

## **Statement on the Principles of Intellectual Freedom.**

This statement on the principles of intellectual freedom is adapted from the American Library Association document *Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries*. This statement on intellectual freedom is intended to be compatible with and support the University of Mary [Statement on Academic Freedom](#).

It is vital to acknowledge that a strong intellectual freedom perspective is critical to the development of academic library collections and services that dispassionately meet the education and research needs of a college or university community. This statement outlines how and where intellectual freedom principles are applied and expressed in everything the Welder Library does in support of providing a robust, relevant, and balanced library collection for the University of Mary community. The following principles pertain.

1. The general principles set forth in the American Library Association document the *Library Bill of Rights* are endorsed and provide a framework for building collections, services, and policies that serve the entire academic community at the University of Mary.

2. The privacy of library users is and must be inviolable. Policies are in place that maintain confidentiality of library borrowing records and of other information relating to personal use of library information and services.

3. In the interests of learning and research, it is essential that collections contain materials representing a variety of perspectives on subjects that may be considered contentious or polemical. Accordingly, the development of library collections in Welder Library support all instruction and research programs, and transcend the personal values of those that select library materials.

4. Preservation and replacement efforts of the library collection ensure that the balance in library materials is maintained and that contentious or polemical materials are not removed from the collections through theft, loss, mutilation, or normal wear and tear. The Library staff are alert to efforts to bias the collection through systematic theft or mutilation of library materials.

5. Licensing agreements for library resources are consistent with the Library Bill of Rights, and maximize access to online resources.

6. Freedom of information and creative expression is reflected in library exhibits and all relevant library policy documents.

7. Library meeting rooms, research carrels, exhibit spaces, and other facilities are available to the

academic community regardless of research being pursued or subject being discussed. Any restrictions made necessary because of limited availability of space is based on need, as reflected in library policy, rather than on content of research or discussion.

8. Whenever possible, library services are available without charge to encourage inquiry. Where charges are necessary, free or low-cost alternative (e.g., downloading to disc rather than printing) are available.

9. The Welder Library is fully committed to equal access to information for all in the community without discrimination on the basis of race, values, gender, sexual orientation, cultural or ethnic background, physical or learning disability, economic status, religious beliefs, or views.

10. Procedures are in place to deal with requests or challenges by those within and outside the academic community for removal or addition of library resources, exhibits, or services.