

**WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – 4:00 PM**

Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86905333109>
Meeting ID: 869 0533 3109

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition of Visitors and Interested Parties
3. Opportunity to Amend the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Questions on Previously Sent Library Director Reports

Old Business

1. ALA Board Training
November training highlighted diversity on the Board, including Diversity Ethnic, Socio etc., and of Thought.
2. IGA Review - Two items flagged
 - a. Capital Improvement Plan Review – (as cited in the IGA) Jeff W.
 - i. HVAC Progress ?
 - b. Maupin Computer Support – County ?
3. Dufur Memorandum of Understanding
4. Vision Statement Review
5. Teen Library Council

New Business

1. Review of 2025 Goals
2. Budget Input – For Director

Note : Director will be reporting back to Library Board in February and March on Proposed Budget

3. Financial Review

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at The Dalles

Parking Lot from November: Strategic Plan Item:

Possible Programs in Chenowith

New Parking Lot Future Items

The Dalles Public Library

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 18th

Time: 4:00

Location: The Dalles Public Library

Board Members Attending: Rita Rathkey, Tina Coleman, Corliss Marsh, Mary Jo Commerford, Mary Beechler

Staff Members Attending: Jeff Wavrunek, Valerie Stephenson, Kirsten Wells

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Rita Rathkey. A quorum was present.
- October 21, 2025 Minutes Approved

2. Program Statistics

- Corliss Marsh noted that some programs are not well attended relative to their cost.
- Marketing efforts are adjusted to reflect program expenses.
- The Dalles hosted 185 programs in October with nearly 3,500 attendees.
- Valerie affirmed Maupin also experiences difficulty predicting attendance.
- Mary stated that as long as budget allows, libraries should continue offering a variety of programs regardless of relative attendance.
- Tina reported strong turnout at the recent drum circle event; however, insufficient tables and chairs made food service awkward. Recommendation made to ensure adequate seating at similar programs.

3. Trustee Training: ALA Video

- Board reviewed an ALA trustee training video on the responsibilities of library trustees.

4. Board Document Storage (Google Drive)

- Discussion points:
 - Need to confirm guidelines regarding working documents for a public-appointed board.
 - Desire for a centralized location for packets and documents.
 - Clarification needed on which documents must be made public. Do all documents need to be public? Even working documents?
 - Action: Jeff will consult with IT (Andrew).

5. Strategic Planning Survey Updates

- Maupin: 1 response
- The Dalles: approximately 15 responses
- Libraries will pursue a more direct approach in December.

6. Strategic Planning Timeline

- Jeff reported that the committee met with Darcy.
- Darcy will visit in March to meet with community groups, focus groups, and library staff.

7. HVAC Project Update

- Project remains delayed; work scheduled to begin in September has still not started.
- Griffin Construction has been unresponsive; a missing part continues to hold up progress.
- No new information since the previous month.

8. Mission & Vision Statement Discussion

- Darcy noted that the vision statement is primarily the board's responsibility; the mission statement is largely crafted by staff.
- Valerie shared sample statements generated by ChatGPT for inspiration.
- Mary asked what essential elements should be included (e.g., free and equal access, unbiased).
- Valerie emphasized that the vision should be broad and aspirational.
- Valerie will send Board members ideas by email.
- Board members will bring refined drafts to the January meeting.

9. Review of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

- Tina noted that the IGA required a capital improvement plan by January 2025; Jeff confirmed it was included in the spring budget packet but he will share again.
- IGA Pg 5 top paragraph - new materials purchased are property of Wasco County - but IGA says "city property" Clarification needed on materials ownership:
- IGA states "city property," but past board agreements indicate materials purchased with county funds should be county property to allow transfers.
- Books purchased with county funds are county-owned.

10. Maupin & Dufur Computers and IT Support

- Confusion exists over who is responsible for repairs and maintenance of computer equipment.
- Valerie reported Maupin currently has only one public computer; the non-functioning unit was sent to The Dalles for assessment - Peter returned confirming it needs to be fixed.
- Historically, Maggie handled updates and maintenance; branches miss having dedicated IT support.
- Corliss asked for clarification as she believed Bob was taking over Maggie's position.
- Jeff clarified Bob does in-house tech jobs as the city wanted to take over security.
- Board reiterated that they believe the county is responsible for computer maintenance.
- A new computer might be needed if the current one is over five years old. Jeff will consult with David (City IT) and verify responsibilities with Brenda. He'll also consult with the county.

