

Core Values of Librarianship

the basics, not-so-basics,
and a few pain points

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librarian.net/talks/values

Hi.

- Former ALA Councilor
- Rural librarian & technologist
- Digital Divide researcher
- Author/speaker & Wikipedian
- Very Online person
- Just one perspective out of many





The Basics

Core values of librarianship

- access
- confidentiality & privacy
- democracy
- diversity (inclusion?)
- education and lifelong learning
- intellectual freedom
- preservation
- the public good
- professionalism
- service
- social responsibility
- sustainability
- (transparency?)

Intellectual Freedom

"The right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.... Intellectual freedom encompasses the freedom to hold, receive and disseminate ideas."

Library Bill of Rights

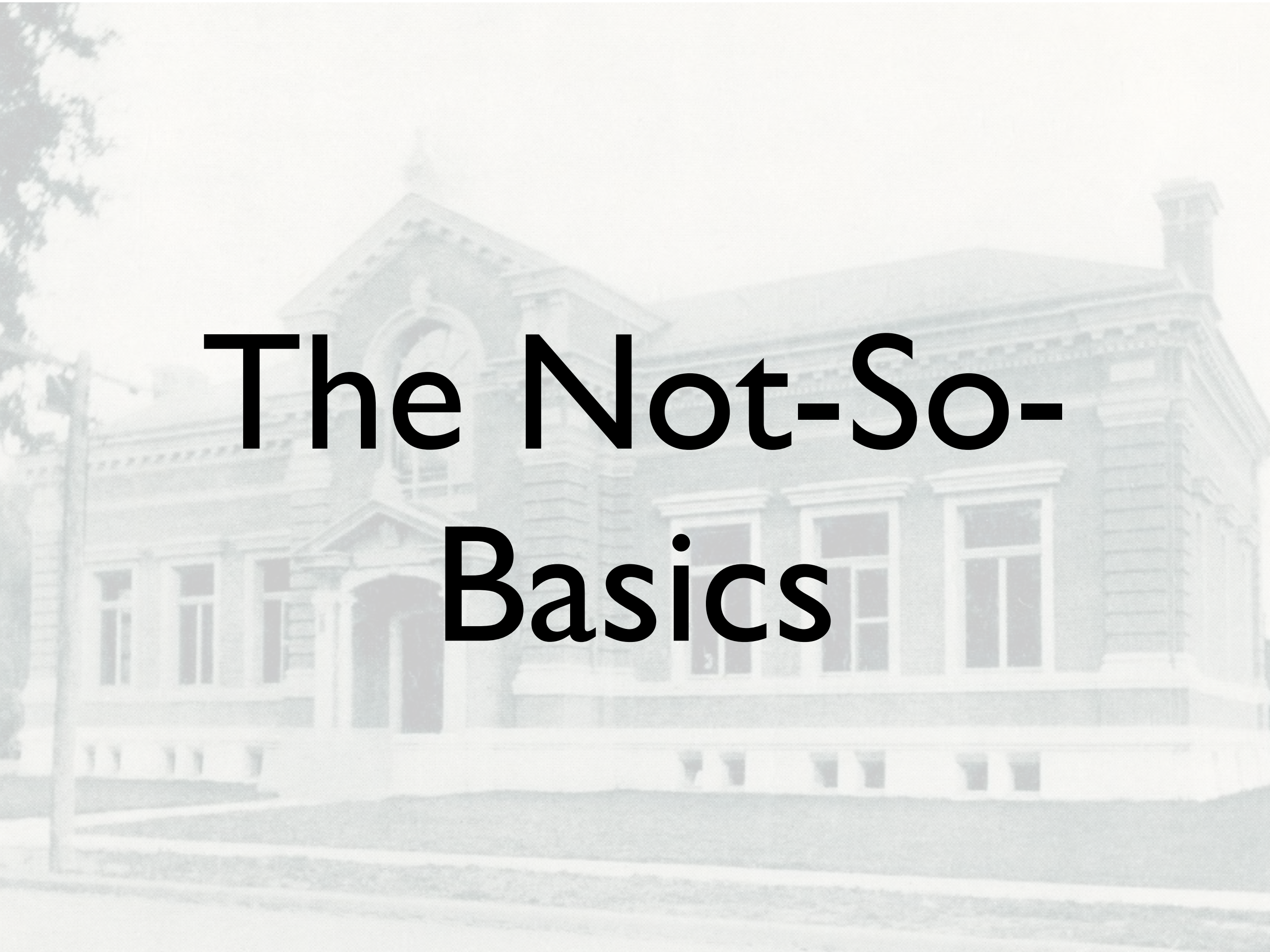
- I. Resources for your entire community. Do not exclude based on author's background/views/life.
- II. Resources reflect ALL points of view.
- III. We challenge censorship and we work with those who challenge censorship.
- IV. Everyone deserves privacy. Advocating for privacy is our job.
- V. Everyone deserves to use the library and its spaces.

"Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are **unambiguous statements** of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices."



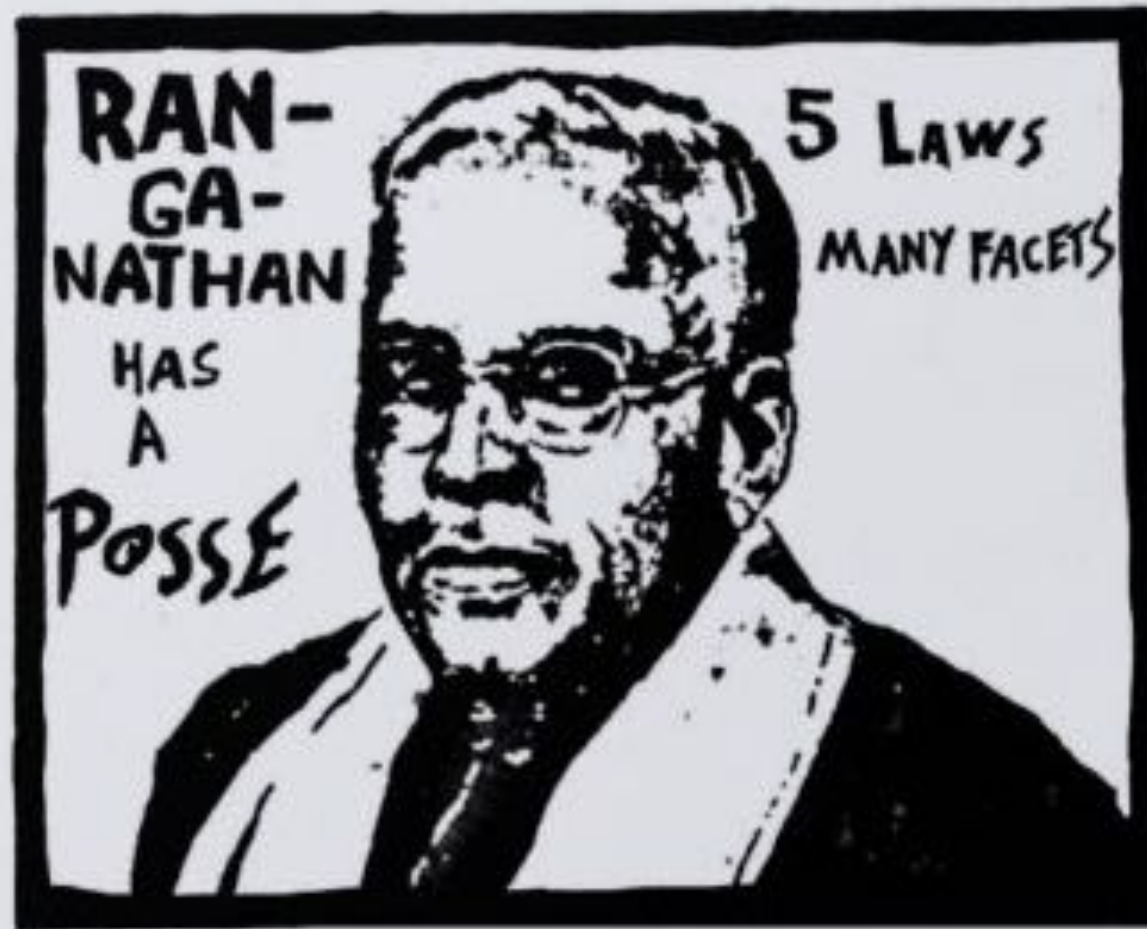
*Un*ambiguous?

