

# Introduction to Library Ethics

# Ethics

“the body of moral principles or values governing, or distinctive of, a particular culture or group.”

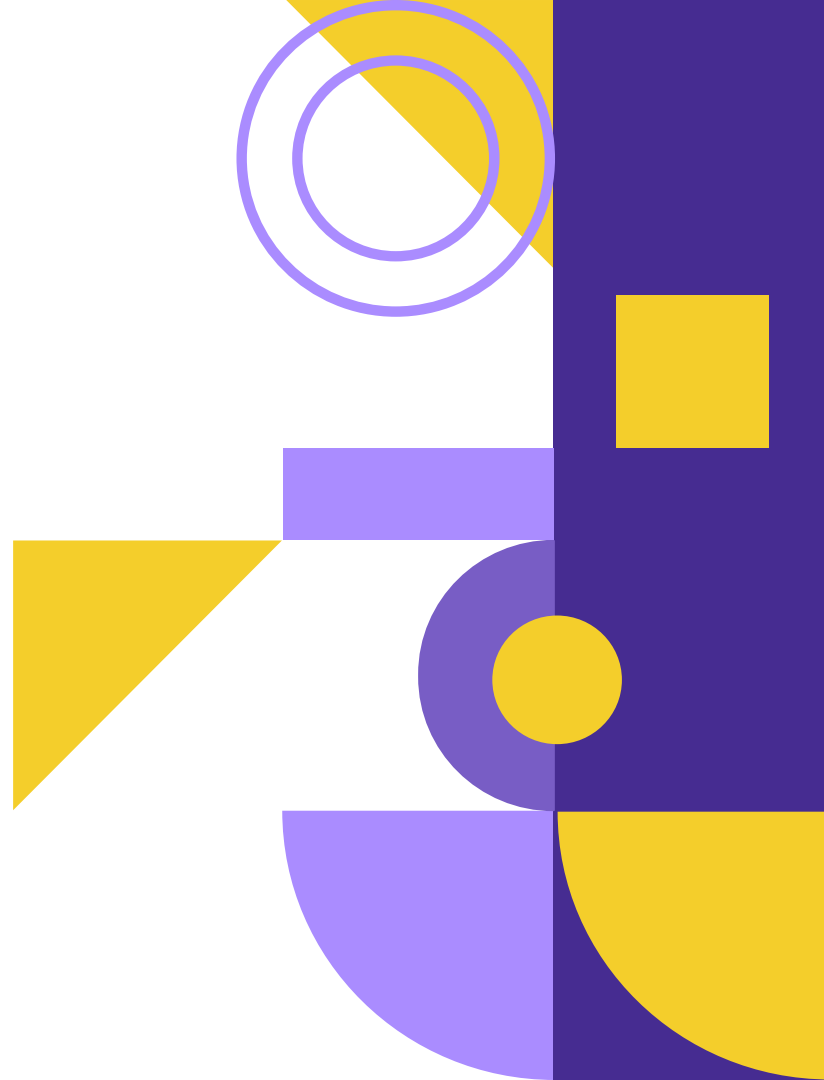
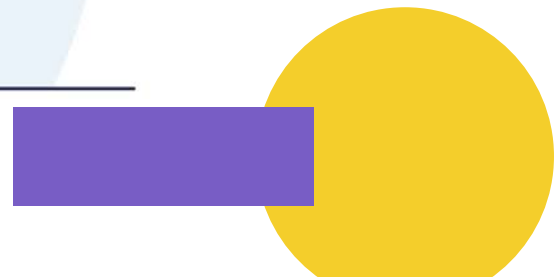
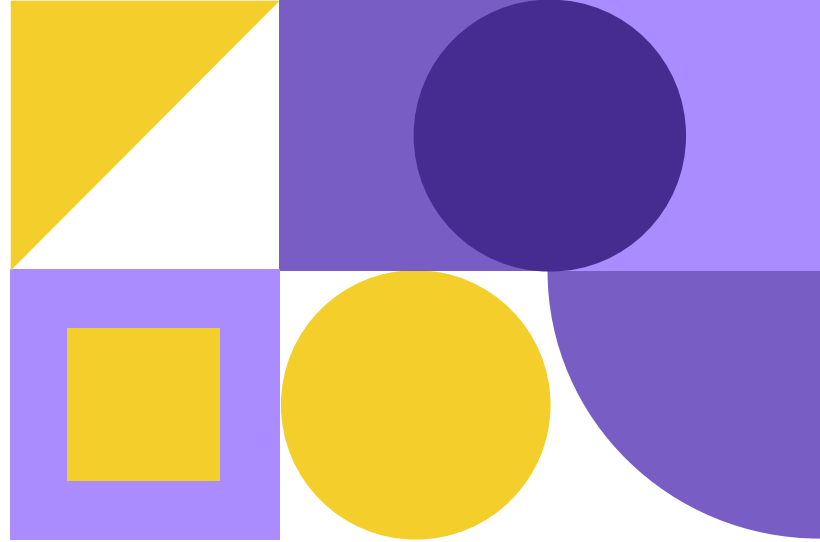




