



Stewartville Public Library

The Freedom to Read

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy.

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 resources should be provided for the interest, information and engagement of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or view 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.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944;
June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980;
inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.