

Association for Library Service to Children: Statement of Commitment to Excellence in Library Service to Children in a Technological Age*

Technology, specifically the Internet, is revolutionizing how we live, learn and work. No other technology in history has provided us with so much information so easily. Recognizing that the Internet has raised concerns about children's access to potentially harmful material, the Association for Library Service to Children affirms the commitment of children's librarians across America to ensuring a positive library experience for children.

We are committed to:

- Providing collections, services and assistance that encourage and support children in exploring the world of ideas and information and in developing the knowledge and skills they need to live, learn, work and govern in a democratic society;
- Selecting and guiding children to age appropriate materials in print, video and online;
- Providing instruction for children and parents about online searches and other techniques to ensure a positive Internet experience;
- Respecting the right of parents to decide which materials are appropriate for their children;
- Advising children and parents on the selection of materials they read and view and to make positive choices;
- Developing policies and services that recognize and serve the wide ranging needs of children that include, but are not limited to, differences in their emotional and intellectual maturity and family values;
- Educating parents about the Internet and encouraging them to take an active role in guiding their children's use;
- Compiling and recommending quality Web sites for children; and
- Taking an active role in developing Internet policies and programs that help parents protect their children from inappropriate material and ensure children's access to information they need.

This commitment is expressed daily in communities across America. We encourage everyone to visit their local library to learn more about this important and valuable new resource and about the policies and programs in place to provide a positive and enriching experience for children.

**Approved by the ALSC Board of Directors at the Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, January 14-19, 2000.*

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<http://www.ala.org/alsc/issuesadv/internettech/technologystatement>