Access to Digital Resources and Services - Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors - Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sexual Orientation - Access to Resources and Services in the School Library - Challenged Resources - Diverse Collections - Economic Barriers to Information Access - Education and Information Literacy - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion - Evaluating Library Collections - Expurgation of Library Materials - Internet Filtering - Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries - Labeling Systems - Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource - Meeting Rooms - Minors and Online Activity - Politics in American Libraries - Prisoners' Right to Read - Privacy - Rating Systems - Religion in American Libraries - Restricted Access to Library Materials - Services to People with Disabilities - Universal Right to Free Expression - User-Generated Content in Library Discovery Systems - User-Initiated Exhibits, Displays, and Bulletin Boards - Visual and Performing Arts in Libraries



The Not-So-Basics

Hey, Ranganathan!



Five Laws


- I. Books are for use.
- II. Every person their book.
- III. Every book its reader.
- IV. Save the time of the **reader**.
- V. Library is a growing organism.

Why values matter

- They are the backbones to our policies.
- They are a promise of what we stand for.
- They guide our decisions and help us make difficult choices in **resource-limited** situations.
- They are signals to vendors, patrons, potential employees.
- They can help us make mid-course corrections if we go astray.

What's missing?

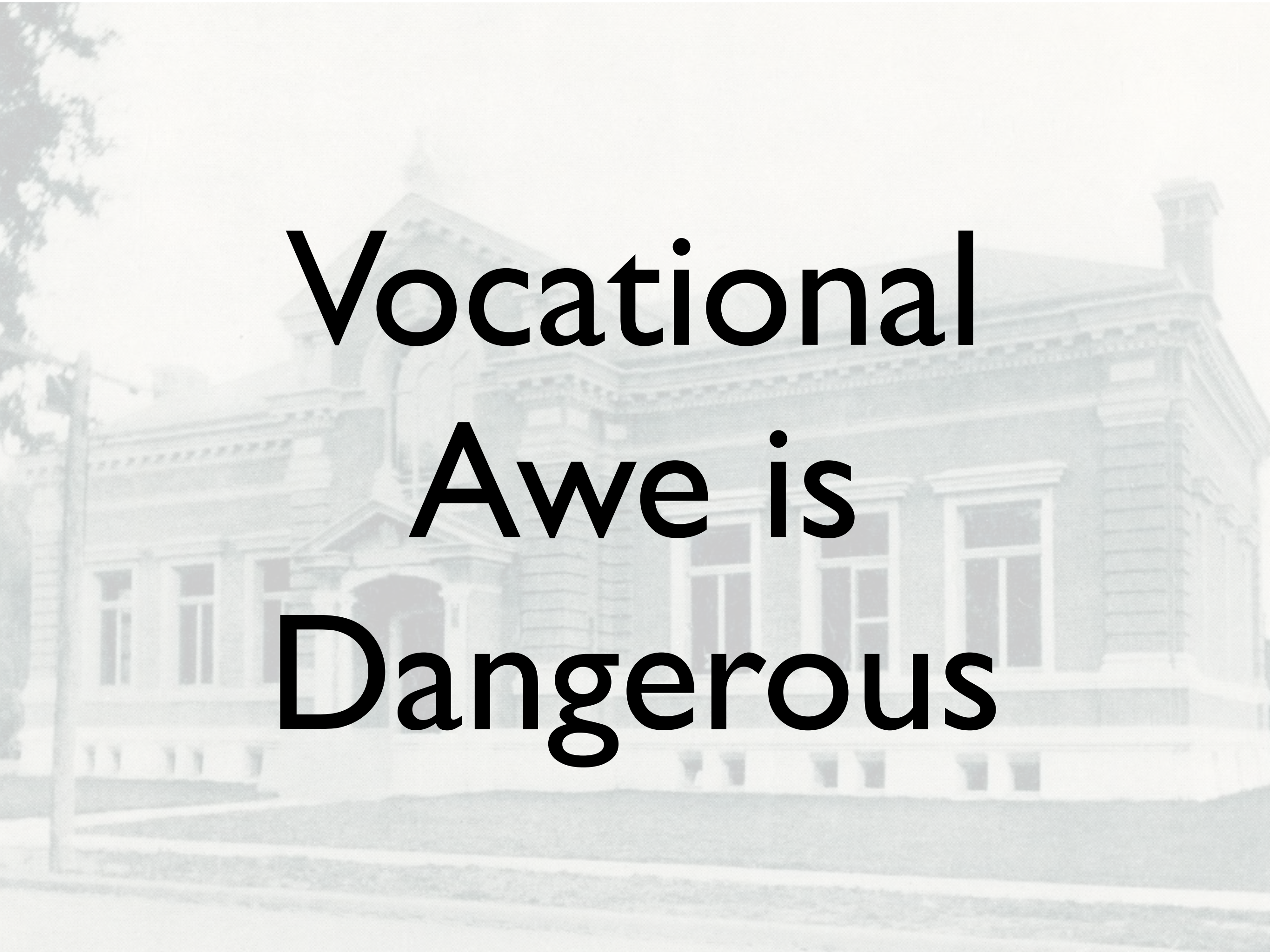
- Leadership
- Progress
- Passion
- Innovation
- Disruption (mercifully, imo)



