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Introduction

As institutions dedicated to upholding the principles of intellectual freedom, it is inevitable that Iowa libraries will be faced with challenges concerning materials and policies. This Resource Guide has been compiled to help Iowa librarians prepare for and respond to censorship challenges. It is our hope that every librarian will keep this workbook of suggestions and policy statements close at hand; that it will serve as the reference source to consult whenever any library is challenged by censorship efforts. Further detail and assistance is also available in the American Library Association's *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, 9th edition, 2015. Every library should have a copy of the current edition of this invaluable resource.

Associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Potter Stewart once said, "Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself" (383 U.S. Reports, p. 498.) Unfortunately, that lack of confidence continues to manifest itself in the all too frequent challenges that libraries receive concerning their collections and services.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee welcomes queries, suggestions or comments. Address them to the Iowa Library Association office at 6919 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266, or contact the IFC chair. *The 2015 chair is Michael Wright at the Dubuque County Library District (michaelw@dubcolib.lib.ia.us).*
Background Reading: Relevant Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Amendment One: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment Four: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment Fourteen: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its laws.

Handling Challenges

Preparing For a Challenge

The best defense against would-be censorship is careful and complete planning before a challenge occurs. The following steps are suggestions for the planning process.

- All staff and board members should study the Library Bill of Rights. The Iowa Library Association (ILA) Intellectual Freedom Committee recommends that this document be endorsed by the library's governing authority. It has been adopted by the American Library Association (ALA) and represents that organization's viewpoint on intellectual freedom and censorship. Text of the Library Bill of Rights is available on the ALA website. You can also read the ALA's interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights on the ALA website.

- Prepare a written Materials Selection Policy. It should be adopted by the library's governing authority as basic policy for collection development, including the selection, acquisition and reconsideration of library materials. The policy statement should also include procedures for handling patron complaints about library materials. Make sure all staff and board members are familiar with the policy. (Refer to the State Library's sample policies web page).
What to Do When A Challenge Occurs

• Follow the procedures for handling patron complaints about library materials developed in the library's Materials Selection Policy.

• Inform the library's governing authority of every challenge and subsequent actions taken by staff.

• Report all challenges to the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee using the online Challenge Report Form. The text of the form is also reproduced later in this document. You can complete the form and send it to the ILA office and the IFC chair as an email attachment. You can also send it via USPS or fax to the Iowa Library Association, 6919 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266; phone: 515-282-8192; fax: 515-282-9117. The Intellectual Freedom Committee will, if requested, provide support within its means. (See Appendix C for names and libraries of committee members.)

• Contact the State Library of Iowa, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom or other interested organizations, depending on the nature and urgency of the challenge.

• If the challenge becomes a public issue, seek support from the local press (both print and broadcast). Media tend to “get it” when it comes to censorship issues. Make sure to have only one official press spokesperson and route all media inquiries to that individual.

• Once the challenge has been reviewed, communicate the result of the reconsideration process to the complainant in writing, including the reasons for the decision.

• If necessary, seek legal advice through the library's governing authority.

When faced with a censorship or intellectual freedom issue of any kind, staff or trustees should feel free to contact the chair of the Iowa Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). The IFC can provide informal advice and consulting assistance. The chair and/or committee will try to provide a library with information that will help bring about a satisfactory resolution to the problem.

If more active assistance is requested, the Chair of the IFC will help determine appropriate areas where other assistance might be valuable. This type of assistance might include having someone from the committee speak to the library's governing authority or city council in order to establish the position of the library community on intellectual freedom issues.

When the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee receives a request for assistance, it notifies the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF). In cases where a legal defense is required, or where an intellectual freedom challenge has resulted in a librarian's dismissal or other monetary loss, ALA, through the Freedom to Read Foundation,
may be able to help with legal fees. ALA’s Merritt Fund may be able to provide financial support to librarians fired over intellectual freedom issues. The ALA office has wide experience and can be extremely useful. Librarians need not be ALA members to receive help from the OIF.

The Iowa Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee is interested in being notified about all types of challenges and complaints in order to become aware of patterns or particular items that may be targeted for removal. The committee has developed an incident form that can be quickly completed. Please remember the Challenge Report Form and use it to report even the smallest incident.

