

Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse

Nineteenth Annual Report

July 1 2005 – June 30 2006

Goal:

The goal of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse is to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in all types of libraries by:

1. Improving communication between librarians, board members, professional associations, and other concerned groups in Oregon about challenges to intellectual freedom, and
2. Increasing awareness as to how threats to intellectual freedom can be addressed.

Objective:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse will:

1. Establish a central clearinghouse to collect and disseminate reports about challenges to intellectual freedom in all types of Oregon libraries.
2. Provide information about challenged materials to public library directors, library board members, school media center librarians, and academic librarians when requests for reconsideration of materials are received.
3. Provide information to public library directors, library board members, school media center librarians, and academic librarians about establishing policies and procedures that uphold the principles of intellectual freedom before a challenge to them occurs.
4. Cooperate with other people and groups concerned with intellectual freedom or related issues.

Scope:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (OIFC) collects information about written challenges to library materials in any type of Oregon Library. The information is submitted voluntarily and an annual report is prepared. The content of the *Annual Report* is taken from the reports that are submitted to OIFC. Challenges to materials have been reported to OIFC and included in the *Annual Report* since 1978.

The *Nineteenth Annual Report* summarizes 21 challenges to library materials in five public libraries between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. The *Title Index to Challenges* on the Oregon State Library website contains summary information. The *Annual Reports* contain more complete information. Beginning with the *Ninth Annual Report* (1995-1996) the reports are posted on the OIFC page of the Oregon State Library website (<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>). To obtain copies of the *Annual Reports* prior to 1995-1996 contact Val Vogt at 503-378-2525 or val.t.vogt@state.or.us.

Summary of Challenges Reported in 2005-2006:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received information about 21 challenges to library material between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. All the challenges received by OIFC were from public libraries in Oregon. Of the 21 challenges, 14 were books, 5 were videos, 1 was a periodical and 1 was an audio book. 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. All 21 of the challenged items were retained; two of the items were reclassified. The two reclassified items had been in youth collections and were reclassified as adult material.

The challenged items below are organized alphabetically by title of the challenged item. The phrase “review process” refers to adopted procedures by which the reviewing body (library board, board of trustees, materials selection committee, or staff) reads or views challenged material, collects reviews and other information about the material, and makes a decision about the challenged material. Generally, the Library Director writes a letter to the library patron(s) challenging the material informing them of the decision and explaining the appeals process in case the patron(s) is not satisfied with the decision.

Burlesque and the New Bump-n-Grind by Michelle Baldwin (Adult Book)

Objection: Subject is degrading and immoral, a bad influence on young people.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained 7/25/2005.

By Brakhage: An Anthology (Adult Video)

Objections: Scenes of an autopsy were shocking, had no education value. Requested objectionable scenes edited out.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained, remained unedited 10/27/2005.

Comix: The Underground Revolution by Dez Skinn (Adult Book)

Objection: Subject is degrading and immoral, a bad influence on young people.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained 7/25/2005.

Gaza Strip (Adult Video)

Objections: Biased, Arab propaganda.

Events: Board of trustees review process. Retained 9/6/2005.

Guilty Pleasures by Laurell K. Hamilton (Young Adult Book)

Objection: Violent, aggressive sexual content inappropriate for youth. Requested reclassification in Adult Fiction.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by a committee made of staff members through the review process. Reclassified as Adult Fiction 1/6/2006.

King & King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland (Children’s Book)

Objection: Subject of homosexuality and mention of divorce is unacceptable.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained 7/5/2005.

King & King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland (Children's Book)

Objection: Subject of homosexuality is too complex for young people. Requested reclassification and warning label.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained in Children's collection, no label added 3/11/2006.

Lone Wolves by Dan Abnett (Graphic Novel)

Objection: Evil content will contribute to hate, bad feelings, and callous behavior.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. . Retained 7/25/2005.

Lovable Lyle by Bernard Waber (Children's Book)

Objections: May lead children to believe heroic deeds are the only way to overcome bullying.

Events: Library selection committee review process. Retained 2/6/2006.

My Mom's Having a Baby by Dori Hillestad Butler (Children's Book)

Objections: Subject may rob children of innocence if viewed without parents knowledge or before parents are ready to talk to children about the subject. Requested reclassification

Events: Library selection committee review process. Retained in Children's collection 9/29/2005.

Bastard Out of Carolina (Adult Video)

Objections: Video may encourage pedophilia, sexual abuse, and violence.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained 5/22/2006.

Revelations: The Art of Max Bertolini by Max Bertolini (Adult Book)

Objections: Portrayal of women is encourages objectification of and violence against women.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained 7/15/2005.

The Sanctuary by Sho Fumimura and Ryoichi Ikegami (Graphic Novel)

Objections: Violence and sex warrant an 18+ or for Mature Readers rating. Requested reclassification and rating.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained in Graphic Novel collection, no rating added 7/15/2005.

Schizophrenia: The Bearded Lady Disease by Michael Mahoney (Adult Book)

Objections: Inaccurate information and negative portrayal of mental illness.

Events: Library selection committee review process. Retained 11/10/2005.

Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition (Adult Magazine)

Objections: Children may see topless women. Requested reclassification.

Events: Library selection committee review process. Retained in Magazine collection 3/2/2006.

Teach Me by R.A. Nelson (Young Adult Book)

Objections: An affair between a student and teacher is inappropriate for youth. Requested reclassification.

Events: Library selection committee review process. Retained in Young Adult collection 5/4/2006.

Tipping the Velvet (Adult Video)

Objections: Nude sex between women.

Events: Library selection committee review process. Retained 3/2/2006.

Touched by an Angel—In the Spirit of Liberty Moon (Children's Video)

Objections: Violent content inappropriate for children's section. Requested reclassification.

Events: Library selection committee review process. Reclassified in Adult Video collection 12/22/2005.

Under and Alone: The True Story of the Undercover Agent Who Infiltrated America's Most Violent Outlaw Motorcycle Gang by William Queen (Adult Book)

Objections: Bad language, promotes criminal activity, and a bad influence on young people.

Events: Board of trustees review process. Retained 12/6/2005.

Vagabond (series) by Takehiko Inoue (Youth Graphic Novel)

Objections: Nudity and violence inappropriate for young adults. Requested reclassification in Graphic Novels.

Events: Decision made by Library Director based on recommendations made by the materials selection department through the review process. Retained in Youth Graphic Novels 12/22/2005.

The Wheat Field by Steve Thayer (Adult Sound Recording)

Objections: Disturbing content.

Summary of events: Library board review process. Retained 9/27/2005.