

## Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

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### *Abstract*

*In the present scholastic world, intellectual freedom is an important issue. In this paper, different variables which are influencing intellectual freedom have been talked about alongside endeavors that should be made with a specific end goal to make access to information feasible to all. The issues being confronted primarily by librarians concerning the protection of private information of the library clients have additionally been discussed in this paper. Moreover, the article concentrates on the essential parts that can be played by the librarians in managing and instructing the general public concerning the best possible utilization of information.*

*Keywords: Intellectual freedom, information, library, human right, democracy*

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### INTRODUCTION

Intellectual freedom is the freedom to express an opinion in the scholarly world; the free access to the information and the freedom of utilizing that information (in a legitimate way) without the dread of your private information being abused. Intellectual freedom is imperative for the scholarly development of any society or nation. Individuals need to feel free in the utilization of the libraries and the information instead of being scared that their information stored in the library PCs will be abused [1]. It was in 1939 that the idea of intellectual freedom was recognized for the first time by the American Library Association. However, it was also in 1974 that the Intellectual Freedom Manual's first edition was published [2]. A lot of critical updates have been brought to the manual since then, and in 2006 its 7th edition was released. The library is viewed as a place where knowledge can be achieved by the public regardless of their race, sexual orientation, foundation or ethnicity. Also, that the principal objective of the library is to give the public required information without observing their perspective on the given information. Intellectual freedom, in the most genuine sense, does not advance any causes, is not one-sided towards any purpose and promotes no developments. If the reader or researcher is

confined to a particular perspective, it may imply that he/she has a deficient and limited subject view. A case of such can be a restriction of a controversial book from the library or permit only just a gathering of supporters to see it [3].

Expurgation is another sort of control as indicated by which the Library Bill of Rights is disregarded. Expurgation implies accomplishing something in a physical way to the library material so the total access to the library could be confined. A case of expurgation can be a librarian concealing some piece of a book or novel since he/she believes that it may affront a portion of the benefactors. Intellectual Freedom Committee created an impression because of the mutilation of books. The announcement underscores that the confinement ought to be forced on the Expurgation of any material of the library without thinking about the wants or privileges of the library users [4].

The expression "intellectual freedom" implies precisely what somebody would expect in the wake of reading the two words. Intellectual freedom means the right, capacity and freedom of the people to enable their brains to take them wherever they need and to scan for research, understanding, thoughts, and

information. The society which comprehend the centrality of intellectual freedom totally trust that people ought to have the capacity to get to a wide range of information, for example, radio, books, TV, articles, film and so forth with no sort of restrictions on the premise of the substance being shown through these channels [5].

Intellectual freedom in the United States is ensured by the first constitutional amendment. Likewise, denying Intellectual Freedom implies one is preventing the essential guideline of democracy whereas a citizen should be free to make their choice, also in making their judgment [6]. Indeed, even with these democratic standards, which are available in our country, there are still individuals who want to confine access to information by utilizing different means including control. This is a critical risk being confronted by intellectual freedom in the 21st century. It can be noticed that all through history censorship, it has often been develop by groups and people with a specific end goal to control and limit the spread and access of information and thoughts. Most times people endeavor to deny or confine access to materials on the premise of ethnic, political, moral, philosophical and religious issues. Hereby, customs, legislative issues, ethical, philosophy, and religion turn into the reason for dangers towards intellectual freedom [7].

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords like “intellectual freedom” “academic freedom” “library” “libraries” “intellectual freedom in libraries” “academic freedom in libraries” “academic freedom in a library” “intellectual freedom in a library” are often search engine key words. This literature review is limited to (a) peer refereed/reviewed journal (scholarly), (b) available in the database in full text, (c) published between the years of 2000 and 2015.

The results of the research revealed that the studies focused on the significance of intellectual freedom and considered it a basic human right. These studies reveal that no society can grow academically and intellectually until and unless it has intellectual freedom. The studies have shown that libraries

play a very important role in intellectual freedom. Some of the major issues associated with libraries and intellectual freedom have been mentioned in this section as well.

With the advancement in technology and so much information available online, some other problems have arisen as well. For example, the excess and wallowing of information are few of the issues related to such great access to the electronic resources. Librarians can play a very important role here in guiding the students towards proper information and in this way the students can avoid making use of the information that is not legitimate.

## DISCUSSION

### Intellectual Freedom as Human Right

Knox opines that Intellectual freedom is, for the most part, observed as a key human right. It is characterized as the inheritance of every single individual to have the freedom to think, freedom to impart, freedom to produce thoughts and also the privilege to get information and to pass on information without constraint [8]. Intellectual freedom is incorporated into the constitutions of United Nations. It is additionally found in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 in the United Nations (UN). It expresses that each has the privilege to have the freedom to express, impact and the right to communicate information through any media without impediment. Most nations, both democratic, and non-democratic subscribe to this affirmation since intellectual freedom is a vital component of human presence. It is likewise found in various other international conventions including the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 10(1)) and also the International Convention on Political and Civil Rights (Article 19).

