

Strategic Plan 2007 – 2011

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Message from Library Board Chair

A strategic plan is necessary for any growing and vital public institution. The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library staff and the Library Board created this plan to serve as a guide for the future of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. The Library Board is excited by the vision it presents for improving services to all our patrons by expanding and renovating library facilities, and by improving both our visibility in the community and our ability to attract funding. The Board is particularly excited by plans for enhanced children's programming in our libraries and more active outreach to the public schools. The strategic plan incorporates the specific, concrete goals for meeting identified needs, and the flexibility to address emerging issues as we work together to make each branch library an even more inviting, accessible, and relevant resource for the citizens of Montgomery and Floyd counties.

Molly Cox
Chair, Library Board of Trustees
Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Library Board of Trustees, 2007-2008:

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Adopted August 15, 2007

Introduction

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library's Strategic Plan 2007-2011 concentrates on providing service to children, funding, marketing and expanding/renovating the two oldest buildings. It is an ambitious plan but also provides flexibility to grow and change as time passes. The Plan is a collaborative effort between staff and Library Board members and I would like to thank all those who participated in the process.

The Library seeks to be visible and active in the lives of our citizens, providing tools so they may succeed in this fast-paced, information-driven society, entertainment so they may enjoy life to the fullest and technology so that they may stay connected to the world beyond southwest Virginia.

As this plan takes us into the next decade, I believe the book in its physical form will remain with us and that reading will continue to be the most important skill needed for children to succeed in school and in life. The Library is here to encourage that skill and make them lifelong readers, to grow with them in that skill and ensure that they have a book to hold in their hands to enjoy that skill.

Recognizing that we cannot tell what will happen in the future, even five years in the future, we will adjust these goals and make changes as we go along so that this plan may grow with us as we near the end of the first decade of the 21st century.

Paula Alston
Library Director
Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Mission Statement

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library provides current information and entertainment in response to community needs and requests. Our libraries have friendly, knowledgeable staff in a welcoming environment. We work together with the public and organizations to improve resources and services in order to provide opportunities for personal growth and enhanced quality of life for the members of our community.

Vision statement

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library seeks to strengthen our community by providing individuals with access to a full range of information, experiences and ideas.

Service Responses

Current topics and titles: A library that provides *current topics and titles* helps to fulfill community residents' appetite for information about popular cultural and social trends and their desire for satisfying recreational experiences.

Lifelong learning: A library that provides *lifelong learning* services helps address the desire for self-directed personal growth and development opportunities.

General information: A library that offers *general information* helps meet the need for information and answers to questions on a broad array of topics related to work, school and personal life.

Commons: A library that provides a *commons environment* helps address the need of people to meet and interact with others in their community and to participate in public discourse about community issues.

Goals

Goal #1: Funding

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (MFRL) seeks to ensure that the library system is supported by the community, that library representatives are visible throughout the community and that the library system has sustainable funding to meet increasing demands and to fund new initiatives.

Current situation: The library system is funded by the counties of Montgomery and Floyd. Funding has been flat for several years and several line items are severely under-funded, including the materials line item, making it increasingly difficult to keep the collection current and vital for our citizens.

Objective A: Increase revenues from governmental sources

Measure: An adequately funded budget that allows MFRL to carry out its mission and provide exemplary service to the citizens of Montgomery and Floyd Counties.

Activities:

- Continue to engage local Boards of Supervisors in a shared vision for an exemplary public library system.
- Increase the library's role in promoting economic development, quality of life, education and job readiness to local government officials.
- Continue to campaign for full funding of State Aid for public libraries by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Objective B: Increase revenues from non-governmental sources to diversify funding

Measure: An endowment of secure, long term funds that will allow MFRL to achieve its strategic goals in years to come.

Activities:

- Assist and support the MFRL Foundation Board to establish long term funding and revenue generation.
- Budget for and train staff to provide administrative support for the MFRL Foundation.
- Obtain grant writing training for one or more staff members.
- Cultivate financial partnerships for library services, programs, and equipment by developing an annual "wish list" for businesses and civic groups.

Goal #2: Outreach to Schools

MFRL seeks to become a more integral part of the communities we serve by reaching out to students, parents and school professionals to encourage reading, assist in the completion of school assignments, and advocate for overall academic success.

Current situation: MFRL does not have adequate staff or a children's librarian who can establish a relationship with local schools and their media specialists.

Objective A: Visits to Schools

Measure: 100% of the public schools in Montgomery & Floyd Counties will be visited by MFRL staff members to promote the Summer Reading Program and other services.

