
Ethics & Intellectual Freedom Policy

Adopted March 20, 2017

In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, librarians are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. The Westbank Community Library District

1. endeavors to provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources, equitable service policies, equitable access, and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.
 2. upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and resists efforts to censor library resources. The District will not expurgate or label materials for the purpose of censorship. If materials are acquired by the library which are already labeled with permission of the copyright holder, the library will not remove the labels.
 3. will provide materials for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people the District serves. As much as is practicable, the District will 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, or because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. The District does not need to endorse every idea or presentation it makes available.
 4. Collects some materials that may not be suitable for adolescents. The District affirms the responsibility and right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and materials.
 5. may utilize Internet filtering to ensure compliance with law, but will make every effort to accommodate information searches so restricted.
 6. shall not remove materials under challenge that meet the criteria for selection and inclusion within the collection. The library welcomes requests from library members to critically examine materials in the collection, and those materials will remain in the collection throughout the challenge process.
 7. shall develop its collection according to professional standards and an established selection and review process. The district shall endeavor to provide materials in a variety of formats to meet the needs of foreign-language speakers and users with disabilities.
 8. will not charge residents for use of the library collection, services, or programs. Fines, fees, and other user charges will be scrutinized for potential barriers to access.
 9. endeavors to protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired, or transmitted, within the scope of the law.
 10. respects intellectual property rights and advocates balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
-

11. strives for excellence in the profession by holding staff to professional standards, encouraging professional development, and fostering the aspirations of potential librarians.

Adapted from ALA Library Bill of Rights (2008), Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements (2004), the ALA Intellectual Freedom Manual (1996), and the ALA Code of Ethics (2008)

Challenges to Materials

Any Library card holder who lives in the District may formally challenge materials available in the Library on the basis of appropriateness by filling out the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form. It should be submitted to the Library Director or Collections Manager, who will make applicable Library policies available, including the Mission Statement, Ethics & Intellectual Freedom Policy, Collection Development Policies, and this Challenges to Material Policy.

When the form is received, the District will form a reconsideration committee which will include the section's selector, a Library Board member, and an experienced librarian from outside the Library. The committee will review and determine whether the material conforms to the principles of selection outlined in collection policy. A written report will be prepared by the committee and kept on file at the Library. All parties will be informed of the decision. The complainant may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees. The Board will review and rule on the appeal. A written report will be prepared by the Board and kept on file at the Library.