

# **A G E N D A**

## **BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013**

**CENTRAL LIBRARY  
BOARD ROOM, 4th FLOOR  
630 W. 5TH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071**

**TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

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**AGENDA:** In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, you may view the agenda and all available documents related to the items at the Central Library's Information Desk or via the Internet at: [http://www.lapl.org/about/blc\\_docs.html](http://www.lapl.org/about/blc_docs.html).

**RULES OF DECORUM:** Persons addressing the Commission shall not make impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks to the Commission, any member of the Commission, staff or general public, nor utter loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, nor engage in any other disorderly conduct that disrupts or disturbs the orderly conduct of any Commission Meeting and prevents the Commission from carrying out its public business. At the discretion of the Commission President or upon a majority vote of the Commission, the Commission President may order removed from the Commission meeting place any person who fails to observe the rules of decorum. Any person who has been ordered removed from a meeting may be charged with a violation of Penal Code Section 403, or other appropriate Penal Code or Los Angeles Municipal Code sections.

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- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:** Regular Meeting - 3/14/13  
Regular Meeting - 3/28/13
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS  
WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION**  
  
(In accordance with Board Policy, a total of 15 minutes shall be allocated for public comment not to exceed three (3) minutes per speaker. Items arising during the public comment portion of the meeting shall be referred by the President to the staff or Board Committee for appropriate action or report back thereon to the Board.)
- 4. CITY LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS  
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS**

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

(Commissioners who wish to discuss particular items should ask that such items be called as Special. The remaining items will be subject to a single vote.)

- a. **RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING GIFTS:** (EXHIBIT "A")
  - **FOUR (4) LOUNGE CHAIRS VALUED AT \$4,336.02 FROM  
THE FRIENDS OF THE STUDIO CITY BRANCH LIBRARY  
FOR THE STUDIO CITY BRANCH LIBRARY**

- \$3,000 FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE PALMS-RANCHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY FOR THE "HOT OFF THE PRESS" BESTSELLER PROGRAM AT THE PALMS-RANCHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

### BOARD DISCUSSION

- b. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE REVISION TO THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS POLICIES, SECTION 1:340, LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY (EXHIBIT "B")
- c. PRESENTATION: LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES

### 6. VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR, DATED MARCH 29, 2013, TO CITY COUNCIL RE: THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. ADAM NATHANSON TO THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2013, AND TO THE SUBSEQUENT TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2018.

### 7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

### 8. ADJOURNMENT

### NEXT BOARD MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, **APRIL 25, 2013**, AT THE **CENTRAL LIBRARY**, 630 WEST FIFTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90071, CONVENING AT **11:00 A.M.**

**FINALIZATION OF BOARD ACTIONS - CHARTER SECTION 245:** In accordance with Charter Section 245, actions of the Board of Library Commissioners shall become final at the expiration of the next five (5) meeting days of the City Council during which the Council has convened in regular session.

**PARKING:** Reduced parking rate validation can be obtained by showing your library card at the Information Desk, and is only valid for parking on the Westlawn Garage at 524 S. Flower Street. The Westlawn Garage is not owned or operated by the Library Department. Additional information is available at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org).


**Title II of the American with Disabilities Act:** the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

POSTED – 4/8/2013

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: LIBRARY COMMISSION OFFICE (213) 228-7530

**LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD REPORT**

April 11, 2013

TO: Board of Library Commissioners  
FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian   
SUBJECT: **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT FROM THE FRIENDS OF STUDIO CITY  
BRANCH LIBRARY**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Commissioners adopts the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That a gift of 4 lounge chairs valued at \$4,336.02 received from the Friends of Studio City Branch Library, to be utilized by the Studio City Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of Studio City Branch Library, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

**FINDINGS:**

1. This gift of 4 lounge chairs valued at \$4,336.02 will be used to provide comfortable seating for patrons of the Studio City Branch Library.
2. A letter of thanks should be sent to:

Ms. April Howard, President  
Friends of Studio City Branch Library  
12511 Moorpark Street  
Studio City, CA 91604