11. Dufur Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Tina reported that according to the Dufur city clerk (Cathy), no payments received for the part-time employee since November 2022, resulting in the position not being rehired.
- Jeff was unaware of this issue.
- Action: Jeff will meet with Mike Middleton (County). Tina will collect records from the school.

12. Possible Programs at Chenowith

- Jeff discussed outreach with Nicole, the new children's librarian, who is interested in providing programming at Chenowith.
- Could tie into strategic planning efforts.
- Side note: ICE activity in the area has caused stress within the community; related social media comment involving Día de los Muertos noted. Chenowith held a meeting for

parents to offer support for the community.

13. Material Selection Policy

- Last reviewed in 2021.
- Board expressed no concerns; the policy remains strong.
- Action:Must be sent out again for required review.

14. Youth Council

- Rita was surprised to learn a Youth/Teen Council is active.
- Action:Rita requested the group attend a board meeting and one of the strategic planning community meetings.

9. Financial Review

- Jeff reports the city is doing a wage study and negotiating a new contract with the union this spring - he anticipates library employees will be getting a raise.

10. Upcoming Meetings & Action Items

- December: No meeting scheduled.
- January 20th in Dufur (weather permitting).
- Action: Members requested that the updated annual calendar be included in future board packets.

11. Meeting Adjourned

**Wasco County Library Service
District, Board of Directors**

Rita Rathkey, Chairman

Tina Coleman, Vice Chairman

Corliss Marsh, Board Member

Mary Beechler, Board Member

Mary Jo Commerford, Board Member

Director's Reports:

Dufur School and Community Library

Sarah Tierney

Circulations:

Adult

Fiction 4

Biography 2

DVD 3

E 100

Fiction 77

Non

Fiction 120

Prek 11

In December the library was closed for 2 weeks.

Gift wrap and cocoa in the library had 5 in attendance

Partnered with the afterschool program and participated in a birds of prey presentation that was in vermont. 19 in attendance

Fiber arts 3 programs averaging 6 in attendance

3 Preschool storytimes average 18 in attendance

25 grade school programs average 20 in attendance

SWC Library Director's Report for January 2026

Our December Maupin Holiday Festival was a huge success again this year. The theme was "Oh What Fun" We had at least 225 people in attendance. The community room was set up as Santa's home and he and Mrs. Claus took pictures with families. The park was full of kids that participated in the Reindeer Games. The library was the Elves Workshop and families came in to work on multiple crafts and kids got their faces painted for free. It was an extremely busy day for all involved ending with the presentation of our first Maupin Citizen of the Year and the tree lighting in Kaiser Park. The library also partnered with the Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club again to decorate a lamppost for the contest. We won the contest and the cash prize was donated to the Garden Club for service projects in the community. Our theme was "What the Elf" with a couple dozen elves doing crazy things on the lamppost.

Most of the rest of December was quiet as most of our energy was poured into that one event.

November Statistics:

- Patrons served: 623
- Reference: 56
- Reading Room: 11
- Computer/iPad use: 22
- Wi-Fi use: 61
- New Patrons: 8
- Self-Directed Activities: 86
- Knots and Needles: 5
- Read What You Want Book Club: 5
- Afterschool programs: 22

- High School Visits: 23
- Will Hornyak storyteller 4 programs – 124 total
- Scott Stephenson Author event – 20
- WIC 27
- 4H 38
- Garden Club 16

December Statistics:

- Patrons served: 675
- Reference: 64
- Reading Room: 23
- Computer/iPad use: 26
- Wi-Fi use: 56
- New Patrons: 4
- Self-Directed Activities: 5
- Read What You Want Book Club: 5
- Afterschool programs: 15
- High School Visits: 20
- Garden Club Christmas party 26
- Kids Party 7

