



Materials Challenges: Key Library Policies to Review and Revise

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Materials Challenges: Key Library Policies to Review and Revise, continued

... posted or available. ... violators must be able to appeal decisions and/or punishment.

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Library materials challenges are a complex and often contentious issue. They involve the selection, acquisition, and retention of materials that are subject to public scrutiny and potential challenge. This process is often influenced by local, state, and federal laws, as well as community standards and values. The challenge process can be a lengthy and costly one, and it is important for libraries to have clear policies in place to guide them through this process.

- Check your state laws on pornography or obscenity.

State laws regarding pornography and obscenity vary significantly. Some states have strict laws, while others are more lenient. It is important for libraries to be aware of their state's laws and to consult with legal counsel if they are unsure. Libraries should also be aware of the fact that some materials may be considered obscene in one state but not in another.

- Security Policies

- Incident reporting policies

Incident reporting policies are essential for libraries to ensure the safety of their patrons and staff. These policies should outline the procedures for reporting incidents, the roles and responsibilities of staff, and the steps to be taken to investigate and resolve the incident. Libraries should also have a clear policy regarding the handling of security incidents involving patrons.

- Public Meeting Policies

Public meeting policies are important for libraries to ensure that their meetings are open and accessible to all members of the community. These policies should outline the procedures for scheduling and conducting public meetings, the rules of conduct for participants, and the process for handling objections.

Public Comment Policy

A public comment policy is a key component of a library's public meeting policies. It should outline the procedures for allowing patrons to provide input and feedback on library programs and services. This policy should ensure that all patrons have an equal opportunity to be heard and that their comments are taken into consideration by library staff.

Libraries should also have a clear policy regarding the handling of public comments. This policy should outline the steps to be taken to review and respond to comments, and it should ensure that the library's response is timely and appropriate. Libraries should also have a clear policy regarding the handling of public comments that are critical or negative in nature.

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Recording of public meetings

- Documenting meeting minutes and recording policies

- Minutes Policy

NOTE

- Board Policies

- Board Behavior Policy

- Board Removal Policy/Process

- Board Communication Policy

- Board Ethics Policy

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