

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Adopted by the Nampa Public Library Board of Trustees, 10 December 2007,

revised 02 June 2008

revisions reversed 12 Sept. 2008

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## LIBRARY MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

**Vision.** As the cultural hub of Nampa, the library enthusiastically connects people of all ages to books, movies, music, and programs that entertain, educate, inform, and enrich. Knowledgeable staff with a strong commitment to intellectual freedom and diversity of opinion provide help to learners at all educational levels. Unbiased and expert staff welcome library users while meeting and even anticipating their needs in a safe environment.

**Mission.** As the gateway to an ever-changing world of information, we deliver excellent library service to our community. We create an inviting gathering place to inspire and promote lifelong learning and love of reading through free access to dynamic library resources, services and programs.

**Values.**

- We value friendly, accessible and personal interaction between customer and employee
- We value comfort, creativity, and a sense of community in every space in the library
- We value our customers' right to seek and receive accurate and complete information without bias
- We value our customers' right to find a diversity of opinions, ideas and information
- We value and protect our customers' right to privacy
- We value our customers by responding to each of them with respectful and friendly service
- We value the responsibility and right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services
- We value our employees as the creative spirit in our stimulating, welcoming environment
- We value growth, self-improvement, flexibility, and adaptability
- We value our history - sharing the stories of our past is the best way to inspire people to take part in our future

## PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this collection development policy is to serve as a guide to library staff in the development of the library collection. As an official document, approved by the library board, it reflects the library's mission and goals, and will also explain the library collection development policy to others.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Collection development at the Nampa Public Library is founded on the principles of intellectual freedom, diversity of opinion, and equal access for all. The library provides a collection that balances viewpoints across a broad spectrum of opinion and subject matter in formats suitable to a variety of learning and recreational interests and skills. Using selection practices that are

flexible and responsive to the changing needs of the community, the library builds and maintains collections for the general public while recognizing the needs of special population groups. The document, *Libraries: An American Value* (Appendix D) is especially pertinent to Nampa Public Library's overall philosophy and principles.

## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The library makes available a wide diversity of ideas and viewpoints in support of an informed citizenry and a democratic society. The library supports and respects the individual choice and judgment of its users in seeking information and enlightenment and upholds the freedom of library users to read, view and listen.

## COMMUNITY AND USER GROUPS

The customers served by the Nampa Public Library live primarily within the city limits of Nampa, Idaho's second largest city. The library's community is diverse, consisting of individuals of various ages, faiths, levels of education, incomes, and ethnic backgrounds. A high percentage of residents, approximately 20%, are of Hispanic descent. The majority of the library's users have been shown to choose most of their items through serendipity, or browsing the shelves.

The community's economy has been shifting from its traditional base of agriculture to one based on sales, service, and high-tech industry. Nampa is home to Northwest Nazarene University, Boise State University West Campus, and potentially a new community college formed in 2007 - the College of Western Idaho.

The Nampa Public Library participates as a member of the Lynx! Consortium and serves customers of the participating libraries as outlined in the consortium agreement. This participation results in significant exchange of materials between Nampa Public Library and other area libraries.

Non-cardholding users are welcome to make use of library facilities, equipment, programming, and materials within the library, and do so regularly. The library also extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to customers of libraries that have signed reciprocal borrowing agreements with the Nampa Public Library.

