



**Monday, September 12, 2022  
Library Board Meeting**

**Library Meeting Room  
3815 Sachse Road, Building C  
7:00 p.m.**

**If you have any comments to submit regarding the agenda or other items related to the agenda, please e-mail those to [dlaney@cityofsachse.com](mailto:dlaney@cityofsachse.com).**

**A. Regular Meeting**

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1. Call to Order: The Library Board of the City of Sachse will hold a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following items of business:
2. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flags.
3. Consider approval of the August 8, 2022, meeting minutes.
4. Receive and discuss the Library Manager's monthly report.
5. Consider approval of an amended Library Collection Development Policy.
6. Discuss Library Board announcements regarding special events, current activities, and local achievements.
7. Request for future agenda items.
8. Adjournment.

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this notice of meeting was posted in accordance with the regulations of the Texas Open Meetings Act and was posted on the bulletin board, an accessible location at Sachse City Hall.

  
Leah K Granger, City Secretary

Posted: 09/08/2022 by 4 p.m. Removed: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation requests for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting Amanda Chi, ADA Coordinator, via phone at 975.429.4770, via email at [achi@cityofsachse.com](mailto:achi@cityofsachse.com), or by appointment at 3815 Sachse Road, Building B, Sachse, Texas 75048.



### Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Sep 12, 2022 - Library Board Meeting
Category	A. Regular Meeting
Subject	3. Consider approval of the August 8, 2022, meeting minutes.
Access	Public
Type	Action, Minutes
Recommended Action	Approve the minutes as presented.
Minutes	<a href="#">View Minutes for Aug 8, 2022 - Library Board Meeting</a>

### Public Content

[08.08.2022 Library Board Minutes.pdf \(119 KB\)](#)

**LIBRARY BOARD OF THE CITY OF SACHSE  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 8, 2022**

The Library Board of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Monday, July 11, 2022, at 7 p.m. at Sachse Library, 3815-C Sachse Road. Those present were Chairperson Dashe Williams; Vice-Chairperson John Morris; Board Members Joshua Frick and ‘Dia Rhoden; and Manager of Library Services Daniel Laney.

**Members Absent:** Marion Simpson, Rhia Johnson, and Cindy Woodcock

Chairperson Williams called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

**Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flags.**

Ms. Williams led the invocation and the Pledges of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.

**Consider approval of the June 13, 2022 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Laney indicated there was an error on the June 2022 minutes that would need to be corrected. The minutes incorrectly listed Jim Mathis as a member of the Library Board. The minutes were approved unanimously with this correction on a motion by John Morris, seconded by Dashe Williams.

**Consider approval of the July 11, 2022 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Laney informed the Board there was also an error with the July 2022 minutes where Jim Mathis was listed as a member of the Library Board. The July 2022 minutes were approved unanimously with this correction on a motion by John Morris, seconded by Joshua Frick.

**Receive and discuss the Library Manager’s monthly report.**

The Board received and discussed the library manager’s report for July 2022. Mr. Laney indicated that the Library remained very busy throughout the month of July, with statistics being up in almost every category. Mr. Laney also informed the Board that he expects the Library to exceed record checkout numbers by the end of the year.

Mr. Frick asked Mr. Laney for clarification on the circulation statistics for Manga and Graphic Novels listed in the report in regards to what the differences are between these materials and their targeted audience. Mr. Laney and Technical Services Librarian Matina Newsom responded with an explanation of what constitutes a Manga or Graphic Novel, as well as information about their content and intended audience.

**Receive and discuss a report on the results of Summer Reading 2022.**

The Board received a statistical report from Mr. Laney on the results of the Summer Reading Program. Mr. Laney informed the Board that while participation in the Summer Reading Program was much higher than the last several years, including a record number of hours read, the special events and programs had mixed results due to the summer heat wave. Attendance was lower at outdoor events during the second half of the summer. Mr. Laney indicated that the Library is in the process of looking into alternative venues for next year’s special events, and might potentially host future events at the Michael J. Felix Community Center.

