

Intellectual Freedom Policy

Introduction

The mission of Walter E. Olson Memorial Library (OML) is to welcome and support all people to connect, learn, discover, and grow. The Walter E. Olson Memorial Library upholds the American Library Association's (ALA) [Library Bill of Rights](#) and provides materials to support each individual's journey. As such, the OML Board of Trustees sets forth the following policy, developed with reference to [that of the Manitowoc Public Library](#), to ensure that the intellectual freedom of our users is protected.

Selection Process

Through the collection development process, as described in our [Collection Management Policy](#), the Library strives to curate and maintain collections and services that represent and respect the diverse viewpoints and interests of the communities the Library serves. The Library's entire collection is available to all; however, it is not expected that all titles will appeal to everyone. We affirm the right of the individual to access information, even though materials and resources provided through the Library may be unpopular with some library patrons. With a wide range of options, patrons have the freedom to choose what they select from our collections and services.

Responsibility for Minors

It is the sole responsibility of parents/guardians to guide and oversee the information consumption and Library activity of their children, and the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library will not intrude on that relationship. The Library does not stand *in loco parentis* in any circumstances. In addition, selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors.

Restricted Access to Materials

Genre and call number labels on materials are meant to assist with identifying and locating various collections, not used to restrict access or endorse content. Some material is sequestered to protect it from damage or theft. For no other reason will material be inaccessible.

Request for Reconsideration Process

The Library recognizes that there may be concerns about a specific title or type of material selected for or deselected (weeded) from the collection. For such concerns, the Library has a formal [Request for Reconsideration](#) process. This process ensures that complaints are handled seriously and, equally important, that the fundamental principles of intellectual freedom are upheld.

Violation of this policy

Individuals who seek to restrict or limit Library users' ability to exercise their intellectual freedom rights will be deemed in violation of this policy and will be subject to appropriate consequences by staff. This may include a verbal warning, being asked to leave the Library, the suspension of Library services, or intervention by law enforcement.

If the behavior of any person threatens the safety of library patrons, staff, or property, or the patron is breaking a law, Library staff should contact emergency law enforcement by dialing 911, and the responding officer(s) will determine the appropriate response.

The Library staff will fill out a written incident report documenting violations of this policy. A copy of this report will be submitted to the Library Director immediately following an incident for determination of additional actions.

Any person whose library privileges are suspended due to policy violation shall be advised in writing of the suspension and the reason(s) for such action. The offending person shall also be informed that the suspension may be appealed at the next regularly scheduled Library Board meeting. Suspended patrons will be charged with trespassing by the police if they return to the Library.

Approved May 18, 2022