



The Mary E. Bartlett Library Brentwood, New Hampshire



OPEN ACCESS TO IDEAS AND INFORMATION POLICY

A. Intellectual Freedom

Mary E. Bartlett Library recognizes its responsibility to provide open access to the widest possible range of ideas and information for its patrons. To that end, the library provides a collection of materials, displays, and exhibits, library-sponsored programs and space for programs sponsored by others. All of these form the package of services in support of the library's mission.

1. The library endorses the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the various interpretations of this set down by the American Library Association.
2. The library pledges to maintain the confidentiality of those who use the library, and to resist any attempts by individuals or institutions seeking to break that confidentiality.
3. The library will resist any attempt to remove or restrict the use of any material because some party objects to its content.
4. The library will not attempt to bias patrons through prejudicial labeling for any reason.
5. The library will proactively assert the right of all persons in the community to engage in the free exchange of ideas, however unseemly or objectionable they may seem to other persons.
6. The final responsibility for what an individual reads, views or listens to lies within that individual. Parents are responsible for the choices their children make. The library will not limit selection based on the possibility that someone might object to content.
7. All library services will comply with local, state and federal laws.
8. No service shall be rejected or curtailed because of the race, color, gender, sexual orientation or creed of the author, editor, illustrator, or presenter.
9. Library services will be offered based on their ability to fulfill the library's mission, and shall not be excluded because of certain components taken out of context. Selection, not censorship, will be practiced.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees April 17, 2006