



Round Lake Area Public Library  
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[www.rlalibrary.org](http://www.rlalibrary.org)

### **Media Access Policy**

The Round Lake Area Public Library will not restrict access of any material, in any of format, to any patron based on race, religion, national origin, age, gender, or views and upholds the American Library Association (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, Free Access to Libraries for Minors Statement, and Library Bill of Rights, noting:

Article V of the Library Bill of Rights states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights states, "The 'right to use a library' includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, literacy skills, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.

. . . [P]arents—and only parents—have the right and responsibility to restrict access of their children—and only their children—to library resources. Parents who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children. Librarians and library governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child.

Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

This policy replaces and supersedes any previous material restriction policies.