



Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Conference Room In-Person & via Zoom Webinar

Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director Reports for May, June, and July 2022

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i. 2021 & 2022 Statistical Reports

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B. Legislative Update

Page 23

C. Fundraising Update

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memo from Library Director Re: Reorganization of City Offices

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Memo from Library Director Re: Update on Materials Challenges

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i. Homer Public Library Collection Development Policy

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ii. Petition to Remove LGBTQ+ Books from the Children's Section

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iii. Library Director's Response to Petition to Remove Materials

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iv. Article from *Alaska Watchman* dated July 26, 2022

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- v. American Library Association (ALA) 2021 Statement on Banned Books **Page 53**
- vi. American Library Association (ALA) Materials Related to Book Challenges **Page 58**

B. Memo from Library Director Re: Budget Expectations for FY2024/25 **Page 60**

C. Memo from Library Director Re: Update on Library Western Lot Project **Page 61**

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. *Pathways to Resilience* Article dated August 5, 2022 **Page 62**

B. Library Board Training Resources Provided by the Alaska State Library **Page 64**

C. LAB 2022 Calendar **Page 65**

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

Session 22-05, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on May 17, 2022 at the Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. Boardmember Douglas Baily was appointed May 9, 2022 to fill the seat vacated by Boardmember Gordy Vernon.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, BAILY, SPRINGER, MCKINNEY, FINN, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBERS FAIR AND DOLMA (both excused)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

Chair Finn welcomed new boardmember Douglas Baily.

AGENDA APPROVAL

SPRINGER/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Ann Dixon, city resident, shared her reasons for opposing the proposed reorganization of the library and IT divisions into one department.

Lyn Maslow, city resident, voiced her reservations for the Admin Dept. Reorganization of Library and IT Services.

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director Report dated April 30, 2022

- i. Supplement Report: May 1-15, 2022
- ii. 2021 & 2022 Statistical Reports

Library Director Berry spoke to his written staff and supplement report, the list of upcoming activities and special events, and responded to questions from the board.

- B. Legislative Update
- C. Fundraising Update

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Admin Dept. Reorganization: Library & IT Services (LIT) – Responses from LAB Members
 - i. Homer Public Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025
 - ii. Boardmember Kuszmaul Response Submittal Supplemental Packet
 - iii. “Don’t Give Up Our Seat at the Table” Public Library Article Supplemental Packet

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title. She noted the responses provided by boardmembers that were compiled by Library Director Berry, and the other materials provided by staff. She opened the floor for discussion.

Boardmember Kuszmaul apologized for her technical difficulties that caused her delayed response, which was provided in the supplemental packet.

Boardmember McKinney posed the question: is the LAB going to support the City Manager’s proposal or are they going to make a recommendation in opposition? Chair Finn suggested the board’s goal for tonight is to come up with a statement of how they feel about the reorganization to be shared with the City Manager and City Council.

At Boardmember Kuszmaul’s request for input, Boardmember Baily shared how he does not have a full opinion on the matter given how new he is and his inexperience with the City’s operations and budget.

Mr. Berry gave a summary of all the feedback he has received from concerned boardmembers and members of the public and an update on IT improvements. What he has heard from a lot of people over the past month is there’s a general recognition that the City’s IT department is in crisis, badly in need of help, but that it should be a stand-alone department with more staff of its own and separate from the library. He provided an update on his efforts to improve IT, the hiring of a new full-time Chief Information Officer, and his stance on how the library is there to help. If the LAB wishes to recommend that his leadership assistance to IT is made on a temporary basis, he thinks that is a reasonable compromise and would support it.

Boardmember McKinney commented in support of a limited timeframe. He shared his concerns for the change being made permanently and Mr. Berry experiencing burn-out, which would negatively impact the library.

Boardmember Springer inquired why the City has gone 14 years without getting another IT position hired. Mr. Berry explained how IT has great engineers but does not have the effective administrative

leadership needed to stand up in front of Council and make the case that more IT staff/budget is necessary.

Chair Finn shared her concerns that IT is always in crisis, will always be in demand of better leadership, and that it will take Mr. Berry's time away from the library due to the split position.

Boardmember McKinney clarified with Mr. Berry how much time he dedicates to providing administrative needs to IT. Mr. Berry explained how his involvement has been about 25% of his work week but is decreasing since they have solved much of the task organization issues over the past year. He noted that it does take away from some of the library's time. He shared a personal experience that spoke to how libraries are here to serve the public and solve crises, and by helping IT even in a temporary arrangement it benefits not just the library and City but also the public good.

Boardmember Kuszmaul commented on how it's the City's responsibility to fix this, not the libraries, and if the City can find funds for other things and acknowledge that IT is critical, then why can't they find the funding to address IT needs. Mr. Berry noted that they are getting there and spoke of his presentation to Council at their retreat in March. Boardmember Kuszmaul suggested that they not support the reorganization and embed it in the structure of the City. But if the City has no other options, to at least agree to not formalize the division reorganization and put a limit on the library director's involvement in the improvement of the IT department.

Chair Finn explained her vision for what a library director does, and how a library is not "task oriented" like the IT department is. She expressed her wish that this change does not extend into the future, and if it does happen that it at least be limited to a short timeframe.

Boardmember McKinney opined that we need to take Mr. Berry's input into consideration, recognize his abilities that can help the City, and trust him to let Council know when he's reaching his limits/abilities. He feels turning the proposal down completely is disrespectful to Mr. Berry.

Boardmember Kuszmaul replied that they should turn down the creation of a new department, but could support the continuation of the Library Director being temporarily deployed to IT to assist, with the intention of hiring a new IT director. Boardmembers McKinney and Springer voiced their agreement with that statement.

Discussion ensued on whether something should be drafted or a motion be made, concerns that not all the boardmembers are present but their comments are reflected in the meeting minutes and their written statements, what brought the City Manager to make this decision to reorganize it this way, and whether or not the LAB wants to put a specific time limit on it but perhaps do a re-evaluation that comes back through the LAB in a year.

Mr. Berry summarized that the LAB opposes the creation of a new department, and supports the continuation of the librarian being temporarily deployed to assist IT for a year, with the intention of hiring a new IT director. Boardmember McKinney added that Council should be made aware of the level of opposition there is to this reorganization from the LAB and those involved with the library, and that this recommendation is a compromise.

Boardmember Baily opined that a new department would create its own constituency that may be hard to overcome, and that establishing a new department is not in the better interest of the library.

Chair Finn commented that the library is part of the City, and the LAB is an advisory body of the City organization, so they want the City to be happy/healthy and succeed as much as they want the library to succeed. Yet the same idea remains: the library will lose in this arrangement and she is not happy with that.

Student Representative Johnson commented on everything that has been said, the points made, and the public members that have come to present their concerns. It seems like the LAB is doing a good job of reflecting the greater community's concerns, and thinks that people would be happy with how they're approaching the issue.

Chair Finn clarified with Deputy City Clerk Tussey on how their feedback on this matter will be submitted to the City Manager and City Council, and what could be provided to Council when she gives the LAB report at their next meeting.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED THAT THE LAB EXPRESSES ITS NON-SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW DEPARTMENT CALLED LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS AWAKED PASSION IN THE COMMUNITY AND CONCERN FOR ITS IMPACT ON LIBRARY SERVICES. THE LAB RECOMMENDS THAT THE CITY PRIORITIZE THE CREATION OF AN IT DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS ALL THE IT NEEDS, AND IF THE CITY CANNOT DO THAT IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER THAT AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WOULD BE TO FORMALIZE THE LOAN OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE HELPING WITH A TIME LIMIT OF A YEAR.

Chair Finn confirmed that the motion covers all the concerns and the process for getting their responses/feedback to City Council. There was discussion on making sure the motion included the fact that this is a compromise and how the LAB would like to see the prioritization of hiring a new IT director to address the City's IT problems.

VOTE: YES: SPRINGER, KUSZMAUL, MCKINNEY, FINN, BAILY

Motion carried.

Chair Finn thanked the board for all their thoughtful input over the past couple of months and for coming up with a quality statement rather than just stomping their feet. At the suggestion of Boardmember Kuszmaul, Boardmember Baily agreed to submit his comments in writing to Mr. Berry so they could also be included with the other written responses.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Memo 22-066 LAB Appointment of Douglas Baily
- B. NPR Article Re: Ukraine's Libraries dated March 9, 2022
- C. American Library Association (ALA) Press Release Re: Ukraine Library Relief Fund
- D. LAB 2022 Calendar

Chair Finn noted and facilitated discussion on the informational materials and supplemental items provided. In response to a volunteer request, Chair Finn agreed to give the LAB report at the May 23rd City Council meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Ann Dixon, city resident, thanked the board for working through the reorganization issue so carefully. She inquired how the topic will be handled if it comes up at Council during the summer months when LAB does not meet.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Tussey answered Ms. Dixon's question regarding how the board can address any library/IT department reorganization concerns that arise during the summer.

Library Director Berry had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember McKinney commented that this meeting marks the end of his first year on the board. He wasn't sure what it was going to be like serving on the board but has really enjoyed it, wanted to thank everyone, and is blown away by all the time and effort everyone puts into these meetings. It has been a good experience. He thanked the board and staff again and wished everyone a good summer.

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared her hopes that City Manager Dumouchel takes the board's feedback and input seriously, and does not treat it like a checkbox but integrates it into his proposal.

Chair Finn wished everyone a happy summer and commented on all the ways to volunteer at the library. She suggested boardmembers look over the list of events provided by Mr. Berry and see how they can give their time to the library since the board will not be meeting over the summer.

Boardmembers Springer, Baily, and Student Rep Johnson had no comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

May 31, 2022

General Notes

Safe and Healthy Kids Fair on May 14 was a great hit! We signed up 95 families for the summer reading program and roughly 150 kids went through the bookmobile. Staff and FHL volunteers provided a great range of activities for passersby.

The library hosted a strings recital by students on May 20. We drew a good crowd for the brief concert.

The little libraries are up! The parks division installed and stocked them in various places around town.

On May 23, Council approved a resolution adopting a revised Facility Use Policy.

Staff Notes

Jessica Golden started work as our Summer Temp Aide on May 17.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 4
- LAB: 3
- FHL: 2
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 4
- Other: Various IT projects, interviewing job applicants, planning for Duffy Memorial bench

Facility

We are in the process of replacing the public computers and the four workstations at the front desk. Memory and drives have been ordered. Computers and some monitors have arrived. The Libki software is ready for installation when the equipment is set up.

On June 13 Council will consider an ordinance to replace the two vending stations at the printer and photocopier.

The library did not receive its grant to fund replacement of the microform reader, due to limited time remaining in the 2022 fiscal year. The grant application will be reconsidered in the next budget year.

