Intellectual Freedom Committee

Intellectual Freedom Toolkit

Intellectual Freedom is 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. We know that our families and community members have varying interests, hobbies, and beliefs. What one person selects to use from their local library for themselves, or for their family, is an exercise of their personal liberty, their freedom to read, and their intellectual freedom. To meet the broad and varied needs of Wisconsinites, libraries and library staff work diligently to build exceptional collections that represent the stories and interests of all Wisconsin residents.

Based on intellectual freedom principles and professional library standards, libraries develop internal policies which guide the development of their collection and establish the means in which members of the public can provide input. The aim is to allow all parties to come to a mutual understanding of why the materials were selected and prevent violations of a community's right to intellectual freedom and the freedom to read.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Wisconsin Library Association developed this toolkit as a way for community members, librarians and trustees to gain a deeper understanding of intellectual freedom as it relates to libraries in Wisconsin. The toolkit is intended to provide resources to help libraries and their communities navigate these issues while protecting the rights of individual readers.

Resources provided below are not intended to be prescriptive.

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Contents

Intellectual Freedom Foundational Concepts

- Library Bill of Rights
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill
- Freedom to Read Statement
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement
- ALA Freedom to View Statement
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement
- ALA Code of Ethics
    - https://www.ala.org/tools/ethics
- ALA Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/otherpolicies/policyconfidentiality
- Core Values of Librarianship
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues
- Urban Library Council's Declaration of Democracy
    - https://www.urbanlibraries.org/initiatives/democracy/declaration-of-democracy
- Libraries: An American Value
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/americanvalue
- The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Access to Information Statement
    - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SJx9HGMvgTAcAtacXv1Nc2KBT_RqkofO/view
- Notable First Amendment Court Decisions
    - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorship/courtcases

Intellectual Freedom in Wisconsin Libraries

- Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)
    - CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services
        - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/intellectual-freedom-2/intellectual-freedom/
    - Intellectual Freedom Education & Resources
        - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/intellectual-freedom-2/intellectual-freedom-resources/
    - CCBC What IF Question-and-Answer Forum
        - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/category/what-if/
- Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Statement of Principle on Intellectual Freedom.
    - https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/statement-on-intellectual-freedom
- WLA Resolution in Support of Library Workers and Intellectual Freedom
    - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MwRqTbgpdrdSWOD0uHgov5_jzHjk-fWL/view?usp=sharing

- Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 43 (Public Libraries)
  - https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/43
- Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter 6 (Public Libraries)
  - https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/6
- Wisconsin Statute 121.02(1)(h) (School Library Standards)
  - https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/121/ii/02/1/h
- Wisconsin Administrative Code PI8.01(2)(h)3 (Library Media Services)
  - https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/8/01/2/h
- Wisconsin Administrative Code PI9.03(1)(e) (School Library Policies)
  - https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/9/03/1/e
- Wisconsin Library Systems
  - https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/public-libraries
- Department of Public Instructions (DPI) Trustee Essentials
  - https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/public-libraries/governance-administration/trustees
- Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) - a nonprofit member organization in Wisconsin
  - WiLS Supports Equity + Anti-Racism Work in Our Member Community Statement
    https://www.wils.org/who-we-are/mission-and-organizational-values/wils-supports-equity-anti-racism-work-in-our-member-community/

Intellectual Freedom in Practice

- Public Libraries
  - Basic Overview
    - *Talking About Intellectual Freedom* (CCBC) by Megan Schliesman (September 22nd, 2020)
      - https://mediaspace.wisc.edu/media/Talking+about+Intellectual+Freedom-+September+22nd+2020%2C+12A21A46+pm/1_ka8cbnm8
    - *Library Law: Intellectual Freedom, Privacy, and Governance* by Kristopher Turner (March 10, 2022):
      - https://www.wisbar.org/NewsPublications/WisconsinLawyer/Pages/Article.aspx?Volume=95&Issue=3&ArticleID=28961
    - *Understanding Intellectual Freedom and Censorship* (August 2, 2023)
      - https://www.nicheacademy.com/blog/understanding-intellectual-freedom-and-censorship
    - Webinar: Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice (Apr 28, 2021)
      - https://youtu.be/8NSxqP729y0?feature=shared
    - Libraries, Law Enforcement and Privacy
      - https://www.oif.ala.org/libraries-and-immigration-enforcement/
      - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacy/lawenforcement/guidelines

