

8. 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. 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.
7. 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.

B. 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 These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the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.

This is taken from ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement.

C. Request for Reconsideration of Materials

Today's Date: _____

Material for reconsideration:

Author: _____

Title: _____

ISBN: _____

Publisher: _____

If not a book, what item: _____

Request initiated by:

Name of Individual: _____

Address*: _____

Phone: _____

Group complainant represents: _____

To what do you object? Please be specific and cite page numbers. _____

Did you read the entire book? Yes No

What do you feel might be the results of reading this book? _____

What action do you seek as a result of your concern? _____

How did you find out about the resource? _____

For what age group would you recommend this book? _____

For what age group would you not recommend this book? _____

What did you like about the book? _____

Printed Name

Signature

*Please note that library staff will verify complainant's address and ability to submit a reconsideration request by requesting to view a government-issued photo ID. Complainants must live in Marshall County, Kansas and be a cardholder in good standing with the Marysville Public Library.

Policy updated 4/25/2023.

D. Donated Materials Form

This is to acknowledge that

were received from:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

It is understood by the donor that items received or accepted by The Marysville Public Library become the sole property of the library and will be used at the Library's discretion in accordance with the collection development policy, whether they are added to the collection or sold. No conditions by the donor will be placed on the donation. Once donated materials become the sole property of The Marysville Public Library.

Acknowledged and agreed to this day _____

Donor's signature _____

Librarian's signature _____

E. Display Case Request Form

Name: _____
(Full legal name of organization, if applicable)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Day)
_____ (Evening)

Type of Exhibit: (describe briefly)

Month Preference: _____ (The Library does not guarantee that this preference can be accommodated.)

I understand that the Marysville Public Library cannot be held responsible for any damage or theft that may occur during the period of time the exhibit is on display.

Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Artist Exhibit Release Form

I, the undersigned artist, agree that the Marysville Public Library shall not be held responsible or legally liable for any loss or damage of any kind occurring to the consigned object(s) owned by me and displayed by the above named Marysville Public Library. This includes but is not limited to damage from fire, theft, and vandalism.

Artist

Marysville Public Library Representative

F. Kansas State Statute 21-6401

21-6401. **Promoting obscenity; promoting obscenity to minors.** (a) Promoting obscenity is recklessly:

- (1) Manufacturing, mailing, transmitting, publishing, distributing, presenting, exhibiting or advertising any obscene material or obscene device;
- (2) possessing any obscene material or obscene device with intent to mail, transmit, publish, distribute, present, exhibit or advertise such material or device;
- (3) offering or agreeing to manufacture, mail, transmit, publish, distribute, present, exhibit or advertise any obscene material or obscene device; or
- (4) producing, presenting or directing an obscene performance or participating in a portion thereof which is obscene or which contributes to its obscenity.

(b) Promoting obscenity to minors is promoting obscenity, as defined in subsection (a), where a recipient of the obscene material or obscene device or a member of the audience of an obscene performance is a child under the age of 18 years.

(c) (1) Promoting obscenity is a:

- (A) Class A nonperson misdemeanor, except as provided in (c)(1)(B); and
- (B) severity level 9, person felony upon a second or subsequent conviction.

(2) Promoting obscenity to minors is a:

- (A) Class A nonperson misdemeanor, except as provided in (c)(2)(B); and
- (B) severity level 8, person felony upon a second or subsequent conviction.

(3) Conviction of a violation of a municipal ordinance prohibiting acts which constitute promoting obscenity or promoting obscenity to minors shall be considered a conviction of promoting obscenity or promoting obscenity to minors for the purpose of determining the number of prior convictions and the classification of the crime under this section.

(d) Upon any conviction of promoting obscenity or promoting obscenity to minors, the court may require, in addition to any fine or imprisonment imposed, that the defendant enter into a reasonable recognizance with good and sufficient surety, in such sum as the court may direct, but not to exceed \$50,000, conditioned that, in the event the defendant is convicted of a subsequent offense of promoting obscenity or promoting obscenity to minors within two years after such conviction, the defendant shall forfeit the recognizance.

(e) Evidence that materials or devices were promoted to emphasize their prurient appeal shall be relevant in determining the question of the obscenity of such materials or devices. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a person promoting obscene materials or obscene devices did so knowingly or recklessly if:

- (1) The materials or devices were promoted to emphasize their prurient appeal; or
- (2) the person is not a wholesaler and promotes the materials or devices in the course of the person's business.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) Any material or performance is "obscene" if:

- (A) The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the material or performance, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;

(B) the average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the material or performance has patently offensive representations or descriptions of:

(i) Ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse or sodomy; or

(ii) masturbation, excretory functions, sadomasochistic abuse or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

(C) taken as a whole, a reasonable person would find that the material or performance lacks serious literary, educational, artistic, political or scientific value;

(2) "material" means any tangible thing which is capable of being used or adapted to arouse interest, whether through the medium of reading, observation, sound or other manner;

(3) "obscene device" means a device, including a dildo or artificial vagina, designed or marketed as useful primarily for the stimulation of human genital organs, except such devices disseminated or promoted for the purpose of medical or psychological therapy;

(4) "performance" means any play, motion picture, dance or other exhibition performed before an audience;

(5) "sexual intercourse" and "sodomy" mean the same as in K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-5501, and amendments thereto; and

(6) "wholesaler" means a person who distributes or offers for distribution obscene materials or devices only for resale and not to the consumer and who does not manufacture, publish or produce such materials or devices.