Mr. Laney also discussed the feedback the Library had received from several families regarding utilization of the Beanstack app for tracking reading for kids, teens, and adults. The Library will take this information into account in order to improve the Summer Reading Program for next year.

**Receive an update regarding the introduction of a new Library Card design in September 2022 for Library Card Sign-Up Month.**

Mr. Laney presented an updated library card design featuring the new City of Sachse branding and images of the Library building. The new library card design will roll out in September, and the Library will temporarily waive the \$1 card replacement fee for all current cardholders in recognition of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Cold Stone Creamery at The Station has also agreed to offer incentives for new cardholders and current cardholders who switch to the updated design.

**Receive a report from Technical Services Librarian Matina Newsom regarding her job duties and responsibilities.**

The Library's new Technical Services Librarian, Matina Newsom, gave a presentation on her job duties and responsibilities. Ms. Newsom started as the Library's Technical Services Librarian in May 2022. Prior to coming to Sachse, she was the Stacks and Evening Supervisor at the University of North Texas' Sycamore Library. As Technical Services Librarian, Ms. Newsom is responsible for collection development, cataloging and processing, and collection maintenance for the Library. Ms. Newsom provided the Library with an overview of these aspects of her responsibilities.

Following Ms. Newsom's presentation, Mr. Frick asked several questions relating to the Library's processes for ordering new materials, including physical and digital items, as well as criteria and procedures for weeding out and deselection of physical items.

**Discuss Library Board Announcements regarding special events, current activities, and local achievements.**

There were no Library Board announcements.

**Request for future agenda items.**

Mr. Laney informed the Board that Shelley Salcido, the new Senior Librarian in charge of programming, will start work at the Library soon and will give a presentation at a future meeting regarding her job duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Laney also indicated that staff will soon begin the process of updating Library policies, and will present them at future meetings for approval by the Board.

Mr. Frick requested an agenda item for an upcoming meeting to discuss the Library's policies on purchasing multiple copies of individual titles.

**Adjournment.**

Chairperson Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

APPROVE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dashe Williams, Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Morris, Vice-Chairperson



### **Agenda Item Details**

Meeting	Sep 12, 2022 - Library Board Meeting
Category	A. Regular Meeting
Subject	4. Receive and discuss the Library Manager's monthly report.
Access	Public
Type	Discussion, Reports

### **Public Content**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Staff will make announcements, present monthly statistics, discuss upcoming projects, events, and community outreach.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no policy considerations affiliated with this item.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and discuss the Library Manager's monthly report.

[August 2022 Library Manager's Report.pdf \(82 KB\)](#)



Departmental Report		August 2022	
Fiscal Year (previous)		Fiscal Year (current)	
This Month	Year to Date	This Month	Year to Date

### Collection

Number of Titles	35,761		36,282	
Number of Items	37,096		37,526	
Number of New Items	608	4,565	395	4,020
Number of Items Removed	173	3,389	118	3,246
Donated Items Added	5	118	8	55
Number of E-Books	3,905		4,019	
Number of New E-Books	54	554	63	462

### Patrons

Number of Patrons	10,121		9,604	
Number of New Patrons	28	807	164	1,467
Number of Patrons Removed	0	9	1	2,090

### Circulation

	Initial	Total	Year to Date	Initial	Total	Year to Date
Total Circulation	9,147	13,259	111,242	10,167	14,569	139,643
Adult Fiction	482	775	6,551	496	888	7,933
Adult Non-Fiction	261	566	4,294	222	450	4,727
Juvenile Fiction	3,288	5,522	40,867	3,211	5,439	54,141
YA materials	94	197	1,784	149	321	2,484
Manga / Graphic Novels	113	160	1,312	241	393	2,325
Interlibrary Loans	23	28	271	47	58	373
Juvenile Non-Fiction	503	898	7,660	592	1,139	10,978
DVDs & Blu-Ray	563	1,271	9,564	505	1,149	12,877
Board Games, Card Games, & Puzzle	163	182	583	303	331	2,375
Literacy Kits	33	35	86	20	20	284
Hoopla	1,009	1,009	8,162	1,254	1,254	11,634
CloudLibrary (Sachse Patrons)	1,062	1,062	11,388	1,323	1,323	12,624
CloudLibrary (Other Patrons)	1,550	1,550	18,594	1,804	1,804	16,888

