

Blurb on Banned Books Week

We are celebrating the Freedom to Read this week. Books Unite Us, the theme this year is a perfect way to think about this week. Books are a wonderful way for people of different mindsets to come together to discuss difficult topics. We don't have to agree on philosophies of life, but we can discuss those philosophies as they pertain in a book – it takes the personal out of the discussion. We don't have to agree on everything, we just hope we can respect all and have civil discussions.

The first amendment is very clear that all people have the right to read and listen to what they want. Public libraries are bound by that principle.

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982, in response to the sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores, and libraries. It highlights the value of free and open access to information and brings together people from the entire book community in shared support of the freedom to seek and express ideas.

Petoskey District Library, 2022

Guidelines for Dialogue

We are living in complicated social, technological, economic, and political times. These tensions and concerns necessarily impact how our work, professional identity, service mindset, and professional conversations unfold. These guidelines are designed to help us engage with difficult content in a way that is respectful of all.

Contribute to an environment of confidentiality and trust.

We are here for open, honest exchange. Thank you for protecting the privacy of other participants.

Recognize that our primary commitment is to positively impact our communities by learning from one another.

We listen to each other and do not talk at each other.

Do not demean, devalue, or “put down” people for their experiences, lack of experiences, or difference in interpretation of these experiences.

We acknowledge our diverse backgrounds, skills, interests, values, patron populations, budgets, facilities, and staff size. We know that today’s topic is complex and impacted by longstanding conscious and unconscious beliefs. We will #AssumeGoodwill that people are at different stages of their journey but that we share a passion for doing better for our communities.

Trust that people are doing the best they can with the prior experience they have.

We will try not to “freeze people in time” but leave space for everyone to learn and change through our interactions with one another.

Challenge the idea and not the person.

If we wish to challenge something that has been said, we will challenge the idea, not the individual.

Speak your discomfort.

If something is bothering us, we speak up. If someone says we have said something hurtful, we 1) validate that we have heard them; 2) apologize; 3) make it better. We remember that something need not be intentionally harmful to be hurtful. Intent can be distinct from impact.

Self-monitor for when to step up or step back.

We are active contributors yet mindful of taking up much more space than others.

Stay connected to others’ ideas.

We make sense of ideas by connecting them to our own experiences. When doing so, we are careful to reconnect our personal experiences back to the larger conversation at hand.

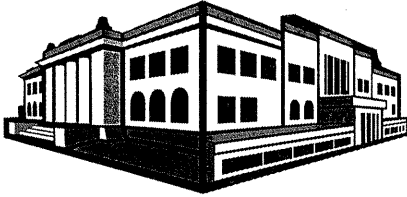
Treat ourselves gently.

We recognize our whole selves and give ourselves permission to turn off our cameras, step away when needed, and attend to urgent business.

Avoid unrelated shop talk.

We set aside this time together to focus on deep thinking and big picture work.

(adapted from the University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations, or IGR)



Peter White Public Library

217 N. Front Street | Marquette, MI 49853 | 906/228-9510 | www.pwplinfo

Dear Concerned Patron,

This packet of information is a collection of Peter White Public Library policies and national library standards approved and endorsed by the Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees. This information explains why certain materials are in the library's collection.

From INFO - 1 Materials Selection and Intellectual Freedom Policy:

"The mission of Peter White Public Library is to enrich the community through access to library services and cultural opportunities. In keeping with this mission, the collection responds to the diverse needs and interests, both immediate and future, of the community.

The library provides an impartial environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with the universe of ideas and information spanning the spectrum of knowledge and opinions. The library board affirms the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to View, and Freedom to Read policy statements in support of acquiring and managing collections."

Contained in this packet:

1. Reconsideration of Library Materials Procedure
2. INFO - 1 Material Selection and Intellectual Freedom Policy
3. American Library Association Bill of Rights, Freedom to View, and Freedom to Read statements
4. INFO - 1.1 Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

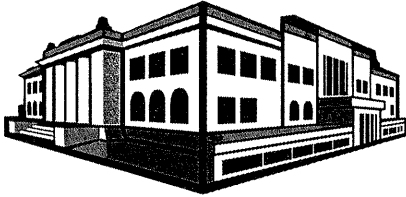
Should you have concerns about PWPL programming or displays, please reference the following additional policies: PRG - 1 Library Sponsored Program Policy; PRG - 3 Art Exhibit and Display Policy.

