



Town of Highland Park, Texas
TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
AGENDA

8:00 AM
November 4, 2025

4700 Drexel Drive, Highland Park, TX 75205
Executive Conference Room, Second Floor

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the agenda is the public's opportunity to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda, except public hearings. Comments related to public hearings will be heard when the specific hearing begins. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless otherwise required by law. Per the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Town Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any item not listed on the agenda. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's sole discretion.

III. FUTURE AGENDA DISCUSSION

- A. Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council Meeting agenda.
- B. Review and discuss the 2026 Town Council meeting schedule.

IV. REPORTS

- A. Review and discuss updates to the International Code Council family of codes and the National Electric Code, including local amendments.
- B. Review and discuss revisions to the Highland Park Library's Material Selection Policy.

V. CLOSED SESSION

- A. In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.072 – REAL ESTATE – the Town Council will convene into closed session to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

VI. OPEN SESSION

- A. Pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Texas Government Code, the final action, decision, or vote regarding Closed Session Item A. above, shall be made, if any.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Any item on this posted agenda could be discussed in closed session as long as it is within one of the permitted categories under Sections 551.071 through 551.076 and 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

A member of the public may address the governing body regarding an item on the agenda either before or during the body's consideration of the item, upon being recognized by the presiding officer or the consent of the body.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS: Let us know if you need special assistance of any kind. Please contact the Town of Highland Park Administrative staff at (214) 521-4161 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council Study Session
Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

Item Coversheet

Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council Meeting agenda.

PRESENTED BY:

BACKGROUND:

This item is provided at the request of the Mayor for a member of the Town Council to request that an item be placed on a future Town Council study session agenda for discussion or consideration. Town Council discussion and consideration would be limited only to including a potential agenda item and scheduling such on a future agenda. The agenda item would be included as part of the study session agenda of regular Town Council meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the inclusion of the agenda item for future regular Town Council meetings (not special or emergency).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS

None



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council Study Session
Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

Item Coversheet

Review and discuss the 2026 Town Council meeting schedule.

PRESENTED BY: Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary

BACKGROUND:

This agenda item provides the Town Council with an opportunity to review and discuss the 2026 meeting schedule. Section 2.09 of the Town Charter requires at least one regular Town Council meeting each month. In addition, the Town Charter provides that the Town Council may schedule other meetings as desired.

Currently, the Town Council schedules its regular Town Council meeting at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Town Council Chambers. Once the Town Council meeting adjourns, the study session immediately follows in the Executive Conference Room for discussion, review of future agenda items, and staff reports.

Due to the holidays, the Town Council historically schedules only the first Tuesday meeting in November and December.

It is important to note that the Highland Park Independent School District has spring break scheduled for March 16th through the 20th, 2026. This is the third week of the month, and historically, the Town Council has not scheduled a meeting during spring break.

Tuesday morning meetings allow residents to attend a Town Council meeting prior to the start of the workday. The morning time may also offer greater flexibility for residents and Town Council Members to manage their travel schedules and workdays.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for review and discussion.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS

Town Council Meeting and Study Session Schedule 2026

**Town of Highland Park
Proposed Town Council Meeting Schedule
2026**

Day	Date	Time	Type of Meeting
Tuesday	January 6, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	January 20, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	February 3, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	February 17, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	March 3, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	March 17, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	April 7, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	April 21, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	May 5, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Wednesday	May 13, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Special Town Council Meeting Canvassing Election
Tuesday	May 19, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	June 2, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	June 16, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	July 7, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	July 21, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	August 4, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	August 18, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	September 1, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session

Day	Date	Time	Type of Meeting
Tuesday	September 8, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Special Town Council Meeting (if needed) Budget and Tax Rate Approval
Tuesday	September 15, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	October 6, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	October 20, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	November 3, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	November 17, 2026	N/A	No Meeting
Tuesday	December 1, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Town Council Meeting & Study Session
Tuesday	December 15, 2026	N/A	No Meeting



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council Study Session
Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

Item Coversheet

Review and discuss updates to the International Code Council family of codes and the National Electric Code, including local amendments.

PRESENTED BY: Jeff Armstrong, Director of Community Development

BACKGROUND:

Every three years, the International Code Council ("ICC") updates its various building codes, including the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Plumbing Code, and International Mechanical Code. Highland Park currently adopts the 2021 ICC codes. Likewise, the National Electric Code ("NEC") is updated every three years, and the Town is currently under the 2000 NEC.

It is important to update the codes with each new release from the ICC and NEC. The updates include new practices, materials, and enhancements to health and safety. In addition, updated codes help maintain things like the Town's Insurance Services Office ("ISO") rating. The new codes to be adopted are the 2024 ICC and the 2023 NEC, along with local amendments.

With each new code update, Highland Park, like most other cities and towns, adopts local amendments to the NEC and ICC codes. The North Central Texas Council of Governments ("COG") releases model amendments that local area governments can adopt. Historically, the Town has adopted many of the recommended COG amendments and adopted several amendments unique to Highland Park.

During the study session, staff will present proposed changes to the local amendments for the 2024 ICC and 2023 NEC codes, with particular attention to the local amendments. The intent is to highlight proposed substantive changes to the codes and receive any comments on those from the Council. Staff plans to have the new codes with amendments on the December 2, 2025, Town Council agenda for approval, with the new codes to be effective January 1, 2026.