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# The ALA Code of Ethics



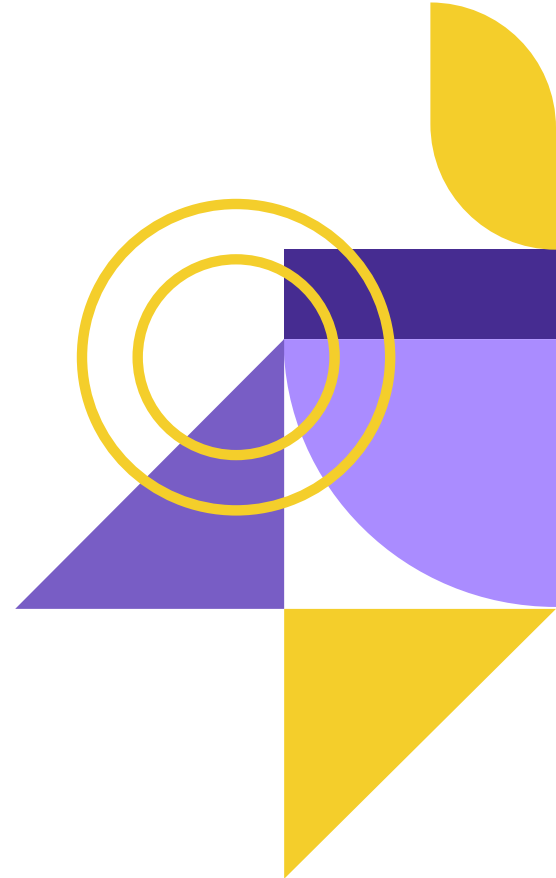
As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

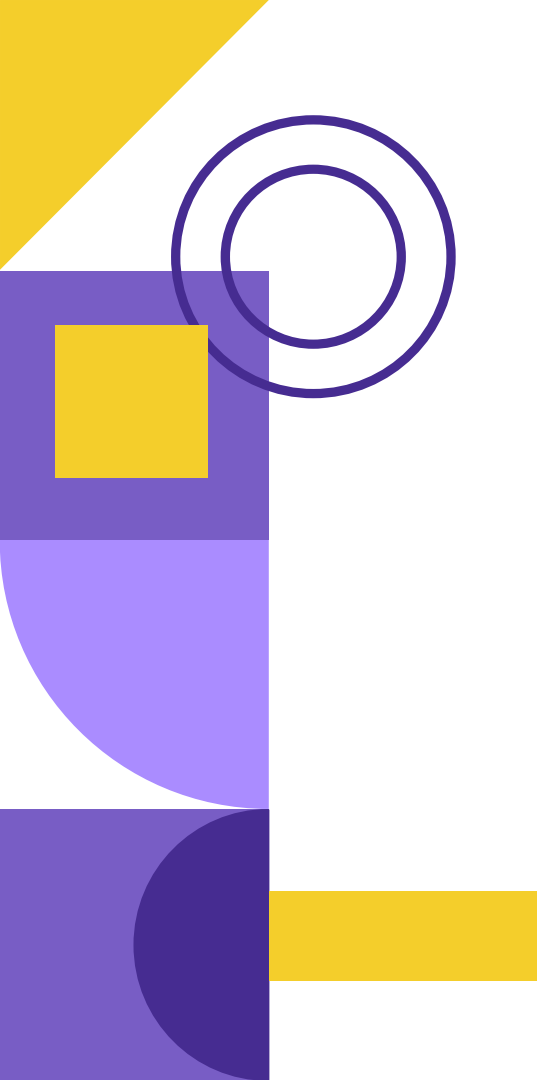
Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

<https://www.ala.org/tools/ethics>



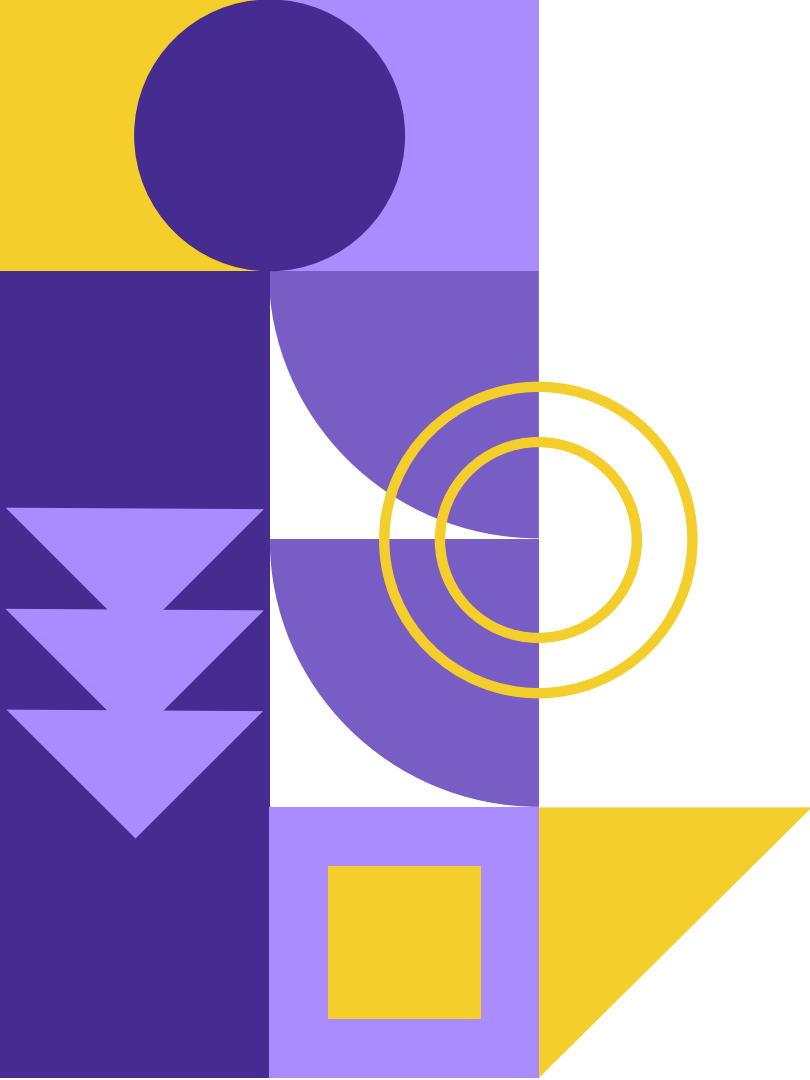
- 
1. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.
  2. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.
  3. We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.
  4. We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
  5. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.