Activities:

- Identify schools for which initial collaboration efforts will be focused and develop a realistic timeframe for reaching all schools.
- Visit all elementary schools to promote Summer Reading Program to 3rd grade students (see Goal 3, objective D).
- Attend Back to School Nights to introduce students, parents and teachers to MFRL services and to register them for library cards.
- Attend faculty meetings and teacher orientations to inform teachers and administrators of MFRL services and programs.

Objective B: Communicating with schools about MFRL programs and services

Measure: Both library card applications from school age children and attendance at children's programs will increase by 5% each year.

Activities:

- Implement Library Card Campaign each fall for fifth grade students.
- Provide schools with information about special children's programming.

Objective C: Partnerships

Measure: Identify and implement 3 annual partnerships.

Activities:

- Research opportunities for selected schools to co-sponsor grants for specific programs.
- Invite kindergarten classes to tour branch libraries in their area.
- Approach high school guidance counselors about possible joint programming for college preparation and to promote MFRL databases.
- Establish and promote ways for teachers to send Homework Alerts to branches near their schools.
- Work with school personnel to create and promote summer reading lists.
- Consult with school personnel about cost sharing of databases.
- Establish an ongoing program to display student art projects.
- Ask schools to include library card applications with school supply lists.
- Provide reciprocal webpage links.
- Meet with home school families and groups to discuss how MFRL can help address their needs.
- Contact private school administrators to discuss collaborations similar to those with public schools.

Goal #3: Programming

MFRL seeks to become a more frequent destination for the members of our community by offering quality programming that will entertain and inform and will be of interest to different segments of our population.

Current situation: The number of programs currently being offered is not adequate for the population MFRL serves.

Objective A: Each branch will create a signature program that celebrates their community's uniqueness

Measure: Each branch annually will plan and present a full day program.

Activities:

- Each branch will decide on a topic and plan a program.
- Each branch will choose groups/institutions as partners for the program.

Objective B: Each branch will offer programs designed to appeal to specific demographics such as different age groups

Measure: Each branch will have at least two programs annually targeting specific demographics.

Activities:

- Create two programs for adults.
- Create two programs for teens.
- Create two special programs that are not story times for elementary school children.
- Create two special programs that are not story times for preschool children.

Objective C: Increase participation and support for library programs

Measure: Increase attendance by 10 % each year.

Activities:

- E-mail notification about special programs.
- Ask participants to complete a written survey after each program to measure success.

- Establish relationships and collaborate with area newspapers to increase media coverage.
- Increase the number of organizations that provide, cosponsor or attend library programs.

Objective D: Promote the Summer Reading Program (SRP)

Measure: Increase participation each year to reach a total of 20 % over a 5 year period.

Activities:

- Visit all elementary schools to promote the SRP to 3rd grade students.
- Create a marketing effort to publicize the SRP in the community.
- Create and distribute SRP brochures and distribute to schools by mid-May each year.
- Promote the SRP to daycares, school camps and summer camps.
- Continue to solicit donations from businesses to support the SRP.

Goal #4: Collections and Services

MFRL shall continue to develop a robust collection and other services which meet a variety of interests in our community.

Current situation: The current collection is strong. MFRL provides popular materials in adequate numbers to satisfy patron demand but a smaller book budget will diminish any progress made thus far. The aging bookmobile will need to be replaced and its schedule stabilized.

Objective A: Continue to provide materials in a variety of formats at all locations

Measure: Libraries have a well rounded, well used collection.

Activities:

- Continue to investigate and consider new formats, such as downloadable audio/video, as they become more affordable.
- Continue to provide a strong print collection which will meet the educational and entertainment needs of patrons.
- Increase the number of high demand, currently popular books and DVD's.
- Continue to develop the audio-visual collection.
- Investigate digitizing the genealogy collection in Floyd.
- Continue to develop the genealogy collection in Christiansburg.

Objective B: Continue to serve the under-served with outreach and bookmobile services

Measure: The bookmobile is replaced with a smaller bus or van and is able to maintain an established schedule and provide outreach services to those in need.

Activities:

- Replace the 1991 bookmobile with a smaller version when the current one is no longer operational.
- Continue to seek out and provide service to daycares, private schools and assisted living residents.

Objective C: Marketing the library

Measure: More MFRL press releases are published.

Activities:

- Continue with the READ poster promotion.
- Write separate press releases for special programs.
- Consistently follow up with the local press to encourage publication of press releases.

