

Ms. Renee McGrath, Director
North Valley Library
208 Main St.
Stevensville, MT 59870

June 8, 2009

Ms. Gloria Larstaff, Director
Bitterroot Public Library
306 State St.
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Library Directors,

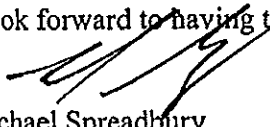
A few weeks ago, I attempted to put a three ring binder on reserve at both of your libraries. It seems that this decision is being deferred to each "governing board" which will meet on June 18, 2009 at the Bitterroot Library in Hamilton, and June 19, 2009 in Stevensville. I am wondering why a federally funded public library is hesitant to put print information on reserve for those who cannot access them on the world wide web?

A founding father, Benjamin Franklin began the idea of the public library, as I am sure you both are aware. Its mandate is to serve the public's a) information needs b) general entertainment, and c) leisure purposes. Most libraries have a non-circulating reference collection. My submission of a labeled three ring binder (with plastic protected pages) contained a letter to the current president of the United States. The subject matter is justice within Ravalli County and Montana; it meets a public informational need.

In any university, materials are placed on reserve for students of a particular class to access. In this case, it is a critical and emergent situation to civil rights, justice, and general public safety. By hampering this submission, it violates the objective of a public library, and quite possibly, violates my freedom of speech. With advanced degrees in Library Science, it amazes me that this could transpire. Let me remind you both that in 1995 a "personal letter" was published and available at national libraries which advocated violence, and condoned murder. The letter ended up being from Lincoln, Montana.

In Stevensville, a resident there was taken to the ground by an aggressive law enforcement team as he stood on his front porch with a pellet gun. In Hamilton, a shop owner not two blocks from the Bitterroot Library was a victim of family member assault in her own place of business, was arrested, charged, and incarcerated for the crime. In three western Montana Counties, crimes against our citizens include induced suicide, and suspected rape by law enforcement. I think the public has a right to know about these crimes, and the efforts of concerned citizens; this includes the letter to the President of the United States from March, 2009. It was submitted to your respective libraries to be requested by your borrowers. Lack of information was how this situation propagated; a library should not keep this information from the public, or need any governing board decision on written material that is suitable for any adult reader who enters your library.

I look forward to having this material available to your borrowers.



Michael Spreadbury
Hamilton, Montana

EXHIBIT D