

Amanda Troha  
LIS 678  
Philosophy Statement

During college, I worked in my universities library. Who knew that work-study job would forever change my life. As I went through the training process I became enamored with the beautiful organization of information. Each day at work, more and more knowledge was made readily available. The education kept within the building seeped into the facets of my life and lifted barriers. I want to take my enthusiasm for this spectacular environment and inspire others, give them this same gift that I received. I want to encourage education throughout a persons' life. I want to promote, support, and encourage others to find the information they desire to bring their interests alive. The abundant supply of diverse subject matter housed in a library allows all who venture in to exercise their individual freedom and choice of materials. Lifelong learning is not just a catch-phrase. I am a lifelong learner and it is paramount to me to empower others to become lifelong learners too.

I believe that everyone deserves equal access to all facets of literacy and I will continue to support that right. Currently, I think that technological literacy is the most pressing issue. I feel that we, as librarians must educate the public about the use of technology and defend their right to accessibility. We are taught the necessity of technology but the resources available many times fall short. Libraries are cutting hours, resources, and even closing around our nation furthering the gap between access to computers and basic information. Libraries remain the only place open to the public where computer and Internet access is free. In all of my experience, I have learned that this is an invaluable right to many and I want to defend and build these resources for all.

During my first semester at Pratt, I was given an assignment to research a library leader. I blindly chose Judith Krug, unaware of her profound influence. She fought hard for intellectual freedom especially for children. While researching her, I began to learn about intellectual freedom and how important it is. I believe it is

essential for librarians to stand up against restricting material and provide a safe environment for all individuals to explore their curiosities. I want to continue to honor Krug's battle and protect library patrons, young and old, against censorship.

In 1998 the American Library Association identified the main goals they would focus their energy on. These principles were diversity, equity of Access, education and continuous learning, intellectual freedom, and 21st century literacy and named "Key Action Areas". While reading about these values, I was proud to be a part of this incredible field. I find these tenets incredibly important and through my schooling at Pratt and work in the field, I have seen how they affect individual's lives in a profound way. I will continue to preserve and promote these goals in all of my library services.

### **Work Cited**

"ALA | Key Action Areas." *ALA / Home - American Library Association*. Web. 22 Feb. 2011. <<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/keyactionareas/index.cfm>>.

Report: Philosophy Statement

Student: Amanda Troha

Grade: A

Elements:

Population Covered:

I assume this is an all ages statement. It seemed more general than focused on young people.

Library Service:

Your statement is truly about principles. With those principles you will serve all ages very well. I appreciate your passion for equality, for access and for justice. Very, very nice. I knew Judith Krug. She was a kind, understanding educator of librarians who lacked her broad knowledge of the need of some people to censor. She was a great woman.

Works Cited/Consulted:

Only one work cited and formatted properly.