### Programs and Services

Number of Internet Sessions	154	1,075	242	1,876
Number of Programs	9	88	9	174
Program Attendance	165	3,476	91	7,209
Number of Volunteer Hours	41	80	45	397
Meeting Room Rentals			6	73
3D Print Requests	20	283	517	1,293
ILL Incoming Requests	24	231	43	329
ILL Incoming Received	24	243	48	331
ILL Outgoing Requests	122	1,201	130	1,038
ILL Outgoing Shipped	66	713	68	539
Literacy Computer Uses	522	3,479	1,010	8,624
Door Count	2,880	25,978	4,116	40,039

Programs	Date	Participation
After School Dungeons & Dragons	3-Aug	7
Greta the Reading Therapy Dog	9-Aug	1
Adult Craft Night	11-Aug	21
Family Game Night	16-Aug	26
After School Dungeons & Dragons	17-Aug	6
Family Game Night	23-Aug	12
Greta the Reading Therapy Dog	23-Aug	7
Adult/Teen Dungeons & Dragons	25-Aug	6
Toddler Story Time	31-Aug	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>91</b>

Programs by Type	Number	Participation
Story Times	1	5
Children's Programs & Events	1	8
Teen Programs & Events	2	13
Adult Programs & Events	2	27
Family Programs & Events	2	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>91</b>



### **Agenda Item Details**

Meeting	Sep 12, 2022 - Library Board Meeting
Category	A. Regular Meeting
Subject	5. Consider approval of an amended Library Collection Development Policy.
Access	Public
Type	Action, Discussion
Recommended Action	Approve the amended Library Collection Development Policy.

### **Public Content**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Collection Development Policy guides the Library's practices for developing its collection of print and digital materials. The Collection Development Policy was originally approved in 2007 and previously amended in 2014.

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Library Manager will present an amended Library Collection Development Policy.

#### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Library Board will consider the amended Library Collection Development Policy.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the amended Library Collection Development Policy.

[Collection Development Policy Amended 9-12-2022.pdf \(259 KB\)](#)



# Sachse Public Library

## Collection Development Policy 2022

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Purpose**

This Collection Development Policy defines the specific selection of print and non-print materials of the Sachse Public Library. A separate policy has been developed for the use of the Internet. This policy does not relate to materials provided by Internet services.

This policy was developed by the Library Manager. The original policy was approved by the Library Board on March 9, 2007 and by City Council on May 7, 2007. An amended policy was approved by the Library Board and by the City Council in 2014. This policy will be reviewed by the Library Board every five years to ensure that the information remains current and pertinent.

#### **Statement of Intellectual Freedom**

The Library endorses the American Library Association's (ALA's) Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, Freedom to View, Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors, and the Texas Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement (See Appendices A, B, C, D, and E). These five documents are considered guiding principles for this Collection Development Policy.

Access to library materials will not be restricted beyond what is required to protect materials from theft or damage. Responsibility for the reading content of children rests with their parents and legal guardians. Parents who wish to limit or restrict the reading content of their own child should personally oversee that child's choice of reading material. Selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that books may come into the possession of children.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We link people to the world by enriching lives, creating community, and inspiring curiosity.

### **COMMUNITY SERVED**

Sachse is located in the Dallas metropolitan area 20 miles from downtown Dallas, and it has a population of 26,046 (source: Texas State Library and Archives Commission). Sachse is divided between Collin and Dallas Counties.

