

# City of Rainier

## Library Board Meeting

### Minutes

2022-11-04 — 9:00 am

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, RAINIER CITY HALL

106 W B ST., FL 2

RAINIER, OR 97048

*To provide diverse learning opportunities to the Rainier community.*

#### Board Members present:

- Marcia Roberts, Board Chair
- Jasmin Elwood
- Tonya Higgins
- Rosemary Scandale
- R. Allen Snider, Board Secretary / Library Director

#### Board Members absent:

- Brandy Blackburn
- Sharon Erdman
- Kim Worrall

#### City Representatives present:

- W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

#### Community members present:

- Lyle Roberts

## Visitor Comments

None

## Consider Approval of Consent Agenda

Rosemary Scandale moved to approve the agenda. Jasmin Elwood seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Consider Approval of Minutes

Jasmin Elwood moved to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. Rosemary Scandale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Website

Tonya Higgins commented that the Library's page on the City website looks great, with some suggestions on wording, etc. Allen Snider will be in contact with the site administrator to deploy edits.

## Strategic Survey

There was a general discussion on the deadlines for the survey. It will be distributed with the City Water Bill on November 15<sup>th</sup> and responses will be accepted through January 2023.

## YA Lounge

Opening dates were discussed generally.

Jasmin Elwood stated that she will gather options from her peers. So far, the consensus is that **bold** colors are desirable.

Marcia Roberts noted her recent look into the municipal census data, which recorded ~160 folks in the 15-20 age group.

## Collection Inventory, Maintenance, and Development

Rosemary Scandale discussed her research into the Kenneth Richardson collection.

Marcia Roberts gave her understanding of the precedent policies regarding the Richardson collection: earlier Librarians did not let-out any of the "KR" materials (and so circulation data for those titles is incomplete at best). Lyle Roberts also noted that many of the Richardson titles are rare or out of print.

Marcia Roberts also suggested the Library might consider "ditching Dewey" and re-organize its nonfiction holdings in a more modern and accessible "bookstore model." Jasmin Elwood thought that eventually classifying the Fiction sections by genre would also be more patron friendly. Allen Snider shared his enthusiasm for these ideas, while noting that such a re-classification will be part of our ongoing Collections Policy discussions.

### Upcoming Holiday Closures

Allen Snider noted that the Library will be closed in observation of upcoming legal holidays during the winter-season, including for Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving (Nov. 24 and 25), Christmas (Dec. 23 and 24), and New Year's (Dec. 31).

### Future Programming

Tonya Higgins wondered about any potential tie-ins with the various community Holiday Bazaars in December.

Jasmin Elwood suggested that decorations (lights, etc.) would really elevate the Library space and bring a festive atmosphere over the winter holidays. Allen Snider agreed and noted that he and the Library volunteers do plan on “decking the halls” this year.

The next meeting was scheduled for 2023-01-13 at 9:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Signed:

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Marcia Roberts, Chair

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R. Allen Snider, Secretary / Library Director

# Library Director's Statement

November/December 2022

- The Community Survey went out on November 15<sup>th</sup> in the City water bill. We've received 30+ responses so far. We will do another push on Facebook to get more responses before the survey closes on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- I've created a rough draft of a new Collections Policy (attached).
- On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. and Mrs. Claus visited the Library and read *The Night Before Christmas*. The event was a great success, with over 30 people in attendance! We got great feedback on the event and we hope to put it on again next year. (See photos attached below). The Library was festive and bright, decorated with holiday lights, garlands, sprigs of cedar, miniature candy canes, and a tree borrowed from Rosemary.
- Purchases from the remaining ARPA Grant funds have been arriving — among them Lego sets for creative activities, board games for events, optical DVD drives for the new computers, Kindle readers for on-site eBook borrowing, and more.
- We've had a lot of diverse items donated by the community, and we are beginning to process those soon.
- Rosemary has completed sorting the General Nonfiction shelves, our collection of cookbooks, and is now getting the General Fiction titles organized.
- Kira has been working with Marcia to plan the Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Party. Marcia will be creating the food menu and Kim has agreed to be the host. A recent Facebook poll to gauge interest showed that over 50 folks are interested in attending!
- I'm building an inventory of the newly sorted Nonfiction section in plain text format, as our existing catalog is wildly inaccurate. This will allow us greater control and more accurate information about what we actually have in the collections.
- Kira designed a Winter Reading Bingo sheet and launched it January 5<sup>th</sup>. This program runs through March 31<sup>st</sup>, with each successful bingo as an entry into a drawing to receive a gift certificate to local businesses (tbd).

