

BEYOND BOOK CHALLENGES

2024 Pop YS Con

Mandy Easter, Consultant, Law Librarian

Maryann Mori, Consultant



“Learn how to appropriately and legally navigate these challenges that go ‘beyond the books.’”



1. Background and overview
2. Beyond Books
3. Proactive Preparations
4. Active Responses
5. Q&A



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

“the suppression of ideas and information that certain persons...find objectionable or dangerous”



INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

the right of every individual to both

seek and receive information

from all points of view

without restriction

It provides for

free access to all expressions of ideas

through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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 THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

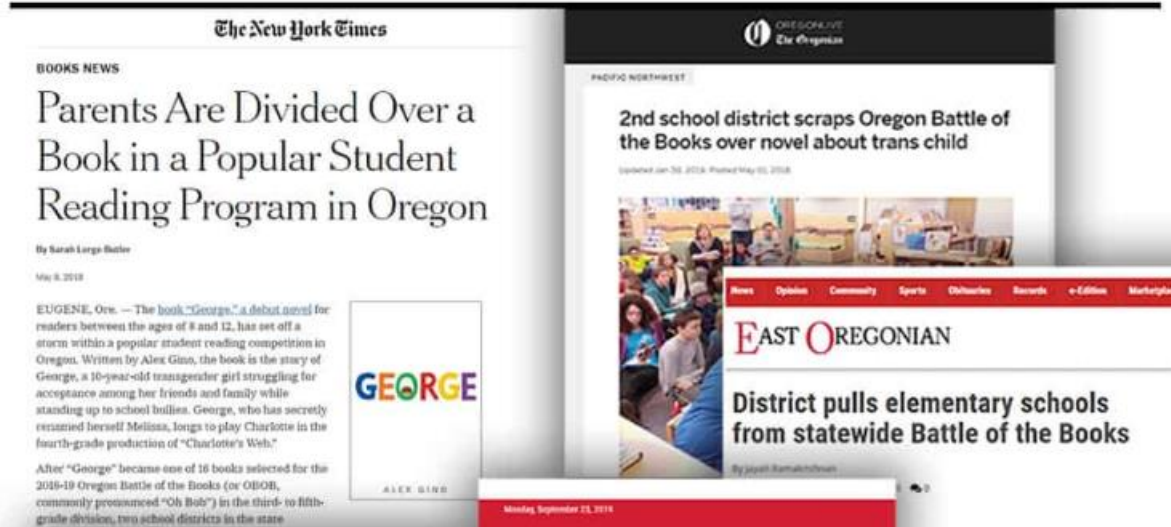
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



Censorship Beyond Books

Librarians share experiences of challenges to displays, exhibits, and more

By Sallyann Price | September 24, 2019



“In 2018, these nonbook challenges represented 38% of challenges reported to OIF.”

CENSORSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

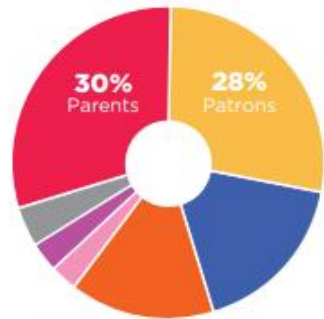
In 2022, the American Library Association tracked the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago; 2,571 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 1,858 in 2021. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks](https://www.ala.org/bbooks)



2022

1. Highest number of challenges
2. Most challenges occurred in public libraries
3. 18% of all challenges were non-book challenges

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?



17% Political/religious groups

15% Board/administration

3% Librarians/teachers

3% Elected officials

4% Other
(Includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

Statistics based on 1,207 cases with known initiators.