### **PURPOSE OF THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

Since the Library cannot acquire or retain all print and non-print materials, it must establish guidelines that describe what it provides and why. This policy presents the guidelines followed by the Sachse Public Library, and explains the principles and criteria staff use to add materials to, or withdraw from, the collection. It establishes limits and priorities on collection parameters and assists in budgeting decisions. The policy informs the public how they can make recommendations about the collection, educates staff and the public about challenges to items in the collection, and provides guidelines for accepting, declining, evaluating, and acknowledging gifts.



The goal of this policy is to express the Library's commitment to provide materials that meet the needs and interests of all the residents of Sachse.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTION MANAGEMENT**

Ultimate responsibility for management of the collection lies with the Library Manager, who delegates remaining responsibility to Library staff.

As a library whose primary service priorities are Current Topics and Titles and Lifelong Learning, the Sachse Public Library does not collect materials simply for the sake of collecting. Materials are expected to meet the needs and interests of customers in their day-to-day lives. The collection is never an end in itself, but rather a means of enabling residents to:

- Enrich their personal lives
- Educate themselves in areas of personal interest
- Develop informed opinions about issues of the day
- Gain an appreciation and understanding of other people and cultures
- Gather, use, and evaluate information successfully
- Access media for entertainment and recreation

Consequently, the Library provides a wide variety of materials at different levels and in various formats for people of every age, education, background, personal philosophy, religious belief, occupation, economic level, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, and condition. The Library makes no judgments about what a person finds relevant, helpful, or enjoyable.

### **FORMAT**

The nature of the medium and the technical quality of production are additional factors to be considered in selecting audio, video, electronic, and other formats. Selectors use the same care and standards for all formats. The determination to add a new format to the Library's collection is based on a variety of factors. These factors include interest of the community, the widespread access to technology to utilize a new format, cost per title, and the ability of the Library to process, house, and circulate a type of format. Some titles may be purchased in the only format available.

### **SELECTION PHILOSOPHY**

Since no public library can afford to acquire or house the complete annual output of the publishing industry, a process of selection must take place. The Sachse Public Library strives to provide a collection that is current, balanced, and representative of all fields of knowledge to the extent of its financial limitations. The purpose of the policy is to provide the staff with guidelines for the selection of materials, and:

- To designate the Library Manager as the person responsible for developing and maintaining the collection. Readers' suggestions will be given serious consideration within the general criteria; however, final purchase decisions rest with the Library Manager and other professional staff.
- Prejudice will be avoided by not labeling materials other than by providing classification, directional aids, and major categories of interest patterns. The distinction between the children and youth versus the adult section will be made only on the assumed differential interest patterns, respectively. Appropriateness of the materials for minors is the sole responsibility of the parent/legal guardian of their own child/children.
- The materials selection and accessibility policies of the Sachse Public Library are based on the principles listed below:

- The freedom to read, along with the freedom to view, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. This freedom is held to be essential to our democracy and will be upheld, supported, and defended in the selection and provision of all library materials. (Refer to Appendices B and C)
- Freedom of choice in selecting materials is a necessary safeguard to the freedom to read, to hear, and to view.
- The Library and its associated authorities do not serve “in locos parentis” (in the place of a parent). Responsibility for overseeing children’s choices of reading materials rests with their parents and/or legal guardians, who may restrict their children, and only their children, from access to library materials. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of children. (Refer to Appendix D)
- Without exclusion, the Library will attempt to provide materials for all members of the community that it serves.
  - A person’s right to access and to use library materials will not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, ethnic background, nationality, or views.
- The Library is not a judicial body. Laws governing obscenity, subversive materials, and other questionable matters are subject to interpretation by the courts. Consequently, no challenged materials will be removed from the library collection because of complaints of obscenity, pornography, and other categories covered by law until after an independent court of competent jurisdiction, following an adversary hearing and in accordance with well-established principles of law, shall have ruled against the material. No materials will knowingly be selected which have previously been adjudicated to be in noncompliance with the law. The Library will uphold the principles of the ALA’s Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, Free Access to Libraries for Minors, Statement on Labeling, and the Texas Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Manual.