At the staff meeting on May 27 we discussed building a canopy over the plaza. Feelings are mixed—there might be potential uses for such a structure, but a lot depends on the exact design, and there were questions about wind, road noise and snow clearance. Staff suggested that if funding is available, it would be better spent expanding the library’s interior space.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

At the May 17 meeting the LAB continued the discussion about the proposed Citywide reorganization which began on April 19. Members of the public presented testimony and individual LAB members contributed their thoughts in writing. At the end of the meeting, the LAB passed a motion 1) recognizing the passion the proposal has aroused, 2) advising against creating a Department of Library and Information Technology Services, 3) recommending the creation of a standalone IT Department with expanded staff, and 4) offering a one-year loan of the services of the Library Director to help IT get on its feet.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

At the FHL meeting on May 4 there was considerable discussion about the proposed Citywide reorganization, but FHL has taken no official position on it. FHL volunteers turned out in force for the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair, the Shorebird Festival presentations and the placemaking workshop on May 18.

The bookmobile visited a number of schools in May, including Chapman, McNeil Canyon, Little Fireweed, Big Fireweed, West Homer, Voznesenka and Paul Banks. The bookmobile’s tentative summer schedule:

- Mondays and Tuesdays May 23-June 28, 5:00-7:00: Karen Hornaday Park
- Thursdays May 31-August 4, 9:30-11:45: Homer High School

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 10:30-11:00: Spanish Storytime

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30: Chess Club

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 1:00-4:00: LARP

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Saturdays, 10:00-12:00: Tech Help

Second Sunday, 1:00-4:00: Second Sunday Shakespeare

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Special Events

May 6, 6:30-8:00: Hannah Clipp and Joel Such, the 2022 Schantz Scholars, come to the library to present the results of their bird research in partnership with the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

May 10, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with Councilmember Caroline Venuti.

May 10, 4:30-5:30: Read with Ruger introduces kids to Ruger the reading therapy dog.

May 14, 11:00-2:00: The bookmobile visits the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair, launching registration for the summer reading program.

May 15-Jun. 15: *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?*, by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

May 17, 4:30-5:45: Homer Trails Alliance.

May 17, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.

May 18, 6:00-8:30: FHL placemaking workshop to plan improvements to the western lot.

May 20, 6:00-6:30: Strings recital by Homer area students.

May 26, 5:00-7:30: Public discussion about building Intentional Communities.

May 31, 7:00-8:00: Sam Nofziger presents his experience of climbing Denali.

Jun. 4-Jul. 30: Summer reading program in the library includes the summer reading challenge, wildlife bingo and the Homer scavenger hunt, among many other programs.

Jun. 4, 3:00-5:00: The summer reading program officially kicks off with a two-hour series of crafts, games and all-ages storytime.

Jun. 6, 10:00-12:00: Lecture on food preservation by visiting UAF staff.

Tuesdays, Jun. 7-Aug. 2, 1:00-2:30: Outdoor adventures with Coastal Studies

Jun. 8, 4:30-5:30: Teen Advisory Board

Thursdays, Jun. 9-Jul. 7: Read Together book club for ages 7-12 reads *The Very Very Far North* by Dan Bar-el.

Jun. 12, 1:00-3:00: Installation of the Duffy Memorial Bench on the south side of the library.

Jun. 15-Jul. 15: *Chirri and Chirra* and *Chirri and Chirra Under the Sea*, by Kaya Doi, are the StoryWalk® books of the month.

Jun. 16, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud for ages 12-18 does games and crafts.

Jun. 20, 3:30-4:30: Educator Ted Carter leads a workshop on Gullah and Geechee culture with students in grades K-6.

Jun. 24, 3:30-4:30: Coding for grades K-2.

Jun. 27, 3:30-4:15 and Jun. 30, 3:30-4:15: Author Dan Bar-el virtually visits the library to talk about his books. The first event is aimed at grades K-2 and the second at grades 3-6.

Jun. 29, 5:00-6:30: Picturing Homer Part I explores historic photographs and recreates images with modern technology.

Jun. 30, 10:00-11:30: Ruger the reading therapy dog visits the library again.

Jul-Aug.: Art in the Library displays works by Thelma Gower, Audrey Wallace, Scott Ulmer, the Senior Friendship Center and the Brewer Family in the fireplace lounge.

Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the July 4 parade.

Jul. 7, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud does trivia, crafts and snacks.

Jul. 12, 2:00-3:30: Authors Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver run a workshop about their graphic novel *Chickaloonies*, including active drawing practice.

Jul. 14, 3:30-4:30: Coding for grades 3-6.

Jul. 15-Aug. 15: *What's Inside a Flower? and Other Questions About Science and Nature*, by Rachel Ignotofsky, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Jul. 19, 5:00-6:30: Teen book club and swap.

Jul. 21, 7:00-8:00: Storytime and s'mores at Bishop's Beach (weather permitting).

Jul. 26, 3:30-4:30: Kids' book club discusses *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters*, by Lenore Look.

Jul. 27, 5:00-7:30: Picturing Homer Part II shares photos from Part I.

Jul. 28, 3:30-4:30: Kid's book club discusses *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett.

Jul. 29, 5:00-7:00: End of summer reading program party.

Aug. 15-Sep. 15: *Berry Song*, by Michaela Goade, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Sep. 15-Oct. 15: *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, by Linda Williams, closes out the StoryWalk® season.

Library Director's Report

June 30, 2022

General Notes

The Duffy Memorial Bench was dedicated on June 12; 225 people attended in person and another 500 online. Kenai Peninsula Votes collaborated with the library to host a presentation about ranked-choice voting on June 17. The summer reading program is tearing along, with events nearly every day.

Staff Notes

I attended the virtual annual conference of the American Library Association from June 24-28 and a workshop on designing libraries for the future on June 29. Kevin attended the Evergreen International conference online from June 13-16.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 2
- LAB: 0
- FHL: 2
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 4
- Other: Interviews for IT position; numerous meetings about the Duffy bench; meeting with KPV re: ranked-choice voting program; demo of OnBase ECM; recreation champions

Facility

Duffy's bench is in place on the south side of the library. It isn't quite finished, as it still needs painting and having the lamp installed.

In the meeting room, electricians installed a power connection down one wall (which will eventually be covered with paint or moulding). Building maintenance patched holes in the meeting room walls and moved the plaques for the Celebration of Lifelong Learning to the entrance corridor. A round traffic mirror was installed in the corridor behind the circ desk, to reduce collisions.

The wheelchair switch on the front door has failed twice this month, for reasons that remain unclear. On June 23, a pressure sensor on the water system malfunctioned, which caused the fire

alarm to go off. Maintenance staff eventually worked out that the pressure in the pipes was okay but the sensor was falsely reporting low.

On June 27, Council allocated money for replacing the vending stations.

The membership binder for the seed library is in the process of migrating online, in order to protect the privacy of members.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

There was no LAB meeting in June.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

FHL is weighing whether to participate in the Big Read in Jan.-Feb. 2023. It's always popular but it's a lot of work, and plans could get scrambled again if COVID resurges. The bookmobile has a crowded summer ahead. In 2023, the Friends are considering a scholarship fair in partnership with the school system.

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 10:30-11:00: Spanish Storytime

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

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Jun. 8, 4:30-5:30: Teen Advisory Board.

Thursdays, Jun. 9-Jul. 7: Read Together book club for ages 7-12 reads *The Very Very Far North* by Dan Bar-el.

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Jun. 29, 5:00-6:30: Picturing Homer Part I explores historic photographs and recreates images with modern technology.

Jun. 30, 10:00-11:30: Ruger the reading therapy dog visits the library again.

Jul-Aug.: Art in the Library displays works by Thelma Gower, Audrey Wallace, Scott Ulmer, the Senior Friendship Center and the Brewer Family in the fireplace lounge.

Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the July 4 parade.

Jul. 5, 4:00-6:30: Geocaching for kids.

Jul. 7, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud does trivia, crafts and snacks.

Jul. 12, 2:00-3:30: Authors Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver run a workshop about their graphic novel *Chickaloonies*, including active drawing practice.

Jul. 14, 1:00-3:00 and Jul. 15, 11:30-2:30: Coding for grades 3-6.

Jul. 14, 3:00-4:30: LEGO Hour for kids participating in the LEGO competition.

Jul. 15-Aug. 15: *What's Inside a Flower? and Other Questions About Science and Nature*, by Rachel Ignotofsky, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Jul. 19, 10:30-11:30: LEGO Hour for kids entering the LEGO competition.

Jul. 19, 5:00-6:30: Teen book club and swap.

Jul. 21, 10:00-11:30: R.E.A.D with Ruger the Reading Dog and his handler, Carson.

Jul. 21, 7:00-8:00: Storytime and s'mores at Bishop's Beach (weather permitting).

Jul. 26, 3:30-4:30: Kids' book club discusses *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters*, by Lenore Look.

Jul. 27, 5:00-7:30: Picturing Homer Part II shares photos from Part I.

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Jul. 29, 5:00-7:00: End of summer reading program party.

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Sep. 15-Oct. 15: *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, by Linda Williams, closes out the StoryWalk® season.

Library Director's Report

July 31, 2022

General Notes

HPL has been awarded \$7,000 from the Public Libraries Assistance Grant to purchase books and materials.

A petition to remove LGBT materials from the library has been going around Homer. The sequence of events so far:

- July 1: One copy of the petition was delivered to me.
- July 4: Copies of the petition circulated at the Independence Day parade.
- July 5: I sent a response to the petitioner thanking them for their input but declining to make changes in the collection.
- July 6: The petitioner notified me they will no longer use the library and will advise others to avoid it as well.
- July 10: Copies of the petition were circulated at a showing of the film *2,000 Mules* at CCC.

This is part of a larger trend across Alaska. In Ketchikan, there was considerable controversy over a drag-queen storytime; after the event, members of the public began collecting signatures for a ballot initiative to cut off all borough funding for the library (about 40% of the library's total budget). Following a Gay Pride parade in Soldotna, disgruntled citizens pushed for a measure to bar Pride events from public facilities and tried to fire the city manager. The same citizens took their complaints to the council in Palmer, where public meetings became so disorderly that the council began considering ordinances to prevent riots. I believe there is a similar petition underway in Kenai.

Staff Notes

A couple of staff were out sick with COVID this month, but fortunately no one had serious illness. I participated in a webinar on post-pandemic library management.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 2
- LAB: 0

- FHL: 2
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 4
- Other: Various city meetings, Employee Appreciation Lunch

Facility

Two new vending machines arrived. The new machine at the copier is being set up immediately. The other will be held in the back and used for testing the library's print-management software.

