



Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse

2011 Annual Report

July 1, 2010—June 30, 2011

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 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 the OIFC website (<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>) 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 2011 Annual Report is a compendium of 17 challenges to library materials in 6 public 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/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>).

Summary of Challenges Reported in 2010-2011:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 17 challenges to library material; all challenge reports were received from six public libraries. Of the 17 challenges, 11 of the items were books, 5 were movies, and 1 was a sound recording. All the challenges were initiated by public library patrons. Fifteen of the challenged items were retained in the collection under their original classification with no alterations such as labels or new covers. Two books were relocated to the adult section. One library reorganized their collection to move adult graphic novels next to adult fiction.

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.

AX: Alternative Manga. Vol. 1 by Sean Michael Wilson & Mitsuhiro Asakawa (graphic novel)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron initiated the challenge, library staff also expressed concern. The item was retained and not reclassified to another section. The library moved the entire adult graphic novel section to a different part of the library, closer to adult fiction.

Big Sexy by Daniel Barlow, Colin Tedford, & Anne Thalheimer (graphic novel)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned the pornographic nature of the item may promote prurient interest. Requested removal or restricted to adults only. Item was not restricted.

Bruno by Sacha Baron Cohen, Larry Charles, Jay Roach, Dan Mazer, & Monica Levinson (movie)

Objection: Sexual (unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron requested item be restricted to adults only. Item was not restricted.

“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

The Cat Who Killed Lilian Jackson: A Parody by Robert Kaplow (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit) 2. Values (anti-family, offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned about fictional works impugning the character of a real person.

The Dark Portal by Robin Jarvis (mp3, audio book)

Objection: Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may be too frightening for children.

Eden: It's An Endless World! [Vol. 6] by Hiroki Endo, Kumar Sivasubramanian, & Steve Dutro (graphic novel)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit, unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Reclassified

Comments: Patron requested item be restricted to adults only. Item was reclassified from the young adult section to the adult section, but not restricted.

The Enemy: A Book About Peace by Davide Cali & Serge Bloch (book)

Objection: Values (violence, unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Reclassified

Comments: Patron concerned item is too violent and inappropriate for young children. Item was reclassified into the parenting section.

Happy: A Memoir by Alex Lemon (Book)

Objection: Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned about inappropriate language.

Harris and Me: A Summer Remembered by Gary Paulson (Book)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item will encourage alcoholism, use of offensive language, cruelty to animals, and viewing pornography.

Junjo Romantica by by Shungiku Nakamura and Katherine Schilling (graphic novel)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item is too sexually explicit and may legitimize alternative sexual behaviors.

The Kids Are All Right by Lisa Cholodenko, Gary Gilbert, & Stuart Blumberg (movie)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality, nudity, sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Queer Duck: The Movie by Mike Reiss, Xeth Feinberg, Tal Vigderson, and Mike Mendel (movie)

Objection: 1. Sexuality (homosexuality) 2. Values (anti-family)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

“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.

Sleeping Dogs Lie by Bobcat Goldthwait and Marty Pasetta (movie)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned sexually explicit content is not appropriate.

Spetters by Paul Verhoeven & Gerard Soeteman (movie)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that item description does not inform potential viewers of sexually explicit content.

Spinners by Donna Jo Napoli & Richard Tchen (book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit, unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item is too mature for young teens. Requested reclassification to adult section. Item was not reclassified.

“Scarcely any question arises in the United States which does not become, sooner or later, a subject of judicial debate...”
-Alexis de Tocqueville

Tell Me a Secret by Holly Cupala (book)

Objection: Sexual (unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned item may encourage teens to engage in sexual activities at too young an age.

The Tortoise and the Hare Race Again by Dan Bernstein & Andrew Glass (book)

Objection: Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that negative language and humor may not be appropriate for young children.