

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## ACQUISITIONS

### PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Public Library selects and acquires library materials in a manner consistent with the principals promulgated in the "*Library Bill of Rights*" of the American Library Association (ALA). The library also endorses the ALA's "*Freedom to Read*" statement and the American Film and Video Association's "*Freedom to View*" statement. These statements provide the philosophical basis for the PBJC's materials selection procedures. Copies of the "*Library Bill of Rights*," the "*Freedom to Read*" and the "*Freedom to View*" statements are attached to, and form an integral part of the PBJC Library acquisitions policy. (See appendixes)

All library staff members share the privilege of, and responsibility for, participating in the materials selection process. Each staff member is expected to be sensitive to the needs of the PBJC Library users, to consider how those needs may best be served, and to present suggestions for the acquisition of materials to fill those needs. In this manner, the library shall avoid developing a collection inadvertently flawed by undetected personal prejudices and idiosyncrasies and shall strive to develop a collection responsive to the needs of the community. The ultimate authority for administering this policy rests with the Library Director.

### SELECTION PRINCIPLES

Patron interests and demand, both anticipated and currently expressed, are the basis for selection decisions. Whenever possible it is desirable that the library have materials in stock before they are requested. Some materials will be acquired because of popularity and timeliness; others will be acquired to enrich and balance the total collection.

Cooperation, rather than competition, with other libraries is stressed. The PBJC Library does not strive to take the place of school, academic or special libraries which exist to serve the special needs of restricted populations. While the library will provide a wide range of materials on as many subjects as possible, it is not a purveyor of textbooks nor can it be expected to be a substitute for any specialist's private library.

General standards of quality are applied during the selection process. Representative criteria for non-fiction include:

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| author authority and qualification | clarity and readability of style |
| accuracy                           | publisher reputation             |
| scope of the work                  | organization of materials        |
| physical features of the work      | intended audience                |
| treatment of the subject           |                                  |

The evaluation of fiction is more subjective, but considers elements typically mentioned in critical reviews:

style and readability  
structure  
characterization

author's reputation  
coherency of plot  
entertainment value

Inasmuch as the selection of materials implies the exclusion of others from the library's collection, selection standards imply exclusion standards. Items which do not meet the minimum quality standards described above are excluded. Items of marginal quality are excluded when there exists a sufficiency of items of higher quality. Also excluded are purely pornographic items, collector's items and materials which are prohibitively priced. Material which needlessly duplicates other material already owned by the PBJC Library is excluded for economic reasons. No item is excluded because of the author's nationality, religion, ethnic background, sex, age, profession, political or philosophical persuasion.

### **SCOPE OF THE MAIN LIBRARY BRANCH**

The Main Branch Library serves the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System as a whole, in addition to serving as a resource for the four branch libraries. As an urban library, the Main Branch Library places emphasis on access to information. It offers a genealogy collection that supports in-depth reference service. A broad choice of circulating print and non-print materials is selected to accommodate the diversity of tastes, reading levels, and interests of users of all ages.

### **SCOPE OF THE BRANCH LIBRARIES**

The four branch libraries serve specific neighborhoods within the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System. Budget and space limit the branch collections to materials of high interest to its patrons. The interests and needs of the actual and potential users of the branch are continually evaluated so that each library has a collection reflecting the community that it serves. While each branch serves basic reference needs of its neighborhood, it does not duplicate the in-depth sources or special collections of Main and other community resources.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATERIALS ACQUISITIONS**

While all staff, as well as patrons, play an active role in the selection process by requesting and recommending library materials for purchase, the decision-making related to acquisitions is shared by the Cataloger, Children's Librarian as well as various staff specialists, as sanctioned by the Library Director. The choice of vendor generally lies with the responsible selectors or designated staff, based on considerations of expeditious service and competitive discounts. Various tools such as professional magazines, newspaper, national magazines, as well as input from the staff, public and vendors are used in making the selection.

**SUGGEST A TITLE**

The Pine Bluff / Jefferson County Library welcomes suggestions for new materials.

- The library purchases materials recommended by customers whenever possible.
- You may suggest a title, author, or subject. Please provide as much information as possible, citing reviews or sources if available.
- A valid library card is required.

