



Statement on Inclusion

The New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) and its Members are proud that NJ libraries are places of inclusion where all are welcome. We are committed to assuring that the collections and services we provide meet the needs of all New Jerseyans and will continue working to address any barriers to library service. In addition, we stand with the [American Library Association](#) in opposing actions and directives that undermine access to information, threaten privacy rights, and/or discriminate on any basis.

NJLA is concerned that there have been reported increases in instances of intolerance and hate, even in several U.S. libraries, with many of our residents expressing fear and concern for their future¹. During such difficult times in our nation's history, our libraries have been and continue to be places of solace, understanding, and information for all.

NJLA is committed to promoting and protecting diversity and inclusion, within our association and in libraries themselves.

We believe that our expertise in information literacy, critical thinking and intellectual freedom are essential to the communities we serve. We stand ready to work with our communities to provide safe and inclusive places for conversations, fact-finding, and debate.

In 2017-2018, NJLA will release a statement detailing our core values. These values guide our work and are a crucial part of assuring that all New Jerseyans have access to collections, skill sets, technology and tools, lifelong learning environments, and community engagement. Be reassured that New Jersey libraries will continue to transform lives within all of our communities every day.

¹<http://nyti.ms/2hoYxW2>

Approved by the NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee, 02/03/2017

Approved by the NJLA Public Policy Committee, 02/03/2017

Approved by the NJLA Executive Board, 02/21/2017