

Summit County Library Collection Development Plan

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Introduction

The Summit County Library's Collection Development Plan provides a framework for the selection and retention of library resources, programs and displays. These guidelines ensure that the library offerings, remain timely, relevant, and continue to meet the needs of our community. It also acts as a guide for library staff to inform the public about the principles upon which library collections, programs, displays and resources are developed and maintained.

The responsibility for selection of library offerings rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of established policies approved by the Library Board of Trustees. The Director may delegate responsibility for the selection and development of collections, displays and program to other staff members.

The library is a department of Summit County, and a portion of the County mil levy, which goes into the Library Fund, provides funding for library materials. Additionally, Specific Ownership taxes, private donations, the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library book sale revenues and grants contribute to the library's budget. The library is a member of the Marmot Library Network, a consortium of libraries in Colorado, and shares resources with libraries throughout Colorado and the United States.

Philosophy

The Vision Statement of the Summit County Library guides library staff in all operations, including the selection of materials, resources and programs:

"An empowered Summit County community."

In order to meet this vision, Summit County Library seeks to provide a top-notch collection of books, audio and video recordings, periodicals, online databases, and other library resources and programming in a variety of formats for all ages.

This policy also seeks to support and meet the goals of the library's strategic plan. The collection is routinely evaluated for retention, replacement, or withdrawal based on the guiding principles of this document.

Core Values of Summit County Library

An open door to possibilities, connections and free resources for all.

Providing a safe creative space

Supporting community engagement

Enriching lives through discovery.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Standard

Adopted by the Summit County Library Board of Trustees 12/16/2021

The Summit County Library has adopted the American Library Association (ALA) standard which promotes equal access to information for all persons and recognizes the ongoing need to increase awareness of and responsiveness to the diversity of the communities we serve. The Summit County Library recognizes the critical need for access to library and information resources, services, and technologies by all people, especially those who may experience language or literacy-related barriers; economic distress; cultural or social isolation; physical or attitudinal barriers; racism; discrimination on the basis of appearance, ethnicity, immigrant status, religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression; or barriers to equal education, employment, and housing.

The Summit County Library would like to recognize specific areas for focus in 2022:

- **Wayfinding.** To increase access for those with language barriers, Library informational and way finding signs are posted in English and Spanish.
- **Collections.** Research and development are dedicated to creating a broader and more diverse collection.
- **Staffing.** Job descriptions and job postings are written and advertised to encourage applications from a broad spectrum of the community.

Scope of the Collection

Summit County Library provides a diverse collection of materials and resources: print materials, digital formats and actual objects to meet the educational, informational, professional, and recreational needs of individuals of all ages. Special emphasis is placed on supporting students at all levels and stimulating children's love of books and learning. Other resources available in the community and region are taken into consideration when developing the collection. The collection is intended to provide broad coverage of general areas of knowledge and is generally not scholarly in nature. Professional and highly technical materials are typically not included in the collection.

Selection Criteria

Materials for the Summit County Library collection are selected based on the library's role in the community, the mission statement, community needs and interests, and special requests. The evaluation of resources is characterized by flexibility, open-mindedness, and responsiveness to the changing community needs.

Materials are evaluated as a whole and not on the basis of a particular passage or passages. Selection of an item for the library's collection does not imply endorsement of the views, language, or lifestyles portrayed in the material. The library seeks to provide differing views on controversial issues depending upon availability of materials. No single source or standard is used in selecting materials.

The following criteria are generally used to select materials:

- **Reputation**—Significance of author, publisher, or producer.
- **Timeliness**—Present or potential relevance to community needs and interests.

- **Suitability**—Subject, style, and reading level appropriate for the intended audience or collection.
- **Popular demand**—Past customer use or current requests.
- **Critically acclaimed**—Critics’ reviews or recommendations from staff and patrons are positive; contains literary or artistic merit.
- **Access**—Material is readily available or can be found in a variety of formats; can be accessed through resource sharing from other libraries.
- **Relevance**—Publication date is current or of public interest.
- **Permanence**—Older materials of lasting value; items are replaced as needed based on patron demand and use.
- **Cost Effective**—Fits within space and budgetary needs.
- **Scope**—Resources that fill in gaps and fit within the goals of the collection.
- **Accuracy**—Information presented is factual, authoritative, and comprehensive.
- **Diversity**—Presentation of varying lifestyles and viewpoints.