All Library policies can be found on our website: www.pwpl.info/policies/, or at any PWPL service desk.

Should you wish to speak with me about your concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Andrea Ingmire
Library Director
906-226-4303
aing@pwpl.info



Peter White Public Library

217 N. Front Street | Marquette, MI 49855 | 906/228-9510 | www.pwplinfo

Reconsideration of Library Materials Procedure

PWPL recognizes that a collection of diverse materials may result in some complaints or requests for reconsideration. The following procedures have been developed to ensure that complaints are handled in an attentive and consistent manner. The following steps will be used when an individual feels that further action is necessary to address concerns about a library resource.

For the duration of this process, the material in question will remain in circulation in the library collection.

Reconsideration of Library Materials Procedures

1. No material will be removed from the PWPL collection until all steps in this process have been completed.
2. Patrons residing in the library service area who object to a Library material will be sent to the Library Director.
3. The Library Director will discuss the material in question with the patron, attempting to resolve the concern. The Patron will also be offered a packet of information that includes the Material Selection Policy and Library Bill of Rights.
4. If the patron wishes to carry the request further, the patron should complete a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form." This form should be submitted to the Library Director. The Library Board shall be notified when a request for reconsideration form has been received.
5. Upon receipt of a formal Request for Reconsideration the Library Director will form a Reconsideration Committee composed of the Library Director, Assistant Director, and the library staff member who selects for the collection in question. The committee will review the form and material.
6. A written response from the Library Director will be sent to the patron within forty (40) days from when the form was received, informing the patron of the committee's decision and reasons for the decision.

If the concerned patron is not satisfied with the decision of the committee, a written appeal may be submitted within ten (10) business days to the Peter White Public Library board of Trustees. The Library Board will address the appeal at a regular meeting of the Library Board within sixty (60) days of receiving it.

The decision of the Library Board is final.

For the complete policy, please refer to: INFO – 1 Material Selection and Intellectual Freedom Policy, which is included in this packet.

Material Selection and Intellectual Freedom Policy

The mission of Peter White Public Library is to enrich the community through access to library services and cultural opportunities. In keeping with this mission, the collection responds to the diverse needs and interests, both immediate and future, of the community

The library provides an impartial environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with the universe of ideas and information spanning the spectrum of knowledge and opinions. The library board affirms the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to View, and Freedom to Read policy statements in support of acquiring and managing collections.

Purpose and Goal of the Material Selection Policy

Due to the large volume of publishing as well as limitations of the Library's budget and space, the Library utilizes a Material Selection Policy to provide a framework for the growth and development of its collection in support of its mission. The policy guides Library staff members in the selection and withdrawal of materials and informs the public about the principles upon which selections are made. The goal of the policy is to provide a useful, well-balanced, broad, and diverse collection of materials that reflects a wide range of views, expressions, opinions, and interests and meets the needs of the community.

Definitions

"Selection" refers to the decisions made to either add materials to the collection or to retain materials already in the collection.

"Withdrawal" refers to permanently removing an item from the collection.

"Library Materials" means books, Library programs, audiobooks, digital resources, magazines, DVDs, CDs or other synonyms as they may occur in the policy having the widest possible meaning. This statement of policy applies to all Library materials in the collection. However, this policy and the term "Library materials" does not apply to Internet sites available through the Library's computers or Internet connection. The Library has no control over the content of the Internet. Please see the Computer Use Policy for any issues related to computer or Internet Use.

Intellectual Freedom

Peter White Public Library upholds the First Amendment and ensures freedom of information for all. The selection of library materials is made on behalf of our patrons right to read, listen, or view, free from the censorship of others. The Library holds censorship to be a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject books and other materials of which they do not approve, they may not restrict the freedom of others.

Selection of Materials on Controversial Topics

Materials available in the Library present a diverse point of view, enabling patrons to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. The Library selects a wide variety of materials that satisfy the diverse interests of the community. The Library upholds this right of the individual to secure these resources, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or

unacceptable to some. The Library's varied collection is available to all; however, it is not expected that all items in the collections will appeal to everyone.

