	50	47	29	23	39	60	170	425	532	594	650	654	3,273
	B	419	477	583	422	633	569	512	618	654	628	620	657	6,792
	E	131	129	50	61	218	592	651	864	986	910	1,027	886	6,505
	F	1,225	1,358	1,472	1,215	1,427	1,429	1,624	1,344	1,806	1,369	1,184	1,123	16,576
	H	24	19	32	49	178	122	211	229	216	282	318	206	1,886
	I	323	415	619	700	629	720	716	808	738	716	736	610	7,730
	L	28	15	23	122	145	125	196	216	313	380	423	428	2,414
	R	16	289	661	551	527	520	453	468	731	595	601	672	6,084
	SSP		8	28	200	166	171	417	324	492	442	449	454	3,151
	W			6	22	25	33	14	124	289	411	448	378	1,750
	Total	2,216	2,757	3,503	3,365	3,987	4,341	4,964	5,420	6,757	6,327	6,456	6,068	56,161
Total		2,216	2,757	3,503	3,365	3,987	4,341	4,964	5,420	6,757	6,327	6,456	6,068	56,161

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics



Public Wi-Fi Sessions														
Year	Metrics	Number of Sessions												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	BLC	115,028	107,510	114,841	118,282	108,150	99,186	105,918						768,915
	ELC	26,009	23,524	23,857	24,633	22,539	21,252	22,956						164,770
	FLC	25,783	23,176	22,494	20,984	18,572	21,171	18,353						150,533
	GLC	153,535	143,772	154,114	154,061	143,527	132,941	129,846						1,011,796
	HLC	30,535	26,641	26,208	27,337	24,394	17,183	20,168						172,466
	ILC	10,294	7,510	6,819	8,381	7,988	5,718	5,483						52,193
	LLC	39,433	35,741	31,678	34,708	28,408	26,056	26,237						222,261
	RLC	42,799	43,959	38,934	39,595	33,467	21,720	22,858						243,332
	SLC	89,257	83,692	79,583	88,319	83,889	62,378	53,514						540,632
	WLC	75,786	65,956	65,851	29,996	17,137	13,699	14,185						282,610
	Total	608,459	561,481	564,379	546,296	488,071	421,304	419,518						3,609,508
2024	BLC	101,853	95,563	102,333	103,398	96,256	86,967	85,448	95,447	81,644	100,230	108,284	119,100	1,176,523
	ELC	23,793	21,812	26,733	26,346	23,971	24,225	26,262	25,204	21,689	25,492	23,451	23,694	292,672
	FLC	22,467	22,707	26,231	26,093	22,002	16,940	16,361	17,083	15,689	22,055	22,986	24,276	254,890
	GLC	140,504	132,058	142,580	151,538	135,947	122,269	120,382	124,509	119,044	144,718	142,406	150,166	1,626,121
	HLC	19,163	17,532	20,404	20,684	21,905	16,778	16,360	18,167	17,463	23,881	24,362	27,933	244,632
	ILC	6,879	7,395	7,771	7,173	6,336	5,538	6,152	6,263	7,176	7,970	7,793	7,845	84,291
	LLC	32,855	27,246	32,089	30,816	26,973	25,839	26,462	27,625	25,207	33,498	31,928	36,607	357,145
	RLC	41,941	37,092	36,633	38,022	31,114	22,018	23,007	24,275	25,434	37,103	34,044	39,592	390,275
	SLC	79,094	69,860	69,025	76,499	70,610	60,193	54,231	59,449	69,596	82,276	80,489	79,500	850,822
	WLC	58,299	55,619	61,335	57,308	52,370	47,325	48,070	48,580	46,888	57,908	58,987	69,061	661,750

Report created: 8/10/2025 8:05:49 AM

Title: The Holocaust

Author/Producer/Publisher Mara MacDonald (Famous Readers)

Type of Material:

☒ Book

☐ Music- CD

☐ Video- DVD/BluRay

☐ Digital Resource

☐ Books on CD

☐ Magazine/Newspaper

☐ Other: _____

eBook, eAudio, eMagazine, video, music
Name: _____

Date checked out: / /

1. Specifically, to what do you object? (Cite pages, instances, etc.)

Please see the attached document
for all the details.

