

Policy 5-7	Intellectual Freedom	Created: 12/08/2016 Revised: 08/05/2024 Approved: 08/22/2024
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I. PURPOSE

This policy explains the fundamental public library tenet of intellectual freedom and serves to express the commitment of Jackson County Library District (Herein referred to as the “District” or “Library”) to uphold, affirm, and adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom.

II. INTRODUCTION

Intellectual freedom is a core value of the library profession and a basic right in our democratic society. Intellectual freedom is defined as 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 ([State Library of Oregon, Intellectual Freedom Toolkit Glossary](#)).

Whereas intellectual freedom protects the ability of all library users to seek and use information without interference, the District believes that intellectual freedom is essential to democracy and that through the collection, organization, and dissemination of human expression in all its recorded formats, libraries are our society’s most visible commitment to free speech, self-education, and self-government.

The District believes that while anyone is free to select or reject materials for themselves or their own minor children, the freedom of others to read or inquire will not be restricted. The Library does not stand in loco parentis (in the place of parents). Parents and guardians, not the Library or staff, have the responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their own minor children.

III. POLICY DETAILS

The Jackson County Board of Trustees has adopted the following statements of the American Library Association (ALA) as policy:

[Library Bill of Rights](#) : An affirmation that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and a set of basic policies that should guide library services.

[The Freedom to Read Statement](#): A statement that defines the responsibilities of publishers and librarians to protect Americans’ freedom to read, originally issued in May of 1953, subsequently updated over the years, that remains relevant today.

[Freedom to View Statement](#): A statement endorsed by ALA, to affirm Americans’ freedoms associated with viewing film, video, and audiovisual materials.

[ALA Code of Ethics](#): A framework of values and ethical responsibilities for the profession of librarianship.