

Training Outline for Core Documents

Introduction:

Libraries and librarians support the principles of intellectual freedom. In order for a library to develop reasoned, viable, and practical policies regarding possible challenges to its collections and collection development policies, as well as to comply with applicable laws, it is important that its staff read and understand the core documents underlying these principles. It is possible, even probable, that many library workers are unaware of these documents and their concepts.

Exercises:

- 1) Divide into groups. Assign each group one of the key documents to read and discuss. Each group should address such questions as:
 - What are the key concerns of the document?
 - What are the principles or laws the document relies upon to make its arguments?
 - What classes of persons does this document address, and how?
 - What area of library practice does this document most affect?After the discussion, report back to the larger group.
- 2) Divide into groups and go to an Internet-accessible terminal. Be sure that the group can locate all of the key documents listed below.
- 3) Discuss: What policies does each group member's library have that address the issues presented in each document, and how might these policies be improved or clarified?
- 4) Examine the ALA's discussion of Executive Order 13233 regarding the Presidential Records Act of 1978. Discuss:
 - what immediate effects this order has on freedom of access to information;
 - what effects it might conceivably have at the state and local level as it is interpreted and applied;
 - how might the individual library prepare for and/or forestall access problems to locally-important documents.

Core Documents:

First Amendment of the United States Constitution

<https://www.ala.org/ala/oif/firstamendment/firstamendment.htm>

Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

Freedom to Read

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/firststatement/freedomreadstatement.htm>

Colorado Revised Statutes 24-72-201 through 204 (particularly 204(V) and 204(VII))

<http://198.187.128.12/colorado/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=fs-main.htm>

Colorado Library Association Intellectual Freedom Handbook

<http://www.cal-webs.org/ifhandbook.html>

Freedom of Information Act

http://www.epic.org/open_gov/foia/us_foia_act.html