

# Collection Development

Approved by Library Board: July, 2018

Latest Update: July, 2018

## **Purpose**

Selection of library materials is based on the merit of a work in relation to the needs and interests of the community. Literary critical judgment is used to select those items best suited to fill these needs. Cost, space, usefulness, demand, and current holdings must also be considered. The library will set policies with regard to selection of materials to guide staff and ensure that these considerations are met as more fully outlined in the policy objectives.

## **Collection Policy Objectives**

A comprehensive and current collection development policy provides a framework for equitable growth and efficient management of library materials. This framework includes these objectives:

- To provide guidance for materials selectors
- To provide the public with information regarding selection principles
- To assure continued growth of the collection
- To provide a means for the library to evaluate its selection process
- To respond to public concerns regarding the content of the library's collection

## **Criteria for Selection**

Each proposed selection is evaluated on its own merit and in relation to the collection as a whole, using some or all of the following criteria:

- Cost
- Popular interest or demand by the public
- Current and future relevance to community needs
- Suitability of subject, style, and format for the intended audience
- Literary quality, artistic value, or importance to its genre
- Availability of the material elsewhere
- Importance of the author or artist
- Sustained interest
- Appropriateness for age
- Availability of the subject in the library
- Currentness of information
- Social significance
- Uniqueness or special features

Some material chosen may be offensive, shocking, or boring to some readers but may be meaningful and significant to others. Material will not be excluded because they may cause concern to some individuals. They will not be excluded solely because they contain views, language, or depictions that may be controversial. Selection of material will not be restricted by the possibility that the material may come into possession of minors. The library subscribes to the principles contained in the Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, and the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the American Library Association. [See appendices for the full text of each document]

## **Selection Tools**

Persons responsible for the selection of Library materials will use a variety of tools to choose items that are needed and appropriate for addition to the collection. These tools include but are not limited to:

- Professional journals
- Patron requests
- Newspapers
- Established lists
- Staff recommendations
- Online reviewing sources

## **Responsibility for selection**

Library staff select library materials for purchase and addition. The Community Engagement Librarian has final approval for all staff-selected materials.

## **Suggestions**

The Loomis Library welcomes input from the public regarding the contents of the collection. Patrons wishing to suggest titles for acquisition may fill out a Suggestion for Purchase form. All suggestions will be considered for acquisition in accord with library policy.

## **Gifts**

Donations of material or funds to enrich the library collection are welcome. Gifts of material will be accepted into the library's collection at the discretion of the Community Engagement Librarian or designee according to the selection criteria listed above. Material received but not used by the library is subject to disposition at the library's discretion. See the gift and donation Policy for further information.

## **Replacements**

Material that has been lost or damaged may be replaced using the same criteria as for selection. Other factors considered when deciding on replacements include:

- The number of copies in the library
- Comparable quality of replacement copy
- Availability of newer material on the subject
- Coverage of subject in that area
- Existence of adequate coverage of a field

- Other similar material in the collection
- Demand for and intrinsic value of a specific title

## **Deselecting/Weeding**

Judicious and systematic discarding of library materials is necessary to keep the collection attractive, useful, and current staff may weed the collection due to the following:

- Currentness: Item is no longer current, relevant, or accurate
- Surplus: Too many copies of one title or in subject area
- New edition: Older edition regularly replaced when new edition published
- Infrequent use: Item has low to no recent circulation
- Condition: Item is damaged, missing pages, or worn out
- Space: Shelving space is no longer available.

Material weeded will be donated to the Friends of the Loomis Library, recycled, given away, or discarded.

## **Organization**

Organization and placement of material within the library is generally based upon assigned classification, subject area, genre, format, and appropriate age groupings. The library primarily uses the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system and Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) to determine placement. These tools divide materials by subject or genre. When these factors are absent or lacking, staff will use reviews by professionals in the field or information from the material to determine placement.

## **Accessibility**

The public, regardless of age, has free access to all library material selected and placed in the collection. Placement of material within the library is generally based upon assigned classification and appropriate age groupings. Some items need protection because of rarity, cost, susceptibility to loss or damage, fragility, or format unsuited to heavy use. These items are often available by request only.