## COLLECTION GOALS

Elements of the 2007 Strategic Plan that relate to collection development include:

- *Customers will find popular materials in all genres and formats when and where they seek them.*
- *The library will be a leader in programs such as homework assistance, adult education and enrichment, and home-school resources.*
- *Spanish speaking customers will find a wide range of resources that meet their specific needs, including books, audiovisual materials, and youth programming.*
- *Serve literacy and education needs of the community.*

The Nampa Public Library meets the needs of its diverse community with collections that emphasize:

- ◆ Recreational reading, listening, and viewing for all ages, especially subjects and titles in high demand
- ◆ Broadly based and diverse collection that provides a variety of viewpoints on all subjects
- ◆ Early literacy for preschool and grade school children and materials that encourage and promote continued use of the library
- ◆ Lifelong learning for adults
- ◆ Information and fact-finding services
- ◆ Supplementary support for students at all levels of formal education
- ◆ Spanish-language popular materials in all formats and for all ages

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN AND COOPERATIVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The library provides reference and interlibrary loan services at no charge to all card-holding customers, regardless of age, except that any interlibrary loan charges imposed by the loaning library are passed on to the customer. Multiple reference and interlibrary loan requests on the same topic or title are considered for addition to the library collection. The holdings of OCLC and the Lynx! Consortium are occasionally consulted in making selection decisions. Informal or formal cooperative collection development initiatives may be considered by the library when such an initiative serves the best interests of the Nampa citizens and the library's mission and goals.

## CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE

Emphasis in the Nampa Public Library collection is on current material and material that is demonstrated to be of interest to Nampa library users by the fact that it is continuing to be checked out. Material not meeting this criteria may continue to be held by the library when it meets the criteria for the Regional Northwest (RNW) Collection, addressed below.

## SUBJECTS

Collection development at Nampa Public Library, both in the past and currently, includes all of the broad categories represented by the Dewey Decimal Classification, for all age levels and in any format. In order to provide current, popular interest materials, to support literacy and lifelong learning, and to promote diversity of viewpoints and opinions, it is impossible to identify any general subject area in which we do not need to maintain a basic collection and add new materials. Special emphasis may be placed on (but not limited to) the following areas:

- ◆ Selecting subjects, genres or formats which demonstrate high levels of circulation
- ◆ Selecting additional copies of items to satisfy Nampa customer requests (holds)
- ◆ Selecting popular educational materials that support K-12 formal and homeschool education
- ◆ Selecting items or subjects receiving moderate to high media coverage

- ◆ Selecting some mid-list or lower-demand titles or subjects in anticipation of customer browsing interest

## YOUNG ADULT COLLECTION

The Young Adult Collection is geared to meet the needs of youth ages 13-18. Young people are encountering many changes in their lives, and are looking for materials that address issues of direct relevance to them. The library's goal is to provide materials in a variety of formats to meet these needs.

Materials will be selected to serve the curiosity and developmental needs of young adults, including issues of independence, decision-making skills, changing roles in the family, teen sexuality, self awareness, drug and alcohol use, social interaction, dating, exploration of career paths, teen pregnancy, and more. Due to the nature of some of these issues, materials may include explicit language, graphic illustrations, and unsettling situations. The MPAA rating system is often inconsistent, so this collection may include R-rated videos. Chronological age is not always a good indication of maturity, so the library encourages parents to guide their child's selections. A balance of viewpoints will be sought when available.

## REGIONAL NORTHWEST COLLECTION

The library's Regional Northwest Collection (RNW) includes books, magazines, newspapers, oral history tapes, photographs, yearbooks, telephone books and city directories, and a few recordings. It is noncirculating and housed in a secure area. Customers can request items from the collection to view in the main library area, or may schedule an appointment to review materials in the RNW area with staff supervision. Items considered for purchase for this collection should either meet the standard selection guidelines outlined in this document, or be directly related to Nampa history, community, geography, or governance. The works of Nampa authors or artists residing locally will be given serious consideration. Gifts of suitable materials are encouraged. Books with special relevance to Idaho or Northwest issues may also be purchased selectively for this collection.

## FORMATS

The Nampa Public Library collects material in a variety of formats including but not limited to: books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, and maps. Audiovisual formats continue to change, and the library will collect and provide movies, music and audiobooks in whatever format meets the needs of its users. Digital resources will also be provided to library users when they meet the library's mission and goals and are selected according to the guidelines in this document. The library collects both hardback and paperback editions, with a preference for paperback editions when they are available.

