

Grantsville City Library Policy

Current Neutrality Statement

The Grantsville City Library promotes the principle of intellectual freedom and neutrality in the use of the Library's collection, technology, meeting rooms, and spaces that are available to the public as defined in the Library's Policies. The Library will not deny access, services, or resources to anyone based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.

The Library, however, reserves the right to curb behaviors that we believe are disruptive, illegal, frightening, or threatening. Additionally, the Library may, from time to time, create or sponsor the display of materials, exhibits, designs, programs, and similar, that identify, educate, or evaluate certain themes or concepts even though such identity, education, or evaluation may contradict or conflict with the ideas

Proposed Revisions:

Our Commitment to Community and Open Ideas

Version 1:

The Grantsville City Library belongs to everyone. We welcome all community members to freely explore our collections, technology, and public spaces. Our services are open to all people, regardless of background, identity, or belief. To ensure a safe, welcoming, and comfortable environment for everyone, we ask all visitors to follow our community conduct policies.

As a center for lifelong learning, the Library hosts diverse programs and displays designed to spark curiosity, education, and conversation. While these library-sponsored exhibits may explore concepts that challenge individual viewpoints, they are offered to enrich our community's understanding of the world, not to endorse any specific belief.

Version 2:

The Grantsville City Library supports open access to all collections, technology, and public spaces for every member of our community. The Library does not deny access or services based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability. The Library maintains safety and order by restricting illegal, unsafe, or disruptive behavior according to our conduct policies. Additionally, library-sponsored exhibits and educational programs may present diverse concepts and themes that challenge individual beliefs, without endorsing any single viewpoint.

THE WHY:

Clarity and Style

- **Simplify word choices:** Replace complex phrases like "the principle of intellectual freedom and neutrality" with plain terms like "fair and equal access."
- **Remove redundant lists:** Condense overlapping categories like "creeds, philosophies, theologies" into a clean, single standard like "personal beliefs."
- **Fix tone shifts:** Change casual or emotional words like "frightening" to standard legal terms like "unsafe or harassing."

Long-Term Sustainability

- **Broaden operational scope:** Replace rigid lists of specific formats (like "designs, programs, and similar") with broader terms like "library-sponsored programs and exhibits."
- **Tie actions to policy:** Ensure exceptions point to written conduct codes rather than subjective staff feelings.

Suggested Revision

"Neutrality Statement: The Grantsville City Library supports open access to all collections, technology, and public spaces for every member of our community. The Library does not deny access or services based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability. The Library maintains safety and order by restricting illegal, unsafe, or disruptive behavior according to our conduct policies. Additionally, library-sponsored exhibits and educational programs may present diverse concepts and themes that challenge individual beliefs, without endorsing any single viewpoint."

If you'd like, I can:

- Break down **why specific legal terms were updated**
- Tailor the tone to be **more formal or more community-focused**

Let me know how you would like to adjust this draft.

Yes, please Break down why specific legal terms were updated, and Tailor the tone to be more community-focused

Here is a breakdown of why the legal language was modernized, followed by a revised, community-focused version.

Why Specific Legal Terms Were Updated

- **"Sex, gender identity, sexual orientation"**
 - *Why:* The original used "sex, gender, sexual orientation." Modern public sector legal standards explicitly separate "gender identity" from "sex" to match current federal and state non-discrimination benchmarks. [\[1\]](#)
- **"Unsafe, harassing, or disruptive behavior"**
 - *Why:* The original used "disruptive, illegal, frightening, or threatening." Words like "frightening" are legally weak because they depend entirely on an individual's subjective feelings. Swapping them for "unsafe or harassing" ties the restriction to objective, policy-defined actions. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **"According to our conduct policies"**
 - *Why:* The original stated "behaviors that we *believe* are disruptive." Relying on staff beliefs opens the library up to claims of arbitrary enforcement. Binding restrictions to established policies protects the library from legal liability.
- **"Without endorsing any single viewpoint"**
 - *Why:* The original listed "ideas, research, creeds, philosophies, theologies, etc." This long list is prone to accidental omissions. The updated legal phrasing uses

"viewpoint," which covers all personal, political, and religious beliefs under First Amendment standards. [\[1\]](#)

Community-Focused Revision

This version softens the legal terminology into warm, community-first language while maintaining the necessary operational boundaries.

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