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6. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.
7. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.
8. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.
9. We affirm the inherent dignity and rights of every person. We work to recognize and dismantle systemic and individual biases; to confront inequity and oppression; to enhance diversity and inclusion; and to advance racial and social justice in our libraries, communities, profession, and associations through awareness, advocacy, education, collaboration, services, and allocation of resources and spaces.

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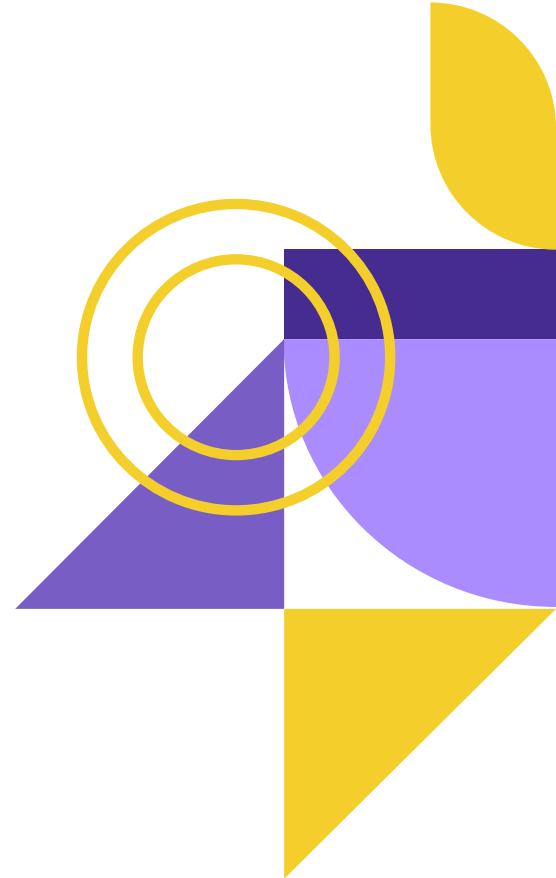


This code of ethics was first adopted at the 1939 Midwinter Meeting by the ALA Council. It was amended in 1981, 1995, 2008, and 2021.



# Article 01

We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; **equitable access**; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.



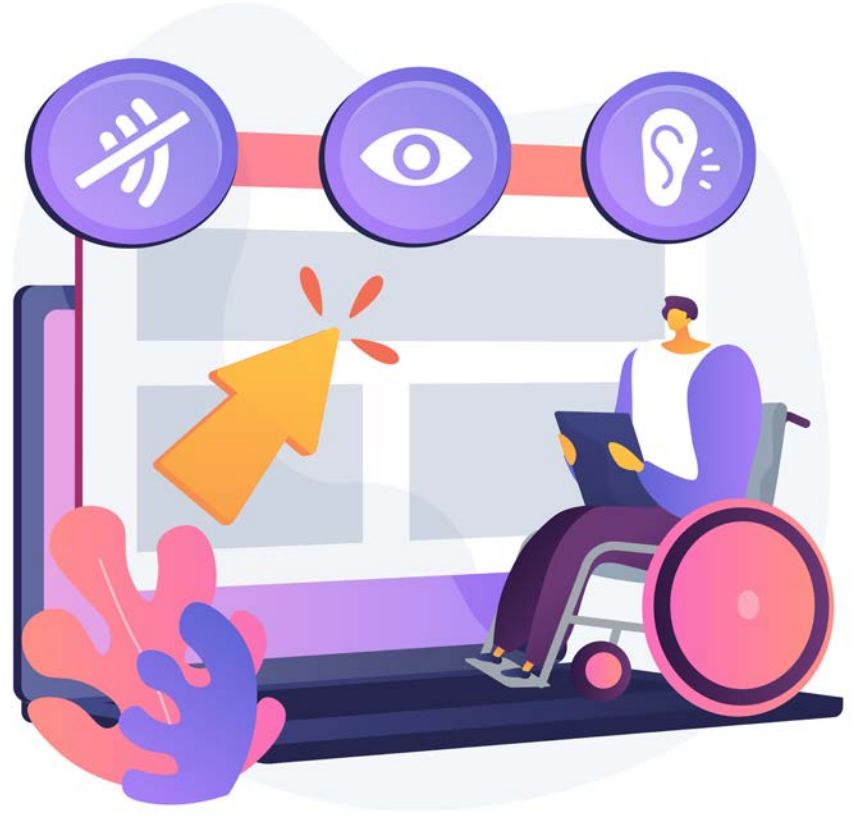
# Equity

- Fair and equal treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people.
- Equity vs. equality
- Barriers to equal access
- Examples of equitable access



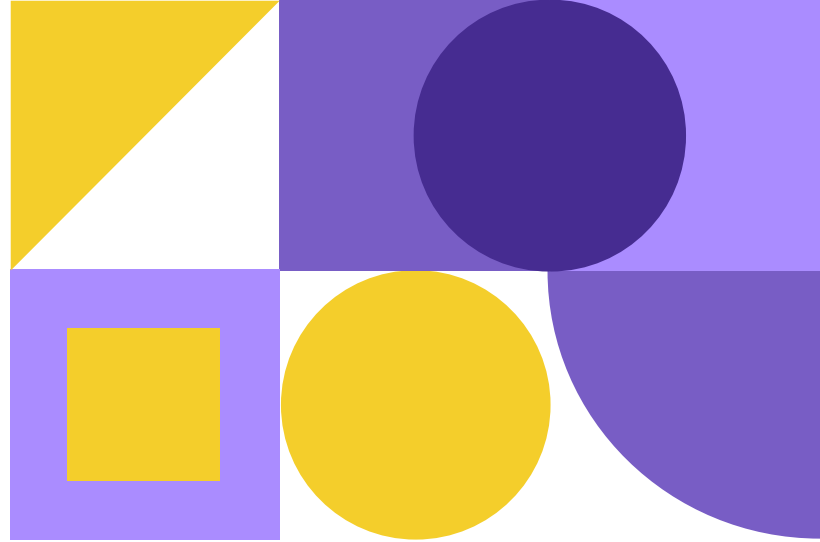
# Providing equitable services

- Respectful library service
- Accessible physical space
- Fully accessible website



# Article 02

We uphold the principles of **intellectual freedom** and resist all efforts to censor library resources.