## MULTIPLE COPIES

The library purchases multiple copies of items in a variety of circumstances. High demand may result in the purchase of multiple copies of items in either the youth or adult collections. The "Hot Titles" rotating collection offers duplicate titles of popular items on a first come, first served basis. Items available in both Spanish and English are occasionally added to both Spanish

and English collections. When Nampa customer requests (or holds) reach a specified threshold, library staff consider adding another copy to meet demand. Local history items are occasionally purchased for circulating, reference, and/or RNW collections.

Because of space limitations in the current facility, duplication of titles in several different collections, for example, in the juvenile and young adult collections, will be avoided when possible.

## LANGUAGES

The library maintains a collection of adult and juvenile Spanish books, both fiction and nonfiction. Spanish language magazines and newspapers are added to the collection. No other foreign language materials are collected except for language instruction materials which are collected for a wide variety of languages, including materials in book, audiovisual, and digital formats.

## FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

The Nampa Public Library is funded by property taxes as a city library established according to the laws of the State of Idaho. The library depends on these funds to maintain and add to its collections. The library seeks to supplement tax funds by applying for grants and by encouraging donations from individuals and community groups. The Friends of Nampa Public Library has funded several additions to the library collection and has established an endowment fund to supplement the library collection.

## PLACEMENT OF MATERIAL

Placement of materials within the library is determined by several factors including professional cataloging information, recommendations of professional reviewers, and judgment of library staff. For the convenience of library users, materials are assigned to various sections of the library, such as Adult Fiction or Family Movies, but library users of any age may use all parts of the library.

## WEBSITE LINKS

On Nampa Public Library's website, the library maintains a collection of links to other "Useful Websites," selected with the needs of Nampa's library users in mind. As with all other library materials, the purpose for this collection and the selection of these links follow Nampa Public Library's Collection Development Policy. Although this collection follows the library's general collection development guidelines, the nature of this collection necessitates that some additional factors be taken into account during the selection process.

Links are chosen on the basis of their potential usefulness to Nampa's library users. This judgment of usefulness is based on several factors, including frequency of the information request by users in the library, frequency of homework assignments on the topic, and local interest, including community and state information. As with Nampa Public Library's collection of other materials (books, CD's, videos, etc.) this collection has been developed specifically for the needs of Nampa Public Library users. The "Useful Websites" portion on the Nampa Public

Library website does not constitute an open forum. Some links may be added that are primarily used by staff, but only those that are used to assist users with reference questions. No links shall be excluded because of race, nationality, or gender, or the political, social or religious views of the author.

Prospective links are encountered through public service staff experience while answering reference questions and through professional review journals (such as *Library Journal*). All sites are judged on their usability, since the information a website provides is only helpful if the information is easily accessed. Government and educational sites are preferred; however, commercial sites may be added if the amount of information they provide in an unbiased manner outweighs the commercial aspects of the site. Personal sites may be added if the site appears to be stable and the information it contains appears to be up-to-date, accurate, and reliable, as judged by a Nampa Public Library librarian or by a review from a professional journal. Linking to a site does in no way constitute library endorsement. Furthermore, the library is not responsible for other websites that happen to be linked from one of the sites to which Nampa Public Library has provided a link, since these secondary links may change at any time.

Linked sites should be reviewed on a regular (preferably monthly) basis. If a site is found to be out of date or the nature of the site has changed since the link was added, the site may be dropped from the listing of links. Furthermore, a link to a site may be dropped if public services staff are no longer encountering many of the questions that the link was meant to address (e.g., if a homework assignment changes and the information provided by the site is no longer frequently requested). Any reconsideration request by a user for a link to be removed from Nampa Public Library's website must proceed through the established reconsideration process as outlined in this Policy.