Prepared by: Emily Fate, East Valley Area Manager

Reviewed by: Cheryl Collins, Director of Branches

**LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD REPORT**

April 11, 2013

TO: Board of Library Commissioners

FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian 

SUBJECT: **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE PALMS  
RANCHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Commissioners adopts the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That a gift of \$3,000 received from The Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library, for the benefit of the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to The Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The gift of \$3,000 is for the "Hot Off The Press" Bestseller Program.
2. A letter of thanks should be sent to:

Mr. James Greenwood, President  
Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library  
2920 Overland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Prepared by: Ken Blum, Western Area Manager

Reviewed by: Cheryl Collins, Director of Branches



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD REPORT

EXHIBIT B

April 11, 2013

TO: Board of Library Commissioners  
FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian *JS*  
SUBJECT: REVISION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That The Library Commission approve the revision to the Board of Library Commission Policies, Section: 1:340 Library Materials Selection Policy.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The Library Materials Selection Policy was last revised on July 7, 2005. Since the last revision, there have been changes in the type of materials the library purchases and the format in which the materials are published and produced. This revision to the Board policy deletes outdated terminology and provides updated language that has changed due to changing technologies.
2. Publishers estimate that approximately 3,000,000 books were published in the United States in 2012. This is a 185% increase in the number of books published in 2011. The number of books published in 2013 is expected to be even higher. The Materials Selection Policy guides the library in its acquisitions decisions.
3. This revision also adds materials collection policies for new and emerging formats and self-published works. Emerging formats such as e-books and e-audiobooks continue to increase. The new Materials Selection Policy, which was developed by a staff committee, will enable the Los Angeles Public Library to acquire these products in a consistent manner. Publishers also estimate that the amount of self-published materials has increased over 280% since 2006. We need to recognize this shift in publishing and adapt our Materials Selection Policy accordingly.
4. Attachment A is a redline version of the proposed policy, attachment B is a clean copy of the proposed version.

Prepared by: Peggy Murphy, Collection Services Manager  
Reviewed by: Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager

## SELECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

### **1:340 MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY**

#### PURPOSE

The Materials Selection Policy is designed to support the Library's mission to provide free and easy access to information, ideas, books, and technology that enrich, educate, and empower every individual in our City's diverse communities. The ~~Board of Library Commissioners~~ **Los Angeles Public Library** recognizes that the residents of Los Angeles have widely diverse interests, backgrounds, cultural heritages, social values and information needs. This policy is meant to document current collection management policy, further public understanding of the purpose, nature and philosophy behind the library's collection management practices and guide library staff in the development and maintenance of the collection.

#### POLICY

##### Library Materials Definition

"Library materials" include, but are not limited to print (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers), non-print (e.g. audio book, ~~videocassette~~, compact disc, DVD, ~~CDROM~~) and ~~electronic~~ **digital** formats (e.g. databases, ~~electronic books~~ **e-books and e-audio books** ~~Internet information~~).

##### Authority and Selection Responsibility

Library materials selection is vested in the City Librarian and delegated to members of the professional staff.

##### Materials Selection Criteria

Staff chooses popular, research, and retrospective materials for varying reading and age level interests, for informational, educational and entertainment purposes. The collection offers users a variety of formats, languages, viewpoints and subjects.

Selection of library materials is made on the basis of interest, popularity, informational content, **collection and subject strengths**, appropriateness and relevance to and for the people of Los Angeles. The general criteria considered in selecting materials include:

- Budget
- Popularity and anticipated demand by patrons
- Significance and value to the collection
- Qualifications of author or producer
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Suitability and quality of format
- Space limitations
- Currency or timeliness of material
- ~~Price of the material~~
- **Cost and availability through approved vendors**
- Attention given to the item by reviewers and general media



- Availability of materials in other libraries or through inter-library loan
- Technical quality of non-book materials
- Local and regional interest

In selection, consideration is given to the work as a whole. Materials need not meet all of the above criteria, and materials are not to be excluded solely on any one of the following ~~nor are they to be excluded because of:~~

- Race, religion, nationality, sex, sexual preference ~~orientation~~ or political views of an author
- Frankness or coarseness of language
- Controversial nature of an item including cover art
- Endorsement or disapproval of an item by an individual or organization
- The possibility that the materials may inadvertently come into the possession of children
- Status as a self-published item

### Materials in New and Emerging Formats

The selection criteria remain the same for materials in new technologies and emerging formats that are selected by the library.