2. What do you feel might be the result of reading, hearing or seeing this material?

As explained more fully in the document, this
content has the potential to seriously
distress and even depress a child.

3. Is there anything positive about this material?

At some age, every person should know about
the horrors of the Holocaust; for a child, the book/
is not age-appropriate. content

4. Did you read the entire book or examine the entire item?

Yes

5. What do you believe is the theme of this material?

That the Holocaust is an important and
terrible part of the history of World War 2.

6. What would you like your library to do about this material?

☒ Have it relocated

☐ Withdraw it from the library

Signature



Staff Use Only:

Location: **A B E F H I L R W**

Please return to Library Staff or mail to:

Dakota County Library, 1340 Wescott Rd, Eagan, MN 55123

Initials: _____ Date: / /

Additional comments: use reverse side or attach supplemental sheets to this form.

Subject: Request for Book Review by the Dakota County Library System

I am asking that the book entitled "The Holocaust" by Clara MacDonald from the Focus Readers World War II series be reviewed for relocation out of the children's section of all Dakota County Libraries in which it is located. I will again begin with a short disclaimer before stating my concern about the book itself.

I want to state up front that I have long had an interest in World War II. My awareness of the Holocaust, as a central component of the Nazi undertaking came only gradually, but as an adult, I have read many sources on the subject and was able to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps, witnessing firsthand the hair, the belongings and indeed the horror of Hitler's evil plan. I can only hope that my children might someday have the opportunity to do likewise. I say this just to make it clear that my objection to this book being in the children's section is not, in the least, driven by a desire to hide from this horrific history.

To be clear, the publisher lists this book as being intended for grades 5-6, which corresponds to ages 10-12, which might have influenced the library's decision to place it among children's book. However, the library system has endorsed that opinion, so it is fair to ask the library to examine the matter by its own lights.

This book certainly does not sugar-coat these atrocities. For example,

- "They [Nazi units] often marched their victims out of towns, lined them up, and shot them." (p.21)
- "At the camps, Nazis forced people into vans. Exhaust fumes filled the vans and killed everyone inside." (p.23)
- "Some camps also did cruel experiments on prisoners. Doctors hurt people or made them sick on purpose. Many of these people died." (p.32)
- "These chambers were made to look like showers. But instead of water, they released truck exhaust or a poison gas called Zyklon B. Prisoners were packed inside a chamber. Then the chamber was sealed and filled with poison." (p32-33)
- "Allied troops liberated hundreds of camps. Soldiers were shocked by what they found. The dead formed huge piles. The living looked like skeletons with skin. A terrible odor hung over everything." (p.40)

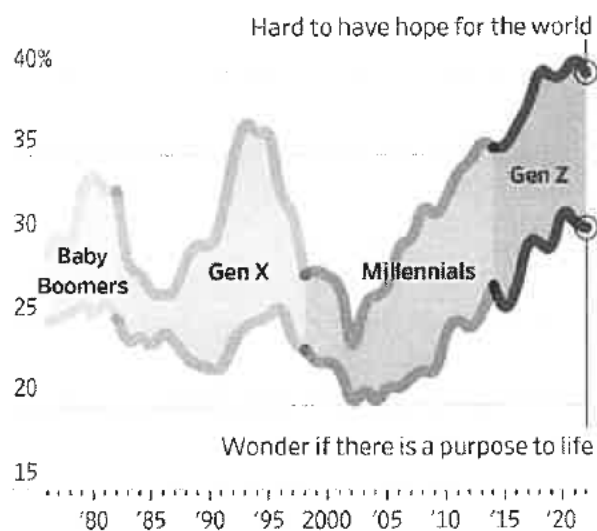
Finally, I want to point out the photo included on page 39 of such a pile of bodies. Does the sheer number of victims somehow give us the right to publish a photo of their corpses without permission of their loved ones. If one person is killed, the police cover the body before any press may take photos, because we as a society understand the dignity of each and every human being. This photo was necessary to prosecute war crimes but it degrades those poor dead to be "used" in this fashion without permission.

Even as a 70-year-old, I find it distressing and chilling to read and transcribe these words from a purported children's book. You, dear reviewer, and I have the ability to process them as adults, but we ought not to assume that the average 10-year-old is capable of dealing with them as well as we can.

