Small Libraries but Not Small Minds:
Intellectual Freedom in Small Communities

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American Library Association
Small Libraries but Not Small Minds

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GUESTVIEW

The first step in addiction

Children need protection from books' sex acts

By DENISE ACKLEY-HERRIGES

I monitor what your child reads like a paranoid hawk if Maria Hannah's group the American Library Association has its say. Their means of offending is not only a violation of our First Amendment rights, but also cause them to be exposed to sex acts in children's books. They're not interested in what is best for children, but what is best for a library. They say they are there to help the community, but they are only there for their own gain.

In zeal for protecting First Amendment rights, library needs to consider entire amendment

I've been pondering the issue of the recent books that have been banned in the library. The library has a responsibility to protect the First Amendment rights of the community. The library should provide a safe space for people to explore their ideas and opinions. The library should not be a place for censorship. People have the right to express their ideas, even if they are not popular. The First Amendment is about freedom of speech, and the library should protect that freedom.

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DAILY NEWS
Washington County's Daily Newspaper

Four tossed off Library Board

Council rejects reappointments on 5-3 vote

By DAVID WAGNER

The West Bend Common Council on Tuesday night voted to reject the reappointment of library trustees Dorothy Scholten and John Winkler, and to appoint new trustees to fill the vacancies.

Winkler was nominated by the library trustees, Scholten was nominated by the mayor. The council voted 5-3 to reject the reappointments. The council voted 5-3 to appoint newer trustees to fill the vacancies.

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What is a Rural Library?
Self-Censorship

School Library Journal on
Self-Censorship

- 2016 Controversial Books Survey
- Analysis, responses, and resources

Librarians say:
An administrator... pre-censored several books for his school at the direction of the superintendent. I now consider controversial subject matter more carefully.

More than nine out of ten elementary and middle school librarians have not bought a book recently because of the potential for controversy. That's just one finding from SLJ's 2016 Controversial Books Survey, which addresses self-censorship and updates our landmark 2008 self-censorship survey. An invitation to participate in the 2016 study was emailed to a random sampling of school librarians serving all K-12, and respondents were assured that their answers would remain anonymous. 573 U.S.-based school librarians participated.

Survey Responses

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

Weighing Subject Matter
When making purchasing decisions, do find yourself weighing the effect of controversial subject matter more often than you did?
Your poll will show here

1. Install the app from pollev.com/app
2. Make sure you are in Slide Show mode

Still not working? Get help at pollev.com/app/help
or
Open poll in your web browser
Self-Censorship

This One Summer Banned in Henning, MN

May 4, 2016  Kristin Peckoll


Last week, This One Summer, a graphic novel by cousins Mariko and Jillian Tamaki was banned from the library shelves of the Henning School District.

Henning is a small, rural town in Minnesota where the one school houses all the grades from preschool through twelfth grade. We received a report that a parent complained about the book and wanted it removed from the school. In this situation, the parent’s opinion was shared by the school administration and decision makers. So the book was removed immediately. There are several issues that make this a unique and teachable situation.

Issue #1: No Policy

www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=6559
Self-Censorship

Self-Censorship: Take the Test!

The New York Library Association has compiled the following checklist to see if libraries are self-censoring. Take the test to see how your library fares!

Has your library ever...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not purchased material because a review or publisher's catalog indicated that it was for &quot;mature readers,&quot; had explicit language or illustrations, or might be controversial?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not purchased a popular book because it might be unpopular with parents or pressure groups in the community?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not purchased material because of the origin, background or views of the author?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not purchased sex instruction materials from a conservative religious point of view because a staff member found them to be personally offensive?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not purchased magazines, videos, rock or rap music, or books because &quot;they are so popular they might be stolen?&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not purchased material concerning minorities because &quot;no one in our community is like that&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlight Diverse Review Sources and Awards

- Stonewall Award
- Coretta Scott King Award
- The Brown Bookshelf

Take the “Our Voices” Pledge

- ourvoiceschicago.ala.org
- It is within the power of all players in the book and publishing ecosystem—from authors and content creators, to editors and publishers, to booksellers and libraries, all the way to readers—to assert the freedom to read as a freedom to read diverse, quality content of all kinds. Join us in raising our voices and raising the voices of those we do not yet often hear.

Raise the Question
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Diverse Collections

Of 275 challenges recorded by the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, these are the 2015 TOP TEN Most Challenged Books:

- **Top Ten Challenged Books**

  - **Looking for Alaska** by John Green
    - Sexuality Explicit
    - Offensive Language
    - Drugs/Alcohol/Smoking
  
  - **Fifty Shades of Grey** by E.L. James
    - Sexuality Explicit
  
  - **I Am Jazz** by Jessica Herbel & Jazz Jennings
    - Unsuitable for Age Group
    - Religious Viewpoint
  
  - **Beyond Magenta** by Susan Kuklin
    - Religious Viewpoint
    - Sex Education
    - Homosexuality
    - Offensive
    - Anti-Family
  
  - **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon
    - Offensive Language
    - Unsuitable for Age Group
    - “Athens”
  
- **Diverse Content**

  - **Holy Bible**
    - Religious Viewpoint
    - Violence
    - “Illegal”
  
  - **Fun Home** by Alison Bechdel
    - Homosexuality
    - Graphic/Images
    - Nudity
  
  - **Habibi** by Craig Thompson
    - Sexuality Explicit
    - Nudity
  
  - **Nasreen’s Secret School** by Jeanette Winter
    - Religious Viewpoint
    - Violence
    - “References to Islam”
  
  - **Two Boys Kissing** by David Levithan
    - Homosexuality
    - “Contains Public Displays of Affection”

*Definition: [www.ala.org/bbooks/diversity](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/diversity)*
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Bold Programming

Indigenous Peoples' Day
The Reynolds School Board approved a resolution, which proclaims the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day. This is a time to honor the indigenous peoples’ of the earth and the nations’ first peoples, who inhabited the land prior to the United States becoming a nation. Reynolds School District serves students with

CONTROVERSY & CONVERSATION
A Difficult Dialogues Program 2015

Evanston Public Library reinstates canceled book talk after accusations of censorship

Alice Yin, Reporter
August 4, 2014

The Evanston Public Library has reinstated a Palestinian-American author’s book talk just days after a controversial decision to cancel it.

Author and activist Ali Abunimah will speak at the library on August 11 as originally scheduled, according to an updated statement from EPL on Monday. Abunimah plans to read an excerpt from his book, “The Battle for Justice in Palestine.” The author’s work covers the Gaza strip, the site of increasingly violent conflict.

Darby Library's planned lecture on Islam draws complaints

The Darby Community Public Library Board decided the March 9 presentation titled “Perspectives on Islam” in the Life-Long Learning Series should continue as scheduled after holding an emergency meeting Thursday.

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Intellectual Freedom in a Rural Library

Use every platform you have available to publicly communicate your dedication to intellectual freedom:

• Displays, programming, collection and signage
• E-mail signatures
• Webpage & social media
• Letterhead
• Bumper stickers, mugs, pins

“Unrestricted access to information since 1896”
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Questions?

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Thank You

ARSL
The Association for Rural & Small Libraries

Kristin Pekoll, Assistant Director
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