

American Library Association

Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

Prepared by the ALA Artificial Intelligence Policy Working Group

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is twofold; to recommend that libraries develop local guidelines or policies for AI use within their institutions, and as they do so, to encourage the utilization of this living document as a touchstone reference from ALA.

Artificial intelligence, including generative AI, agentic AI, and other AI technologies, are rapidly reshaping how information is created, accessed, and evaluated. AI refers to “software used to perform tasks or produce output previously thought to require human intelligence, esp. by using machine learning to extrapolate from large collections of data” (Oxford English Dictionary). AI can potentially extend library capacity for instruction, operations, and accessibility, but only when it supports the existing professional expertise, community engagement, and critical evaluation of library staff.

Libraries of all types have a responsibility to consider the adoption of AI tools in a manner that aligns with core professional values, ethics, and local policies. AI guidance should build on existing ALA policies rather than operate as a separate or conflicting layer. The ALA Artificial Intelligence Policy Working Group, using the ALA Core Values of Public Good, Intellectual Freedom, Privacy, Sustainability, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility as a starting point, has developed this Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries. Where applicable, this document incorporates an ethics framework (see Appendix) based on the work of Luciano Floridi, that serves as a foundation for consideration of moral questions so relevant to the use and misuse of AI in our times.

2. Library Values & AI

The following values guide how libraries adopt and use AI in practice. Each value is intended to serve both library workers and the communities they serve. AI should only be deployed where it advances these values in concrete, user-centered ways and where its risks are clearly understood, mitigated, and continuously reviewed.

2.1 Public Good (Principle + In Practice)

Promoting Human & Environmental Wellness

Public good means working to improve society and protect the rights to education, literacy, and intellectual freedom. AI offers opportunities to address societal and environmental challenges, but it can also erode human self-determination, deepen social inequality, and contribute to climate change. AI use in libraries will be guided by shared common good, intergenerational sustainability, and meaningful human agency. AI will only be used to achieve beneficial outcomes for humanity and to reduce access barriers for underserved populations, grounded in clear, user-centered purposes such as improving access, instruction, workflows, or services. Libraries will consider environmental and cultural costs alongside efficiency gains and will avoid AI uses that harm, misinform, deceive, or further social inequality.

Preserving Human Decision-Making, Self-Determination, and Labor

AI will complement, not replace, human intelligence, reasoning, deliberation, and critical thinking. Humans remain accountable for AI-automated decisions and their consequences. Tasks requiring empathy, judgment, and subject-specific knowledge should not be replaced with AI automation. All library workers and communities have the right to human assistance for any library service. Libraries will maintain sufficient human expertise to provide this option and will question or override algorithmic recommendations that appear arbitrary or unreasonable. Core library jobs—including cataloging expertise, subject knowledge, access services, and instructional design—should be preserved even when AI can automate parts of those tasks.

Democratic Participation, Community Trust, and AI Literacy

Decisions about AI adoption will be guided by community deliberation and democratic participation. Communities and patrons shall have the option to opt out of AI-enabled services, and libraries will encourage vendors to offer equivalent services with and without AI assistance. Libraries will educate the public about AI's benefits, risks, and ethical and non-ethical uses through programming and resources guided by an AI Literacy Framework. Instruction and reference will use a harm-reduction lens, helping patrons recognize risks such as misinformation, privacy threats, and mental health impacts. Libraries will clearly disclose when and how AI is used in public-facing services and will identify a point of contact for questions or concerns.

In practice, this means (system-wide):

- Using AI only when it serves clear, user-centered purposes (improving access, instruction, workflows, or services) rather than because a tool is available.

- Ensuring AI complements—not replaces—human intelligence and preserving the right of patrons to human assistance for any library service.
 - Designing “human-in-the-loop” workflows so staff can review, override, or correct AI outputs and prevent AI tools from being used to misinform, deceive, or deepen inequality.
 - Preserving reference, readers’ advisory, instruction, and community support roles as human-led services, even where AI can assist.
 - Using AI-related efficiency gains to improve working conditions, staffing, or community services, rather than to justify staff reductions.
 - Hosting forums, workshops, and consultations where community members and staff can shape AI deployment and raise concerns.
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Public Good: Implications by Area of the Library

Collections

- Use AI-assisted selection, weeding, and recommendation tools only when they demonstrably improve discoverability or reduce barriers for underserved communities, and never as an opaque replacement for professional judgment.
- Require human review before acting on AI-generated recommendations that affect access (such as de-prioritizing, relocating, or withdrawing materials), with special care for materials important to marginalized communities.
- Use AI tools to help identify gaps in the collection—for example, underrepresented topics, languages, or local histories—and then address those gaps through human-led selection guided by community input.