Any restriction of a minor's access to material is the responsibility of the parents or guardians, not library staff. The library cannot act in loco parentis, thus staff cannot restrict access of library material to minors.

## **Requests for Reconsideration**

The library strives to maintain a collection with a broad appeal for all the citizens in Loomis. To this end, the library has adopted the American Library Associations, Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement. [See the appendices for the full text of each document]

Patrons and members of the staff may advise the library if they feel that material has been added to the collection in violation of this policy. The concerned person should contact the Community Engagement Librarian and complete a "Request for Reconsideration of Materials: form available at the front desk. [ See appendices for a copy of this form.]

The Community Engagement Librarian will report this information to the Library Board. The Library Board will then determine if the material in question was selected according to this policy. The concerned person or group will be notified by the Community Engagement Librarian of the Board's decision. Challenged materials will remain in the collection until the Board's final decision. Under no circumstances will the personal view or taste of either the Community Engagement Librarian or the members of the Library Board concerning the material be criteria in making a ruling. The determination will be made solely on the basis of compliance with the Collection Development Policy.

## Code of Ethics of the American Library Association

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

- I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.
- II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.
- III. We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.
- IV. We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
- V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.
- VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.
- VII. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.
- VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of coworkers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.

Adopted at the 1939 Midwinter Meeting by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 1981; June 28, 1995; and January 22, 2008.

The previous version of this file has long held the **incorrect amendment date of June 28, 1997**; the [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) regrets and apologizes for the error.

# *Library 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.

Adopted June 19, 1939.

Amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980;  
inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council.

# The 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.

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This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

*A Joint Statement by:*

[American Library Association](#)  
[Association of American Publishers](#)

*Subsequently endorsed by:*

[American Booksellers for Free Expression](#)  
[The Association of American University Presses](#)  
[The Children's Book Council](#)  
[Freedom to Read Foundation](#)  
[National Association of College Stores](#)  
[National Coalition Against Censorship](#)  
[National Council of Teachers of English](#)  
[The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression](#)

## 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 provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979.

This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989. Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council

Suggestion for Purchase Form

Material type:

- book     audiobook
- large print    DVD
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be placed on hold for this item?

- yes     no

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestion for Purchase Form

Material type:

- book     audiobook
- large print    DVD
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be placed on hold for this item?

- yes     no

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestion for Purchase Form

Material type:

- book     audiobook
- large print    DVD
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be placed on hold for this item?

- yes     no

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestion for Purchase Form

Material type:

- book     audiobook
- large print    DVD
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be placed on hold for this item?

- yes     no

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form

Loomis Library & Community Learning Center

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While much care has gone into the selection of materials, we recognize that not everything we select will meet with the approval of the community. One of the basic responsibilities of a public library is to provide materials from multiple viewpoints of a controversial or debatable issue. The library, by selecting such material, does not promote or support any particular viewpoint. Items will not be marked, labeled or sequestered to show approval or disapproval of an item. Widely used labeling systems such as the Motion Picture Association of America ratings may be used to identify what audience a video was marketed to. The community may make a request for an item in the collection to be moved or withdrawn by filling out the form below. Upon receipt of the form, the library director will assign the item to a librarian for review and response.

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Format: \_\_\_\_\_ (book, DVD, etc.)  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_ Publication date: \_\_\_\_\_

Request initiated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this request made on behalf of?  
 Yourself or  Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you read/viewed this title in its entirety?

What is your objection to the material? (Please specify and cite pages)

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Is there anything positive about the material?

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State the reason for your request:

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Action requested:

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Have you read the Loomis Library collection development policy?

Yes  No

Are you aware of the judgment of this material by literary critics or area subject specialists?

Yes  No

Please provide names of reviewers and citations for reviews, if known:

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Can you recommend material of comparable literary quality or another title that would convey the same perspective of the subject created?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by Staff Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed & Responded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_