Chapter 9
Programming

A library can reach out to its entire community through programming. Educational, recreational, informational, and cultural programs sponsored by the library or co-sponsored with other community organizations are offered to help attract new users to the library, to welcome people from all cultures and people with disabilities, to increase awareness and use of library resources and services, and to provide a neutral public forum for the debate of issues. Library programs are a particularly effective way of introducing the community to a variety of cultures.

It is well accepted that traditional programming for younger children helps them develop reading habits and encourages them and their caregivers to use the library and its resources. Young adult programs help them understand some of the intellectual, emotional, and social changes they are experiencing. Programs for adults and senior citizens can provide the lifelong learning skills and recreation needed in our changing society.

If the library opens its meeting rooms, display cases, and other exhibit areas to non-library-sponsored programs and non-library-sponsored exhibits and displays, policies and procedures must cover the use of these facilities. The library's attorney should review this policy as well as other library policies.

Applicable Core Standards—Please see Core Standards 1, 4, 11, 12, and 22 in Chapter 1.

Programming Standards

1. Library programs are provided free of charge.

2. Library programs are located in a physically accessible location. Provisions are made, as needed, to enable persons with disabilities to participate in the program. The availability of these provisions is noted with other information about the program.

3. The library considers community demographics, special populations, and the availability of programming from other social, cultural, and recreational organizations in the community when planning and evaluating programs.

4. The library presents educational, cultural, and recreational programs that reflect community needs and interests.

5. Programming is designed to address the diversity within the community, to increase the awareness and use of library resources and services, and to attract new users.

6. The library provides outreach programs to targeted populations who cannot visit the library.

7. The library's programming targets groups such as children, parents, young adults, adults, seniors, and special constituents relevant to the area's demographics.

8. The library provides programs that will instruct their community on how to use the library. This will include training sessions on the library's online database and the library's online catalog. The

Programming Checklist

____ Library programs are provided free of charge.

____ Library programs are located in a physically accessible location.

____ Provisions are made, as needed, to enable persons with disabilities to participate in the program. The availability of these provisions is noted with other information about the program.

____ The library considers community demographics, special populations, and the availability of programming from other social, cultural, and recreational organizations in the community when planning and evaluating programs.

____ The library presents educational, cultural, and recreational programs that reflect community needs and interests.

____ Programming is designed to address the diversity within the community, to increase the awareness and use of library resources and services, and to attract new users.

____ The library provides outreach programs to targeted populations who cannot visit the library.

____ The library has programming that targets children and their caregivers.

____ The library has programming that targets young adults.

____ The library has programming that targets adults and senior citizens.

____ The library provides programs on library instruction for all ages. This includes online catalog and online database training opportunities.

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