PWPL provides an impartial environment in which individuals can encounter ideas and information spanning the spectrum of knowledge and opinions. This includes materials that are considered controversial and may offend some users, but it is not in itself a reason to exclude materials from the collection.

The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements support intellectual freedom and are adopted policies of the Peter White Public Library Board. In addition, the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q & A, the Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provide additional guidance on this subject.

Selection of Materials

Responsibility for Selection

The ultimate responsibility for material selection rests with the Library Director who operates within the framework of policies established by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Director communicates the Material Selection Policy to the Adult Services and Youth Services Librarians and other Library staff as designated who use professional judgment, education and training, and expertise to make selection and withdrawal decisions based on the policy. The Library Director allocates the materials budget annually.

Library staff who are responsible for collection development are selected based on education, training, experience, knowledge, and/or subject area expertise. They will not be disciplined or dismissed for the selection of Library materials when the selection is made in good faith and in accordance with the written policy and accepted procedures.

General Principles of Selection Process

The Library strives to develop a collection of standard works of permanent value and popular materials of current significance. The interests and needs of the community; the individual merit of each item; and the Library's existing collection, budget and services are the major factors in selecting materials. Basic to this policy are the guidelines established by the American Library Association in its *Library Bill of Rights*, *Freedom to Read Statement*, and *Freedom to View Statement*.

The Peter White Public Library considers all types and formats of media to be in the realm of human expression and part of the human record. The Library functions in a rapidly changing society, as such it is flexible about changes in materials, both in format and style of expression.

Criteria for Selection and Withdrawal

Selection of Library materials involves the following factors and considerations:

1. The experience and knowledge of the selectors,
2. Their knowledge of the community's interests and needs,
3. The Library's existing collection,
4. The Library's materials budget and space limitations,

5. The holdings and availability of other area Library resources.

General criteria for selecting Library materials are listed below. An item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be selected.

1. Interests, demands, and needs of the community;
2. Accuracy and authoritativeness of content;
3. Literary or stylistic quality, artistic merit;
4. Timeliness of material; reissues of recordings are considered to be current publications;
5. Local and regional importance and/or historical value;
6. Physical condition and quality, durability and suitability of format for shelving, storing and circulation and to the content of the item;
7. Reputation and competence of the author, creator, speaker, or publisher;
8. Attention of reviewers, critics and the public, especially in professional journals and other reputable resources;
9. Relevance to existing collection;
10. Contemporary significance, popular interest, uniqueness or permanent value;
11. Representation of diverse points of view;
12. Availability elsewhere through interlibrary loan;
13. Accessibility for multiple users of electronic formats.

Selection Criteria for Special Works

1. **Local Works** - Material by local authors or self-published/subsidy published materials will be given consideration if the work meets the general selection criteria.
2. **Textbooks** - Providing textbooks and curriculum material is generally held to be the responsibility of the schools. Materials will not be purchased for the sole purpose of supporting a curriculum. Textbooks will be considered when they supply the best or only information on a specific topic.
3. **Requests** - All requests and suggestions from patrons for specific titles or subject areas will be considered using the selection criteria described in this policy. Patrons can request that specific items be purchased by filling out a request card, completing the online form, through a phone call, or email request to Library staff. Whenever there is enough demand or interest in a title or subject, an item with unfavorable reviews may be purchased unless it lacks literary merit or social value or the suggested subject is already covered by other material in the collection.
4. **Preservation** - The Library preserves materials that cannot be replaced or obtained through resource sharing and that continue to have long-standing or permanent significance to the collection.
5. **Local History Collection** - See Local History Research Room Collection Policy.

Materials for Youth

The Youth Services Department serves youth from birth through age 18, parents and grandparents, guardians, caregivers, teachers, homeschoolers, university students, and other adults interested in children's literature and youth education.

The Youth Services Department applies the same policies and criteria to the selection of materials for youth as those selected for adults with the addition of vocabulary suitable to the

age of the intended audience and quality of the illustrations.

The library's goal in selecting materials in a variety of formats for youth is to make available a collection which satisfies patrons' informational and recreational needs. Materials are selected to meet the general needs of the majority of youth.

Materials whose qualities make them valuable to youth with special needs, talents, problems or interests are also considered.

