

San Bernardino County

Collection Development Policy

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San Bernardino County Library Collection Development Policy

1. Mission Statement

The San Bernardino County Library System (SBCL) is a dynamic network of 32 branch libraries that serves a diverse population over a vast geographic area. SBCL strives to provide equal access to information, technology, programs, and services for all the people who call San Bernardino County home.

Vision

SBCL envisions its role as an educational and recreational service for all the people of San Bernardino County. By utilizing the resources of SBCL's meeting spaces, technology, materials, programs, services, and staff we envision adding to the quality of life and strengthening the community identity everywhere a branch library currently operates. SBCL envisions accomplishing this by being a partner, an educator, a resource, and a guide upon which the public, educational institutions, business, industry, and government can rely for accurate and timely information, lifelong opportunities, recreational and intellectual stimulation, and cultural enrichment.

The San Bernardino County Library (Library) supports the individual's right to have access to ideas and information representing all points of view. The Library upholds the American Library Association's (ALA) "Library Bill of Rights," "Freedom to Read" Statement, and "Freedom to View" Statement.

2. Purpose of Collection Development Policy

- a. The San Bernardino County Library's Collection Development Policy is approved by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and is one of the Library's fundamental policy documents.
- b. The purpose of the Collection Development Policy is to serve as a guide for San Bernardino County Library professionals in regards to collection development, management, and material selection. It defines what comprises the Library material collection, specifies the types of materials that are included, and explains the basis for making collection management decisions. The policy also serves to inform the public about the Library's collection and the principles that govern the selection process.
- c. The goals and objectives stated in this policy will not replace the judgment of library professionals and are designed to assist in the selection process.

- d. The Library will continuously work to curate a collection representing a wide array of people, cultures, ideas, and experiences. The process of curating, maintaining, and providing a diverse and equitable collection is an ongoing process which is considered during all aspects of collection management. The Collection Development Policy ensures that over time, the San Bernardino County Library's collection will remain on course and reflect the needs of the San Bernardino County's community, while creating unique experiences of meaning and inspiration for the individual customer.
- e. In support of its mission, the Library endorses and adopts the following statements used as guidelines for the development of the Library's collections: American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights," "Freedom to Read" Statement, and "Freedom to View" Statement attached and incorporated herein as Appendix C, D, and E respectively.
- f. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 1825 and California Education Code Section 19802, San Bernardino County acknowledges the following statements regarding the Library's Collection Development Policy:
 - i. The collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respects both the library's autonomy and their specific community needs.
 - ii. The public library serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas.
 - iii. Library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole.
 - iv. The right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences is acknowledged.

3. Collection Development Goals and Scope

- a. The primary responsibility of the San Bernardino County Library is to provide a broad and diverse choice of materials to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. Therefore, the Library's collection, both physical and digital, is reviewed on an ongoing basis to meet current needs in varying formats to acknowledge the importance of books and newer technology as sources of valuable information. This policy supports the Library's goals as outlined below:
 - i. Provide popular materials;
 - ii. Promote lifelong learning, exploration, discovery, and enrichment;
 - iii. Support diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and
 - iv. Provide a space for community gathering.

- b. Customer use is one of the most powerful influences on the Library's collection of physical and digital items. Circulation, customer purchase requests, and hold levels are all closely monitored, influencing the purchase of new items and additional copies of high demand items.
- c. Inherent in the collection development process is an appreciation for each customer of the San Bernardino County Library of all age groups. The Library provides materials to support all of our customer's journeys and does not place a value on one customer's needs or preferences over another's.
- d. Materials for children and teenagers are intended to broaden their vision, support recreational reading, encourage and facilitate reading skills, supplement their educational needs, stimulate and widen their interests, lead to recognition and appreciation of literature, and reflect the diversity of the community. The reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents, legal guardians, or caregivers who guide and oversee their own child's development. The San Bernardino County Library does not intrude on that relationship and the Library does not serve *in loco parentis*.
- e. Selection of library materials and resources is the responsibility of the library professionals of the San Bernardino County Library. Other staff members and the public may recommend materials for consideration or for reconsideration. Library management retains the authority to reject or select any item contrary to the recommendations of staff and the public.
- f. To support an informed public, the collection shall represent diverse points of view, and may include materials that some members of the public consider to be controversial in nature. The Library will provide free and equitable access to library collections to all users. In selecting materials, library professionals use professional reference resources, judgement, knowledge, and experience to select these materials, and will proactively solicit advice from, as well as anticipate the needs and interests of, the community.