Rubel opine that intellectual freedom is important to every individual who is involved in the information establishments, both at individual and professional levels. At individual levels, we are influenced because we exist as a part of society, and professionally because we need to deal with our accumulations and choose which material to keep and which ones should be rejected [9].

Morrissey (2012) in his examination affirms that for a society to be viewed as democratic, its subjects need access every kinds of information, paying little heed to their status in the society since this guarantees the government is pursuing exercises that serve the interests of its natives. Each resident needs access to information within national and international arena, without restriction that is excessive to the degree of preventing their intellectual freedom. In this regard, libraries serve an important part in the society since they are where this information can be accessed, and hence they should react to all adjustments in the nation. Intellectual freedom is perceived and upheld by many bodies that deal with information [10].

### **International Bodies and Intellectual Freedom**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the biggest organization that represents the individuals who work inside the library frameworks. It has maintained the freedom of intellectual freedom since the 1990s. As indicated by this organization, also the freedom of articulation and the privilege to know are two unique things however one cannot exist without the other. The privilege to information is fundamental with the end goal for one to practice their freedom of thought and conscience. Then again, one needs the freedom to think and express with a specific end goal to realize their freedom to get information. As indicated by the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom, everybody has the fundamental appropriate to approach all declarations of information, intellectual, imaginative creativity, and in addition to express their perspective openly. This privilege was made law in the British Columbia amid 2004, which shields libraries from being sued for their accumulations [11].

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) protects intellectual freedom as accommodated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The IFLA advances it is the essential right of each person to get information unreservedly and to communicate

openly in broad daylight. As indicated by this alliance, freedom of articulation and the privilege to know are two angles, yet they go as an inseparable unit. For one to completely understand the advantages of freedom of thought and conscience, they need a privilege to know. For one to entirely profit from freedom of access to information, they need freedom of articulation and freedom of thought. The league stresses that intellectual freedom is a crucial obligation of the library and information organizations. Libraries and librarians ought to along these lines permit people free access to information, observe the protection of library customers and to guard as well as bolster the standards of intellectual freedom to enable people practice their freedom of articulation [12]. With a specific end goal to accomplish this, the IFLA accentuates that:

- Since libraries fills in as a possibility through which individuals can obtain learning, they ought to enable free access to this information.
- Libraries ought to have materials which advance free-considering and deep rooted knowledge for people and groups.
- Libraries ought to dependably protect the standards of intellectual freedom and also human and social equal opportunity.
- Libraries ought to have every one of the materials that mirror the decent variety of the society. These materials ought to incorporate information written in all perspectives and from various foundations.
- Libraries ought to pick which content to keep and which ones to dismiss given expert contemplations and not driven by religious, political or moral predispositions.
- Libraries might battle all types of restriction and proceed to get and pass on information to clients without fear.
- All customers will be dealt with evenhandedly and offered access to information with no type of segregation.
- The connection amongst custodians and customers might be secret. The information concerning clients and the material they read should not be offered out to any unauthorized people.

- Principles of academic freedom might be maintained in libraries which are run using public funds.
- It is the duty of custodians and other staff working in such libraries to maintain those standards.
- Librarians and other staff have a duty to their supervisor and to the individuals who utilize the library. Whenever their obligations to the distinctive congregation are in struggle, the duty to the client ought to be given first need [13].

Libraries and library workers are in charge of spreading information to the general public. In this manner, the part that the libraries play is vital in intellectual freedom and information industry dialogs. There are set principles and benchmarks which libraries are required to take after by the bodies to which they have a place [14]. These are the fundamental decisions that libraries must cling to:

1. To give information and learning to everybody in the public arena through the arrangement of books and other learning assets.
2. Service to all clients without separation or predisposition.
3. Rejection of accumulations ought not to be found on the starting point, perspectives from which they were composed.
4. Materials in the library ought to reflect distinctive perspectives and ways to deal with an issue. They ought not to be uneven.
5. Everyone who looks for access to information in the library ought to be permitted to do as such without segregation of any sort.
6. Libraries ought to be places where human rights and equivalent open door for all is maintained.
7. Libraries should react to changing needs in work publicity by giving material that spreads information which is transferable to the work environment and potential clients.
8. Respect for copyrights [15].