**Carnegie, as a
safe example.**

A close-up photograph of a young man with light-colored hair, looking off to the right with a serious, intense expression. He is wearing a dark, possibly black, shirt. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be a white fabric or curtain hanging from above. The lighting is soft, highlighting his facial features.

To the pain.



**Vocational
Awe is
Dangerous**



American Library Association ✓

@ALALibrary



ALA Executive Board Recommends Closing Libraries to Public

Read more:[americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop...](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/)



ALA Executive Board Recommends Closing...

The ALA Executive Board unequivocally stands in support of the safety and well-being of library workers and the communities we serve. To americanlibrariesmagazine.org

♥ 72 12:00 PM - Mar 17, 2020



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Sticky wickets

- Librarianship used to be more homogenous. That was a problem. Now it's less homogenous and we shouldn't treat THAT like a problem.
- Optics Matter (aka the Dumpster Dilemma)
- Decolonization is Important but Difficult
- The "pick your top three" dilemma



**intellectual
freedom vs.
safe space**

**no labels vs.
genre stickers**



all points of view vs. fake news





**cameras vs.
privacy**



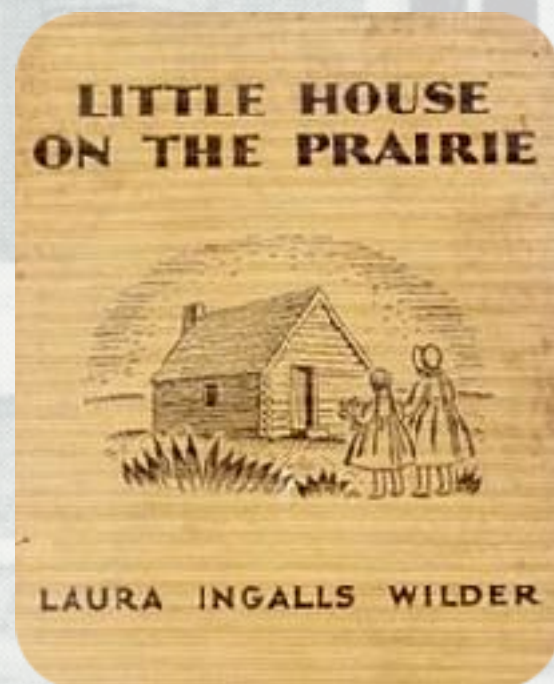
"traditional" vs. existing culture

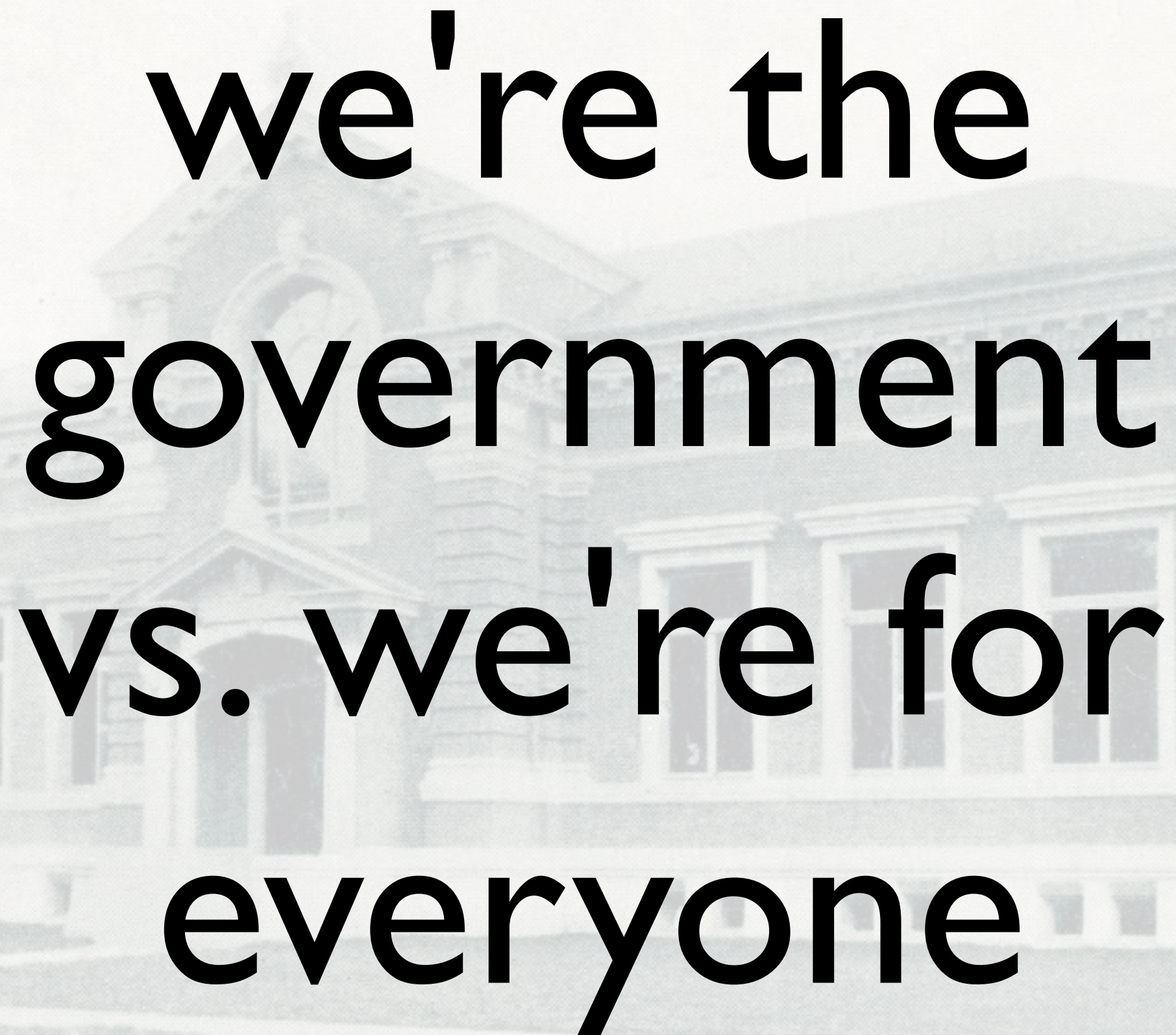


popular vs. "good" books

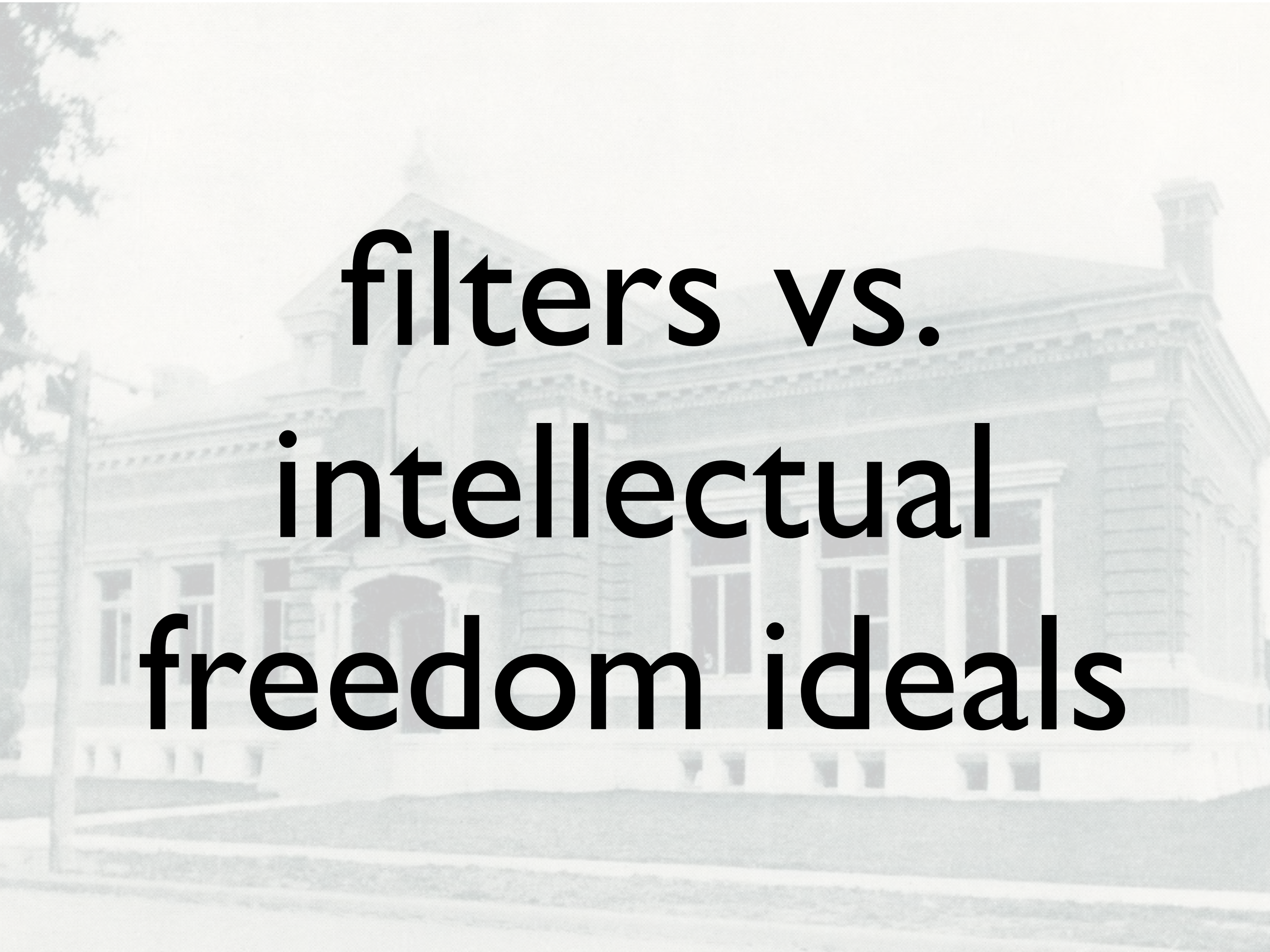


censorship vs. selection





**we're the
government
vs. we're for
everyone**



**filters vs.
intellectual
freedom ideals**



**limited vs.
unlimited
resources**



**public access vs.
public health**



Questions?

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