The wheelchair switch continues to cause problems. Building maintenance have worked on it three times and finally replaced the entire switch apparatus. It seems to be working at the moment.

On July 13 a fuse blew in the HEA power line that feeds the library. The library ran on generator power for the entire day.

The faucets in the staff restroom and kid's restroom were replaced.

The computer that controls the HVAC system died. Technicians are expected to be here Aug. 1 to replace it.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

There was no LAB meeting in July.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

FHL has decided to participate in the Big Read for 2023-24, though there will be a huge amount of planning beforehand. The schedule has been set for the fall booksale (Sept. 10) and board retreat (Sept. 18). Many FHL volunteers came out in force to help with the July 4 parade and the end-of-summer-reading-program party on July 29. Thanks to all who helped!

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 10:30-11:00: Spanish Storytime

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30: Chess Club

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 1:00-4:00: LARP

Saturdays, 12:30-2:30: Green Dot Bystander Training

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Saturdays, 10:00-12:00: Tech Help

Second Sunday, 1:00-4:00: Second Sunday Shakespeare

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Special Events

Jul-Aug.: Art in the Library displays works by Thelma Gower, Audrey Wallace, Scott Ulmer, the Senior Friendship Center and the Brewer Family in the fireplace lounge.

Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the July 4 parade.

Jul. 5, 4:00-6:30: Geocaching for kids.

Jul. 7, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud does trivia, crafts and snacks.

Jul. 12, 2:00-3:30: Authors Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver run a workshop about their graphic novel *Chickaloonies*, including active drawing practice.

Jul. 14, 1:00-3:00 and Jul. 15, 11:30-2:30: Coding for grades 3-6.

Jul. 14, 3:00-4:30: LEGO Hour for kids participating in the LEGO competition.

Jul. 15-Aug. 15: *What's Inside a Flower? and Other Questions About Science and Nature*, by Rachel Ignotofsky, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Jul. 16 and 23, 10:00-2:00: Friends of the Library at the Farmers Market.

Jul. 19, 10:30-11:30: LEGO Hour for kids entering the LEGO competition.

Jul. 19, 5:00-6:30: Teen book club and swap.

Jul. 21, 10:00-11:30: R.E.A.D with Ruger the Reading Dog and his handler, Carson.

Jul. 21, 7:00-8:00: Storytime and s'mores at Bishop's Beach.

Jul. 22: Beginning setup of new vending stations at the photocopier and printer.

Jul. 26, 3:30-4:30: Kids' book club discusses *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters*, by Lenore Look.

Jul. 28, 3:30-4:30: Kid's book club discusses *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett.

Jul. 29, 5:00-7:00: End of summer reading program party.

Aug. 11, 5:50-7:45: Civil Air Patrol meeting.

Aug. 15-Sep. 15: *Berry Song*, by Michaela Goade, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Sep. 15-Oct. 15: *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, by Linda Williams, closes out the StoryWalk® season.

Sep. 21, 6:00-8:00: Poetry reading for Alaska World Arts Festival.

Sep. 28 or 30 (tentative), 6:00-8:00: Candidate forum for mayor and council seats.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2021

Date: 09-Feb-22

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb (n. 2)	Mar	Apr (n. 3)	May	Jun	Jul (n. 4)	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	5,815	6,915	8,758	9,024	8,281	10,456	11,035	9,828	10,424	10,856	10,692	9,979	112,063
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	3,218	4,669	6,236	6,656	6,259	8,511	9,038	7,755	8,309	8,527	8,391	7698	85,267
*Other Physical items (n. 5)							68	53	58	69	52	48	348
*Alaska Digital Library	2,509	2,174	2,466	2,308	1,973	1,911	1,910	1,989	1,985	2,225	2,180	2183	25,813
*Flipster e-magazines	88	72	56	60	49	34	19	31	72	35	69	50	635
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	0	6	16	12	13	13	15	12	10	16	12	15	140
Outgoing (Lent)	4	23	19	17	8	13	7	21	25	19	20	13	189
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	0	1,162	1,810	2,781	3,342	4,702	5,932	4,632	5,026	4,303	4,521	4314	42525
Study Rooms (# of groups)	0	1	9	48	43	87	113	124	130	118	122	91	886
Study Rooms (# of people)	0	1	13	61	93	130	167	170	190	176	198	155	1354
Meeting Room (# of groups)	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	7	6	7	10	11	52
Meeting Room (# of people)	0	0	0	0	0	14	126	68	53	20	63	82	426
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	566	842	953	1,360	1,745	2,085	2,587	2,583	2,355	1,829	1,450	1,461	19,816
*Wireless Internet sessions	556	625	669	896	1,156	1,358	1,802	1,818	1,638	1,175	843	882	13418
*Hardwired Internet sessions	10	217	284	464	589	727	785	765	717	654	607	579	6398
Website visits (sessions)	4,541	4,285	4,931	4,664	4,574	5,162	5,623	5,571	4,569	4,186	3,556	3797	55,459
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	72	288	116	211	38	79	179	106	96	73	129	224	1611
*Programs for Age 0-5							21	45	0	0	0	40	106
*Programs for Age 6-11							86	0	0	15	0	40	141
*Programs for Age 12-18							31	32	15	0	0	12	90
*Programs for Age 19+	35	32	25	30	38	56	11	8	56	10	117	104	522
*Programs for All Ages							30	21	25	48	12	28	164
*Youth Programs (all types)	37	256	91	181	0	23							588
OUTREACH													
# Events	10	9	14	9	3	5	4	1	1	4	2	2	64
# People	3707	3524	2742	3480	17	25	20	5	4	7	15	8	13554
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	11	20	18	20	25	32	26	38	30	25	27	14	286
Borough	2	4	8	16	22	27	35	29	23	21	29	9	225
Temporary	0	0	0	0	4	9	5	1	1	0	0	0	20
Reciprocal	0	1	0	0	2	4	3	5	2	2	0	0	19
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	15	13	23	69	30	43	37	31	47	51	45	53	457
# of hours	131	114	131	211	155	202	134	124	176	119	127	161	1784
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	382	210	300	242	187	430	153	233	248	225	165	254	3029
Audio	9	2	4	19	0	0	5	8	50	2	13	19	131
Video	70	45	29	60	51	61	38	36	30	45	20	48	533
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	0	1	0	0	0	0	284	0	306	35	60	83	769
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	238	172	269	510	148	126	299	0	221	378	71	80	2512
Audio	149	56	40	0	0	3	2	0	82	0	0	0	332
Video	38	3	85	20	110	60	1	0	1	2	0	12	332
Serials	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	11
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	0.00	548.50	436.00	337.00	768.00	325.00	874.00	712.00	698.50	422.00	276.00	604.00	6,001.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants								7000.00				25091.00	32,091.00
TOTALS	0.00	548.50	436.00	337.00	768.00	325.00	874.00	7,712.00	698.50	422.00	276.00	25,695.00	\$38,092.00

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: HPL opened with reservations Feb. 1.

Note 3: HPL opened without reservations and extended hours Apr. 26

Note 4: Program attendance broken out by age, starting in July 2021.

Note 5: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames. Prior to July 2021, these circulation figures were included in the overall total but not broken out.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 09-Aug-22

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	11,394	9,965	11,919	11,984	0	0	0	0	0	79,239
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856	8,940	7,892	9,717	9,620						62,898
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	93	78	80	109	76	118	122						676
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376	2,297	1,974	2,043	2,242						15,339
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48	48	23	41							326
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20	14	21	11	18						189
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28	15	18	13	16						136
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573	7,613	6,719	7,675	8,905						47,534
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145	147	269	194	160						1,153
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218	219	370	264	203						1,640
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20	19	19	23	28						135
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144	115	149	217	222						972
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	2,265	2,396	2,995	3,383	0	0	0	0	0	16,189
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147	1,389	1,560	2,075	2,348						10,235
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906	876	836	920	1,035						5,954
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217	4,375	4,640	4,583	4,980						30,636
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	1,153	1,006	1,351	1,286	986	616	0	0	0	0	0	7,604
*Programs for Age 0-5	1,130	990	914	1,184	665	757	178						5,818
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8	66	329	183	213						833
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3	4	2	18	9						59
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49	15	10	3	20						182
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32	82	280	25	196						712
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2	2	2	2	1						12
# People	6	7	11	8	8	15	6						61
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25	27	31	40	32						181
Borough	20	24	33	33	21	39	34						204
Temporary	1	0	2	1	2	7	3						16
Reciprocal	0	0	1	0	3	0	1						5
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56	39	39	43	46						336
# of hours	203	206	193	232	159	133	182						1,308
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219	231	277	327	272						1,815
Audio	3	8	33	4	46	11	9						114
Video	25	23	47	68	73	45	35						316
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183	93	73	118	68						659
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543	567	531	139	272						2,524
Audio	0	0	1	44	25	2	68						140
Video	0	0	0	33	131	72	0						236
Serials	2	0	0	0	1	1	0						4
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	1,170.00					5,863.20
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	1,170.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$5,863.20

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

From: [David Berry](#)
To: ["Kate Finn"](#)
Subject: FW: Federal Funding Update from ALA
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 12:58:00 PM

Good afternoon.

Sharing an update from DC.

Today, the [Senate Appropriations Committee released its draft fiscal year 2023 funding bills](#).

The bills would, for the first time in 26 years, provide federal funding to modernize library buildings nationwide. If enacted, the bills would provide \$20 million in new funding to improve public and Tribal library and museum facilities, distributed by IMLS, and to conduct a study of their physical condition. This is a crucial down payment on the Build America's Libraries Act that ALA and library supporters have advocated for!

The bills would also continue funding for other vital library programs, including a \$3.6 million increase for grants under the Library Services and Technology Act and a \$3 million increase for Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants.

As a reminder, the House Appropriations Committee approved its versions of the FY23 funding bills last month (shortly before ALA Annual Conference). Ultimately, the House and Senate will have to resolve the differences between their bills and pass them through both houses. Notably, the House bill does not include the \$20 million for library facilities.

Senate Appropriations Committee Republicans currently oppose the Democrats' drafts, and Democrats alone don't have the votes needed to advance the bills. Consequently, Congress is not expected to reach an agreement before the end of the current fiscal year, which would require a stopgap funding bill (called a continuing resolution, or CR) in September. Congress will then return after the November elections and resume negotiations on these funding bills. Until then, we'll continue our advocacy for this funding to be carried through into the final bills.

Gavin Baker, MSLIS
Deputy Director, Public Policy & Government Relations
American Library Association



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Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2022
SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF CITY OFFICES

The last LAB meeting in May 2022 discussed the proposed reorganization of City offices and passed a motion addressing the subject. I forwarded the written comments of the LAB to the City Manager and included a memo quoting the full text of the LAB's motion.

