

Ann Arbor District Library
Philosophy

The Ann Arbor District Library Board assumes the support of and responsibility for certain activities which it considers wholesome and beneficial auxiliaries to the formal educational program of the schools. In keeping with this policy library service is furnished to the public with the Ann Arbor District Library Board serving as the Board of Trustees for the district library.

The Ann Arbor District Library, thus deriving its support from the people of the district through the Ann Arbor District Library Board, accordingly accepts the responsibility of serving the entire district by providing free and open access to its facilities and services for all members of the community.

This district library service is provided on the assumption and in the faith that those who take advantage of it will become more capable in their occupations, more enlightened in discharging their duties as citizens, and enriched in their personal lives.

In a democratic society the district library constitutes a resource where the individuals are free to learn about controversial issues, to consider them from all sides, and to arrive at their own decisions. Therefore facts and opinions on important, complex, and controversial subjects about which there is general concern must be freely available.

It is not within the proper province of the library to promote particular beliefs or views. If it were to do so, it would fail in one of its unique reasons for existence. Care must be exercised that parts or segments of the community do not unduly influence the selection of materials, either positively or negatively. There must be constant and vigilant resistance to any such efforts in the community, whether in the name of political, moral, or religious beliefs.

The Ann Arbor District Library supports the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth by the Freedom to Read Statement as revised in January 28, 1972 by the American Library Association and in the Library Bill of Rights as amended January 23, 1980 by the American Library Association Council.

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