Although not a complete list, these items are generally excluded from the collection:

- **Textbooks.** Most go out-of-date quickly and are often cost prohibitive.
- **Scholarly or highly technical materials.** These items are more suitable for academic and/or special libraries.
- **Self-published materials.** Most do not fit the collection scope or selection criteria.
- **Rare books.** The library does not collect rare or unusual materials that require special handling.
- **Genealogy material.** While the library does not collect genealogical materials in print, it does provide access to limited online databases for genealogical research.
- **Outdated formats.** The library retires specific items or material formats in order to accommodate trends in user demands or changes in technology.

Selection Process

Selection Tools

The following sources and tools may be consulted in the selection of materials:

- Annual award winners & nominees
- “Best of” lists
- BookPage
- Booklist
- BookRiot
- Baker & Taylor’s subject catalogs
- Gifts
- Goodreads
- Holds
- Internet Movie Database
- Kirkus Reviews
- Library Journal
- Library Reads

- Midwest Tape
- New York Times Book Review
- Patron requests
- Published reviews
- Publisher's newsletters and catalogs
- Publishers' Weekly
- Staff and Board recommendations

Print Materials

Books are generally purchased in hardcover editions for durability, but paperback editions will be purchased when hardcover editions are costly and a trade paperback is available. Mass-market paperbacks are purchased when no other formats are available.

Visual Materials

DVDs for the library include classical films, instructional films, popular films, foreign films, and films for children and teens. Public performance rights are purchased for use in public programming.

New Formats

New formats are considered when there is significant national and community demand, and when a sizable portion of the community population possesses the technology to use a new format. Determining factors for purchasing materials in a new format include availability, cost per item, and the library's ability to distribute new materials to patrons.

Foreign Language Materials

All foreign language materials will be chosen using the same selection criteria as English materials. Widespread travel by library patrons has placed high demand on foreign language instruction, with Spanish being the language in greatest demand. Dictionaries, both general and specialized, should be current. Self-instruction phrasebooks, kits, and study materials will also be maintained in a variety of languages, as demand necessitates.

A core collection of reading materials will be maintained in Spanish for adults, teens, and children.

Multiple Copies

While the library does not buy multiple copies of every title it owns, it does buy multiple copies of titles with high patron demand. The library prefers to buy one or two copies of different titles in a given subject instead of buying multiple copies of one title.

Materials Requests

Summit County Library supports the individual's right to access ideas and information representing all points of view. To this end, the library welcomes patron suggestions, comments, and ideas about the collection. The Library Board of Trustees has adopted the American Library Association's Library Bill of rights, The Freedom to Read Statement and Freedom to View Statement as guiding documents.

Community involvement in the selection process is encouraged. This is how the public can participate:

- Make collection suggestions at the circulation desk, email a library employee, or call the library.
- Make a request online through your library account.
- Send an email to Overdrive to request an eBook or eAudiobook for purchase.
- Send an email to any library staff to request an item be purchased or call the library.

Digital Collection

Summit County Library believes that all Internet resources on the library's website, databases, and digital collection items should be chosen with the same care and consideration as any other materials in the library's collection. Subscription electronic resources, along with links to authoritative Web sites, form a vital part of the collection as materials become available in digital formats.

Web site selection criteria:

1. The library will not include sites that are fee-based or sell a product unless it also offers important informational content for free.
2. Content should be competently written, with few if any grammatical or spelling errors.
3. For all sites, links should lead to appropriate content. For directories or gateway sites, a strong majority of the links should work.
4. Sites should demonstrate evidence of regular management to ensure viability of links and the accuracy/relevancy of information.

Content

- Accurate and factual
- Substantive and relevant
- Original and quality
- Objective
- Links from the site should be appropriate and/or supportive
- Regularly updated in the case of current event topics and study

Access

- Free
- Retrievable through the library's existing hardware and software
- Retrievable through the average patron's home computer

Authority

- Clearly identified responsibility for source
- Ability to ascertain status, affiliation, qualifications or reputation of the author, publisher, and/or sponsor
- Documented sources of information

Currency

- Regularly maintained
- Reviews
- Positively reviewed in one or more review sources

Database selection criteria:

