

San Francisco Public Library Commission Policy Manual

Library Bill of Rights

Policy #200

Section: Library Services

Adopted: Jan'98

Revised

It is the policy of the San Francisco Library Commission that the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" shall be the basis of principle by which San Francisco Public Library policies are determined.

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 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.

Adopted June 18, 1948, Amended February 2, 1961 and January 23, 1980, inclusion of age reaffirmed January 23, 1996 by the ALA Council.