

Training Outline for Philosophy and Principles

Introduction:

The First and Fourth Amendments of the US Constitution guarantee the rights of free expression and privacy. These rights form the basis of intellectual freedom. Understanding the role of libraries in protecting these rights is crucial to understanding how to respond when intellectual freedom is threatened.

Exercise:

Divide into three groups and assign one of the following topics to each group:

- censorship
- privacy
- universal access to information

Have each group complete the following tasks:

1. Create a definition for their topic as it relate to libraries.
2. Identify the documents that support their topic.
3. Explain why their topic is important to intellectual freedom.
4. Develop one or two examples of how their topic may come up in the daily operation of the library.
5. Identify other professions/institutions/organizations (if any) that are concerned with their topic.

Group discussion:

Have each group share their findings, then consider the following questions:

- Are libraries the stronghold of intellectual freedom? Should they be?
- How does intellectual freedom relate to a democratic society?
- Do you know how to respond to a threat to intellectual freedom?
- Are there other components of intellectual freedom beyond the three discussed so far?

Supporting documents:

- Bill of Rights [US Constitution]:
http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/charters_of_freedom/bill_of_rights/bill_of_rights.html
- Library Bill of Rights and interpretations:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>
- Freedom to Read Statement:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/ftstatement/freedomreadstatement.htm>
- Resolution Reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom in the Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks: <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=ifresolutions&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=78173>
- *ALA Intellectual Freedom Manual*
- Colorado Association of Libraries Intellectual Freedom Handbook:
<http://www.cal-webs.org/ifhandbook.html>
- *Colorado Revised Statues* on privacy: <http://www.cal-webs.org/ifhandbook.html#confide>