The Dalles-Wasco County Library Report

January 2026

- a) Holiday programming was quite successful. Ceramic Ornaments, Hallmark Holiday Movie &Craft, and Home Alone Movie & Pizza at Granada were all very popular. Home Alone seemed to reach a whole new audience. Lots of laughter!
- b) The Coat Exchange attracted many people looking to upgrade their winter wear.
- c) Ugly Sweater DIY Workshop & Party was a hit. I won! (Just kidding, my sweaters are beautiful).
- d) Our Tap-Dancing classes had their final recitals on December 12. The late sign-ups were integrated (mostly seamlessly!) and it was an overflowing, standing room audience as many family members and patrons enjoyed the shows.
- e) Victor Johnson, who has a rabid local following, partnered with the library's very own Ukulele Band to put on a Holiday concert for the community that drew many folks who enjoyed the festivities.
- f) A STEM program, Snow Science, was appreciated by some enthusiastic young people.
- g) The “Bob Ross” painter program “sold out” again, like it has many times before. People just love this program. I got great feedback from an older couple that had not taken art classes since high school, but they thanked us and were extremely proud of their newly painted pictures.
- h) “Photos with Santa” was very popular like last year. Library employee Bob and his real wife dressed up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus. The kiddos loved the Santa interaction and the takeaway - photos they got to keep.
- i) Lauren Castagno, our newest library page, has started working. She's been great. Wonderful customer service skills.
- j) The Word Wagon had some issues with a burning smell that turned out to be a burned-out fuse that got fixed.

- k) A lot of folks showed up for Guided Watercolor with Yvonne Pepin-Wakefield. She is typically in demand.
- l) The Colonel Wright Elementary Troubadours Caroling program is always popular and this year was no different.
- m) The Prince & Princess Tea Party was a smash hit, attracting many people. The parking lot was full. It was quite awesome to see all the princes and princesses - and their caregivers - walking into the library with excited and happy faces.
- n) The Starlit Storykeepers Ball, a fantasy ball for adults in formal attire or costume was well-liked by the many attendees. Many creative costumes!
- o) Spice Kit Take and Makes are always popular, with many people coming in on the release date looking to pick up their kits before the supply runs out.
- p) The city's safety officer resigned and the new one lasted about a week. The very newest safety officer will be starting in about a week.

The Dalles Public Library

Programming Statistics

November 2025

 November 2025 Program & Outreach

130 programs

2151 participants

Adult Programs

Number of Programs:41

Attendance:360

Young Adult Programs

Number of Programs:20

Attendance:237

Kids Programs

Number of Programs:50

Attendance:670

General Interest Programs

Number of Programs: 10

Attendance: 687

Self Directed Programs (Take & Make Kits, Craft Stations, etc.)

Number of Programs: 5

Participants: 197

Highlights include: Arts & Crafts classes, Storytimes for children, Family Craft Nights, Ukulele classes, Cowboy Music & Poetry Performance, Book Clubs, Tap Dancing classes and the Dia de los Muertos event.

The Dalles Public Library

Programming Statistics

December 2025

 December 2025 Program & Outreach

148 programs

2329 total participants

Adult Programs

Number of Programs:43

Attendance:398

Young Adult Programs

Number of Programs:29

Attendance:237

Kids Programs

Number of Programs:57

Attendance: 639

General Interest Programs

Number of Programs: 7

Attendance: 394

Self Directed Programs (Take & Make Kits, Craft Stations, etc.)

Number of Programs: 10

Participants: 661

Highlights include: Holiday gift wrapping and card making station, Pictures with Santa, The Cozy Holiday Concert with Victor Johnson and the Library Ukulele Band, Hanukkah Party and Home Alone movie showing at The Granada.

The Dalles Public Library Circulation Statistics - Nov, Dec 2025

The Dalles Library

CITY OF THE DALLES
EXPENDITURES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET
FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

