



2017 Annual Report

On Challenges to Materials in Oregon Libraries

July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017

Goals

The goals of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse are to, (1) report on challenges to library materials in Oregon, and (2) 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 materials.
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.

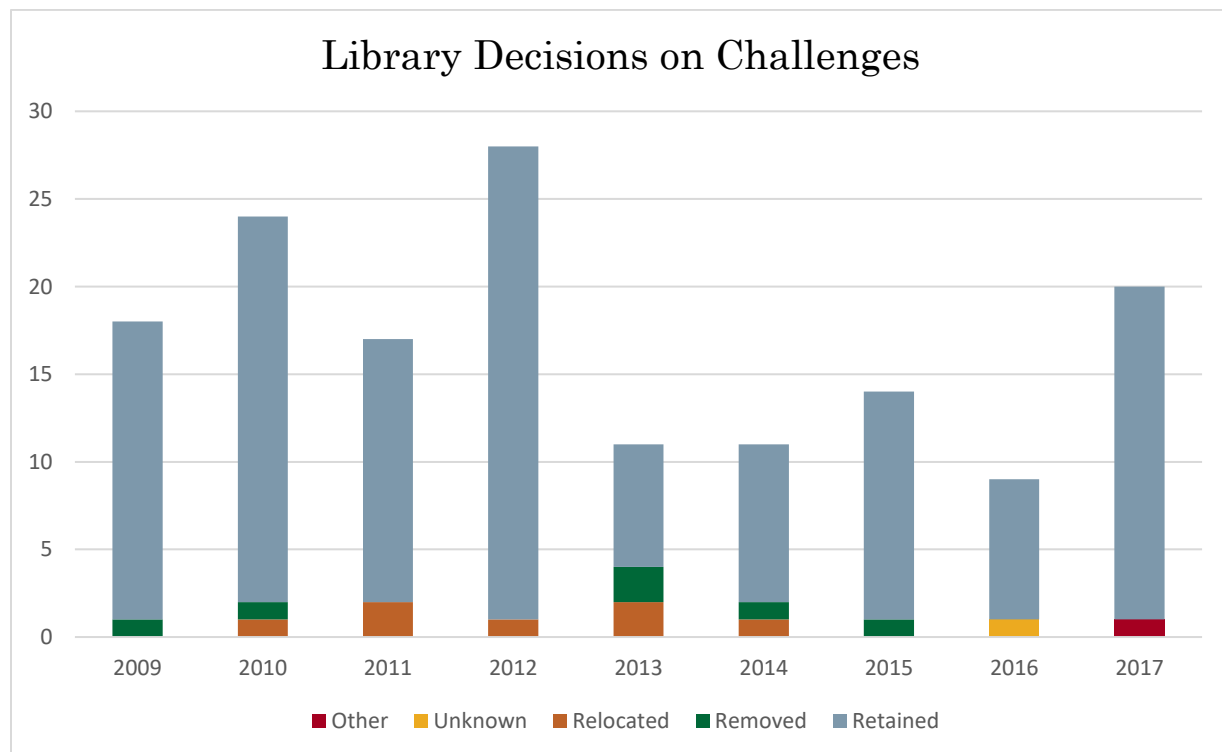
Scope

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (OIFC) collects reports about written challenges to materials from all types of Oregon libraries. Libraries report the information to OIFC on a voluntary basis. OIFC compiles the information into an annual report each year. Each annual report is posted on the OIFC webpage 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 webpage.

The 2017 Annual Report is a compendium of 20 challenges to materials from six 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 webpage (<https://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/Pages/projects/OIFC/OregonChallenges.aspx>).

Retrospective View

The following chart shows the number of items challenged since July 1, 2008, and how many of them were retained, removed, or relocated. To learn more about past challenges, read the previous annual reports on challenges to material in Oregon libraries available on the OIFC's webpage.



Summary of Challenges Reported July 1, 2016— June 30, 2017

The OIFC received reports on 20 challenges to library materials from six public libraries. Of the 20 challenges, four of the items were books, two were sound recordings, 13 were videos, and one was a magazine. Three of the challenges were initiated by parents and 17 were initiated by patrons. Nineteen of the challenged items were retained in the collection. One challenge was to a movie preview on a video, copies of the video with the challenged preview were removed from the collection and copies of the video without the challenged preview were retained.

Included among the challenges are seven videos that a patron removed from a library's shelves and hid inside the library. Library staff found some of the videos and purchased replacements for others, according to their Collection Development Policy. The videos all had LGBT+ characters featured in the cover art. The Library Director identified the patron and learned that they were hiding the videos in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ films and prevent "potential harm" to children. The Library Director explained the library's collection development policy, responsibility to represent diversity, and non-endorsement of materials/ideas in the collection to the patron. According to the library's Code of Conduct, the patron was trespassed for six months.

The following challenged items are organized alphabetically by title. 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 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.

2 Days in Paris by Julie Depty (video)

Objection: Cultural (Insensitivity)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron objected to anti-gay content

Anomalisa by Charlie Kaufman (video)

Objection: 1. Sexual (sexually explicit, unsuited to age) 2. Values (anti-family)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron objected to the age difference between two characters who engaged in sexual activity, and that one of those characters was a family man.

Beautiful Thing by Hettie MacDonald (video)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.

Blind by Eskil Vogt (video)

Objection: Sexual (nudity, sexually explicit)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Blue is the Warmest Color by Abdellatif Kechiche (video)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.

Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls, The by Claire Legrand (book)

Objection: Values (violence)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron requested the material be moved from juvenile to teen due to disturbing content and dark/scary themes.

Curious George by H. A. Rey (book)
Objection: 1. Values (racism) 2. Other (unsuited to age)
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: None

Free Fall by Stephan Lacant (video)
Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.

George by Alex Gino (book)
Objection: Sexual (unsuited to age)
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: None

Holding the Man by Neil Armfield (video)
Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.

Keep the Lights On by Ira Sachs (video)
Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.

Killer Joe by William Friedkin (video)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: None

Leyenda de la Llorona, La by Alberto Rodriguez (video)

Objection: 1. Sexual (homosexuality, nudity, sexually explicit, unsuited to age) 2. Values (violence) 3. Social Issues (drugs, suicide) 4. Other (disturbing)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Other

Comments: Patron objected to a preview of *La Leyenda de la Llorona* that was on a different video. Copies of the video with the challenged preview were removed from the collection and copies of the video without the challenged preview were retained.

Longtime Companion by Norman René (video)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.

Maxim by Dennis Maxim Inc. (magazine)

Objection: Cultural (sexism)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: The patron objected to a lack of intellectual content, misogynistic worldviews, and objectification of women.

Mr. Brooks by Bruce A. Evans (video)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron objected to an explicit sex scene and the topic of serial killers.

Pretty Little Liars: Ali's Pretty Little Lies by Sara Shepard (book)

Objection: Values (offensive language)

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron requested putting a label on the material to warn other about the language.

Room of My Own, A by Donald Davis (sound recording)

Objection: Other

Initiator of the challenge: Parent

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Parent objected to an innuendo in the second story, "Talking with the Lights On," and was concerned it objectified women and girls. Parent requested putting a label on the material recommending parents preview it.

Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs (sound recording)

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

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron concerned material is child pornography and promotes child sexual abuse.

Tipping the Velvet by Geoffrey Sax (video)

Objection: Sexual (homosexuality)

Initiator of the challenge: Patron

Type of library: Public

Decision: Retained

Comments: Patron hid the video in an attempt to restrict other patrons' access to LGBT+ images and prevent potential harm to children, should they be exposed.