

I've signed the declaration. *Have you?*

LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES

Declaration for the Right to Libraries

In the spirit of the United States Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we believe that libraries are essential to a democratic society. Every day, in communities across our nation and the world, millions of children, students and adults use libraries to learn, grow and achieve their dreams. In addition to a vast array of books, computers and other resources, library users benefit from the expert teaching and guidance of librarians and librarians help expand their minds and open new worlds. We declare and affirm our right to quality public, school, academic, and special—and urge you to show your support by signing your Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

LIBRARIES EMPOWER THE INDIVIDUAL.
Whether developing skills to succeed in school, looking for a job, exploring possible careers, having a retirement, people of all ages turn to libraries for instruction, support, and access to computers and other lead better lives.

LIBRARIES SUPPORT LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING.
Many children and adults learn to read at their school and public libraries via story times, summer reading, tutoring and other opportunities. Others come to the library to learn the technology that help them answer their questions, discover new interests, and share their ideas.

LIBRARIES STRENGTHEN FAMILIES.
Families find a comfortable, welcoming space and a wealth of resources to help them learn.

LIBRARIES ARE THE GREAT EQUALIZER.
Libraries serve people of every age, education level, income level, ethnicity and physical ability provide resources that they could not otherwise afford—resources they need to live, learn and thrive.

LIBRARIES BUILD COMMUNITIES.
Libraries bring people together, both in person and online, to have conversations and to learn. Libraries provide support for seniors, immigrants and others with special needs.

LIBRARIES PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO KNOW.
Our right to read, seek information, and speak freely must not be taken for granted. Libraries defend this most basic freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

LIBRARIES STRENGTHEN OUR NATION.
Libraries and successful governance of our nation depend on people who are informed. Academic, and special libraries support the intellectual and cultural life of our nation.

www.ilovelibraries.org/declaration

ALA American
Library
Association

Libraries empower
the individual.

Libraries support literacy
and lifelong learning.

Libraries strengthen
families.

Libraries are the great
equalizer.

Libraries build
communities.

Libraries protect our
right to know.

Libraries strengthen
our nation.

Libraries advance research
and scholarship.

Libraries help us to better
understand each other.

Libraries preserve our
nation's cultural heritage.