Public Services

- Offer AI-supported reference, readers’ advisory, or wayfinding only as a supplement to human-led services, with a clear and visible option for patrons to receive assistance from staff instead of AI.
- Use AI to enhance accessibility (such as translation, summarized explanations, or alternate text generation) while ensuring staff check for accuracy, cultural sensitivity, and relevance to local community context.

- Develop public programs and workshops that explore how AI affects information creation and mental well-being and help patrons adopt safer, critical, and empowering practices when using AI tools.

Technical Services

- Use AI to assist with routine tasks (for example, suggesting subject headings or initial classifications) while ensuring human catalogers make final decisions, especially for materials about local communities or sensitive topics.
- Document where AI is used in technical workflows, including the points at which staff review and approve outputs, and how errors and biases are detected and corrected.
- Avoid delegating to AI any decisions that could quietly narrow what users see in catalogs and discovery systems without clear, documented, human-approved criteria.

Administration

- Include staff from multiple departments and, where appropriate, community representatives in decisions about adopting or expanding AI tools, using structured processes such as advisory groups, pilots, and feedback cycles.
- When AI generates efficiency gains (time, streamlined processes, or cost savings), transparently report how those gains will be used to benefit staff and communities, such as expanded services, improved working conditions, or new programs.
- Maintain an easily identifiable point of contact for questions or concerns about AI use and privacy, and provide periodic updates to the board and community about AI tools in use and how they support the public good.

2.2 Intellectual Freedom (Principle + In Practice)

ALA actively advocates and educates in defense of intellectual freedom — the rights of library users to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment. Intellectual freedom is a core value of the library profession and a basic right in a democratic society. AI poses serious long-term challenges to intellectual freedom, including opaque training data, misinformation, disinformation, copyright issues, explainability and traceability of decisions, commercial incentives, and the impact of cognitive offloading on human critical thinking.

When an automated library system is deployed, clear, accessible documentation should explain its function, purpose, accountability, and influence on user outcomes. Libraries should clearly

disclose when AI systems influence search results, recommendations, or service delivery and should treat AI outputs as drafts requiring human review, particularly for complex or sensitive topics. Users should be able to opt out of AI-automated products when possible; libraries should encourage vendors to offer equivalent services with and without AI assistance. Libraries should oppose AI tools that algorithmically flag materials for removal, de-prioritization, or labeling in ways that undermine intellectual freedom, narrow viewpoint diversity, or disproportionately target marginalized voices.

Libraries will provide programming and reference services to help patrons develop critical evaluation skills for AI-generated content, including understanding how AI tools may reflect or challenge social biases and how reliance on AI can affect human critical thinking and information literacy.

In practice, this means (system-wide):

- Requiring clear, accessible documentation for all automated systems, including their purpose, inputs where feasible, and how they may influence access or discovery.
- Encouraging or requiring vendors to offer non-AI or minimally automated options so patrons can choose services without AI intervention.
- Treating AI outputs as drafts that must be critically evaluated and edited by humans, especially for complex reference, local context, or high-stakes topics.
- Offering programs and guides that help patrons identify misinformation and understand how AI-generated content is produced and should be evaluated.
- Opposing AI systems that automatically flag, rank, or label content in ways that chill expression or disproportionately impact marginalized communities.

Intellectual Freedom: Implications by Area of the Library

Collections

- Prohibit the use of AI systems that automatically flag, suppress, or hide materials from discovery based on content, viewpoint, or topic without explicit, rights-respecting policy and human review.
- Use AI tools, where appropriate, to identify collection gaps or underrepresented topics, not to justify removing controversial or politically sensitive materials.
- Ensure AI-supported weeding, ranking, or highlighting tools are transparent and never used to penalize materials primarily because they are infrequently used or contested.

