

# FREEDOM TO READ

Believing that one of the hallmarks of a free society is the ability of a person within that society to have the freedom to explore the written word, we as trustees of the Guilderland Public Library, affirm the following propositions:

1. It is in the public interest for libraries to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.
2. Libraries and librarians 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 circulated.
3. It is contrary to the public interest for libraries to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.
4. It is not the place of libraries 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.
5. It is not in the public interest for libraries to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.
6. It is the responsibility of libraries 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.
7. It is the responsibility of libraries 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.

Our goal in stating the above principles is to reiterate our commitment to provide the public with a library community resource which honors the freedom to read and attempts to make available the knowledge and ideas which are so essential for the growth of the mind and increase of learning.

*Adapted from Freedom to Read, a joint statement adopted June 25, 1953, by the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers; most recently amended June 30, 2004.*

## Citations

Adopted 5/23/95

Reaffirmed, 7/11/2002

Revised, 6/9/2005

Reaffirmed 10/10/2011

Reaffirmed 05/10/2012

Revised 01/16/2026