

# THE BLUE SKIES STATEMENT

AN EQUITABLE POLICY VISION FOR LIBRARIES FROM LIBRARY FUTURES

## Preamble

Libraries exist to serve communities, provide valuable information, protect freedom of speech and the right to read, collect and preserve data and information in digital and physical formats, and share the collective outputs of culture for the betterment of all.

For libraries to continue to fulfill their mission of equitable access, we must fortify trust in libraries as institutions, support the diversity of our workforce and communities, and safeguard the public's right to information and culture.

Part statement of values, part policy statement, this document presents a positive framework for libraries to thrive in an increasingly hostile environment. We assembled our suggestions from a survey conducted with our community in 2024, shortly before the new federal regime assumed power. We write now not from defeatism but from hope, not from resignation but from inspiration, not from the belief that we are powerless but from the knowledge that, together, we can build a better future.

Libraries and library workers have a long history of resistance to the forces that would oppress or silence their communities, including McCarthyism, the PATRIOT Act, and ongoing attacks on the independent press. We believe we can and will continue that history of resistance while also finding innovative ways to continue to serve the information needs of our patrons and our communities.

To that end, we are putting forward the following framework of values and policy. This is a living document – please edit or remix for your specific community needs.



# Values



## Fostering Trust in Institutions

Public support is built on public trust. Institutions must rise to meet the moment by promoting progressive, proactive policy that centers libraries as trusted community hubs.

## Building Strength in Communities

Diverse and equitable communities are resilient communities. We support policy that recognizes the diversity, labor, and power of information professionals in their efforts to build a more robust society.

## Promoting Freedom and Democracy in Society

We believe that libraries are a cornerstone of a free and democratic society. The preservation of information, the sharing of culture, and the respect for the privacy and autonomy of each individual are core values and practices of both libraries and democracy.

# We support policies at every level that

- Preserve libraries as trusted community hubs
- Secure funding at the local and federal level as evidence of public trust
- Combat mis- and disinformation for an informed society
- Promote a fair and flexible copyright policy
- Protect the right to privacy
- Build and maintain both physical and digital public infrastructure
- Regulate competition in the library technology market
- Maintain access to physical and digital resources through ownership and accessibility
- Preserve libraries as public spaces that serve the evolving needs of their communities
- Support diversity and equity in collections, staffing, and programming
- Promote and support labor rights in the service of a stronger workforce and a more equitable society
- Provide leverage and power in negotiations with vendors and publishers
- Provide free access to culture and information
- Oppose censorship and promote the right to read

As practitioners, we are guided by the [Library Bill of Rights](#) and [ALA Code of Ethics](#). These documents, written over generations, provide a guiding framework and inspire our work. No document is ever perfect, no community complete. We hope these suggestions can inspire and transform our work going forward as librarians and as citizens.