

Dear Colleagues:

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Louisiana Library Association, it is appropriate to present a new edition of the Association's Intellectual Freedom Manual to its membership. Libraries and librarianship are founded on the freedoms of choice and access to information in the pursuit of work and leisure. The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Statement on Professional Ethics give us the support structure on which we have built our profession and the philosophical foundation by which we may face the challenges to materials accessible through our libraries, whether these are print, audio, video, or electronic media.

The first edition of the LLA Intellectual Freedom Manual was published in 1988; the second in 1994. These editions contained policies on intellectual freedom from the American Library Association, descriptions of how the LLA Intellectual Freedom Committee can assist librarians in handling challenges to library materials, Louisiana statutes related to intellectual freedom, a list of support organizations, and a bibliography of then-current materials about censorship.

Six years after the second edition, the new manual builds upon this standard. It includes additional essays written by librarians from public, school, and academic libraries, giving us the perspective of what issues exist for each type of institution. The lists of resources and agencies available to assist librarians have been updated to reflect the vast array of Internet sites related to First Amendment issues that have sprung up since 1994.

The Louisiana Library Association is proud to publish the third edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual and make it available to every member of the Association. We are certain that this resource will give a better understanding and appreciation of intellectual freedom to Louisiana librarians, trustees, friends, and patrons.

David C. Duggar, President  
Louisiana Library Association

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