A meeting with the Builders Committee is scheduled for October 30th to gather their input, and another meeting with other builders and contractors will be held in early November to share information and receive feedback on the proposed code updates.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive feedback including support for or any concerns about proposed changes to the local

amendments. Drafts will be finalized and on the December 2nd Town Council agenda for adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS

None



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council Study Session
Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

Item Coversheet

**Review and discuss revisions to the Highland Park Library's
Material Selection Policy.**

PRESENTED BY: Kortney Nelson, Town Librarian

BACKGROUND:

The Highland Park Library's ("Library") Material Selection Policy is a foundational document, which guides the development and maintenance of numerous collections in multiple formats. As the community and information environments continue to evolve, the Library's policies require revision and reassessment. The Town Council last reviewed and revised the policy in August 2002.

The revisions for discussion today were undertaken to address:

- Incorporating the Library's Mission and Guiding Principles, established as part of the Library's strategic planning process.
- Adapting to and incorporating new material formats and modes of content delivery, such as digital and streaming media.
- Clarifying and updating the specific criteria for material selection and the process for reconsideration of materials.
- Restructuring how gifts and donations of materials are handled.

The main goals of the policy remain: (1) Create collections that serve the community's information needs while ensuring the most responsible and effective use of public funds, (2) To support intellectual freedom, and (3) Uphold the right of all individuals to access information from a wide range of viewpoints and sources.

The mission of the Highland Park Library is to power imagination through creativity and discovery and serve as the community's connection to lifelong learning.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the revised policy be considered for approval at an upcoming Town Council meeting as part of the Consent Agenda.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS

HPL Material Selection Policy_Proposed Policy without Revisions Indicated_DRAFT_October 2025, HPL Material Selection Policy_Current Policy with Revisions Indicated_DRAFT_October 2025



TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS
HARVEY R. “BUM” BRIGHT LIBRARY
MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Highland Park Harvey R. “Bum” Bright Library is to power imagination through creativity and discovery.

July 6, 1982

Revised August 5, 2002

Revised October 1, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles
- Authority and Responsibility
- Types of Materials Collected
- Criteria for Selection
- Use of Selection Aids
- Maintenance of the Collection
- Gifts
- Patron Requests
- Request for Reconsideration of Materials

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Highland Park Harvey R. “Bum” Bright Library (“Highland Park Library” or “Library”) powers imagination through creativity and discovery. The Library strives to provide stellar customer service and user-friendly, personalized access to all it offers while designing and emphasizing collections and experiences for patrons to express their creativity, expand their interests, share their knowledge, and learn new skills and talents.

The materials selected for inclusion in the Library’s collections serve to provide helpful and pertinent information for education and entertainment, as well as to facilitate communication, discussion, deliberation, and community engagement. The Library’s goal is to be the community’s center for lifelong learning, literacy, and intellectual vitality, offering relevant and useful materials and collections for every resident of any age to fulfill the informational, educational, recreational, and basic research needs of the community.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Authority and responsibility for materials selection rests with the Town Librarian who operates within a framework of policies subject to the direction of the Town Administrator or adopted by the Highland Park Town Council. The Adult Services Librarian and Youth Services Librarian will have materials selection and collection maintenance responsibilities within their respective areas. All Library staff may aid in the selection process by using their knowledge of the collection and the observed needs of the Library’s patrons.

TYPES OF MATERIALS COLLECTED

The following types of materials are currently owned and/or subscribed to by the Library and will be selected according to the Library’s Material Selection Policy. The collection is not limited to these types of materials, and any new format will also be selected according to the Material Selection Policy.

- Books, hardbound, paperbound, and electronic/digital
- Recordings, physical formats and electronic/digital
- Periodicals, magazines, journals, and newspapers, print and electronic/digital
- Visual materials, physical formats and electronic/digital
- Online resources and databases
- Technology equipment for in-Library and at-home use
- Museum passes
- Storytelling, learning, and educational kits
- Other materials to help meet the informational, literary, accessibility, enrichment, and entertainment needs of the community

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

To build balanced and relevant collections, materials will be considered according to objective guidelines and matched to community needs.

The presence of materials in the Library must not be construed as a personal endorsement of their contents by any member of the staff or of the Town Council. The Library has a responsibility to collect materials expressing a variety of views and opinions. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues.

The Library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. The Library recognizes that many materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. The Library will protect intellectual freedom, promote literacy, and encourage lifelong learning, while providing library materials and information services.

Responsibility for the materials that children read rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that items may inadvertently come into the possession of children. Selections will be made on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection and the interest of the community. Neither the Library nor its staff has the right or responsibility to serve ‘in loco parentis’ (in place of a parent).

In general, these basic principles will guide the selection of materials, whether purchased or donated:

1. Contemporary significance or permanent value.
2. Accuracy and objectivity of approach.
3. Authority of the author or producer in the field.
4. Clear presentation and/or readability.
5. Social significance.
6. Space and budgetary concerns.

Specifically, materials considered for inclusion in the Library's collection, whether purchased or donated, must meet two or more of the following standards:

1. Importance of subject matter to collection.
2. Serious literary, artistic, political, scientific, or social value.
3. Permanence.
4. Timely value.
5. Representation of important movements, genres, trends, or cultures.
6. Accuracy and/or authority of content.
7. Representation of varying points of view.
8. Objectivity of approach.
9. Potential for promoting reading incentive.
10. Historical value.
11. Readability or visual appeal.
12. Scarcity of material on the subject.
13. Reputation, authority, and/or significance of author, illustrator, editor, artist, performer, publisher, translator, etc.
14. Popular demand, sustained interest, or local interest.
15. Reasonable price.
16. Appropriate format.
17. Availability of material elsewhere in the community.
18. Appearance of title in reputable bibliographies, especially local bibliographies and reading lists.

