



Libraries and Intellectual Freedom: Our Role in Defending the Freedom to Read

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WELCOME!

Library values!

- ★ Access
- ★ Confidentiality/Privacy
- ★ Democracy
- ★ Diversity
- ★ Education and Lifelong Learning
- ★ Intellectual Freedom
- ★ The Public Good
- ★ Preservation
- ★ Professionalism
- ★ Service
- ★ Social Responsibility





Intellectual Freedom

Intellectual Freedom accords to all library users the right to seek and receive information on all subjects and from all points of view without restriction and without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others.

-- Candace Morgan, Intellectual Freedom Manual, 8th edition

Intellectual freedom and democracy



From our Founding Fathers.....



A popular government, without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.

-- James Madison, 1822

Democracy requires that people have knowledge:

- ★ Creation of knowledge is secured through a free press and academic freedom.
- ★ Access to knowledge is secured by libraries:
 - Access for all
 - Without restriction
 - Without scrutiny
- ★ Libraries support democracy by promoting intellectual freedom.

How libraries promote intellectual freedom by...

- ★ Promoting **access** to information by eliminating barriers
- ★ Providing information on **all viewpoints without restriction**
- ★ Protecting **privacy and confidentiality** about information use

Promote **access** to information by eliminating barriers:

- ★ Physical barriers
- ★ Economic barriers
- ★ Technology barriers

Provide information on **all viewpoints without restriction**:

- ★ Libraries provide a diverse collection that includes a range of perspectives.
- ★ Libraries resist censorship.
 - External censorship (challenges)
 - Internal censorship
- ★ Libraries educate the public about censorship.

Protect **privacy and confidentiality** about information use:

- ★ Intellectual freedom requires a safe place to explore ideas without fear.
- ★ Libraries protect privacy of the public to access information.
- ★ Libraries educate the public about privacy.



Intellectual Freedom is supported on the ***institutional*** level by libraries and library associations.

What about ***individual*** support by library staff?



*So how do I protect
intellectual freedom in my role?*

Hot intellectual freedom issues for libraries and library associations:

- ★ Censorship
- ★ Library rooms, bulletin boards and events
- ★ Filters, pornography, CIPA
- ★ Privacy and confidentiality
- ★ Net neutrality

Censorship:



#TOP10 CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2017

ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

Censorship:



- ★ Libraries resist censorship by setting policies and educating staff.
- ★ Library collections must include diverse perspectives.
- ★ Libraries are **not** endorsing the materials in the collection.
- ★ Libraries are **not** *in loco parentis*.
- ★ A good library collection has something to offend everyone.

Library rooms, bulletin boards and events

- ★ Lots of recent controversies!
- ★ Restrictions on time, place or manner
- ★ No restrictions on content

CIPA, Filters and Pornography

- ★ Child Internet Protection Act passed in 2000
- ★ Internet filters block constitutionally protected speech.
- ★ Libraries work to balance community standards with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech.

Privacy and confidentiality

- ★ **Privacy** is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others.
- ★ **Confidentiality** concerns the protection of the personal information that has been entrusted to the library
- ★ PATRIOT ACT, recent controversies

Net neutrality

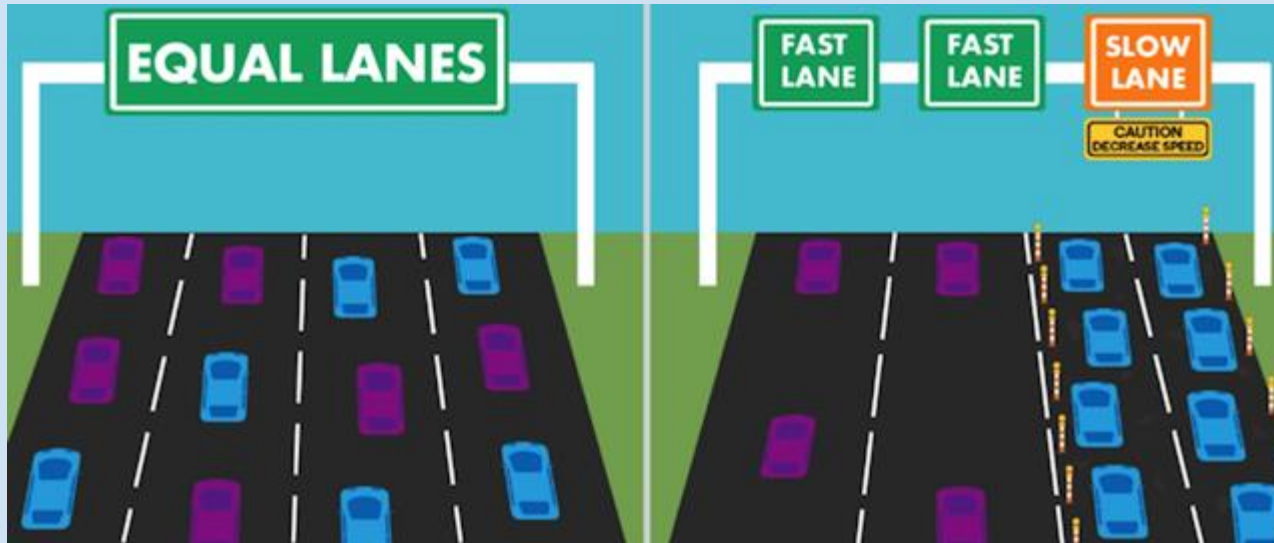


Image from therealdaily.com/real-estate-tech/net-neutrality-got-kicked-nuts-heres-whats-next/

Time to practice!





Reflection: What Do I Need?

Intellectual Freedom Resources

- ★ Staff training resource guide: tinyurl.com/OLA-IF-Training

OLA Intellectual Freedom Staff Training Resources

[Intellectual Freedom - The Basics](#)

[Free Speech, Challenges, and Banned Books Week](#)

[Privacy and Confidentiality](#)

[School Libraries](#)

[Student Workers](#)

[Library Boards](#)

Intellectual Freedom Training Resource Guide



Intellectual Freedom Committee
Oregon Library Association

This guide is a repository of resources to train library staff, including student workers and volunteers, on a range of intellectual freedom issues. This first page includes general and comprehensive resources. Use the tabs to find resources on specific intellectual freedom topics or types of library.

Do you know of resources which should be added to this guide? Contact the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee at www.olaweb.org/contact-ifc

Scroll down this page to find video clips introducing intellectual freedom, archived webinar, roll playing scenarios, a checklist, and other resources.

- ★ Oregon Library Association, Oregon State Library, American Library Association and more (see handout)



Questions? Comments? Contact us!

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