



OCEAN SHORES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy: 7.0 Intellectual Freedom

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 affirms that parents and legal guardians have the right and sole 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.