Worse yet, imagine its effect on a Jewish 10-year-old reader in your library. Such a child might well know that an innocent Jewish couple were recently gunned down in Washington D. C. and others were targeted for fire-bombing in Boulder, Colorado simply based on being Jewish. How do you expect that child would react if they happened to pick up and read this book on a trip to your library?

I wish to bring in something that may seem off-topic, but I will make the connection. The well-regarded Pew Research Center conducts periodic surveys on various subjects, often asking the same questions so that time trends can be detected. One that I came across relates to the degree of pessimism among 12th-graders. As can be seen in the graph below, pessimism is trending up to alarming levels, with about 40% of respondents agreeing that it's hard to have hope for the world.

Pessimism among U.S. 12th graders



Now, does this book, or even the whole library, bear full responsibility for this state of affairs? Clearly not. However, it is also clearly not true that the library must consider whether it has any responsibility if it leaves books like this one in the children's section of the library.

I think that a big reason why a book like this is in the children's section is the difficulty that we adults have remembering what it is like as a child to know about fearful and distressing dangers that we have little or no ability to protect ourselves against. We might well tell our 8-year-old son about the danger of being kidnapped because we can teach that child how to run away, yell for help, etc. but for a 3-year-old, the same knowledge is likely to cause nightmares and the like because that child can't begin to defend himself.

Permit me to cite an example in my life, to help you bring such effects back to mind for you. I grew up in an age when the media frequently passed along the opinion that it was only a matter of time before the Soviet Union and the United States fought a nuclear war. Whether that assertion was justified or not, the effect on me as a child was devastating. I remember that for years I repeatedly questioned whether it was worth completing my education and having children in a world doomed to nuclear winter. Libraries need to consider such effects rather than simply the vocabulary level of a book before permitting it to be placed in the children's section.

As I stated in a companion request for review, someone can argue that while this book might be problematic for many children, there might still be some parents whose child is an exception and might benefit from it, if guided by a parent. If so, they ought to be fully reassured that what I am requesting is only that the book be moved out of the children's section of the library, so it would still be findable in the online catalog or in the racks. Indeed, I believe there are enough books in the children's sections of Dakota County Libraries which really ought to be read with the guidance of a parent that the Library System ought to consider creating a new section for all such books (akin to the Parental Guidance rating used with movies).

Thank you for your serious consideration of my request.



DAKOTA
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Request for Reconsideration of Material

Name

Address

Phone

Email Address

Title *The Holocaust*

Author/Producer/Publisher

Mara MacDonald (Famous Readers)

Type of Material:

☒ Book

☐ Music- CD

☐ Video- DVD/BluRay

☐ Digital Resource

eBook, eAudio, eMagazine, video, music

☐ Books on CD

☐ Magazine/Newspaper

☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

Date checked out: ____ / ____ / ____

1. Specifically, to what do you object? (Cite pages, instances, etc.)

*Please see the attached document
for all the details.*

2. What do you feel might be the result of reading, hearing or seeing this material?

*As explained more fully in the document, this
content has the potential to seriously
distress and even depress a child.*

3. Is there anything positive about this material?

*At some age, every person should know about
the horrors of the Holocaust; for a child, the book/
is not age-appropriate. ^{content}*

4. Did you read the entire book or examine the entire item?

Yes

5. What do you believe is the theme of this material?

*That the Holocaust is an important and
terrible part of the history of World War 2.*

6. What would you like your library to do about this material?

☒ Have it relocated

☐ Withdraw it from the library

Signature

Staff Use Only:

Location: **A B E F H I L R W**

Please return to Library Staff or mail to:

Dakota County Library, 1340 Wescott Rd, Eagan, MN 55123

Initials: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Additional comments: use reverse side or attach supplemental sheets to this form.

D.K. is gay

Author/Producer/Publisher Vincent X. Kirsch (Abrams Books)

Type of Material:

☒ Book

☐ Music- CD

☐ Video- DVD/BluRay

☐ Digital Resource

☐ Books on CD

☐ Magazine/Newspaper

☐ Other: _____

eBook, eAudio, eMagazine, video, music

Name: _____

Date checked out: / /

1. Specifically, to what do you object? (Cite pages, instances, etc.)

Please see the attached document
for all the details.