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



48%

Public libraries



41%

School libraries



10%

Schools



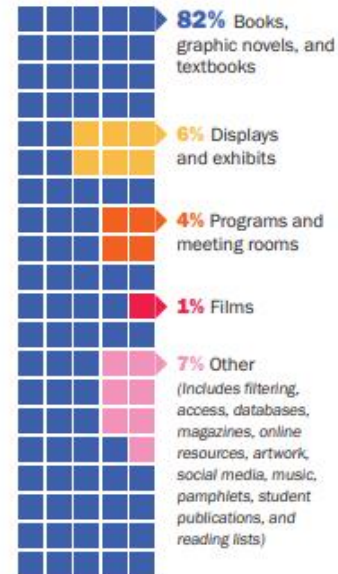
1%

Higher education libraries and other institutions

Statistics based on 1,264 cases with known locations.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **1,269 challenges** in 2022. Here's the breakdown:



https://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/2022%20censorship%20by%20the%20numbers%20infographic-2page_0.pdf





- Train
- Build
- Educate
- Develop
- Anticipate
- Gather

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

TRAIN

- Intellectual Freedom
- Patron Privacy
- Policies
- Procedures
- Library Ethics

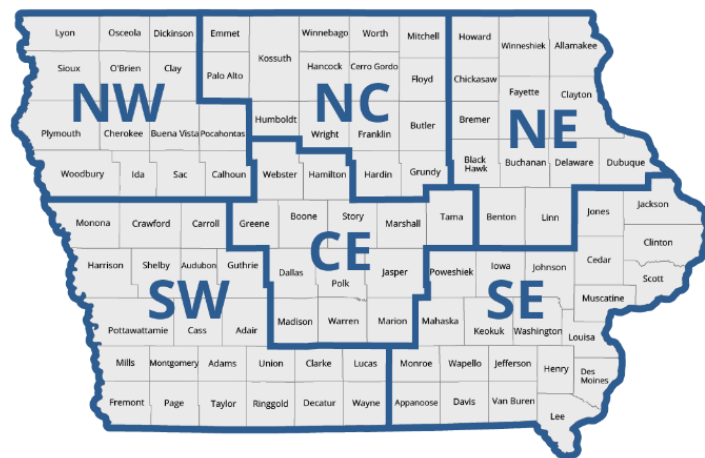
Knowledge
is
power!



Northwest (NW) District

North Central (NC) District

Northeast (NE) District



Southwest (SW) District

Central (CE) District

Southeast (SE) District

- ALA
- State Library
- ILA

Advocacy & Issues

- Intellectual Freedom Resources for Trustees, Friends, & Foundations**
- Citizens Save Libraries Power Guide
- The E's of Libraries® & What's Your E?™
- ALA Resources
- United for Libraries Resources
- Remembering Jack Neal (1942-2019)

Email Print Cite Share This Page

Intellectual Freedom Resources for Trustees, Friends, & Foundations

FIGHTING CENSORSHIP

Intellectual Freedom Resources for Trustees, Friends, & Foundations

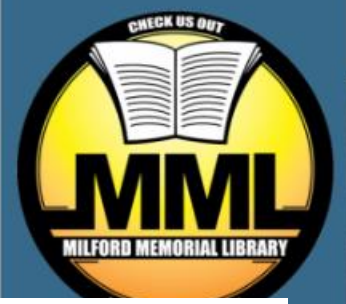
Fighting Censorship: Creating Connections to Protect Intellectual Freedom

Free to United for Libraries Personal Members and United for Libraries Statewide Partners.

United for Libraries will present this four-part series for library Trustees, advocates, Friends, Foundations, and those who work with them as they help support the fight against censorship. **Part one, "Be Fierce: How to Harness Your Power for Your Libraries,"** will feature tips on overcoming obstacles to harness your power, expertise, knowledge, and passion to successfully advocate for your library, and develop strategic relationships to counter censorship attempts. **Part two, "Get Ready, Stay Ready: Supporting Proactive Community Advocacy for Library Professionals,"** will focus on maintaining inclusive libraries in partnership with community organizations. **Part three, "Reclaiming the Narrative: Policy Conversations that Center Community,"** will examine how effective local policy is connected to constructive state and federal policy.