LIBRARY FUND

	PERIOD ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	BUDGET	UNEXPENDED	PCNT
LIBRARY					
004-2100-000.11-00	REGULAR SALARIES	69,587.36	405,923.42	845,994.00	440,070.58 48.0
004-2100-000.12-00	PARTTIME/TEMP SALARIES	3,343.57	18,109.91	50,737.00	32,627.09 35.7
004-2100-000.13-00	OVERTIME SALARIES	.00	.00	12,027.00	12,027.00 .0
004-2100-000.21-10	MEDICAL INSURANCE	14,832.07	79,833.72	206,942.00	127,108.28 38.6
004-2100-000.21-20	L-T DISABILITY INSURANCE	486.29	2,809.51	5,414.00	2,604.49 51.9
004-2100-000.21-30	LIFE INSURANCE	47.13	275.74	687.00	411.26 40.1
004-2100-000.21-40	WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	16.84	1,796.63	2,168.00	371.37 82.9
004-2100-000.22-00	FICA	5,415.94	31,541.78	69,520.00	37,978.22 45.4
004-2100-000.23-00	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	8,106.29	48,703.69	109,023.00	60,319.31 44.7
004-2100-000.28-00	VEBA CONTRIBUTIONS	32.95	1,510.02	16,556.00	15,045.98 9.1
004-2100-000.29-00	OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	298.14	1,723.18	4,724.00	3,000.82 36.5
004-2100-000.31-10	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,422.46	17,407.22	153,150.00	135,742.78 11.4
004-2100-000.32-20	SPECIAL LEGAL SERVICES	.00	.00	725.00	725.00 .0
004-2100-000.41-10	WATER & SEWER	313.65	2,600.17	5,800.00	3,199.83 44.8
004-2100-000.41-20	GARBAGE SERVICES	196.79	992.51	3,900.00	2,907.49 25.5
004-2100-000.41-40	ELECTRICITY	1,833.39	8,208.49	30,650.00	22,441.51 26.8
004-2100-000.43-10	BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	7,761.30	18,522.89	76,250.00	57,727.11 24.3
004-2100-000.43-40	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
004-2100-000.43-45	JOINT USE OF LABOR/EQUIP	.00	.00	350.00	350.00 .0
004-2100-000.43-51	GAS/OIL/LUBRICANTS	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
004-2100-000.43-52	LIBRARY VEHICLE	268.70	3,035.26	22,600.00	19,564.74 13.4
004-2100-000.43-77	HVAC SYSTEMS	591.38	636.32	15,425.00	14,788.68 4.1
004-2100-000.52-10	LIABILITY	.00	13,998.80	12,500.00	(1,498.80) 112.0
004-2100-000.52-30	PROPERTY	.00	15,529.98	15,600.00	70.02 99.6
004-2100-000.52-50	AUTOMOTIVE	.00	4,014.43	3,850.00	(164.43) 104.3
004-2100-000.53-20	POSTAGE	245.09	245.09	1,900.00	1,654.91 12.9
004-2100-000.53-30	TELEPHONE	219.94	4,052.65	10,480.00	6,427.35 38.7
004-2100-000.58-10	TRAVEL, FOOD & LODGING	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
004-2100-000.58-50	TRAINING AND CONFERENCES	.00	.00	10,800.00	10,800.00 .0
004-2100-000.58-70	MEMBERSHIPS/DUES/SUBSCRIP	.00	240.00	3,600.00	3,360.00 6.7
004-2100-000.60-10	OFFICE SUPPLIES	869.20	7,142.57	20,000.00	12,857.43 35.7
004-2100-000.60-20	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	540.53	2,856.89	7,400.00	4,543.11 38.6
004-2100-000.60-85	SPECIAL DEPT SUPPLIES	16,040.19	99,088.41	196,500.00	97,411.59 50.4
004-2100-000.64-20	LIBRARY BOOKS AND BINDING	14.99	1,940.62	10,000.00	8,059.38 19.4
004-2100-000.64-30	LIBRARY PERIODICALS	.00	1,764.81	4,000.00	2,235.19 44.1
004-2100-000.64-40	AUDIO/VISUAL MATERIALS	1,480.73	9,441.97	58,350.00	48,908.03 16.2
004-2100-000.64-80	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	6,182.40	6,182.40	.00	(6,182.40) .0
004-2100-000.69-50	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	.00	150.00	1,000.00	850.00 15.0
004-2100-000.69-80	ASSETS < \$5000	1,248.00	4,280.09	58,000.00	53,719.91 7.4
004-2100-000.72-20	BUILDINGS	.00	.00	47,000.00	47,000.00 .0
004-2100-000.74-20	VEHICLES	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
004-2100-000.74-30	FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
004-2100-000.74-40	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
004-2100-000.74-50	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	.00	.00	.00	.00 .0
TOTAL LIBRARY		142,395.32	814,559.17	2,093,622.00	1,279,062.83 38.9

CITY OF THE DALLES
EXPENDITURES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET
FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

LIBRARY FUND

		PERIOD ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	BUDGET	UNEXPENDED	PCNT
OTHER						
004-9500-000.81-01	TO GENERAL FUND	26,359.60	158,157.60	263,596.00	105,438.40	60.0
004-9500-000.81-10	TO UNEMPLOYMENT FUND	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0
004-9500-000.81-37	TO CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	9,500.00	57,000.00	95,000.00	38,000.00	60.0
004-9500-000.88-00	CONTINGENCY	.00	.00	288,130.00	288,130.00	.0
004-9500-000.88-01	RSRV FUTURE EXPENDITURES	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0
004-9500-000.89-00	UNAPPROPRIATED ENDING BAL	.00	.00	1,687,702.00	1,687,702.00	.0
TOTAL OTHER		35,859.60	215,157.60	2,334,428.00	2,119,270.40	9.2
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES		178,254.92	1,029,716.77	4,428,050.00	3,398,333.23	23.3

