

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

A democracy presupposes an informed citizenry, and the public library has an integral role in achieving that goal. The library provides an impartial environment in which individuals can access information representing many different points of view on a variety of topics. The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements guide the acquisition and management of collections, and can be accessed through the library's website.

Collection development and management decisions are based on the merit of the work as it relates to the library's mission and its ability to meet the expressed or anticipated needs and interests of the community. Decisions are not made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval of the material. The inclusion of an item in the library collection in no way represents an endorsement of its contents. Library materials are not marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents, nor are materials sequestered except for the purpose of protecting them from damage or theft.

The library recognizes that many materials may be controversial and that any given item may offend some people. Only individuals can determine what is most appropriate for their needs and can define what material or information is consistent with their personal or family values. Individuals can apply those values to the use of library materials only for themselves. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for their children's use of library materials.

ACCESS TO COLLECTION MATERIALS

All library materials are accessible for use by all library users. Access to materials is ensured by the way materials are organized, managed, and displayed, through staff interaction, and through the delivery of materials.

The library organizes its collection through a standards-based cataloging and classification system. Staff is available to assist library users in the selection and location of materials of interest. The library participates in interlibrary loan networks to make materials not in the collection available to users. Electronic resources are also made accessible through web-based environments.

To ensure equitable and efficient access, materials may be subject to use limitations. Remote electronic access to the library catalog and electronic resources is provided within technical, budgetary, and licensing constraints.