

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY BY-LAWS, adopted May 21, 1969

CENSORSHIP

- A. The board, officers, paid and volunteer staff, and committees of the Library, while avoiding acquisition or retention of materials of little merit or little interest to the members and users of the Library, shall neither censor nor promote by disproportionate emphasis any particular political, moral, philosophical, patriotic, religious, or esthetic conviction, opinions, or modes of expression.
- B. The Board, officers, paid and volunteer staff, and committees of the Library shall oppose, resist, and disregard every form of censorship from any source or authority, not excluding the Association. The fact that a book or other material may be the subject of a prosecution in the State of New York or elsewhere, or of a court decision in another state, or of a Federal court decision involving importation, use of the mails, or interstate commerce shall be presumed to have no legal consequence to the Library, except that the precise terms of an order of a court competent jurisdiction shall not be violated.
- C. The policies of the Library shall be based on the following considerations:
- a. That many books and other materials which have been most controversial or objectionable to some persons or groups have, in due course been recognized to be amongst those which most, rather than least, belong in public libraries;
  - b. That if any idea or expression is truly dangerous or evil, the best protection against it is a public that has been exposed to it and has rejected it, and the least protection is a public that has been shielded from it by official or self-appointed guardians;
  - c. That the guarantees of free speech and free press in the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New York apply with more than usual, not less than usual, force to controversial or objectionable expression;
  - d. That if a member or user of the Library wishes to find out for himself whether any particular book or other material is worthless, tasteless, vicious, or inaccurate, it is the duty of the Library, within its ability, to give him an opportunity to do so.
- No act of any officer, librarian, or committee of the Library in accordance with these policies and considerations shall be reversed, countermanded, or penalized by any officer, librarian, or committee of the Library or by the Board of Trustees.
- D. In the event that any person or group shall object to the Library's acquisition, display or retention of any book or other material on political, moral, philosophical, patriotic, religious, or esthetic grounds, the objection shall be recognized as an indication that the book or material in question may well be of more than routine interest and may be likely to be desired by persons who wish to judge its merits and demerits for themselves. Objectors shall be notified of the Library's policies, either by provision to them of a copy of this By-Law or by other suitable means.