

# Celebrate the Freedom to Read in Oregon

## Displays for Banned Books Week Activities

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### Public Libraries

► *Newport Public Library*



## Public Libraries (cont.)

▶ A display case of banned books is right inside the door. “Harry Potter” hangs in a noose, suspended over a tissue-paper fire engulfing the novels “Of Mice and Men,” “The Catcher in the Rye” and “The Color Purple.” Nearby is the script of the First Amendment.

*-Baker City Public Library*



▶ How can you have an eye catching and effective display even in a small place? Set up a display table containing many banned books with information about why they were banned. Include free buttons, free handouts regarding banned books, a binder with the list of challenged books in Oregon over the years, and a full page blowup of the “What do these books have in common?” flyer. Although we did not sponsor a formal program, most people coming into the library stopped and looked at the display. Many asked questions, and many checked out the books on display.

*-Langlois Public Library*



## Public Libraries (cont.)

▶ Display of challenged/banned books at the library entrance. Over some of the book covers, we put a word or two about the objections made about some books. For example, we put the word “insensitive” on the *Captain Underpants* cover and “questionable family values” on the cover of *The Giver*.

- *Springfield Public Library*



▶ Post signs welcoming the public to Banned Books Week at each entrance and in other prominent areas in the Library. Display of Banned Books in a window box at the entrance. The glass window exterior was covered in butcher paper and painted with warnings in vibrant colors, such as BEWARE, CAUTION, DANGER, HAZARDOUS, DON'T LOOK AT THIS with peep-holes in the butcher paper for patrons to peer in at the featured books, which were accompanied by sheets of background information about past objections to them. A U.S. flag served nicely as the backdrop of the display. Produced and provided brochures and printed lists of top-most challenged works and classic books that have been challenged. In addition, compiled historic photographs relating to censorship using the AP Images database subscription and featured them in a binder we dubbed “100 Years of Censorship: A Pictorial History.”

-*Baker County Library*

▶ “Forbidden Library” exhibit in the outside display window featuring a number of banned or challenged books sitting above a “Caution: Banned Books” sign, with quotations from famous people about censorship in cartoon bubbles taped to the window glass.

-*Scappoose Public Library*

▶ Youth wrapped a flat display case in brown butcher paper and added small strategically placed rips, forcing people to strain to see the banned items inside.

*Corvallis*

-*Benton County Public Library*

▶ Create colorful signage of quotes on censorship and freedom to read and display them throughout the library.

-*Albany Public Library*

### Public Libraries (cont.)

▶ Set up a display with challenged and/or banned books wrapped in plain paper with the barcode duplicated and affixed to the outside. Attached a banner and scattered some of the buttons around the books. Patrons were encouraged to check out the wrapped books without knowing which book they were getting. We had a lot of positive communication with this display, and almost all of the books were checked out.

*-Tualatin Public Library*

▶ Banned Books were placed in brown paper bags with a banned books symbol (circle with a slash mark) and set out on our display table. Patrons were allowed to pick items out of the bags if they wanted to check them out. There were signs above the display with some quotes regarding the freedom to read.

*-Beaverton Public Library*

▶ Staff gathered case histories of some of the challenged books we had on display and that information was inserted as a bookmark.

*-Garden Home Community Library*

▶ A display entitled “Treasures in the Library” with faux jewels and banned and challenged books in a treasure chest along with a sign explaining the purpose of Oregon Banned Books Week.

*-Crook County Library*

▶ Print the ALA list of most challenged books in the last ten years and the reasons for the challenges. Display books from the library along with the reasons they have been challenged. Offer banned book buttons to anyone checking out a banned/challenged book.

*-Enterprise Public Library*

▶ Tape a red banner stating “*BANNED – this book has been banned or challenged in some places.*” across the front of each book in the display. This display creates incredible dialog about the ideas associated with censorship. Put the ALA poster, BANNED BOOKS Through the Ages, directly above the drinking fountain where it will get noticed and read by both teens and adults.

*-Jackson County Library*

▶ The displayed books were affixed with a banner indicating whether they were banned or challenged, accompanied by the reason and year/locality of the ban or challenge. Information posters above the display informed library users why BBW is celebrated, as well as explaining what constitutes a banned and challenged book.

*-West Linn Public Library*

### Public Libraries (cont.)

▶ A week before Banned Books Week I decorated the Display case with plain brown paper bag paper covering most of the glass except for a few inches around the edges for “peekers” and wrote “censored” on it. At the beginning of the week I hung a 50 page display about Banned Books instances on the walls, and uncovered the display case. Inside the case were Banned and Challenged books available for check out, but I placed faux metal bars (i.e. gray construction paper ) on glass doors. Attached to each book was a slip of paper with the word “BANNED” printed on bright yellow paper. In addition those that are on the “Challenged Materials in Oregon” were tagged. I also put the censored sign below the display with a NOT in front of it.

