

Dear library patron,

Thank you for making me aware of your concerns regarding materials in Yavapai County libraries.

First, a little bit of information regarding the Yavapai County Free Library District (YCFLD). The YCFLD is countywide special district that has fifteen library branches throughout (mostly) unincorporated Yavapai County and operates the Yavapai Library Network. A complete list of our branch libraries is available at <https://ycfld.gov/locations>. The YCFLD does not have any authority over the large municipal libraries such as Prescott and Prescott Valley. As a result of this, the YCFLD has no say over their library operations, including what items they purchase or what book displays they choose to exhibit.

Regarding school libraries in Yavapai County, the Library District does provide funds, received through grants via the Bring on the Books program (<http://www.bringonthebooks.info/>), to purchase books for school libraries. The YCFLD also provides a list of the most circulated materials. This list is available at https://yln.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=66679774. While the Library District does provide this list as a starting point, the school determines which books they purchase. Generally, these books accompany their curriculum, are age-level appropriate fiction and non-fiction, and help students plan for their future. To reiterate, the school always selects the books for purchase, and we buy them on their behalf. However, schools can also purchase items independently without our assistance.

Yavapai Library Network (YLN) members also share items. Many of these items may not be age appropriate for students depending on their age. School library staff always act as a gatekeeper to receiving items through the YLN. Should school staff deem an item inappropriate, they can either not circulate the item, contact the parent to make sure they are okay with the student checking out the item, or provide a form for parents to sign giving their consent. All of these scenarios do not allow a child to check out a YLN-provided item at their school library without intervention. School library staff are all dedicated to making sure students receive appropriate materials.

I also read your concerns regarding the Prescott Valley Public Library (PVPL). As stated previously, the YCFLD does not have any authority over PVPL. The Town of Prescott Valley is its own governing authority and not a branch of the Library District. The proper avenue for requests of the Prescott Valley Public Library would be through the avenues you are already taking. All I can do is suggest that you continue your discussion with Town staff.

Lastly, most libraries classify materials into age-appropriate groups such as adult, young adult, and children. These items are then physically placed into age-appropriate areas. This helps to ensure patrons are finding materials appropriate to them and makes the discovery process faster. This is certainly the case with the Prescott Valley Public Library as with all public libraries in Yavapai County.

I hope this letter helps to provide some answers to the questions you are asking and helps to set your mind at ease regarding the Library District and the Library Network.

Regards,

Corey Christians