## SELECTION RESPONSIBILITY

The Library Board delegates to the Library Director the authority and responsibility for selection of all print and nonprint materials. Selection responsibilities have been assigned to the Assistant Director, who leads a selection team composed of librarians and library staff from different library departments. The Selection Team will select materials consistent with the adopted selection criteria and procedures and choose to be inclusive, not exclusive, in developing the materials collection. The library solicits staff purchase suggestions, comments, and ideas about the collection and its development, and welcomes customer purchase requests and suggestions.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection is a discerning and interpretive process, involving a general knowledge of the subject and recognition of the needs of the community. Material is judged on the basis of the content and style of the work as a whole, not by selected portions or passages. The library strives to collect and make available differing points of view. To develop and maintain a diverse collection, items that represent minority viewpoints, opinions and perspectives will be included. Library materials shall not be excluded because of race, nationality, gender, or the political, social or religious views of the author. Impartiality and judicious selection will be exercised in all materials acquisitions practices.

The following criteria are used to determine the selection of a specific item. An item need not meet all the criteria to be acceptable. Criteria are not listed in priority order:

- ◆ Observed or anticipated community needs and desires
- ◆ Favorable reviews in professional reviewing sources
- ◆ The extent to which the item supplements, expands on, or supports the existing collection
- ◆ Currency and accuracy of the information contained, to the extent that is possible to determine
- ◆ Reputation and qualifications of the author, creator, or publisher of the work
- ◆ Representation of diverse points of view
- ◆ Consideration of the work as a whole, rather than a specific passage or passages
- ◆ Suitability of format or physical form for library use and as user demand dictates
- ◆ Cost relative to the value the item contributes to the collection
- ◆ Customer & staff suggestions
- ◆ Holdings of other libraries locally and nationally

Materials often consulted by the library staff in the selection process include, but are not limited to: *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Voya*, *Booklist*, *Video Librarian*, *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, *New York Times Book Review*, Internet Movie Database (online), All Music Guide (online,) Publisher or vendor catalogs, flyers and announcements.

Items highlighted in the popular media and appearing on bestseller lists will automatically be strongly considered for the library collection.

Additional criteria are considered when selecting materials available in electronic formats.

- ◆ Ease of use of the product
- ◆ Accessibility to multiple users
- ◆ Access to needed equipment
- ◆ Enhancement of the print equivalent (if any) in terms of speed, flexibility, combinations of search terms, or general utility
- ◆ Continued access to retrospective information when necessary or desirable
- ◆ Reduction of space requirements over print products

## GIFTS OF MATERIALS

Gifts added to the collection must meet the same selection criteria as materials purchased for the collection. Gift materials specifically donated for the collection are accepted with the understanding that the library staff will evaluate and make whatever use of the material it feels appropriate. No gifts can be accepted with any conditions, such as the way they shall be displayed, cataloged or shelved. If gifts do not meet the selection criteria, they may be conveyed to the Friends of the Nampa Public Library for sale or disposal. Gift materials not added to the collection are not returned to the donor. Casual donations of books and other materials are made every day to the Friends of the Library donation center. The library reserves the right to select from these donations items for the collection, however donated items are not systematically reviewed for addition to the collection.

Gifts of money are always welcome and appreciated. Specific recommendations for titles or subjects from money donors are honored as long as the recommendations enhance areas of need within the collection and are in accordance with the Collection Development Policy.

Library staff do not appraise materials. Staff will provide receipts listing the number of items received as a gift to the library, but will not assign a value to the gift. A *Gift Presentation Form* will be made available (see Appendix C).

## COLLECTION ASSESSMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The collection needs continuous evaluation in order to be sure that the library is providing popular, current and relevant materials in a timely manner to meet customers' interests and needs. Statistical tools such as circulation reports, collection turnover rates, fill rates, reference fill rates as well as space limitations are considered when determining when to withdraw items from the collection. Criteria for withdrawal include, but may not be limited to:

- ◆ Outdated or inaccurate information
- ◆ Poor physical condition
- ◆ Unneeded duplicates, determined by diminished circulation activity
- ◆ Items not meeting selection criteria
- ◆ Items that no longer meet customers' needs, as determined by circulation records or in-house use

Materials are regularly examined and repaired as needed in-house. Items which cannot be repaired in-house are considered for replacement or rebinding.