As always, thanks for reading!,

Allen Snider (Mirrored Lamp LLC)

Director, Rainier City Library













November 2022  
Preliminary Data Selection

Date	Visitors	PC Usage	Items Borrowed OUT	Items Returned IN	Week No.	Day of Week
2022-11-01	8	1	12	19	45	Tuesday
2022-11-02	4	0	18	9	45	Wednesday
2022-11-03	6	3	0	2	45	Thursday
2022-11-04	12	1	18	23	45	Friday
2022-11-05	2	0	1	3	45	Saturday
2022-11-06	0	0	12	0	46	Sunday
2022-11-07	0	0	0	0	46	Monday
2022-11-08	10	3	12	4	46	Tuesday
2022-11-09	10	2	1	1	46	Wednesday
2022-11-10	8	4	0	2	46	Thursday
2022-11-11	0	0	0	0	46	Friday
2022-11-12	8	—	17	8	46	Saturday
2022-11-13	0	0	0	0	47	Sunday
2022-11-14	0	0	0	0	47	Monday
2022-11-15	—	—	34	21	47	Tuesday
2022-11-16	3	0	3	4	47	Wednesday
2022-11-17	7	3	8	19	47	Thursday
2022-11-18	2	0	0	0	47	Friday
2022-11-19	2	1	5	15	47	Saturday
2022-11-20	0	0	0	0	48	Sunday
2022-11-21	0	0	0	0	48	Monday
2022-11-22	8	—	15	14	48	Tuesday
2022-11-23	14	1	25	3	48	Wednesday
2022-11-24	0	0	0	0	48	Thursday
2022-11-25	0	0	0	0	48	Friday
2022-11-26	3	0	3	3	48	Saturday
2022-11-27	0	0	0	0	49	Sunday
2022-11-28	0	0	0	0	49	Monday
2022-11-29	8	2	7	11	49	Tuesday
2022-11-30	3	0	16	17	49	Wednesday
<b>Totals</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>178</b>		



December 2022  
Preliminary Data Selection

Date	Visitors	PC Usage	Items Borrowed OUT	Items Returned IN	Week No.	Day of Week
2022-12-01	4	0	1	0	49	Thursday
2022-12-02	1	0	2	3	49	Friday
2022-12-03	0	0	0	0	49	Saturday
2022-12-04	0	0	0	0	50	Sunday
2022-12-05	0	0	0	0	50	Monday
2022-12-06	8	1	5	2	50	Tuesday
2022-12-07	3	1	2	2	50	Wednesday
2022-12-08	9	1	27	18	50	Thursday
2022-12-09	6	1	11	14	50	Friday
2022-12-10	4	2	7	0	50	Saturday
2022-12-11	0	0	0	0	51	Sunday
2022-12-12	0	0	0	0	51	Monday
2022-12-13	1	1	14	27	51	Tuesday
2022-12-14	9	1	11	22	51	Wednesday
2022-12-15	7	2	3	0	51	Thursday
2022-12-16	9	4	3	8	51	Friday
2022-12-17	0	0	2	1	51	Saturday
2022-12-18	0	0	0	0	52	Sunday
2022-12-19	0	0	0	0	52	Monday
2022-12-20	—	—	19	17	52	Tuesday
2022-12-21	3	0	0	1	52	Wednesday
2022-12-22	3	1	0	1	52	Thursday
2022-12-23	0	0	0	0	52	Friday
2022-12-24	0	0	0	0	52	Saturday
2022-12-25	0	0	0	0	53	Sunday
2022-12-26	0	0	0	0	53	Monday
2022-12-27	—	—	18	15	53	Tuesday
2022-12-28	15	3	4	8	53	Wednesday
2022-12-29	6	3	6	3	53	Thursday
2022-12-30	5	2	3	3	53	Friday
2022-12-31	0	0	0	0	53	Saturday
<b>Totals</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>145</b>		

# DRAFT Collection Policies - Rainier City Library

[as adapted from Oregon City Library (2019)]

## LIBRARY MISSION

To provide diverse learning opportunities to the Rainier community.