- **Ease of Use.** The search engine should be intuitive, require minimal training, and the vendor should provide clear instructions on how to search. Display and functionality should be similar, when possible, to other databases or our OPAC.
- **Content.** Priority is always given to full-text, free-access, electronic resources that serve to expand sections of the collection which are difficult to make comprehensive with print resources alone. Priority is also given to downloadable content for offline viewing. Sources within the electronic resource should be accurately cited and stem from reputable sources.
- **Access.** Preference is given to resources that allow IP recognition and remote patron authentication. Consideration is given to the number of simultaneous users allowed. Availability of MARC records for Catalog (PIKA) Discovery should also be considered, but is not necessary.
- **System Requirements.** The resource should operate on equipment and operating systems either currently in use or expected-to-be available. Output to printers and/or users' files should be convenient and the resource must be able to network.
- **Maintenance.** The amount of support required by staff to make the resources available must be minimal.
- **Vendor Support.** All resources must have toll-free or email access to customer support services which provide timely, reliable, and clear solutions to problems. Resources should also provide remotely accessible, asynchronous or synchronous webinars/tutorials and in-house training sessions for staff and patrons alike.
- **Preview Trial Periods.** If possible, all electronic resources should be previewed before purchase decisions are made.
- **License Agreements.** Care should be taken to ensure that the agreements allow for the level of access most convenient to our patrons. Agreements that do not allow remote patron authentication should not be considered for the collection.
- **Reputation.** With the competition of so many online, electronic resources it is important to consider companies who have shown that they are reliable and reputable.
- **Critical Reviews.** Many publications are devoted wholly to electronic resource reviews should be consulted before purchase decisions are made.

Library of Things

The Library of Things (LOT) is a collection of nontraditional items for loan that expand the boundaries of traditionally defined library materials. The LOT supports the "sharing economy" and the stated goal of increasing the library's relevance and usefulness in our community. The collection offers patrons an opportunity to "try before you buy," to save money, and to explore a new skill. The Library of Things collection is funded through the library's materials budget.

Our lending kits will allow patrons to borrow materials and books curated to increase:

- Exploration, learning, and creativity

- Literacy in technology, science, and information
- Learning and practicing new skills

Library Programming and Displays

The Summit County Library offers a variety of programs and displays for all ages in order to give our community a welcoming environment and opportunities to search, connect and enjoy lifelong learning. The Library focusses programming and displays on developing early literacy skills and inspiring a love of reading.

Collection Maintenance

The public library is not intended to be an archive of all printed, visual, or audio materials.

In order to keep the collection responsive to patron needs, ensure its quality and usefulness, and free up valuable shelf space for newer materials, Summit County Library is committed to systematic weeding of its collection.

The weeding process identifies and removes outdated materials, damaged items, and duplicate copies that are not being used. Back issues of periodicals and magazines will be removed from the collection and recycled according to an established retention schedule. Withdrawn materials may be recycled, designated for re-sale, used as prizes for library programs, or placed in a “Free Box.”

Criteria for withdrawing materials includes:

- Physical condition: item is worn, water damaged, chewed, stained, ripped, mildewed, defaced, or destroyed beyond repair
- Duplicate copies in excess of demand
- Item has low circulation
- Newer edition exists
- Content presented is outdated/inaccurate
- No longer of interest or demand in the community
- Format is dated or the content is accessible in an alternative format

Repair and Replacement Guidelines

Repairs

Worn or damaged materials will either be replaced, repaired, or withdrawn depending upon the condition of the item and its significance to the collection.

Depending on available staff time and tools, items are repaired in-house. Depending on the judgment of the repairer, items may be withdrawn if they are determined to be beyond repair. Protective plastic covers for dust jackets should be cleaned and replaced as needed in order to keep the collection attractive and appealing. The entire DVD and CD book should be cleaned on a consistent rotation to ensure the collection is always ready for viewing or listening.

Materials are rarely rebound unless they are materials of local significance (local history, genealogy).

Replacements

Materials that are lost or damaged may be replaced using the same criteria as for selection. Newer materials and core collection items receive higher precedence when considering replacement. Other factors influencing a replacement decision include the number of copies of a title the library or Marmot network owns, the availability of newer material on the subject, the importance of the work in its field, and the cost.

Reconsideration of Library Materials, Displays and Programs

The Summit County Library believes it has a privilege and responsibility to provide a wide spectrum of materials with differing points of view to meet the diverse needs of our community. The library does not endorse particular beliefs or views, and inclusion of an item in the collection does not imply endorsement of views portrayed therein or by the author.

The library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. The library does not restrict any patron's freedom to read, view, or listen to library materials, and responsibility for guiding selection choices of children and adolescents resides solely with parents or legal guardians. The library recognizes and upholds the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View Statements.

