



Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse

2014 Annual Report

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

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 2014 Annual Report is a compendium of 11 challenges to library materials in seven public libraries and two school libraries. 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 2013-2014:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 1a challenges to library material; challenge reports were received from seven public libraries and two school libraries. Of the 11 challenges, 7 of the items were books, 3 were videos, and 1 was a magazine. Eight of the challenges were initiated by public library patrons and three by parents. Ten of the challenged items were retained in the collection, one of the nine retained items was relocated to different area in the library, and one item was removed from the collection.

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.

A Day No Pigs Would Die by Robert Newton Peck (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (unsuited to age) 2. Values (offensive language, religious views, violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent expressed concern about this title being part of the curriculum, not its presence in the school library.

Compliance by Craig Zobel (video)

Objection: 1. Values (offensive language) 2. Other (morbid)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Cosmopolitan Magazine (magazine)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned about children and teens accessing this magazine.

Full Service: My Adventures in Hollywood and the Secret Sex Lives of the Stars by Scotty Bowers and Lionel Friedberg (book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Horowitz Horror: Stories You'll Wish You'd Never Read by Anthony Horowitz (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (nudity) 2. Other (knives)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

In Between the Sheets, and Other Stories by Ian McEwan (book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Removed

Comments: Library weeded title due to lack of circulation, not due to the challenge.

Little Black Sambo by Helen Bannerman (book)

Objection: Cultural (racism)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Relocated

Comments: Patron requested this title be moved from the children's collection to the adult reference section or be disposed of because it is in Ferris State University's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. Library relocated item from the children's collection to the children's reference collection.

Paradise: Faith by Ulrich Seidl (video)

Objection: 1. Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit) 2.

Values (offensive language, religious views)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item is disrespectful of Christians and Muslims.

“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.

Ragged Dick by Horatio Alger Jr. (book)

Objection: 1. Values (anti-family) 2. Other (author's personal history)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned about children accessing a book written by a known pedophile, not about the content of the book. Book was located in the adult fiction collection at the time of this challenge and was retained in the adult fiction collection.

Saga. Volume I by Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples (book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Wendy and Lucy by Kelly Reichardt (video)

Objection: Values (anti-family, offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Item was stolen/defaced. When charged the standard fee for a missing/damaged item, the patron submitted a formal request for reconsideration. The Library Board decided to retain the item. Therefore, library staff ordered a new copy to replace the stolen/defaced copy.

“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