



Mission and Mission Summary

The Southern California Library documents and makes accessible histories of struggles that challenge racism and other systems of oppression so we can all imagine and sustain possibilities for freedom.

Where making history is a struggle.

Principles and Principles in Action

Access

- Provide open access to all groups of people, particularly those without ready access to information.
- Increase availability of histories of intentional communities whose stories are silenced.
- Provide access to timely and useful information.
- Utilize innovative approaches, including technology, to increase access to our collections.

Solidarity

- Place relationship and community building at the center of all our work.
- Work to connect local struggles with each other and to movements for international justice.
- Honor difference and stand against homophobia, sexism, racism and other forms of oppression.

Democracy

- Actively involve all constituents in ongoing development and evaluation of SCL.
- Encourage active engagement utilizing forms of popular education and participatory research.
- Practice problem-posing dialogue.
- Seek first to document and share histories of communities/collectives making change.
- Commitment to those most impacted by forms of oppression.

Love

- Work to establish and practice an ethic of love.
- Actively address our individual and collective pain.
- Practice consistent self-reflection.
- Exercise humility and compassion for ourselves and others.
- Speak a language of possibility and hope.

Strategies

Strategy	Constituents/Outcome	Components
Movement Memory	Support and resources for all Library users that encourage the use of historical memory and research in current efforts to secure freedom and the means to exercise it.	Library/archive holdings, documenting and preserving the people's struggles to make a better world for communities marginalized from the dominant telling of history.
Reading the World	Support and resources for Library users that foster acquisition of the skills to search for, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information to address their needs, better understand their relationships to power and advance justice.	Book readings, panel discussions, film series, traveling exhibits, social justice dialogues, reference assistance, virtual library resources, and print- and web-based learning tools.
Praxis	Support and resources for Library users to participate in social movements as subjects, maintain their well-being, act in solidarity with others and participate in decision-making about, and advocate for, policies that impact their lives.	Youth leadership programs, internships, teacher trainings, digital storytelling, and partnerships with community organizing groups.