There has been very little change since then. The formal proposal has not yet been presented to Council, but when it is, it will include the LAB's comments as an attachment.

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.



Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2022
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATERIALS CHALLENGES

As I reported on July 8th, there have been complaints from patrons about LGBT material in the children's section of the library. Two patrons have come in to examine the collection. On July 1st, a third submitted a petition requesting that such materials be removed. The petition specifically mentions three titles:

- *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*
- *Julián is a Mermaid*
- *Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Wedding*

On July 5th, I sent the petitioner an email advising her that staff have reviewed the titles and decided not to make any changes in the current arrangements. Should she wish to appeal this decision, the next step would be to bring the matter to the Library Advisory Board.

As of August 9th, the petition is still circulating. On July 26th the *Alaska Watchman* published an article encouraging more citizens to sign and adding three more titles to the list of challenges:

- *Sex is a Funny Word*
- *They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!*
- *Red: A Crayon's Story*

To date, the petition has not been presented to any official City body aside from myself.

A copy of the petition and my July 5th response are included here.

RECOMMENDATION

For informational purposes.

Attached: Homer Public Library Collection Development Policy
Petition to Remove LGBTQ+ Books from the Children's Section
Library Director's Response to Petition to Remove Materials
Article from *Alaska Watchman* dated July 26, 2022
American Library Association 2021 Statement on Banned Books
American Library Association Materials Related to Book Challenges

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF POLICY

This collection development policy has been prepared by the director and staff of the Homer Public Library, approved by the Library Advisory Board, and adopted by the Homer City Council. Its purpose is to guide the library staff in the selection of materials, and to inform the public about the principles upon which the library's collection is developed and maintained.

The Homer Public Library endeavors to keep up with changes in the community and library technology. This policy will be reviewed every three years by the library director, and updated and approved by the Library Advisory Board as needed.

B. STATEMENT OF MISSION AND GOALS

The mission statement of the Library guides this Collection Development Policy:

The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.

C. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Homer is a small community located 233 road miles south of Anchorage, Alaska. The Library's service population area contains the City of Homer and the surrounding borough communities, including Kachemak City, Seldovia, Anchor Point, Diamond Ridge, Fritz Creek, Kachemak Bay, Port Graham, Ninilchik, Nanwalek, Nikolaevsk, Voznesenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo.

According to estimates by the State of Alaska in 2013, the population of the City of Homer is 5,136. The population of the surrounding communities within the library service area is 8,400, for a total of 13,536 total residents in the Library's service area. Approximately 87% of the population is Caucasian, with American Indians and Alaska Natives comprising the largest minority population at 6.7%, according to 2010 United States census data. English is the predominant language in the Homer area, with the exception of four predominantly Russian-speaking villages.

In addition to the Homer Public Library, three other municipal public libraries are located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough: the Joyce K. Carver Soldotna Public Library, the Kenai Community Library, and the Seward Community Library, located 80, 90, and 185 miles from Homer, respectively. The communities of Anchor Point and Ninilchik maintain small public libraries. The Pratt Museum in Homer operates a non-lending library and two small academic libraries are located at the Kenai Peninsula College in

Soldotna and the Kachemak Bay Campus in Homer, both affiliated with the University of Alaska. Eight public schools are located in the Homer Library service area.

Homer's local economy relies heavily on commercial fishing and tourism. Borough-wide, oil and gas is the fastest growing sector of the economy, followed by health care and construction. South Peninsula Hospital, Homer Electric Association, and the Kenai Peninsula School District are among Homer's largest employers. Homer has also attracted a number of resident artists, writers, and entrepreneurs.

Census data document a trend toward increasing numbers of residents aged 60 and older. The "digital divide" (the gap between computer literate and non-literate, and between those who can afford home access to the internet and those who cannot), together with the proliferation of digital devices for accessing information and reading material, create a need for sophisticated reference service that includes knowledge of digital resources and the numerous devices used to access the internet. A strong print collection emphasizing recreational reading, practical skills, information for daily living, local Alaskana, and materials for youth remains in high demand, as well.

D. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The library does not promote particular beliefs or views, nor does the selection of any item imply endorsement of its views. One of the essential purposes of the public library is to be a resource where individuals can examine many points of view and come to their own conclusions. The library attempts to provide materials representing different sides of controversial issues.

The Homer Public Library endorses the American Library Association's **Library Bill of Rights**, **Code of Ethics**, and their **Freedom to Read**, **Freedom to View**, and **Libraries: an American Value** statements. These documents, considered guiding principles for this policy, are appended.

Access to library materials are not to be restricted beyond what is required to protect materials from theft or damage. Items are not labeled to indicate point of view or bias. The Library assures free access to its holdings for all patrons, who are free to select or reject for themselves any item in the collection. Individual or group prejudice about a particular item or type of material in the collection may not preclude its use by others.

Responsibility for the reading choices and information access by children rests with their parents and legal guardians, not the Library. Parents who wish to limit or restrict the reading of their own child should personally oversee that child's choice of library resources. Selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that items may be seen by children. The Library encourages parents to be involved with their children's reading and library use and will work with parents to find materials they deem appropriate for their children. The Library endorses the American Library Association

documents **Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors** and **Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials**, which are appended.

E. COOPERATION

Cooperation is a basic tenet of library philosophy in Alaska and the United States. The Homer Public Library recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with other libraries in Homer, the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, and nationwide.

The library on the Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC) of Kenai Peninsula College supports its institution's educational objectives with a collection emphasizing the humanities, applied science, art, office technology, marine sciences, and business management. While open to the public, the KBC library provides in-house use only to non-students.

Libraries in the public schools focus on educational and curriculum support. Responsibility for the provision of curriculum-related materials belongs properly to the schools, but the public library provides materials that complement local school library collections and enrich the needs of student borrowers of all ages.

Homer Public Library cooperates with the Pratt Museum in collecting material relating to Homer's history and culture. The Pratt Museum has a non-lending library which consists of museological, cultural history and natural history periodicals, books, and a vertical file of scholarly papers and pertinent subject information. The museum also houses an archive of various periodicals and local documents, a photo archive documenting local history, and a media collection of films, audiocassettes and videotapes. Many of the Pratt's collections are available upon specific request to the Collections Manager.

As a member of Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a worldwide bibliographic database cooperative, the Library is able to provide interlibrary loan service for patrons with needs outside the scope of the Homer Public Library's collection. The OCLC database gives us access to other libraries' resources throughout the state, the nation and the world. The Homer Public Library uses interlibrary loan both to supplement our resources and to lend our materials to other libraries.

F. SELECTION RESPONSIBILITY

Selection of library materials, whether purchased or donated, is based upon the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the community. It is limited by factors such as materials budgets, space, and the content of existing collections.

The library director has the final responsibility for the maintenance and development of the collection of the Homer Public Library, operating within the framework of policies approved by the Library Advisory Board and adopted by the Homer City Council. Because the library director must be able to answer to the Advisory Board and the

general public for actual selections made, the authority to reject or select any item rests with that position. Staff members assist the library director in the selection of materials.

The Library encourages suggestions for purchase from patrons and staff. Interlibrary loan requests and questions from the public are considered for possible purchase suggestions. All purchase requests are reviewed to determine whether they fall within selection criteria.

G. SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection of materials is based on the professional judgment of the library staff, which is guided by the needs of the community and the balance and comprehensiveness of the collection. Selection is aided by reviews and other professional tools such as standard catalogs and bibliographies. Selection tools include, but are not limited to:

- Reviews in professional library journals or periodicals such as *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Wilson's Public Library Catalog*, *The Horn Book*, *Kirkus Reviews* and other professional publications.
- Internet resources for evaluation and selection such as the ALA website, Amazon.com, Common Sense Media, and professional media review sites.
- Individual subject expertise of staff or community members.
- Publisher catalogs.
- Standard bibliographies.

There is no single standard that can be applied in all acquisition decisions. Some materials must be judged primarily on their artistic merits, some on their scholarship, and some on their value as human documents. Still others are intended to satisfy recreational and entertainment needs. Each will be considered in terms of the audience for whom it is intended. Materials are judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not on a part taken out of context.

Selection Criteria considered in the evaluation and the re-evaluation of materials are:

- Cultural, recreational, informational and/or educational value.
- Local interest and potential use by library patrons.
- Usefulness in relation to other materials in the collection.
- Appearance of the item in standard bibliographies and review journals.
- Permanent significance.
- Accuracy, effectiveness, and timeliness of presentation.
- Artistic excellence.
- Qualifications and/or significance of the author.
- Suitability of physical form for library use.
- Availability of material in other library collections.
- Price.
- Library space.

Two categories excluded from the collection as clearly not within the selection criteria are 1) forms of expression that are unprotected by the First Amendment; and 2) explicit and direct instructions for the manufacture of contraband materials.

H. MATERIAL FORMAT

The Library offers materials in a variety of formats to meet its goals and objectives. Materials may include books, audiocassettes, CDs, electronic resources, microforms, newspapers and magazines, pamphlets, videos, and others. The Library will not adopt new formats before they have demonstrated reliability and usefulness.

I. COLLECTION OVERVIEW

The library collection consists of 53,000 items, including books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, maps, and videos. It also maintains access to a variety of electronic resources.

In general, collection priority is given to:

- Currency. Collection emphasis is on up-to-date information.
- General treatments over those that are specialized, scholarly, or primarily for professional use.
- Works of broad popular appeal that meet the needs of the independent learner over textbooks or other materials that meet curriculum requirements of the formal student. Textbooks are generally not added to the collection unless there is little or no other material covering the topic in any other format. The Library does not buy textbooks used by the local schools. It is the responsibility of the school libraries to provide copies of course materials for their students.
- Unabridged editions over abridgments. Abridged editions will be considered only if they retain the flavor and quality of the original.

1. Access to the Internet:

The Library's internet policy is contained in a separate document.

2. Adult fiction:

In addition to well-known classics, the adult fiction collection provides a wide variety of popular reading materials of current and high interest to the public. We actively consider patron recommendations.

3. Adult nonfiction:

The non-fiction collection includes materials that are of current interest and demand within the community. It represents a diverse collection in order to make the broadest array of topics and opinions available to our users but is heavily oriented toward the interests and needs of the Homer community. Special emphasis goes to selecting titles dealing with health, boats and marine technology, construction, the arts, sustainability, self-sufficiency and travel.

The Library collects basic books of faith as well as authoritative books on comparative religions but will not collect or accept doctrinal or instructional material in any field of religion. The Library purchases materials of general historical importance rather than denominational content.