Public Services

- Train staff to explain the limits of AI-generated information and to help patrons cross-check AI outputs using diverse, authoritative sources.
- Use AI tools as teaching examples in information literacy instruction, including discussions of misinformation, deepfakes, and algorithmic bias.
- Monitor AI-based recommendations, FAQs, or virtual assistants for patterns that steer patrons away from controversial or minority viewpoints and intervene when such patterns appear.

Technical Services

- Clearly document when discovery layers, search engines, or recommender systems rely on AI or algorithmic personalization, and provide patrons with options to reduce or disable these features where feasible.
- Regularly audit search and discovery behavior to detect whether certain topics, authors, or communities are systematically down-ranked or misrepresented by AI-driven features.
- Preserve neutral, predictable access paths (such as subject-based browsing or chronological lists) alongside any AI-enhanced discovery features.

Administration

- Establish policies that explicitly prohibit using AI to censor, blacklist, or otherwise chill lawful expression within collections, programs, or online services.
 - Include questions about intellectual freedom in procurement for AI tools, such as how ranking, recommendation, or moderation functions operate and can be controlled.
 - Provide periodic reports to the board on how AI tools affect access to information and what safeguards are in place to protect intellectual freedom.
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2.3 Privacy (Principle + In Practice)

Libraries have a responsibility to understand how AI tools work, how they handle personal information, and what risks they may create for patrons. The ALA Code of Ethics affirms: “We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired, or transmitted.” Libraries must carefully review AI-enabled tools for potential risks to patron privacy, data security, and equitable access.

Libraries should avoid entering personally identifiable information, sensitive topics, or non-public records into tools whose data practices are unclear, and should consider limiting use to institution-approved tools that have been vetted for privacy and security issues, including account creation and data handling.

Working with Vendors and Informing Patrons

Libraries will use ALA vendor privacy guidance when evaluating AI tools, asking how AI features create risks, whether they are optional, whether patron data is used for training, and what safeguards prevent data exposure. AI-related privacy information must be written in clear, plain language. Libraries should disclose when third-party AI services collect or process patron data, explain when AI systems influence search results or recommendations, and help patrons understand tracking beyond the library and their rights to access, correction, and deletion.

Staff Responsibilities

Policies will define acceptable and prohibited uses of AI tools with patron data. Staff should avoid tools that require access to patron personal data; if AI tools process such data, strong protections must be in place. Staff should not connect management systems or patron records to AI tools that store or analyze data, nor enter personal information into AI tools, recognizing that such inputs may be subject to public records requests. AI training and privacy education will be treated as part of professional development, with time and compensation.

In practice, this means (system-wide):

- Applying ALA privacy guidelines when evaluating AI tools, including asking how AI affects privacy, whether features are optional, and how data are used or retained.
- Avoiding entry of personally identifiable or sensitive information into AI tools with unclear data practices and limiting use to approved tools vetted for security.
- Informing patrons, in plain language, when AI tools collect or process their data and when AI influences search results or recommendations.

- Explaining patrons' rights (where applicable) to access, correct, and delete their data, and advocating for minimal, privacy-protective data retention.
 - Training staff in privacy-aware AI use and documenting acceptable and prohibited practices in local policies.
 - Periodically reassessing AI-related privacy risks, including profiling, inference, data leakage, and third-party access, and updating contracts and practices accordingly.
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Privacy: Implications by Area of the Library

Collections

- Avoid using identifiable patron borrowing or use histories in AI tools for collection development or weeding unless the data have been appropriately de-identified and governed by clear policy.
- Ensure AI-supported analytics on collection use rely on aggregated or anonymized data so that no individual's reading or viewing habits can be inferred.
- When sharing collection-related analytics with external partners, remove or mask any data that could reasonably be tied back to specific patrons or small groups.

Public Services

- Train staff not to input patron names, contact details, or sensitive personal information into AI tools when assisting with research or reference.
- Provide clear notices on any public-facing AI services (such as virtual assistants or chatbots) indicating what information is collected, how long it is stored, and how it will be used.
- Offer guidance to patrons on privacy-conscious use of external AI tools, including tips on avoiding sensitive disclosures and understanding terms of service.

Technical Services

- Configure integrated systems and discovery platforms so that AI features are disabled by default or enabled only after review of their data practices and privacy risks.
- Work with vendors to minimize retention of logs and training data containing patron-related information, and to limit access to those data within vendor organizations and among third parties.

- Monitor system updates and new AI features for changes that could affect privacy, documenting decisions, mitigations, and configuration changes.

