

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Mission and Goals..... 2
- Scope and Priorities of Collection 3
- Responsibility for Selection..... 7
- Selection Procedure 8
- Evaluation, weeding and maintenance..... 9
- Gifts and Donations 10
- Request for Reconsideration Policy 11
- Appendix A: Materials Selection Aids 14
- Appendix B: Magazine Subscription Donation Policy & Procedure..... 14
- Appendix C: Request for Consideration of Library Materials..... 16
- Appendix D: Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials..... 17
- Appendix E: American Library Association Bill of Rights..... 19
- Appendix F: American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement 20
- Appendix G: American Library Association Freedom to View Statement 24

Mission and Goals

A collection development policy is a statement of guidelines for library staff members to follow when selecting, acquiring, and building library collections.

This policy of the Missoula Public Library provides direction for the growth and development of collections. The Library strives to select, acquire, curate and provide free and easy access to materials, in all formats, that meet the varied needs and interests of the community. This policy provides guidance, within budgetary and space limitations, for the selection and evaluation of materials that anticipate and meet the needs of the community. It also addresses collection maintenance, and replacement and weeding of materials.

The Missoula Public Library is dedicated to the concept of intellectual freedom and endorses the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements of the American Library Association. This document was developed to affirm the commitment of libraries to the rights of freedom of speech and expression under the United States Constitution. The library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that each individual can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. In presenting various sides of a question, the library thus provides citizens with reliable sources of information on which to base intelligent decisions in their daily lives.

The library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons. The library recognizes and understands that some materials may be regarded by certain individuals or groups as controversial, whether because of bias, frankness of language, political expression, or moral implication. Selection will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval by any individual in the community, but rather on the evaluation of the item's merit, authenticity, honesty of presentation, topical interest, and use by the audience for whom it is intended. The primary aim of selection is to establish a balanced collection, which adequately represents various points of view on many subjects.

The library emphasizes Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) when selecting materials for its collection, striving to represent a wide array of voices, perspectives, and experiences from marginalized communities within its holdings. These communities include, but are not limited to: Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other People of Color; Women; 2SLGBTQIA+, Non-binary, and other

Genderqueer individuals and groups; Immigrants; Displaced populations; and Blind, Deaf, and Disabled individuals and communities. These procedures are intended to promote inclusion in action by deliberately countering bias and fostering equitable access to a diverse range of information for all users.

Selection Policy Objectives:

- A written material selection policy serves as a guide to library personnel involved in materials selection. It assists them in selecting and acquiring a useful, well-rounded materials collection to meet the needs of the community served.
- A written selection policy helps explain to library employees, board members, and other interested parties the basis on which materials have been selected.

Scope and Priorities of Collection

Present Collection Level: Missoula Public Library continually collects current, relevant materials referencing professional journals for reviews. In addition, user requests are considered. ([See Appendix C: Request for Consideration of Library Materials](#)). The collection is not static and will change to meet the needs of the community in both topic and format.

Subject Areas Collected

The MPL Board recognizes that Missoula is a diverse community and affirms that the library will attempt to provide books and other library resources for the interest, information, and enlightenment of the entire community within the budget's constraints.

Limitations and priorities of the MPL

- Format - The library will purchase material in a format (hardback, paperback, DVD, digital, microform, map, picture, periodical, pamphlet, etc.) appropriate to its anticipated use, availability in alternate formats, cost, and storage space availability.

- The library does not attempt to acquire textbooks or other curriculum-related materials, except when such materials also serve the general public.
- Branches – Basic reference collections consisting of dictionaries, almanacs, an encyclopedia, etc., will be housed at branch sites. Gifts of materials and money to purchase materials may be accepted by branch staff, providing the MPL Gift and Donations Policy is adhered to and materials are cataloged into the MPL collection.
- Series – The decision to purchase additional items in a series or to initially purchase a series will be based on the same selection criteria used to purchase single volume materials.

