

SIKESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
POLICY 106
MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

I. Purpose

A written materials selection policy aids library staff in selecting and acquiring a useful, well-rounded collection of books and materials to meet the needs of the community. A policy statement helps answer questions by the public regarding the presence or absence of certain materials and helps explain the basis on which materials have been selected.

II. National Statements Concerning Intellectual Freedom

The Library Board and staff believe that the right to read is an important part of the intellectual freedom that is basic to democracy, and hereby adopts these basic documents as official library policy: Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View. Copies of these are appended to this document.

III. Objectives in Materials Selection

The purpose of the Sikeston Public Library is to obtain, organize and make conveniently available to all the people of the community recreational, educational and informational materials, including books, periodicals, newspapers, recordings and other print and non-print materials. It is the policy of the library to maintain an up-to-date collection of standard works in all fields of knowledge, that are of permanent value, plus timely materials on current issues and items in current demand. Materials will be selected in consideration of the needs of business, the professions, government, and community organizations. Material selection will also include consideration of the needs of the homebound, the visually, physically and mentally disabled and those individuals with learning disabilities. The needs of adult beginning readers and of people for whom English is not the principal language will also be considered. Both the adult and young people's collections will serve as supplementary sources for student use, but materials selected for students must also be useful to the general reader. Ordinarily, textbooks will not be purchased.

IV. Responsibility for Selection

The selection of materials is the responsibility of the Library Director and Children's Librarian. Oversight of materials selection is the responsibility of the Library Director.

V. Method of Materials Selection

Any materials selection policy must be fairly general, and staff must always exercise their knowledge and experience of all library materials and of the community served. Certain methods and principles should be followed as closely as possible.

A. Criteria: Each type of material must be considered in terms of its own merit and intended audience. All selections, both purchases and gifts, must meet some of the following criteria:

- i. Appeal to the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational interests and needs of individuals in the community.
- ii. Style and readability.
- iii. Permanent value as source material or interpretation.
- iv. Vitality and originality of thought.
- v. Contemporary significance.
- vi. Literary and/or artistic merit.
- vii. Accuracy and objectivity.
- viii. Suitability of physical form to library use.
- ix. Skill, competence and purpose of the author.
- x. Relations to other materials and existing areas of coverage in order to maintain a diverse collection.
- xi. Technical quality in selection of non-book material.
- xii. Reliability of publisher.

B. Reviews:

Reviews in professionally recognized periodicals are a primary source for material selection. Standard bibliographies, booklists by recognized authorities and the advice of competent people in specific subject areas will be used. Purchases may also be made by librarians after examining the materials. To aid in the selection process, the Sikeston Public Library relies on professional publications, recommendations from librarians and other professionals, and recommendations from library patrons.

C. Requests:

All requests or suggestions from patrons for specific titles or subject requests will be considered. Multiple copies of high demand titles will be based on past circulation of titles by an author and by pre-publication demand. Whenever there is enough demand or interest in a title or subject, an item with unfavorable reviews may be purchased, unless the subject in question is already adequately covered by better materials.

D. Specialized Materials:

Specialized professional materials of limited community interest will not ordinarily be purchased. Referral to other library collections and interlibrary loan, primarily through Missouri libraries, will be used to supply patrons with these materials. Supplementary materials for students and information for specialists are provided in a limited number of fields, the library taking cognizance of and avoiding unnecessary duplication in subject areas which are the special prerogative of other community resources.

VI. Replacement and Maintenance:

The library keeps its collection vital and useful by retaining or replacing essential material and removing on a systematic and continuous basis those works which are worn, outdated, of little historical significance, or no longer in demand.

VII. Access

A. Processing and shelving of materials shall in no way reflect a value judgment of the materials. There will be no labeling of any item or of its records to indicate bias. All materials will be shelved in their proper order on open shelves, freely and easily accessible to the public. For the convenience of the patron, such collections as fiction by genre, local history and genealogy, large type and audio/visual materials are kept in separate collections and have shelving designations.

B. The library assures free access to its holdings for all patrons who are free to select or reject for themselves any item in the collection. Individual or group prejudice about a particular item or type of material in the collection may not preclude its use by others.

C. Children are not limited to the juvenile collection, although juvenile collections are kept together to facilitate use. Responsibility for a child's reading must rest with the parent or guardian, not with the library.

VIII. Statement of Specific Policies in Selected Areas

A. Adult Materials

1. Fiction: The fiction collection provides books in the English language for the wide range of interests, tastes and reading levels, including classics in the field, titles representing periods of writing and those meeting popular demand for light reading. No book should be eliminated because of coarse language, violence, or frank discussion of sexual episodes when these are pertinent to the plot, characterization or social milieu of the book. While some may find this offensive, it is the library's responsibility to protect the rights of mature readers. Books found to be pornographic, as defined by Missouri Revised Statutes 573.010, should be excluded from the collection. Fiction will be

selected primarily from professional reviews. Other factors to be considered are anticipated public demand, the reputation of the author and patron requests. The exception to this is genre fiction. When reviews cannot be found, materials may be selected on the basis of author or series popularity.