4. Alaska and local history materials:

The Alaskan collection includes materials about Alaska and neighboring regions. The collection priorities of the Alaskan collection include:

- As complete coverage as possible of the immediate Homer area.
- Broad coverage of southcentral Alaska.
- Selected coverage of the rest of Alaska based on expected demand and popular appeal.

Some reference or rare materials will not be available for loan. The university libraries and the Alaska State Library maintain comprehensive Alaskan collections; many of these items are available to Homer Public Library patrons through interlibrary loan.

5. Audio:

Recorded books in physical formats such as CDs are available in the adult, young adult, and juvenile sections of the Library. The collections include popular fiction, classic titles, and nonfiction in unabridged and abridged editions. Music CDs are available in the music collection and in the children's library. Audiobooks and music are also available in downloadable electronic formats through the Library's subscription to ListenAlaska.

6. Children's books, including easy readers, children's and young adult materials:

In selecting books for children, the Library's goals are to develop a collection that satisfies children's informational, recreational, and cultural reading needs; to promote literacy; and to encourage a lifelong love of reading. The children's collections include:

- Picture books, beginning readers, and graphic novels.
- Juvenile nonfiction which informs children about their world. Authoritative, up-to-date and attractive materials in a variety of reading levels are sought.
- Juvenile fiction for elementary and middle school students.
- Young Adult fiction and nonfiction that appeal to teenagers and may deal with more adult issues than children's fiction. Books are selected to meet the informational, recreational and emotional concerns of this age group, help them grow in understanding themselves and others, broaden their viewpoints, expand their reading ability and enjoyment, or simply for their reading pleasure.

7. Duplicate titles:

Duplicate titles are purchased if long-term heavy demand is anticipated, but in general, multiple copies are not purchased due to fiscal limitations. Where the public interest is in the subject more than in a particular title, the Library will purchase more copies of

different titles instead of buying numerous copies of one title. This approach offers library users a collection with greater variety and depth.

8. Electronic books, audiobooks, music and magazines:

Downloadable audiobooks, ebooks, and music for children, teens, and adults are available through ListenAlaska, a collection of digital content the Library subscribes to through the Alaska Library Network consortium. Additionally, the Library circulates equipment to access these formats, such as MP3 players and ebook readers. Digital magazines will be made available as the collection budget allows.

9. Electronic databases:

The internet, Databases for Alaskans, and individual databases subscribed to by the Library provide access to a vast range of valuable information. The Library may subscribe to specific databases of interest and usefulness to the community, such as online encyclopedias; genealogy, financial, and medical information; and materials for children. Both the Library's website and public catalog may be used to provide access to these electronic materials.

10. Large Print and materials for the visually handicapped and the hearing-impaired:

Large print materials purchased by the Library are available for checkout and located in the Large Print section of the Library. In addition, the Alaska State Library Talking Book Center loans rotating collections of audiobooks to the Homer Public Library free of charge. The Alaska State Library also offers services directly to individuals unable to read standard print material. Inquire at the front desk for information about applying for this service.

11. Periodicals and Newspapers:

Periodical selection is based on the needs and tastes of the eclectic population in the Homer area. The Library subscribes to the local Homer newspapers and houses most back issues in two formats: paper and microfilm. Subscriptions to the Kenai borough and Anchorage newspapers are maintained, as well as subscriptions to national periodicals of note.

12. Rare and Expensive Books:

The Library does not currently have, nor will it become a priority to have, a rare book collection. The cost of preservation and security make housing a rare book collection impractical. Rare books that have been donated to the Library may be sold and the money used to purchase materials for reference and circulation. The Library does maintain a small number of rare books that focus on Alaska and local history.

13. Reference materials:

One of the Library's primary collection development objectives is to provide accurate and useful information. To accomplish this objective, the Library provides access to current and authoritative materials in a variety of formats. Resources include a selection

of encyclopedias, atlases, almanacs, bibliographies, and dictionaries in paper and/or electronic formats, as well as electronic databases. Local and regional directories and information are maintained. Authority, organization, and currency of information are among the selection criteria, as well as whether the information is better obtained in another format, on the internet, or in databases available through SLED (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway).

14. Russian language materials:

The Library maintains a small collection of Russian language materials including books, audiobooks, and videos. Subjects collected include Old Believer history and culture, Russian literature classics, folktales, craft books, materials for children, and Russian translations of English novels.

15. Self-Published materials:

In most cases, the Library does not purchase self-published materials that are not reviewed in established review journals. Exceptions may be made for materials of local interest that meet the general selection criteria. Additional considerations include quality of editing and binding suitable for public use.

16. Vertical File:

The Library maintains files of historic materials about Homer and Alaska. Newspaper articles, newsletters, pamphlets, patterns and instructions, materials hard to locate in books such as charts, graphs and statistics, Cooperative Extension Service publications, and maps of Alaska are located in the Vertical File. All items in the Vertical File are cataloged.

17. Video:

The Library collects videos that appeals to a wide range of patrons. Videos are selected from reviews, prior viewing, or the reputation of the makers and distributors. Videos of high quality, those based on literary works, children's titles, do-it-yourself, self-help, travel and biography, plays, operas and ballet, other musical events, and outstanding series that tend not to be found in private home collections receive selection priority. Series that have appeared on the Public Broadcasting Service and/or have received critical acclaim are also collected, as are popular titles which serve primarily to entertain.

J. COLLECTION EVALUATION AND COLLECTION GOALS

The Homer Public Library strives to maintain a diverse collection to fulfill the many needs and interests of the Homer community. Reports are periodically run from the Library's circulation and cataloging software, which provide information about the percentage of holdings in a particular subject area compared to the percentage of circulation from that area. These reports, analyzed by the collection development librarians, assist in determining how best to divide the acquisitions budget among the subject areas of the collection. A balance is sought between adding new materials to the

most popular sections and strengthening sections containing old and outdated materials.

A top priority of the Homer Public Library is to systematically upgrade the average age of the collection, particularly nonfiction.

In addition, the Homer Public Library collection will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Comparison to standard lists.
- Proportion of subject area in circulation at any given time.
- Age of publication.
- Representation of diverse viewpoints.
- Completeness of sets or series.
- Number of interlibrary loan requests.
- Number of reserves placed.
- Patron requests.

K. ACQUISITIONS

The library staff receives numerous catalogs, advertisements, and announcements from publishers, professional reviewing journals, and library vendors. Staff uses these materials, as well as patron requests and staff suggestions, as the beginning of the selection process. Reviews of each item are evaluated before deciding upon purchase. Staff members who are responsible for materials selection collaborate both informally and in periodic collection development meetings to discuss the merits of adding specific titles to the collections, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the collection in general.

New materials are ordered through the local independent bookstore in Homer, book and media vendors, and publishers. The Library purchases out-of-print materials from companies who specialize in locating hard-to-find books. The majority of the Library's periodicals are managed by a periodical subscription service.

L. COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

Select books of long-term value to the collection are sent to a professional bindery when their bindings become worn-out or damaged and are not easily mended. These titles are usually popular, of local interest, and not available in hardcover bindings.

Books are mended if, as a whole, they are in good shape and the mending will result in prolonged life of the books for additional circulations. Cumulative damage such as a large number of dirty or torn pages may result in withdrawal or replacement instead of mending.

The purpose of a withdrawal policy is to insure that the collection remains up-to-date and useful. The criteria used for selecting materials are also be used in the removal of items from the collection. Materials that are no longer useful in light of stated objectives are systematically withdrawn from the collection. Prime candidates for deselection are:

- Items which contain outdated or inaccurate information, unless of historical value.
- Superseded editions.
- Worn out or damaged items.
- Seldom-used materials.

Withdrawn materials are added to the Friends of the Homer Public Library's book sale. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase needed items for the Library. Occasionally, discarded items are offered to other libraries, schools, or nonprofit groups. Items not distributed or sold are discarded.

M. GIFTS AND DONATIONS

The Library accepts donations of materials with the understanding that gifts to be added to the collection must meet established selection criteria and are deemed to enrich the collection. Gifts not retained for the collection will be added to the Friends of the Homer Public Library's book sale or discarded.

No condition or restriction of gifts can be honored. It is the policy of the Library not to accept special collections of books and like material to be kept together as a separate entity. Gift collections may be accepted at the discretion of the library director with the understanding that they be integrated into the general collection with the only form of special identification being a bookplate.

The Library encourages cash gifts for the purchase of memorials, tributes, or other reasons. Selection of materials must be based on the same criteria used to select items for the collection. The general nature of the book or its subject area can be based upon the interests of the deceased or the wishes of the donor and the needs of the Library.

Gifts of money, real property, personal property, or stock are accepted if conditions attached to them are acceptable to the Library Advisory Board and/or the City of Homer administration. The Library shall not accept for deposit materials that are not outright gifts. Donations are added to the Homer Public Library's Gift and Building Fund. Investment of funds is managed by the Finance Department of the City of Homer.

The Library cannot legally appraise gifts for tax purposes. Donors are offered a signed and dated gift statement as a receipt.

N. COPYRIGHT

The Homer Public Library makes every attempt to abide by the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, U.S. Code). Patrons who use library materials are responsible for complying with current laws.

O. RECONSIDERATION

The Library recognizes that within the Homer area there are groups and individuals with widely separate and diverse interests, backgrounds, cultural heritage, social values, and needs, and that any given item may offend some patrons. Selection of materials is not made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval of their contents and no library material is sequestered except to protect it from injury or theft. The suitability of particular materials may be questioned by a borrower and reconsideration formally requested in accordance with the following procedure. Either staff or citizens may initiate reconsideration.

Should patrons have a complaint about library materials the following sequential process will be followed. Questioned materials will not be removed or restricted at any point in this process unless an official determination has been made to do so.

- 1) Informal discussion with the Library Director. The selection policy will be explained and a copy of the collection development policy provided.
- 2) If patrons are not satisfied with the informal discussion, they may fill out a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form.
- 3) Upon receiving the completed form, the Library Director shall:
 - a) Read the material in its entirety.
 - b) Check the general acceptance of material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists.
 - c) Judge the material for the strengths and values as a whole and not in part, and apply all appropriate selection criteria to the work.
 - d) Provide a written response to the patron, which will include a full explanation of the decision, and information concerning the process to appeal.
 - e) Present a written recommendation to the Library Advisory Board at their next meeting.
- 4) If the patron remains dissatisfied, an appeal can be heard before the Library Advisory Board. The Board will read the material in its entirety, hear the appeal, review the recommendation by the librarian, and make a final judgment. The Board shall notify the complainant of its decision in writing. No further appeals will be heard. No other reconsideration of this material will be addressed for one full year from the date of final judgment unless the grounds for complaint are substantially different from the previous reconsideration.

Documents Appended

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Retrieved 1/26/2015 from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>.

Code of Ethics of the American Library Association

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we

are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.