Nonfiction and Biographies

Missoula Public Library categorizes nonfiction materials according to specific Dewey Decimal numbers. The library acquires nonfiction works based on long-term permanent value and current interest. Some titles are also selected in large print and audiobook formats. Downloadable audiobooks and eBooks are purchased for the digital consortium. Materials for learning another language are generally in digital format or in audiobook format. Electronic reference sources have replaced many print versions.

Reference Collection

The Reference Collection is developed with the following criteria:

- Select and maintain a reference collection that meets the needs of MPL users.
- Materials that can be updated will be kept current.
- Academic and/or technical level materials should be within the range of users and staff.

Special Collections

A strong collection of local and state history is developed with the following objectives in mind:

- Local history should contain materials relating to the municipality and the state. Included in local history are non-book activities, such as indexing the local newspaper and collecting vital records.
- State documents relating to the local area may be collected.

- The library will take a broad view of works by and about the state's authors, as well as general works relating to the state, regardless of whether such materials meet the standards of selection in other aspects.
- The library reserves the right to accept gifts of local history material, as described in the Library's Gifts and Donations section of this document.

The local history and genealogy collections are housed in the Tony Veazey Montana Room. Rare materials are shelved in a locked area within that room. These books are non-circulating, but are made available to other libraries for in-house use or through interlibrary loan on a case-by-case basis.

Other collections (Genealogy, Large Type, Young Adult Comics, and Adult Graphic Literature) may be shelved separately to encourage use by the public.

Large type (primarily fiction) is updated as the budget allows and includes popular authors and titles.

The library has a wide collection of special materials that make up a Library of Things, including but not limited to laptops, games, telescopes, book chat kits, memory kits, kitchen gadgets, and more. (For circulation and laptop policies, please see the Main Policy document)

Adult Fiction

The library maintains a basic collection of popular titles and well-known authors with multiple copies of bestsellers.

The graphic literature collection contains both fiction and nonfiction.

Children's Materials

The library collects materials in various formats to meet the needs of children for recreational, informational, and self-educational use. This collection is primarily a circulating collection, except for pop-up books, the newest editions of encyclopedias, some dictionaries and other general reference works. Earlier editions of such materials do circulate whenever updates become available.

The nonfiction collection is mostly current with the exception of traditional literature and poetry. If those titles are found in the Storytellers Sourcebook or the Poetry Index, they are kept indefinitely. Fiction award winners, such as Newbery or Caldecott, are kept indefinitely. Worn copies are replaced regularly when in print.

Various collections are separated according to age and developmental needs.

Young Adult Materials

The library collects materials in various formats to meet the needs of young adults for recreational, informational, and self-educational use.

Collections include:

- Fiction (readers ages 14-18)
- Young adult audio books
- Young adult comics and Manga
- Young adult magazines

Periodicals

The library collects selected periodicals, which may be discontinued as public demand, space considerations, and budget allows. These may include:

- Montana magazines, which are kept indefinitely.
- Area Montana newspapers, which are stored for three months.
- The Missoulian, which is collected and archived on microfilm
- National newspapers, which are stored for two months
- Nearby metropolitan newspapers, which are stored for three months

Audiovisual Materials

AV materials are collected in formats such as DVDs and digital format to meet popular demand.

Audiovisual materials are collected in DVD and digital formats to meet popular demand. As formats become obsolete they will no longer be supported.

- The goal of the DVD collection is to be well-balanced, serving the needs of the entire community. Materials are selected for all ages and all levels of comprehension. Selection is based on informational, educational, and

recreational value and is also considered in terms of timeliness, demand, quality, and authority.

- The DVD collection contains feature films, TV series, and informational films for all ages. The collection may include current high interest films, old classics, award winners, foreign films, and nonfiction subjects.
- Feature films should contribute to the value of the library's collection as a whole by representing all types and styles of motion pictures that provide pleasant viewing for recreational and creative use of leisure time. Serious works, which present honest aspects of life, are not excluded for frankness of expression.
- Children's materials are selected in order to encourage the child's joy in learning and creativity. Visual recordings are selected to offer adventures of the mind and spirit for growing children, cultivate an appreciation of literature and film, and encourage the creative use of leisure time. Special attention is given to visual recordings of use and value to parents or other adults working with children.
- Expected long-term use, and value to the collection are deciding factors in the selection.
- Preference is given to the purchase of new titles rather than replacements, but titles in high demand may be replaced as available. Multiple copies may be considered for high-interest films.
- Visual recording purchases will stem from reviews in the most highly regarded sources, although suggestions from users are always welcome and are given serious consideration. Close attention is paid to professional reviews, especially in the selection of documentary and "how-to" films.
- Attempts will be made to purchase films at a reduced price. However, there are times when a film is so popular that the library decides to purchase it immediately at full price.

