

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
- A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- 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.

ALA Adopted: June 18, 1948

ALA Amended: February 2, 1961

June 27, 1967

January 23, 1980

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CODE OF ETHICS

Library personnel must provide the highest level of service through appropriate and usefully organized collections, fair and equitable circulation and service policies, and skillful, accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests for library services.

Library personnel must resist all efforts by groups or individuals to censor library materials.

Library personnel must protect each user's right to privacy with respect to information sought or received, and materials consulted, borrowed, or acquired.

Library personnel must adhere to the principles of due process and equality of opportunity in peer relationships and personnel actions.

Library personnel must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the library as an institution.

Library personnel must avoid situations in which personal interest might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of the library, its sponsors, users or personnel.