A serious work which illuminates some problem or aspect of life will not be excluded only because its language or subject matter may be offensive to some patrons. The Library itself and its collections serve to address the information needs of all community members. The Library's collections represent a multitude of viewpoints and support the right of the individual to access information.

Some items are not deemed suitable for collection by the Library. These include:

1. Textbooks. The Library will not attempt to furnish materials needed for formal courses of study offered by elementary and secondary schools or institutions of higher learning, or to furnish textbooks. Donated textbooks may be added to the collection depending on their condition, accuracy, datedness, and value to the collection.
2. Collector's items. The Library does not have the resources or the staff for this specialized kind of collection.
3. Other materials as determined by the Town Librarian.

USE OF SELECTION AIDS

Library staff makes skilled use of selection aids, such as basic general lists, current general lists, special bibliographies for reference books and particular subject materials, and reviewing journals. While reviews are a major source of information about new titles, they are not required for every

item added to the collection as not all items are reviewed in professional sources. Selectors for materials use trained judgement, knowledge of the Library's present resources, and understanding of community information need to shape and maintain comprehensive collections. When consulted, no publication is relied upon exclusively; the critical opinions of reviewers are checked against each other whenever feasible.

Library staff may, but is not limited to, use the following professionally recognized aids in the selection of materials:

1. PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOG, FICTION CATALOG, CHILDREN'S CATALOG, and other Wilson catalogs
2. BOOKLIST
3. KIRKUS
4. LIBRARY JOURNAL
5. NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW
6. PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY
7. SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL
8. Other sources as deemed appropriate

MAINTENANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The value of the Library to the community is dependent on the quality of the collection much more than the quantity of the collection. Therefore, the collection will be examined periodically for the purpose of "weeding" materials to maintain a balanced, timely, and attractive collection.

"Weeding" is the process by which worn, unused, soiled, and outdated materials are withdrawn from the Library's collection, or placed for rebinding, repairing, or replacement. The intellectual and artistic worth, currency and/or probable usefulness, as well as physical condition and demand for the material, determine whether it should be retained, mended, rebound, discarded, and/or replaced. But also to be considered are how much or how little information on the same subject the Library has, how many multiple copies, and how many volumes on the subject the Library may need at one time. Again, the focus is on quality rather than quantity.

Reasons for withdrawal of materials from the collection are poor physical condition, datedness or inaccuracy of information, and lack of reader interest as evidenced by lack of use. A mediocre, outdated resource that is not utilized is a liability to the Library because it takes up space, it obscures the resources from potential readers, and it costs money and staff time to be merely maintained in the collection.

Weeding is an integral part of selection. As such it is a professional job requiring a knowledge of information resources and of the community. It should be done continuously to the materials that are returned after being checked out, and periodically to the entire collection so as not to miss unused and unneeded resources.

The controversial nature of material shall not be deemed sufficient reason for removal unless and until the material has been subjected to a full formal review as outlined in this document. Requests for removal of items from the Library's collections may be made using a formal procedure outlined in the Request for Reconsideration of Materials section of the Material Selection Policy.

GIFTS

The Library appreciates gifts in the form of money, books, memorials, etc., and will treat them in the same manner as purchased materials, which includes weeding materials from collections.

This means that: all gifts are subject to meeting the Library's criteria for selection; any material not deemed necessary to the Library's collection will: (1) be placed on a sale shelf in the Library, (2) sold through a consignment vendor with a percentage of the proceeds returning to the Town, or (3) donated to other libraries or non-profit organizations.

Gifts added to the collection will be handled in the same way as materials purchased with Town funds (e.g. property taxes); when gift materials are no longer needed in the collection they will be discarded on the same basis and in the same manner as materials purchased with Town funds. The Library retains unconditional ownership of the donation and makes the final decision of use of said donation

When the Library receives a cash donation for the purchase of materials, selection must be based primarily on the needs of the Library and in compliance with the Material Selection Policy. Donations will not be accepted if conditioned to purchase specific material.

If the donor needs a list of titles donated it must be prepared by the donor before donation of the materials, and the list will be signed at the time of donation. The Library will furnish a printed form receipt which will be signed by a member of the Library staff.

A very attractive bookplate giving the donor's name can be placed on donated material if the donor wishes. Memorials will have bookplates giving both the name of the donor and the person honored.

No estimate of value for donated items can be furnished as no member of the staff has this expertise, and the IRS places this responsibility with the donor.

PATRON REQUESTS

The Library welcomes patron interest in the collection and will seriously consider all requests that specific materials be acquired. Every attempt will be made to acquire requested materials that meet the Library's Criteria for Selection.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

If a patron objects to material in the Library's collections, the patron may submit a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form. In no instance will material be removed on demand. All considerations of requests to remove materials will be reviewed using the principles of this selection policy statement as a guide.

If a patron wishes their objection to be acted upon, they must:

1. Be a registered borrower of the Highland Park Library.
2. Have read the entire book, viewed the entire movie, listened to the entire recording, etc.
3. File a completed Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form in full with the Town Librarian.
4. Supply their full name and address. Anonymous complaints will not be considered.