The Library supports the *Free Access to Libraries for Minors* and *Restricted Access to Library Materials* statements of the American Library Association (appended).

Responsibility for materials selected and read by children and adolescents rests with the youth's parents or legal guardians. The Library does not stand in loco parentis. Materials will not be excluded from the collection because they may be used or accessed by a minor.

Materials and Equipment for People with Visual Disabilities

Materials and equipment for people with visual impairments, such as large print books and audiobooks are acquired according to patron demand. The Library also encourages patrons with special needs to use the resources of the Great Lakes Talking Book Center at Superiorland Library Cooperative.

Materials for Specific Audiences:

Audio Music and Film Collection

The Peter White Public Library is fortunate in that the Carroll Paul Memorial Trust Fund exists to fund the purchase of Library materials pertaining to music. Our audio music and film collection includes music from a broad range of styles and eras in varying degrees of depth and a wide variety of films including popular features, educational, independent, foreign and popular television series. Generally, this is a popular browsing collection for all ages. Rating guides and warning labels are not assigned by the Library.

Interlibrary Loan

Because of limited space and budget, the Library is not able to purchase and house all materials that are requested. Therefore, interlibrary loan is used to obtain from other libraries those materials that are beyond the scope of Peter White Public Library's collection. In return for this service, Peter White Public Library agrees to lend materials to other libraries through the same interlibrary loan networks.

The Peter White Public Library is a member of the Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation (UPRLC) and Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat). UPRLC consists of many libraries in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. MeLCat consists of many libraries throughout the State of Michigan. These libraries have access to common online catalogs for the purpose of sharing materials. The Library encourages the use of interlibrary loan whereby patrons may place requests on items owned by other libraries, and those items will be delivered to the Library as they become available. The Library participates in OCLC WorldCat through the Superiorland Library Cooperative, to provide access to materials owned

by libraries outside the State of Michigan.

Weeding

Weeding is necessary to maintain a vital, useful, and up-to-date collection. Selection of materials for weeding is based on the following criteria:

1. Materials worn out through use
2. Ephemeral materials which are no longer timely
3. Materials no longer considered accurate or factual
4. Materials which have had little or no recent use
5. Excess copies no longer in demand

Material that is withdrawn may be replaced using the selection criteria. Disposal of materials weeded from the collection is accomplished according to the following priorities:

1. Withdrawn materials may be made available to other libraries or institutions, as deemed appropriate by the Director or designated Library Staff.
2. Materials not made available to other libraries and institutions and deemed to have potential resale value are given to the Friends of the Library. Some of these may be resold in the book sale, those not sold will be made available for free at the Library.
3. Materials unsuitable for other institutions or resale are recycled or discarded.
4. The Library cannot accept requests to hold weeded materials for individuals.

Gifts of Materials

The Library appreciates the donation of money, materials, and artwork for the development of the Library collection. Books donated to the library will be given to the Friends of the Library to be sold, and in turn provide funds back to the library for materials, programming, and/or library supplies. For more information on gifts, see MGT – 9 Gift and Donation Policy for more information.

The Library will not assign a value to gifts or donated materials. The Library will, upon request of the donor, provide a receipt for gifts or donations but cannot evaluate or appraise any gift or donation. Material donations may be given gift plates.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

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4. If the patron wishes to carry the request further, the patron should complete a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form." This form should be submitted to the Library Director. The Library Board shall be notified when a request for reconsideration form has been received.
5. Upon receipt of a formal Request for Reconsideration The Library Director will form a Reconsideration Committee composed of the Library Director, Assistant Director, and the library staff member who selects for the collection in question. The committee will review the form and material.
6. A written response from the Library Director will be sent to the patron within forty (40) days from when the form was received, informing the patron of the committee's decision and reasons for the decision.

If the concerned patron is not satisfied with the decision of the committee, a written appeal may be submitted within ten (10) business days to the Peter White Public Library board of Trustees. The Library Board will address the appeal at a regular meeting of the Library Board within sixty (60) days of receiving it.

Policy Revision

At a minimum, this policy will be updated every three years for accuracy and applicability. It may be updated more frequently as needed.

A review of this policy should not be started while a formal challenge to a Library resource is taking place.

Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees

Approved: October 17, 2017

Updated: 11/16/2021, 6/13/22

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 (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations>).

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

(/offices/oif)

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 (<http://www.publishers.org/>)

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers for Free Expression (<http://www.bookweb.org/abfe>)

The Association of American University Presses (<http://www.aaupnet.org/>)

The Children's Book Council (<http://www.cbcbooks.org/>)

Freedom to Read Foundation (<http://www.ftrf.org>)

National Association of College Stores (<http://www.nacs.org/>)

National Coalition Against Censorship (<http://www.ncac.org/>)

National Council of Teachers of English (<http://www.ncte.org/>)

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Please check type of material:

Book Periodical Pamphlet Video Audio
 Library program Art Exhibit/Piece Other

Title _____
Author or Artist _____
Publisher or Producer _____

Request initiated by _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Do you represent:
 Yourself, An organization: _____

1. What brought this resource to your attention?

2. Did you read / view / listen to the entire work? If not, what parts?

3. What concerns you about the resource? (use additional pages if necessary)

4. What would you like your library to do about this work?

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / _____

Please return completed form to: Library Director
Peter White Public Library
217 N. Front St.
Marquette, MI 49855



What is intellectual freedom?

Intellectual freedom is the right of every person to seek and receive information without restrictions. The First Amendment protects the fundamental freedoms of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition, ensuring individuals' right to express themselves and gather peacefully without government interference. Intellectual freedom is a part of the protections offered by the First Amendment. All people have the right to intellectual freedom including children and teenagers.

What is censorship?

Censorship is the act of suppressing or restricting information, ideas, or artistic expression by an authority or governing body. It involves the control of content deemed objectionable, offensive, or controversial often with the intention of shaping public opinion or protecting societal norms.

What is a material challenge?

A material challenge is when a person or group formally requests that an item (book, movie, art, etc) in the library's collection be removed or restricted.

Is a material challenge the same as a ban?

While these terms are often used interchangeably, they are not the same. The term 'banned' indicates that the material has indeed been removed from the collection or its usage has been limited in some way.

What is obscenity?

The term "obscenity" is frequently misused in material challenges as a justification for the removal of an item. Obscenity is a specific category of unprotected speech with a narrow and well-defined legal definition. The Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15 (1973), provides guidance on the topic of obscenity. It is important to note that very few items have been legally classified as obscene. Often, challengers use the term "obscene" when they actually mean "offensive" or wish to convey their discomfort with the material.

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/413/15/>

What about sexual content?

Every person has the right to moderate their own exposure to sexual content in library materials. Parents and guardians have the right to guide and monitor their child's library material use based on their own preferences. However, they do not have the right to impose restrictions on what others can access in public libraries.



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How are books selected for the library's collection?

Many public libraries work with limited budgets and shelf space. Our professional librarians, using the PWPL Material Selection Policy as a guide, make decisions about what to purchase. They take patron requests and attempt to purchase items offering a wide range of perspectives and topics. PWPL librarians also utilize industry journals to help select the materials added to the collection.

What is a Request for Reconsideration of library materials?

This established protocol enables the public to formally challenge the inclusion of specific materials in the library's collection. A discussion about specific materials with library staff is not an official Request for Reconsideration.

What is the process for filing a Request for Reconsideration and how long does the process take?

This process begins when a completed Request for Reconsideration form is filed with the Library. The full process and timeline can be found in our *INFO – 1 Material Selection and Intellectual Freedom Policy* which is available on our website (see policy URL below).

How can I find out what is on the PWPL Board of Trustees agenda?

Agenda, packets, draft minutes, and approved minutes are all available on the Board of Trustees page of our website. Subscribe to our email eNewsletters for monthly meeting notices.

Our website offers a diverse range of useful information regarding library services and policies. Pages referred to in this document include:

PWPL Policies: pwpl.info/policies/

PWPL Board of Trustees: pwpl.info/pwplboard/

PWPL eNewsletters: pwpl.info/emailnews/

Should you have specific concerns about the PWPL collection or intellectual freedom, please contact:

Andrea Ingmire
Library Director
aing@pwpl.info
906-226-4303

Bruce MacDonald
Assistant Director/IT
bmac@pwpl.info
906-226-4307

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