



Intellectual Freedom Policy

Approved by the Board of Trustees July 14, 2014

Revised April 12, 2016

Revised May 8, 2018

Revised January 12, 2022

The Board of Trustees affirms that the Library will adhere to and support the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, and Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.

In keeping with its mission, the Library provides access to diverse information and presents opportunities for creativity and discovery at all stages of life. The Library strives to provide an impartial environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with ideas and information spanning the spectrum of knowledge and opinions.

The Library strives to reflect our community's diversity by offering a wide variety of materials, programs, and services representing different viewpoints. The existence of a particular viewpoint in the collection or in a program or service is not an endorsement of that particular point of view, but an expression of the Library's adherence to the principles of intellectual freedom.

The Library selects materials for its collection by following the Eckhart Collection Development Policy approved by the Board of Trustees. The Library recognizes that materials, programs, or services may be controversial and that any given one may offend some. Only individuals can determine what is most appropriate for their needs and consistent with their value systems. Individuals can apply those values to the use of library material, programs and services only for themselves.

Librarians at the Library are trained and certified to help people find materials they wish to access, and plan programs and services to meet community needs. Without judgment, they help people access materials they wish to read or view.

Children are encouraged to utilize materials, programs, and services at the Library. The Library offers collections for children from birth through fifth grade in the Children's Department and from sixth through twelfth grade in the Teen Library. The Library does not restrict children or teens from using other areas of the Library, and all patrons are welcome to select materials from these areas.

At Eckhart Public Library, only parents or legal guardians are able to limit their minor children's use of library materials, programs, and services. Parents and legal guardians – not other adults in the community or Library staff – are best equipped to know and understand their child's intellectual and emotional development and, therefore, help them to make the best choices of what they read, view, hear, or receive at the Library.