## ABOUT RAINIER CITY LIBRARY

The Rainier City Library (RCL) serves a service area which includes all of Rainier, Oregon, as well as areas in the 97048 Zip Code and the Rainier School District, as originally established by Rainier Municipal Code 2.20 (1922). Rainier's one Library facility is centrally located, inside Rainier City Hall. Rainier's historic downtown is walkable, but many visitors still must drive to the Library, given the given the rural nature of the service district.

Compared to Portland and the rest of Oregon, Rainier's demographic information reveals a high percentage of residents [TK] (Rainier [X]% / Portland [Z]% / Oregon [Y]%), a lower percentage of residents [TK] ([X]% / [Z]% / [Y]%), and a lower percentage of residents [TK] ([X]% / [Z]% / [Y]%).

Patrons need and request access to a wide variety of educational, recreational, and cultural materials. The poverty level is [TK] ([X]% / [Y]%) than other parts of the state, and many patrons enjoy using the Library's free on-site WiFi and four PC workstations to access technology, locate digital resources, and complete tasks online. A growing number of patrons also borrow eBooks and Audio through participation in the Oregon Digital Library Consortium (Library2Go).

## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The right to read and access materials of varying viewpoints is an important part of the intellectual freedom basic to democracy. The principles of intellectual freedom are guaranteed in the First

Amendment of the United States Constitution. In keeping with those principles, the Library favors no viewpoint and endorses the following American Library Association documents, listed here and reproduced in **APPENDIX A**. These documents are a formal part of this policy:

1. [Libraries: An American Value](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/americanvalue) (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/americanvalue>)
2. [Freedom to Read](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement) (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>)
3. [Freedom to View](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement) (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement>)
4. [Library Bill of Rights](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill) (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>)
5. [Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors)  
(<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors>)

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[TK]

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Primary responsibility for selection of material lies with the Library Director, with advisement by, recommendations from, and appeal to the Library Board.

## PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The Library's collection will include material on most subjects, incorporate various viewpoints, and offer a wide selection of genres, themes, and items of special interest to the community. Each type of material must be considered in terms of its own merit and considered as a whole, not by selected passages or portions. To develop and maintain a diverse collection, items that represent minority viewpoints, opinions and perspectives will be included. Library materials shall not be excluded because of the political, social or religious views of the author or artist, or due to characteristics that make them part of a protected class under Federal or Oregon law. (See <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/civil-rights/Pages/default.aspx> for definitions and details). Selectors



consider prospective additions to the collection based on the selection criteria regardless of their personal taste. These standards apply equally to purchased and donated materials.

This Collection Development Policy serves as a guide for deselecting and maintaining the collection as well as for the selection of materials. To maintain an up-to-date, useful collection, worn and obsolete materials are continually removed from the collection. Withdrawal decisions are based on numerous factors, including publishing date, frequency of circulation, community interest, and availability of newer or more valid materials. Items dealing with local history are an exception.

## REVIEWS

Reviews in professionally recognized publications are a primary source for materials selection.

Examples of such sources include [Booklist](#), [The Horn Book Magazine](#), [Library Journal](#), [Publisher's Weekly](#), [School Library Journal](#), [Video Librarian](#), [Metacritic](#), and [AllMusic](#). Other sources, including recommended title lists, newspaper reviews, or expert recommendations may be used.

## CRITERIA (NO PRIORITY IMPLIED)

- Item meets or anticipates the needs and interests of the community.
- Item appears on bestseller lists or is highlighted by popular media.
- Popular appeal of an author or series.
- Encourages the enjoyment of reading.
- Artistic, literary, historic, and/or scientific merit.
- Contemporary significance.
- Item supplements, expands on, or supports existing collections.
- Accuracy of content and competence of author.
- Clarity and accuracy of information.
- Availability, format, and durability.
- Budget and space considerations.

