



Oregon

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2009 Annual Report
Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse
July 1 2008 – June 30 2009

Goal:

The goal of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse is to report on challenges to library materials in Oregon, and to provide information and resources needed by librarians to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in their libraries.

Objective:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse will:

1. Establish a central clearinghouse to collect reports about written challenges to library material from all types of libraries in Oregon.
2. Write and distribute an annual report on library materials challenged in Oregon.
3. Submit each annual report to the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom.
4. Maintain the *Title Index to Challenges* which summarizes all of the reported challenges to library materials in Oregon from 1987 to the present.
5. With permission, connect librarians dealing with a challenge to material at their library to other librarians who have dealt with a similar challenge in the past.
6. Provide resources to help libraries establish policies and procedures that uphold the principles of intellectual freedom before challenges occur.
7. Support the Intellectual Freedom Committees of the Oregon Library Association and Oregon Association of School Libraries in their efforts to increase awareness of intellectual freedom issues.
8. Cooperate with other people and groups concerned with intellectual freedom or related issues.

Scope:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (OIFC) collects reports about formal, written challenges to library materials from all types of Oregon libraries. The information is reported to OIFC by Oregon libraries on a voluntarily basis. OIFC compiles the reports from libraries into an annual report each year. Each annual report is posted on the OIFC website (<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>) and submitted to the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom. Oregon librarians are notified via email when the annual report is available on the OIFC website.

The *2009 Annual Report* is a compendium of 18 challenges to library materials in one school library and four public libraries between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The *Title Index to Challenges* is a summary of all the challenges reported to OIFC from 1987 to the present. The *Title Index to Challenges* and all the annual reports are posted on OIFC's website (<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>).

Summary of Challenges Reported in 2008-2009:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 18 challenges to library material between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. OIFC received one challenge report from one school library and 17 challenge reports from four public libraries. Of the 18 challenges, 13 of the items were books and five were DVDs. One of the people who initiated the challenges was identified as a representative of a religious organization, and 17 were initiated by public library patrons. Seventeen of the challenged items were retained in the collection under their original classification with no alterations such as labels or new covers. One book was removed from the collection because a thorough review process found that it contained inaccurate factual information.

The challenged items below are organized alphabetically by title of the challenged item. Each challenged item went through a review process by their respective library's board of trustees, library board, selection committee, or committee of staff members. Review processes typically are adopted procedures by which a reviewing body reads or views challenged material, collects information about the material, and makes a decision about the challenged material. Generally, the library director writes a letter to the party who has challenged the material informing them of the decision, and explaining the appeals process.

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie: The Military Alphabet by Chris L. Demarest (book)

Objection: Values; political viewpoint

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may promote war.

Best Gay Bondage Erotica by Richard Labonté (book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be pornographic, and children may access inappropriate information via the item's bibliographic entry in the online catalog

Dogville by Lars von Trier (video)

Objection: (1) Cultural; sexism (2) Values; violence

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be sexist, portraying sexual violence and abuse against women.

Eden: It's an Endless World! Volume 5 by Hiroki Endo (book)

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be inappropriate for children under 18, and recommend library change open access policy to restrict children under 18 from checking out materials marked 18+.

Fat Hoochie Prom Queen by Nico Medina (book)

Objection: Values; offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned language may be offensive to readers.

Fiz by Kiko da Silva (book)

Objection: (1) Cultural insensitivity (2) Values

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be culturally insensitive, inappropriate for children, and that the type of humor may be offensive. Requested item be removed from collection or reclassified to the adult section.

The Forgiveness Formula: How to Let Go of Your Pain and Move On With Your Life

by Kathleen Griffin (book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned about sexually explicit content.

The Little Black Book for Girlz: A Book on Healthy Sexuality by St. Stephen's

Community House (book)

Objection: Sexual; unsuited to age group

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be inappropriate for young adults, requested item be reclassified to adult section.

The Mammoth Book of Lesbian Erotica by Barbara Cardy (book)

Objection: Sexual; homosexuality, sexually explicit

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be pornographic, sexually explicit scenes with homosexuals may be offensive, and that children may be exposed to it.

Master Math: Basic Math and Pre-Algebra by Debra Ross (book)

Objection: Other; inaccurate factual information

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Removed

Comments: Patron concerned item may be factually inaccurate. Review committee found the book to be inaccurate, and removed it from the collection.

The Official High Times Pot Smoker's Handbook: Featuring 420 Things to Do When You're Stoned by David Bienenstock (book)

Objection: Social issues; drugs

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may promote illegal drug use, and lacks information about the health affects of drug use.

Piccadilly by E.A. Dupont (video)

Objection: Unknown

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be inappropriate for public library.

Dans l'empire des sens (Other titles: Ai no korīda, In the realm of the senses, Realm of the senses, L'empire des sens) by Anatole Dauman (video)

Objection: (1) Sexually explicit (2) Values; violence

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item's sexual content may be inappropriate for a public library.

The Shipping News by Annie Proulx (book)

Objection: (1) Sexual; homosexuality, unsuited to age group (2) Values; anti-family, offensive language, religious viewpoint, violence

Initiator of the challenge: Religious organization

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: A representative of a religious organization requested removal of the item.

Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale by Holly Black (book)

Objection: (1) Sexually explicit (2) Social issues; drugs

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Transamerica by Duncan Tucker (video)

Objection: (1) Sexual; homosexuality, nudity, unsuited to age group (2) Values; offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned sexual content and offensive language may be inappropriate, and have a negative influence on the education of children.

We, Too, Must Love by Ann Aldrich (book)

Objection: Sexual; nudity

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron requested the cover of the item be changed to conceal partial nudity.

Where's Poppa? by Carl Reiner (video)

Objection: (1) Sexual; homosexuality, nudity (2) Values; offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron was concerned about the portrayal of homosexual behaviors, nudity, and use of offensive language.