~~Library materials are purchased in a wide variety of formats to meet the expressed and anticipated needs and interests of the community. Best sellers and other popular titles are purchased in multiple copies as determined by popular demand.~~ Self-published materials and materials in new and emerging formats may be added to the collection if they meet the Library's materials selection criteria. Special consideration will be given to self-published items of local or regional interest.

Although the Library attempts to provide material on every subject and grade level, ~~no attempt is made to match the collection to a particular curriculum. The Library may serve as a limited, supplementary source to meet the educational needs of students; however, we do not serve in an adjunct capacity to schools. Space limitations and budgetary prioritization may preclude the Library from duplicating specialized and comprehensive collections that exist elsewhere in the community or that may be available through interlibrary loan.~~ the ability to meet text book needs of all levels is limited. Textbooks may be selected when they are the best or only source of information on the subject and not because a textbook is assigned as school curriculum.

~~The Los Angeles Public Library does not endorse any idea or presentation contained in the materials the library makes available to the public. The library does attempt to develop and maintain a balanced collection representing diverse points of view on a subject.~~

General selection criteria considered for print and non-print materials apply to electronic digital formats as well. In addition, the following criteria are considered for e-content:

- Compatibility ~~with hardware and equipment~~ and accessibility
- Ease of use and searching capabilities
- Usage
- ~~Frequency of updating~~
- Content and coverage
- Relationship of the resource to the print collection
- Remote ~~capability~~ accessibility

- ~~Authority~~
- Design and ease of use
- Sustainability of the technology
- ~~Print pricing vs. electronic pricing and availability~~
- Availability and price of content in other formats

While every attempt is made to maintain quality and authoritative links to Internet information, the Los Angeles Public Library does not have control over information on the World Wide Web and cannot be held responsible for the content, accuracy, or quality of the information received.

### Access

The Los Angeles Public Library subscribes to the provisions of the *Library Bill of Rights* and the *Freedom to Read Statement* as adopted by the American Library Association. These documents are attached as a part of the Materials Section Policy. All individuals have the right to choose which library materials they will use. However, no individual or group has the right to restrict the freedom of others to read or view whatever they wish.

At the Los Angeles Public Library, children and young people have access to all parts of the library. The library does not assume the role of the parent, but rather encourages parents, guardians, or caretakers to be involved with their child's use of the library resources and to guide their child's selection of library materials in supporting their individual family values. Library staff does not monitor the materials children choose to check out or the child's usage of ~~electronic~~ digital resources. The responsibility for the reading and viewing choices of children rests with parents and legal guardians.

### Requests for Reconsideration of Materials

The Los Angeles Public Library welcomes interest in its collection and recognizes that a library with a balanced collection may cause individuals to take issue with the selection of specific items. No book, or other material is automatically removed from the collection because of individual objections. Library patrons questioning materials in the library collection may complete a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials/Resources form for staff response.

### Collection Maintenance

To maintain the quality and relevancy of the collection, the library regularly withdraws or replaces worn and outdated materials as well as unnecessary duplicate copies that are no longer useful to the collection. Due to space limitations, materials may also be withdrawn if they are not used or are superseded by a new edition or a more authoritative work on the same subject. Items may also be deleted if a more desirable format for the content has been added to the collection.

### Material Donations

All gifts become the property of the Los Angeles Public Library and may be used or sold by the library. In accepting a gift of materials the library reserves the right to decide whether items donated should be added to the collection. Material donations may not be added to the collection if the materials are outdated or ~~interesting but~~ not of ~~sufficient present~~ reference or circulating value to the library; in poor condition; or if the material is a duplicate of an item of which the



library already has a sufficient number of copies. All donated material is judged by the same standards of selection as those applied to the purchase of new materials.

Library staff makes no judgment as to the monetary value of donated materials.

Sale of Withdrawn and Gift Books

Withdrawn and gift books which are determined to be surplus by the Library may be sold by LAPL support groups for the benefit of the Library. ~~Library staff may not~~ **The Library does not directly** sell surplus library materials.