Responsibility for Selection

Ultimate responsibility for materials selection, as for all library activities, rests with the director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the MPL Board. The initial selection of material for the library as a whole, however, is the responsibility of the staff, as assigned by the Director. Selectors are professional library staff skilled in evaluating resources for addition to the collection. They maintain general material selection for the entire library in their particular areas of service.

Selectors are given direct responsibility for selection in specific subject areas, under the supervision of the Director. All library employees are encouraged to make suggestions and requests for purchase of materials. Subject and title suggestions are also accepted from library users for consideration (See [Appendix C: Request for Consideration of Library Materials](#)).

Selection Procedure

Criteria for Selection

The selectors acquire materials using the following criteria (Note: not all criteria listed need apply to every item selected):

- Authoritativeness and literary merit;
- The importance of the subject matter to the collection and scarcity of material on the subject;
- Timeliness or permanence of the material;
- Appearance of the title in special bibliographies or indices;
- Clear presentation and readability;
- Accurate information;
- Availability of material in other local library collections;
- The author's reputation and significance as a writer;
- Reputation and standing of publisher;
- Format;
- Price, popularity and user demand
- Selection aids, which may include (see [Appendix A: Materials Selection Aids](#)):
 - Book reviews in professionally recognized periodicals
 - Standard bibliographies and booklists by recognized authorities, such as library association and professional library journal publications.
 - And other primary sources for selection (see

Duplication of Purchasing

Duplicate copies may be purchased to fill demand as finances allow. The purchase of less popular, but still important, materials will not be neglected.

Replacement of Materials

Whenever materials are lost, worn out, or otherwise withdrawn, replacement will be reviewed with the same general criteria as for original purchase. Replacement will depend on the need of the collection and whether other, similar, or more up-to-date materials are available.

Reference and Circulating Collection

The decision to designate materials for in-library use only is at the discretion of the selectors.

Evaluation, weeding and maintenance

Weeding

The Missoula Public Library believes that a high-quality library collection must be kept up to-date, provide diverse materials of interest to the community, and contain items that are in the best physical condition.

Collection evaluation is the process of identifying which items to remove from the collection (weeding) and which to retain and/or replace in order to improve the physical appearance and relevance of the collection. This also alleviates space and crowding issues on the shelves and access to the collection for staff and customers.

In order to maintain an up-to-date collection, staff will continually re-evaluate worn and obsolete materials. Systematic evaluation and weeding of the collection is required in order to keep the collection responsive to users' needs, to ensure its vitality and usefulness to the community, and to make room for newer materials. Weeding (removing materials from the collection) is the responsibility of the professional employees of the library. Weeding both the purchased and donated material collection will be done continually in order to keep the materials collection relevant to the needs of the community. Library staff considers a variety of factors before weeding materials from the library's collection

Disposition Procedure

Material withdrawn during the weeding process will be given to the Friends of the Missoula Public Library for sale to benefit the library or will be otherwise disposed of.

Gifts and Donations

Donations of Books and Other Circulating Items

The library accepts gifts of books and other items that are suitable for community circulation and as long as items meet the same criteria for selection as purchased materials. Unneeded duplicates or out-of-date materials will not be accepted.

- Format must be suitable to library use. If the binding, condition of paper, or unusual format makes an item unsuitable for library use, it will not be added.
- Items not added to the library collection might be given to another library, to a non-profit organization, to the Friends of MPL for sale to benefit the library, or otherwise disposed of.
- Nameplates will be put in gift books at the donor's request.
- When a donated item is no longer needed in the collection, it will be disposed of in the same manner as purchased materials.
- Gifts that are cataloged and added to the collection will be shelved in their regular classified place on the library shelves and will be available to all borrowers in the MPL system, and otherwise handled as any other material belonging to the Library.
- Individuals and organizations that donate magazine subscriptions shall do so according to the library's Magazine Subscription Donation Policy. (See [Appendix B: Magazine Subscription Donation Policy & Procedure](#)).