Administration

- Maintain an inventory of AI tools and features in use, including the types of data they access, storage locations, and retention periods.
 - Include privacy impact assessments and data-flow descriptions in procurement, renewal, and major configuration changes for AI-enabled tools.
 - Report to the board on AI-related privacy measures, incidents, and ongoing risk management efforts, including policy changes and staff training.
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2.4 Sustainability (Principle + In Practice)

Sustainability means making choices that are good for the environment, make sense economically, and treat everyone equitably. Sustaining our environment means seeing nature as intrinsically valuable, not only for its resources but for the diversity of life it supports. AI currently requires substantial energy and water, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and, in some communities, strain on freshwater supply. Decisions about AI use today have lasting consequences for future generations.

Libraries will assess the full environmental lifecycle of AI systems—including energy use, data center emissions, electronic waste, and resource extraction—and weigh environmental impacts alongside efficiency gains. Libraries should advocate for responsible data center construction and operation that does not disproportionately harm local communities through utility strain, higher bills, or pollution.

Libraries will prioritize AI tools that are open source, use smaller models, and have lower environmental impact. They will seek vendor information on carbon intensity, energy sources, and water use; consider hardware lifespan, e-waste, and upgrade cycles; and request recycling or takeback plans. Libraries will support sustainable AI development, including open-source and community-governed tools and models that advance conservation or sustainability research.

Libraries will also consider how AI deployment affects institutional sustainability: library expertise, community trust, and democratic participation must not be eroded by over-automation, diminished staff skills, or long-term dependency on vendor-controlled systems.

In practice, this means (system-wide):

- Weighing the full environmental lifecycle of AI systems—including energy use, emissions, water consumption, hardware needs, and e-waste—alongside any efficiency gains.
 - Preferring open-source, smaller, or task-specific models that have demonstrably lower environmental impact.
 - Requesting transparent information from vendors about carbon intensity, energy sources, and water use, and integrating this into procurement decisions.
 - Planning for responsible end-of-life management of AI-related hardware, including recycling and vendor takeback programs.
 - Advocating for data center practices that do not disproportionately burden local communities through higher utility costs, water stress, or pollution.
 - Avoiding over-automation that erodes staff skills, community relationships, and institutional flexibility, even when short-term efficiencies are attractive.
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Sustainability: Implications by Area of the Library

Collections

- Consider the environmental impact of AI-heavy tools (such as large, always-on recommendation engines) when choosing discovery platforms or analytics services.
- Prefer solutions that meet user needs with less computational overhead, such as more efficient search tools or smaller, targeted models.
- Avoid adopting AI services that require frequent hardware upgrades or proprietary, resource-intensive platforms when lower-impact alternatives are available.

Public Services

- When implementing AI in public-facing services, prioritize configurations that minimize unnecessary processing.
- Include environmental impacts of AI as a topic in digital literacy, civic engagement, or sustainability programming to help patrons understand the broader implications of technology use.
- Encourage staff and patrons to use AI tools mindfully, emphasizing sufficiency and purpose rather than maximal or routine use.

Technical Services

- Track the hardware, hosting, and network demands of AI-enabled tools used in technical workflows, and consolidate services where feasible to reduce duplication.
- Work with IT or external partners to prefer data centers and hosting arrangements that use renewable energy or demonstrate strong environmental commitments, when possible.
- Periodically review the technology stack to identify opportunities to replace high-footprint AI components with more efficient options while maintaining service quality.

Administration

- Incorporate environmental and social sustainability criteria into procurement policies and RFPs for AI systems and services.
- Ask vendors to disclose environmental impacts, including energy and water use, and to describe their plans to improve efficiency and reduce emissions over time.
- Report to the board and community on how the library balances innovation with environmental responsibility, including any adjustments to AI use made to reduce environmental impact.

2.5 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) (Principle + In Practice)

As part of the library's mission to provide access to information, libraries should provide environments where people can access AI technologies in ways that recognize and reinforce diversity, equity, and inclusion. As AI systems become more integrated into libraries and communities, librarians must ensure these tools serve all community members equitably and do not perpetuate or amplify existing inequities.