### **SELECTION RESPONSIBILITY**

- The Library will strive to provide a balance of viewpoints on all subjects in its collection.
- The Library will purchase current materials to meet the levels of demand and use.
- Library staff will evaluate the collection to ensure materials remain current and in good physical condition. Evaluation will be done using statistical data from the automation system whenever possible. Library staff encourage and welcome patrons’ suggestions, comments, and ideas about the collection and its development.
- The Library will attempt to select materials that represent a range of viewpoints and will do its best to exercise impartiality in selection decisions. The collection will represent as many sides of controversial issues as budget, space, and availability of materials allow. Selection will be based on criteria given throughout the policy. The race, religion, nationality, or political views of any author, the frankness of language, the controversial content of an item, or the endorsement or approval of an individual or group in the community will not automatically cause an item to be included or excluded. Materials are evaluated as a whole and not on the basis of a particular passage or illustration.

### **SELECTION AIDS**

Ideally, all materials added to the library collection would be read and viewed before purchase by a librarian with trained judgment, knowledge of the Library’s present resources, and acquaintance with the requirements of local users. However, circumstances make previewing all purchased materials extremely

time consuming, so the Library Manager or designated selector makes use of selection aids, such as basic general lists, current general lists, special bibliographies for reference materials and particular subject materials, and reviewing journals and newspapers. While reviews are a major resource of information about new materials, no one publication is relied on exclusively; the critical opinions of reviews are checked against each other when feasible. If reviews are not available, selectors may use their judgment to add resources if they determine it enhances the quality of the collection.

The professional librarians will use aids in the selection of materials, such as:

- Booklist
- Library Journal
- Ingram
- Amazon
- Novelist
- Edelweiss
- Other review media deemed acceptable by the Library Manager

## **COLLECTION MAINTENANCE**

### **De-selection (weeding)**

In order to maintain a collection of useful materials serving the evolving educational and intellectual needs of library users, careful weeding must occur. Weeding will be done under the direction of the Library Manager. Library staff will use the ALA's Crew Method as a guideline for weeding. As money permits, Library staff may replace weeded materials with more current titles on the same topic.

The three basic criteria for weeding are as follows:

- Content – Items that are outdated, obsolete, or inaccurate
- Condition – Items that are worn out or books with torn, soiled, or missing pages, broken spines, torn covers, or frayed bindings
- Use Patterns – Books that have not circulated for three years and unused, duplicate copies

### **Duplications**

The Library gives serious consideration to the number of requests for an item as a guide for duplication. Duplication must not be at the expense of important but less-demanded materials needed for the permanent collection. Popular demand, importance of the material, and budget limitations will be the determining factors. For popular works and bestsellers, the Library takes into account the number of reserves as a guideline. Additional copies of materials will be ordered as space and the budget allow.

### **Gifts and Donations**

The Library encourages and welcomes gifts of money for the purchase of library materials and equipment, and for the improvement of library facilities. When space allows, the Library may accept gifts or donations of materials for the collection. Gifts and donations of materials are subject to the same principles and standards of selection as outlined in the Collection Development Policy and applied to all materials added to the library collection.

Donations are final and become the property of the Sachse Public Library. The Library reserves the right to dispose of unneeded materials and to refuse gifts of materials. Most material the Library is unable to use are given to the Friends of the Library for sale or disposal. The Library will not accept materials that

are in poor physical condition or in outdated formats. Those making monetary donations may wish to recommend how their contributions are to be used. The Library will comply with such requests whenever possible; however, the Library reserves the right to commit donations to services and projects in keeping with its priorities.

The acquisition of valuable and rare books is not a function of the Sachse Public Library.

