2018 Annual Report
On Challenges to Intellectual Freedom in Oregon Libraries
July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018

Scope of This Report
The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (OIFC) collects reports about challenges to intellectual freedom in 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.

It is important to note that this year the OIFC started collecting reports on all types of intellectual freedom incidents at academic, school, and public libraries and institutions. In the past, OIFC collected reports to materials challenges only. This expanded scope reflects the changes that the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) made to their challenge report form in January 2017.

Summary of Challenges Reported
The OIFC received reports on 24 challenges from 13 libraries – 1 academic, 8 public, 3 school, and 1 public/school combination. Of the 24 challenges, 23 were materials challenges and 1 was a library service challenge.

Library Service Challenge
A library service challenge occurred at a public library hosting a series of events and an informal exhibit on Islam and Muslim cultures. A patron believed that the library’s intention was to encourage conversion to Islam. The head librarian spoke with the patron, explaining the library's outreach mission with programming and the focus on opportunities for intercultural dialogue and lifetime learning within the community.
Materials Challenges

One of the materials challenges was a request to add material to the collection. A public library patron requested that a specific religious text be added to the library collection. The library denied the request as the item fell outside of the library’s collection development policy.

Of the 22 materials challenged for removal, 12 of the items were books, 2 were comics/graphic novels, 7 were videos, and 1 was a magazine. 10 of the challenges were initiated by parents, 10 by patrons, 1 by library staff, and 1 by a school principal. 18 of the challenged items were retained in the collection, 1 was relocated, 1 is still under consideration, and 2 were removed.

The following items challenged for removal 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.

*Bad Timing* by Nicolas Roeg, director [Video]
Objection: Violence, Sexually explicit
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron objected to graphic violent and sexual content.

*Christmas Tree* by Flamarion Ferreira [Video]
Objection: Horror/Scary to minors
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Relocated
Comments: Parent reported family being disturbed by one prominent female character who was "very vicious and mean." Even though the character is ultimately taught a lesson in kindness, she stated, the degree of hostility depicted is disturbing for Pre-K children. Parent recommended moving item out of Children's section to General Collection. The library determined the item was mis-classified in Children's section and relocated it to the Holiday section of General Film Collection.

*El Camello Cojito* by Gloria Fuertes/Nacho Gomez - illustrator [Book]
Objection: Racism
Initiator of the challenge: Library staff
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron noticed this book during story time and believed it had potential to hurt children by perpetuating stereotypes of appearance imposed by dominant white culture.
**Essential Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel [Graphic novel/comic book]
Objection: Anti-family, Horror/Scary to minors, Sexually explicit, Low library value
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: School
Decision: Unknown
Comments: Parent said the book taught false values, scared her child of innocence, and had pornographic images and text that have no value whatsoever. The book was pulled from the shelf and is in the process of being reviewed by the librarian and Principal.

**Founding Fathers: The Men who Shaped Our Nation and Changed the World** by History Channel [Video]
Objection: Religious viewpoint
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron expressed concern that the DVDs didn't respect or show the spiritual beliefs of the founding fathers. The DVDs discussed, in his words, "their moral indiscretions or sexual lives".

**Gun: A Visual History** by DK Publishing [Book]
Objection: Violence
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: School
Decision: Removed
Comments: The parent believed that the book glorifies gun usage, at a level that is inappropriate for elementary school students. A committee was formed and after reading through the book unanimously decided to take the book out of circulation for Elementary as this book was written for an adult audience and does not support current curriculum.

**Halfway Herbert** by Francis Chan [Book]
Objection: Religious viewpoint
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron was concerned about "presence of religious propaganda targeting children."

**In the Realm of the Senses** by Nagisa Oshima [Video]
Objection: Sexually explicit
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Academic
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron complained film was pornographic, and possibly child porn
Inspector Flytrap 2: The President's Mane is Missing by Tom Angleberger and Cece Bell [Book]
Objection: Offensive language, Political viewpoint
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron objected to objectionable language, lack of good role models, disrespectful portrayal of the President of the United States.

Is Mommy? by Victoria Chang [Book]
Objection: Defies authority
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: The patron wrote: "[Is Mommy?] is meant to be for young children, however, its facetious. Children don't understand facetiousness. Instead the only thing they will take away from this book is how to be mean to mommy."

Layer Cake by Matthew Vaughn [Video]
Objection: Sexually explicit, Offensive language, Violence, Drugs
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron objected to gratuitous sex, swearing, violence, drug use.

Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott [Book]
Objection: Suicide
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron became very depressed after reading it. She felt it could cause a depressed person to commit suicide. The patron said that the "Book talked often about suicide being the only solution."

Sexy Beast series by Aphrodisia, publisher [Book]
Sexy Sailors by Neil Plakcy, editor [Book]
Objection: Sexually explicit
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron referred to the materials as "smut" and "some of the most VILE writing imaginable." Patron objected to having this material "within feet of unknowing children."
**Sombra** by Ruven Afanador [Book]
Objection: Sexually explicit, Nudity
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Removed
Comments: The patron noted the book had graphic nudity and eroticism. He noted "I'm in favor of artistic nudes, but perhaps in an art appreciation class and not accessible to the impressionable minds of children." After review, the director determined that the book met the qualifications for weeding (lack of use, not a public library title) and weeded the book from the collection.

**Splatoon 2** by Sankichi Hinodeya [Book]
Objection: Nudity, Violence
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: School
Decision: Retained
Comments: The parent objected to several illustrations in the book that featured a partially nude superhero character. Parent objected to a character who bullied others. The parent felt that readers would believe that bullying was acceptable after reading the book. She suggested that she should be allowed to preview books for appropriateness before they were added to the collection.

**Teen Vogue** by Conde Nast [Magazine/journal]
Objection: Sexually explicit
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: The parent wanted the library to remove Teen Vogue from the shelves based on an article about anal sex that she thought was in the print magazine (but was online-only), and also related articles in the June issue about sexuality/love.

**This One Summer** by Jillian and Marko Tamaki [Graphic novel/comic book]
Objection: Offensive language; Sexually explicit
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Parent objected to language ("slut") and mention of condoms in dialogue.

**Tightrope** by Clint Eastwood [Video]
Objection: Sexism, Nudity
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron objected to voyeurism.
*True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig* by Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter, Caprice Crane [Book]
Object: Other
Initiator of the challenge: School principal
Type of library: Public which operates the libraries in both schools
Decision: Retained
Comments: The picture book was returned from the elementary school library as being unacceptable for the school.

*Wiener-Dog* by Todd Solondz - Director [Video]
Object: Offensive language, Violence
Initiator of the challenge: Patron
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron objected to animal abuse and vulgarity.

*Willy the Champ* by Anthony Browne [Book]
Object: Violence
Initiator of the challenge: Parent
Type of library: Public
Decision: Retained
Comments: Patron objected "violence used to solve problems with bullies for early readers. Violence celebrated."