“...the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored.”

The American Library Association

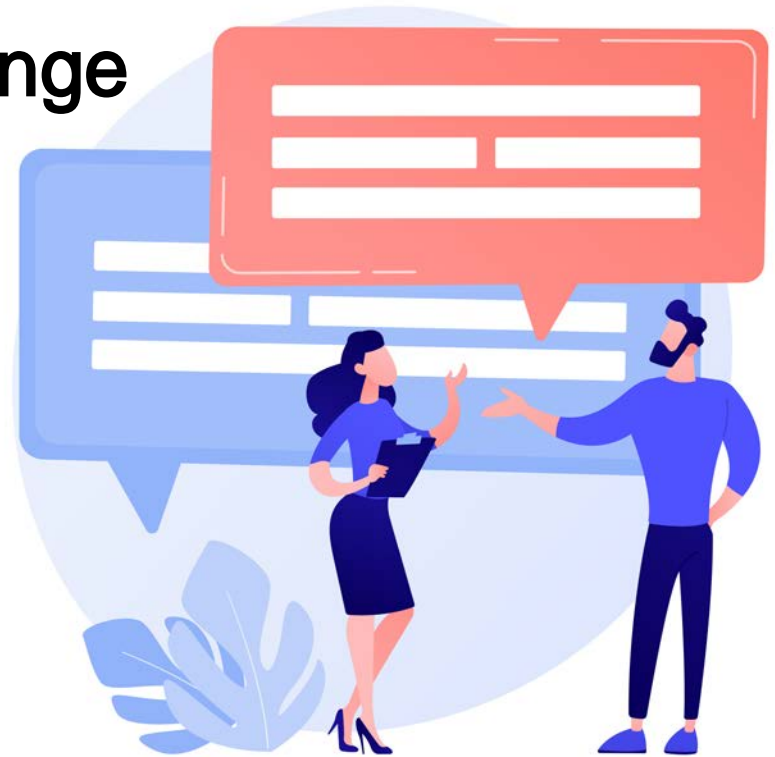
# Terms to know

- Censorship
- Challenge
- Banning



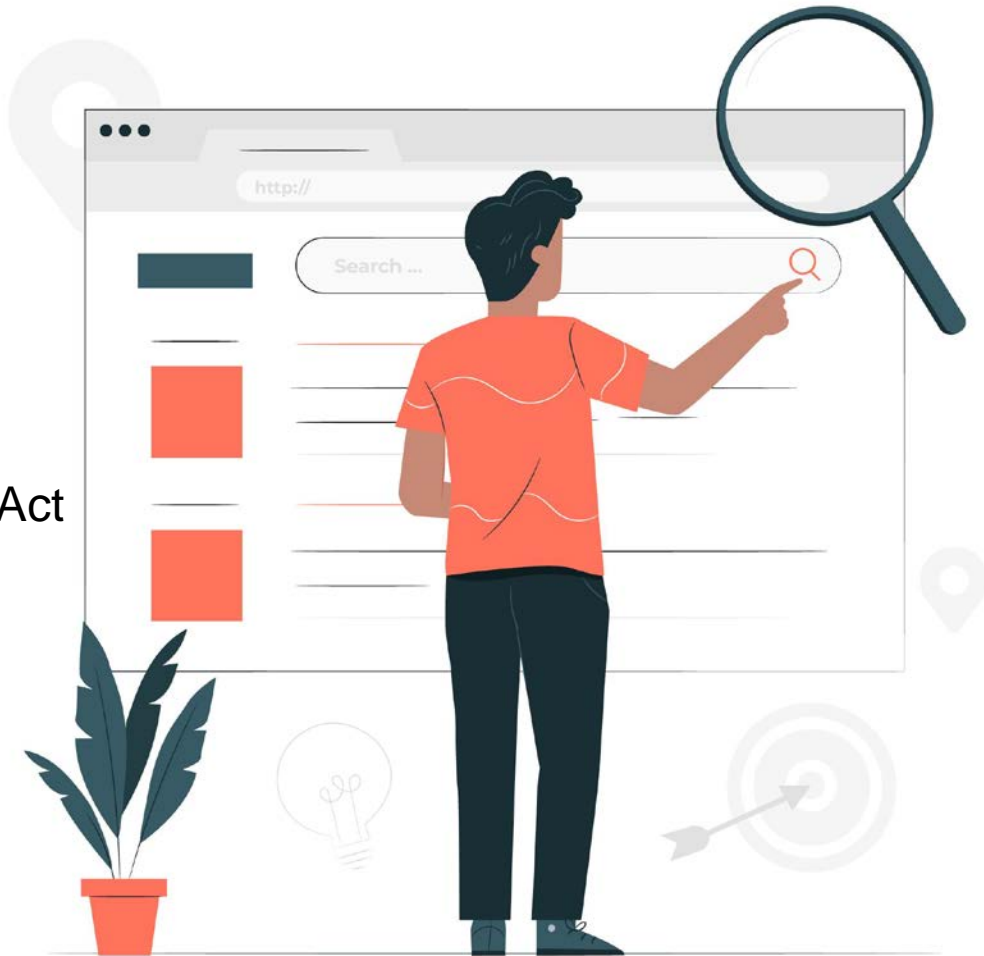
# Be prepared for a challenge

- Have a written collection development policy
- Be familiar with the policy
- Report challenges to the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)
- Enlist local support