- https://www.nfls.lib.wi.us/uploads/5/5/1/3/55139073/libraries_and_law_enforcement-_visits_and_interactions__2_.pdf
  - o Resources for Trustees
    - Challenges to Materials and Programs: The Role of the Library Trustee and Board Members
      - https://www.ala.org/united/sites/ala.org.united/files/content/IF/challenges_to_materials_and_programs_the_role_of_library_trustees_and_board_members_united_for_libraries.pdf
    - Fighting Censorship: Creating Connections to Protect Intellectual Freedom
      - https://www.ala.org/united/advocacy/challenges
    - Terms and Definitions Related to Intellectual Freedom & Censorship
      - https://www.ala.org/united/sites/ala.org.united/files/content/IF/if_censorship_terms_definitions_united_for_libraries.pdf
  - o Policy Development
    - Most Important Thing in Responding to Materials Challenge (CCBC What If…)
      - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/most-important-thing-in-responding-to-materials-challenge/
    - Request for Reconsideration Updates (CCBC What If…)
      - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/updating-the-request-for-reconsideration-form/
    - Selection and Reconsideration Policy Toolkit (ALA)
      - https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit
    - Getting Your Board On Board: Policy Development with the Library Board & Policy Templates
      - https://www.nfls.lib.wi.us/uploads/5/5/1/3/55139073/policy_development_and_policy_templates.docx
  - o Materials Challenge Resources
    - IFLS Library System's Challenge Support & Intellectual Freedom Resources
      - https://iflsweb.org/knowledge-base/challenge-support-intellectual-freedom-resources/
      - Checklist: Preparing for Materials Challenges
        - o https://indianhead-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cole_ifls_lib_wi_us/Ec4BSJDVwghMkEeIIpLxACwBrUlJvH0xKbzEF7fZBTe3WQ?e=4zghAR
      - Checklist: Responding to Challenges
        - o https://indianhead-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cole_ifls_lib_wi_us/EUyUpPUr6k9KntgV2HAhj8YBKdwmBWnHzdvZLK75RcSMig?e=8i6JaF
      - Material Reconsideration Form

- o https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/sampleforms
    - Challenge Response Checklist
        - https://www.arsl.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=155:challenge-response-checklist&catid=25:advocacy-guides&Itemid=235
    - Challenge Response Mind Map
        - https://www.arsl.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=156:challenge-response-mind-map&catid=25:advocacy-guides&Itemid=235
    - Book Resumes:
        - United Against Book Bans
            - o https://bookresumes.uniteagainstbookbans.org/
- o Programming & Displays Challenge Resources
    - IFLS Library System's Challenge Support & Intellectual Freedom Resources
        - https://iflsweb.org/knowledge-base/challenge-support-intellectual-freedom-resources/
        - Sample Program & Displays Policy
            - o https://iflsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/IFLS-EXAMPLE-Programming-Displays-Policy.docx
    - ALSC Toolkit for Program Challenges
        - https://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/toolkit-program-challenges
    - Preparing for Potential Pushback: A Library Program Checklist by Kristina Gomez (2022)
        - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a9x33-kVh7ezToTqsuXYIukIpNJprFcz/view?usp=sharing
- o First Amendment Audits
    - https://www.oif.ala.org/auditing-the-first-amendment-at-your-public-library/
- o Minors' Rights & Parent/Guardian Responsibilities & Resources
    - Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
        - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors
    - Webinar: Intellectual Freedom and Minors
        - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QULQXUzSXvA
    - Rights & Responsibilities:

- - - [Kids! Know Your Rights](#) (PDF) A publication created for children and young people, introducing concepts central to intellectual freedom and the library's role in protecting First Amendment Rights.
    - Resources for Parents
      - https://www.milibraries.org/intellectual-freedom-toolkit-resources#parents
      - Why Are These Books in My Library? What Your Librarian Wants You to Know
        - https://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/youthresourcesFAQ.pdf
    - Wisconsin State Statute, Chapter 43, Section 43.30(4)
      - https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/43.30(4)