2. Religion: The library attempts to maintain a diverse collection representing all the major religions and their sacred scriptures. Authoritative material which introduces and explains the basic concepts and practices of the various religions and beliefs is also included. The library does not add materials of a strictly proselytizing nature. The collection encompasses inspirational literature and popular studies on new ideas and movements which are taking place in religion today.

3. Health and Medicine: The library generally purchases standard and popular materials in health, nutrition, hygiene, diseases and medicine that are primarily of interest to persons outside the medical profession. Authoritative, scientific and popular materials about sex are provided for the general reader at various age and reading levels. Books catering to morbid, esoteric or sensational interests do not come within the scope of this collection.

4. Law: The library purchases standard and popular materials which deal with the philosophy of law and particular types of law such as real estate, taxation, marriage and divorce for the lay reader. Laws and regulations for the United States and Missouri are included in the collection or made available online. Similar materials for other counties and states are not included in depth.

5. Politics: In addition to a balanced collection on modern American and international politics and government, the basic documents of all political systems that have influenced, and do influence, people should be available to the public.

6. Genealogy: General genealogical reference tools including on-line resources, books of genealogical search procedures, materials of regional, state, and local value are purchased. Individual family histories are rarely purchased unless they are of outstanding national or local importance. Gift or grant monies may be used for such purposes. The library will attempt to secure additional genealogical materials through interlibrary loan whenever possible.

7. Foreign/World Languages: The library purchases informational, educational, recreational, and cultural materials in other languages in a limited number. Various formats will be included in the collection.

8. ESL: The English as a Second Language materials are targeted at foreign language speakers and students who are learning English. The collection includes dictionaries, pronunciation CDs, and English high interest/easy reading fiction and nonfiction.

9. Reference: The library purchases materials that provide facts and information in demand or of potential use by those to be served by the library; materials that do not duplicate items already held unless the new item is more timely, easier to use and/or more comprehensive; and materials that complement existing collections. Materials which can be updated must be current and the academic and/or technical level should be within the range of users and staff.

B. Juvenile Materials

The children's collection attempts to provide fiction and non-fiction materials to meet the educational, informational, cultural and recreational interests and needs of children from birth. Books of interest to students of children's literature, parents, and people working with children are also purchased on a limited basis. These include historical perspectives, evaluations of children's literature, information on children's authors and illustrators, and bibliographies of materials for children. No attempt is made to supply school textbooks or substitutes for individual school library collections or areas of service. Materials will be selected for varying levels of maturity representing a wide range of points of view and a wide scope of interest. An effort should be made to purchase starred reviews (marking books of exceptional merit) in the various review sources. Materials will be subject to the same guidelines for purchase as adult materials.

C. Young Adult Materials

Titles of interest to persons in junior and senior high school are purchased and shelved in the young adult fiction areas. An effort should be made to purchase starred reviews (marking books of exceptional merit) in the various review sources. Nonfiction materials targeted to a young adult audience shall be shelved with adult nonfiction materials and designated as "YA" interest with a spine label. Materials will be subject to the same guidelines for purchase as adult materials.

D. Outreach Materials

The entire circulating collection is available for use in outreach programs such as nursing homes, homebound service and designated cooperative agencies. Materials for the visually impaired are purchased by the library, and materials for the blind are provided by the Wolfner Library, Jefferson City, Missouri.

E. Periodicals and Newspapers

The library endeavors to provide the most representative periodicals on a wide range of subjects of reference value and recreational interest. In general, all content areas are open for selection and materials will be subject to the same guidelines for purchase as adult and youth materials. The library maintains current subscriptions to local and regional

newspapers. Archives of the *Sikeston Standard* and *Sikeston Herald* are retained on microfilm.

F. Non-Book Materials

The library staff considers that non-book materials represent an alternative format. In general, the same selection policies will apply.

1. DVDs: The library selects titles in video formats intended for people from preschool ages through older adults. Responsibility for a child's or teen's video selections rest with the parent or guardian, not with the library. The library will not collect video materials which are designed for classroom use nor those readily available at video rental stores.

Additionally, the library will not collect films having as their purpose advertising or solicitation of funds. Areas for collecting will include:

- Documentaries; creative interpretations of reality
- Local and regional interest; films about this area or made by film makers within this area
- Dramatizations of classic literature
- How-to's and informational productions; in areas popular with library patrons
- Film study; films considered classics or landmarks in film making
- Entertainment films with special consideration given to those with a literary connection or that have been recognized for their exceptional merit
- Family films both for entertainment and on a wide range of non-fiction topics

2. Audiobooks

The circulating collection is intended for people from juvenile through older adults and includes both fiction and non-fiction titles. Materials will be subject to the same guidelines for purchase as adult materials.

3. Downloadable e-books & audiobooks

A majority of the library's downloadable e-books and audiobooks are available through membership in the MoLib2Go consortium. As the budget allows, additional copies and titles are purchased for use only by the library's cardholders. Items in the collection include popular adult fiction, nonfiction, teen and children's titles. The aforementioned materials selection criteria apply to downloadable titles purchased directly by the library. The content of the MoLib2Go consortium is not customizable with subscription granting access to the entirety of its contents. As such, they are evaluated for inclusion in the collection as a whole based on their ability to enhance and supplement the print collection. Subscription to MoLib2Go does not constitute endorsement of the content patrons may access.