~~(Revised 7/7/05)~~ **(Revised 4/5/13)**

### *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.

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

## *The Freedom to Read*

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 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 Foundation for Free Expression](#)

[The Association of American University Presses, Inc.](#)

[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](#)

## SELECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

### **1:340 MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY**

#### PURPOSE

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- Budget
- Popularity and anticipated demand by patrons
- Significance and value to the collection
- Qualifications of author or producer
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Suitability and quality of format
- Space limitations
- Currency or timeliness of material
- Cost and availability through approved vendors
- Attention given to the item by reviewers and general media
- Availability of materials in other libraries or through inter-library loan



- Technical quality of non-book materials
- Local and regional interest

In selection, consideration is given to the work as a whole. Materials need not meet all of the above criteria, nor are they to be excluded because of:

- Race, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation or political views of an author
- Frankness or coarseness of language
- Controversial nature of an item including cover art
- Endorsement or disapproval of an item by an individual or organization
- The possibility that the materials may inadvertently come into the possession of children
- Status as a self-published item

#### Materials in New and Emerging Formats

The selection criteria remain the same for materials in new technologies and emerging formats that are selected by the library. Additional criteria may be used due to the nature of emerging technology.

Self-published materials and materials in new and emerging formats may be added to the collection if they meet the Library's materials selection criteria. Special consideration will be given to self-published items of local or regional interest.

Although the Library attempts to provide material on every subject and grade level, the ability to meet textbook needs of all levels is limited. Textbooks may be selected when they are the best or only source of information on the subject and not because a textbook is assigned as school curriculum.

General selection criteria considered for print and non-print materials apply to digital formats as well. In addition, the following criteria are considered for e-content:

- Compatibility and accessibility
- Usage
- Content and coverage
- Relationship of the resource to the print collection
- Remote accessibility
- Design and ease of use
- Sustainability of the technology
- Availability and price of content in other formats

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#### Access

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At the Los Angeles Public Library, children and young people have access to all parts of the library. The library does not assume the role of the parent, but rather encourages parents, guardians, or caretakers to be involved with their child's use of the library resources and to guide their child's selection of library materials in supporting their individual family values. Library staff does not monitor the materials children choose to check out or the child's usage of digital resources. The responsibility for the reading and viewing choices of children rests with parents and legal guardians.

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#### Sale of Withdrawn and Gift Books

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(Revised 4/5/13)

### 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.

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

## *The Freedom to Read*

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 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 Foundation for Free Expression](#)

[The Association of American University Presses, Inc.](#)

[The Children's Book Council](#)

[Freedom to Read Foundation](#)

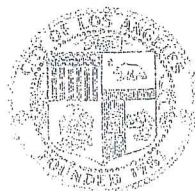
[National Association of College Stores](#)

[National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

[National Council of Teachers of English](#)

[The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression](#)

*Various Comm.*



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CITY CLERK

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

March 29, 2013

Honorable Members of the City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

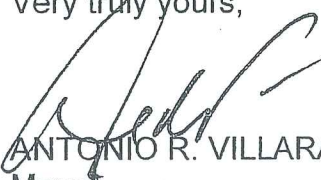
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LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OFFICE

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have today appointed Mr. Adam Nathanson to the Board of Library Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2013, and to the subsequent term ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Nathanson will fill the vacancy created by Tyree Wieder, who has resigned.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Nathanson is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work that will devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Very truly yours,

  
ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor

ARV:sd

Attachment



**MATTERS PENDING  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 11, 2013**

<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>SCHEDULED FOR BOARD MEETING</u></b>
1. QUARTERLY COMPARATIVE STATISTICS REPORT ON SERVICES & GOALS	APRIL 25, 2013
2. STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION	JUNE 13, 2013
3. REPORT ON COST OF HIRING AND BENEFITS FOR FULL TIME, HALF-TIME, PART-TIME, AND AS-NEEDED EMPLOYEES	PENDING

**COMMISSIONERS' OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY**

Library Foundation of Los Angeles

- PRESIDENT MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
- VACANT

Board Policies

- PRESIDENT MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI