Intellectual Freedom

Presentation to the
Toronto Public Library Board
June 27, 2016

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Intellectual Freedom

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. – U.N.

Libraries have a responsibility both to guarantee and to facilitate access to expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity. – IFLA

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas and opinion… − CLA

Guaranteeing and facilitating the free exchange of information and ideas in a democratic society, protecting intellectual freedom and respecting individuals' rights to privacy and choice – TPL Values

Intellectual Freedom

Libraries… are fundamental to a democratic society. – FDR

Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada… - CLA

…unconventional or unpopular ideas… – OLA

A vital society encourages members of its community to actively participate in an open exchange of ideas and opinions. – TPL

…freedom to depict what is ugly, shocking and unedifying - OLA

…right of the citizen to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality – OLA

Intellectual Freedom

"A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone."

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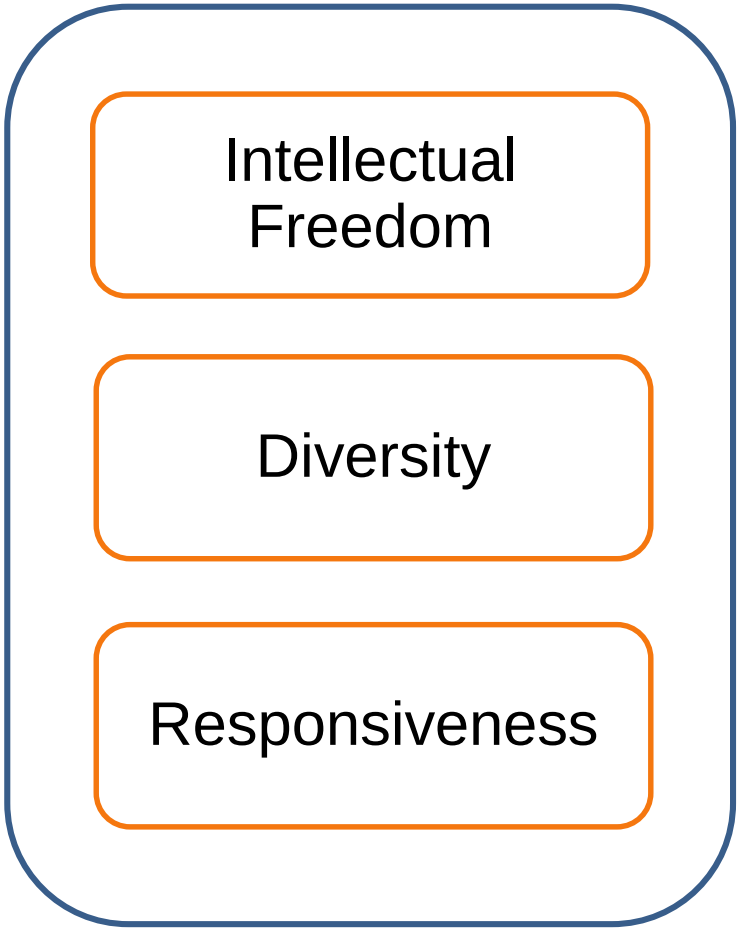

Materials Selection Policy

Intellectual Freedom

I don’t like this book, CD, DVD, magazine….

I want you to withdraw, label, move it.

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The content or manner of expressing ideas in material that is purposely selected to fill the needs of some Library users may…be considered to be offensive by other Library users. The Library recognizes the right of any individual or group to reject library materials for personal use but does not accord… the right to restrict the freedom of others…

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