Part four, an interactive workshop session, will be announced soon.

[Register](#)



MILFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HOURS:
 MON., TUES., THURS. -- 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY -- 9:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 SATURDAY -- 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
 SUNDAY -- CLOSED

CONTACT US:
 PHONE: (712) 338-4643
 EMAIL: INFO@MILFORD.LIB.IA.US
 FAX: (712) 338-4859

MILFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Back Row: Deb Johnson (Trustee), Shelly Bering (Secretary), Joann Gano (Trustee), Elaine Franklin (Trustee), Denny Dotson (Vice President). Front Row: Jeff Cookinham (Trustee), Rick Kilts (President).

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS



BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

APRIL 20, 2024

AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY | 515 DOUGLAS AVE.

A family-friendly event celebrating the artistic and cultural contributions of African and African American visual and performing artists in the community.

CITY OF
GRIMES
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family
LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Board Game Bonanza

Come celebrate International Tabletop Day at the Library. We will have structured gaming opportunities, free play, and fun for all ages.

• Sat

Symphony Kids

Music Program for Kids!

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 18
10:00 A.M.



FRESH
CONVERSATIONS



What is *Fresh Conversations*?

Fresh Conversations is a free nutrition and physical education program for ages 60+. Each month participants receive a new, or fresh, newsletter that focuses on a current health topic. It offers practical tips and sensible solutions to everyday problems that get in the way of doing what most people want to do: eat well and live well!

The newsletter provides up-to-date information to you from nutrition and health research. You will also find low-cost, healthy recipes, easy ways to be active at home, puzzles and games.

Fresh Conversations is also an opportunity to connect with other older adults for a friendly group discussion!

We offer Fresh Conversations through in-person and computer meetings (with or without a camera).



1st
Wednesday of
Each Month
12:30 pm
Perry Public
Library

www.perry.lib.ia.us

Call 2-1-1 for food resources near you.

EDUCATE

Kids & INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



Thursday, April 11
7pm, Auditorium or via Zoom

Parents are encouraged to come learn about tools to help guide your family's reading choices. Hear from intellectual freedom experts as they connect child development stages, educators and learning in the classroom, and how you can be a reading advocate for your child.

<https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/media/document/1522>

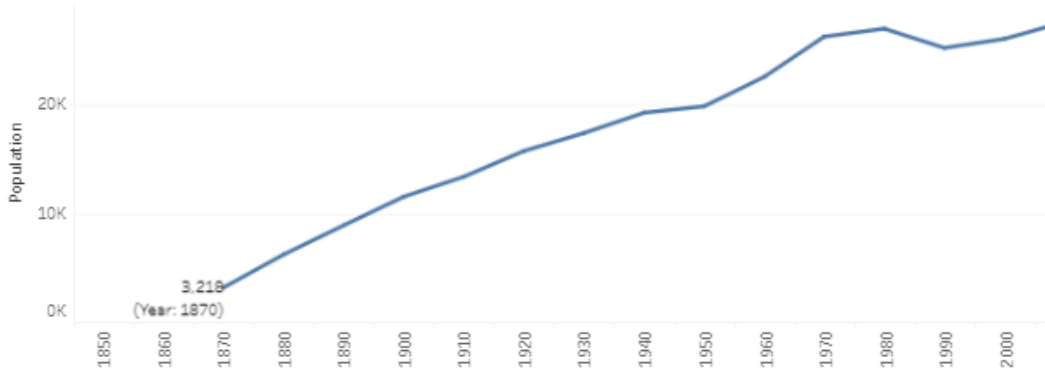


Demographic Characteristics: Marshalltown, Iowa

2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-year period estimates (unless noted)

