
Foreword

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It has been nearly 20 years since the first edition of the Connecticut Public Library Trustees Handbook was published. During the intervening years public libraries have continued to thrive, despite substantial societal, technological, and economic changes. That rate of change continues to accelerate putting tremendous pressure on libraries. As Connecticut public library trustees, you are entrusted with the preservation and future development of these important community institutions. As a trustee you will undoubtedly be confronted by both the daunting challenges and exciting opportunities facing today's public libraries. How you respond to these issues, the decisions you make and the solutions you ultimately develop will be critical to the future of your library now, and in the years ahead.

Fortunately you do not have to face this challenge alone. You are very fortunate to have a peer organization which can provide you with assistance, guidance and support. This greatly updated Handbook is an excellent example of the quality work which the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) strives to accomplish on your behalf.

The Handbook is designed to assist you in meeting the full range of your responsibilities. It contains useful, practical information about basic board operation and procedure. At the same time, it includes valuable legal information as well as sound advice for dealing with some of the tough issues facing libraries, such as the protection of intellectual freedom and guidance for development of strong and effective policies.

It has been my pleasure to work with the members of the ACLB and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the ACLB and the staff of the State Library who have worked so hard to produce this much needed revised Handbook.

The State Library Board and the State Library Staff are pleased and proud of our cooperative work with ACLB. We look forward to continuing our productive working relationship as we all strive to achieve the best possible public library services for the people of Connecticut.