**Other Sources for Assistance**

ALA: The American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is in Chicago. A national leader in the effort to maintain intellectual freedom, the OIF has helped countless librarians in censorship battles.

Significant censorship activity should be reported to the OIF by email, fax, phone, or mail. OIF has an online form for reporting. A copy is also in the Intellectual Freedom Manual (9th ed., ALA, 2015).

The OIF can provide advice, reviews, policy statements and information on professional norms and standards, as well as statements in support of the Freedom to Read and First Amendment rights, but it does not usually intervene directly in local censorship cases, preferring that they be settled at the state and local levels. Excellent online resources are available at [http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/index.cfm)

To contact the OIF, email oif@ala.org, call (312) 280-4223, fax (312) 280-4227, or write the Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

**State Library of Iowa**

East 12th and Grand, Des Moines, IA 50319 Phone: 800-248-4483 Fax: 515-281-6191 [www.statelibraryofiowa.org](http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org)

**American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa**

505 5th Avenue, Suite 901, Des Moines, IA 50309 Phone: 515-243-3576. [https://www.aclu-ia.org/en](https://www.aclu-ia.org/en)

**Iowa Freedom of Information Council**


Contact: Randy Evans, Executive Director, (515) 745-0041, IowaFOICouncil@gmail.com
Supporting Documents

Materials Selection Policy (outline)

The Iowa Library Association and its Intellectual Freedom Committee believe that every library, in order to strengthen its collection development process and to provide an objective basis for evaluation of that process, should develop a written Materials Selection Policy. The Materials Selection Policy should be based on the needs of the library’s users and in conformity with the Library Bill of Rights. The policy should be approved by the library’s governing authority, reviewed regularly and, if necessary, revised.

A Materials Selection Policy should cover these points:

• Library philosophy and objectives, including a statement of the role of the library in its community.

• General selection principles and procedures, including designation of staff responsible for collection development, the procedures used to select the materials, and criteria used for selection.

• Special principles and procedures to deal with non-print materials for particular groups (children, the visually impaired, etc.) See the ALA Freedom to View Statement online or in the Intellectual Freedom Manual.

• Policies and procedures regarding special collections (local history, etc.)

• Policies and procedures covering public Internet use

• Policies and procedures covering filtered Internet access

• Policies and procedures regarding use of meeting rooms, bulletin boards, display cases, etc.

• Policies concerning the confidentiality of patron records

The collection development policy should also contain

• Policies and procedures covering gifts, including requests for appraisals and disposal of unwanted donations

• Policies and procedures concerning weeding and inventories

• The text of the Library Bill of Rights (See Appendix A). Many selection policies also include the Freedom to Read Statement (See Appendix B), a document issued jointly
by the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers. The Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement are also in ALA’s *Intellectual Freedom Manual*.

- Complaint and reconsideration policies and procedures, including a step-by-step list of the reconsideration process and a copy of the library's reconsideration form. See sample form on the next page.
ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Challenge Report Form

The ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee appreciates your assistance in reporting intellectual freedom challenges in your community.

CHALLENGES WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL -- No identifying information will be released without your express permission.

Title of material/service in question: __________________________________________________

Material/service type (circle): Book   Periodical   Video   Audio recording   Library program

Exhibit/Display   Electronic Resource   Other (please specify) __________________

Age level of material/service:   Adult _____    YA/Teen _____  Child's _____

Who expressed the concern?    Single Adult _____   Group (give name) __________________

Please describe the concern:

Type of library: (circle one) Public   School    Academic    Special

Does the library have (circle yes or no for each):

A written materials selection policy? Yes     No

A written materials challenge policy? Yes    No

A written policy on confidentiality of library records?   Yes   No

A written Internet use policy?    Yes   No

Do you want assistance from ILA? If so, please check here _____

(Be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number below if you require assistance.)

Please send this form as an email attachment to ILA at admin@iowalibraryassociation.org or mail this form to the Intellectual Freedom Committee c/o the ILA office at 6919 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266. You can also phone ILA at 515-282-8192 or fax to 515-282-9117.

