



## policy

### **Library Bill of Rights and Equity of Access**

#### **CLP Policy # PS-52**

**May 2010**

#### **POLICY:**

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) follows in its practices the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights and Equity of Access statements.

The **ALA Bill of Rights** statement is:

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

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. 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, by the ALA Council; amended February 2, 1961; amended June 28, 1967; amended January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 24, 1996.

It is available on the ALA website at  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillofrights.pdf>.

Its interpretation is available on the ALA website at  
<http://staging.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/statementsif/interpretations/default.cfm>.

The **ALA Equity of Access** statement is:

Equity of access means that all people have the information they need-regardless of age, education, ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations or geographic barriers. It means they are able to obtain information in a variety of formats-electronic, as well as print. It also means they are free to exercise their right to know without fear of censorship or reprisal.

It is available on ALA's website at  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/access/equityofaccess/index.cfm>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the Deputy Director.

Related Policies:      STA-6              Employee Code of Ethics