If an item is lost or damaged, replacement is considered if the item still meets the selection criteria and is available through standard library distributors.

## RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

A singular obligation of a public library is to reflect within its collection differing points of view and a diversity of opinion and experience. Some materials may be offensive to individuals or groups because of individual perceptions of profanity, human sexuality, social, economic, and political ideas, religious viewpoints, the background of the author, or the kind of information provided. However, these items may be meaningful and significant to other users. Nampa Public Library does not endorse particular beliefs or views, nor does the selection of an item express or imply endorsement of the viewpoint of the author or content of the item. Indeed, since materials often hold diametrically opposite views, this would be impossible. The library's role is to provide materials which will allow individuals to freely examine issues and make their own decisions. Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents, nor will items be sequestered or removed from free access to customers.

Comments from members of the community about the collection or individual items in the collection provide library selectors with useful information about interests or needs that may not be adequately met by the collection. The library welcomes expression of opinion by customers, but will be governed by the Collection Development Policy and the library's Mission, Vision and Values in making additions to or withdrawing items from the collection. Staff who hear from

library users in person, on the phone, or in writing regarding Nampa Public Library materials should follow the *Procedure for Handling Customer Comments Concerning Library Materials* in Appendix A of this document.

The Library Board maintains the position that while anyone is free to reject for himself or herself materials of which they do not approve, he or she cannot exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of use and access to others. The choice of library materials is also an individual matter. The responsibility for the reading and use of library materials by minors rests ultimately and completely with their parents or legal guardians. It is the duty and responsibility of the library staff to provide advice and reading guidance, but the right of minors to free choice of materials shall not be abridged by the library staff.

Nampa Public Library subscribes to the following documents, and these documents are always available for public examination: *Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, Freedom to View, Free Access to Libraries for Minors, Labels and Rating Systems, Expurgation of Library Materials, Restricted Access to Library Materials, Intellectual Freedom Statement, Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Policies, Regulations and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Materials, Services and Facilities, Services, Evaluating Library Collections, Diversity in Collection Development, Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials, Libraries: An American Value*. These documents are available at the Information Desk and in a separate digital file.

Items in any format are not necessarily excluded because of language, frankness, sexually explicit passages or images, or because of objections by staff, trustees, or the public. Individual passages or illustrations, in whatever format or medium, when taken out of context or purpose, are not considered adequate reason for the rejection or removal of an item.

Items may be removed from the collection under the following conditions:

1. Library director approves removal after staff review of an item determines that it does not meet the selection criteria outlined in this policy and recommends removal to the director.
2. Library trustees cast a majority vote to remove an item they agree does not meet the selection criteria outlined in this policy.

Any customer (*City of Nampa resident or person who owns and pays property taxes on real property within the city limits*) who concludes that a specific item does not meet the guidelines set forth in this policy may fill out a *Materials Comment Form* (see Appendix B). The staff will follow the guidelines set forth in *Procedure for Handling Customer Comments Concerning Library Materials*.

## POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

This collection development policy will be reviewed every three years by library staff and trustees.

## APPENDIX A

### Procedure for Handling Customer Comments Concerning Library Materials

When a customer telephones, visits the library, or writes to comment about specific library materials, all such comments should be referred to the Library Director, the Assistant Director or the Public Services Supervisor. If none of these are present,

- ◆ Make no personal comments on the material in question.
- ◆ If the customer wishes to speak to library staff, take the name and telephone number of the customer and indicate that the Director will be contacting the customer, or indicate a time when the customer can return to the library to speak with the Director, Assistant Director or Public Services Supervisor.
- ◆ If the customer wants to read the Collection Development Policy and/or get a comment form, direct the customer to the Information Desk, where there are forms and a notebook of board approved library policies.
- ◆ Report the concern to the Director.