Optional Information:

Library name/address: _________________________________________________________

Contact Person: ____________________________ Title: ______________________________

Tel. no.: ( ) __________________________        E-mail address: _______________________
Sample Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources Form

ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom

URL: http://www.ala.org/offices/oif

[This is where you identify who in your own structure, has authorized use of this form—Director, Board of Trustees, Board of Education, etc.—and to whom to return the form.] Example: The school board of Zebulon County, Iowa, has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library/educational resources to the teacher/librarian and curriculum committee, and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those resources. Completion of this form is the first step in those procedures. If you wish to request reconsideration of school or library resources, please return the completed form to the Coordinator of Library Media Resources, Zebulon School Dist., 1 Pike St. Zebulon, Iowa 52999.

Name ___________________________
Date ______________________
Address ________________________________ City __________________________
State ___________ Zip ______________ Phone __________________________

Do you represent self? ____ Organization? (specify name)________________________________________________________________________

Resource on which you are commenting:
   ____ Book ____ Textbook ____ Video ____ Display ____ Magazine ____ Library Program
   ____ Audio Recording ____ Newspaper ____ Electronic information/network (please specify)
   ____ Other ____________________________________
Title ____________________________________
Author/Producer _________________________

What brought this resource to your attention?

Have you examined the entire resource?

What concerns you about the resource? (use other side or additional pages if necessary)

Are there resources you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?
Chapter 21 - Official Meetings Open To Public

Transferred in Code 1985 from Ch 28A; Governor's ad hoc committees, councils, and task forces are subject to chapter 21:90 Acts. Ch 1266 §2

21.1 Intent-Declaration of policy.
21.2 Definitions.
21.3 Meetings of governmental bodies
21.4 Public notice.
21.5 Closed session.
21.6 Enforcement.
21.7 Rules of conduct at meetings.
21.8 Electronic meetings.
21.9 Employment conditions discussed.
21.10 Information to be provided.
21.11 Applicability to nonprofit corporations.

Chapter 22 – Examination of Public Records
URL:  https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/22.pdf

22.1 Definitions.
22.2 Right to examine public records-exception.
22.3 Supervision – fees.
22.3 A Access to data processing software.
22.4 Hours when available.
22.5 Enforcement of rights.
22.7 Confidential records.
22.8 Injunction to restrain examination.
22.9 Denial of federal funds – rules.
22.10 Civil enforcement.
22.11 Fair information practices.
22.12 Political subdivisions.
22.13 Settlements – government bodies.
22.14 Public funds investment records in custody of third parties.
Chapter 728 - Obscenity
URL: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/728.pdf

728.1 Definitions.
728.2 Dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to minors.
728.3 Admitting minors to premises where obscene material is exhibited.
728.4 Rental or sale of hard-core pornography.
728.5 Public indecent exposure in certain establishments.
728.6 Civil suit to determine obscenity.
728.7 Exemptions for public libraries and educational institutions.
728.8 Suspension of licenses or permits.
728.9 Evidence considered.
728.10 Affirmative defense.
728.11 Uniform application.
728.12 Sexual exploitation of a minor.
728.14 Commercial film and photographic print processor reports of depictions of minors engaged in prohibited sexual acts.
728.16 Telephone dissemination of obscene material to minors.

Chapter 729 - Infringement of Individual Rights
URL: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2015/729.pdf

See also Ch 601A; This chapter was not enacted as part of the criminal code but was transferred here from Ch 735, Code 1977.
729.1 Religious test.
729.2 Evidence.
729.3 Penalty.
729.4 Fair employment practices.
729.5 Violation of individual rights – penalty.
729.6 Genetic testing.

Chapter 729A – Violation of Individual Rights – Hate Crimes
URL: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2017/729A.pdf

729A.1 Violations of an individual's rights prohibited.
729A.2 Violation of individual rights – hate crime.
729A.3 Local ordinances.
729A.4 Violation of individual rights – sensitivity training.
729A.5 Civil remedies.
Glossary

CENSORSHIP
A change in the availability of access to materials, based on content and made by a governing body or its representatives. Such changes may include exclusion, restricted access, removal, or age/grade level changes. Materials must meet criteria stated in materials selection policies.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
According to the courts, the work in question must involve the depiction of sexual conduct specified in the applicable statutes and use images of children below a specified age.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT
Selection of materials in the languages in common use in the community the library serves, carried out according to professional standards and established selection and review procedures. In the process, libraries should seek to provide materials and information representing all points of view on both current and historical issues.

