

ELIZABETH TITUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY REFERENCE SERVICE POLICY

The Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library (ETML) serves a diverse public with unique individual needs and levels of ability to conduct research independently.


The board of trustees and library director of ETML encourage staff of all levels to pursue continuing education opportunities that will enable them to better meet the needs of the library's patrons. All staff members receive in-house training regarding appropriate responses to patron questions, including reference questions. This training includes reference interviewing techniques, reader's advisory service, and bibliographic instruction. All staff members are taught to treat each question asked with respect insofar as the level of assistance required and the topic of the question. Names of users and the transactions that occur between users and the staff are confidential and not discussed outside a professional context.

Reference service and materials are available to all persons who reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the library regardless of the age, race, sex, social, or economic status of the patron. Reference service and materials are available during all hours the library is open and are provided in response to all forms of inquiry including but not limited to patrons in the library, the telephone, and telefacsimile. The reference questions of patrons visiting the library are given the highest priority. All requests for information receive an answer or status report within one working day. Questions that cannot be answered with onsite resources are referred to another agency. Such referrals are verified and/or mediated by library staff.

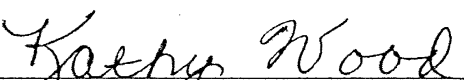
In the instance of legal, medical, investment, or tax reference questions, the staff may only guide the patron to the material available on the topic of interest. The staff may not evaluate or interpret the information provided nor may the staff define the meaning of terms, offer investment advice, select income tax forms, or serve as a surrogate for a professional in any of the fields listed above. If all materials within the library are beyond the understanding of the patron, the patron will be advised to consult with their professional from the above listed fields for additional information or advice.

Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library adopts and adheres to the *ALA Statement on Professional Ethics*.

Approved by ETML Board of Trustees 26th day of July, 2011.



Sue Sides, President



Kathy Wood, Secretary