4. Collection Development Guidelines

- a. The selection of any material or resource whether physical, digital or otherwise does not constitute an endorsement by the Library, the County of San Bernardino, or its staff.
- b. The Library recognizes that library materials and resources may be controversial or unpopular with segments of the public.
- c. Selection decisions are guided by the merits of the work, collection needs, and interests of a diverse collection which can support the roles of the Library as a reference center, learning center, educational center, and community center for the County's diverse community.

- d. Selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that material may be accessible to children.
- e. The Library selects materials of varying complexity, media, and format because it serves a public that includes a wide range of ages, educational backgrounds, interests, sensory preferences, and reading skills. When library professionals review and select materials for purchase, they consider the needs of the entire community.
- f. The Library may select materials that are to be used in the Library only such as reference materials for example.
- g. Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents and nothing will be sequestered except to protect it from theft or damage.
- h. Each type of material must be considered in terms of its own merits and its intended audience. A single standard does not apply to all acquisition decisions; therefore, some material may be chosen to fulfill recreational needs of the community, while others may be selected because of their artistic merit, scholarship, or value to humanity.
- i. Library materials that experience high demand, may or may not meet the general and specific criteria contained in this policy. Volume and nature of customer requests are a serious consideration for selectors. Additionally, as the community's social and intellectual climate changes, materials not originally recommended for purchase may become of interest.
- j. All materials are purchased via County Counsel, Purchasing, and Risk Management Department approved vendors.
- k. Materials donated to the Library are not automatically added to the collection.
- l. Works produced by authors with San Bernardino County connections may be digitally submitted to our online Biblioboard Library.

5. Selection Criteria

Collection development decisions are based on designated library professionals' training, knowledge, expertise, and the cost of materials. Materials are available in a variety of formats and quantities. Selection criteria includes but is not limited to the following general criteria to select new and donated materials for the collection:

- a. Relevance to the interests and needs of the community.
- b. Extent of publicity, critical review, and current or anticipated demand.
- c. Current or historical significance of the author or subject.
- d. Relevance to the existing collection's strengths and weaknesses.
- e. Reputation and qualifications of the author, publisher, or producer, with preference generally given to titles vetted through the examination of professional reviews (ex. *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, etc.).

- f. Suitability of format to Library circulation and use.
- g. Date of publication.
- h. Diversity of collections with a focus on being equitable in representation of subjects, authors, and protagonists.
- i. Price, availability, space available in the Library, and Library materials budget.

The Library is not a research library and does not purchase the following types of material: costly books of little demand, collectibles, used books or items, textbooks, or family genealogies. In addition, abridged, expurgated, or condensed materials are also generally not acquired.

6. Customer Recommendations and Requests

Customers may request items the Library does not presently own. Each request is reviewed for inclusion in the collection and will follow the collection maintenance guidelines and selection criteria listed in this policy. Unfortunately, we cannot purchase every requested item. Requests can be made in person at a branch location or online via the Library's website.

7. Maintenance of Library Materials

- a. Library materials are processed in a way as to ensure their maximum use under normal circumstances.
- b. Titles and items may be withdrawn from the collection through periodic, systematic review by library professionals. Materials may be withdrawn because they are worn, obsolete, or seldom used; superseded by a newer edition or better work on the subject; or physically damaged or in poor condition as further addressed in Section 10.

8. Collection Management Overview

The Library's collection is a living, changing entity. As items are added, others are reviewed for their ongoing value and sometimes are withdrawn from the collection. Great care is taken to retain or replace items that have enduring value to the community. Decisions are influenced by patterns of use, the capacity of each location, and the holdings of other libraries that may specialize in a given subject matter. Staff review the collection regularly to maintain its vitality and usefulness to the community.

9. Responsibility for Collection Management

The final authority for the Library collection rests with Library management. Implementation of this Collection Development Policy and management of the collection is assigned to trained library professionals. The San Bernardino County Library

disposes of materials that have been withdrawn according to the criteria for weeding and withdrawal outlined below.