2. What do you feel might be the result of reading, hearing or seeing this material?

As explained more fully in the document, the
result of reading it would be negligible for an
adult, but for a child, it could be seriously harmful.

3. Is there anything positive about this material?

I don't understand the purpose of this question
I have serious concerns regardless anything
positive about it.

4. Did you read the entire book or examine the entire item?

Yes

5. What do you believe is the theme of this material?

The main character wishes his peers to know
that he believes himself to be gay.

6. What would you like your library to do about this material?

☒ Have it relocated

☐ Withdraw it from the library

Signature

Staff Use Only:

Location: A B E F H I L R W

Please return to Library Staff or mail to:

Dakota County Library, 1340 Wescott Rd, Eagan, MN 55123

Initials: _____

Date: / /

Additional comments: use reverse side or attach supplemental sheets to this form.

Subject: Request for a Book Review by the Dakota County Library System

I am asking that the book entitled "O.K. is Gay" by Vincent X. Kirsch (no known relation of mine) be reviewed for relocation out of the children's section of all Dakota County Libraries in which it is located. I will offer specifics of my concern below, but because the act of questioning of any of the library's holdings is apt to be misunderstood, I wish to make two disclaimers.

First, I want to say that as a person who holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts (Bates, 1977) and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, I am not at all the stereotypical unlettered opponent of diverse thought. I make no attempt to argue "solely [based] on that material's viewpoint." Rather, it is my thoughtful consideration of the harm associated with books that are not age-appropriate which leads to my request for relocation of this book.

Second, I want highlight that I am not, and never have been, advocating for "banning" books from the library, short of something egregious like a book on how to build bombs. I have specifically stated my request as one of relocation of the book, either to the teen or adult section of the library, or perhaps, to a special section, since the book's target audience is children, even if, as I contend, the contents are anything but child-appropriate. Since our libraries already has different sections for adult and teen books, the request to relocation an age-inappropriate book to a different section is well within library system practice.

Now to the point: what should determine whether this book belongs in the children's section? Certainly, vocabulary and topical interest for the age group are two criteria to be considered, but, crucially, so is the age-appropriateness of the content, and it is this third criterion which is the basis for my concern.

It is important that the question of age be clarified here, lest someone suggest that this book is only going to be viewed by, say, a 12-year-old (i.e., a late non-teen). This book is located in the "Picture Book" section of the Wentworth catalog, which is in keeping with Amazon Prime's opinion regard its intended audience (ages 4-8). I have a 5-year-old grandchild, and I invite you to think about a child of that age as you consider this issue. However, I am going to point out why this book should not be considered age-appropriate even for a 12-year-old.

1. "Gay" is a form of sexual behavior and identity, which is, per force, a topic for those whose bodies, minds, and emotions have progressed beyond those of a child! I would have exactly the same objection to a children's book entitled "O.K. is Heterosexual." Both terms, gay and heterosexual refer to sexual attraction; merely using childish language and drawings do not transform that subject into one for children.
2. The main character not only states that he is "gay" (as if a 4 or 8-year-old would know their sexual attraction with any certainty) but also shows him forming a romantic relationship with another boy named George and saying "we belong together" as they hold hands surrounding by a big heart formed by balloons, birds, flowers, etc. and other kids look on with universal approval.
3. Do I need to quote all the studies which indicate that premature exposure to sexual content is associated with grave harm for the victim and others around them (e.g., *Exposure to*

sexual content and problematic sexual behaviors in children and adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis)?

I invite any reviewer who is inclined against my relocation request to address these three main points: 1) the focus of the book is sexual identity which is a non-child topic, 2) the author even goes beyond having his child characters talk about age-inappropriate subjects but begin to “act out” as if sexually mature, and 3) that the effect of such a book on children has been documented as harmful.

However, because I don't think that there is much hope of directly contradicting these key points, I want to address some arguments that might be used to deflect my objection to this book's placement, not because I wish to impugn the reviewer but because I have heard such arguments from at least one staff member of the library system.

Firstly, note that my objection is not based in any way, let alone solely on the basis of the material's viewpoint. You may speculate about my view on gay sexuality, but it would be pure speculation. For example, I learned that another member of our city objects to children's books delving into questions of sexual identity despite saying openly that she is a lesbian, so there is no basis to infer anything about an adult's own point of view based on their concern about child safety.

