

LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Title of Policy: **Intellectual Freedom**
Policy Type: **Means Policy**
Policy No.: **2.000**

Issuing Date: **January 17 2007**

Revision Date: **January 17 2008**

PURPOSE :

The purpose of this policy is to provide broad direction on the access to intellectual content in collections, programs and services offered in the London Public Library.

DEFINITIONS

Intellectual freedom: Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.

(American Library Association)

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Intellectual freedom is a core value of the London Public Library.
2. The London Public Library endorses the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom, see below.
3. The Library is committed to achieving a balance between intellectual freedom and supporting parents and guardians in their responsibility to monitor children's use of and access to materials and the Internet
4. The Library will offer balance and choice for customers in the provision of collections and Internet services.
5. The Library will act in accordance with the municipal by laws, the laws of the Province of Ontario and the laws of Canada.

Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom

CLA approved Nov 27, 2003

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.

Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

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It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all of the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.

Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

INQUIRIES

anne.becker@lpl.london.on.ca