

THE ALBERTA LIBRARY

Policy and Procedures

RESOURCE SHARING PRINCIPLES

Statement of Intent:

The Alberta Library's vision is barrier-free, universal access for all Albertans to information and ideas, delivered in a dynamic model of co-operation extending beyond walls and beyond current levels of performance.

Individual information needs require access to a range of material that is not available in any one library. The Alberta Library was established to facilitate access to the combined collections of its member libraries.

One step toward achieving such access is to continue eliminating jurisdictional barriers by enabling library users direct access to information services and the collections of all member libraries.

Policy:

The creation of The Alberta Library was based on a shared vision to provide barrier free access to information for all Albertans. Key to this, as stated in the Articles of Association, is the commitment by member institutions to accept the principles of barrier-free access to member resources and agreement that reciprocal access to collections will be enabled by The Alberta Library.

This document outlines general principles to guide the sharing of information resources and staff expertise among member institutions.

Definition

Resource sharing for the purposes of this document shall include:

- Interlibrary loan/document delivery,
- Reciprocal borrowing,
- On-site access to electronic collections,
- On-site access to reference/information services and collections, and
- Reference/research support and collaboration among library staff.

Autonomy

The Alberta Library resource sharing agreements shall be developed within a context of mutual respect and acknowledgement of the internal policies of

its members. The Alberta Library also recognizes that member libraries have agreements with other institutions. Such agreements shall be respected.

Equity

Each member of The Alberta Library, regardless of size or type of library, shall have equitable access to resource sharing services.

Reciprocity

The success of The Alberta Library is dependent on the full participation of its members in sharing resources as both providers, suppliers and recipients of materials and services.

Confidentiality

User confidentiality shall be protected and the exchange of information about customers limited to that which is required to provide service and in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Fees

Member libraries agree that there should be no charge for borrowing books. Some charges for resource sharing activities may be applied.