



Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse

2013 Annual Report

July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013

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.

Objectives:

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 and the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.
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 other librarians who have dealt with similar challenges to library material.
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 Committee of the Oregon Library Association in their effort 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/os/LD/Pages/intellectual.aspx>) and submitted to the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom and the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. Oregon librarians are notified via email when the annual report is available on the OIFC website.

The 2013 Annual Report is a compendium of 11 challenges to library materials in four public libraries, one academic library, and one school library. 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/os/LD/Pages/intellectual.aspx>).

Summary of Challenges Reported in 2012-2013:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 11 challenges to library material; challenge reports were received from four public libraries, one academic library, and one school library. Of the 11 challenges, 4 of the items were books, 2 were movies, 2 were audio books, 1 was a magazine, 1 was a short story in a student anthology, and 1 was a library's internet policy. Seven of the challenges were initiated by public library patrons, three by parents, and one by a person of the clergy. Nine of the challenged items were retained in the collection, two of the nine were reclassified and moved to different areas in the libraries, and two items were removed from libraries.

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.

Big Sixteen by Mary Calhoun (book)

Objection: Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Relocated

Comments: Parent concerned that illustrations are not appropriate for the children's department.

Dangerous by Bill Hicks (audio book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that item encourages and/or normalizes child pornography and sexual abuse.

Fifty Shades of Grey by E.L. James (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit) 2. Values (religious views) 3. Other (pornography)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Academic

Decision: Relocated

Comments: Library moved item from the browsing collection to the literature collection in the stacks, will not purchase subsequent titles in the series unless requested by patrons which is contrary to their current selection policy, and will follow their current replacement policy and procedures if this item is lost or damaged.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

-First Amendment to the United States Constitution

Furry Trap, The by Josh Simmons (graphic novel)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit) 2. Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned about exposing children to the graphic sexual violence illustrated in this item. Library agreed not to display this item in the future.

Girls Life (magazine)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sex education, unsuited to age) 2. Social issues (drugs)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: School

Decision: Removed

Comments: School district removed item from elementary and middle school libraries.

Library internet policy (Other: library policy)

Objection: 1. Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit, unsuited to age) 2. Values (anti-family)

Initiator of the challenge: Clergy

Type of library: Public

Decision: Modified

Comments: Clergy concerned about lack of filtering on any computers and wireless network in the library. Library board of directors voted to filter computers in the children’s area for “pornography”, but all other computers and networks will remain unfiltered.

Practice Makes Perfect Precalculus by William Clark and Sandra Luna McCune (book)

Objection: Other (incorrect answers and content)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Removed

Comments: Library removes all math materials that contain errors from the collection and notifies the publisher.

Shredderman: Secret Identity by Wendelin Van Draanen
(audio book)

Objection: Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Sweet Movie by Criterion Collection (video)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item promotes child pornography.

"The Tale of the Three Storytellers" in Junior Great Books, Series 5: Book Two by James Krüss; The Great Books Foundation (Other: short story in student anthology)

Objection: Values (religious)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned item promotes Islam.

Zack and Miri Make a Porno by Genius Productions (video)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

"For it has been rightly judged that... it is of paramount importance that the means of general information should be so diffused that the largest possible number of persons should be induced to read and understand questions going down to the very foundations of social order, which are constantly presenting themselves, and which we, as a people, are constantly required to decide, and do decide, either ignorantly or wisely."

-1852 Report of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library.