However, there may be objections to library resources despite the care taken to select materials and develop library programming and displays and the qualifications of library staff who make these selections. **All formal requests for reconsideration and challenges, either written or in person, are a matter of public record.**

Steps in reconsideration of library materials, displays and programs:

1. Library staff provides individual(s) with a questionnaire so that he/she may submit a formal complaint.
2. Submit complaint form to the Library Director.
3. Director informs the Board of Trustees in writing upon receipt of the formal complaint.
4. Director reviews and researches the challenged materials. This includes evaluating critical reviews and discussing the merit and criteria for selection with library staff.
5. Director makes a decision about the challenged materials and notifies the individual(s) in writing.
 - a. A decision will result in maintaining the current status of the material, changing location within the collection, adding a warning label, or removal from the collection.
6. During this process, the challenged materials will remain on the shelf and available to the public.

Steps in a reconsideration appeal:

1. If the individual(s) is not satisfied with the Director's written reply and decision, they may make an appeal for reconsideration by an examining committee. Director provides individual(s) with an appeal form to be delivered to the Library Board.

2. Upon receipt of the individual's written appeal request, the Library Board will form a Reading Committee that will be composed of:
 - a. Two board members (one will chair)
 - b. Two community members
 - c. One library director
3. Once formed, this committee will:
 - a. Read and examine the challenged materials.
 - b. Evaluate general feedback of the materials by reading professionally prepared reviews.
 - c. Review background information provided by the Library Director and staff.
 - d. Weigh values and faults of the materials as a whole rather than on selected passages.
 - e. Prepare within sixty working days a written report of the committee to be placed on record with the Library Director, the Library Board of Trustees, and the individual(s).
7. Based on their investigation, the Reading Committee will choose to uphold or override the initial decision of the Director as detailed in a committee report.

The Summit County Library Board of Trustees reaffirms the objectives of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements.

See Request for Reconsideration of Materials Form (below).

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Format: Book _____ Magazine _____ Audio recording _____ Video _____ Newspaper _____

Other (specify): _____

Title: _____

Author/Producer: _____

Publisher: _____ Publication date: _____

Your name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ (h) _____ (w)

Email address: _____

Do you represent: Yourself _____ An Organization _____

Organization name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Website: _____

Did you read/hear/watch the entire work? _____ If not, which parts?

What concerns you about the materials?

Are you aware of professional critics' opinions of this materials?

What would you like your library to do about this material(s)?

_____ withdraw it from the library collection

_____ have it re-evaluated by the professional staff responsible for materials selection

_____ other: _____

Additional comments: _____

A copy of the Summit County Library Collection Management Plan is available upon request.

Signature of patron _____ Date _____

Received by staff member _____ Date _____

Recommendation by Director:

Retain materials ____ _____

Move to another collection ____

Director's Signature

Remove from collection ____

Add warning label ____

Date

Gifts and Donations

Summit County Library welcomes gifts of books and other materials. Gifts are accepted by the library with the following provisions:

1. Upon acceptance, all gifts and donations become the exclusive property of Summit County Library.
2. All gift materials are evaluated for their usefulness for the library using the same selection criteria or guidelines that apply to all collection acquisitions. Gift items are not automatically added to the collection and may be disposed of or recycled if they cannot be used.
3. The library reserves the right to refuse any item offered for donation for any reason, whether listed or not in this policy. Library staff reserves the right to exercise judgement on the usefulness and value of any item and may refuse to accept it without explanation.
4. Gifts of funds are always welcome and appreciated.

Donation Guidelines

Summit County Library will accept:

1. New or gently used hardcover or paperback books
2. Media materials (DVDs or audiobooks) in perfect condition
3. New and gently used items relevant to the LOT collection

The library cannot accept:

1. Books with water, mold or mildew damage
2. Books with missing or torn pages or covers (this includes missing dust jackets)
3. Books with stains or highlighting or handwriting (this does not include author-signed books)
4. Textbooks
5. Encyclopedias
6. Out of date books such as old nonfiction
7. Magazines
8. VHS or cassette tapes
9. Used and damaged items for the LOT collection

Donations are Tax Deductible

If requested, the library will give the donor a receipt specifying the number of items donated with the understanding that the library does not assign monetary value to the donated items. Letters of receipt may be obtained by request at the circulation desk or library office at any location.

What does Summit County Library do with donations?

Book and media donations may be used for a variety of purposes that benefit the library and local community.

Items may be:

1. Used for ongoing book sales at each location. The money raised by sales goes to fund programming and purchase library materials.
2. Added to the library collection or used to replace a damaged or worn book in the collection.
3. Used for prizes for Summer Reading Program.
4. Given to schools and libraries in need.
5. Added to the library's free Paperback Book Exchange.
6. Added to Summit County Library On the Go bookshelves at Summit County transit centers.
7. Given to the Summit County Jail.

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

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.