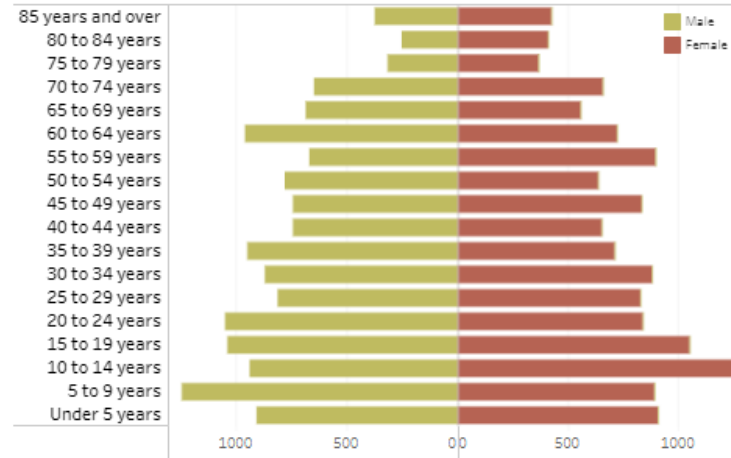
City
Marshalltown

Marshalltown total population



1850-2020 Decennial Censuses & 2022 Annual Population Estimates

Population by age and gender



<https://www.iowadatacenter.org/>

Race and Hispanic Origin

	Estimate	Percent
Total population	27,511	
White alone	19,649	71.4%
Black or African American alone	798	2.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	271	1.0%
Asian alone	1,435	5.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0%
Some other race alone	2,134	7.8%
Two or more races	3,224	11.7%
Hispanic or Latino origin	9,234	47.0%
White alone not Hispanic or Latino	15,324	55.7%

Median age by race and Hispanic or Latino origin

Total population



Created by the State Data Center of Iowa
Contact information: State Library of Iowa, State Data Center Program, <http://www.iowadatacenter.org> 800-249-4483, census@iowa.gov

DEVELOP (SOLID) POLICIES



**STATE LIBRARY
OF IOWA**

IN SERVICE TO IOWA
**PUBLIC LIBRARY
STANDARDS**

SIXTH EDITION • 2016
REVISED 2/15/2024

WWW.STATELIBRARYOFIOWA.GOV

7. (Tier 1) **(ENHANCED STANDARD)** The library board adopts four required written policies – circulation, collection development, personnel, and Internet use. Required policies are reviewed at least every three years. All policies are available to all staff members and for public inspection. If a union contract or your city defines the library’s personnel policy, the library board must be aware of the details of the policy and must review the policy at least every three years.

- Required: The library’s adopted circulation policy is consistent with the principles of the right to privacy and the Code of Iowa 22.7 (13) Confidential records. To find the full text of the code visit our website at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=22&year=2022>
- Required: The library’s adopted collection development policy is consistent with principles of intellectual freedom as found in such documents as the U.S. Constitution, the American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Manual, and the Iowa Library Association Intellectual Freedom Resource Guide.



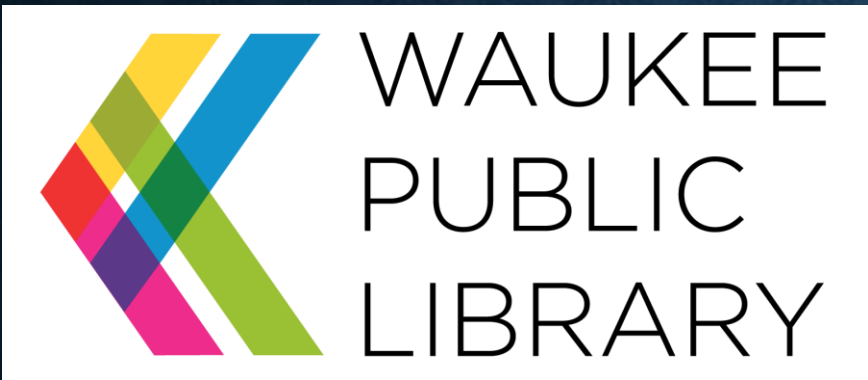
[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)



▾ **Statements of Concern Policy**

The role of the Dubuque County Library District (DCLD) is to provide opportunities that will allow individuals to freely examine subjects and make their own decisions. While patrons are free to reject for themselves what they do not approve of, they cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of access to others.

