

KPBSD, APRIL 2022

American Library Association Library Bill of Rights

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History of the Library Bill of Rights

Originally adopted
in 1939

Revised 6 times:
1944, 1948, 1961,
1967, 1980, 2019



Inclusion of "age"
reaffirmed in 1996



#1:

Curriculum AND personal interest

Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Material should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.




#11: All points of view

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.




#1 & 11: What does the law say?

The First Amendment of the Constitution mandates the right of all persons to free expression and the corollary right to receive the constitutionally protected expression of others.



As government-owned and government-funded institutions, public schools are state actors, whose activities are controlled by the First Amendment of the Constitution.





#III:

Censorship should be challenged

Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

#IV: Cooperate to resist censorship

Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.

#III & IV: What does the law say?

Right to Read Defense Committee v. School Committee of the City of Chelsea
Distinguishes between a school board's control over materials used in the curriculum (used by all students) and materials within the school library ("marketplace of ideas"). Library materials may only be removed based on a district's collection policy or through due process (i.e., challenge procedure).




A note about placement / permission slips

Counts v. Cedarville School District
Harry Potter books were put in their own section and allowed to be checked out only with parental permission. Court rules that minor's rights were violated and that having to request the books placed a burden on the minor's exercise of the first amendment rights.

#III & IV: What does the law say?

Libraries that do not receive funding for internet access through E-rate or LSTA grants are not subject to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and are not required to use filters.



Only materials legally deemed "harmful to minors" are constitutionally required to be filtered. The law specifies sexually themed materials and obscene images, but no other content.



#V:

All users should have access

A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.



#VI: Equitable access to facilities

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.



#V & VII: What does the law say?



Although the educational level and program of the school necessarily shape the resources and services of a school library, the principles of the Library Bill of Rights apply equally to all libraries, including school libraries.

Minors have the freedom to read and freedom of speech.



#VII: Privacy and confidentiality

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.





Labels on Books

Reading-level labels on books may compromise the privacy of students and expose them to teasing and judgement by peers who are at different levels.

District Administrative Regulations





Thank You!

Questions at this stage?

Scenarios



Scenarios

A teacher / student / parent complains about the content of a book and wants it removed from the library.

A teacher wants to see what books their students have checked out so they can help find them in the classroom.

A librarian does want to purchase an award-winning picture book for the library because of the author / content.

A school library has labeled all the books with the AR level on the spine of the book.



Write Down the Following

1. What library bill of rights number(s) relate to your scenario? Explain.

2. What district AR apply to your scenario? Explain.

3. As the admin, what should you do in this scenario?

Scenario 1

A parent at School C complains that a book on Christopher Columbus their children brought home portrays him as a hero. They want their child to know how he treated the Indigenous population with violence, forced religious conversion, slavery, and exposed them to diseases.

The parent complains to the librarian, who refuses to remove the book and tells the parent that they have other resources on Columbus that provide other perspectives.

The parent then complains to the principal.

Scenario 2

The end of the school year is approaching and the librarian at School B has sent out announcements reminding teachers and students that all library books must be returned.

One of the teachers at the school asks for a list of the books their students have checked out to help locate them in the classroom.

The librarian refuses and the teacher complains to the principal.

Scenario 3

The librarian at School A is reviewing books. *George* by Alex Gino is recommended to them, but they decide not to add it to their elementary school library because they are afraid that their administrator will deny their purchase request.

George is about a 4th grader transgender girl, Melissa, who is struggling to be herself. The book won the Stonewall Book Award, Lambda Literary Award, and E.D. White Read Aloud Award, among others. It is positively reviewed by multiple library journals for middle grades (4-6).

The librarian shares this with another teacher, and the principal ultimately finds out about it.

Scenario 4

The librarian at School D is new to the school. When they arrived, they noticed that all the books have been labeled with Accelerated Reader (AR) labels on the spine, indicating the reading level and the points value of the book. The librarian wants to remove the labels, but initial reaction from teachers is that they are vehemently opposed. How will their students find AR books if the labels are removed?

The librarian goes to the principal for guidance.

It's National
School Library
Month





Thank You!

Do you have any questions for me before we go?

You can reach me at deborah.rinio@montana.edu.

