

Deepening Resolve

Posted on [February 14, 2017](#)

<https://faulibrarydean.wordpress.com/2017/02/14/deepening-resolve/>

In my first full-time library job years ago at Cornell University working to acquire materials for their Southeast Asian collection, I learned in practical terms about the commitment of libraries and librarians to providing access to resources and services to support individual inquiry and creative output. I learned that libraries acquire and make available materials regardless of the point of view represented, that they help anyone who walks in the door or reaches out for help over the phone, email, or online, that they strive to be a safe place for everyone to explore the world. And librarians routinely stand up in defense of people and groups that are under attack. While we respect diverse points of view, those points of view must be expressed in ways that don't threaten or harm other people.

Today the [Council on Library and Information Resources \(CLIR\)](#), an independent, nonprofit organization that works with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher education to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments, and the [Digital Library Federation \(DLF\)](#), a “community of practitioners who ***advance research, learning, social justice, and the public good through the creative design and wise application of digital library technologies***” issued a statement on their deepening resolve to support diversity and oppose divisiveness. The [full statement](#) lays out the principles and explains what it means practically when they say that they “stand in resolute support of our dedicated and diverse community of information professionals and organizational sponsors, promoting the fullest and most inclusive vision *they* may hold of the publics they serve: individuals and institutions that are both stalwart and vulnerable, people living now and generations yet to come. We also stand with our community in determined opposition to any political policies, actions, and divisive ideologies—like those we have observed during the current transition of power in Washington, DC—that contravene our shared, core values of enlightened liberalism and scientific understanding, and threaten our mission to create just, equitable, and sustained global cultures of accessible information.”

Other library organizations have also been more vocal recently in support of diversity and inclusion. The [Association of Research Libraries](#), a nonprofit organization of [124 research libraries](#) at comprehensive, research institutions in the US and Canada, and the [Association of American University Presses](#) recently issued a [joint statement](#) that emphasized that they “have longstanding histories of and commitments to diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice. As social institutions, research libraries, archives, and university presses strive to be welcoming havens for all members of our communities and work hard to be inclusive in our hiring, collections, books and publications, services, and environments.” Referring to the Presidential [travel ban recently promulgated](#), they noted that “while temporary, the ban will have a long-term chilling effect on free academic inquiry. This order sends a clear message to researchers, scholars, authors, and students that the United States is not an open and welcoming place in which to live and study, conduct research, write, and hold or attend conferences and symposia. The ban will disrupt and undermine international academic collaboration in the sciences, the humanities, technology, and global health.”

Like these other library organizations, the FAU Libraries will continue to support all FAU students and faculty, regardless of their backgrounds and point of view, and will always strive to provide a safe environment for our students and faculty to study, carry out research, engage with each other, and create new works of artistic endeavor and scholarship. We don't play favorites.