

B6 American Library Association Statements

The Richton Park Public Library District subscribes to the following statements of the American Library Association:

American Library Association Library Bill of Rights

1. The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
5. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
6. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
7. 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.

American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement

It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.

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

It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to determine the acceptability of a book on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

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.

It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept with any book the prejudgment of a label characterizing the book or the author as subversive or dangerous.

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.

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.

American Library Association Freedom to View Statement

The Freedom to View, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place of censorship in any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed:

To provide the broadest possible 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.

To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.

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 content.

To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, and 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.

To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

American Library Association Statement of Professional Ethics

Librarians must provide the highest level of service through appropriate and usefully organized collections, equitable circulation and service policies, and skillful, accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests for assistance.

Librarians must resist all efforts by groups or individuals to censor library materials.

Librarians must protect each user's right to privacy with respect to information sought or received and materials consulted, borrowed, or acquired.

Librarians must adhere to the principles of due process and equality of opportunity in peer relationships and personnel actions.

Librarians must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of an institution or professional body.

Librarians must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the employing institution.