*-Hood River County Library*

▶ A table display with And Tango Makes Three, and copies of the most current top 10 challenged and banned books with a sign. Made labels for the challenged or banned books in the library with a red slashed circle, shelved them and used caution tape to draw attention to the shelf.

*-Gilliam County Library*

## Elementary Schools

▶ A display of books that have been challenged along with big bulletin board, “F-read-OM: Celebrate your right!” Red white and blue, stars and stripes, all that kind of stuff.  
-*St. Helens School District*

### ▶ *Beaverton School District Libraries*

- "Caged" books in the hall outside the library (in a bunny hutch with padlock and warning signs)
- "Freedom to Read" bulletin board for students to see with explanations of "banned and challenged"
- Wrapped books in a display case with black paper; put caution tape all around, cut holes in black paper to see through. Placed descriptions of what a banned/challenged book is, what banned book week entails, and included a packet on the side for parents to peruse.
- Two 10'+ banners reading "Free People Read Freely" and "Celebrating the Freedom to Read" One mounted at entrance to the library, the other over the check-out counter.
- Three window displays of banned and challenged books: 1) covered with "caution" tape, with the words Banned! Challenged! Books? in large letters across the front. 2) had the words Freedom of Speech and 1st Amendment, and 3) Personal Choice, Responsibility and Appropriateness. Paper buttons that said "I Read Banned Books" were made available outside the library on a window by putting tape rolls on the back so students could take one off the window and wear them.
- We placed challenged books on a cart with black paper and caution tape. I cut holes for the students could take a peek. For 3 days the kids were very curious as to what was behind the paper. The holes got bigger from tiny tears they made. They also ripped the caution tape. I also explained to them that these were books that people want to get removed from the library (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Display at the entrance to the library. Cutouts BANNED BOOKS WEEK and then Identified titles for each of the letters. Displayed the letters and the strips of titles on the post in front of the circ desk. Small round table in front of the post with 10 banned books they would have read as elementary students. Sign on table says " Banned Books Have you read any of them?" Printed out brief explanation of banned books from ALA website. Printed out fuller info on banned books week from ALA website. The fuller info was also thumbtacked to the post for display.

## Middle Schools

### ▶ *Whitford Middle School (Beaverton SD)*



▶ Cover the display case or bulletin board with black or white paper. Cut in peek holes and display banned books.

- *Oakville Senior High School and East Garner Middle School (St. Louis, MO.)*



▶ Display of picture books set up in the middle school library. Students who made a reasonable guess why they'd been challenged "won" a button.

- *West Orient Middle School (Gresham – Barlow School District)*

### ▶ *Beaverton School District Libraries*

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## Middle Schools (cont.)

### ▶ *Beaverton School District Libraries*

- Three window displays of banned and challenged books: 1) covered with "caution" tape, with the words Banned! Challenged! Books? in large letters across the front. 2) had the words Freedom of Speech and 1st Amendment, and 3) Personal Choice, Responsibility and Appropriateness. Paper buttons that said "I Read Banned Books" were made available outside the library on a window by putting tape rolls on the back so students could take one off the window and wear them.
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### ▶ Displays in middle schools (Harrisonburg, VA)

- Use titles from the ALA list of "100 most challenged books"
- Arrange the titles face up on a large oval table (three tables put together in the center of the library next to the check out line space) covered with chicken wire secured to the legs of the table with wire and duct tape. You need a wire cutter or nipper as the chicken wire needs to be sectioned and wired together to cover a wide table.
- Put an upright foam-core sign on top of the chicken wire reading, "What do these books and authors have in common?" in large letters, with a very small caption at the lower edge, "American Library Association Banned Books Week"
- Also on the table, labeled "Comments"-- 2 legal pads on clip boards with attached pencils for student responses.
- Personally invite the principals, secretaries to visit the library to see the display.
- Personally invite faculty to bring their classes in to see the display and use the PA announcement time for a general invitation.
- Have someone (librarian, clerk, trained volunteer) stay near the display during class visits to field questions and encourage kids to ask and answer their own questions.
- Encourage teachers to use the display as a writing prompt after visiting.

## Middle Schools (cont.)

- ▶ Displays used in a grade 7-12 school library (Rye, NY)
  - In the main hall of the HS : a blank bulletin board with a single, lunch size brown bag tacked to it with the caption; "Do you need a plain brown wrapper for your favorite books?" OR "What's with the plain brown wrapper? See display in Library!" The main display has some of the most challenged books, each in its own brown bag on an open display shelf. Tucked into each book is a short blurb on where and why it has been challenged or banned.
  - On a low bookshelf, put many frequently challenged books within bookends, and wrap the whole display in yellow CAUTION tape. Be sure to include books of religious scripture, dictionaries and others that will shock. Nearby notice says "DON'T READ THESE BOOKS! (some people think they are dangerous)" Alongside have fiction and non-fiction books about censorship, Intellectual Freedom Manual, and a list of websites.
  - Use the display of posters available from The Long Island Coalition Against Censorship. You may order the exhibit by e-mail or sending a purchase order to the LI Coalition Against Censorship, PO Box 296, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. The cost of the exhibit including mailing charges is \$38.00 postpaid by check. For further information call (516) 944-9799. <http://www.the-licac.org/> Click the text of the 1st Amendment to get into the site.
  - Display books that have been banned / challenged with each cover blocked by black paper and the word BANNED across it. Inside tuck a slip describing the "problem."

