





IFC members dedicate weekly hours to leading working group meetings, planning programs, and





online resources, archives and yearbooks, and unpublished books. The office also notes a trend with hate crimes, and legislation about filtering and obscenity.

## **IFC PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS**

### IFC Conference Programming Working Group

The committee organized and hosted or co-

“Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*”

Adopted in 1993, the “Economic Barriers to Information Access” interpretation revision has a reference to “Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity,” a statement on examining policy and procedure to actively move toward eliminating policies/procedures that may create potential barriers to access or academic achievement, and examples of policies and procedures that may deny access for community members. The interpretation also offers guidance on considering waiving or reducing costs of lost, stolen, or willfully damaged materials based on the user’s ability to pay. A draft was circulated widely for feedback, and each comment

educating users about the context of materials. The interpretation revision also outlines distinctions between collection development, weeding, and censorship. A draft was circulated widely for feedback, and each comment was taken into consideration. The interpretation revision is attached to this report as an action item.





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# RFID in

Use the RFID selection and procurement process as an opportunity to educate library users about RFID technology and its current and future use in the library and society as a whole. A transparent selection process allows a library to publicize its reasons for wanting to implement an RFID system while listening to its users and giving them a larger voice in the public debate over RFID technology.

Consider selecting an "opt-in" system that allows library users who wish to use or carry an RFID-enabled borrower card do so while allowing others to choose an alternative method to borrow materials. Because all members who share integrated library systems may not wish to implement an RFID system, this option also may be necessary for library consortia.

Review and update appropriate privacy policies and procedures to continue protecting

Use the most secure connection possible for all communications with the Integrated Library Systems (ILS) to prevent unauthorized monitoring and access to personally identifiable information. For example, SIP over HTTPS, ensures the data between selfcheck or automated materials handling systems and the ILS is encrypted.

Protect the data on RFID tags by the most secure means available, including [encryption](#) or [context-aware defenses](#) to prevent RFID eavesdropping.

Limit the bibliographic information stored on a tag to a unique identifier for the item (e.g., barcode number, record number, etc.). Use the security bit on the tag if it is applicable to your implementation.

Block the public from searching the catalog by whatever unique identifier is used on RFID tags to avoid linking a specific item to information about its content.

Train staff not to release information about an item's unique identifier in response to blind or casual inquiries.

Store no personally identifiable information on any RFID tag. Limit the information stored on RFID-enabled borrower cards to a unique identifier.

Label all RFID tag readers clearly so users know they are in use.

Keep informed about changes in RFID technology, and review policies and procedures in light of new information.

Enable user barcode and pin authentication for all self-service systems to prevent basic data breaches.

### **Talking to Vendors about RFID**

When dealing with vendors, librarians should:

Assure that vendor agreements guarantee library control of all data and records and stipulate how the system will secure all information.

Investigate closely vendors' assurances of library users' privacy.

Evaluate vendor agreements in relationship with all library 1 0 -(f 81 0 -(f (on)JTJ1n )618.)-3( infor)4(m)

1. Ferguson, Stuart & Thornley, Clare & Gibb, Forbes. (2014). How do libraries manage the ethical and privacy issues of RFID implementation? A qualitative investigation into the decision-making processes of ten libraries. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*. 47. 10.1177/0961000613518572.







2. "[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)," Article 26, United Nations General Assembly, December 10, 1948.
3. "[The Universal Right to Free Expression: An Interpretation of the \*Library Bill of Rights\*](#)," adopted January 16, 1991, by the ALA Council; amended on July 1, 2014. "Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the freedoms of speech, press, religion, assembly, and association, and the corollary right to receive information without interference and without compromising personal privacy."

Adopted July 15, 2009, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 2014. Revisions proposed for ALA Annual Conference 2019.

## Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*

The essential mission of a publicly funded library is to provide free, equal, and equitable access to information in all its forms. While the roles, goals, and objectives of publicly supported libraries may differ, they all share this common mission. Just as economic issues may challenge the library's ability to meet its mission, economic barriers may also threaten user access.

