

## **INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**

**Inasmuch as the Ocean Shores Library subscribes to the Washington Library Association Intellectual Freedom Statement:**

- A. The Ocean Shores Library supports the principle of free, open, and unrestricted access to information and ideas regardless of the medium in which they exist.**
- B. Since a democracy can only succeed if individuals have access to the information necessary to form opinions and make decisions on issues affecting their lives and since libraries play a key role in providing access to this information, The Ocean Shores Library regards this access as a right of all individuals. Therefore the Ocean Shores Library believes that libraries have a responsibility to provide access to a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints.**
- C. The Ocean Shores Library believes that parents and legal guardians have the right and the responsibility to guide their own children in the exercise of their rights of access.**
- D. The Ocean Shores Library recognizes privacy and confidentiality as essential components of intellectual freedom.**
- E. The Ocean Shores Library encourages and supports local community involvement in developing policies that uphold the United States and Washington State constitutional guarantees of free speech and intellectual freedom.**
- F. The Ocean Shores Library endorses the American Library Association's Code of Ethics, Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement and Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations.**
- G. Therefore, The Ocean Shores Library opposes censorship and restrictions on access to the full range of constitutionally protected materials and speech.**

**Approved 20 March 2003**

**Reviewed 15 March 2007, 26 February 2009**