10. Criteria for Weeding and Withdrawal

- a. The following criteria are used in selecting materials for withdrawal:
 - i. Damage or poor condition
 - ii. Number of copies in the collection
 - iii. Relevance to the needs and interest of the community
 - iv. Current demand and frequency of use
 - v. Accuracy and timeliness
 - vi. Lack of interest
 - vii. Availability elsewhere including other libraries and online
 - viii. Deemed to be of an enduring nature
 - ix. Availability of improved or new editions
 - x. Space availability
- b. In addition, management uses the following guidelines when weeding digital items and digital resources:
 - i. Circulation of items or use of resource for the prior fiscal year
 - ii. Cost of replacing or extending digital items or resource subscriptions
- c. Replacement of materials that are withdrawn is not automatic. The following criteria are considered when determining the need for replacement:
 - i. Number of copies in surrounding area libraries
 - ii. Existence of adequate coverage of the subject
 - iii. Demand for the specific title or for material in that subject area
 - iv. Existence of a newer format as a replacement
 - v. Cost of replacement
- d. Withdrawn materials are sent for reuse and recycling via the Sustainable Shelves program powered by Baker & Taylor, Inc. Materials unsuitable for the program are sent to County Surplus or discarded or recycled. The Library will not accept requests to hold weeded materials for individuals.
- e. Donated items not added to the Library collection may be discarded or given to the San Bernardino County Library's Friends of the Library groups who sell them to fund donations that benefit the Library.
- f. Popular magazines are typically held for the following schedule:
 - i. Weekly magazines – three months.
 - ii. Monthly magazines – six months; with regional Manager approval, magazines may be held for one year if space is adequate.
 - iii. Daily newspapers – 5 months.

11. Gifts and Donations

The San Bernardino County Library accepts donations of materials and gift books if room permits with the understanding that the Library determines whether the materials will be added, sold, reassigned or discarded. Any materials not added to the collection are not returned to the donor.

The Library does not evaluate or appraise gift materials for tax purposes.

Monetary donations are accepted and the Library will make determinations on the best way to utilize the donations. The San Bernardino County Library reserves the right to accept or refuse conditions placed upon gifts of materials or funds.

12. Scope of Branch Library Collections

Branch Libraries serve the needs of the communities in which they are located. Collections include but are not limited to print, audio, and audiovisual formats including materials of an enduring nature as well as current-interest materials. Branch collections represent the diverse viewpoints and interests of the diverse community of San Bernardino County. Trained library professionals regularly evaluate the collection to ensure its relevance. Collections of the branch Libraries concentrate on materials of high interest and materials that support the Library's overall goals. Branch collections are shaped, in part, by customer requests as well as collection building requests approved by branch managers.

13. Scope of Online Collection

The online collection represents the diverse viewpoints and interests of the entire community that San Bernardino County serves. This collection includes but is not limited to databases, eBooks, eAudiobooks, online learning resources, downloadable and streaming media, websites, instructional platforms, and digitized versions of physical media. Demand for a digital item may or may not mirror that of the physical item. As a result, the digital collection may include titles, genres, and formats that are not included in the physical collection and vice versa. All materials or subscriptions are purchased via County Counsel, Purchasing, and Risk Management Department approved vendors. Digital collections are selected using the same criteria above, with the following additions or exceptions:

- a. Databases: The Library provides customer access to various online resources, which offer lifelong learning and research opportunities. These are subscription-based paid resources that the library offers to County residents for free. Additional selection criteria:
 - i. Ease of use
 - ii. Feedback on database trials
 - iii. Number of simultaneous users
 - iv. Remote access

- v. Relationship of the resource to the print and digital collection
- vi. Usage statistics
- b. Outside Websites: The Library may include a limited number of resources and databases on the website that complement our paid subscriptions. These resources are carefully curated by our Collection Development team.
 - i. Relationship of the resource to the print and digital collection.
 - ii. Scope of the website. Sites with a broader scope that appeal to a wide audience are given greater consideration.
 - iii. Clear identification and reliability of the information providers.
 - iv. Accuracy and appropriateness of content.
 - v. Presence of ads, pop-up or otherwise.
 - vi. Level of commerciality.
 - vii. Sites that charge Library customers to use some or all of the content on the site are not added, unless the free content is significant, and the site does not use aggressive marketing techniques to encourage the customer to pay for the additional content.