After the completed form is received, the Town Librarian will review the reasons for the objection and the material in question. The Town Librarian will attempt to answer the objection to the patron's satisfaction within 30 business days.

If the patron is not satisfied with the Town Librarian's determination, they may request that the material be reviewed by the Materials Review Committee. This committee will be composed of the Mayor and two Town Council members. The Town Librarian or a Library staff member chosen by the Town Librarian will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee. The decision of the Materials Review Committee shall be final. Once a title has gone through the reconsideration process, the title will not be eligible for reconsideration for a period of twelve full months.



Material Selection Policy

Adopted by the Highland Park Town
Council July 6, 1982
revised August 5, 2002
revised October 1, 2025

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PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of the Highland Park Library is to provide high quality public library service which will fulfill the informational, educational, recreational and basic research needs of the community, and to increase public awareness of these services.

The goals of the Highland Park Library are:

1. To select, organize, preserve and make available books and related materials, within the framework of its budget, in order to promote an enlightened citizenship and enrich personal lives.
2. To serve the community as a source of information.
3. To accumulate the best in thought, literature, fiction, children's books, and non-fiction for the use and benefit of the library's patrons.
4. To promote and encourage the maximum use of its resources by the greatest number of its patrons.

The goals of the material selection policy are:

1. To further the stated goals, objectives and functions of the Highland Park Library.
2. To aid the Librarian in the selection of material.
3. To inform the public about selection principles.

The Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material.

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Librarian to insure that it remains current and useful.

MISSION

The Highland Park Harvey R. "Bum" Bright Library ("Highland Park Library" or "Library") powers imagination through creativity and discovery. The Library strives to provide stellar customer service and user-friendly, personalized access to all it offers while designing and emphasizing collections and experiences for patrons to express their creativity, expand their interests, share their knowledge, and learn new skills and talents.

The materials selected for inclusion in the Library's collections serve to provide helpful and pertinent information for education and entertainment, as well as to facilitate communication, discussion, deliberation, and community engagement. The Library's goal is to be the community's center for lifelong learning, literacy, and intellectual vitality, offering relevant and useful materials and collections for every resident of any age to fulfill the informational, educational, recreational, and basic research needs of the community.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Town of Highland Park is a heterogeneous community with a stable population of approximately 9,000. Because the Town is enclosed on all sides the population will not vary

significantly. Both the educational level and the average annual income are above average. There are thirteen churches in the immediate area, each of which has a library. Because of its central location in the Dallas area Highland Park has a large number and wide variety of resources available. The Highland Park Library is a member of the Northeast Texas Library System (NETLS) and therefore has access to the collections of other libraries that are members through a Resources Sharing project, as well as access to the Dallas Public Library and all other public libraries in the state through state-wide Interlibrary Loan. These resources, especially the local ones, should be considered as the Library selects materials. Unnecessary expenditure of resources for materials easily available is wasteful and should be avoided whenever possible.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Final Authority and responsibility for materials selection rests with the Town Librarian who operates within a framework of policies subject to the direction of the Town Administrator or adopted by the Town Council of Highland Park. The Adult Services Librarian and Youth Services Librarian will have materials selection and collection maintenance responsibilities within their respective areas. The All Library staff will may aid in the selection process by using their knowledge of the collection and the observed needs of the Library's patrons.

TYPES OF MATERIALS COLLECTED

The following types of materials are currently owned and/or subscribed to by the Library and will be selected according to the Library's Material Selection Policy. The collection is not limited to these types of materials, and any new format will also be selected according to the Material Selection Policy.

- Books, both hardbound, and paperbound, and electronic/digital
- Recordings, including audiocassettes and compact discs—physical formats and electronic/digital
- Periodicals, magazines, journals, and newspapers, print and electronic/digital
Videocassettes and DVDs
- Visual materials on electronic format (Videocassettes, DVDs, etc.), physical formats and electronic/digital
Filmstrips
On-line resources and data bases Online resources and databases
- Technology equipment for in-Library and at-home use
- Museum passes
- Storytelling, learning, and educational kits
- Other materials to help meet the informational, literary, accessibility, enrichment, and entertainment needs of the community

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

To build a balanced and relevant collections, materials will be considered according to objective guidelines and based on the needs of the community matched to community needs.

The presence of materials in the Library must not be construed as a personal endorsement of their contents by any member of the staff or of the Town Council. The Library has a responsibility to collect materials expressing a variety of views and opinions, ~~many of which the persons responsible for maintaining the Library may find personally unacceptable.~~ Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues.

The Library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. The Library recognizes that many materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. The Library will protect intellectual freedom, promote literacy, and encourage lifelong learning, while providing library materials and information services.

~~The Library subscribes to the principles of the American Library Association's LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS, FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT, STATEMENT ON LABELING, FREE ACCESS TO LIBRARIES FOR MINORS, STATEMENT ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, and of the Texas Library Association's INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM STATEMENT. (See Addendum for full texts.)~~

~~The Library recognizes that many materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons.~~ Responsibility for the materials that children read rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that items may inadvertently come into the possession of children. Selections will be made on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection and the interest of the community. Neither the Library nor its staff has the right or responsibility to serve 'in loco parentis' (in place of a parent).