## High Schools

► We printed out a descriptive list of challenged books with a picture of each cover and the history of their controversy. We cut those descriptions and glued them to cardstock and stapled it onto a stick which we inserted into the book and set the books out on the lower bookshelves in the middle of the library.

*-Grants Pass High School*



► A fire made with sticks and red cellophane. Fahrenheit 451 is lying on top as a fire starter.

*-Grants Pass High School*

► We have a glass display case in the entry area of the library. We used an idea from the list that was sent to us and covered a glass display case in the entry area of the library in black paper. We put small holes in the paper and pasted on words like “caution”, “don’t look in here”, and “dangerous”, along with printed “caution” and “no” (circle with a slash through it) signs and some yellow caution tape. Inside the display case were a few of the banned books that we knew students would be surprised to see, like Harry Potter and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

*-Cottage Grove High School*

► We took every book in our library that we could find on a banned or challenged books list and put them in a display wrapped with caution tape, along with two non-fiction books from our library about book banning. We made these books “off-limits” from Monday through Thursday of BBW. On Friday morning, I took down the caution tape and allowed students to check out those books again.

*-Cottage Grove High School.*

► Put tri-fold “table tents” to put on every table in the library with information about banned books week.

*-Cottage Grove High School*

## High Schools (cont.)

▶ Display with books from the list of the 100 most challenged books from 1990 – 2000 that are in the library's collection. Use real CAUTION signs with arrows going all kinds of directions pointing to BANNED BOOKS. Print off posters from the ALA and American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (<http://www.abffe.org>). Make packets up of the list as handouts.

*-The Dalles Wahtonka High School*

▶ Put every book in the library that is on a banned or challenged books list and put them in a display wrapped with caution tape, along with two non-fiction books from the library about book banning. We made these books "off-limits" from Monday through Thursday of BBW. On Friday morning, I took down the caution tape and allowed students to check out those books again.

*-Cottage Grove High School*

▶ Displays used in a grade 7-12 school library (Rye, NY)

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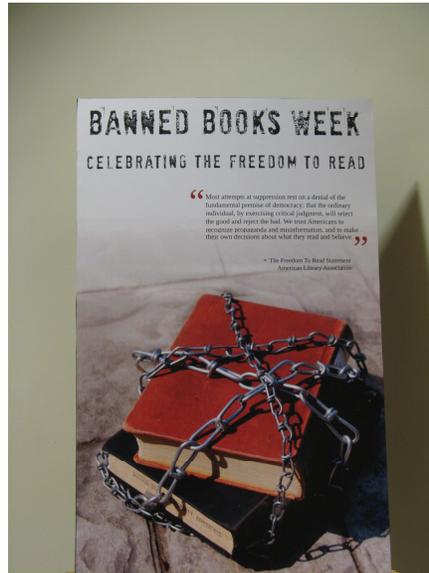
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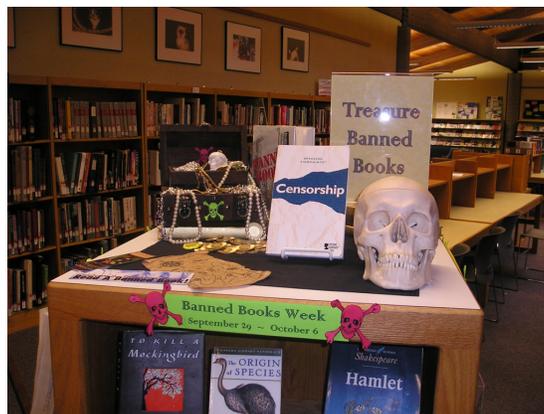
## Academic Libraries

► We created our own poster and had a virtual display – powered by librarything – on the library’s homepage.

-Valley Library, Oregon State University



► Rogue Community College



► Display outside the library entrance on challenged books with sheets that had cover art, title, author and the challenged books lists the book is on. The sticker below was placed on books challenged in Oregon. Students who marked off books they had read received a Banned Book Week button.

-Everest College



## Academic Libraries (cont.)

▶ Include in the display books from the 1900s that are considered to be "classics" of American and European literature that have been banned or challenged.

*-Southwestern Oregon Community College*

▶ Have students select books for the Banned Books Week display.

*-Concordia University Library*

▶ Have high school student workers create an exhibit on Banned Books which will be up from September 15 through November 15. It was a learning experience for them and presented yet another take on censorship for our library users.

*-Guin Library, Hatfield Marine Science Center Oregon State University*

## Bookstores

▶ **Book Stop** (Hood River)