## PROTOCOLS

- Books, audiobooks, music, movies, and other material specifically designated for location in the Early and Junior Readers' (E/J) areas are selected to serve the needs of children from birth through age 12.
- Books, audiobooks, music, movies, and other material specifically designated for location in the Young Adult / Teen (YA) areas are selected to serve the needs of teens age 13-18.
- The Library does not attempt to acquire material in very specialized fields, material of a highly technical nature, textbooks, or other curriculum-related material unless such materials also serve the general public.
- The Library makes a special effort to select and retain items of local significance and history.
- Because the Library serves a community with a wide range of ages, reading skills, and educational backgrounds, it will select materials of varying complexity.
- The Library may enter agreements with content providers or other vendors to receive standing orders or preprocessed materials.
- The Library will make available a variety of non-print materials in formats for different age levels and interests. As new non-print formats are developed, they will be given consideration for addition to the collection. The Library reserves the right to deselect formats recognized as obsolete.
- Since the Library collection cannot be completely comprehensive and some titles are no longer in publication, older series, esoteric titles, or out-of-print items may need to be borrowed from another library or acquired elsewhere.

## PATRON SUGGESTIONS

Patrons may request that the Library consider the purchase of any item for its collection. Their suggestions will be considered according to the Library's selection policy.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

Items in the e-book and digital audiobook collections are selected by State Library of Oregon librarians centrally for the entire Oregon Digital Library Consortium. Patrons may submit purchase suggestions for these collections.

## ONLINE RESEARCH TOOLS

Databases or other materials accessed in electronic form will be selected for usefulness and value of information or quality of content like other materials selected for the collection. Online resources centrally selected and provided by the State Library of Oregon are available at <https://librariesoforegon.org>

## LUCKY DAY ITEMS

Selectors, primarily the Youth and Adult Services Librarians, may select additional copies of new and popular items for the Lucky Day collection at their discretion. At least one copy of each Lucky Day title must also be added to the general collection.

## NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE MATERIALS

Spanish language materials are selected for location in the adult area and Spanish and Russian language materials are selected for the children's area utilizing the same process outlined in this policy. Currently no other non-English language materials are actively selected.

## ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Small collections of local archives, rare and fragile items, and other materials of historical value are available for either on-site reference or checkout with special permission from the Library Director.



## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

The Library gladly accepts gifts of library materials with the understanding that gift items will be subject to the same selection criteria as purchased items.

Gifts become the sole property of the City of Rainier. The Library reserves the right to add to the collection only selected items from a donation. Material may be retained or disposed of as deemed prudent without consulting the original donor (unless otherwise agreed). See also [Rainier Municipal Code, 2.20.050](#).

Donations of used books are accepted by the Friends of the Library at the Friends Bookstore on 7th Street. The library does not accept donations of used books on behalf of the Friends.

The library will not appraise gifts. Gift receipts in which the donor can indicate the number and type of items being donated are available upon request. Acknowledgement of donated items for memorial purposes may be available by request.

## SELF-PUBLISHED SUBMISSIONS

While Rainier City Library welcomes submissions from self-published authors, it purchases self-published books very selectively — the Library is most likely to purchase books of significant local interest or which have received media attention.

For the Library to consider a self-published book for inclusion in its collections, the following information is required, either by email or through our online submission form at (<https://www.orcity.org/library/webform/local-author-submission-form>):

- Book title
- Author's name
- Author's address
- ISBN
- Price
- Type of binding
- Audience
- Ordering information

- Author's credentials (particularly for non-fiction titles)
- Brief summary of the book's contents
- Information about illustrations (as applicable)
- Why this book would be of interest to Library patrons / the Rainier community

It is also very helpful to have one or more reviews from objective online or print sources (not paid or customer reviews). Objective review sources include (but are not limited to) publications such as [Kirkus](#), [Publisher's Weekly](#), and [Indie Reader](#). Due to staffing and time constraints, Library staff are unable to meet with individual authors, accept review copies, or notify authors if their book is not selected. If the proposed book is selected for purchase it will be added to the catalog within three months.

## REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE

To keep its collections vital and useful, the Library will regularly remove items from the collection that are worn, outdated, or no longer in demand.

Withdrawn items in undamaged and complete condition may be sold for the benefit of the Library by [the Friends of the Library](#) or an otherwise specified retail vendor (e.g., [Better World Books](#)).

Items which are too damaged or otherwise unsuitable for resale will be recycled or donated to local non-profit organizations.

## ACCESS

Except for the collections noted elsewhere in this policy, all materials will be freely and easily accessible to the public. Users are free to select or reject for themselves, or for their own children, any item in the collections. Children are not limited to use of the materials in the children's (E/J) or teen's (YA) areas. Responsibility for a child's selection or reading rests solely with their parent or guardian. The Library will not limit access to materials based on content, and selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that children may inadvertently use such items.

## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

A singular obligation of a public library is to reflect within its collection differing points of view and a diversity of opinion and experience. Some materials may be offensive to individuals or groups because of individual perceptions of profanity, human sexuality, social, economic, and political ideas, religious viewpoints, the background of the author, or the kind of information provided. However, these items may be meaningful and significant to other users. Rainier City Library does not endorse particular beliefs or views, nor does the selection of an item express or imply endorsement of the viewpoint of the author or content of the item. The Library's role is to provide materials which will allow individuals to freely examine issues and make their own decisions. Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents, nor will items be sequestered or removed from free access to patrons.

Residents of the Rainier City Library service area who express concerns about the presence of an item in the collection are given serious consideration. Such a concern expressed to a Library staff member will be referred to the Library Director. Items may be removed from the collection under the following conditions:

1. The Library Director approves removal after review of an item and determines that it does not meet the selection criteria outlined in this policy.
2. The Library Board casts a majority vote to remove an item they agree does not meet the selection criteria outlined in this policy.

Upon request, an individual will be supplied with a copy of the Collection Development Policy, including the "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form. If desired, a resident of the Rainier City Library service area may complete this form and return it to the Library. The Library Director will examine the item in question and determine whether it conforms to the standards of this policy. The Library Director will communicate this determination to the individual.

If the individual is not satisfied with the Library Director's decision, they may make an appeal to the Library Board by either submitting a letter to be considered at the next scheduled board meeting, or by requesting, at least three work days in advance, to be on the agenda of the next scheduled board meeting. The Library Board will consider the individual's appeal and the staff recommendation and



may either make a final decision at that meeting, or postpone a final decision pending further review. Material(s) subject to reconsideration will remain available in the collection during this process.

## REVISION

The Library Board will review this policy every three years.

## APPENDICES

### A. American Library Association (ALA) Documents

1. Libraries: An American Value
2. The Freedom to Read Statement
3. The Freedom to View Statement
4. Library Bill of Rights
5. Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors (formerly: Free Access to Libraries for Minors)

### B. Rainier City Library (RCL) Purchase Suggestion Form

### C. RCL Gift Receipt Form

### D. RCL Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form

## APPENDIX A: AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA) DOCUMENTS

### 1. Libraries: An American Value

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America's libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

- We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library's resources and services;
- We value our nation's diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
- We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services;
- We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library's resources;
- We protect each individual's privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;
- We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
- We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment. By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our

similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

*Adopted February 3, 1999, by the Council of the American Library Association.*

[HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/INTFREEDOM/AMERICANVALUE](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/americanvalue)

## 2. The Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative

solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting



can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to

determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to

many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

*This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.*

*Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.*

**A JOINT STATEMENT BY:**

- **AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**
- **ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS**

**SUBSEQUENTLY ENDORSED BY:**

- **AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS FOR FREE EXPRESSION**
- **THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES**
- **THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL**
- **FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION**
- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE STORES**
- **NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST CENSORSHIP**
- **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH**
- **THE THOMAS JEFFERSON CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF FREE EXPRESSION**

[HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/INTFREEDOM/FREEDOMREADSTATEMENT](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement)

### 3. The Freedom to View Statement

The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

*This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.*

*Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council.*

[HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/INTFREEDOM/FREEDOMVIEWSTATEMENT](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement)

#### 4. 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.*

*Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as [Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights](#).*

[HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/INTFREEDOM/LIBRARYBILL](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill)

## 5. [Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors](#) : An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*

The American Library Association supports equal and equitable access to all library resources and services by users of all ages. Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users is in violation of the American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#). The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.



Article V of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, “A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.” The right to use a library includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, emancipatory or other legal status of users violates Article V. This includes minors who do not have a parent or guardian available to sign a library card application or permission slip. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness should be able to obtain a library card regardless of library policies related to chronological age.

School and public libraries are charged with the mission of providing services and resources to meet the diverse interests and informational needs of the communities they serve. Services, materials, and facilities that fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of providing library services and should be determined on an individual basis. Equitable access to all library resources and services should not be abridged based on chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, legal status, or through restrictive scheduling and use policies.

Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library’s failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users.