To make a suggestion, please fill out the form below.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library Care Number \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: Alzheimer\_\_\_\_ Main\_\_\_\_ Redfield\_\_\_\_ Watson Chapel\_\_\_\_ White Hall\_\_\_\_

Author\_\_\_\_\_

Title\_\_\_\_\_

Publisher\_\_\_\_\_

ISBN\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication\_\_\_\_\_

Age Level: Adult\_\_\_\_ Young Adult\_\_\_\_ Children\_\_\_\_

Item Format:

Book\_\_\_\_ Magazine\_\_\_\_ Audiobook or CD\_\_\_\_ DVD\_\_\_\_ eAudio\_\_\_\_ eBook\_\_\_\_

More Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about this title (Newspaper, Magazine, TV, Radio, Bookstore, Internet, Other)?  
Be as specific as possible and provide review citation if available.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# CONTROVERSIAL MATERIALS (CHALLENGES)

## POLICY

The library attempts to obtain materials representing all points of view regarding controversial issues. A wide range of literary styles are collected to accommodate the great diversity of public taste. The library does not champion particular views, but rather functions as a forum or marketplace, where the public can come to compare ideas and decide. The library does, therefore, stand for free access to ideas; and the presence of an item in the library shall not be construed as an endorsement of the content or theme of a work, but as an affirmation of the principle of intellectual freedom.

Given the diversity of opinions and tastes in our society, it is impossible for all items selected by the library to be endorsed by the whole of the library's public. The selection of materials solely to satisfy the needs and desires of one group (even a majority group) would constitute malfeasance on the part of a 'public' library. Disapproval of an item by one group cannot be justification for denying the item to all groups.

The selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that the materials might inadvertently come into the possession of children. Nor shall materials be sequestered except for the purpose of protecting them from theft and injury. It is the library's position that the responsibility; for children's reading rests with their parents and/or legal guardians. Additionally, enforcement of parent proscriptions and prescriptions regarding reading matter lies with the parents, not the library.

Many objections to library materials stem from the religious and/or moral beliefs of the objector. While the individual librarians may or may not be sympathetic to the view of the complainant, religious and/or moral guidelines cannot rule the selection of library materials in a democratic society. Inasmuch as the Constitution of the United States maintains that there shall be separation of Church and State, the public library must be free of theocratic constraints if it is to achieve its democratic mission.

## PROCEDURES FOR FORMAL OBJECTIONS

1. The staff member receiving the complaint shall be courteous to the complainant, while eschewing judgments or commitments regarding the challenged material.
2. The complainant shall be furnished a copy of the "Controversial Materials" section of the PBJC Library policy manual. The complainant should also be shown the PBJC Library *"Acquisitions Policy"* including the *"Library Bill of Rights"*, the *"Freedom to Read"* and the *"Freedom to View"* statement. Copies of the *"Acquisition Policy"* and related documents should be furnished upon complainant request.
3. The complainant shall be given the "Request for Reconsideration of Library Material" form to complete. This form initiates the procedures outlined in this section.

4. The challenged material will be reserved so that a reevaluation committee will have access to the materials they are to appraise. Library materials will not be removed from public availability until, and unless the reevaluation committee so determines, or a court so orders.
5. The reconsideration committee shall be composed of the head of the appropriate committee (Adult or Children's), a representative from the branch where the request was submitted, and such other advisors as the initial pair select.
6. Within four (4) weeks the reconsideration committee shall read and examine the materials submitted to it; seek independent opinions in the form of book reviews; weigh the merits and faults of the work as a whole against the library's selection criteria; meet to discuss the materials; and prepare a report of their determination.
7. The reevaluation committee may recommend;
  - a. Withdrawal of the material from the PBJC Library collection, if, indeed, the material is inconsistent with PBJC Library selection standards.
  - b. Reclassification of library materials which is found to have been inappropriately classified.
  - c. Retention, without prejudice, of the material if it is found to be consistent with the library's selection policy.
8. The committee's recommendation shall be forwarded to the Library Director, who will have the final determination of the committee's decision, The Library Director will notify the complainant and the report will indicate the action taken. The complainant has two (2) weeks in which he/she can appeal the decision. A copy of this report will be kept on file in the Library Director's office.
9. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the results and recommendations of the decision, the complainant may appeal to the Board of Trustees. At the next scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees will hear the appeal. The Board's decision is final and exhausts the appeal process.

# REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Book \_\_\_\_\_ Periodical \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher \_\_\_\_\_ Copyright Date \_\_\_\_\_

Request initiated by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do you represent:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yourself

\_\_\_\_\_ An organization (name) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other group (name) \_\_\_\_\_

1. To what work do you object? (Please be specific. [Cite pages]) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did you read the entire work? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, what parts? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you feel might be the result of reading this work? \_\_\_\_\_

4. For what age group would you recommend this work? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you believe is the theme of this work? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you aware of judgments of this work by literary critics? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What would you like PBJC Library to do with this work? \_\_\_\_\_

8. In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject treated? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# WEEDING

## POLICY

Materials withdrawal is an important aspect of collection development. When library materials lose the value for which they were originally selected, they should be withdrawn. An up-to-date, attractive and useful collection is maintained by retaining or replacing essential material and removing on a systematic and continuous basis, those works that are worn, outdated, of little historical significance, damaged, or no longer in demand.

Materials are deselected from the collection at the discretion of the Library Director. The collection is weeded for materials that fail to meet the goals of the collection due to age, obsolescence, condition or publication of better materials, insufficient use or space limitations. Weeding will be done methodically and as an on-going basis, and according to accepted professional practices as described in the latest edition of the publication, *The CREW Manual*. Selective weeding will be done in each location as needed.

Due to the anticipated completion of new buildings, renovations and additions in 2020, the library staff will conduct a collection-wide weeding project beginning in March 2018.

Disposition of materials in good shape will first be placed with Friends' groups, donated to civic or nonprofit organizations, philanthropic causes, or sold through commercial vendors. Once these alternatives have been tried, materials will be discarded.

# GIFT

## POLICY

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library system is grateful to members of the community for donations of library materials and other items. It is recognized that gifts may serve to enhance library collections or the physical attractiveness of facilities, or to fill a specific need. The donation of gifts is a gesture of goodwill and is much appreciated.

## BOOKS AND OTHER DONATED LIBRARY MATERIALS

### I. ACCEPTANCE

Gifts of library materials will be accepted at any library facility at the discretion of the librarian at that facility. Donations of library materials are accepted with the understanding that they may or may not be incorporated in part or in whole, into the PBJC Library collection. All unsolicited donations are reviewed in relation to the criteria and guidelines specified in PBJC Library acquisition and selection policies to determine their usefulness and relevance to PBJC Library collection.

Anyone who wishes to see a gift made part of the PBJC Library collection is advised to check with the library first to ascertain system needs. Otherwise, the library cannot assure that donated materials will be placed into the collection.

## **II. DISPOSITION**

- Gifts which are retained for incorporation into the PBJC Library collection are cataloged.
- Gifts which are not generally added to the collection include:
  1. Books or periodicals of which the library has multiple copies;
  2. Most textbooks, especially those which are deemed out-of-date by the librarians.
  3. Encyclopedia sets.
- Gifts which are not integrated into the collection may be given to the Friends of the Library for their book sale or be properly disposed.

## **III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The library will provide receipts to those donors who need one for tax purposes. The library will NOT provide fair market values for any items received. It is up to the donor to establish this value. The PBJC Library will acknowledge the receipt of donated items only. It will not endorse the assigned valuation of the materials.

At the request of the donor and as deemed appropriate by library staff, bookplates will be inserted in newly donated materials which come through the Friends.

Bookplates are generally not inserted into donated used books, magazines or other library materials.



#### IV. **OTHER GIFTS**

*Patrons wishing to make donations in the following categories should be referred to the Library Director.*

- **Monetary**
- **Memorial**  
*Conditions of use, placement, memorial inscription, etc. must be considered by the donor, the Library Director and the PBJC Library Board of Trustees.*
- **Solicitations**  
*In special instances, the library staff, as sanctioned by the Library Director and/or the PBJC Library Board of Trustees, may seek community donations of special items or funds.*
- **Other**  
*Depending on the nature of these gifts, the Library Director, the PBJC Library Board of Trustees or the Friends, must consider the acceptance of these gifts after the Library Director has been advised of the intent to make a donation.*

# INTERLIBRARY LOAN

## General Information

An interlibrary loan (ILL) is a transaction in which library material, or a copy of the material is made available by one library to another upon request, not including material shared among PBJC Library branches.