In general, these basic principles will guide the selection of materials, whether purchased or donated:

1. Contemporary significance or permanent value.
2. Accuracy and objectivity of approach.
3. Authority of the author or producer in the field.
4. Clear presentation and/or readability.
5. Social significance.
- ~~6. Items of doubtful value are occasionally acquired because of their timeliness. These are discarded when they have served their purpose.~~
6. Space and budgetary concerns.

~~Works of imagination should possess qualities of:~~

- ~~1. Representation of important movements, genres, trends or national culture.~~
- ~~2. Vitality and originality.~~
- ~~3. Artistic integrity.~~
- ~~4. Effective characterization.~~
- ~~5. Sustained interest.~~

~~Works of information or opinion should possess these qualities:~~

- ~~1. Authority of the author.~~
- ~~2. Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment.~~
- ~~3. Objectivity of approach.~~
- ~~4. Accuracy of information.~~
- ~~5. Clarity and logic of presentation.~~
- ~~6. Representation of varying points of view.~~

Specifically, materials considered for inclusion in the Library's collection, whether purchased or donated, must meet ~~one~~ two or more of the following standards:

1. Importance of subject matter to collection.
2. Serious literary, artistic, political, ~~or~~ scientific, or social value.
3. Permanence.
4. Timely value.
- 4-5. Representation of important movements, genres, trends, or cultures.
- ~~5. Purpose or intent of the material~~
6. Accuracy and/or authority of content.
7. Representation of varying points of view.
- ~~6-8. Objectivity of approach.~~
- 7-9. Potential for promoting reading incentive.
- ~~8-10. Historical value.~~
- 9-11. Readability or visual appeal.
- 10-12. Scarcity of material on the subject.
- 11-13. Reputation, authority, and/or significance of author, illustrator, editor, artist, performer, publisher, translator, etc.
- 12-14. Popular demand, sustained interest, or local interest.
- ~~13. Local interest.~~
- ~~14. Reputation and professional standing of publisher or producer.~~
15. Reasonable price.
16. Appropriate format.
17. Availability of material elsewhere in the community.
18. Appearance of title in reputable bibliographies, especially local bibliographies and reading lists.

~~Periodicals will be evaluated according to the following criteria, in addition to the above standards:~~

- ~~1. Indexed in READER'S GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE.~~
- ~~2. Frequency of use.~~
- ~~3. Interest, as indicated by patron requests.~~
- ~~4. Reputation and quality of publication.~~
- ~~5. New titles on subjects of current interest.~~

~~The Library reserves the right to exclude titles which it judges to have been written purely to appeal to a taste for sensationalism and/or pornography. However, a A serious work which illuminates some problem or aspect of life will not be excluded only because its language or subject matter may be offensive to some readers/patrons. The Library itself and its collections serve to address the information needs of all community members. The Library's collections represent a multitude of viewpoints and support the right of the individual to access information.~~

~~Books on controversial issues and current problems which are inflammatory, sensational, or prejudiced are not generally purchased. Works by national or world figures, even if prejudiced or violent, may be acquired because they have influenced thinking either in our own times or in the past.~~

~~Other~~Some items are not deemed suitable for collection by the Library. These include:

1. Textbooks. The Library will not attempt to furnish materials needed for formal courses of study offered by elementary and secondary schools or institutions of higher learning, or to furnish textbooks. Donated textbooks may be added to the collection depending on their condition, accuracy, datedness, and value to the collection.

~~2. Materials of religion and philosophy deemed to have as their primary purpose proselytizing converts, rather than informing the reader, will not be acquired; and if donated will not be added to the collection.~~

2. Collector's items. The Library does not have the resources or the staff for this specialized kind of collection.

3. Other materials as determined by the Town Librarian.

USE OF SELECTION AIDS

~~Ideally every item added to the Library should have been read/seen/heard before purchase by a Librarian with trained judgment, knowledge of the Library's present resources, and acquaintance with the requirements of local readers. Where circumstances make such reading impossible or unnecessary, the Library staff makes skilled use of selection aids, such as basic general lists, current general lists, special bibliographies for reference books and particular subject materials, and reviewing journals. While reviews are a major source of information about new titles, they are not followed blindly. they are not required for every item added to the collection as not all items are reviewed in professional sources. Selectors for materials use trained judgement, knowledge of the Library's present resources, and understanding of community information needs to shape and maintain comprehensive collections. When~~Not consulted, no one publication is relied upon exclusively; the critical opinions of reviewers are checked against each other whenever feasible.

~~The Librarian will use~~Library staff may, but is not limited to, use the following professionally recognized aids in the selection of materials:

1. PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOG, FICTION CATALOG, CHILDREN'S CATALOG, and other Wilson catalogs

2. BOOKLIST

~~2-3.~~ 3. KIRKUS

~~3-4.~~ 4. LIBRARY JOURNAL

~~4-5.~~ 5. NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

~~5.~~ 6. American Library Association bibliographies

6. PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

6.7. SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

7-8. and others Other sources as deemed appropriate.

MAINTENANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The value of the Library to the community is dependent on the quality of the collection much more than the quantity of the collection. Therefore, the collection will be examined periodically for the purpose of “weeding” materials to maintain a balanced, timely, and attractive collection.