G. Gifts and Memorials

The library will encourage and accept gifts with the understanding that gifts of materials will be added to the collection only if they meet the same standards required of purchased materials. Gift materials not meeting those standards, those that are out-of-date, unneeded duplicates of items already owned, or those in a format unsuitable for library use, may be given to other organizations, sold, exchanged or recycled. Gift items will be integrated into the regular library collections in normal sequence, available to all library patrons, and otherwise handled as any other material belonging to the library. Upon request, gift items that are added, will be marked with an appropriate bookplate. A letter for tax purposes may be given to the donor if requested at the time the donation is made, acknowledging receipt of the gift only. Memorial gift items will be marked with an appropriate bookplate, with a letter of acknowledgment sent to the family. Whenever a gift is no longer needed, it will be disposed of in the same manner as material purchased.

H. Requests for Withdrawal or Addition of Material

When any patron objects to the presence or absence of any library materials, the complaint will be given a hearing. All complaints to staff members will be referred to a supervisor who will discuss the matter with the complainant. If the patron wishes, he will be supplied with the “**Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials**” form, appended hereto. If it is a request for withdrawal of materials, the Director will examine the item in question, check reviews, and determine whether it conforms to the standards of the materials selection policy. If it is a request for an addition of materials, the Director will check reviews and consider or reconsider its addition. The Director will decide whether or not to add, withdraw or restrict the material in question and will write to the complainant giving reason for the decision. Materials subject to complaint shall not be removed pending final action. All “Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials” forms will be submitted to the Sikeston Public Library Board of Trustees. Decisions on reconsideration requests will be discussed in open sessions of the board, and its decisions will become part of the minutes of the board’s meeting.

Date Approved by Board of Trustees

Board President

Effective Date

RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Please read the packet contents before submitting this “Reconsideration of Materials.” It is recommended that the reconsideration of materials be discussed with the Director, which will provide an opportunity to resolve the request before this formal process proceeds.

This packet includes.

- Collection Development Policy
- Library Bill of Rights
- The Freedom to Read Statement
- The Freedom to View Statement

The Sikeston Public Library District Board of Trustees has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library/educational resources to the Director. Citizens requesting reconsideration must complete and sign this form as the next procedural step. The completed form must be returned to the Director, Sikeston Public Library District, 121 East North Street, Sikeston, MO 63801.

Any library cardholder or resident of the Library’s service district may formally request the reconsideration of library resources by completing in full and signing a “Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources” form. The Director in consultation with the collection development staff will examine the resource in question, check reviews, and determine whether it conforms to the priorities and criteria of the library selection and collection development policy.

If it is a request to reconsider the classification of a resource, the Director in consultation with the appropriate staff will determine whether the existing classification of the resource is appropriate for its subject, style, theme and intended audience.

The reconsideration request, along with the written review and recommendation of the Director, shall be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees. Based on the principles and criteria of the resource selection and collection development policy, the Board of Trustees shall decide whether to retain, reclassify or withdraw the resource in question. The Director shall convey the Board’s decision to the initiator of the request, in written communication, within seven days. In cases where the initiator of the request is not satisfied with the Board's decision and the situation escalates, the Board may authorize one or more of the following actions: holding a public hearing to invite the widest possible community comment on the issue; making accurate and complete information available to all news media; reporting the incident to the Missouri Library Association and the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom; seeking legal advice. In situations of public controversy, when the Board has determined that the actions of the Director and/or other employees conform to the established policy, the Board shall provide moral support to the staff, resist calls for the censure or dismissal of employees, provide documentation that library policy was followed, and authorize funds for legal defense. If the Library is required to defend itself in legal action, the Board shall determine whether to seek assistance from specialty counsel. Resources subject to reconsideration remain available to the public, pending final disposition of the request for reconsideration.

**RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS FORM
SIKESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

1. Do you represent yourself? _____ Organization? _____

If organization, name of organization _____

2. Resource type on which you are commenting:

____ Book ____ Video ____ Magazine ____ Library Program

____ Newspaper ____ Electronic information/network (please specify)

____ Other (please specify)

3. Title _____

4. Author/Producer _____

5. What brought this resource to your attention? _____

6. Have you examined the entire resource? _____ YES _____ NO

If not, what parts did you read or view? Please be specific. _____

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

8. For what age group would you recommend this material? _____

9. Is there anything positive about this material? _____

10. What do you feel might be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material?

11. What action would you suggest in regard to this material? _____

11. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic? _____

Signature

Date

**APPENDIX TO THE
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

SIKESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICIES ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

**Reaffirmed by the Board of Trustees
July 6, 2023**

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. 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 18, 1948. Amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980, by the ALA Council.

*Source: Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association. This document and many others related to Intellectual Freedom are available from the Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

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.

A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association
Association of American Publishers

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression
The Association of American University Presses, Inc.
The Children's Book Council Freedom to Read Foundation
National Association of College Stores
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Council of Teachers of English
The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

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 guarantee 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.

Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council