

Philosophical Principles Policy

Policy Statement

Public libraries are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources and information in libraries is imperative for informing, educating, enlightening and entertaining the people of our community. The library Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of codifying and making known to the public the ethical principles that guide the work of the profession, library trustees and employees.

Regulations

1. The foundation of modern librarianship rests on an essential set of core values that define, inform and guide our professional practice. These values reflect the history and ongoing development of the profession. The values of the Rochester Hills Public Library are:
 - To honor the past and help create the future
 - To promote literacy and lifelong learning.
 - To connect people to ideas.
 - To respect the individuality and diversity of all people.
 - To value the freedom to form, to hold, and to express individual beliefs.
 - To respect all forms by which knowledge is communicated.
 - To assure free and open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works.
 - To pursue quality in all we do.
 - To seek partnerships to advance our values.
2. The library trustees and staff will discharge their duties in compliance with the ALA's *Code of Ethics*.
3. The library supports intellectual freedom and has adopted the ALA's *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations including the statements on privacy, meeting rooms, exhibit spaces and bulletin boards.
4. Recognizing that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture and is guaranteed by the Constitution, the library endorses the ALA's *Freedom to Read Statement* and the *Freedom to View Statement*.
5. Recognizing that the library is a public institution, its operation shall be open and transparent to the public which it serves.

Approved: March 10, 2008

Rochester Hills Public Library Board of Trustees