The DCLD board and director are aware that patrons may take issue with the inclusion of specific items, programs, or practices, and they welcome the expression of concern by patrons. Patron concerns will be dealt with promptly and courteously as detailed in the following process. The DCLD board and director will only consider those concerns brought by residents of rural Dubuque County or of a city that is a member of DCLD.



WAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY	BOARD
SECTION 3.5	APPROVED 1/87
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION	Updated 6/94 Revised 4/02 Reviewed 1/06, 2/08, Revised 2/20, Revised 05/23

Request for Reconsideration of Materials

The Waukee Public Library welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the continued appropriateness of materials in the collection, especially concerning outdated materials. Suggestions will be considered and utilized by the library in the ongoing process of collection development.

Individuals may take issue with library materials that do not support their tastes and views. Staff is available to discuss concerns and identify alternate materials that may be available. If a patron's concern is not satisfied through discussion with staff, a formal, written request for reconsideration of materials may be submitted to the Library Director. The Waukee Public Library is not a judicial body. Laws governing obscenity, subversive materials, and other questionable matters are subject to interpretation by the courts. Therefore, no challenged material will be removed solely for the complaint of obscenity or any other category covered by law until after a local court of competent jurisdiction has ruled against the material. No materials will be knowingly added to the library collection that has been previously determined to be in non-compliance with local laws.

For a request for reconsideration to be considered, the form must be completed in full. The patron submitting the request must be a resident of Waukee and hold a valid library card.

The written complaint will be forwarded to a committee of five, made up of the Library Director, two members of the Board of Trustees, and two representatives of the school or civic community who reside in Waukee. The Committee will carefully review the complaint and the material in question in the light of the Library's Collection Development policy, and report to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting. The Board will decide on the matter and report in writing to the complainant within ten days of the meeting. The decision of the Board is final. An item will only be evaluated for reconsideration once in a twelve-month period.

https://waukeepubliclibrary.org/sites/default/files/Library%20Policies/Policy_3.5_Requests%20for%20Reconsideration_Revised_May2023.pdf



- WHO
- WHEN
- HOW OFTEN



Comprehensive Review - April 19, 2022

Updated - June 20, 2023

https://www.wdmlibrary.org/sites/default/files/policies/Policy%20Manual_revised%202023_0.pdf

The trustees of Mainstream Public Library have established a materials selection policy and a procedure for gathering input about particular items. Completion of this form is the first step in that procedure. If you wish to request reconsideration of a resource, please return the completed form to the library director.

https://www.wdmlibrary.org/sites/default/files/policies/Policy%20Manual_revised%202023_0.pdf

Mainstream Library. 1 Mainstream Plaza. Anytown, State Zip

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you represent self? Or an organization? Name of Organization _____

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

Book (e-book) Magazine Digital Resource Newspaper
 Movie Audio Recording Game Other

Title _____

Author/Producer _____

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

3. Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?

4. What concerns you about the resource?

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

6. What action are you requesting the committee consider?

CHAPTER 8: SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP POLICY

Adopted by Board Action 4/19/2022

The West Des Moines Public Library welcomes the support of institutions, businesses, non-profit organizations and community groups to enhance or improve library activities, services, events and programs through the establishment of sponsorships or collaborative partnerships. These relationships serve as a means to pool resources and to advance the library's vision, mission and strategic plan.

The library will only enter into sponsorships and collaborative partnerships determined to be in the best interest of the library. Sponsorships and collaborative partnerships will be subject to the approval of the Director or his or her designee and, if of sufficient import, the Library Board of Trustees will be consulted.