“Weeding” is the process by which worn, unused, soiled, and outdated materials are withdrawn from the Library’s collection, or placed for rebinding, repairing or replacement. ~~Basically, I~~ the intellectual and artistic worth, currency and/or probable usefulness, as well as physical condition and demand for the material, determine whether it should be retained, mended, rebound, discarded and/or replaced. But also to be considered are how much or how little information on the same subject the Library has, how many multiple copies, and how many volumes on the subject the Library may need at one time. Again, the focus is on quality rather than quantity.

Reasons for withdrawal of materials from the collection are poor physical condition, datedness or inaccuracy of information, and lack of reader interest as evidenced by lack of use. A mediocre, outdated ~~book resource~~ that is not ~~read-utilized~~ is ~~actually~~ a liability to the Library because it takes up space, it obscures the ~~worthwhile books/resources~~ from potential readers, and it costs money and staff time to be merely maintained in the collection.

Weeding is an integral part of ~~book~~ selection. As such it is a professional job requiring a knowledge of ~~books information resources~~ and of the community. It should be done continuously to the materials that are returned after being checked out, and periodically to the entire collection so as not to miss ~~the books that sit on the shelf~~ unused and unneeded ~~resources~~.

The controversial nature of material shall not be deemed sufficient reason for removal unless and until the material has been subjected to a full formal review as outlined in this document. Requests for removal of items from the Library’s collections may be made using a formal procedure outlined in the Request for Reconsideration of Materials section of the Material Selection Policy.

GIFTS

The Library appreciates gifts in the form of money, books, memorials, ~~periodicals, audiocassettes, compact discs, DVDs, videocassettes, periodical subscriptions, etc.~~, and will treat them in the same manner as purchased materials, which includes weeding materials from collections.

This means that: all gifts are subject to meeting the Library’s criteria for selection; any material not deemed necessary to the Library’s collection ~~will be passed on to developing Libraries, usually through the office of the Northeast Texas Library System, and other non-profit organizations will:~~ (1) be placed on a sale shelf in the Library, (2) sold through a consignment vendor with a percentage of the proceeds returning to the Town, or (3) donated to other libraries or non-profit organizations. ∴

Gifts added to the collection will be handled in exactly the same way as materials purchased with ~~with Town funds (e.g. property taxes) tax moneys~~; when gift materials are no longer needed in the collection they will be discarded on the same basis and in the same manner as materials purchased with ~~tax moneys~~Town funds. The Library retains unconditional ownership of the donation and makes the final decision of use of said donation

When the Library receives a cash donation for the purchase of materials, selection must be based primarily on the needs of the Library and in compliance with the Material Selection Policy. Donations will not be accepted if conditioned to purchase specific material.

If the donor needs a list of titles donated it must be prepared by the donor before donation of the materials, and the list will be signed at the time of donation. The Library will furnish a printed form receipt which will be signed by a member of the Library staff. ~~(See Addendum for example.)~~

A very attractive bookplate giving the donor's name can be placed on donated material if the donor so wishes. Memorials will have bookplates giving both the name of the donor and the person honored.

No estimate of value for donated items can be furnished as no member of the staff has this expertise, and the IRS places this responsibility with the donor.

PATRON REQUESTS

The Library welcomes patron interest in the collection and will seriously consider all requests that specific materials be acquired. Every attempt will be made to acquire requested materials that meet the Library's Criteria for Selection.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

~~Libraries of all sizes and types have been under increasing pressures from persons who wish to use the Library as an instrument of their own tastes and views. Such individuals and groups are demanding the exclusion or removal of materials that do not support their views. In a pluralistic society tastes and opinions differ and some materials in a library may be offensive to some patrons. In a democracy which incorporates the rights of free press and speech into its basic system of law, the minority does not have the prerogative to curtail the free access to published materials by the majority. Just as important, the majority does not have the right to curtail free access to published materials by the minority, or the individual. The Library will protect intellectual freedom, promote literacy, encourage lifelong learning, and provide library materials and information services.~~

~~In view of these facts, it seems desirable to set forth a few basic principles that may help in preserving the freedom and professional integrity of the Highland Park Library in the community.~~

~~The basic document that explains why certain materials are part of or excluded from the collection is the **HIGHLAND PARK LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY**. If a patron objects to material held~~

by the Library he in the Library's collections, the patron may submit a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form." In no instance will material be removed on demand. All considerations of requests to remove materials will be reviewed using the principles of this selection policy statement as a guide.

If a patron wishes ~~his~~ their objection complaint to be acted upon ~~he~~they must:

1. Be a registered borrower of the Highland Park Library.
2. Have read the entire book, viewed the entire movie, listened to the entire audiocassette recording, etc.
3. File a completed "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form" in full with the ~~Library Director~~Town Librarian.
4. Supply ~~his~~their full name and address. Anonymous complaints will not be considered.

After the completed form is received, the Town Librarian will review the reasons for the ~~complaint objection~~ and the material in question. ~~She~~The Town Librarian will attempt to answer the ~~complaint objection~~ to the patron's satisfaction within 30 business days. If the patron is not satisfied with the Town Librarian's action determination, ~~they~~he may request that the material be reviewed by a Materials Review Committee. ~~This committee will be composed of the Councilman appointed to the Library, a second representative from the Council, and the Library Director. This committee will be composed of the Mayor and two Town Council members. The Town Librarian or a Library staff member chosen by the Town Librarian will serve as an ex-Officio, non-voting member of the committee.~~ The decision of the Materials Review Committee shall be final. Once a title has gone through the reconsideration process, the title will not be eligible for reconsideration for a period of twelve full months.