We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.

We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.

We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.

Adopted at the 1939 Midwinter Meeting by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 1981; June 28, 1995; and January 22, 2008.

Retrieved 1/26/2015 from

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/proethics/codeofethics/codeethics>.

The Freedom to Read Statement

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 for 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 these 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 readers 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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

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](#)
[National Council of Teachers of English](#)
[The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression](#)

Retrieved 1/26/2015 from

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement>.

Freedom to View Statement

The **FREEDOM TO VIEW**, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the [First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States](#). In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.

To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.

To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.

To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.

To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council

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<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomviewstatement>.

Libraries: An American Value

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America's libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library's resources and services;

We value our nation's diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;

We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services;

We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library's resources;

We protect each individual's privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;

We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;

We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment.

By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

Adopted February 3, 1999, by the
Council of the American Library Association

Retrieved 1/26/2015 from

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/librariesamerican>.

Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors

An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*
(formerly titled "Free Access to Libraries for Minors")

Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users violate the American Library Association's *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.

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." The "right to use a library" includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, literacy skills, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.

Libraries are charged with the mission of providing services and developing resources to meet the diverse information needs and interests of the communities they serve. Services,

materials, and facilities that fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of library resources. The needs and interests of each library user, and resources appropriate to meet those needs and interests, must be determined on an individual basis. Librarians cannot predict what resources will best fulfill the needs and interests of any individual user based on a single criterion such as chronological age, educational level, literacy skills, or legal emancipation. Equitable access to all library resources and services shall not be abridged through restrictive scheduling or use policies.

Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. Institutional self-censorship diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users. Children and young adults unquestionably possess First Amendment rights, including the right to receive information through the library in print, sound, images, data, games, software, and other formats.¹ Constitutionally protected speech cannot be suppressed solely to protect children or young adults from ideas or images a legislative body believes to be unsuitable for them.² Librarians and library governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections because only a court of law can determine whether or not content is constitutionally protected.

The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries cannot authorize librarians or library governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians. As “Libraries: An American Value” states, “We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources and services.” Librarians and library governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children’s—and only their children’s—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children.

Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, or format.

This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

Note

1. See *Brown v. Entertainment Merchant’s Association, et al.* 564 U.S. 08-1448 (2011): a) Video games qualify for First Amendment protection. Like protected books, plays, and movies, they communicate ideas through familiar literary devices and features distinctive to the medium.. And ‘the basic principles of freedom of speech . . . do not vary’ with a new and different communication medium.”

2. See *Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205 (1975): “Speech that is neither obscene as to youths nor subject to some other legitimate proscription cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from

ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them. In most circumstances, the values protected by the First Amendment are no less applicable when government seeks to control the flow of information to minors.” See also *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S.503 (1969); *West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); *AAMA v. Kendrick*, 244 F.3d 572 (7th Cir. 2001).

Adopted June 30, 1972, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991; June 30, 2004; July 2, 2008 *under previous name* "Free Access to Libraries for Minors"; and July 1, 2014.

Retrieved 1/26/2015 from

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/access-library-resources-for-minors>.

Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials

An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

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."

The American Library Association's principles protect minors' access to sound, images, data, games, software, and other content in all formats such as tapes, CDs, DVDs, music CDs, computer games, software, databases, and other emerging technologies. ALA's [Free Access to Libraries for Minors](#): An *Interpretation* of the Library Bill of Rights states: . . . The "right to use a library" includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, literacy skills, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.

. . . [P]arents—and only parents—have the right and responsibility to restrict access of their children—and only their children—to library resources. Parents who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children. Librarians and library governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child.

Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

Policies that set minimum age limits for access to any nonprint materials or information technology, with or without parental permission, abridge library use for minors. Age limits based on the cost of the materials are also unacceptable. Librarians, when dealing with minors, should apply the same standards to circulation of nonprint materials as are applied to books and other print materials except when directly and specifically prohibited by law.

Recognizing that librarians cannot act *in loco parentis*, ALA acknowledges and supports the exercise by parents of their responsibility to guide their own children's reading and viewing. Libraries should provide published reviews and/or reference works that contain information about the content, subject matter, and recommended audiences for nonprint materials. These resources will assist parents in guiding their children without implicating the library in censorship.

In some cases, commercial content ratings, such as the [Motion Picture Association of America](#) (MPAA) movie ratings, might appear on the packaging or promotional materials provided by producers or distributors. However, marking out or removing this information from materials or packaging constitutes expurgation or censorship.

MPAA movie ratings, [Entertainment Software Rating Board](#) (ESRB) game ratings, and other rating services are private advisory codes and have no legal standing ([Expurgation of Library Materials](#)). For the library to add ratings to nonprint materials if they are not already there is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to post a list of such ratings with a collection or to use them in circulation policies or other procedures. These uses constitute labeling, "an attempt to prejudice attitudes" ([Labels and Rating Systems](#)), and are forms of censorship. The application of locally generated ratings schemes intended to provide content warnings to library users is also inconsistent with the Library Bill of Rights. The interests of young people, like those of adults, are not limited by subject, theme, or level of sophistication. Librarians have a responsibility to ensure young people's access to materials and services that reflect diversity of content and format sufficient to meet their needs.

Adopted June 28, 1989, by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 2004.

Retrieved 1/26/2015 from
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/accesschildren>.

Policy approved by Library Advisory Board 3/3/2015.

Approved by Homer City Council 3/23/15.

Edited to update mission statement and fix typos 8/29/16.

Petition to Remove LGBTQ+ Books from the Children's Section

We, the undersigned residents and parents of Homer and surrounding areas, do hereby petition that the Homer Public Library remove all books promoting transgender ideology, drag queens, homosexuality, and all other books which are intended to indoctrinate children in LGBTQ+ ideologies from the children's and juvenile sections of the library. If the library must have them, we petition that a section outside of the children's area be designated for such books so that parents who do not wish for their children to stumble across these confusing ideas may allow their children to brows freely.

In signing this I affirm that I meet all the following criteria:

- 1- I am a parent.
- 2- I live in the Homer Alaska area.
- 3- I would like this policy implemented.

Signature: _____

Date: 6/24/22

Printed name: _____

Melissa Martin

Contact (phone, email, or

mailing): mgmar1977@gmail.com

Additional comments: Thank you

Some examples of titles we would like removed:

Julian is a Mermaid

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress

Two Grooms on a Cake: the Story of America's First Gay Wedding

Good morning!

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts about the children's section in the library. As a mother, I'm sure you know the difficulty of looking after children in a world that gets more chaotic all the time. Protecting your children from social pressure, while simultaneously training them to confront that pressure on their own, seems like an impossible task. It's a parent's right to guide their children's reading, as recognized in our Collection Development Policy (<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/library-policies>), and I commend you for talking with them, reading with them, and helping them shape the society they will inherit.

By design, the library includes a wide array of viewpoints on controversial topics, for all age groups and across the full political spectrum. The library is a halfway station between the security of childhood and the wilderness of the adult world, a "safe space" for kids to expand their horizons in the company of a parent. Having reviewed the petition and the three titles mentioned in it, we've decided to keep these titles where they are. If you'd like recommendations for your own children, our Youth Services Librarian will be happy to help you find the perfect books for your family. We also take purchase suggestions from patrons, so if you see a gap that needs to be filled, please let us know at the front desk or through our website (<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/suggest-purchase-0>).

Feel free to call me if you'd like to talk further. My cell phone, below, is the best way to reach me.

Best wishes,

Dave Berry

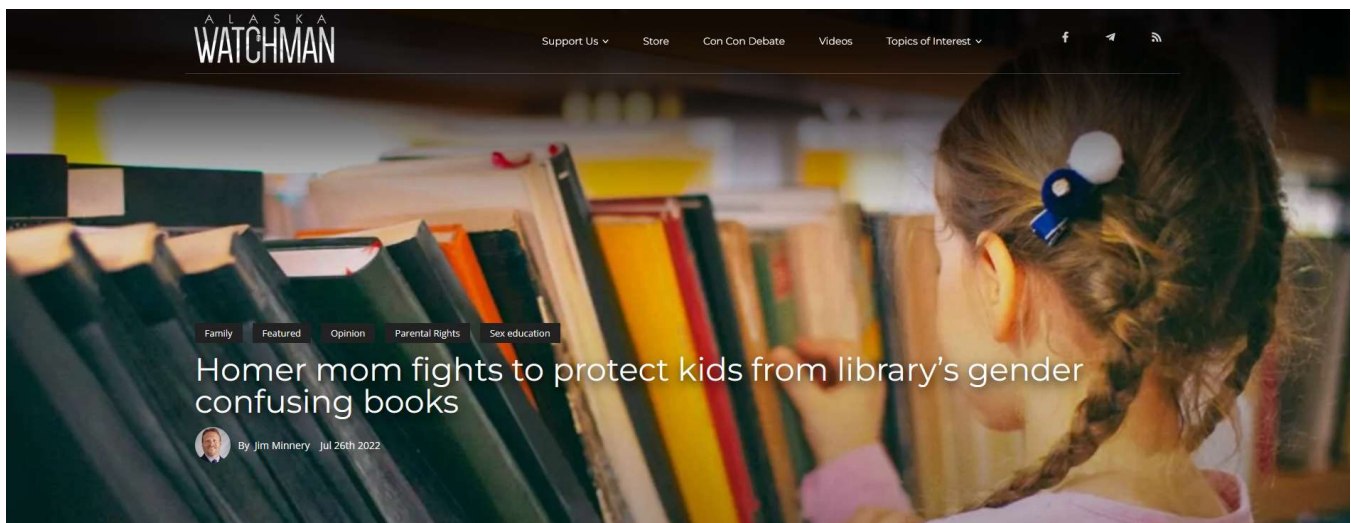
Director, Homer Public Library

907-435-3151 (office)

907-299-5490 (cell)

dberry@ci.homer.ak.us

Notice: Emails to and from this address are subject to disclosure under the Alaska public records law.



[By AlaskaWatchman.com](https://alaskawatchman.com)

As State Farm Insurance [learned recently](#), partnering with groups and leading the charge to get books on sexually perverse, gender-bending ideology into the hands of elementary school aged children will backfire when concerned parents step up.

Partnering with a group called [GenderCool](#), State Farm first denied, and then admitted to distributing LGBTQ books to public and school libraries that were targeted specifically to children. As Family Research Council [noted](#), “good neighbors” don’t assault the innocence of kids who are still learning their ABC’s.

Although State Farm made an extremely weak attempt to please both sides, and ended up upsetting both, the issue remains something diligent parents should be on the lookout for.

CAVEAT – This was a corporate headquarter decision by State Farm. Although many agents have participated, there are countless others who share our values.

