Intellectual Freedom Policy

I. Purpose

A. The purpose of this policy is to affirm the Mount Prospect Public Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and the right of all individuals to access information without censorship, bias, or discrimination. This policy guides the library's approach to providing services in a manner that supports the constitutional freedoms of inquiry and expression.

II. Scope

A. This policy applies to all materials, resources, services, programs, and displays provided by the Mount Prospect Public Library (MPPL). It informs library staff, trustees, and the public of MPPL's position on intellectual freedom and guides efforts to uphold the rights and meet the needs of the community.

III. Guiding Principles

A. MPPL is committed to providing open and equitable access to information for all individuals in the community. In support of this mission, the Board of Library Trustees affirms the core principles of intellectual freedom as outlined by the American Library Association (ALA), including the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the Freedom to View Statement.

B. MPPL recognizes that its materials, resources, services, programs, and displays may have content that may be considered objectionable by some individuals based on personal, cultural, moral, or religious beliefs. The library affirms that the responsibility for determining appropriateness rests with the individual user, or with a parent or guardian in the case of minors. MPPL does not restrict access solely because it may be deemed offensive by some members of the community. Instead, the library supports the right of each individual to make informed choices about the resources they use, fostering an environment of intellectual freedom and personal responsibility.

C. Access to the library's collections and services shall not be restricted based on race, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, physical appearance, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic level, education level and any other legally protected characteristics of the individual. MPPL upholds the right of every individual to use the library without discrimination or suppression of ideas.

D. In accordance with the Illinois State Library System Act (75 ILCS 10/8.7), MPPL formally adopts the ALA's Library Bill of Rights, asserting that no material should be removed or suppressed due to political, religious, or ideological disagreement. The library affirms its responsibility to offer a robust and varied collection that meets the informational, educational, and cultural needs of its patrons and does not support the banning of specific materials.

IV. Collection Development

A. For comprehensive information regarding the criteria and procedures for the selection and evaluation of resources and materials, please refer to the library's Collection Development Policy.

Revision History
Adopted July 17, 2025