

E-book Principles for the Library Community

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1. Values
 - a. ALA policies apply fully to e-books, including those that promote values such as intellectual freedom, commitment to access, respect for confidentiality and privacy, freedom of information, service for the public good, and ethics and professionalism.
 - b. E-books as a format must be treated like any other library material with respect to collection development, organization and cataloging of works, reference services, and preservation.
 - c. E-books must be made available to meet the unique needs and circumstances of all people, regardless of any limitations or special requirements that they may possess such as physical disabilities, financial constraints, or otherwise.
 - d. Equitable access to e-books is ensured through maximum accessibility, ubiquity, sustainability, and barrier-free access.
2. Copyright
 - a. Access to and use of e-books that are protected by copyright should be provided in a fair and equitable manner, balancing the rights and privileges of users, creators, and intermediaries.
 - b. Rights management policies and procedures must promote the advancement and sharing of knowledge, innovation, and creativity.
3. Sustainable Collections
 - a. A library's e-book activities must be sustainable.
 - b. Sustainability requires secure and ongoing funding, technology solutions that are appropriate to the longevity of the cultural record, and long-term management capabilities.
4. Collaboration
 - a. Collaboration enables the building of collections that support research, scholarship and the information needs of diverse communities.
 - b. Collaboration requires strong organizational support and promotion by library and cultural heritage practitioners, their institutions, and their associations.
5. Advocacy
 - a. A library's e-book programs and associated activities require ongoing communication for its success.
 - b. The library and cultural heritage communities must reach out to the public, to government, and to funding institutions with a clear and compelling message regarding the role of e-books in libraries.
6. International Scope
 - a. E-books increasingly serve an international audience and are part of a global information infrastructure that is not limited by geographical or political boundaries.
 - b. The library and cultural heritage communities must understand the origination of e-books, respect the ownership rights of these materials, and be attentive to issues surrounding cultural asset exploitation and repatriation.
 - c. E-book services must be developed with goals of technical and social interoperability in the international information sphere.

7. Continuous Learning
 - a. E-book services are developed and sustained by a library workforce competent in current technologies and applications.
 - b. Members of the library and cultural heritage professions must engage in ongoing learning. They must explore new technology, work with new partners, and reach new audiences.
8. Preservation
 - a. E-books must receive appropriate preservation
 - b. Preservation activities require the development of standards, best practices, and sustainable funding models to support long-term commitment to e-books.
9. Importance of Standards
 - a. E-books must be built upon standards and best practices that maximize their usefulness.
 - b. Such standards and best practices must serve the broadest community of users, including those with disabilities, support sustainable access and use over time, and provide user functionality that promotes the core library values.
 - c. Preference should be given to open standards and non-proprietary technologies that support long-term sustainability.