

The Freedom to View Statement

JPAB Policy # 307
Reaffirmed: 6/1/2017

The freedom to view, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, we affirm these principles:

1. It is in the public interest to provide the broadest possible access to films and other audiovisual materials because they have proven to be among the most effective means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. It is in the public interest to provide for our audiences films and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
3. It is our professional responsibility to resist the constraint of labeling or prejudging a film on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker, or on the basis of controversial content.
4. It is our professional responsibility to contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

Adopted by the Educational Film Library Association in February, 1979, and endorsed in June, 1979 by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association. Adopted by the Santa Cruz City/County Library System [citizen] Board in December 1987, and by the Library Oversight Committee at its first meeting on November 3, 1988. Confirmed by the Library Joint Powers Authority Board in July 1997.