### **Disposal**

If the material to be discarded is substantial or has potential use for any institution (example: an older set of encyclopedias), staff may try to locate an interested library, school, or local group. If the material has been deemed valuable but outside the Collection Development Policy of the Library, staff may seek a buyer for the material. Generally, discarded materials are given to the Friends of the Library. The Friends have permission to sell discarded materials with income to benefit the Library.

### **RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

A patron may submit a Request for Reconsideration of Materials. All considerations of requests to remove materials will be reviewed using this selection policy as a guideline. In no instance will material be removed on demand or while the review process is ongoing.

In order to have a request considered, a patron must:

- Be a registered borrower of the Library.
- Read or view the work in its entirety.
- File a completed Request for Reconsideration of Materials form with the Library Manager.
- Supply his/her full name and address; anonymous requests will not be considered.

After the completed form is received, the Library Manager will review the reasons for the request and the material in question. The Library Manager will attempt to answer the request to the patron's satisfaction. If the patron is not satisfied with the Library Manager's action, he/she may request that the materials be reviewed by a Materials Review Committee. The committee will be composed of the Library Manager and the Library Board.

Decisions of the Materials Review Committee shall be final.

Any challenged title may be reconsidered once in a calendar year.

**SACHSE PUBLIC LIBRARY – REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Library Card # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Resource on which you are commenting:

\_\_\_\_\_ Book                      \_\_\_\_\_ Audiovisual Material                      \_\_\_\_\_ Magazine/newspaper

\_\_\_\_\_ Content of library program                      \_\_\_\_\_ Display                      \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author/Producer \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you representing an organization?        \_\_\_\_\_ Yes        \_\_\_\_\_ No

2. If yes, what is the name of the organization? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What brought this material to your attention? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your objection to the material? Please be specific; cite pages. If additional space is required, use back of form: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you feel might be the result of reading or using this material? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Did you read/view the work in its entirety?        \_\_\_\_\_ Yes        \_\_\_\_\_ No

7. In your judgment, is the material of any value? Why do you feel this way? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Are you aware of the judgment of this material by literary critics?        \_\_\_\_\_ Yes        \_\_\_\_\_ No

9. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material? \_\_\_\_\_

10. In its place, what material of equal literary quality would you recommend that would present as valuable a picture of, or perspective on, the subject? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What are you suggesting the Library do with this item? \_\_\_\_\_

Patron's signature \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## The 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.

## 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.

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.

## **The 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

## Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors

The American Library Association supports equal and equitable access to all library resources and services by users of all ages. Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users is in violation of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.

Article V of the Library Bill of Rights states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." The right to use a library includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, emancipatory or other legal status of users violates Article V. This includes minors who do not have a parent or guardian available to sign a library card application or permission slip. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness should be able to obtain a library card regardless of library policies related to chronological age.

School and public libraries are charged with the mission of providing services and resources to meet the diverse interests and informational needs of the communities they serve. Services, materials, and facilities that fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of providing library services and should be determined on an individual basis. Equitable access to all library resources and services should not be abridged based on chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, legal status, or through restrictive scheduling and use policies.

Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library's failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users.

Children and young adults unquestionably possess First Amendment rights, including the right to receive information through the library in print, sound, images, data, social media, online applications, games, technologies, programming, and other formats.<sup>1</sup> Constitutionally protected speech cannot be suppressed solely to protect children or young adults from ideas or images a legislative body believes to be unsuitable for them.<sup>2</sup> Libraries and their library governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections, because only a court of law can determine whether or not content is constitutionally protected.

Article VII of the Library Bill of Rights states, "All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use." This includes students and minors, who have a right to be free from any unreasonable intrusion into or surveillance of their lawful library use.<sup>3</sup>

The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries cannot authorize libraries and their governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians. As "Libraries: An American Value" states, "We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services."<sup>4</sup> Libraries and their governing bodies

cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's—and only their children's—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their own children. Libraries and library governing bodies should not use rating systems to inhibit a minor's access to materials.<sup>5</sup>

Libraries and their governing bodies have a legal and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the communities they serve have free and equitable access to a diverse range of library resources and services that is inclusive, regardless of content, approach, or format. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Libraries and their governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

<sup>1</sup> *Brown v. Entertainment Merchant's Association, et al.* 564 U.S. 08-1448 (2011).

