



# Oregon

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## **2007 Annual Report** Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse July 1 2006 – June 30 2007

### **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 OIFC's 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 *2007 Annual Report* is a compendium of 14 challenges to library materials in one school library and five public libraries between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. 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 annual reports, beginning with the *Ninth Annual Report* (1995-1996), are posted on OIFC's website (<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>). To obtain copies of annual reports prior to 1995-1996 contact Val Vogt at 503-378-2525 or [val.t.vogt@state.or.us](mailto:val.t.vogt@state.or.us).

### **Summary of Challenges Reported in 2006-2007:**

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 14 challenges to library material between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. OIFC received one challenge report from a school library and 13 from public libraries. Of the 14 challenges, eight were books, one a short story and five were videos. Three of the people who initiated the challenges were identified as parents, five as library patrons. Thirteen of the challenged items were retained in the collection under their original classification. One item was removed from the collection for reasons different than those expressed by the initiator of the challenge.

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 challenged material, collects information about the material, and makes a decision about the challenged material. Generally, the library director writes a letter to the library patron who has challenged the material informing them of the decision, and explaining the appeals process.

#### ***Daddy's Wedding*** by Michael Willhoite (Book)

Objection: Homosexuality

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron was concerned that younger children might see the drawings of adult men kissing which may lead to discussion that parents are not prepared for.

Patron requested that the book be moved to a different part of the library. Book was not relocated.

#### ***Father Christmas*** by Dave Unwin (Video)

Objection: Alcohol, offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

***The Happy Hooker: My Own Story*** by Xaviera Hollander (Book)

Objection: Sexually explicit

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Removed

Comments: Library patron expressed concerned that the book contains pornography that could have a negative influence on readers. The patron asked that this title be replace by something that promotes other philosophies equally. The Library Board did not object to the content of the book, but decided to remove it because it was poorly written and out-of-date.

***King and King*** by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland (Book)

Objection: Homosexuality, anti-family, violence

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron was concerned that the book sends a message that abuse in families is okay.

***Las Aventuras de Tintin en el Pais del Oro Negro*** by Herge (Book)

Objection: Culturally inaccurate, cultural insensitivity

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron objected to illustrations that exaggerate inaccurate racial stereotypes.

***Lost Girls—Book 3*** by Alan Moore (Book)

Objection: Other, see comments for details

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron objected to the illustrations.

***Mario*** by Jean Beaudin (Video)

Objection: Political view, suicide, religious view, insensitivity

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron was concerned that the movie suggests that devoted Muslim boys will commit suicide, glorifies suicide, and is insensitive to people with mental disabilities.

***Max the Stubborn Little Wolf*** by Marie-Odile Judes (Book)

Objection: Anti-family

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron objected to concepts in the book that deal with the misconceptions of obedience. Patron suggested item be removed from the collection or moved to the psychology section. Book was not removed nor moved to psychology.

***Götter der Pest (Gods of the Plague)*** directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Objection: Sexually explicit

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron was concerned about an unexpected scene where pornography is shown to an adult because children could walk into the room.

***On Becoming Preschool Wise: Optimizing Educational Outcomes that Preschoolers Need to Learn*** by Gary Ezzo and Robert Bucknam (Book)

Objection: Other, see comments for details

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron was concerned that following the theories of the author could lead to malnutrition of infants.

***Road to Redemption*** by John Shepherd and Robert Vernon (Video)

Objection: Religious view

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron suggested that due to the subject matter, this DVD should be re-categorized as religion (currently it is categorized as a comedy). DVD was not re-categorized.

***The Veldt*** by Ray Bradbury (Short Story)

Objection: Anti-family, offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent did not think this story was appropriate for use in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

***Words of Silk*** by Sandra Brown (Book)

Objection: Sexually explicit

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron objected to sexually explicit scenes that may be inappropriate for young readers and recommended that it be restricted to readers over 18 years old.

Book was not restricted.

***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Bronte (Video)

Objection: Violence, sexually explicit

Initiator of the challenge: Library patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library patron objected to an unexpected rape scene that is not in the book.

***When Santa was a Shaman: The Ancient Origins of Santa Claus and the Christmas Tree*** by Tony van Renterghem (Book)

Objection: Sexually explicit

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None