



SLA
SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Open Access to Information, Resources, Programs, and Services

Equal access to information is a core value of librarianship. The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) supports access to information statements issued by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations and American Library Association. Per the American Library Association (2019), “All information resources that are provided directly or indirectly by the library, regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all library users.”

Libraries advocate for equitable and universal access to information and communication technology in order for all community members to receive the information and resources they need and want.

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) recognizes that information needs are different based on a variety of factors such as age, ethnicity, health, disabilities, education, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, geography, digital and/or literacy skills, and physical limitations and/or learning abilities. The Saskatchewan Library Association realizes that individuals may experience various types of barriers including but not limited to poverty or homelessness; living with disabilities; residing in rural areas; facing health, literacy, language, and/or cultural challenges; or experiencing barriers to education, employment, or access to the Internet or basic physiological needs (e.g., fresh water, washrooms, laundry facilities). The underserved population also includes detained and incarcerated individuals, whose rights to access information are affirmed and supported by SLA. Those individuals experiencing various barriers often face the barrier to information access; their information needs are underserved or unmet. The Saskatchewan Library Association realizes that the rapid development of information technologies further deepens the digital divide in society.

The Saskatchewan Library Association advocates for the public to openly and free of charge access scholarly publications, specifically for research work supported by taxpayer funds, including but not limited to articles, monographs, presentations, research data, clinical trials results, grey literature, grants, etc.

The Saskatchewan Library Association promotes intellectual freedom by opposing censorship; facilitating open access to information, materials, programs, resources, and services without prejudice; and by supporting individual rights for privacy. Libraries change lives by providing equal access to information and supporting technology and resources for the benefit of all.