# Internet access and filtering

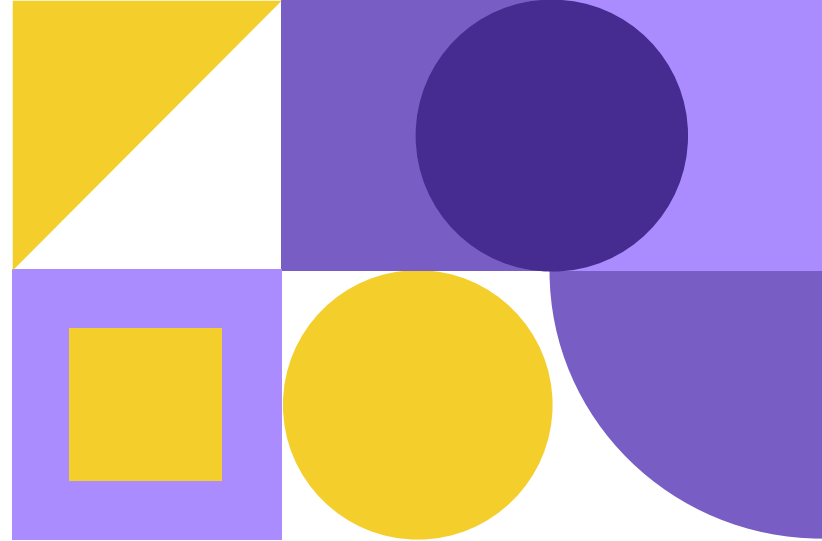
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Ethics vs. the law





# Article 03

We protect each library user's right to **privacy and confidentiality** with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.



# Privacy and confidentiality

- Privacy is essential to free inquiry in the library
- Privacy focuses on rights of users
- Confidentiality is the responsibility of the library
- Limit personally identifiable information



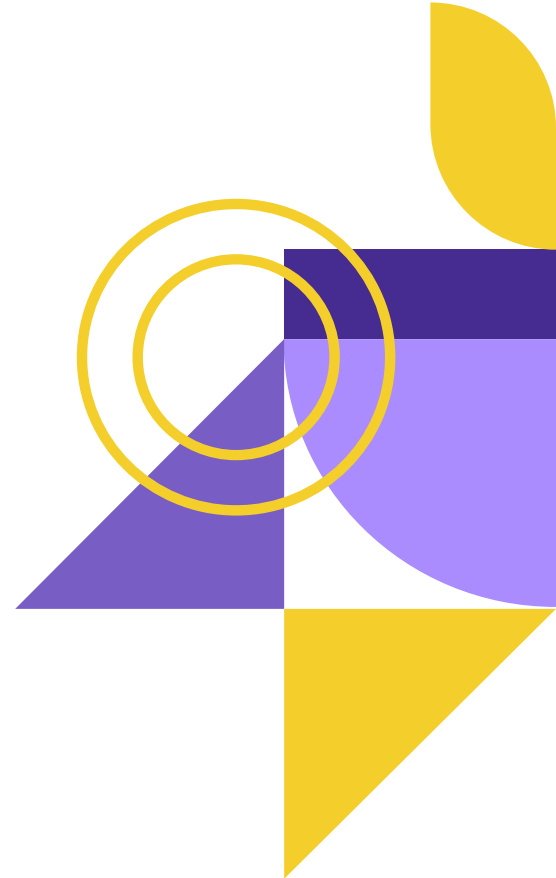
# Privacy tips

- Request only the information you absolutely need
- Destroy information as soon as you are legally allowed to
- Be aware of privacy and confidentiality responsibilities



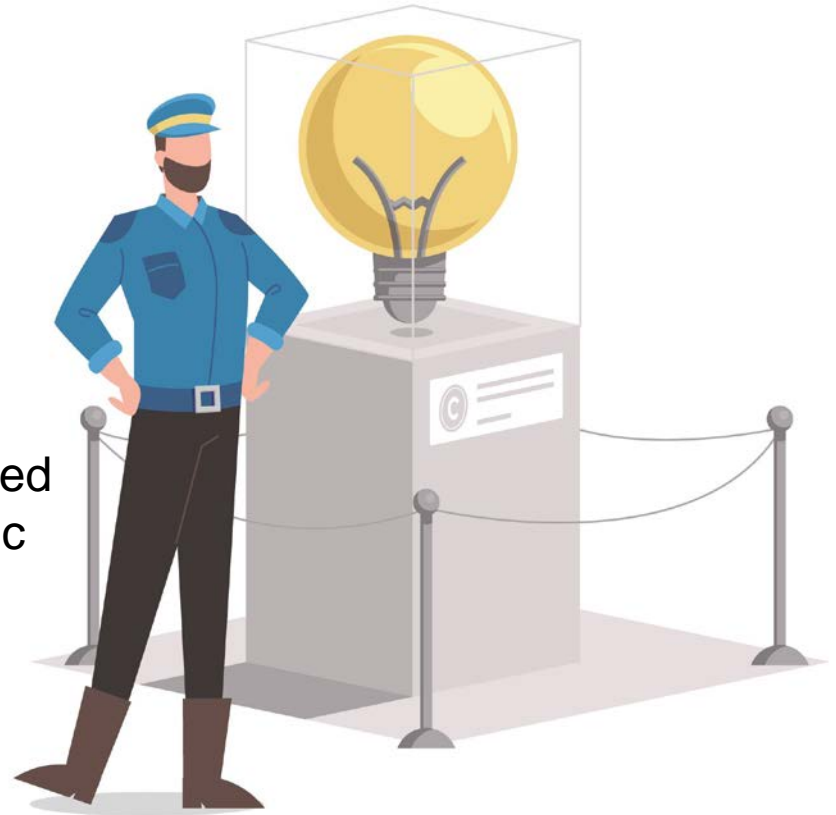
# Article 04

We respect intellectual property rights and advocate **balance** between the interests of information users and rights holders.