- School Libraries
  - Overview
    - School Libraries & the Freedom to Read (DPI)
      - https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/school-libraries/school-libraries-and-freedom-read
    - ALA Schools & Minors' Rights
      - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/minors
    - Access to Resources and Services in the School Library: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
      - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/accessresources
    - WEMTA Statement in Support of School Libraries and Librarians
      - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1icEGf-OQUzCrB4ABXwGX_6o4iuEzx3XpvKJJlB0diQY/preview
  - Policy Development
    - Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries
      - https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit
    - Request for Reconsideration Updates (CCBC What If…)
      - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/updating-the-request-for-reconsideration-form/
    - Policy and Procedure Best Practices in School Libraries (CCBC What If…)
      - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/policy-and-procedure-best-practices/
  - Materials Challenge Resources:

- American Association of School Librarians Resources for Book Challenges
  - https://www.ala.org/aasl/about/challenges
- Defending Intellectual Freedom: LGBTQ+ Materials in School Libraries:
  - https://standards.aasl.org/project/lgbtq/
  - http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslissues/toolkits/LGBTQ%2BResource%20Guide_FINAL-180709.pdf
- WEMTA Roadmap to Intellectual Freedom
  - https://www.wemta.org/Roadmap%20to%20Intellectual%20Freedom.pdf
- National Coalition Against Censorship - First Amendment in Schools, A Resource Guide
  - https://ncac.org/resource/first-amendment-in-schools
- Students' Right to Read (2018) By National Council of Teachers of English
  - http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/righttoreadguideline
- Minors Rights & Parent/Guardian Responsibilities & Resources
  - Do Minors Have First Amendment Rights in Schools (2015) By Theresa Chmara published in Knowledge Quest (AASL)
    - http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/Do%20Minors%20Have%20First%20Amendment%20Rights%20in%20Schools.pdf
  - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
    - https://dpi.wi.gov/cyber-security/ferpa

- Academic Libraries
  - Overview
    - Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
      - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/intellectual
    - Academic Freedom
      - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/academicfreedom
    - What's the role of the librarian in supporting intellectual freedom?
      - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkSak3QXy0I
  - Policy Development
    - Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries

- https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit
  - Making the Case for Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy in a Challenging Political Environment - A Resource Guide For Campus Leaders
    - https://pen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Academic-Freedom-Resource-Guide-final.pdf
  - Request for Reconsideration Updates (CCBC What If…)
    - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/updating-the-request-for-reconsideration-form/
  - Chippewa Valley Technical College Library's Collection Development Policy
    - https://libguides.cvtc.edu/about/collectiondevelopmentpolicy
  - Clemson University Libraries Challenged Materials Policy
    - https://libraries.clemson.edu/our-organization/policies/challenged-materials-policy/#

- Special Libraries, Museums & Archives
  - Overview
    - National Coalition Against Censorship - Museum Best Practices for Managing Controversy
      - https://ncac.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Museum-Best-Practices-2019.pdf
    - MSN Conversation #3: Making the Future Museum We Want
      - https://www.aam-us.org/2020/12/10/msn-conversation-3-making-the-future-museum-we-want/
    - Aspiration/Obligation? Imagining Intellectual Freedom in Museums
      - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORpMxFu_-tI
    - American Alliance of Museums, Center for the Future of Museums Blog
      - https://www.aam-us.org/category/future-of-museums/

Preparing for Conflicts
- De-escalation Trainings and Resources
  - Defusing a Confrontational Situation
    - https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/defusing-a-confrontational-situation/
  - De-escalation: A Crucial Tool in Libraries for Promoting Intellectual Freedom by Steven Ward, Forsyth Public Library (2023)

- https://www.ila.org/publications/ila-reporter/article/180/de-escalation-a-crucial-tool-in-libraries-for-promoting-intellectual-freedom
  - o Library De-escalation Training
    - https://www.libraryjournal.com/event/conflict-de-escalation-training-oct-2023
- Harassment
  - o Library Freedom Project's doxxing and online harassment preventative guide
    - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H6fLXpgMk2WDefarn1oPPn4KHttHmMgSHiaULqszZjE/edit?usp=sharing
  - o Library Freedom Project's doxxing and online harassment emergency protocols
    - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PIyQUnVZTqfHPb21Zyu3uvXJUQeLw3h592FwY_KE_X4/edit?usp=sharing