Censorship, Access and Challenged Materials Procedure

The library board and administration are dedicated to the principles of intellectual freedom. They believe that the right to read is basic to the intellectual freedom of democracy and therefore adopt the following three basic documents on intellectual freedom as official policy of the library:

- The Library Bill of Rights (See [Appendix E: American Library Association Library Bill of Rights](#) for complete text)
- The Freedom to Read Statement (See [Appendix F: American Library Association: The Freedom to Read](#) for complete text)
- The Freedom to View Statement (See [Appendix G: American Library Association Freedom to View Statement](#) for complete text)

The function of material selection is to obtain the best print and non-print resources suited to the needs of the community with the funds available. It is not to be confused with censorship and selectors must be constantly alert not to allow their own preferences or prejudices, pressure by individuals or groups, or fear of such pressure to influence selection.

The decision to purchase materials should be guided by qualified reviews and based on the literary value and social importance of the material, the needs of the community, availability of other materials on the subject, and funds available.

Materials which come within the [Montana Supreme Court's definition of obscenity](#) should be excluded, but no item should be eliminated because of coarse language, violence, or frank discussion of sexual episodes when such episodes are pertinent to the plot or character delineation.

Cataloging and classification should in no way reflect a value judgment of the material. Indicating an item's point of view or bias by labeling it or shelving it in a special area is considered an unwarranted assumption on the part of the library.

The presence of material in the library does not indicate an endorsement of its contents by the library board, staff, or funding agencies.

[Request for Reconsideration Policy](#)

MPL will respond to any concern from users about library materials owned by MPL (defined as items with a Missoula Public Library stamp). No item shall be removed or restricted because of a complaint except in accordance with these procedures.

If the library has been previously presented with a Request for Reconsideration of a specific title and determines, according to policy, that the item will remain in the library's collection, that item shall not be requested to be reconsidered again for one year from the date of the library's final decision regarding said title.

This procedure will be followed:

1. If a user has concerns about an item owned by the library, staff members will ask if they would like to file a request for reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration must be in writing on the approved form. Telephone calls, rumors and conversations are not sufficient to initiate action. Staff will not

- engage in any informal discussions with the person making the challenge about complaints or concerns.
2. If so, staff will give them a reconsideration packet. Reconsideration packets will be available at the Montana Room desk and will contain the following items:
 - a. The Request for Reconsideration Form (See [Appendix D: Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials](#))
 - b. The Library Collection Development Policy
 - c. The Request for Reconsideration Policy
 - d. The Library Bill of Rights
 - e. The Freedom to Read Statement
 - f. The Freedom to View Statement
 3. The user will fill out and sign the Request for Reconsideration Form and give it to a staff member or mail it to the Director. Separate forms must be filled out for each item the user wants reconsidered. All Request for Reconsideration Forms received by staff will be forwarded to the Director or person acting in their absence.
 4. Within two working days, the Director or person acting in their absence will acknowledge, in writing, receipt of the form. Request for Reconsideration Forms that are not fully completed will not be reviewed.
 5. The Director will have 14 days to review each item. In the event that multiple items are submitted for reconsideration, the Director will review no more than one item at a time. In this case, users will be advised that requests may be handled over multiple months.

Requests for reconsideration will be considered in terms of the library's materials selection policy, the principles of the Library Bill of Rights, and the opinions of the various reviewing sources used in materials selection.

1. The copy or copies of the challenged materials will remain available to the public until disposition is determined.
2. At the end of the review period, or beforehand if done working, the Director will make a recommendation for maintaining, withdrawing, or reshelving the item.
3. The Director will respond to the user in writing and inform them of the library's decision.
4. The user will have seven working days to appeal the Director's decision to the Library Board.