#### ***Procedure:***

When notified of a customer concern, one of the above will contact the customer. Upon speaking with the customer, they will:

1. Direct the customer to an office.
2. Listen carefully to the customer comment and record all pertinent information.
3. Make no personal comments on the material in question.
4. Indicate that the library has a Board-approved Collection Development Policy that reflects the diversity of interests, values and tastes of the reading and viewing public. If appropriate, provide reviews or other materials which support the selection of the material in question.
5. If the customer wishes to pursue the issue further, inform him/her that a form is available (Materials Comment Form). Any individual is welcome to comment on and discuss library materials, but the formal process initiated by the comment form is limited to City of Nampa residents or those who pay property taxes on real property within the city limits .
6. If the customer chooses to use the form, give him/her a copy with instructions to return it to the Library.
7. Tell the customer that if the form is completed, he/she will receive a written reply.

#### ***When the customer returns the completed, signed Materials Comment Form:***

1. The Director or Assistant Director, and, if applicable, the person responsible for the selection of the material in question will review the item(s). They will determine whether the item(s) meets the criteria set forth in the Collection Development Policy, and what action will be taken. Together they will compose a letter that communicates their decision to keep or withdraw the material, explains Nampa Public Library's Collection Development Policy, and thanks the customer for his/her concern. A copy of the Collection Development Policy (or applicable portions of it) will be included with the letter. The customer's form should be responded to within one week.

2. In the event that the customer who completed the form is unsatisfied with the decision communicated in the letter, he or she may request a meeting before the Board of Trustees by making a written request to the Chair of the Board, who shall inform other trustees. Upon receipt of the request, the Board may make the request an agenda item and the customer will be notified of the time and place of the Board meeting.
3. Members of the Board will receive copies of the completed Materials Comment Form, and of the letter sent to the customer.
4. All Board members will review the material in question.
5. The Director or designated staff will explain their decision and make a recommendation for further action.
6. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to limit the length of presentation and number of speakers at the meeting. Following a comment period, the Board may make a determination that the material is not an appropriate selection based on the Board-approved Collection Development Policy. Unless a motion is made and approved by the Board that the material does not meet the criteria in the Collection Development Policy, the material will remain in the collection.

**APPENDIX B**

**Nampa Public Library  
MATERIALS COMMENT FORM**

AUTHOR \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST INITIATED BY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

1. What brought this title to your attention? \_\_\_\_\_

2. To what in the material do you object? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you feel might be the result of reading or viewing the material? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. For what age group would you recommend the material? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you read or view the entire work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you believe is the theme of the material? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What would you like the library to do about the material? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What item(s) would you recommend the library add that would meet your needs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(date)

**APPENDIX C**

**NAMPA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Gift Presentation Form**

These materials are presented to the Nampa Public Library to be used at its discretion.

Donor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of items or boxes \_\_\_\_\_

Description if desired:

Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Gift Presentation Forms are covered by the City of Nampa Materials Retention Policy, under the keyword "Gift & Donation Record." Records of book, magazine or monetary donations to the Library. Files include donor's name, address, description of gift, amount, restrictions if any, expenditure reports, letters of acknowledgment, etc. Retention: 7 years. A photocopy may be given to the donor for their records.

Records of gifts to the library are open to public inspection under the Idaho Public Records Law unless the donor has placed a limitation that is a condition of the contribution (See IC 9-340 (10)).

## APPENDIX D

### LIBRARIES: AN AMERICAN VALUE

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America's libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

- We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library's resources and services;
- We value our nation's diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
- We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services;
- We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library's resources;
- We protect each individual's privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;
- We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
- We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment.

By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

Adopted by the  
Council of the American Library Association  
February 3, 1999