Agreements between the library and its sponsors and partners must be beneficial to all parties. In particular, these relationships should further the library's goals in one or more of the following ways:

- Increase library visibility in the community;
- Support regular or special library activities, services, events and programs;
- Enhance or create ways to respond to identified community needs.

• WHO

• WHEN

• HOW OFTEN



THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE



Log In

Subscribe

e-Edition / Special Sections



News

Sports

Opinion

Life

Library protest in Owensboro targets Pride Month programs

By JAMES MAYSE PAXTON MEDIA GROUP Jun 21, 2023 0

1 of 2



ANTICIPATE

https://www.thenewsenterprise.com/news/state/library-protest-in-owensboro-targets-pride-month-programs/article_87a50b2e-daa9-5bc2-9104-d977b5f31637.html
Debbie Dickens of Owensboro holds a sign in opposition to the Daviess County Public Library's activities during Pride Month while standing Wednesday with a group of demonstrators, opposed and in favor of the issue, in front of the library on Frederica Street.



Google

<https://www.google.com/alerts> ⋮

Google Alerts - Monitor the Web for interesting new content

Alerts ; Sources. Automatic. News. Blogs. Web. Video. Books. Discussions. Finance ;
Language. Any Language. English. Afrikaans. Arabic. Armenian. Belarusian.

Alerts

Alerts ; Sources. Automatic. News. Blogs. Web. Video. Books ...

Sign in

Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google ...

Google Alerts

Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google ...

Public Alerts Help

How does Google work with government agencies like the ...

[More results from google.com »](#)

<https://www.google.com/alerts>

Designate one
spokesperson from
the library.



GATHER

Resources

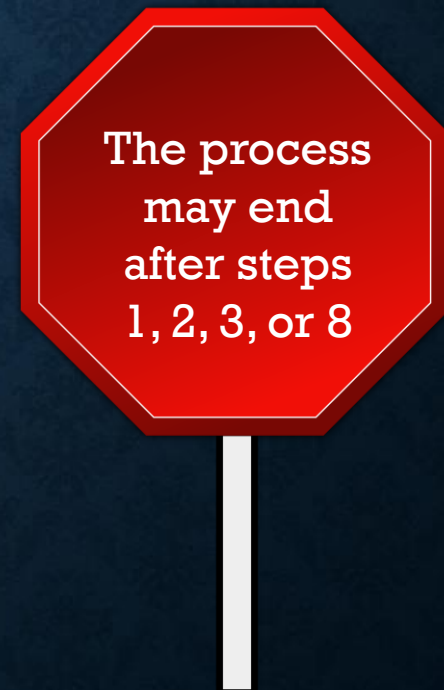
- Laws (federal, state, local)
- 1st & 4th Amendments to U.S. Constitution
- Assorted ALA resources
- Intellectual Freedom documents/handbook
- Freedom to Read Statement
- Library Bill of Rights (and interpretations)
- Samples of other reputable PL policies

Contacts

- State Library District Consultant
- ILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair
- City Attorney
- Iowa ACLU
- Iowa First Amendment lawyer

THE CHALLENGE PROCESS

1. Patron raises concern.
2. Patron is directed to have conversation with director or department manager.
3. Patron is provided with “statement of concern” form.
4. Challenge is reported to ILA, ALA, and your district consultant.
5. Library forms review committee per library’s policy.
6. Committee reviews the challenge, applicable policies, etc.
7. Committee makes recommendation to director.
8. Director informs the patron of a decision.
9. If patron is dissatisfied, they may appeal to the library board.
10. Board extends its decision.



THE COMMITTEE PROCESS



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

MEETING ROOMS



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

MEETING ROOM POLICIES

- **Time**
- **Place**
- **Manner of use**
- **Should not pertain to content of meeting or beliefs/affiliations of sponsors**
- **These statements should be made available in any commonly used language within the community served.**



Articles I, II, VI

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.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

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.