Those who work in libraries and serve on their governing bodies sometimes face economic pressures and competition for funding but must remain committed to the library's essential mission. To sustain this mission, the American Library Association has enumerated certain principles of library services in the *Library Bill of Rights* and associated policy statements.

Article V of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

services with care so as not to infringe upon access to or delivery of information and resources

The American Library Association opposes any legislative or regulatory attempt to impose content restrictions on library resources or to limit user access to resources or services as a condition of funding publicly supported libraries and information services.

Libraries and their governing bodies should carefully examine terms or conditions attached to library funding and should oppose conditions that might limit equal or equitable access to content. This principle applies equally to private gifts or bequests and to public funds. In particular, libraries and their governing bodies have an obligation to reject such restrictions when the effect of the restriction is to limit access to information.

Libraries and their governing bodies should cooperate with efforts to create a community consensus that publicly supported libraries require funding unfettered by conditions that limit equal or equitable access to content. Such a consensus supports the library mission to provide the free and unrestricted exchange of information and ideas.

1. [“Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity,”](#) adopted by ALA Council January 28, 2019.

Adopted June 30, 1993, by the ALA Council. Revisions proposed for ALA Annual Conference 2019.

## User-Initiated Exhibits, Displays, and Bulletin Boards: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*

Libraries may offer spaces for exhibits, displays, and bulletin boards in physical or digital formats as a benefit for their communities. The use of these spaces should conform to the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, which states:

“Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.” (Article I)

“Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.” (Article II)

“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



## Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*

The fundamental mission of libraries is to provide access to information, regardless of content or format, to everyone. Digital resources and services, or resources and services made primarily available online or on digital devices, are integral to libraries' mission in the twenty-first century. Libraries are important points of access to many digital resources and services, including, but not limited to, computers, the Internet, and digital resources and tools. In order to provide access to digital resources and services while upholding the *Library Bill of Rights*, libraries must consider intellectual freedom principles and issues of equity to ensure that access to information is enhanced, not restricted, by digital technology.

Libraries should regularly review issues arising from digital creation, distribution, retrieval, and archiving of information. Any review of these issues should consider users' First Amendment rights, rights to privacy, and the core values of librarianship as expressed in the *Library Bill of Rights* and the *Code of Ethics of the American Library Association*. Many people lack access or the capability to use or create digital resources effectively. There is a need for places where people can access, use, or create information without impediment. It is the responsibility of libraries to provide access to digital resources and services and to mitigate all barriers, whether they are economic, educational, or political. The provision of access does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by the library. Libraries should resist all attempts by individuals, governments, and private entities to censor or limit access to digital resources or services.

In making decisions about how to offer access to digital resources, services, tools, physical equipment, and networks, each library should consider intellectual freedom principles and issues of equity in the context of its mission, goals, objectives, cooperative agreements, and the needs of the entire community it serves.

## The Rights of Users









## Evaluating Library Collections: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*

Libraries continually develop their collections by adding and removing resources to maintain collections of current interest and usefulness to their communities. Libraries should adopt collection development and maintenance policies that include criteria for evaluating materials. Reasons for inclusion or removal of materials may include but are not limited to accuracy, currency, budgetary constraints, relevancy, content, usage, and community interest. The collection-development process is not to be used as a means to remove materials or deny access to resources on the grounds of personal bias or prejudice or because the materials may be viewed as controversial or objectionable. Doing so violates the principles of intellectual freedom and is in opposition to the *Library Bill of Rights*.

Some resources may contain views, opinions, and concepts that were popular or widely held at one time but are now considered outdated, offensive, or harmful. Content creators may also come to be considered offensive or controversial. These resources should be subject to evaluation in accordance with collection-development and collection-maintenance policies. The evaluation criteria and process may vary depending on the type of library. While weeding is essential to the collection-development process, the controversial nature of an item or its creator should not be the sole reason to remove any item from a library's collection. Rather than removing these resources, libraries should consider ways to educate users and create context for how those views, opinions, and concepts have changed over time.