Because of the components above, intellectual freedom will dependably be imperative to libraries and the information calling. In any case, it should be noted that libraries do not

work in a vacuum and it should be seriously noted. Each library serves an alternate customer and gives a particular kind of information. There are four distinct types of libraries in particular: scholarly libraries, open libraries, particular libraries and national libraries. Scholarly libraries are gone by understudies and workforce of a particular train. Uncommon libraries have material that contains information that is particular to a specific industry, and it is in this manner valuable to individuals who work inside that specific calling. Open and national libraries serve the overall population, and they are interested in everybody [16].

Since libraries serve the overall population and they are financed through public fund, they should have materials that take into account all the needs that exist in the general public which they exist for. Also, they should dependably be mindful to consider intellectual freedom, which is a fundamental human ideal, in their administration arrangement. Since it is a fundamental human ideal for everybody to get to information, all the material that an individual needs ought to be accessible in the library, inside budgetary and space confinements. The person ought to likewise be ready to get to each kind of information accessible in the library unless doing as such would represent a risk to national security, or it is against the principles of the library. Both present day and conventional strategies for discovering information should be accessible in the library to all.

### **Significance of Intellectual Freedom to the Individual**

Various investigations have concentrated on the importance of intellectual freedom to persons. These investigations explain that a person is significantly influenced by information, and intellectual freedom is vital for individual and societal development and improvement. They call attention to:

- When individuals are permitted to think unreservedly, they end up plainly innovative and self-propelled [16].
- They are fit for providing essential needs to their dependants and furthermore self-instructing on the best sorts of food to help enhance their well-being [16]. These

individuals can flourish in the work environment and possess qualities which are appealing to managers [17].

- The evaluation of democracy is probably going to be acknowledged in a society where intellectual freedom is supported [18].
- Since the information society relies upon creativity to thrive, it would be difficult to exist in a framework where creativity and freedom of thought are concealed and suppressed [19].

Ideas of scholastic freedom assume a gigantic part in making the calling of librarianship more attractive and perilous to a specific degree. Intellectual freedom as accommodated in the Universal Declaration will conceivably be a significant issue to the information society soon [20].

For intellectual freedom policies to be viable and maintainable, factors of national and political issues must be incorporated into the planned procedure. Most librarians when asked about information encompassing intellectual freedom, they depict often depicts that the real issue affecting intellectual freedom include: access to PCs, the government asking for access to flow records, and the effect of local state and government laws in detailing of approaches. They show an ideal approach to think of intellectual freedom arrangements that are adequate both lawfully and pleasing to the client.

### **Critical Intellectual Freedom Issues Currently Facing Libraries**

#### ***Cultural Variety and Intellectual Freedom***

Helton in his investigation call attention to that it is important that institutions of higher learning comprehend that although intellectual freedom is a piece of the scholastic attempt, and it is shielded from most sorts of restriction, that freedom must be checked because of the present circumstance in the country and across the world. It is however the obligation of librarians to rise up to protect intellectual freedom. However, as long as there would be balance between both national security and intellectual [21].

He underlines the desperate requirement for intellectual freedom as today, more than at

some other time ever; the understudy populace in numerous grounds in the US is exceptionally differing. Understudies originate from various ethnicities, foundations, and ages. There are male and female understudies simply like some time recently, yet now there is considerably another sexual orientation, transgender understudies. These understudies all convey their insight and encounters to the scholarly libraries, with the goal of social affair information [21].

Daniel calls attention to that present social civilized diversity drift should be considered when an intellectual freedom design is being figured. One noteworthy trademark that separates the present library clients from more seasoned eras is their expanded innovative skill [22]. They can get to information online without much trouble. Their meaning of individual security changes from the meaning of more traditional era. They value their protection however, when their techniques for gathering information do not show this regard for individual and open security. For example, students basically gather information, choose which parts are critical and send it with no worry for copyright and protection. They may likewise discover information from Google and take it to be valid without considering the believability of the sources. There is a need to show college students to reconcile information, and libraries appear to be the best places for students to take in this expertise. Maloney noticed that for intellectual freedom to flourish, library users should know about the information accessible in libraries. Librarians then again should know widely recognized techniques that users use with a specific end goal to help them while in the meantime regarding their distinctive looking and learning style, which will enable them to gain more from libraries. At the point when there is participation between customers who look for information and bookkeepers who will give direction to the individuals who look for it, intellectual freedom will thrive [23].

#### **Restriction**

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom opines that control implies barring or erasing parts of distributed materials and in addition the events to banish, preclude, mark, boycott,

limit or smother materials. The fundamental worry for ALA in the evacuation or constraint of specific materials was a direct result of the conviction of the organization that the general public ought to have the freedom to express their perspectives and thoughts in a freeway in a democratic society [24]. It was in 1939 that the Library Bill of Rights was made with the goal that fair accomplishing of the determination of materials could be advanced and an adjusted amassing and open spaces for meeting could be given to people in general [25].

