

FOREWORD

The Marion County Public Library System is governed by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners as a department of Marion County Government. The Board of County Commissioners sets Library Public Service Policies.

The purpose of these policies is to outline principles and provide guidance so that library service is fair to all and respectful of individual rights and differences. These policies are intended to provide consistent service and ensure fair and equitable access to the resources of the Library.

In the development of policies many factors are considered including, but not limited to, current state law regarding public libraries, existing case law defining the responsibilities and limitations of public libraries and the Library's own vision and mission. Library Administration will keep current any reference to law contained within this document.

Marion County has a large and diverse population. To serve this community, the Library seeks to reflect this diversity and develop a wide-ranging collection of services and materials with many viewpoints, opinions and ideas to enable all to pursue their self-defined goals. It is the responsibility of each individual to decide which library resources are appropriate to meet his or her own needs.

Throughout these policies, the Library recognizes the special needs of children with regard to safety, resources, collections, and services. The Library affirms the moral right and legal responsibility of parents and legal guardians to guide and monitor their own children's use of library resources. The Library endeavors to assist parents and legal guardians in using library resources to affirm and encourage their own family's goals, education, values, and beliefs within the bounds permitted by law.

Those with questions or concerns about any of these Library policies are welcomed and encouraged to contact Library Administration at the Headquarters – Ocala location.

“The libraries of America are and must ever remain the home of free, inquiring minds. To them, our citizens—of all ages and races, of all creeds and political persuasions—must be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth, unwarped by fashion and uncompromised by expedience.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower