

THE LIBRARY'S BILL OF RIGHTS

TODAY indications in many parts of the world point to growing intolerance, suppression of free speech, and censorship, affecting the rights of minorities and individuals. Mindful of this, the Council of the American Library Association publicly affirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of free public libraries:

1. Books and other reading matter selected for purchase from the public funds should be chosen because of value and interest to people of the community, and in no case should the selection be influenced by the race or nationality or the political or religious views of the writers.

2. As far as available material permits, all sides of questions on which differences of opinion exist should be represented fairly and adequately in the books and other reading matter purchased for public use.

3. The library as an institution to educate for democratic living should especially welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and the discussion of current public questions. Library meeting rooms should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of their beliefs or affiliations.

THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ADOPTED THIS STATEMENT IN JUNE 1939, AND RECOMMENDED ITS ADOPTION BY GOVERNING BOARDS OF INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES