

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Senate Committee on the Library
(Final; Action)

LB.15.01 Resolution on Intellectual Freedom and the University Library

WHEREAS the campus library is an academic unit serving the entire campus; and

WHEREAS libraries are the primary means through which students, faculty, professionals, staff and the public gain access to the storehouse of organized knowledge, and

WHEREAS the library performs a unique and indispensable function in the educational, civic and democratic processes; and

WHEREAS libraries in academic institutions guarantee that the widest array of ideas that promote academic discourse are available; and

WHEREAS in the interests of research and learning, it is essential that collections contain materials representing a variety of perspectives on subjects that may be considered controversial; and

WHEREAS anything less than open and unfiltered access to information would be a fundamental violation of intellectual freedom in academic libraries; and

WHEREAS all aspects of information work, including acquisitions, collections, user services, cataloging, digitization, publishing, preservation, exhibitions and public engagement necessitate intellectual freedom; and

WHEREAS it is recommended that the "Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" be endorsed by appropriate institutional governing bodies, such as a senate or similar instrument of faculty governance; and

WHEREAS most academic institutions follow the 1940 American Association of University Professors (AAUP) "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" and their libraries follow the "Freedom to Read Statement," and related professional ethics that are consonant with the 1940 AAUP statement; and

WHEREAS these statements are effective safeguards of academic freedom and embrace the free expression rights and responsibilities laid out in the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association opposes any legislation or codification of documents that undermine academic and intellectual freedom, chill free speech, and/or otherwise interfere with the academic community's well-established norms and values of scholarship and educational excellence; and

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus endorse this resolution and the "Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" in support of intellectual freedom, the Library, and the Library faculty and staff.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

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