

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM (RAILS)

RESOLUTION NO. 23-01

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 103-100**

WHEREAS, the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (“*RAILS*”) is an Illinois library system existing and operating pursuant to the Illinois Library Systems Act, 75 ILCS 10/1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2023, the Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 103-100 (“*Act*”) to encourage and protect the freedom of libraries and library systems to acquire materials without external limitation and to be protected against attempts to ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to books or other materials; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides that in order to be eligible for State of Illinois grants, Illinois libraries and Illinois library systems must either (i) adopt the American Library Association (ALA) Library Bill of Rights or, in the alternative, (ii) develop a written policy prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials within the library or library system; and

WHEREAS, the RAILS Board of Directors finds and determines that adopting the ALA Library Bill of Rights, in conformance with the Act, is in the best interests of the public and its member libraries.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System Board of Directors, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The above stated recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Adopting the ALA Library Bill of Rights. In furtherance of and in conformance with Public Act 103-100, the RAILS Board of Directors hereby adopts the ALA Library Bill of Rights (attached as Exhibit A), as it may be amended from time-to-time.

Section 3. Severability. In the event that any section, clause, provision, or part of this Resolution is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all remaining provisions will continue in full force and effect.

Section 4. Repeal and Savings Clause. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution will be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

This Resolution is hereby APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of November 2023.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors

Exhibit A

ALA Bill of Rights

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the *Library Bill of Rights* are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as [Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights](#).

*Citation: "Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association, June 30, 2006.
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> (Accessed November 7, 2023)
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