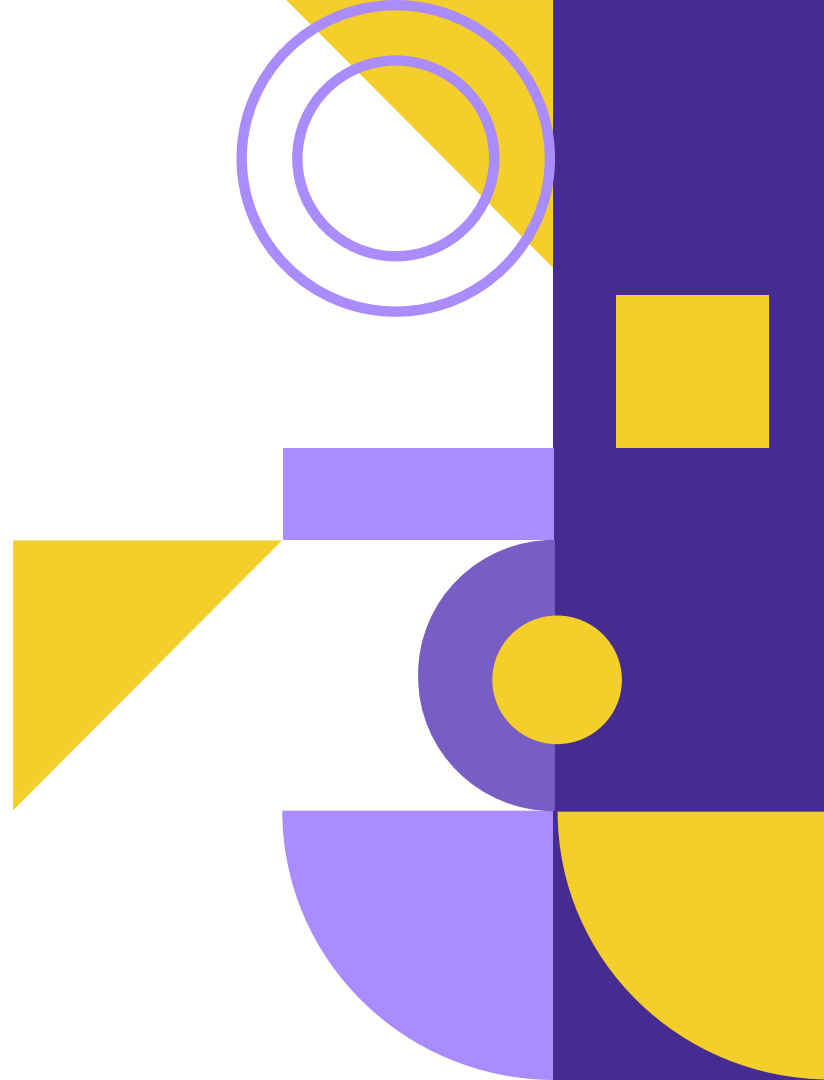
# Intellectual property

- A product of human intellect
- Patents
- Trademarks
- Copyright
- As of January 1, 2021, works published from 1925 and before are in the public domain.



# Fair use

- Allows for limited use of copyrighted materials under certain conditions:
  - Purpose and character
  - Nature of copyrighted work
  - Amount of the work
  - The impact on the potential market or value



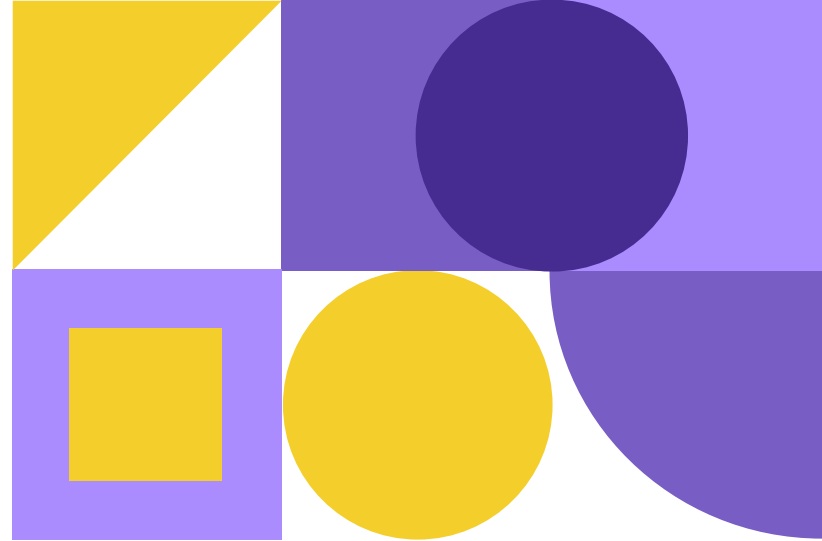
# Examples of fair use

- Course reserves
- Replacing missing or damaged materials
- Replacing a missing page in a book
- Class projects
- *Saturday Night Live*



