



DartClix Selection Policy

Cataloged Web sites provided via DartClix are recommended sites with appeal to the general public of all ages. It is Brodart's intent to provide Web sites for school and public libraries that enrich and support library collections and to meet the educational and informational needs of library patrons. Brodart intends to support access to information on all subjects that serve the needs or interests of all users, regardless of age or content of material.

We recognize that there are an enormous number of Web sites available via the Internet, and that the integrity of the majority of those sites is questionable. Library patrons searching an open internet for reliable information on a given topic often encounter tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of Web sites either unrelated to their topic or containing biased or unreliable information.

Sites selected for inclusion in the DartClix collection reflect reliable, quality information, and by incorporating these cataloged records directly into a PAC/OPAC, a library will substantially improve the research efforts of the library's patrons.

The provision of any Web site(s) does not imply the sanction of any particular belief or view, nor the sponsorship or endorsement of any expressed views on the part of Brodart.

Brodart does not intend for the DartClix database of cataloged Web sites to be a substitute for the Internet. Rather, it is a proactive way for a PAC/OPAC to provide quick, reliable access to a limited supply of quality Web sites. Brodart acknowledges that there are many Web sites of similar quality and value that are not in the DartClix database.

All sites included in the DartClix collection will be viewed by professional selectors, including a minimum of three Brodart-designated individuals.

The professional selectors will avoid (but not exclusively deny) sites that are commercial in nature. Signs of commercialism include, but are not limited to: flashing signs/banners; advertisements; inducements to purchase; opening screen that is more than 20% sales-oriented. A minimal amount of commercialism may be accepted in a site if, in the judgement of the professional selectors, the significant majority of the site offers quality, reliable information. In these cases, the interest level and quality of the information must be perceived to be very high to offset any commercial content.

The professional selectors will avoid sites that are recognized to contain links to other sites of lesser quality or reputation. However, Brodart does not vouch for the integrity of any links contained in the original cataloged Web site(s) or in any component pages.

Brodart respects and abides by the spirit and intent of the ALA's document, Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Center (adopted July 2, 1986; amended January 10, 1990; July 12, 2000, by the ALA Council), and extends the spirit and principles defined therein to public libraries. The following is largely taken from that document.

Brodart believes that public & school libraries play a unique role in promoting intellectual freedom. They serve as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and as a learning laboratory for library patrons in the pursuit of knowledge in a pluralistic society. Although the educational level and programs of school &

public libraries shape the resources and services of library programs, the principles of the Library Bill of Rights apply equally to all libraries.

Library professionals assume a leadership role in promoting the principles of intellectual freedom within their libraries by providing resources and services that create and sustain an atmosphere of free inquiry.

Library professionals seek to build collections of resources appropriate for the patrons of their libraries. These collections represent diverse points of view on current as well as historical issues are consistent with the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the library.

Collection development and selection policies shall be unfettered by personal, political, social, or religious views. Library patrons should have access to resources and services free of constraints resulting from personal, partisan, or doctrinal disapproval. Library professionals should resist efforts by individuals or groups to define what is appropriate for all patrons to read, view, hear, or access via electronic means.

Brodart also acknowledges, respects, and agrees with the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 of the Library Bill of Rights, which state:

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Brodart joins the American Library Association in opposing "silent censorship" and agrees to follow guidelines setting forth the positive purposes and principles of evaluation of materials in library collections.

Brodart endorses the American Library Association's Freedom to Read statement, The Library Bill of Rights, Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks, and Free Access to Libraries for Minors.

Selection Process

Responsibility

Brodart assumes final responsibility for the acceptance of Web sites into the DartClix collection.

Criteria for Selection

Web sites selected for inclusion in DartClix shall satisfy most, if not all, of the following elements:

- Chosen to enrich and support general public and school library collections
- Meet high standards of quality in the accuracy and currency of information reflected therein
- Selected on the basis of literary, educational, and informational value
- No Web site shall be excluded or included on the basis of moral, racial, religious, or political prejudice or bias

- Reflect a demonstrated or perceived interest, need, or demand by library patrons

Selection shall be positively influenced by:

- Quality of presentation
- Accuracy, authoritativeness, objectivity, clarity, usability
- Contemporary or historical significance, popular interest, permanent value, or usefulness
- Commentary by reviewers
- Non-commercial orientation or emphasis

Selection Tools

Brodart utilizes a variety of established bibliographies citing reliable, quality Web sites. These bibliographies are being monitored and reviewed to assist Brodart's professional selectors in the selection process; however, selection is not limited to the use of these tools, nor does the inclusion of these resources imply that all sites mentioned within them will be cataloged. The list of bibliographies being used is considered proprietary, and hence shall not be published herein. For the purposes of this document, we will provide a sampling of bibliographies (out of more than 30 that are being utilized):

- ALA's *Notable Children's Websites*
- Library Journal's *WebWatch*
- The Librarian's *Index to the Internet* (www.lii.org)
- Elizabeth B. Miller's *The Internet Resource Directory*
- www.newscientist.com/weblinks

Requests

Brodart invites DartClix customers to recommend Web sites for inclusion in DartClix. Those recommended will receive a priority status in the review procedure, but will still require review and acceptance by the professional selectors.