

Introduction

The Nottingham Women's Library is dedicated to raising and celebrating women's voices by stocking books written only by women. Although we would like to be able to hold only books edited by women as well, we feel that currently this means the voices of some women writers would not be included because they are edited by men.

This is a double-edged position. Whilst we would wish to have voices unedited by men, we feel that it must be acknowledged that these women writers are able to decide for themselves that this is acceptable in the publication of their work. In reality, the publishing world is not there yet, and to discount these works would mean that we are inadvertently discounting women's work we would otherwise welcome and celebrate.

Therefore, our current position is that for a book to be included in our collection it must be written by a woman but can be edited by a man. This enables us to realistically include as many women's voices as possible.

Our policies are also periodically reassessed to ensure that current issues within the women's movement are included. The library, as part of the wider Nottingham Women's Centre, follows and believes in a transgender inclusion policy, as well as advocating for black and other ethnic minority groups. Through this, we stand by and for intersectionality, diversity and inclusion.

As a collection, both the books and the archives we have are not just a resource of women's writing, but of the women's movement and women's lives. It is our position that all feminisms be represented here, so that they can be accountable for the views and decisions that they may strive for. We personally feel that knowledge, even on things we may not agree with, is better than remaining ignorant. We as a library do not feel it is appropriate for us to be in the business of censoring or banning books. Our visitors are free to make their own informed opinions.

This is particularly true for the more historic content of the library. We wish to represent the history of the women's movement. In doing so it can mean that a part of this history is seen in a different and sometimes difficult light today. We do not feel that these insights should necessarily be removed, but instead reflected and learned from. We believe that it is as important to understand the developments and historical events that have led us to the position we are in now, as well as advocate for what we can aim to do in the future.

Should you have any queries or issues you wish to raise please do contact us at:

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