Support for Individual Library Staff
- Rekindling from Burnout: Lessons and Strategies for Public Library Workers
  - o https://infopeople.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=1009
  - o Rekindling from Burnout Guide
    https://infopeople.org/sites/default/files/civicrm/persist/contribute/files/webinar/2021/11_18_21/BPL%20Trauma%20Stewardship%20Book%20Guide.pdf
- Trauma, Book Bans, and Libraries: A Resource Guide for Library Workers, Library Supporters, and Beyond
  - o https://bookriot.com/library-trauma-resource-guide/
- Mental Health Resources in Libraries - Materials from ALA Library collection and ALA publications that detail how to promote mental health for patrons and staff in libraries.
  - o https://www.ala.org/support/mental-health-resources-libraries
- We Are NOT Okay: Library Worker Trauma Before and During COVID-19 and What Happens After
  - o https://califa.org/WeAreNotOkay
- Library Worker Support Network:
  - o https://libraryworkersupport.org/

Community Support
- EveryLibrary: https://www.everylibrary.org/bookbanningfight
- #FReadom Movement
  - o https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/21/us/texas-school-librarians-book-challenges/index.html
  - o https://twitter.com/FReadomFighters

Who to Contact in Wisconsin

- Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
  - Public Libraries: Teresa Schmidt, teresa.schmidt@dpi.wi.gov, 608-266-7270
  - School Libraries: Monica Treptow, monica.treptow@dpi.wi.gov, 608-575-6065
- Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)
  - CCBC confidentially assists Wisconsin librarians and teachers when they are facing potential or actual book challenges. If you are facing a challenge, or a question has been raised about a book and you think a complaint or challenge may follow, contact CCBC at ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu or 608-263-3720.
- Wisconsin Library Association (WLA)
  - PO BOX 6437 | 112 OWEN ROAD #6437 | Monona, WI 53716
  - Telephone: 608.245.3640
  - wla@wisconsinlibraries.org

Data & Statistics

- PEN America's index of school book bans by state: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hTs_PB7KuTMBtNMESFEGuK-0abzhNxVv4tgpI5-iKe8/edit#gid=1171606318
- EveryLibrary's database of book censorship: https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/book_censorship_database_magnusson

Advocacy

- ALA State Legislative Toolkit - helps organizations advance state legislation that supports libraries, library workers, and the communities they serve.

  - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/state-legislative-toolkit

- ARSL Tips for Talking with Legislators

  - https://www.arsl.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=158:tips-for-talking-with-legislators&catid=25:advocacy-guides&Itemid=235

- Information about the Hatch Act/the difference between political/partisan advocacy and issue based advocacy for government workers

  - https://www.usgs.gov/media/files/office-special-counsel-advisory-black-lives-matter-and-hatch

  - https://d9-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/s3fs-public/atoms/files/Office%20of%20Special%20Counsel%20%28OSC.gov%29%20advisory%20on%20Black%20Lives%20Matter%20and%20the%20Hatch%20Act%20%28July%2014%2C%202020%29.pdf

Additional Resources

- Hotlines/Rapid Response
  - Michigan: https://www.mirighttoread.com/contact-us
  - New Jersey: https://www.njla.org/fight-censorship
  - Texas: https://txla.org/tools-resources/intellectual-freedom/intellectual-freedom-helpline/tla-helpline/
- National Resources
  - ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, (312) 280-4221, oif@ala.org
  - ALA Intellectual Freedom News - Sign up for news subscription
    - https://membership.informz.net/membership/pages/oif_ifnews_signup
  - United Against Book Bans: https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/
  - Library Freedom Project: https://libraryfreedom.org/
  - Book Riot's Intellectual Freedom Toolkit
    - https://bookriot.com/how-to-fight-book-bans-and-challenges/
  - Get Ready, Stay Ready: A Community Action Toolkit
    - https://www.getreadystayready.info/
  - National Coalition Against Censorship Book Challenge Resource Center
    - https://ncac.org/resource/book-challenge-resource-center
  - Tennessee Coalition for Truth in Classrooms
    - https://edtrust.org/tennessee/tn-coalition-for-truth-in-our-classrooms/#action-toolkits