Children and young adults unquestionably possess First Amendment rights, including the right to receive information through the library in print, sound, images, data, social media, online applications, games, technologies, programming, and other formats.<sup>[1]</sup> Constitutionally protected speech cannot be suppressed solely to protect children or young adults from ideas or images a legislative body believes to be unsuitable for them.<sup>[2]</sup> Libraries and their library governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections, because only a court of law can determine whether or not content is constitutionally protected.

Article VII of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, “All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use.” This includes students and minors, who have a right to be free from any unreasonable intrusion into or surveillance of their lawful library use.<sup>[3]</sup>

The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries cannot authorize libraries and their governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians. As “[Libraries: An American Value](#)” states, “We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources and services.”<sup>[4]</sup> Libraries and their governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children’s—and only their children’s—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their own children. Libraries and library governing bodies should not use rating systems to inhibit a minor’s access to materials.<sup>[5]</sup>

Libraries and their governing bodies have a legal and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the communities they serve have free and equitable access to a diverse range of library resources and services that is inclusive, regardless of content, approach, or format. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Libraries and their governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

<sup>[1]</sup>: *Brown v. Entertainment Merchant’s Association, et al.* 564 U.S. 08-1448 (2011).

<sup>[2]</sup>: *Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205 (1975): “Speech that is neither obscene as to youths nor subject to some other legitimate proscription cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them. In most circumstances, the values protected by the First Amendment are no less applicable when government seeks to control the flow of information to minors.” See also *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S.503 (1969); *West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); *AAMA v. Kendrick*, 244 F.3d 572 (7th Cir. 2001).

<sup>[3]</sup>: “[Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#),” adopted June 19, 2002, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 2014; and June 24, 2019.

<sup>[4]</sup>: “[Libraries: An American Value](#),” adopted on February 3, 1999, by ALA Council.

<sup>[5]</sup>: “[Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#),” adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council; amended June 25, 2019.

*Adopted June 30, 1972, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991; June 30, 2004; July 2, 2008 under previous name "Free Access to Libraries for Minors"; July 1, 2014; and June 25, 2019.*

[HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/INTFREEDOM/LIBRARYBILL/INTERPRETATIONS/MINORS](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors)

## APPENDIX B: RAINIER CITY LIBRARY (RCL) PURCHASE SUGGESTION FORM

Want to suggest materials for the Library to add to our collections? We welcome your ideas! Please complete this form.

Your Email Address:	
Library Patron Barcode Number:	
What Item Would You Like to Recommend For Purchase?:	
Please Indicate the Preferred Format:	<input type="checkbox"/> Book <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print Book <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Book <input type="checkbox"/> Audio Book on CD <input type="checkbox"/> DVD <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine/Newspaper
Upload a Review in PDF (optional):	

## APPENDIX C: RAINIER CITY LIBRARY GIFT RECEIPT FORM

Date	
Received from Name	
on date	
a gift with the value of (USD, as determined by the donor) was donated to the Rainier City Library	
The gift was:	[list items here]

Thank you for your contribution to the Rainier City Library!

R. Allen Snider (Mirrored Lamp LLC),

Library Director

Please complete this form and give to donors of gifts \$25 and over.



## APPENDIX D: RAINIER CITY LIBRARY REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL FORM

### RAINIER CITY LIBRARY

106 W B Street, Rainier, OR 97048

<https://cityofrainier.com/?view=city-library>

Pursuant to the Rainier City Library Collection Development Policy, which you may find online or by request, the Library Director will review all properly submitted Request for Reconsideration of Library Material forms and will respond to the applicant directly, which applicant should expect in about one week. If the applicant wants to appeal the Library Director's decision, they may do so to the Library Board. The Library Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The applicant will notify the Library Director of their wish to appeal in order to get the topic placed on the next Board meeting agenda.

Title:	
Author:	
In this matter are you representing:	<input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Group
If representing a group, please provide its name and address:	
How did this material come to your attention?:	
Have you read the entire work?:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Specifically, what is your objection to this material? Please provide page numbers or location:	
Do you feel this material is objectionable to all, or just to some segments of the public, and what is the adverse effect of reading this material?:	
Have you read or heard any review of this material in the media? If so, where?:	

Is there any other material you could recommend that conveys the same viewpoint, purpose, or value?:	
What is your specific recommendation for action to be taken by the library in this matter?:	

Name:	
Phone:	
Address:	
Email:	

Thank you for your interest in the Rainier City Library.