Someone may try to have us look right past the title of this book and say that it is really just about friendship and acceptance and belonging. Such reasoning suggests that if a book has some good themes those will somehow offset problematic ones. If a movie is rated R for violence, it isn't saying that there might not be some good themes in the other parts of the movie, it's saying that anyone watching the whole movie will be exposed to content rated to be age-inappropriate. The same is true for books.

Or again, someone can argue that while this book might be problematic for many children, there might still be some parents whose child is an exception and might benefit from it, if guided by a parent. If so, they ought to be fully reassured that what I am requesting is only that the book be moved out of the children's section of the library, so it would still be findable in the online catalog or in the racks.

A related argument that I have heard is that the accompanying adult bears the full responsibility of protecting their children from content that might be harmful. Frankly, I find this argument astonishing because it is contradicted by law and by common practice in many areas of life. Yes, the adult bears responsibility but that doesn't relieve the library system of its responsibility. By analogy, at a beach, parents are responsible for protecting their children from harm, but the civil authorities are also responsible for doing their part (e.g., posting if there dangerous bacteria, informing if a lifeguard is on duty, closing the beach if there is a rip tide). The library must own its responsibility too.

Dakota County residents want safe, family-friendly libraries, not ones where a parent must be constantly on guard. The presence of this book in the children's section reflects a front-end process which largely ignores the question of age-appropriate content. Relocation of this book, and others like it, fulfills the Library's responsibilities to ensure a safe environment.



Request for Reconsideration of Material

Name

Address

City

Phone

Email Address

Title

D.K. is gay

Author/Producer/Publisher

Vincent X. Kirsch (Abrams Books)

Type of Material:

☒ Book

☐ Music- CD

☐ Video- DVD/BluRay

☐ Digital Resource

eBook, eAudio, eMagazine, video, music

Name: _____

Date checked out: ____/____/____

☐ Books on CD

☐ Magazine/Newspaper

☐ Other: _____

1. Specifically, to what do you object? (Cite pages, instances, etc.)

Please see the attached document for all the details.

2. What do you feel might be the result of reading, hearing or seeing this material?

As explained more fully in the document, the result of reading it would be negligible for an adult, but for a child, it could be seriously harmful.

3. Is there anything positive about this material?

I don't understand the purpose of this question. I have serious concerns regardless anything positive about it.

4. Did you read the entire book or examine the entire item?

Yes

5. What do you believe is the theme of this material?

The main character wishes his peers to know that he believes himself to be gay.

6. What would you like your library to do about this material?

☒ Have it relocated

☐ Withdraw it from the library

Signature

Staff Use Only:

Location: **A B E F H I L R W**

Please return to Library Staff or mail to:

Dakota County Library, 1340 Wescott Rd, Eagan, MN 55123

Initials: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Additional comments: use reverse side or attach supplemental sheets to this form.

Library Advisory Committee

2025 Work Plan

The Library Advisory Committee provides citizen perspective in the development and provision of library services to county residents.

Board Goal	Committee Goals	Activity	Outcome Measure	Timeline
A Great Place to Live	Engage customers in experiences which support growth and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share community input to enhance library services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event attendance Summer Discovery participation Active library borrowers Percent rating the library as good or excellent 	Q1-4
A Great Place to Live	Achieve greater community awareness of the value of the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote library news, services, and events to networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event attendance Summer Discovery participation Active library users Followers on social media 	Q1-4
A Great Place to Live	Provide responsibly designed innovative spaces and technologies to enhance access to education, knowledge and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide citizen comments on current use and future planning of library spaces Gain a deeper understanding of library technology such as the catalog, apps and iLab equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of in-person visits Number of meeting room reservations iLab usage statistics Wi-Fi statistics 	Q2-3
A Great Place to Live	Deliver relevant and accessible collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain a deeper understanding of intellectual freedom and the public library's role, considering varied community needs and interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of online research tools Number of checkouts 	Q1-4
A Great Place to Live	Cultivate an innovative, flexible, adaptive culture that invites community access and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide community perspectives to proposed updates in library policies Discussion(s) on changing communities within the county and efforts to build awareness of library services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent rating the library as good or excellent Active library borrowers 	Q1-4