

Freedom to Read Statement

Adopted August 16, 2023 by the Board of Trustees of Troy-Miami County Public Library

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. As a library, we wish to uphold this freedom by ensuring the public has a wide variety of reading options.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *We strive to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that may be perceived by some as unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by others.*
2. *Librarians do not necessarily endorse every idea or presentation they make available. They do not set their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*
3. *Librarians will not bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*
4. *We will not make any efforts to coerce the taste of others, to predetermine the suitability of topics for particular age groups, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*
5. *We will not attempt to influence a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*
6. *As guardians of the public's freedom to read, Librarians will challenge encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*
7. *Librarians will support the full meaning of freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression.*

We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are objectionable to some people. However, while we acknowledge that some ideas can be dangerous, we are committed to preventing the suppression of ideas which would thereby limit a significant freedom established by our Constitution.

Troy-Miami County Public Library's mission statement says the library will "provide opportunities to enrich, empower, educate, and entertain Miami County residents." We strive to make this statement true for all members of our community.

