



Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse

2015 Annual Report

July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015

Goal:

The goals 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.

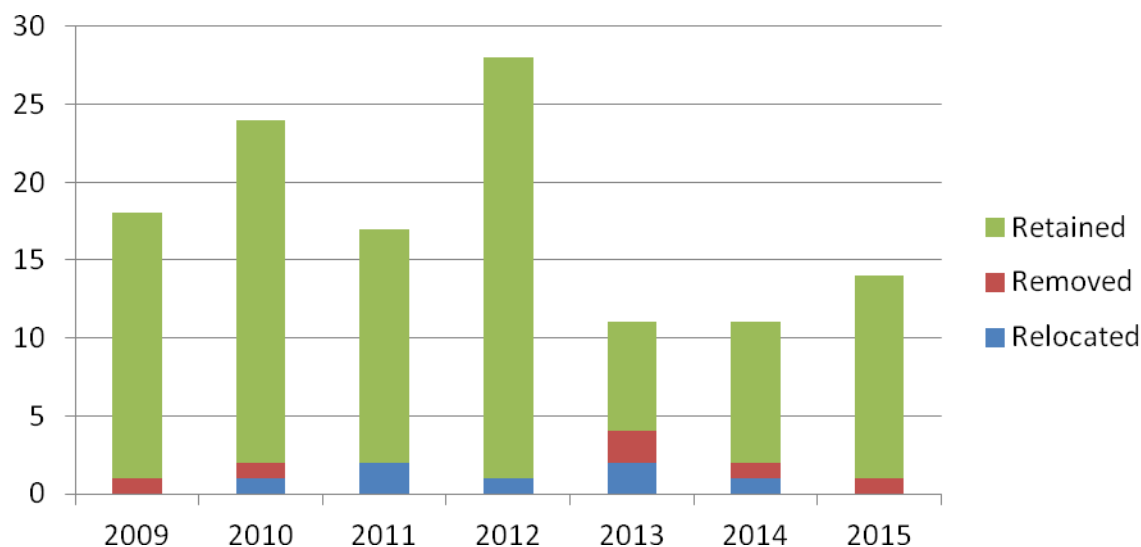
Scope:

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/osl/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 2015 Annual Report is a compendium of 14 challenges to library materials in seven public libraries 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/osl/LD/Pages/intellectual.aspx>).

Retrospective View of Challenges Reported between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2015:

The following chart shows the number of items challenged since July 1, 2008, and how many of those items were retained, removed, and relocated. To learn more about past challenges, read the previous annual reports on challenges to library material in Oregon available on the OIFC’s website (<http://oregon.gov/osl/LD/Pages/intellectual.aspx>).



Summary of Challenges Reported in 2014-2015:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 14 challenges to library material; challenge reports were received from seven public libraries and one school library. Of the 14 challenges, five of the items were books, two were magazines, two were sound recordings, and five were videos. One of the challenges was initiated by an individual, one by an advocate for people with disabilities, four by parents, and eight by patrons. Thirteen of the challenged items were retained in the collection and one item was removed from the collection.

The following challenged items 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 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.

Adventure Time by Ryan North (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (unsuited to age group) 2. Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent requested that *Adventure Time* graphic novels and DVDs be moved from the children's area to the young adult area. Item was retained in the children's area based on reviews, target audience of 8-12 year olds, and practices at other libraries.

Adventure Time by Cartoon Network (video)

Objection: 1. Sexual (unsuited to age group) 2. Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent requested that *Adventure Time* graphic novels and DVDs be moved from the children's area to the young adult area. Item was retained in the children's area based on reviews, target audience of 8-12 year olds, and practices at other libraries.

The Croc Ate My Homework by Stephen Pastis (book)

Objection: Values (offensive language, violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None.

Dogtooth by Yorgos Lanthimos (video)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit) 2. Values (violence) 3. Other (disturbing)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron considers item to be pornographic and concerned that young people may view it.

Ebony by Johnson Publisher (magazine)

Objection: Values (political)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item unfairly celebrates black men, and promotes a left-wing agenda.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (book)

Objection: 1. Cultural (sexism) 2. Sexual (sexually explicit, unsuited to age) 3. Values (offensive language, violence) 4. Social Issues (suicide)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent expressed concerns about abortion and pornography.

The Islamic Antichrist: The Shocking Truth About The Real Nature of the Beast by Joel

Richardson (sound recording)

Objection: Values (religious view)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that the image on the cover of this audio book suggests that Islam's savior, the Mahdi, is the antichrist.

The Lost Tomb of Jesus by James Camerson (video)

Objection: Values (religious view)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that this nonfiction item is a misrepresentation, and not true.

MW by Osamu Tezuka (book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned the item is too close to pornography which may demonize the way people think about comics.

Repentance by Philippe Caland (video)

Objection: Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Individual

Type of library: Public

Decision: Removed

Comments: The library reviewed the item, and determined it was not consistent with their collection development guidelines and policies.

Send in the Idiots: Stories From the Other Side of Autism by Kamran Nazeer (book)

Objection: Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Other (advocate for people with disabilities)

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: An advocate for people with disabilities was concerned about the use of the term 'idiots' in the title.

Testimony by Anita Shreve (sound recording)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit) 2. Other (pornographic)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

The Wolf of Wall Street by Martin Scorsese (video)

Objection: 1. Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit) 2. Values (offensive language) 3. Social Issues (drugs)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Yoga Journal by California Yoga Teachers Association (magazine)

Objection: Values (religious view)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that item promotes yoga as a false religion.

“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