# Article 05

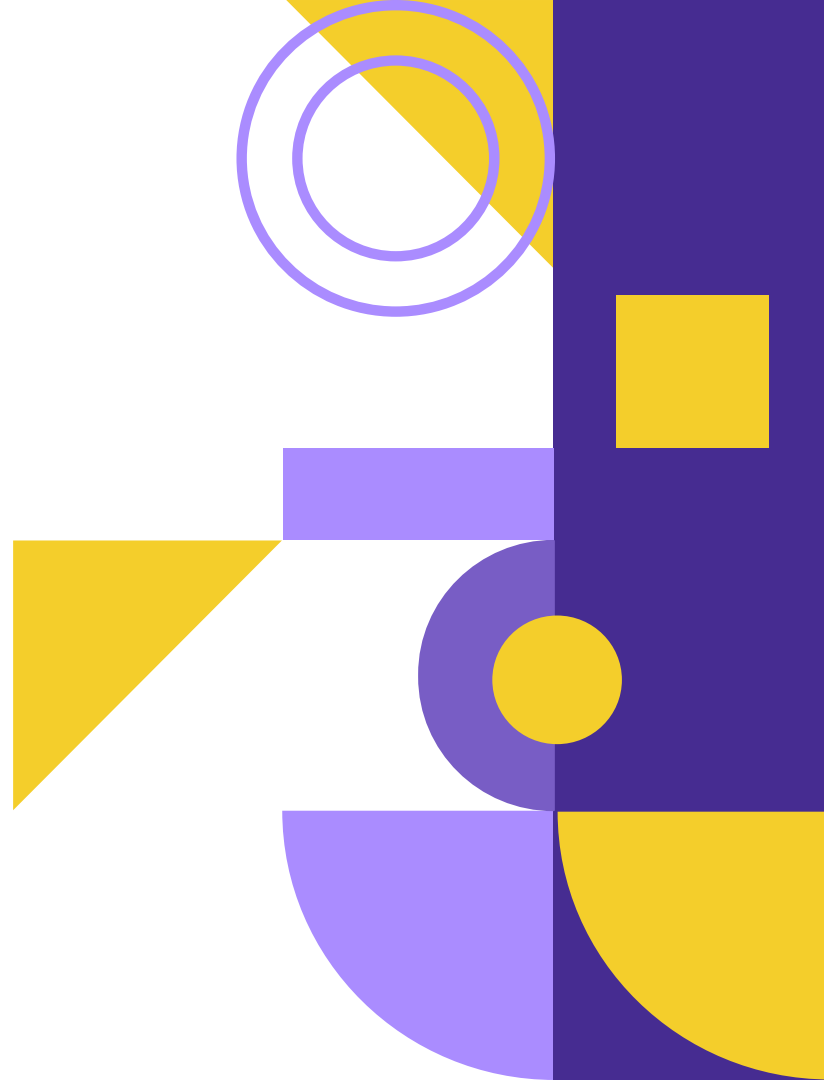
We treat co-workers and other colleagues with **respect, fairness, and good faith**, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.





# Terms to know

- Respect
- Fairness
- Good faith



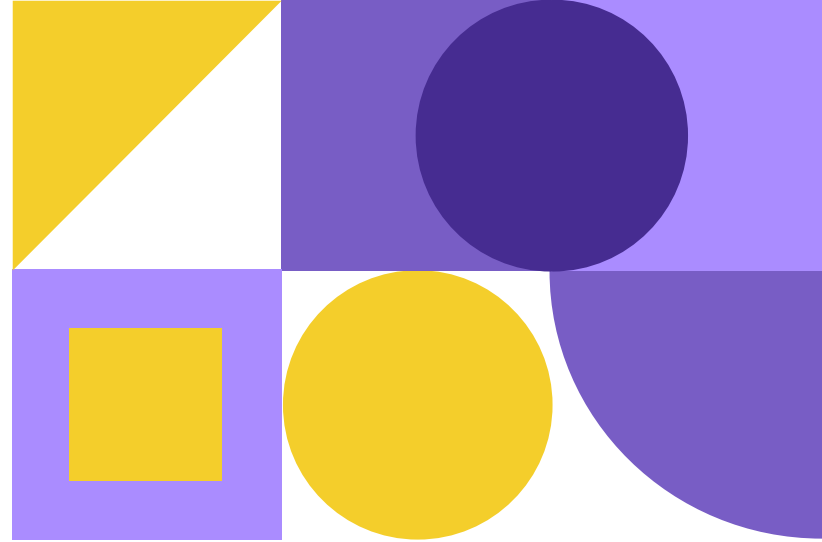
# Article 06

We do not advance **private interests** at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.



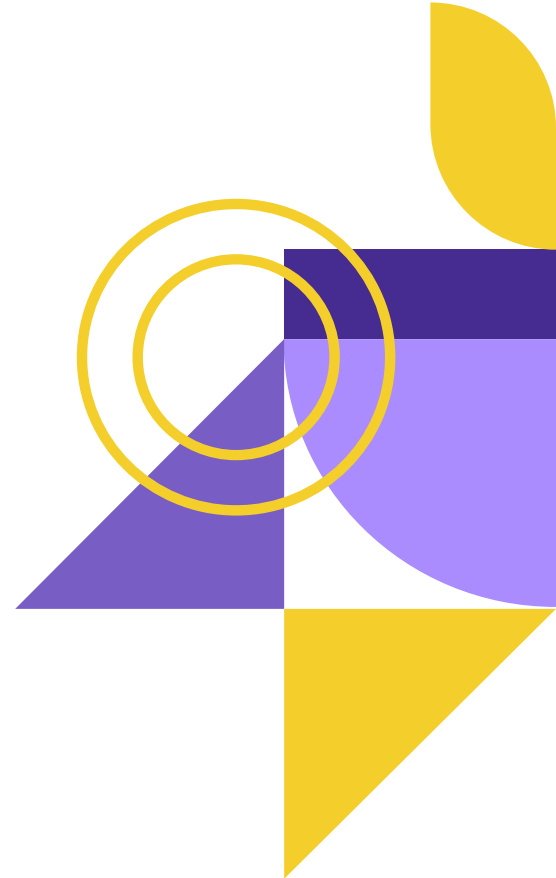
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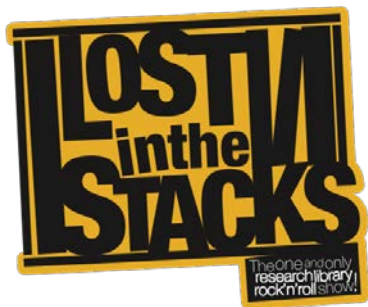


# Article 08

We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the **professional development** of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.