Objective D: Increase card holders from 38% to 50%.

Measure: 50% of the population of Montgomery and Floyd counties will have library cards.

Activities:

- Create campaign to sign-up all 5th graders.
- Present library card campaign to freshman and sophomore student government associations.

Objective E: Increase circulation at all branches

Measure: Circulation increases by 5% each year.

Activities:

- Ensure that the annual materials budget is enough to purchase adequate numbers of titles with broad appeal and frequent circulation.
- Consistently promote a tie-in between materials from the collection and library programs and actively encourage checkouts.

Goal #5: Facilities

MFRL shall establish and maintain functional, accessible, safe and attractive facilities.

Current situation: Plans are underway to renovate and expand the Jessie Peterman Library in Floyd. The Christiansburg Library is 20 years old and showing its age. It needs to be renovated and enlarged to provide better accessibility for patrons.

Objective A: Renovate and expand the Jessie Peterman Library

Measure: New, expanded library is completed.

Activities:

- Strive for no more than a 10% drop in statistics during construction.
- Establish a Floyd update link on the MFRL website.
- Partner with various community groups to provide display furniture for the Genealogy room and benches, birdhouses, and landscaping for the grounds.

Objective B: Plan renovation of Christiansburg facility

Measure: Building is completely renovated.

Activities:

- Complete landscaping in front of the building.
- Install new entrance doors.
- Improve parking lot lighting.
- Plan for expansion of 2500-5000 square feet to include a separate children's area with a story time room, a genealogy room and a private study area.
- Renovate the existing building to include carpeting, updated bathrooms and foyer and reconfiguring staff area.

Objective C: Make all libraries more accessible to speakers of other languages

Measure: Patronage from targeted population groups will increase by 10%.

Activities:

- Identify target populations through census data and community resources.
- Partner with other community groups to increase awareness of library services.
- Create signage at each branch to reach specific non-English speaking sector.
- Create and make available welcome brochures in other languages.

Objective D: Make library services more accessible to aging population

Measure: Completion of all activities.

Activities:

- Provide at least one rolling cart in each branch.
- Provide browsing bags or baskets in each branch.
- Increase large type and audio book collections by 5%.
- Create a Senior Center link on the library webpage.
- Add a button which will allow patrons to increase type size on the webpage.
- Develop a senior area in each library with items of interest to seniors including library material and information from other resources.

Objective E: Improve service available to teens

Measure: Teen circulation will increase by 10%.

Activities:

- Increase materials that appeal to teens by 15%.
- Create a dedicated teen area with teen-friendly furniture in each branch.
- Enhance each teen area to comfortably accommodate laptop computers.
- Create music listening stations.

Objective F: Plan for a library in the Riner area

Measure: Possibilities for opening a branch in the Riner area, as stated in the June 25, 2007 (draft) Riner Village Plan, have been investigated.

Activities:

- Work with members of the Riner Community and the Planning Commission to develop a concept for a public library in the area.

Goal #6: Technology

MFRL will stay abreast of the technology needs of our community.

Current situation: MFRL's current level of funding is not sufficient to maintain an appropriate computer replacement schedule or to stay abreast of software changes or to consider adding new types of material to the collection.

Objective A: Offer more computers for the general public

Measure: Each branch has an adequate number of public computers to handle peak times.

Activities:

- Reconfigure computer areas to make space for more computers.
- Design labs to be in an open area for the public but unobtrusive and able to be reserved for groups.
- Maintain the replacement schedule for computers as outlined in the MFRL technology plan.
- Provide early literacy computer stations in each branch to help children with literacy skills.

Objective B: Install express checkout computers at each location

Measure: Express checkouts are available at Floyd and Meadowbrook.

Activities:

- Compile usage statistics of current 3M express machines and compare each branch's circulation figures.
- Consider other alternatives to the 3M machines.

Objective C: Make website a useful tool

Measure: The website meets quality standards and usage increases.

Activities:

- Keep content fresh and updated to encourage return visits.
- Track usage of website sections.
- Redesign website to make it user-friendly.

Objective D: Utilize SirsiDynix to benefit MFRL

Measure: Patrons report satisfaction in using library catalog (iBistro) on the web.

Activities:

- Enhance the online catalog to increase usage.
- Educate and encourage patrons to use the online catalog.
- Increase communication between IT staff and Circulation staff about wireless issues.
- Increase use of patron-placed holds and compile statistics on them.

Objective E: Create a better intranet for staff use

Measure: A user-friendly, interactive and updated intranet is in place.