14. Requests for Reconsideration

14.1. Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

The San Bernardino County Library selects collection materials using the above established criteria and full consideration of the varying age groups and backgrounds of customers. Requests for reconsideration of items in the collection may be made by all San Bernardino County Library cardholders via the formal procedure outlined below and with the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form attached as Appendix A.

- a. The San Bernardino County Library recognizes that at any given time some materials may be deemed inappropriate or offensive by customers. Selection of materials are based on the principles stated in this policy. Materials will not be identified to show approval or disapproval. No materials will be sequestered except to protect it from damage or theft.
- b. The Library believes that censorship is purely an individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject for themselves books and other materials that they do not approve of, they cannot exercise this right of censorship to other persons to read or use other library materials. The San Bernardino County Library adheres to and supports the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read Statement, the American Library Association’s Freedom to View Statement, and the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights (See Appendix C, D, and E).
- c. Responsibility for supervising children’s use of the Library and Library materials rests with parents or legal guardians. At no time will the Library

staff act *in loco parentis*. Selection of Library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may come into the possession of children.

- d. Customers requesting that an item be moved or withdrawn from the San Bernardino County Library collection must complete a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form, a sample of which is included in Appendix A of this policy. The form must be completed fully and then turned in to Library staff or sent to the Library Administration office to begin the reconsideration process.
- e. Customers must be a library cardholder of the County of San Bernardino Library to have their request considered and only one request per customer will be considered at a time. A careful review of the request will be done by administrative staff at San Bernardino County Library Administration and a formal written response will be sent to the customer in a timely manner.
- f. Once a title has been considered, it will not be reviewed again for a period of 12 months.

14.2 Request for Reconsideration of Internet Sites

San Bernardino County allows Internet access via Library branch computers and WIFI access. If a customer would like to request that a website be removed from or added to our Internet filters, the Request for Reconsideration of Internet Sites form should be filled out, a sample of which is found in Appendix B.

15. Appendix of the Collection Development Policy includes:

- A. San Bernardino County Library - Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form
- B. Request for Reconsideration of Internet Sites Form
- C. American Library Association "Library Bill of Rights"
- D. American Library Association "Freedom to Read" Statement
- E. American Library Association "Freedom to View" Statement

Appendix

APPENDIX A - San Bernardino County Library - Request for Reconsideration of
Library Materials

Your Name: _____ Library Card#: _____

Date: ____/____/____ Address: _____

Author/Artist: _____

Title: _____

Please briefly answer the following questions about the item that you would like to have reconsidered.

1. Have you discussed your concerns with staff? Are you representing yourself or a group in this request? If you are representing a group, please identify the group.

2. How did you learn of this item?

3. What are your objections to this item? State your specific concerns (pages, words, etc.)

4. What harm do you feel might result from reading/listening to/viewing this work?

5. Did you read/listen to/view the work in its entirety? If not, what parts did you read/listen to/view?

6. Have you read any professional reviews of the work? If so, please list the names of critics and sources of reviews.

7. What do you think are the main ideas of the work or what was the author's/artist's purpose in creating this work?

8. What suggestion do you have a work with a similar purpose to replace this item?

9. What would you like the Library to do with this material?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Please return this completed form to Library staff or mail to:

**San Bernardino County Library – Attn Collection Development Lead
268 W. Hospitality Lane, 3rd Floor, Suite 301
San Bernardino, CA 92415**

Your request will be carefully considered by administrative staff at San Bernardino County Library Administration. You will receive a written response to your request in a timely manner.

Signature and Date



Library

APPENDIX B- Request for Reconsideration of Internet Sites

Public terminals are equipped with a device designed to block access to objectionable sites. Due to the nature of this software, San Bernardino County Library cannot ensure that users will not be able to access information they may find objectionable. It is also possible that potentially useful sites may also be blocked. If you wish to have a site reconsidered for inclusion or exclusion from public access, please complete the following information:

Branch:

URL address:

Reason for inclusion or exclusion:

Name:

E-Mail:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Library Administration Use:

Site is currently: ☐ Blocked ☐ Unblocked

Action taken: ☐ Site will be blocked ☐ Site will be unblocked ☐ Site will continue to be blocked

Reason:

APPENDIX C - American Library Association “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.

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.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of “age” reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

APPENDIX D - 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.

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.

APPENDIX E - 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 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