Fortunately, Maddie V. in Homer, Alaska took the initiative to stand up when she found very disturbing and completely inappropriate books in the Homer Public Library children’s section recently.

Read her short testimony and if you’re in the Homer area, [sign her petition](#). If you know someone in that area, share this column. If you’re curious whether your own public or school library carries any of the books listed below, ask. And then take action. Alaska Family Action is here to equip and engage people just like Maddie to protect their children and stand up for what’s right. To impress upon our children what is true and right and natural.

I looked up a few of the books Maddy sent me. One that was particularly disturbing, although they’re all truly inappropriate, is the book titled “They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!” It is surreal and disconcerting to watch a young women read these nonsensical lies in a sing-songy, innocent fashion aimed at such young kids. Watch it [HERE](#) and realize we’re in a true battle for the hearts and minds of our future.

MADDY'S STORY

My name is Maddy. As a mother of three children under the age of 4, I spend a lot of time reading picture books.

When I take my children to the library, I encourage them to browse through the stacks of books and select the ones that jump out.

But these days I feel less and less comfortable with encouraging this behavior because some of the books mixed in the stacks are promoting LGBTQ ideology:

- Julian is a Mermaid
- Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress
- Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Wedding
- Sex is a Funny Word
- They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!
- Red: A Crayon's Story

I do not think these books are appropriate for impressionable little minds, and I think that at the very least parents should be the ones selecting these books for their children if that is something they want to introduce to their children.

If you think these books, and others like them, should be moved to the adult section of the Homer Public Library, sign my petition, and then share it with your friends.

- The petition online: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/relocate-lgbtq-books>
- The site for the petition: <https://bewarethejabberwock1500.wordpress.com/>
- Contact email for the petition: bewarethejabberwock1500@proton.me

Thank you so very much.

A MATTER OF INNOCENCE

If you think that kids don't need to stumble across picture books promoting drag queens and cross dressing.

If you still believe that pronouns are meant to describe factual realities and are not an arbitrary, self-declaration of perceived identity.

If you hold to the ancient history notion that we all agreed on ten years ago that kids should not have to think about who they might want to have sex with because kids are not sexual.

If you think that parents who know and love their kids best should have the say over when and where their children encounter LGBTQ and other sexually oriented topics.

Then you've come to the right place.

If you live in the Homer, Alaska area, and you want LGBTQ books to stay in the adult section, then please, sign and share [our petition](#). We're aiming for 1,500 signatures, and we need you to join the movement.

The views shared here are those of the author.

[Click here to support the Alaska Watchman.](#)

[Jim Minnery](#)

A lifelong Alaskan, Jim Minnery has served as the executive director of Alaska Family Council since its inception in 2006.

ALA Statement on Book Censorship

The American Library Association opposes widespread efforts to censor books in U.S. schools and libraries

CHICAGO - Due to a dramatic uptick in book challenges and outright removal of books from libraries, ALA's Executive Board and the Boards of Directors for all of ALA's eight divisions have released the following joint statement regarding attempts to remove materials that focus on LGBTQIA+ issues and books by Black authors or that document the Black experience or the experiences of other BIPOC individuals:

In recent months, a few organizations have advanced the proposition that the voices of the marginalized have no place on library shelves. To this end they have launched campaigns demanding the censorship of books and resources that mirror the lives of those who are gay, queer, or transgender, or that tell the stories of persons who are Black, Indigenous or persons of color. Falsely claiming that these works are subversive, immoral, or worse, these groups induce elected and non-elected officials to abandon constitutional principles, ignore the rule of law, and disregard individual rights to promote government censorship of library collections. Some of these groups even resort to intimidation and threats to achieve their ends, targeting the safety and livelihoods of library workers, educators, and board members who have dedicated themselves to public service, to informing our communities, and educating our youth.

ALA strongly condemns these acts of censorship and intimidation.

We are committed to defending the constitutional rights of all individuals, of all ages, to use the resources and services of libraries. We champion and defend the freedom to

speak, the freedom to publish, and the freedom to read, as promised by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

We stand opposed to censorship and any effort to coerce belief, suppress opinion, or punish those whose expression does not conform to what is deemed to be orthodox in history, politics, or belief. The unfettered exchange of ideas is essential to the preservation of a free and democratic society.

Libraries manifest the promises of the First Amendment by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas, so that every person has the opportunity to freely read and consider information and ideas regardless of their content or the viewpoint of the author. This requires the professional expertise of librarians who work in partnership with their communities to curate collections that serve the information needs of all their users.

In 1953, when confronted with comparable threats to our democratic values, the American Library Association issued the Freedom to Read Statement, a declaration in support of freedom to think or believe as one chooses, the freedom to express one's thoughts and beliefs without fear or retaliation, and the right to access information without restriction. ALA's Executive Board, staff, and member leaders reaffirm not only the principles of the Freedom to Read statement but also the daily practices that ensure it continues to inform the profession and that library workers and library trustees have the training, information, tools, and support they need to celebrate and defend their communities' right to read and to learn.

With the freedom to read under threat, the ALA, including its Executive Board, Divisions, Roundtables, and other units stand firmly with our members, the entire library community, allied organizations, and all those across this country who choose to

exercise their own right to read and access information freely, and we call on others to do the same.

American Library Association Executive Board

American Association of School Librarians Board of Directors

Association of College and Research Libraries Board of Directors

Association for Library Service to Children Board of Directors

Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures Board of Directors

Public Library Association Board of Directors

Reference and User Services Association Board of Directors

Young Adult Library Services Association Board of Directors

United for Libraries Board of Directors

The American Library Association's (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is actively involved in providing confidential legal guidance and strategic support to libraries and library professionals in communities across the country impacted by the recent surge in book challenges. From June 1, 2021, to September 30, 2021, OIF has tracked 155 unique censorship incidents, and provided direct support and consultation in 120 of those cases. "We're seeing an unprecedented volume of challenges in the fall of 2021," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, OIF's Director. "In my twenty years with ALA, I can't recall a time when we had multiple challenges coming in on a daily basis."

Established December 1, 1967, the Office for Intellectual Freedom is the premier advocate for the First Amendment right to read in libraries.

OIF and ALA divisions and offices provide tools and resources for libraries, including [challenge support](#); [consulting and training](#); and awareness campaigns like [Banned Books Week](#) and the annual [Top 10 Most Challenged Books](#) list. Other support for library workers facing book challenges include [the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund](#), devoted to the support, maintenance, and welfare of librarians whose employment is threatened because of discrimination or because of their defense of intellectual freedom. A clearinghouse of resources is available on ALA's [Fight Censorship](#) page.

Contact:

Inquiries and reports regarding intellectual freedom:

OIF@ala.org

Press inquiries:

Macey Morales, Deputy Director

Communications and Marketing Office

mmorales@ala.org

11/29/2021

1. Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe

Reasons: Banned, challenged, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, and because it was considered to have sexually explicit images

2. Lawn Boy by Jonathan Evison

Reasons: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

3. All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson

Reasons: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, profanity, and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

4. Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Perez

Reasons: Banned, challenged, and restricted for depictions of abuse and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

5. The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity, violence, and because it was thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda

6. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references and use of a derogatory term

7. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews

Reasons: Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and degrading to women

8. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Reasons: Banned and challenged because it depicts child sexual abuse and was considered sexually explicit

9. This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson

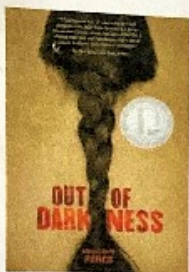
Reasons: Banned, challenged, relocated, and restricted for providing sexual education and LGBTQIA+ content.

10. Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin

Reasons: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit.

ACA's List of 10 MOST CHALLENGED Books 2021:

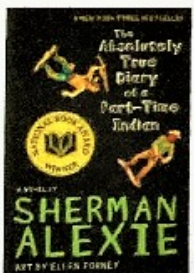
1,597 Books were targeted (library, school & university)



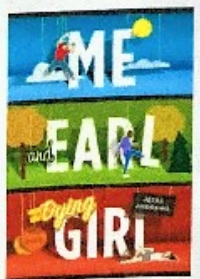
Out of Darkness by
Ashley Hope Pérez
ISBN:
9781467742023



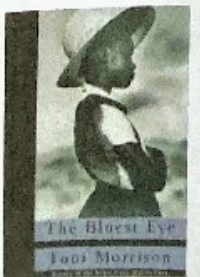
The Hate U Give by
Angie Thomas
ISBN:
9780062498533



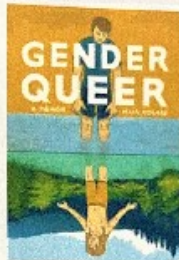
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by
Sherman Alexie; Ellen Forney
(Illustrator)
ISBN: 9780316013680



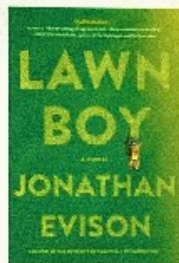
Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews
ISBN:
9781419701764



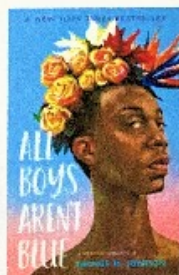
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
ISBN:
9780679433736



Gender Queer: a Memoir by
Maia Kobabe
ISBN:
9781549304002



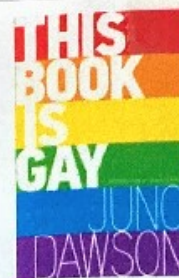
Lawn Boy by
Jonathan Evison
ISBN:
9781616202620



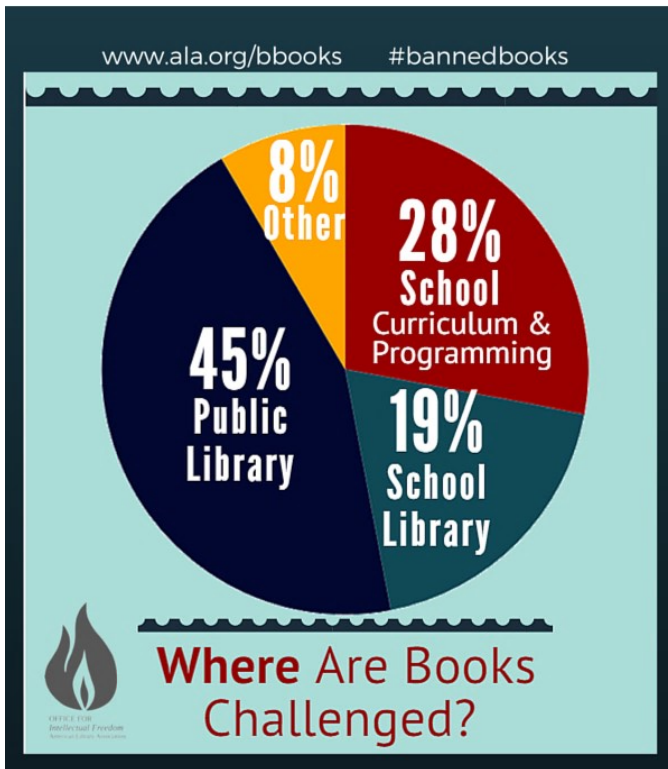
All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson
ISBN:
9780374312718