ADDENDUM

HIGHLAND PARK LIBRARY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

Type of material: book / audiocassette / videocassette / CD / _____

Title _____

Author _____

Publisher/Producer: _____

Request initiated by _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Are you a registered borrower of this Library? _____ Card # _____

1. Have you read/heard/seen this material in its entirety? _____

If not, what part? _____

2. To what do you object? (Please be specific. Cite pages) _____

3. What do you feel might be the result of using this material? _____

4. ~~What do you believe is the theme of this material? _____~~

5. ~~Is there anything good about this material? _____~~

6. ~~Have you read any reviews of this material? _____ If yes, which ones?~~

7. ~~In its place, what material of equal literary quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture of and/or perspective on the subject?~~

~~Signature of complainant Date~~

~~Receipt for Donated Materials~~

~~HIGHLAND PARK LIBRARY 4700 DREXEL DRIVE~~

~~HIGHLAND PARK, TX 75205-3198 214-559-9400, FAX 214-559-9335~~

~~The Highland Park Library gratefully acknowledges receipt of your donation.~~

~~Items donated to the Library are tax deductible. The IRS places with the donor the responsibility for estimating the "fair market value" of the items. Your copy of this form is the official receipt; you may list your donations on the back.~~

~~Thank you.~~

Signed

Date

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

Revised

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- 1.—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.
- 2.—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.
- 3.—Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- 4.—Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- 5.—A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.
- 6.—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 18, 1948. Amended February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980 by the American Library Association Council.

THE FREEDOM TO READ

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 books from sale, to censor

textbooks, to label "controversial" books, 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 avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as citizens devoted to the use of books and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating them, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

We are deeply concerned about these attempts at suppression. Most such attempts rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary citizen, by exercising critical judgment, will accept the good and reject the bad. The censors, public and private, assume that they should determine what is good and what is bad for their fellow citizens.

We trust Americans to recognize propaganda, and to reject it. We do not believe they need the help of censors to assist them in this task. 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.

We are aware, of course, that books are not alone in being subjected to efforts at suppression. We are aware that these efforts are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, films, radio, and television. 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.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of uneasy change and pervading fear. Especially when so many of our apprehensions are directed against an ideology, the expression of a dissident idea becomes a thing feared in itself, and we tend to move against it as against a hostile deed, with suppression.

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 stress.

Now as always in our history, books are among our greatest instruments of freedom. They are almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. They are the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. They are essential to the extended discussion which 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 towards 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 which are unorthodox or unpopular with 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 which 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 contained in the books 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 books 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 determine the acceptability of a book on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

A book should be judged as a book. 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 which 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 literature 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 taste differs, and taste cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised which 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 with any book the prejudgment of a label characterizing the book or author as subversive or dangerous.

The idea of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for the citizen. 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.

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.

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 expended on the trivial; it is frustrated 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 their freedom and integrity, and the enlargement of their service to society, requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all citizens 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 books. We do so because we believe that they are good, 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; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991 by the American Library Association Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.~~

~~A Joint Statement by:~~

~~American Library Association Association of American Publishers~~

~~Subsequently endorsed by:~~

~~American Booksellers Association~~

~~American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression American Civil Liberties Union~~

~~American Federation of Teachers AFL-CIO Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith Children's Book Council~~

~~Freedom to Read Foundation International Reading Association~~

~~Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression National Association of College Stores~~

~~National Council of Teachers of English~~

~~P.E.N. American Center People for the American Way~~

~~Periodical and Book Association of America~~

~~Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S.~~

~~Women's National Book Association YWCA of the U.S.A.~~

~~STATEMENT ON LABELING~~

~~An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights~~

~~Labeling is the practice of describing or designating materials by affixing a prejudicial label and or segregating them by a prejudicial system. The American Library Association opposes these means of predisposing people's attitudes toward library materials for the following reasons:~~

- ~~1.—Labeling is an attempt to prejudice attitudes and as such, it is a censor's tool.~~
- ~~2.—Some find it easy and even proper, according to their ethics, to establish criteria for judging publications as objectionable. However, injustice and ignorance rather than justice and enlightenment result from such practices, and the American Library Association opposes the establishment of such criteria.~~

~~3.—Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the library.~~

~~A variety of private organizations promulgate rating systems and/or review materials as a means of advising either their members or the general public concerning their opinions of the contents and suitability or appropriate age for use of certain books, films, recordings, or other materials. For the library to adopt or enforce any of these private systems, to attach such ratings to library materials, to include them in bibliographic records, library catalogs, or other finding aids, or otherwise to endorse them would violate the Library Bill of Rights.~~

~~While some attempts have been made to adopt these systems into law, the constitutionality of such measures is extremely questionable. If such legislation is passed which applies within a library's jurisdiction, the library should seek competent legal advice concerning its applicability to library operations.~~

~~Publishers, industry groups, and distributors sometimes add ratings to materials or include them as part of their packaging. Librarians should not endorse such practices. However, removing or obliterating such ratings —if placed there by or with permission of the copyright holder— could constitute expurgation, which is also unacceptable.~~

~~The American Library Association opposes efforts which aim at closing any path to knowledge. This statement, however, does not exclude the adoption of organizational schemes designed as directional aids or to facilitate access to materials.~~

~~Adopted July 13, 1951. Amended June 25, 1971; July 1, 1981; June 26, 1990, by the American Library Association Council.~~

FREE ACCESS TO LIBRARIES FOR MINORS

An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

~~Library policies and procedures which effectively deny minors equal access to all library resources available to other users violate the Library Bill of Rights. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users. Article V of the Library Bill of Rights states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." The "right to use a library" includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.~~

~~Libraries are charged with the mission of developing resources to meet the diverse information needs and interests of the communities they serve. Services, materials, and facilities which fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of library resources. The needs and interests of each library user, and resources appropriate to meet those needs and interests, must~~

be determined on an individual basis. Librarians cannot predict what resources will best fulfill the needs and interests of any individual user based on a single criterion such as chronological age, level of education, or legal emancipation.

