



Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse

2012 Annual Report

July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012

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/osl/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 2012 Annual Report is a compendium of 28 challenges to library materials in eight public libraries and one school library. 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/Pages/intellectual.aspx>).

Summary of Challenges Reported in 2010-2011:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 28 challenges to library material; challenge reports were received from eight public libraries and one school library. Of the 28 challenges, 20 of the items were books, 7 were movies, and 1 was a newspaper article. Twenty-six of the challenges were initiated by public library patrons, 7 of who self-identified as parents, one was challenged by a teacher, and one challenge was submitted by a school library staff person. All 28 of the challenged items were retained in the collection, one of which was reclassified from the teen to the adult section.

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.

Charming Hotels & Resorts of Italy & Beyond by Julie Tither (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that item is marketing material for one company rather than an objective trip planning guide.

Daniel & Ana by Fortissimo Films (movie)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Dogtooth (Kynodontas) by Boo Productions (movie)

Objection: Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

“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

Dreams of Significant Girls by Cristina Garcia (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit) 2. Social issues (drugs, suicide)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that item promotes wrongdoing and provides teen girls with negative role models.

Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo, The by Dav Pilkey (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that reading this item may result in confusion and stupidity.

Evermore by Alyson Noel (book)

Objection: 1. Values (violence) 2. Other

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned about dark and graphic content. Requested item be relocated from the teen section to the adult section.

Fantastic Mr. Fox by Twentieth Century Fox (movie)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that item may scare children and that the humor is not appropriate for every child and family. Requested item be relocated from the children's section to the adult section and labeled 'dark comedy'.

Female Thing: Dirt, Sex, Envy, Vulnerability, The by Laura Kipnis (book)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron objected to the image on the cover of the item. Requested that it and other items with similar cover images not be displayed.

Fox All Week by Edward Marshall (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned this beginning reader, which includes characters that smoke and lie, does not have a strong message against those behaviors.

Good Girl, The by Fox Searchlight Pictures (movie)

Objection: 1. Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit) 2. Values (anti-family) 3. Social issues (suicide)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Grave History and Telling Walks in North Portland, A (article in *St. Johns Review*; Vol. 108-No. 21) Jim Speirs (newspaper)

Objection: Cultural (racism, offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that reading this article will lead people to believe the community is racist. Requested this particular issue be removed from the library and that all future issues be reviewed more carefully prior to making them available to patrons.

Growing Up Nigger Rich: A Novel by Gwendoline Y. Fortune (book)

Objection: 1. Culture (racism) 2. Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that the title is racist and offensive.

“One man’s vulgarity is another’s lyric.”
-John Marshall Harlan, Supreme Court Justice

Iktomi and the Berries : A Plains Indian Story by Paul Goble (book)

Objection: 1. Cultural (anti-ethnic) 2. Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned item is not culturally appropriate for Native Americans and that suicide is not age appropriate for young children. Requested item be relocated from the young children's picture book section to the juvenile section for older children.

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen by Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill (graphic novel)

Objection: Sexual (unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Relocated

Comments: Item was relocated from the teen section to the adult section.

Mechanics of Homosexual Intercourse: Stories, The by Lonely Christopher (book)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality, sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned because item came up while searching the catalog for 'Pokemon' materials and requested the library remove 'Pokemon' as one of the keywords for the item. One short story within the book is titled 'The Pokemon Movie' so library did not remove 'Pokemon' as a keyword. Library instructed patron how to limit searches to children's material.

Mother Number Zero by Marjolijn Hof (book)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Nurse Jackie by Showtime Networks Inc. (television show)

Objection: 1. Cultural (insensitivity) 2. Sexual (sexually explicit) 3. Values (offensive language) 4. Social issues (drugs)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Oscar and the Very Hungry Dragon by Ute Krause (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Teacher

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Teacher concerned item promotes overeating and patterning behavior.

Robocalypse: A Novel by Daniel H. Wilson (book)

Objection: Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Rosario+Vampire by Akihisa Ikeda (graphic novel)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron requested item be relocated from the teen section to the adult section.

Samantha on a Roll by Linda Ashman (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned that item encourages children to misbehave, engage in dangerous activities, and not mind their parents and that item portrays parents negatively.

Secrets of Boys, The (and all other titles by this author) by Hailey Abbott (book)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit, unsuited to age) 2.

Social issues (drugs)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned items promotes sexual activity, smoking, drinking, taking drugs, and other high-risk behaviors for teens. Requested items be removed and that the library take steps to ban them completely.

“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.

Secret of Water: For the Children of the World, The by Masaru Emoto (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned book is unscientific. Requested item be reclassified as fiction.

Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People by Amy Sedaris (book)

Objection: Sexual (sex education, unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that two crafts promote sexual activity. Requested item be restricted to patrons 19 years and older.

Starfields by Carolyn Marsden (book)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned item may be too dark and disturbing for children. Requested item be relocated from the children's section to the adult section.

Zack and Miri Make a Porno by The Weinstein Company (movie)

Objection: Sexual (sexually explicit, unsuited to age)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron requested item be restricted to patrons 18 years and older.

Zombie books by multiple authors (book)

Objection: Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Library staff

Type of library: School

Decision: Retained

Comments: Library staff concerned that zombies are violent and inappropriate for elementary school age children. Request all books about zombies be removed from the library.

Zoo by Peggy Case (movie)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit) 2. Other

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None