<sup>2</sup> *Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205 (1975): "Speech that is neither obscene as to youths nor subject to some other legitimate proscription cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them. In most circumstances, the values protected by the First Amendment are no less applicable when government seeks to control the flow of information to minors." See also *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S.503 (1969); *West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); *AAMA v. Kendrick*, 244 F.3d 572 (7th Cir. 2001).

<sup>3</sup> "Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights," adopted June 19, 2002, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 2014; and June 24, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> "Libraries: An American Value," adopted on February 3, 1999, by ALA Council.

<sup>5</sup> "Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights," adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council; amended June 25, 2019.

Adopted June 30, 1972, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991; June 30, 2004; July 2, 2008 under previous name "Free Access to Libraries for Minors"; July 1, 2014; and June 25, 2019.

## The Texas Library Association Intellectual Freedom Statement

### A. PREAMBLE

The Texas Library Association holds that the freedom to read is a corollary of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. Freedom of choice in selecting materials is a necessary safeguard to the freedom to read, and shall be protected against extra-legal, irresponsible attempts by self-appointed censors to abridge it. The Association believes that it is the essence of democracy that citizens shall have the right of free inquiry and the equally important right of forming their own opinions, and that it is of the utmost importance to the continued existence of democracy that freedom of the press in all forms of public communication be defended and preserved. The Texas Library Association subscribes in full to the principles set forth in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association, Freedom to Read Statement, and interpretative statements adopted thereto.

### B. AREAS OF CONCERN

1. **LEGISLATION.** The Texas Library Association is concerned with legislation at the federal, state, local, and school district level which tends to strengthen the position of libraries and other media of communication as instruments of knowledge and culture in a free society. The Association is also concerned with monitoring proposed legislation at the federal, state, local, and school district level which might restrict, prejudice, or otherwise interfere with the selection, acquisition, or other professional activities of libraries, as expressed in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee works with the Legislative Committee to watch proposed legislation, at the various levels, which would restrict or interfere with the selection, acquisition, or other professional activities of libraries.

2. **INTERFERENCE.** The Association is concerned with proposed or actual restrictions imposed by individuals, voluntary committees, or administrative authority on library materials or on the selection judgments or on the procedures or practices of librarians.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee attempts to eliminate restrictions which are imposed on the use or selection of library materials or selection judgments or on the procedures or practices of librarians, receives requests for advice and assistance where freedom has been threatened or curtailed, and recommends action to the Executive Board where it appears necessary.

3. **MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY.** The Texas Library Association believes that every library, in order to strengthen its own selection process, and to provide an objective basis for evaluation of that process, should develop a written official statement of policy for the selection of library materials.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee encourages all libraries to develop a written statement of policy for the selection of library materials which includes an endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights.

4. **EDUCATION.** The Texas Library Association is concerned with the continuing education of librarians and the general public in understanding and implementing the philosophy inherent in the Library Bill of Rights and the ALA Freedom to Read Statement.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee supports an active educational program for librarians, trustees, and the general public.

5. **LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.** The Texas Library Association, in order to encourage a united front in defending the right to read, shall cooperate with other organizations concerned with intellectual freedom.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee advises on Texas Library Association positions and cooperates with other organizations.

Adopted September 15, 1992 by the TLA Council.

Reaffirmed April 7, 1995 by the TLA Council.



**Agenda Item Details**

Meeting	Sep 12, 2022 - Library Board Meeting
Category	A. Regular Meeting
Subject	6. Discuss Library Board announcements regarding special events, current activities, and local achievements.
Access	Public
Type	Discussion, Information

**Public Content**