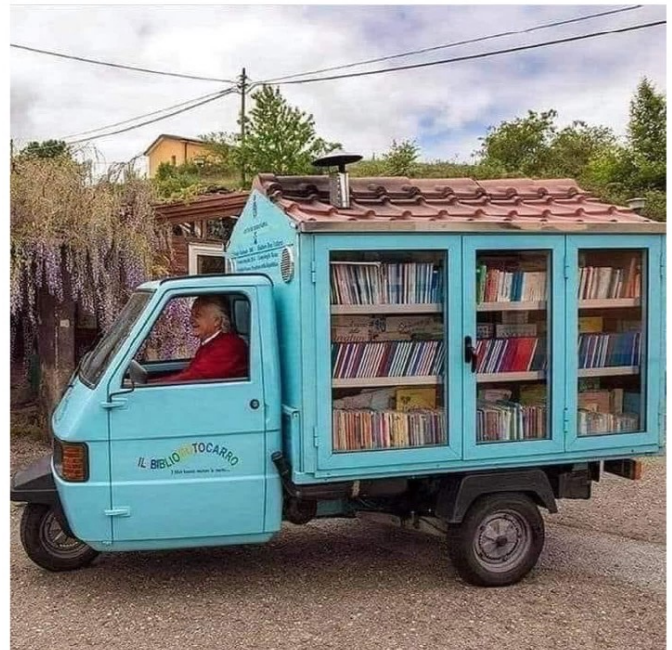
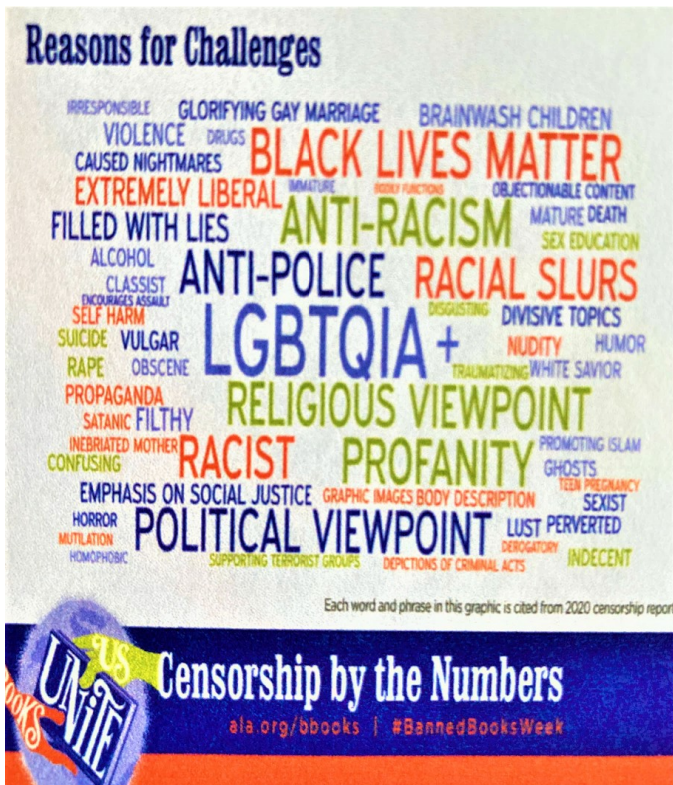
Beyond Magenta by
Susan Kuklin (Photographer)
ISBN:
9780763673680



This Book Is Gay by James Dawson; David Levithan (Introduction by)
ISBN:
9781492617822



**THE LIBRARY
IS THE TEMPLE
OF LEARNING
AND LEARNING
HAS LIBERATED
MORE PEOPLE
THAN ALL
THE WARS
IN HISTORY**





Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 9, 2022
SUBJECT: BUDGET EXPECTATIONS FOR FY2024/25

The City budget planning process for FY2024/25 has just begun. With the possible exception of the Library Western Lot project, we have no major new initiatives on the horizon. However, a number of factors are driving up the cost of operations, which will translate into a need for greater expenditures:

- Inflation
- Increasing rates for services (utilities, postage, and software in particular)
- Costs for communications are uncertain but expected to rise
- Membership dues may also rise
- Signs of age affecting the building—roof leaks, failures in the HVAC system, worn-out carpeting, countertops in need of refurbishment, etc. Office computers are due for replacement. I expect to pursue funding for these repairs through the capital improvement budget rather than through ordinary operating funds.

The existing City budget was designed to reach through June 30, 2023, and would probably be sufficient in the absence of inflation. Given that every City office is facing the same situation, I predict there will be mid-year adjustments in coming months.

RECOMMENDATION

For informational purposes.



Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2022
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON LIBRARY WESTERN LOT PROJECT

Friends of the Homer Library have been working closely with the National Park Service to design improvements to the library's western lot. After many meetings with community groups, surveys of trail users, and consultations with landscape architects, the proposals will be winnowed down to two general designs.

In coming months all the interested parties will solicit input from the general public. Based on feedback from the community as a whole, the designs may be adjusted or finalized for presentation to the City Council. If all goes well, trail improvements might be constructed in the summer of 2023.

Upcoming public information sessions:

- There are currently informational signs at all four corners of the western lot, describing the project in broad outlines.
- September 10th Book and Plant Sale in the library – The Friends will have an information table with surveys, maps and a written description of the proposal. Friends will be on hand to answer questions. At the same time, the library website will provide a page dedicated to the project, with a webform for comments.
- October 7th 4:30-6:30 and October 8th 12:00-2:00 Open house at the library – There will be presentations and a walkthrough of the site, weather permitting.

RECOMMENDATION

I encourage LAB members to visit one of the information sessions and contribute suggestions.

News

[Home >](#)

[Making Libraries a Safe Space for Communities and the Library Staff Who
Serve Them](#)

August 5, 2022

Making Libraries a Safe Space for Communities and the Library Staff Who Serve Them

“Before this study, many library staff believed they were the only ones experiencing stressful or traumatic events at work. This study shows they are not alone and that we need to do something to support urban library staff experiencing workplace trauma.”

– Lauren Comito, Executive Director of Urban Libraries Unite and Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the Leonard Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library

In addition to being a place where people can discover new books, libraries are a community resource that offer a place to do homework, hold kids’ story time, access the internet, and provide individuals without homes an escape from the elements. However, the combination of these important responsibilities can mean that libraries are not always a safe place for library staff or patrons. The Urban Library Trauma Study’s survey of urban libraries found that 68.5% of staff have experienced violent or aggressive behavior at work from patrons. In trying to meet the needs of their patrons, library staff are serving as untrained social workers, while also experiencing racism, discrimination, threats, and violence in the workplace. The recently released [Urban Library Trauma Study](#) examines workplace trauma faced by library staff and explores strategies to make libraries safer for everyone. Libraries can serve as incredible community assets and can even be sources of trauma-responsive services, but more needs to happen to make this possible.

The Urban Library Trauma Study serves as both a cautionary tale and an opportunity for employers throughout the nation. Without appropriate supports in place, there is risk of losing library employees to burnout and perpetuating these traumatic and stressful experiences. Many of the library staff surveyed in the study cited the way incidents were handled by their organizations as the source of their trauma, saying that they did not feel adequately supported during or after the event or that their experiences were downplayed or ignored, leading to secondary traumatic stress and high rates of burnout.

The Trauma-Responsive Workplace

Pathways to Resilience believes all employers should consider offering job-oriented training about the impact of trauma on overall health and wellbeing, including secondary trauma. This is particularly important in industries providing services or requiring regular interaction with high-risk individuals or the general public.

Some states, including Delaware, have already started developing tools for training state employees and community partners on the impact of exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), promoting ACE awareness, and improving services and interventions for children and families exposed to trauma.

In October 2018, Governor Carney signed [Executive Order 24](#), requiring creation of [tools and training](#) about trauma for state employees. “As state employees designing and delivering services, we cannot effectively support residents in preventing and healing from trauma unless we ourselves understand the sources and long-term impacts of trauma and toxic stress. Executive Order 24 was established for just this reason” according to Alonna Berry, Delaware’s Policy Advisor and Statewide Trauma-Informed Care Coordinator in the Office of Governor John Carney, and Pathways to Resilience [Advisory Committee](#) member. “We hope that Delaware’s work can help guide other states, but there’s so much we’re also hoping to learn through *Pathways to Resilience* as an employer and for our residents.”

Although the Urban Library Trauma Study is intended to build a framework for mitigating workplace trauma for library staff, study findings and examples set by the State of Delaware and others serve as an important launch pad. Stay tuned for more information about the role of employers in trauma-responsiveness at www.Pathways-US.org.

Rachel Tussey

From: David Berry
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 4:54 PM
To: Rachel Tussey
Subject: FW: Reminder: Public Librarians' Chat: Library Board Training Resources

One other thing: can we add the information below as an informational item at the end of the packet?

Cheers!

Dave B.

Library Board Training Resources Provided by the Alaska State Library

The webinar will introduce participants to the six essential ingredients for effective board governance, review some commonly identified issues affecting library boards in Alaska, and walk participants through the process of registering and accessing Short Takes for Trustees, a series of 10 videos from United for Libraries. Other topics covered in the webinar include freely available training resources from the Resources for Library Trustees libguide, Board Source, United for Libraries and Foraker.

Please ask Dave for the registration information if you are interested in participating. Everyone that registers for the webinar will be emailed a link to the recording.

Library Board Training Resources

Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM Alaska

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2022 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/24 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/28 6:00 p.m.	
MARCH	Wednesday 3/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/15 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/29** 6:00 p.m.	• Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/25 6:00 p.m.	• Terms Expire April 1 st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • Celebration of Lifelong Learning; National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 5/23 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE		No Regular Meeting		
JULY		No Regular Meeting		
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/22 6:00 p.m.	• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/26 6:00 p.m.	• Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/12 5:00 p.m.	Monday 10/17*** 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/24 6:00 p.m.	
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/28 6:00 p.m.	• National Friends of Libraries Week • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/20 5:30 p.m.	1/10/2022 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*The Board's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Board's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.

**The City Council March meeting will be held on a Tuesday due to Seward's Day.

***The LAB October meeting will be held on a Monday due to Day being on Tuesday 10/18.