If meeting rooms are made available to the general public, the library may not exclude any group based on the subject matter to be discussed or based on the ideas that the group advocates.

NOTICE

**The library does not advocate
or endorse the viewpoints
of meetings or
meeting room users.**

BULLETIN BOARDS





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 or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use." (Article VI)

Libraries are not required to make space available to community groups or individuals for exhibits, public displays, notices, pamphlets, or flyers. However, if they do, they should post a permanent notice stating that these spaces are available as a service for the public and are not necessarily reflective of the library's viewpoint.

Libraries should have written policies that are content-neutral (do not pertain to the content of the display or to the identity, beliefs, or affiliations of the sponsors), clearly defined, and applied equally, and that address any time, place, and manner restrictions. Policies should be inclusive rather than exclusive. For example, a policy that the library's space is "open to organizations engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities" is an inclusive statement about the limited uses of the space.

Those who object to the content should be able to request a reconsideration, similar to challenging any library resource. Library workers should not censor or remove materials from exhibits, displays, or areas designated for the distribution of information because someone may disagree with the content or with the identity, beliefs, or affiliations of the sponsors.

Adopted July 2, 1991, by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 2004, July 1, 2014, and June 25, 2019.



Preparing for Program Challenges at your Public Library



Watch later

Share



Preparing for Program Challenges at your Public Library

Sukrit Goswami & Amanda Vazquez

MORE VIDEOS

PROGRAMMING
Librarian

An initiative of the American Library Association Public Programs Office



0:07 / 1:08:10



YouTube



<https://programminglibrarian.org/learn/preparing-program-challenges-your-public-library>

~~controversy~~

controversy

controversy







<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/diversity>

Issues & Advocacy

- Advocacy & Public Awareness
- Public Policy
- Banned Books
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**

Access to Library Resources and Services

Cultural Programming to Promote Diversity

Diversity Research & Statistics

Diversity in the Workplace

Libraries Respond

[Email](#) [Print](#) [Cite](#) [Share This Page](#)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



“Socially excluded, marginalized and underrepresented people, not just the mainstream majority, should be able to see themselves reflected in the resources and programs that libraries offer.”



Today's Hours: 9:00am - 6:00pm

[Hours & Location](#)

[My Account](#)

[Using the Library](#)

[Books, Movies & More](#)

[Events & News](#)

[Learn & Explore](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[CATALOG](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

Search books, videos, etc.

[SEARCH THE CATALOG](#)

[HOME](#)

PROGRAMS POLICY

Section: Library Resources

Approved: 6/23/2004

Reviewed: 1/19/2017

Revised: 10/10/2005, 10/19/2006, 9/18/2008, 8/16/2012, 12/17/2015, 2/20/2020, 06/16/2022