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Library

FUND	Line Item #	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	PC work stations	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	Library furniture							
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	Printer	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	3D Printer	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	Book/DVD/boardbook shelving units	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,500
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	Print Management hardware	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Library District	004-2100-000-69-80	Interactive Educational Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Library District	004-2100-000-43-10	Landscape Courtyard	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Library District	004-2100-000-72-20	Fire suppression system	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Library District	004-9500-000-81-36	Children's addition	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Library District	004-2100-000-43-10	Prune Trees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 14,000
Library District	004-2100-000-74-20	Painting	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Library District	004-2100-000-72-20	HVAC	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Library District	004-9500-000-81-36	reshingle library roof	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Library District	004-9500-000-81-36	HVAC upgrades	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Library District	004-9500-000-81-36	Roof	\$ -	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Library District	004-9500-000-81-36	Elevator	\$ 10,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Library District	004-2100-000-72-20	Security cage/backroom lighting	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Library District	004-2100-000-72-20	Ventilation	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
TOTAL \$			\$ 222,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 348,000	\$ 311,000	\$ 328,000	\$ 281,500	\$ 265,500

The Wasco County Library District serves residents of Wasco County with three libraries. Our mission is to provide Wasco County citizens with free and equal access to materials relevant to their informational needs, and to serve as an unbiased source of information with opportunities provided for personal, educational, cultural, and recreational enrichment.

WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE DISTRICT

MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

Library materials shall be selected to meet the current educational, informational and recreational needs of the community. Requests from patrons for specific titles or subject requests will be considered. Timely materials on current issues will be provided. Reviews in professionally recognized sources will be a primary source for materials selection. Also to be considered will be standard bibliographies, booklists by recognized authorities and the advice of competent people in specific subject areas. A book or other library material with unfavorable review may still be purchased if there is enough demand or interest in that title or subject, and the subject in question is not adequately covered by better materials.

The Library Director shall evaluate and build the library's collection with materials of permanent value. Materials shall be selected to maintain a balanced, up-to-date collection of standard works in all fields of knowledge. The library shall provide many of the classics listed in such sources as the Fiction Catalog and Public Library Catalog.

The Library Board and Library Director believe that the right to read is an important part of the intellectual freedom that is basic to a democracy. The American Library Association's Freedom To Read Statement and Library Bill of Rights with its associated interpretations have been adopted as official library policy.

Specialized materials of limited community interest or materials of high cost will be purchased only on a limited basis. Interlibrary loan shall be used to supply patrons with these materials whenever possible.

General criteria for selecting material include:

- customer interest
- importance of subject matter
- contemporary significance or permanent value
- timeliness of material
- value of maintaining already established collection depth
- prominence of the author
- accuracy
- local emphasis
- suitability of subject and style for the intended audience
- critical reception
- award winning

Gifts:

Gifts of books or other materials meeting the same standards applied to the acquisition of new materials are encouraged. The library does not evaluate gifts of library materials for tax purposes. Gifts become the library's property upon receipt. Once accepted, they are retained or disposed of at the library's discretion, without obligation to the donor.

ADOPTED by the Wasco County Library Service District Board of Directors on the _____
day of _____ 2021

WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carolyn Wood, Chair

Mary Beechler, Vice-Chair

Tina Coleman, Board Member

Rita Rathkey, Board Member

Corliss Marsh, Board Member

ADOPTED by the Wasco County Board of Commissioners, Governing Body of the Wasco
County Library Service District, on the _____ day of _____ 2021.

Scott Hege, County Commissioner

Steve Kramer, County Commissioner

Kathy Schwartz, County Commissioner

THE FREEDOM TO READ

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label “controversial” views, to distribute lists of “objectionable” books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be “protected” against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium of the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that the pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the reader to choose freely from a variety of offerings. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength

demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be

legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest 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.

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the

positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, July 12, 2000, June 30, 2004, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read committee.

A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association

Association of American Publishers

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression

The Association of American University Presses, Inc.

The Children's book council

Freedom to Read Foundation

National Association of College Stores

National Coalition Against Censorship

con't

National Council of Teachers of English

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

Note: The following 8 pages were typed from a copy of a copy originally printed from the ALA website on Interpretations. This was done to give us a more readable copy.



Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights

Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices.