# Professional development



**In The Library With The Lead Pipe**  
*An open access, open peer reviewed journal*



**LIBRARY LEADERSHIP PODCAST**



<https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuingeducation/partner-training-opportunities/>

# Professional development



University  
of Idaho



EMPORIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE  
UNIVERSITY

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuingeducation/ce-grants/>

# Professional development



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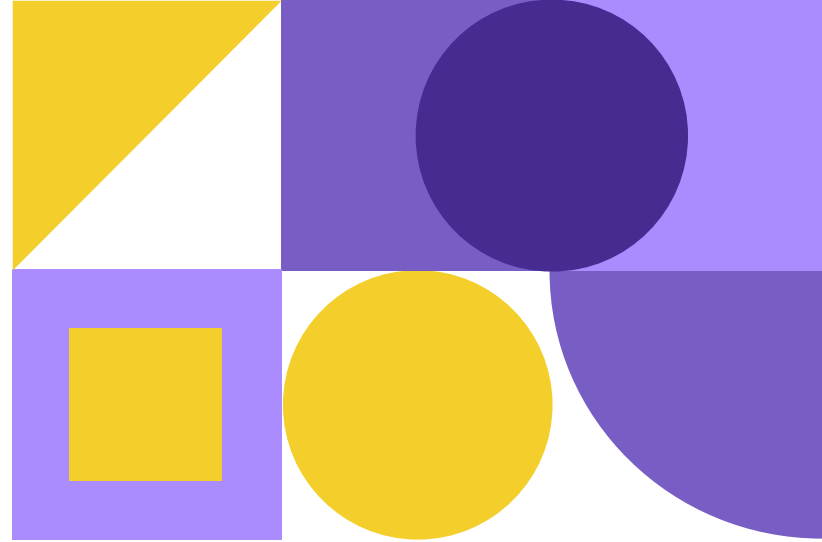


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# Article 09

“We affirm the inherent dignity and rights of every person. We work to recognize and dismantle systemic and individual biases; to confront inequity and oppression; to enhance diversity and inclusion; and to advance **racial and social justice** in our libraries, communities, profession, and associations through awareness, advocacy, education, collaboration, services, and allocation of resources and spaces.”



# Codes of Ethics

- Library Bill of Rights
- ACRL Core Ethics for Special Collections
- YALSA Core Professional Values for the Teen Services Profession

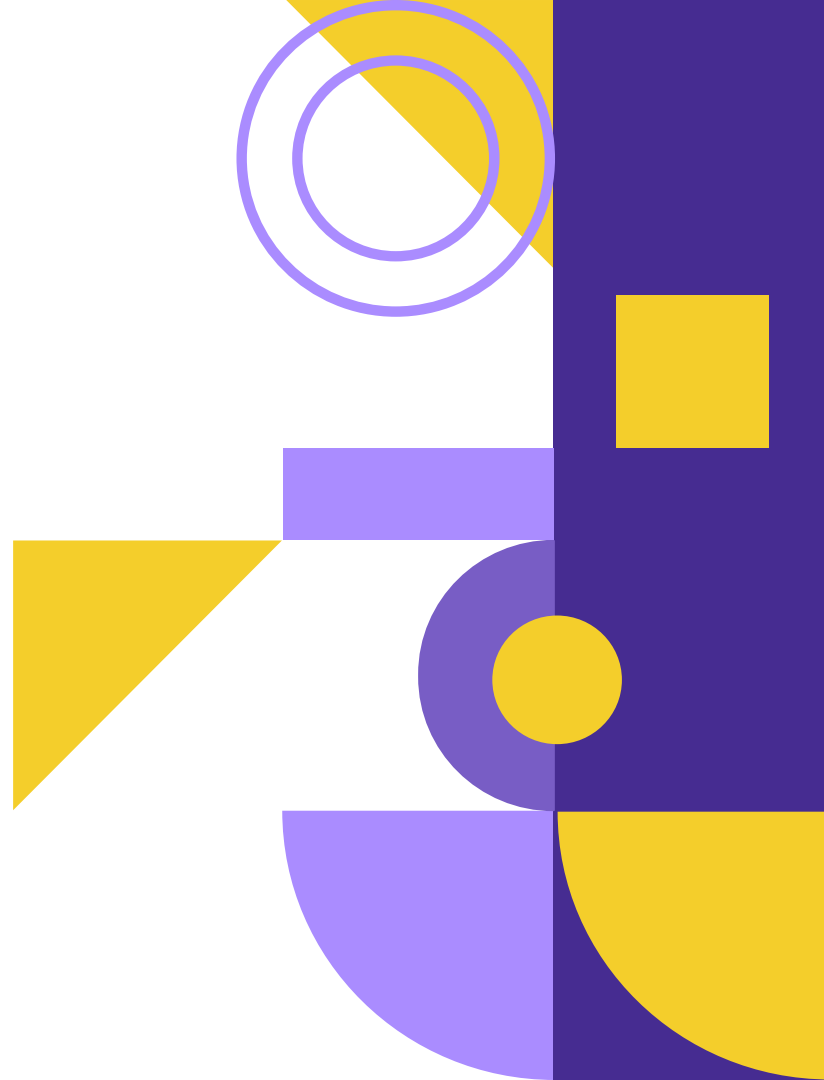
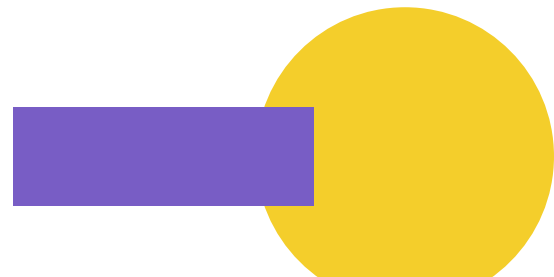




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# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

208-334-2150

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