Final Report
ALA Emerging Leaders
Team I, Class of 2022

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM SYLLABUS

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PROCESS

Emerging Leaders team I met on Zoom bi-weekly. In between meetings, team members explored existing syllabi, collected relevant resources and materials, and read the Intellectual Freedom Manual. After reading independently and conversations with each other and Rhonda Evans and Angela Ocaña, we decided to format the syllabus for accessibility and relevance. The team agreed that a website would be the most useful platform for librarians, library school students, and library professionals/para-professionals. Using the syllabus format as a guide, we created a website and organized information by topic for ease of discovery.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The format of our project has naturally taken the form of a syllabus, although there are some important differences to highlight. In lieu of class dates, typically included in classroom syllabi, we organized by the following topics:

- x Foundations of Intellectual Freedom
- x Core ALA Statements
- x Censorship & Challenges
- x Privacy
- x Collection Development
- x Meeting Spaces
- x Law Enforcement and Libraries
- x Social Justice
- x Digital and Information Literacy

Each topic includes sample readings and sample discussion questions.

PLATFORM

The Intellectual Freedom Syllabus platform needs to be accessible and easy to update in the future. We chose the WordPress web platform to create a living document. The syllabus can evolve over time as challenges and IF issues change. This platform is easily updated and can be expanded at any time if needed. Future members of the Intellectual Freedom Interest Group can access, edit, and update the syllabus. And, as a free document on the internet, the Intellectual Freedom Syllabus can easily be accessed by anyone either at home or in their local public library.

NEXT STEPS

The Intellectual Freedom Syllabus is not intended to be a static resource. As academic literature and professional development resources changes, so too should the syllabus. Next steps should include an audit of the resources as well as the platform. ALA's Libguide platform could be more suitable than WordPress. In addition to an audit, the syllabus can be marketed and promoted. The Intellectual Freedom Interest Group or a new class of ALA Emerging Leaders can promote the syllabus through the ALA website, mailing lists, and social media.

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CITATIONS

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