Failure to select resources merely because they may be potentially controversial is censorship, as is withdrawing resources for the same reason. Library workers should consider the cataloging,

classification, and display of resources to ensure that they are discoverable and readily available to the populations they are meant to serve.

The American Library Association opposes censorship from any source, including library workers, faculty, administration, trustees, and elected officials. Libraries have a profound responsibility to encourage and support intellectual freedom by making it possible for the user to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

Adopted February 2, 1973, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; June 2, 2008. Revisions proposed for ALA Annual Conference 2019.





services, resources, or facilities should so advise their own children. Libraries and library governing bodies should not use rating systems to inhibit a minor's access to materials.<sup>5</sup>

Libraries and their governing bodies have a legal and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the communities they serve have free and equitable access to a diverse range of library resources and services that is inclusive, regardless of content, approach, or format. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Libraries and their governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

1. *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association, et al.* 564 U.S. 08-1448 (2011).
2. See *Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205 (1975): "Speech that is neither obscene as to youths nor subject to some other legitimate proscription cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them. In most circumstances, the values protected by the First Amendment are no less applicable when government seeks to control the flow of information to minors." See also *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S.503 (1969); *West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); *AAMA v. Kendrick*, 244 F.3d 572 (7th Cir. 2001).
3. "[Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)," adopted June 19, 2002, by the ALA Council; amended on July 1, 2014.
4. "[Libraries: An American Value](#)," adopted on February 3, 1999, by ALA Council.
5. "[Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)," adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council.

Adopted June 30, 1972, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991; June 30, 2004; July 2, 2008 under previous name "Free Access to Libraries for Minors"; and July 1, 2014.



# Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*

Libraries, no matter their size, contain an enormous wealth of viewpoints and are responsible for making those viewpoints available to all. However, libraries do not advocate or endorse the content found in their collections or in resources made accessible thro

Because cataloging standards provide an opportunity for libraries to include ratings in their bibliographic records, many libraries have chosen to do so—some by acceptance of standard records containing such ratings and others by a desire to provide the maximum descriptive information available on a resource. Libraries are not required by cataloging best practices to provide this information. If they choose to do so, for whatever reason, they should cite the source of the rating and indicate that the library does not endorse external rating systems.

The inclusion of ratings in bibliographic records within library catalogs or discovery systems may be interpreted as an endorsement by the library. Therefore, without attribution, inclusion of such ratings is a violation of the *Library Bill of Rights*.

If libraries include information about rating systems on items or records, this information should not be used to restrict access to those materials based on the age of library users. Such a restriction may violate minors' First Amendment rights.<sup>2</sup>

That libraries do not endorse or advocate for the use of rating systems does not preclude them from answering questions about such systems. It is appropriate to provide access to sources containing information on rating systems in order to meet the specific information-seeking needs of individual users. The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read or view.

1. [“Expurgation of Library Resources: An Interpretation of the \*Library Bill of Rights\*,”](#) adopted February 2, 1973, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; January 10, 1990; July 2, 2008; and July 1, 2014.
2. *Enghahl v. City of Kenosha*, 317 F. Supp. 1133 (E.D. Wis. 1970); *Motion Picture Association of America v. Specter*, 315 F. Supp. 824 (E.D. Pa. 1970); *Swope v. Lubbers*, 560 F.Supp. 1328 (W.D. Mich. 1983); and *Rosen v. Budco*, 10 Phila. 112 (1983).

Adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council. Revisions proposed for ALA Annual Conference 2019.

## Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize intellectual freedom as a universal human right.<sup>1</sup> This right ensures free access to seek and receive information and expression of ideas from all points of view without restriction for every individual of any age, ability, socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other form of identity or status. The *Library Bill of Rights* and *Code of Ethics of the American Library Association* express core values of our profession and affirm the primacy of intellectual freedom for full participation in a just, equitable, and informed society. We acknowledge our professional obligation to actively defend intellectual freedom rights and to protect the privacy and confidentiality of library users. We advocate for intellectual freedom and strive to educate ourselves, library users, the communities we serve, and the broader society