(g) It shall be a defense to a prosecution for promoting obscenity and promoting obscenity to minors that the:

(1) Persons to whom the allegedly obscene material or obscene device was disseminated, or the audience to an allegedly obscene performance, consisted of persons or institutions having scientific, educational or governmental justification for possessing or viewing the same;

(2) defendant is an officer, director, trustee or employee of a public library and the allegedly obscene material was acquired by such library and was disseminated in accordance with regular library policies approved by its governing body; or

(3) allegedly obscene material or obscene device was purchased, leased or otherwise acquired by a public, private or parochial school, college or university, and that such material or device was either sold, leased, distributed or disseminated by a teacher, instructor, professor or other faculty member or administrator of such school as part of or incidental to an approved course or program of instruction at such school.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-5204, and amendments thereto, to the contrary, it shall be an affirmative defense to any prosecution for promoting obscenity to minors that:

(1) The defendant had reasonable cause to believe that the minor involved was 18 years old or over, and such minor exhibited to the defendant a draft card, driver's license, birth certificate or other official or apparently official document purporting to establish that such minor was 18 years old or more; or

(2) an exhibition in a state of nudity is for a bona fide scientific or medical purpose, or for an educational or cultural purpose for a bona fide school, museum or library.

(i) The provisions of this section and the provisions of ordinances of any city prescribing a criminal penalty for exhibit of any obscene motion picture shown in a commercial showing to the general public shall not apply to a projectionist, or assistant projectionist, if such projectionist or assistant projectionist has no financial interest in the show or in its place of presentation other than regular employment as a projectionist or assistant projectionist and no personal knowledge of the contents of the motion picture. The provisions of this section shall not exempt any projectionist or assistant projectionist from criminal liability for any act unrelated to projection of motion pictures in commercial showings to the general public.

History: L. 2010, ch. 136, § 212; L. 2011, ch. 30, § 57; July 1.

Source or Prior Law:

21-4301, 21-4301a.



G. "Library of Things" Borrowing Policy and Liability Waiver

Once a patron has completed this agreement, they are registered to borrow items from the Library of Things collection that require a waiver.

A note will be placed on the patron's account and a signed copy given to the patron. Parents/guardians can give permission to their children under 18 to check out items but must assume all responsibility as per the agreement below. Once the patron is 18, they must sign a new policy and waiver.

BORROWING POLICY

1. Patrons must have a Marysville Public Library card in good standing.
2. Patron reads, understands, and signs both this Lending Agreement and the Waiver below in the presence of a Marysville Public Library staff member as a condition to borrowing from the Library of Things.
3. Items circulate for seven (7) days and must be returned to the Circulation Desk at the Marysville Public Library. These items do not automatically renew; one renewal can be requested. Overdue Library of Things items will be filed as lost and the account blocked until items are returned or the replacement cost is paid.
4. By taking possession of borrowed items, patrons certify they can use items safely and appropriately; no training will be given by library staff. Borrowing patrons assume all responsibility if others are given access to items.
5. Patrons agree the Library is not responsible for manufacturing defects in any borrowed items, and if items become unsafe, they will discontinue use and notify the Library.
6. Items must be returned in the same CLEAN condition as issued, except for normal wear. Heavy items must be loaded, transported, and returned by the borrowing patron. Patrons agree to accept the Library's assessment of condition and of fair restitution for damage, dirtiness, delinquency, and/or loss of items in part or in total. This restitution amount could equal the full replacement cost of the item plus a \$5.00 administration fee.
7. The Library reserves the right to refuse the loan of any item at its discretion.

LIABILITY WAIVER (We have to do this legal stuff, and so do you! Please read carefully before signing!)

I, _____ (print name), confirm that I have read and agree to follow the "Library of Things" policy. I affirm that I am capable of safely using the items I borrow and that I will use them properly, or if I am signing for my child(ren), I will assume responsibility for any damage or loss of items borrowed by them.

I waive, for myself and my heirs, any and all claims against the Marysville Public Library (MVPL), its officers, directors, and employees for injuries or damages resulting from my use or my child's use of borrowed items. I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless MVPL and its staff from any liability arising from injury, death, or property damage related to my use or my child's use of these items.

I understand that MVPL makes no warranties or representations regarding the condition or fitness of any item for a particular purpose.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to this waiver and the Library of Things Borrowing Policy.

I agree with the stated lending agreement and liability waiver, and if signing for a minor, I understand that this form will permit borrowing from the Library of Things without any additional notification to me:

Printed Name

Library Card Number

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name if Patron is Under 18

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

For Staff Use Only

Date Received: _____ MESSAGE added to Patron Record ☐ Staff Initials: _____

Policy updated 1/27/2026.