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E-mail addressing the Maziarkas' questions regarding the West Bend Library's connections with the American Library Association

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RECEIVED 03/22/09

Dear Mrs. Maziarka,

The answers that you've requested follow below.

1. Does our library require an ALA-MLS degree to work there as a librarian?

All of the professional librarians have MLS or MLIS from ALA approved universities.

2. Does our library have membership in the ALA?

The library does not have an institutional membership in the ALA.

3. Are our library board members required to sign an agreement about ALA guidelines?

There is no such agreement which the library board members are required to sign.

4. Does our library give ALA membership to board members?

The library does not give ALA membership to board members.

5. Does our library celebrate the ALA "Banned Books Week?"

The library has recognized Banned Books Week since before I began at the library in 1994.

6. Will our library tell inquiring parents what is currently checked out on their minor child's (including teens) library card?

Information regarding Public Library Records is to be found in Wisconsin Statute 43.30. See (4).

Title: Circulation Records - Wisconsin Statute Chapter 43.30
Effective Date: 1981
Authorized By: State of Wisconsin
Date of Last Revision: 12/2007

WISCONSIN STATUTE: 43.30

43.30 Public library records.

(1) Records of any library which is in whole or in part supported by public funds, including the

records of a public library system, indicating the identity of any individual who borrows or uses the library's documents or other materials, resources or services may not be disclosed except by court order or to persons acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library or library system, or persons designated by the library to assist the library or library system in the enforcement of library regulations, to persons authorized by the individual to inspect such records, to custodial parents or guardians of children under the age of 16 as required under sub. (4), or to libraries as authorized under subs. (2) and (3), or as deemed necessary by the library to protect against imminent threats to the life or safety of an individual.

(2) A library supported in whole or in part by public funds may disclose an individual's identity to another library for the purpose of borrowing materials for the individual only if the library to which the individual's identity is being disclosed meets at least one of the following requirements:

(a) The library is supported in whole or in part by public funds.

(b) The library has a written policy prohibiting the disclosure of the identity of the individual except as authorized under sub. (3).

(c) The library agrees not to disclose the identity of the individual except as authorized under sub. (3).

(3) A library to which an individual's identity is disclosed under sub. (2) and that is not supported in whole or in part by public funds may disclose that individual's identity to another library for the purpose of borrowing materials for that individual only if the library to which the identity is being disclosed meets at least one of the requirements specified under sub. (2) (a) to (c).

(4) Upon the request of a custodial parent or guardian of a child who is under the age of 16, a library supported in whole or part by public funds shall disclose to the custodial parent or guardian all library records relating to the use of the library's documents or other materials, resources, or services by that child.

History: 1981 c. 335; 1991 a. 269.

Updated: June 20, 2007

7. Does our library require parental permission for obtaining a library card? For accessing the internet? For checking out R-rated movies, CD's, etc?

The West Bend Library requires that a parent sign the library card application form for anyone in their family who is under 18 years old. The same is true for Internet access privileges. The only exceptions to this rule happen if the person under 18 is an emancipated minor or if they have a legal guardian who is not one of their parents. The options that parents have regarding movies for anyone in their family under 18 is an either/or choice. They either allow the minors in their family to check out movies on DVD or VHS or they don't.

8. Are parents allowed to request that certain books or authors won't be allowed to be checked out by their minor children?

There is no such provision in our library card application forms. We encourage parents to spend more time with their minors at the library and to monitor what they read, view and listen to.

Thank you for helping us understand how our library empowers parents and ensures the safety of the children in our community.

Sincerely,

Jim and Ginny Maziarka

Sincerely,

Michael Tyree, Library Director
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