Bias and Equitable Access

Libraries will evaluate AI systems for bias in datasets, algorithms, and outcomes before adoption and throughout their lifecycle, including tools used in cataloging, reference, recommendation, and patron interactions. Staff will be trained to recognize algorithmic bias and understand its impact, particularly on historically marginalized communities. Libraries will recognize that AI systems often underrepresent non-English languages, dialects, and marginalized communities, and will collaborate with multilingual community members to test outputs and produce materials in multiple languages and formats.

Libraries will prioritize equitable access to AI-enabled products and services, ensuring that marginalized and underserved communities are not excluded. This includes addressing language, literacy, disability, and technology barriers, and providing AI literacy programming accessible across abilities, cultures, and learning styles.

Transparency, Accountability, Community Voice, and Labor Justice

Libraries will advocate for transparent design and responsible innovation in AI tools, favoring open-source options where feasible and demanding accountability from proprietary vendors. Communities should have meaningful input into AI deployment decisions, and libraries should offer opt-out options for AI-enabled services.

Libraries will promote literacy about algorithmic bias, systemic inequities, and the social impacts of AI. They will recognize that patron data and digital activity used to train AI systems constitute patron labor, and will seek to minimize exploitative data practices while evaluating vendors' labor conditions and protections.

When AI deployments generate efficiency gains, benefits should extend to workers and communities, not only institutions. Libraries will train workers with AI, not for AI substitution, and will protect professional knowledge, expertise, and career pathways for future librarians.

In practice, this means (system-wide):

- Auditing AI tools for bias and discriminatory outcomes before and after deployment and discontinuing or reconfiguring tools that cause harm.
- Ensuring AI-enabled services are usable across languages, literacy levels, disabilities, and technological capacities, and co-designing solutions with marginalized and multilingual community members.
- Favoring transparent and, when feasible, open-source AI tools that allow inspection and explanation of automated decisions.
- Building AI literacy programs that explicitly address algorithmic bias, systemic inequity, and how AI can reproduce or challenge existing power structures.
- Treating patron data used for AI training as a form of unpaid labor and minimizing exploitative data-extraction practices in contracts and implementations.
- Evaluating AI vendors for labor ethics—including data-labeling conditions and worker protections—and avoiding tools where ethical practices cannot be demonstrated.
- Using AI-related efficiency gains to improve working conditions, wages, or community services, and providing paid time and training so workers can develop AI-related competencies without eroding well-being or professional identity.

DEIA: Implications by Area of the Library

Collections

- Use AI tools to help identify collection gaps related to marginalized communities, languages, and perspectives, and then address those gaps through intentional, equity-focused selection.
- Audit AI-supported recommendation or weeding tools to detect patterns that reduce the visibility or presence of materials by or about marginalized groups, and adjust or discontinue tools that reinforce such patterns.
- Include community input from underrepresented groups when evaluating how AI affects collection visibility and relevance.

Public Services

- Ensure AI-enabled services (such as chatbots, virtual assistants, or translation tools) are accessible across languages, literacy levels, and disability status, and always provide the option of human support.
- Integrate discussions of algorithmic bias, systemic inequity, and inclusive design into AI literacy programming, using examples that are relevant to local communities.
- Provide multilingual and culturally responsive educational materials about AI so that patrons from diverse backgrounds can fully engage with AI-related opportunities and risks.

Technical Services

- Test AI tools used for cataloging, metadata, or discovery with materials that represent diverse communities and topics, and document any biased behavior and mitigation steps.
- Ensure AI-generated subject headings, descriptions, or classifications are reviewed by staff for inclusive and culturally competent language before applying them broadly.
- When possible, use or contribute to open-source AI tools and datasets that explicitly aim to reduce bias and increase representation.

Administration

- Include DEIA and labor ethics criteria in procurement and evaluation of AI vendors, including questions about training data composition, bias mitigation, and working conditions for data annotators and moderators.
 - Ensure that AI training, tools, and opportunities are distributed equitably among staff, so that all workers have access to skill-building and advancement, not just a limited group.
 - Regularly assess how AI adoption affects equity within the organization, including impacts on hiring, promotion, workload distribution, and the preservation of diverse career pathways in librarianship.
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3. Conclusion

The ALA Guidance on Artificial Intelligence Use in Libraries helps address the needs of libraries of all types as they develop Artificial Intelligence policies in a substantive, functional manner grounded in ALA's Core Values. This guidance is meant to evolve as the landscape of artificial intelligence and the needs of libraries, library workers and patrons change over time. By carefully considering the information and suggestions provided within this document, libraries around the world will have a firm grounding in the vital issues to consider while creating and revising artificial intelligence policies through this ever-evolving process of technological and social change.