The purpose of interlibrary loan is to obtain library material not available at the PBJC Library System, and to loan material from PBJC Library to other libraries.

Interlibrary loan service is essential to the vitality of libraries of all types and sizes as a means of greatly expanding the availability of materials available to users. Lending among libraries is in the public interest and should be encouraged. Interlibrary loan should serve as an adjunct to, not a substitute for, collection development at the local level.

The conditions of this service are set by the lending library, the National Interlibrary Loan Code, 2008 (revised) and the *United States Code, Title 17* concerning copyright law.

## PATRONS:

### Patrons Eligible to Use PBJC Library Interlibrary Loan Services

Interlibrary loan is a special service the PBJC Library provides to its patrons. To request an item through interlibrary loan, you must have a valid library card with current personal information and no fines.

Library patrons are charged **\$4.00** for each item, which is acquired through the interlibrary loan system. Users are responsible for late fees and the costs for unrecoverable items under normal Library policy. A person may submit and have up to 5 active requests at a time. For Interlibrary Loan services, contact the Reference Department.

## Materials Which May be Requested

A loan or a copy of any material may be requested from another library; however, the lending library decides in each case whether or not a particular item can be provided. All formats - books and audiovisual (CD, DVD, book on CD - can be requested. Photocopies of no more than 5 articles from a single magazine or journal are possible as long as the patron pays for the copies.

Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library complies with any conditions or restrictions which may be placed on the borrowing of ILL materials by relevant professional groups or lending libraries. For example:

- National ILL protocol and local ILL convention relate to such aspects of the ILL process as ordering, hierarchies, forms and their format, verification requirement, etc.
- Special requests or limitations placed on the loaning of materials by any lending library.
- The refusal of any library to lend an item.
- Compliance with policy of non-renewal.

## Materials Which May Not be Requested

- Items on order by the PBJC Library
- Newly published, high demand, on best seller lists
- Reference and genealogical material
- Old, rare or valuable material
- Entire issues of periodicals
- Titles owned by fewer than 5 libraries in OCLC WorldCat or in Arkansas
- Titles not yet published

## BORROWING LIBRARIES

### Lending Policies

In accordance with the National Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States, Section 5.1, which states "*establish, promptly update, and make available an interlibrary lending policy,*" the PBJC Library will make its interlibrary loan policy available in paper/or electronic format and provide it on request .

Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library is committed to fulfilling both its borrowing and lending roles in resource sharing on behalf of individual patrons and other libraries. This document sets forth the type and level of Interlibrary Loan lending service the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library will offer to eligible users.

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library will lend books at no charge to libraries in the U.S. and Canada. Photocopies from periodicals are \$.20 per page. Photocopies of periodical articles will be made available whenever possible and adhering to copyright guidelines such as CONTU (National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyright Works) in the provision of photocopies from copyrighted materials.

## **PBJC Library Interlibrary Loan Policy**

The library does **NOT** lend periodicals, reference materials, newspapers, other microforms, or genealogy materials.

**Loan Periods:** The loan period for books is four weeks from the date checked to the borrowing library.

**Renewals:** Renewals are not available for interlibrary loan.

**Postage:** Borrowing libraries are not charged for postage. All items are shipped by US Mail, library rate.

**Packaging:** Will accept Jiffy bags. Insurance only required when noted.

**Billing Method:** Invoice.

**Photocopy Services:** Photocopy service is available except for genealogy materials. However, if requested as research, we will do it with a charge of \$5.00. There is a \$.20 per page charge for copies from periodicals.

**Microform Copying Service:** Reader printer copies are not available. Fiche-to-fiche copies are not available.

This collection development policy will periodically be evaluated and revised as times and circumstances require.

Adopted April 17, 2018  
By the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System  
Board of Trustees

# APPENDIX A

## Library Bill of Rights

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

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.  
Amended February 2, 1961, and January 23, 1980,  
Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996,  
by the ALA Council.

## Appendix B

### *The Freedom to Read Statement*

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give

validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and

teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe



rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

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

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

## APPENDIX C

### *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 guarantees 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