Activities:

- Create an in-house online community room scheduler for staff use.
- Update the intranet links and create special pages with information useful to staff.
- Create a blog and/or message board for staff to discuss circulation issues.

Goal #7: Staff and Trustees

With excellent customer service as the highest priority, MFRL shall manage and encourage the development of staff to allow them to reach their fullest potential. MFRL will also strive to develop trustees and volunteers for the most effective and efficient use of their time.

Current situation: MFRL has only two professional librarians (2.0 FTE's). There is no mechanism to encourage staff to obtain a Master's Degree in Library Science (MLS) or to develop and orient trustees and other volunteers.

Objective A: Develop positions for two additional librarians

Measure: Two additional librarians are on staff.

Activities:

- Develop the currently open full time position into a professional librarian position.
- Develop and/or create a second professional position.

Objective B: Encourage current staff members to obtain the MLS degree

Measure: At least one current staff member pursuing MLS degree.

Activities:

- Inform staff of online MLS programs as well as Montgomery County tuition reimbursement policy and scholarship opportunities.
- Create web page on the library's intranet site to provide information about MLS programs and funding opportunities.
- Work with the MFRL Library Foundation and/or Friends of the Library to establish and award a scholarship to a staff member pursuing the MLS degree.

Objective C: Increase training opportunities for staff development

Measure: Staff members annually complete continuing education requirements.

Activities:

- Develop list of training opportunities with continuing education "credit" earned.
- Send staff to regional, state and national workshops and conferences, as budget allows.
- Provide in-library training at staff meetings, with "experts" from staff or outside the library, offering specific training sessions on an ongoing basis.

- Encourage staff to use online training modules, such as LibraryU.
- Encourage staff to take classes offered by Montgomery County.
- Require staff to complete an established number of continuing education units each year, to be reviewed at annual evaluation.

Objective D: Increase opportunities for trustee development

Measure: Members of the Board of Trustees participate in at least one training event annually.

Activities:

- Ask Board members to complete annual self-evaluation.
- Implement orientation process for new Board members.
- Ask Board members to attend regional trustee workshops when offered by the Library of Virginia.
- Communicate to Board members the availability of online training modules, such as LibraryU.
- Investigate opportunities for Board development at state and national conferences.

Objective E: Develop and increase volunteer opportunities

Measure: MFRL volunteer hours increase by 50%.

Activities:

- Develop a policy concerning the recruitment and use of volunteers.
- Expand promotion and information about volunteer opportunities.

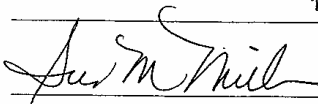
Library Bill of Rights

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 bases, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.
Amended February 2, 1961, and January 23, 1980,
inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996,
by the ALA Council.

Endorsed by Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library System Board of Trustees on
15 November 2000

 Susan Miller, Chair

THE FREEDOM TO READ

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as citizens devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary citizen, by exercising critical judgment, will accept the good and reject the bad. The censors, public and private, assume that they should determine what is good and what is bad for their fellow citizens.

We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they need the help of censors to assist them in this task. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept with any expression the prejudgment of a label characterizing it or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for the citizen. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all citizens the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, July 12, 2000, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

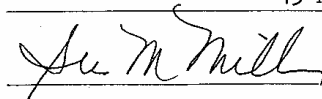
A Joint Statement by: American Library Association
Association of American Publishers

Subsequently Endorsed by:

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression
American Society of Journalists and Authors
The American Society of Newspaper Editors
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
Association of American University Presses
Center for Democracy & Technology
The Children's Book Council
The Electronic Frontier Foundation
Feminists for Free Expression
Freedom to Read Foundation
International Reading Association
The Media Institute
National Coalition Against Censorship
National PTA
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
People for the American Way
Student Press Law Center
The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

Endorsed by Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library System Board of Trustees on

15 November 2000

 Susan Miller, Chair

FREEDOM TO VIEW STATEMENT

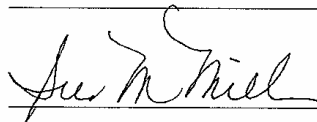
The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, 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.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Endorsed by Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library System Board of Trustees on

15 November 2000



Susan Miller, Chair

Acknowledgements

This strategic plan is the result of committee work by library staff, along with Library Board of Trustee members. Many thanks to all those who participated, shared their ideas, researched and discussed the points and finally put it all in writing. It was a joint effort and will guide Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library for the next five years.

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