4. Appendix: AI Ethics Framework

There are three principal areas of concern in using AI that libraries must understand to best serve library workers and their communities:

- *Ethical issues raised by the design choices made by AI creators (e.g., privacy issues arising from AI's dependence on personal data for training; intellectual property issues from data harvested at scale).*
- *Ethical issues raised by how humans choose to use AI (e.g., defining standards for responsible use versus overuse, or humans intentionally using AI to harm one another).*
- *Ethical issues raised by the social and environmental impacts of AI (e.g., using automation to replace human labor; the energy costs of AI and its contributions to the climate crisis).*

Keeping these areas of concern in mind, we recommend the following ethical principles that library professionals should consider when evaluating AI systems and use. Each principle is directly reflected in the Library Values, Principles, and Use Cases previously addressed in this document.

4.1 The Common Good of Humanity & the Planet

AI is best used by libraries and patrons to achieve outcomes that benefit the well-being of humanity and the planet. Library workers will ensure that the benefits of AI enable human flourishing — including mental and social wellness — and that those benefits are shared equitably with all members of the community to further accessibility.

In practice, this means:

- Using AI to reduce access barriers for underserved populations; applying a sufficiency mindset to AI use to mitigate environmental harm; and considering the full environmental lifecycle — including energy, water, and e-waste — when making procurement decisions.
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4.2 No-Harm Principle, Privacy, & Protection

AI should not be used to harm others, whether intentionally through misuse or indirectly through the creation or proliferation of misinformation. Libraries will not adopt AI tools that fail to protect individuals' privacy, personal data, and security. Library workers will make concerted efforts to protect marginalized communities from algorithmic oppression and surveillance, and to lessen the impacts of algorithmic bias.

In practice, this means:

- Rigorously evaluating AI tools for privacy and security risks before adoption; ensuring patron data is not used to train AI models without consent; training staff to recognize and respond to algorithmic bias; and disclosing when third-party AI services collect or process patron data.
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4.3 Human Dignity

AI use should not infringe upon the right of humans to pursue their personal, creative, and career aspirations. This includes humans' right to social connection, creative expression, and labor opportunities. AI will only be used in ways that enable and respect, not impede, human autonomy, decision-making, and self-realization.

In practice, this means:

- Ensuring AI complements rather than replaces human intelligence and judgment; guaranteeing that all library workers and patrons have the right to human assistance for any library service; and maintaining sufficient human expertise to provide that option.
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4.4 Responsibility & Explainability

AI use should not replace human decision-making, judgment, and accountability. Libraries will require AI vendors to provide algorithmic transparency and explainability to support any automated decisions or erroneous outputs that may impact their communities. Patrons have the right to know if and why an automated system made a decision on their behalf that significantly affected them.

In practice, this means:

- Requiring clear, accessible documentation for any deployed automated system; ensuring library workers can question or override algorithmic recommendations; and educating patrons about their rights regarding AI-influenced decisions.
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4.5 Democracy

Communities should have meaningful input into library decisions about AI deployment and automation. Libraries should prioritize their communities' shared values to build and maintain trust. Library workers should be aware of AI best practices and make their communities aware of systems and tools that violate the principle of trust, which is the foundation of democratic freedom.

In practice, this means:

- Guiding AI adoption through community deliberation and democratic participation; building and sustaining public AI literacy through programming and resources; and offering opt-out options for any AI-enabled service.
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4.6 Equity, Social Justice & Working Towards a Better Future

Justice is the fair and equitable treatment of all people. It is also distributive — the concerted, equitable application of the benefits of AI to all members of society, especially those who face additional barriers. Libraries play an essential role in ensuring that AI tools and training are available to marginalized community members as part of the broader effort to bridge the digital

divide. Intergenerational justice is the moral duty we have to ensure that future generations inherit a planet that sustains life and a society that fosters human dignity and the common good.

In practice, this means:

Auditing AI tools for bias and discriminatory outcomes; prioritizing equitable access to AI-enabled services; advocating for open-source and community-governed AI tools; and protecting the institutional knowledge, community trust, and democratic participation that future librarians and patrons will depend on.

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