



## **PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM PUBLIC INFORMATION AREA GUIDELINES\***

Libraries often provide areas for the distribution of public information by community groups. The library's public information areas (e.g., bulletin boards, tables, and racks) are open to organizations engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities. This defined limitation allows religious groups and community groups to use the distribution areas when their materials serve intellectual and cultural purposes, but excludes all materials that solicit contributions or seek to sell goods and services.

The library normally locates its public information areas near exits or checkout areas to clearly distinguish the material from the library's collection. The materials in the public information areas are provided by groups within the community served by the library. The same rules and regulations apply to all groups. Exclusion is not made on the basis of doctrinal, religious, or political beliefs of the potential users. Materials prepared by candidates or their campaign committees are not permitted. Printed materials distributed should not exceed standard 8 ½' x 11' letter size. Posters should not exceed a size 11' x 17.' Librarians periodically remove outdated materials.

The library retains the option to limit use of public information areas to strictly "library-related" activities, provided that the limitation is clearly defined and is viewpoint neutral. Such a limitation may be made on a temporary basis.

Just as libraries do not endorse the viewpoints of those whose works are represented in their collections, the library also does not endorse the beliefs or viewpoints on topics which may be the subject of information distributed through public information areas. Each library posts permanent notices by its public information areas that say: "The library does not advocate or endorse the viewpoints expressed in information or material distributed through public information areas."

The library does not censor or remove material in public information areas because some members of the community disagree with that material. Those who object to the content of any material in public information areas may submit their complaint and/or their own material proposal to the library branch manager.

\*Based on "Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards," An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights adopted July 2, 1991, amended June 30, 2004, by the ALA Council.

*Revised by PLS Board – October 28, 2003*

*Reaffirmed by PLS Board July 31, 2007*

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