The selection and development of library resources should not be diluted because of minors having the same access to library resources as adult users. Institutional self-censorship diminishes the credibility of the library in the community, and restricts access for all library users.

Librarians and governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions on access to library resources in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections from parents or anyone else. The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries do not authorize librarians or governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents or legal guardians. Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources. Parents or legal guardians who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials or facilities, should so advise their children. Librarians and governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Librarians and governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to provide equal access to all library resources for all library users.

Librarians have a professional commitment to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free and equal access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

Adopted June 30, 1972; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991, by the American Library Association Council.

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, 1981

Introduction

Since 1939 the American Library Association has recognized the importance of codifying and making known to the public and the profession the principles which guide librarians in action. This latest revision of the CODE OF ETHICS reflects changes in the nature of the profession and in its social and institutional environment. It should be revised and augmented as necessary.

Librarians significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, librarians are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and freedom of access to information and ideas to present and future generations.

Librarians are dependent upon one another for the bibliographical resources that enable us to provide information services, and have obligations for maintaining the highest level of personal integrity and competence.

CODE OF ETHICS

~~I.— Librarians must provide the highest level of service through appropriate and usefully organized collections; fair and equitable circulation and service policies; and skillful, accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests for assistance.~~

~~II.— Librarians must resist all efforts by groups or individuals to censor library materials.~~

~~III.— Librarians must protect each user's right to privacy with respect to information sought or received, and materials consulted, borrowed, or acquired.~~

~~IV.— Librarians must adhere to the principles of due process and equality of opportunity in peer relationships and personnel actions.~~

~~V.— Librarians must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of an institution or professional body.~~

~~VI.— Librarians must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the employing institution. Adopted February 2, 1973; amended July 1, 1981 by the American Library Association Council.~~

THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM STATEMENT

A.— PREAMBLE.

~~The Texas Library Association holds that the freedom to read is a corollary of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. Freedom of choice in selecting materials is a necessary safeguard to the freedom to read, and shall be protected against extra-legal irresponsible attempts by self-appointed censors to abridge it. The Association believes that citizens shall have the right of free inquiry and the equally important right of forming their own opinions, and that it is of the utmost importance to the continued existence of democracy that freedom of the press in all forms of public communication be defended and preserved. The Texas Library Association subscribes in full to the principles set forth in the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS of the American Library Association, Freedom to Read Statement, and interpretative statements adopted thereto.~~

B.— AREAS OF CONCERN

~~LEGISLATION. The Texas Library Association is concerned with legislation at the federal, state, local, and school district level which tends to strengthen the position of libraries and other media of communication as instruments of knowledge and culture in a free society. The Association is also concerned with monitoring~~

~~proposed legislation at the federal, state, local and school district level which might restrict, prejudice or otherwise interfere with the selection, acquisition, or other professional activities of libraries, as expressed in the American Library Association's LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and the Freedom to Read Statement.~~

~~The Intellectual Freedom Committee works with the Legislative Committee to watch proposed legislation, at the various levels, which would restrict or interfere with the selection, acquisition, or other professional activities of libraries.~~

~~1.—INTERFERENCE. The Association is concerned with the proposed or actual restrictions imposed by individuals, voluntary committees, or administrative authority on library materials or on the selection judgment, or on the procedures or practices of librarians.~~

~~The Intellectual Freedom Committee attempts to eliminate restrictions which are imposed on the use or selection of library materials or selection judgment or on the procedures or practices of librarians; receives requests for advice and assistance where freedom has been threatened or curtailed; and recommends action to the Executive Board where it appears necessary.~~

~~2.—MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY. The Texas Library Association believes that every library, in order to strengthen its own selection process, and to provide an objective basis for evaluation of that process, should develop a written official statement of policy for the selection of library materials.~~

~~The Intellectual Freedom Committee encourages all libraries to develop a written statement of policy for the selection of library materials which includes an endorsement of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.~~

~~3.—EDUCATION. The Texas Library Association is concerned with the continuing education of librarians and the general public in understanding and implementing the philosophy inherent in the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and the ALA Freedom to Read Statement.~~

~~The Intellectual Freedom Committee supports an active education program for librarians, trustees, and the general public.~~

~~4.—LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. The Texas Library Association, in order to encourage a united front in defending the right to read, shall cooperate with other organizations concerned with intellectual freedom.~~

~~The Intellectual Freedom Committee advises on TLA positions and cooperates with other organizations. Adopted September 15, 1972 by the Texas Library Association Council.~~

~~Reaffirmed April 17, 1995 by the Texas Library Association Council.~~