



OCEAN SHORES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy: 7.0 Intellectual Freedom

Adopted by Library Board of Trustees July 2021

7.1 Washington Library Association Intellectual Freedom Statement

The Ocean Shores Public Library (OSL) subscribes to the Washington Library Association Intellectual Freedom Statement as adapted below. OSL supports the principle of free, open, and unrestricted access to information and ideas regardless of the medium in which they exist. A democracy can only succeed if individuals have access to the information necessary to form opinions and make decisions on issues affecting their lives. Libraries play a key role in providing access to this information. The OSL regards this access as a right of all individuals. Therefore, the OSL believes that libraries have a responsibility to provide access to a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints.

The OSL believes that parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to guide their own children in the exercise of their rights of access.

The OSL recognizes privacy and confidentiality as essential components of intellectual freedom.

The OSL encourages and supports local community involvement in developing policies that uphold the United States and Washington State constitutional guarantees of free speech and intellectual freedom.

The OSL endorses the American Library Association's Code of Ethics, Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, and the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations.

Therefore, the Ocean Shores Public Library opposes censorship and restrictions on access to the full range of constitutionally protected materials and speech.