

Policy 408.0: Censorship and Citizens Requests

Reviewed: 11/16/15

Revised: 11/16/15

Approved: 11/30/15

1. LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>)

- A. The Library is a forum for information and ideas. Books and other Library resources shall be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community. Materials shall not be excluded because of the origin, background or views of those contributing to their creation.
- B. The Library shall provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials shall not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- C. The Library shall challenge censorship in the fulfillment of its responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- D. The Library shall cooperate with all persons or groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- E. A person's right to use the Library shall not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.

2. CENSORSHIP ISSUES

- A. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
- B. Publishers, librarians and book sellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation contained in the books 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 books should be published or distributed.

3. CHALLENGES TO MATERIALS IN THE COLLECTION

The American Library Association Library Bill of Rights Article I states "Materials should not be excluded because of their origin, background, or view of those contributing to their creation." Article II further states "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." Librarians are receptive to comments regarding the collection and will discuss with any citizen concepts outlined in the collection policy. Citizens wishing to formalize a comment regarding an item in the collection will be referred to the librarians and the Library will follow a standard procedure for handling the complaint and comments regarding Library materials.