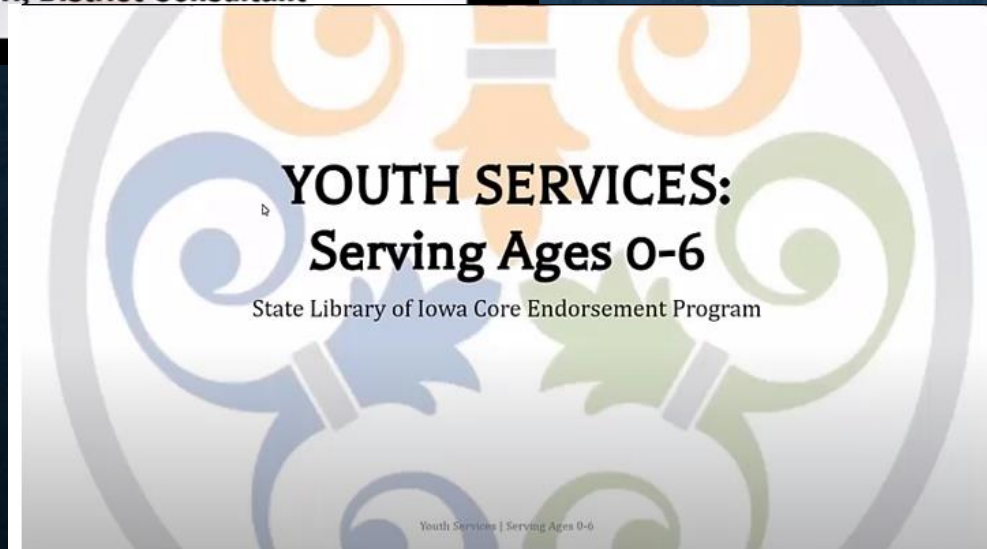
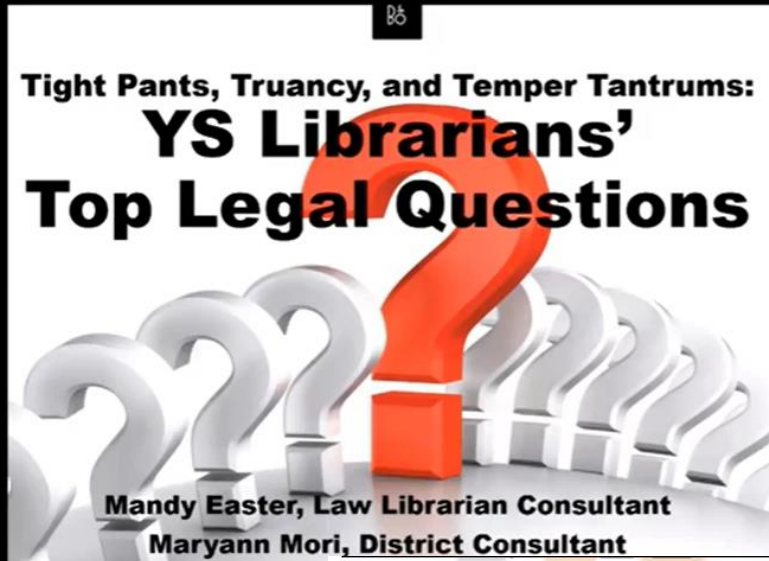
Ames Public Library offers programs to further its mission, “Ames Public Library; We connect you to the world of ideas.”

Library programs are planned public activities that are initiated or presented in partnership by the Library and take place at the Library, at the Bookmobile, at locations in the community, or online. Library programs include, but are not limited to: book talks, demonstrations, discussion groups, lectures, performances, storytimes, tours, and workshops.

<https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/policy/programs>



MINORS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION



Home FAQs Search Page Helpful Instructions

Library Law FAQs

minors Search Reset

Showing 1-12 of 12 Add filters

Question ⓘ

As a librarian, what should I do if I see a patron viewing pornography on a computer? And what if I see someone masturbating in the library?

Can library staff tell patrons who are obviously ill to leave the library and come back when they're well? Can staff post a sign on the library's door that say "Don't come in if you're sick"?

Can the director or the board legally ban someone from the library?

I am a library trustee having trouble understanding why parents cannot ask our librarians which books their minor children have checked out. I am told it is against the law. What are the legal underpinnings of this law?

Is it okay to leave a 16-year-old page unsupervised and in charge of the library in the evening?

Legally, libraries must require anyone under the age of 18 to get his or her parent's signature on a library card registration, right?

IN SUMMARY:

- Have good policies
- Know your policies
- Develop appropriate procedures to implement your policies
- Provide staff training
- Provide trustee training
- Review the many resources provided here and elsewhere
- Contact the State Library and/or ILA's OIF





CONTACT US!

Mandy Easter, Law Librarian, Consultant

mandy.easter@iowa.gov

Maryann Mori, District Consultant

maryann.mori@iowa.gov

