

Friday Memorial Library Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Our Mission

LEARN

EXPLORE

CONNECT

The Friday Memorial Library seeks to be a dynamic and friendly hub for the community. We are a gathering place for people in the New Richmond area to learn, explore and connect. We offer books, movies and music, as well as exciting programs for all ages.

We envision a community that is engaged and active, seeking to work together to realize our shared goals and dreams.

Strategic Priorities

1. Access, Equity, and Inclusion
 - a. We believe that all patrons should be able to access library collections, programs, and services. We believe that our collections, programs, and services are a reflection of our community and should represent the diversity that exists in this area.
2. Patron Experience
 - a. We believe that offering our patrons the best service possible is a foundation of our library. We believe in providing a positive atmosphere and working to create experiences that will bring patrons back.
3. Community Connections and Engagement
 - a. One of the key words in our mission is connect. We believe that our work is made stronger through collaboration and community engagement.
4. Lifelong Learning, Discovery, and Literacy
 - a. We believe that we enhance the entire community by providing materials that aid in discovery and learning. We believe in supporting literacy in our community through our materials and programs.
5. Facilities Management
 - a. We believe in creating a safe and inviting space for everyone.

Intellectual Freedom

Intellectual Freedom is fundamental to the work we do in libraries. As defined by the American Library Association, Intellectual Freedom is “the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction as guaranteed by the First Amendment. Intellectual Freedom is a core value of the library profession and a basic right in our democratic society. A public supported library provides free, equitable, and confidential access to information for all members of its community.”

The Library upholds these principles:

- The right to seek and receive information is a foundation of our democracy. Indeed, it is essential to it.
- "Libraries are essential to democracy and self-government, to personal development and social progress, and to every individual's inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." (ALA Bill of Rights)
- Children and teens, as well as adults have First Amendment rights to seek and receive information.

- Parents and guardians have the right to decide what they want their own children to read. It is not the role of the library to act in place of parents or guardians. Every family has different needs and expectations from the library.
- “Choice” is an essential concept in libraries—no one is forced to read or check out anything. Additionally, libraries need to provide adequate options for everyone in the community.
- Censorship infringes on the rights and choices of others, including other parents and guardians to make choices for their own children and families regarding what they read.
- Publicly funded libraries have a responsibility to follow board-approved policies in selecting materials to meet the wide-ranging needs, interests, identities and experiences of everyone in the communities they serve.
- Commitment to intellectual freedom assures that the rights of everyone in the community are respected when selection decisions are made and concerns are addressed.

The interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights states, “The American Library Association stringently and unequivocally maintains that libraries and librarians have an obligation to resist efforts that systematically exclude materials dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.”

We believe that our materials, programs, and services should be a reflection of our community and nothing should be removed or excluded because of origin, background, or views of those contributing to them.

Key Contact for Questions or Concerns:

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