COMPLAINTS
Oral or written challenges to the presence and/or appropriateness of specific material.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY RECORDS
ALA Policy Manual B.1.2. Code of Professional Ethics for Librarians, point 3: "We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted."

DIVERSITY
In the library context, diversity includes the provision of all points of view on all questions and issues of our times, and the availability of these ideas and opinions to anyone who needs or wants them, regardless of their age, background or views.

EXPURGATION
Includes any deletion, excision, altering, editing, or obliteration of any part(s) of books or other library resources by the library, its agent, or its parent institution (if any). In effect, denies access to the complete work and the entire spectrum of ideas that work intended to express.

FILTERING
Restricting access to Internet content, using one or more mechanisms such as an internal or external database, use of third-party ratings, scanning text or pixels, and limiting by source of the information.

FREE ACCESS FOR MINORS
The ALA opposes libraries restricting access to library materials and services for minors and holds that it is the parents-and only parents-who may restrict their children-and only their children-from access to library materials and services.
HARMFUL TO MINORS
According to the courts, descriptions or representations of nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement that appeal to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors; are patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors; and lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
The right of all individuals to hold any belief on any subject and to convey ideas in any form they deem appropriate; and the right of unrestricted access to information and ideas regardless of the communication medium used, the content of the work, and the viewpoints of both the author and receiver of information.

LABELING
The practice of describing or designating certain library materials, by affixing a prejudicial label to them or segregating them by a prejudicial system, so as to predispose readers against the materials.

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS
The ALA’s basic policy on intellectual freedom. The bill derives from a statement originally developed by Forrest Spaulding, librarian of the Des Moines Public Library. It serves as the library profession’s interpretation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

OBSCENITY
According to the courts, obscenity must be determined using a three-part test. To be obscene, (1) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests; (2) the work must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct as specified in the applicable statutes; and (3) the work, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

PUBLIC FORUM
A limited or designated public forum is a place set aside by the government for expressive activity. According to the courts, public libraries are among such fora.

RESTRICTED ACCESS
The Library Bill of Rights provides for free access to all materials for every person. Forms of restricted access include labelling, restrictive circulation, location of materials in closed or restricted collections, charging of fees, and filtering. In essence, restricted access includes any barrier between the patron and materials. Barriers may be age related, economic, linguistic, or psychological in nature.

Appendix A: The 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.


URL: http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm
Appendix B: 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.


A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association
Association of American Publishers

URL: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement
Appendix C: ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee Members

**Michael Wright (Chair) -** Dubuque County Library District, 5900 Saratoga Plaza, Ste #5, Asbury, IA 52002, 563-582-0008, michaelw@dubcolib.lib.ia.us

**Paula Brown -** Spencer Public Library, 21 E. 3rd St, Spencer, IA 51301, 712-580-7290, pbrown@spenceriowacity.com

**Nathan Clark -** Emmetsburg Public Library, 707 North Superior, Emmetsburg, IA 50536, 712-852-4009, nclark@emmetsburg.lib.ia.us

**Darryl Eschete –** West Des Moines Public Library, 4000 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-222-3409, Darryl.eschete@wdm.iowa.gov

**Annah Hackett –** Grand View University, 1350 Morton Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316, 515-263-2879, ahackett@grandview.edu

**Samantha Helmick –** Burlington Public Library, 210 Court Street, Burlington, IA 52601, 319-753-1647, shelmick@burlington.lib.ia.us

**Pat Lienemann –** Williamsburg Public Library, 300 West State Street, Williamsburg, IA 52361, 319-688-1195, plienemann@williamsburgiowa.org

**Nancy Luikart –** Muscatine Community College, 152 Colorado Street, Muscatine, IA 52761, 563-288-6073, nluikart@eicc.edu

**Lisa Martincik –** University of Iowa, 5020 Main Library, Iowa City, IA 52242, 3119-384-0648. Lisa-martincik@uiowa.edu

Current list available at theILA Website.