

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS (CAPAL)

ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP: A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

PREAMBLE

Academic librarians are members of a profession committed to fostering and upholding the core academic values and principles associated with teaching, learning and research in higher education and play an integral role in supporting the academic missions of post-secondary institutions. Change, whether technological or fiscal, can introduce conflicting values. In these instances, academic librarians need to re-affirm the core principles of academic librarianship. *Academic Librarianship: A Statement of Principles* is an articulation of those values. It is intended to provide guidance and support to academic librarians in order to enable them to demonstrate leadership in the profession at large and withstand challenges at the institutional level.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Academic librarians are professional librarians committed to:

1. Intellectual and academic freedom
2. Shared governance
3. Eradicating discrimination
4. Academic integrity, free inquiry, and the advancement of knowledge
5. Uncensored and unbiased access to information
6. Fostering diversity and equity
7. Collegial decision-making and mutual respect
8. The pursuit of scholarship and professional creative endeavours in academic librarianship
9. Sustaining and preserving knowledge for current and future generations
10. Supporting all professional librarians as members of a common profession with shared values and principles
11. Respecting different views and individual expertise
12. Promoting high standards in the profession
13. Fostering, upholding and defending the core principles of academic librarianship for the benefit of our communities

December 2012.