### **Supporter Protection and Privacy**

Today, one of the significant worries of the librarians with regards to the security and secrecy of the clients is in regards to their record and information assurance as, today the online library frameworks hold and make records of the clients when they make utilization of the library PCs. Especially in the United States this training has been escalated significantly more because of the national security worries since September [26]. It is for the most part the US Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) 2001 which rings a bell when the library supporters' classification and security is specified.

We live in a period when the utilization of library does not just mean taking a gander at and perusing the books in this manner, the worries of library clients and the administrators have expanded a considerable measure more remote than simply ensuring the flow records. The issues related with ensuring the PC databases containing information in regards to the library clients can additionally be portrayed by the endeavor that was made in 2005 by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to utilize a national security letter keeping in mind the end goal to get all of the supporter information, get to logs and charging information of any person in the Connecticut library [27]. Securing the secret information of the library clients is vital for the intellectual and also scholastic freedom. It is the obligation of the custodians to guarantee, in a moral way the entrance of the supporters to the information that they require from the library and not watch what the benefactors are searching for.

The custodians and every one of the general population to whom the intellectual freedom is critical, the endeavors that are made outside of the library to spy and screen the exercises of the general population ought to be of enthusiasm too.

Other than the difficulties which have been specified above and that directly affect the intellectual and in addition scholarly freedom, significantly more difficulties exists that are being confronted by the scholastic curators in the US and additionally different nations that are said to be 'immature' or with 'creating economies.' Mentioned underneath are a couple of the difficulties by which the scholarly libraries are generally influenced:

**Escalating Costs.** With a specific end goal to have adequate accumulation of the universal research, the assets should be re-allotted to the online administrations. Scholastic libraries in Africa are endeavoring to make monograph accumulation of constrained range accessible to the general population alongside access to e-diaries and lists [28]. This is winding up considerably harder because of the high trade rates and the constrained access to the outside trade.

**Technological Advancement.** In Africa the scholarly libraries are attempting to remain fully informed regarding the new innovation and adjusting the requirements for the new innovation against the requirement for diaries and books.

**Information Proficiency.** It has been told by Arko-Cobbah that in Africa when an understudy enters a college library, he/she is confronted by the issue of managing the innovation as, the introduction to the information and interchanges innovation (ICT) there is not too much and the understudy confronts trouble in making sense of how to work the PCs to scan for what he/she needs [29]. It has additionally been called attention to by the creator that the understudies frequently pick the information that they need to utilize rapidly without legitimately checking its genuineness. As indicated by McQueen, the over-burden and floundering of information are few of the issues identified with such extraordinary access to the electronic assets. Administrators can assume an imperative part

here in controlling the library users towards substantial information and along these lines the understudies can abstain from making utilization of the information that is not honest to goodness [30].

**Plagiarism.** Written falsification is another issue that frequently emerges when there is such colossal measure of information accessible. When another person's work, dialect or thought is spoken to as one's own the demonstration is said to be written falsification. As it has been called attention to by the Association of College and Research Libraries [31] that the understudies who are information proficient comprehend the social, financial and legitimate issues which are related with the utilization of information and how the information ought to be gotten to and utilized as a part of a lawful and mindful way. Along these lines, likewise the custodians can assume an imperative part in edifying the understudy with respect to the best possible and lawful utilization of information and the centrality of giving appropriate references when utilizing another person's work.

## CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have focused on the increasing problems being faced by the library users who feel that intellectual freedom has been compromised with the event of time. It is also an established fact that in today's world uninterrupted information is significant for the progress and prosperity of any nation and this holds especially true for the academic and intellectual community.

Libraries are a major victim of the problems being faced with regards to intellectual freedom. Librarians feel torn between the need to protect the confidential information of the clients which can so easily be accessed by the authorities from the computer databases and to let the authorities do what they want to do. This is a significant issue in today's world of internet as; the fear of personal information being misused can make the people hesitant or stop them all together from using the libraries for required information. The authorities need to come up with some policies to assure the people that their confidential information is protected.

The librarians can help their consumers who are not very familiar with the new technologies of internet and computers such as the elderly or the children who do not have a lot of exposure to the information and technology. These librarians can not only help the people look for relevant information but also help them in figuring out which is the relevant and valid information and which is not. They can also make the people aware about the concepts of plagiarism and the proper and responsible use of knowledge.

By following the helpful tips mentioned above the authorities and librarians can try to reduce the increasing problems associated with intellectual freedom and encourage individuals in making use of the libraries on regular basis so that they could get more comfortable with the changing technologies and stay up-to-date with the rest of the world.

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