



Oregon

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2008 Annual Report Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse July 1 2007 – June 30 2008

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.

Objective:

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.
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 material at their library to other librarians who have dealt with a similar challenge in the past.
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 OIFC's website (<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/intellectual.shtml>) and submitted to the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom. Oregon librarians are notified via email when the annual report is available on the OIFC website.

The *2008 Annual Report* is a compendium of 34 challenges to library materials in three school libraries and seven public libraries between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. 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 2007-2008:

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports on 34 challenges to library material between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. OIFC received nine challenge reports from three school libraries and 24 challenge reports from seven public libraries. Of the 34 challenges, 25 of the items were books and nine were videos. One of the people who initiated the challenges was identified as clergy, two were teachers, 12 were library patrons, and 19 were parents. Twenty-four of the challenged items were retained in the collection under their original classification. One video was reclassified from comedy to drama, one video was labeled "NR" because it was not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America, one book was restricted to circulate only with a parent permission slip, and seven are still undecided.

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 challenged material, collects information about the material, and makes a decision about the challenged material. Generally, the library director writes a letter to the library patron who has challenged the material informing them of the decision, and explaining the appeals process.

***Alan Clarke Collection, The* by Alan Clarke (Video)**

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron recommended viewing be restricted or that a parental advisory label be added.

***Alan Clarke Collection, The* by Alan Clarke (Video)**

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that it promotes racism and is too violent.

Angels in America by Tony Kushner (Video)

Objection: Homosexuality, sexually explicit, offensive language, religious point of view

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained, labeled “NR”

Comments: Title misleading. Library added “NR” sticker which they “do with many films not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.”

Battle Royale by Koushan Takami (Book)

Objection: Sexual, values

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent recommended item be reclassified and not circulated to minors.

Birds: Eyewitness Book by David Burnie (Book)

Objection: Religious viewpoint

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None

Blood and Chocolate by Annette Curtis Klause (Book)

Objection: Sexual, values

Initiator of the challenge: Teacher

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Teacher recommended reclassification, label it for people 16 years and older or label with a parental advisory sticker.

Brother Juniper by Diane Gibfried (Book)

Objection: Sexual, values

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron was concerned children may get the wrong idea about their bodies and religion, recommended it be reclassified into a section for children 10 years and older.

Catholic Girl's Guide to Sex, The by Melinda Anderson and Kathleen Murray (Book)

Objection: Anti-family, religious viewpoint

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Disney's Beauty and the Beast, A Golden Book (Book)

Objection: Religious viewpoint, occult/satanism

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None

Disney's Pocahontas, A Golden Book (Book)

Objection: Culturally inaccurate, religious viewpoint, occult/satanism

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None

Disney's The Lion King (Book)

Objection: Religious viewpoint, occult/satanism

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None

For the Love of Letters by Samar O'Shea (Book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Title is misleading, letters are of a sexual nature.

Golden Compass, The by Philip Pullman (Video)

Objection: Religious viewpoint

Initiator of the challenge: Clergy, religious organization

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Clergy and religious organization were concerned that it sent a message to children to defy authority and to glorify evil.

Gossip Girls by Cecily Von Ziegesar (Book)

Objection: Sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, anti-family, offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Great New Wonderful, The by Vivendi Entertainment (Video)

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained, reclassified to drama

Comments: Patron recommended item be reclassified from comedy to drama and that patrons should be told that it is about 9/11. Library reclassified it to drama.

Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman (Book)

Objection: Homosexuality, unsuited to age group, offensive language, religious viewpoint

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Hills Have Eyes, The (Video)

Objection: Sexually explicit, violence

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

I am a Quetzalcoatl by Karen Wallace (Video)

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Violent images may be upsetting to young children, recommended parental advisory sticker.

Jumping the Scratch by Sara Weeks (Book)

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent recommended it be labeled in a way that would let parents know it is about child sexual abuse.

Lady Grace Mysteries by Patricia Finney (Book)

Objection: Unsuited to age group, offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent concerned that children may emulate the character's actions which are inappropriate.

Life, History and Magic of the Cat, The (Book)

Objection: Nudity, religious viewpoint, occult/satanism

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None

Live Nude Girls Unite by Julia Query and Vicky Funari (Video)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that sexually explicit material is visible and available to children.

Lost Girls by Alan Moore (Book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Although material is not classified in the children's or young adult collection, patron recommend reclassification to restricted area because children and teens can still access material in the general collection.

Middle School Survival Guide, The by Arlene Erlbach (Book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron was concerned that the sexual content of the book is inappropriate for middle school students.

Mommy Laid an Egg by Babette Cole (Book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent recommended that library staff inform patron about the graphic illustration and content prior to checking it out to them.

Not in Room 204 by Shannon Riggs (Book)

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent recommended it be labeled in a way that would let parents know it is about child sexual abuse.

Pinkerton, Behave! by Steven Kellogg (Book)

Objection: Values

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent was concerned that images may be upsetting to young children.

Princess on the Brink by Meg Cabot (Book)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent recommended it be labeled in a way that would let parents know about the sexual content.

Shortbus (Video)

Objection: Sexual

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned that sexually explicit material is available to children.

Shutterbug Follies by Jason Little (Book)

Objection: Homosexuality, nudity, offensive language

Initiator of the challenge: Teacher

Type of library: High School

Decision: Retained, parent permission required

Comments: Library retrained, but now requires parent permission slip to check it out.

Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg (Book)

Objection: Sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Middle School

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Trinidad, Festivals of the World Series by Royston Ellis (Book)

Objection: Religious viewpoint

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None

Vaccines: Separating Fact from Fiction (Video)

Objection: Out-of-date

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron was concerned information presented is out-of-date.

Walt Disney Presents the Little Mermaid, A Big Golden Book (Book)

Objection: Religious viewpoint, occult/satanism

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Elementary School

Decision: Undecided

Comments: None