Following are those documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights and background statements detailing the philosophy and history of each. For convenience and easy reference, the documents are presented in alphabetical order. These documents are policies of the American Library Association, having been adopted by the ALA Council.

Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials

Library collections of nonprint materials raise a number of intellectual freedom issues, especially regarding minors. Article V of the Library Bill of Rights states "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. Libraries and librarians protect and promote these rights by selecting, producing, providing access to, identifying, retrieving, organizing, providing instruction in the use of, and preserving recorded expression regardless of the format or technology.

Q&A: Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

Following the initial adoption by the ALA Council of Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights in January, 1996, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee produced a sample set of questions and answers to clarify this Interpretation's Implications and applications.

Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender, Identity, or Sexual Orientation

The American Library Association stringently and unequivocally maintains that libraries and librarians have an obligation to resist efforts that systematically exclude materials dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program

The school library media program plays a unique role in promoting intellectual freedom. It serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and as a learning laboratory for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed in a pluralistic society. Although the educational level and program of the school necessarily shapes the resources and services of a school library media program, the principles of the Library Bill of Rights apply equally to all libraries, including school library media programs.

Challenged Materials

The American Library Association declares as a matter of firm principle that it is the responsibility of every library to have a clearly defined materials selection policy in written form that reflects the Library Bill of Rights, and that is approved by the appropriate governing authority.

Diversity in Collection Development

Intellectual freedom, the essence of equitable library service, provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored. Toleration is meaningless without tolerance for what some may consider detestable. Librarians cannot justly permit their own preferences to limit their degree of tolerance in collection development, because freedom is indivisible.

Economic Barriers to Information Access

A democracy presupposes an informed citizenry. The First Amendment mandates the right of all persons to free expression, and the corollary right to receive the constitutionally protected expression of others. The publicly supported library provides free, equal, and equitable access to information for all people of the community the library serves. While the roles, goals and objectives of publicly supported libraries may differ, they share this common mission.

Evaluating Library Collections

The continuous review of library materials is necessary as a means of maintaining an active library collection of current interest to users. In the process, materials may be added and physically deteriorated or obsolete materials may be replaced or removed in accordance with the collection maintenance policy of a given library and the needs of the community it serves. Continued evaluation is closely related to the goals and responsibilities of all libraries and is a valuable tool of collection development. This procedure is not to be used as a convenient means to remove materials presumed to be controversial or disapproved of by segments of the community.

Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards

Libraries often provide exhibit spaces and bulletin boards. The uses made of these spaces should conform to the Library Bill of Rights: Article I states, “Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.” Article II states, “Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.” Article VI maintains that exhibit space should be made available “on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.”

Expurgation of Library Materials

Expurgation of Library Materials: Expurgating library materials is a violation of the Library Bill of Rights. Expurgation as defined by this interpretation includes any deletion, excision, alteration, editing, or obliteration of any part(s) of books or other library resources by the library, its agent, or its parent institution (if any).

Free Access to Libraries for Minors

Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources available to other users violate the Library Bill of Rights. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.

Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries

A strong intellectual freedom perspective is critical to the development of academic library collections and services that dispassionately meet the education and research needs of a college or university community. The purpose of this statement is to outline how and where intellectual freedom principles fit into an academic library setting, thereby raising consciousness of the intellectual freedom context within which academic librarians work.

Labels and Rating Systems

Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections or in resources accessible through the library. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the library. Likewise, the ability for library users to access electronic information using library computers does not indicate endorsement or approval of that information by the library.

Questions and Answers on Labels and Rating Systems

The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee developed this Q&A to work in conjunction with Labels and Rating Systems, adopted July 13, 1951, by the ALA Council; amended June 25, 1971; July 1, 1981; June 26, 1990; January 19, 2005. Like Questions and Answers on Privacy and Confidentiality and Questions and Answers: Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks, this document will be revised as appropriate.

Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource

Library-initiated programs support the mission of the library by providing users with additional opportunities for information, education, and recreation.

Meeting Rooms

Many libraries provide meeting rooms for individuals and groups as part of a program of service. Article VI of the Library Bill of Rights states that such facilities should be made available to the public served by the given library “on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.”

Privacy

Privacy is essential to the exercise of free speech, free thought, and free association.

See also Questions and Answers on Privacy and Confidentiality.

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Complements Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.

Restricted Access to Library Materials

Libraries are a traditional forum for the open exchange of information. Attempts to restrict access to library materials violate the basic tenets of the Library Bill of Rights.

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