5. Board Members will have no more than two months to review the item in its entirety. Regularly scheduled board meetings may be used to consult with the Director or selection staff to get more information about the item.
6. At a regularly scheduled board meeting, the Board will vote on maintaining, withdrawing, or reshelving the item. This decision is final.
7. All Request for Reconsideration forms will be filed with the Director for purposes of record keeping and reference.
8. If a challenged item is retained, the library will not reconsider the same item for one calendar year.

Appendix A: Materials Selection Aids

The library subscribes to and uses the following professional journals and review sources such as:

- Library Journal
- School Library Journal
- Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)
- Hornbook
- Booklist
- Publisher's Weekly
- New York Times Book Review
- Multicultural Review
- Video Librarian
- Romantic Times Book Reviews
- New York Review of Science Fiction
- American Libraries
- Reference and Services Quarterly
- New York Review of Books
- Mystery Scene
- Billboard
- Starlog
- Book Links
- Tribal College Journal
- Locus

Reviews of material added to the collection area are also considered from general interest publications, online resources, and the Internet.

Appendix B: Magazine Subscription Donation Policy & Procedure

Direct user to appropriate department

- Reference – adult magazines and newspapers
- Children's – juvenile magazines
- Young adult – teenage magazines

Departments will:

- Determine acceptability of magazine based on criteria for inclusion in collection development policy.
- Look for reviews of magazine, if necessary.

- Check EBSCO catalog for availability and price.
- Complete gift subscription form
- Accept payment from giver and give forms and check to administrative assistant (who will pass on gift subscription form to tech services).

Policy

- Gift subscriptions must be for a minimum of two years.
- Subscriptions will only be ordered by the library, not by users.
- When a subscription is about to expire, the donor will be contacted by letter for renewal. If the user does not wish to renew, or does not respond within four weeks, departments will decide on continuing the subscription.
- Hand-delivered issues will no longer be accepted **unless by special arrangement**.
- The library will decide how long back issues are kept. Back issues will be discarded and not returned to the donor.

Appendix C: Request for Consideration of Library Materials

Please describe the item in question as fully as you are able. Feel free to attach extra pages if necessary.

Title:

Author(s):

Publication Date:

Publisher:

Format (book, recording, etc.)

How did you hear about this item:

Please tell us why you think the library should add this item:

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am acting as a spokesperson for the following group or association:

Appendix D: Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

1. Please describe the item in question as fully as you are able. Please use additional pages if necessary. If you have concerns about multiple items, you must fill out a separate form for each item.

Title:

Author(s):

Format (book, recording, etc.):

Call number or location in library:

2. How was it brought to your attention?
3. Have you read, viewed, or listened to the entire work? If not, how much of the work have you read, viewed, or listened to?
4. Which specific parts of the item do you find offensive or inappropriate? Please provide page numbers, scenes, or lyrics.
5. Are you aware of any critical acclaim, awards, or professional reviews of this item?
6. Do you see any benefit, for any users, in having this item in the collection?
7. What do you believe to be the overall theme of this item?
8. Is there another item in the collection that balances this item?
9. Please state the action you wish taken on this item:
 Shelf it elsewhere
 Remove from the library
 Other (specify):
10. Why do you recommend the library take the above action? Please explain how such an action would improve the library's service to the community.

11. What do you think will be the result of reading, listening to, or viewing this item?

12. Have you read the following documents:

- a. The Library Collection Development Policy
- a. The Request for Reconsideration Policy
- b. The Library Bill of Rights
- c. The Freedom to Read Statement
- d. The Freedom to View Statement

2. Are you acting as a spokesperson for the following group or association? If so, please list their information, including name and website.

Contact Information:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: _____ Date: _____



For Administrative Use Only

When was this form received?

By whom?

When did the Director review it?

When did the Director acknowledge to the user receipt of the form?

Appendix E: American Library Association Bill of Rights

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

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Appendix F: American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice

from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

- 1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

- 2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the

increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon

the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

Appendix G: American Library Association Freedom to View Statement

The **FREEDOM TO VIEW**, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
2. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
3. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
4. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.