ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom

Barbara Jones
Director, OIF
Executive Director,
Freedom to Read Foundation
From the Chicago River...
...To the Rhine River
American Library Association

Office for Intellectual Freedom

Freedom to Read Foundation

Merritt Fund

**OIF Staff**

- **DIRECTOR:** Barbara Jones
- **DEPUTY:** Deborah Caldwell-Stone (attorney)
- **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Kristin Pekoll
- **PROGRAM OFFICER FOR BANNED BOOKS WEEK:** Nanette Perez
- **PROGRAM OFFICER FOR FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION:** Jonathan Kelley
- **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Shumeca Pickett
Major Activities

- Banned Books Week
- Choose Privacy Week
- Freedom to Read Foundation
- Merritt Fund
- Consultation for 700 people annually—ethical issues, censorship issues
- Travel worldwide for workshops and lectures
- Education programs
- Speaking to the press
ALA Membership Organizations

- Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)—appointed by ALA President, reports to ALA Council
- Intellectual Freedom Committee Privacy Subcommittee
- Intellectual Freedom Round Table—grassroots, anyone can be a member
- Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE)—appointed by ALA President, reports to ALA Council
- Then most ALA divisions have an IFC or liaison—for example: Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has the Committee on Professional Values
- Network of 50 state IFCs
Role of OIF Staff

- We serve the ALA membership
- We depend on member support for policy formulation, education, speaking engagements
- Publication of the IF Manual, now in its 9th edition
- Speaking and training engagements
- Coalition building
Role of Members

- Members set the agenda and priorities and staff support this.
- In reality, staff does much of the prioritization.
- We try to engage members on the national and state and local levels.
- Working with IF, Privacy, and Ethical Issues requires training and experience.

CHALLENGE: attracting new generation
CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE:
How Libraries Fight for FREE SPEECH, FREEDOM FROM SURVEILLANCE, AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

BARBARA M. JONES
Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association | Executive Director, Freedom to Read Foundation
THE ATHENS AGORA:
Ancient Marketplace of Ideas

CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE 🔥
STARTING A CONVERSATION SALON—TIPS BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCES

This isn't everything we've got to tell you about how to start a conversation salon or discussion group! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We'd also love to hear about your own conversation salon experiments and your ideas for stuff we might try at ours!

ROUNDING 'EM UP

We started our conversation salon relying on the free personal ads in the local papers. We placed our ads in the “just friends” type category. We tried posters in libraries and bookstores but didn't get much response. The web site did not used to attract many people; however, more recently, the web has been working for us. Craig's List has been a good way to attract younger people. We also trawl fringier organizations every now and then—the Pagans, the New Agers (via an ad placed in a free publication distributed through New Age type stores in our area), the Unitarians, etc. Science fiction conventions and renaissance faire programs also might be good spots to run ads. The idea is to focus on places where unconventional people might hang out. We think that having a healthy minority of wild-eyed thinkers has been critical to our success. The mainstream majority shows up, in part, just to hear what the less predictable thinkers might suddenly say!

Our print ads are loaded with calculated filters—“wild-eyed,” “philosopher daredevils,” “vintage hippies,” “unconventional thinkers and doers,” “activists,” “bohemians,” “Cheezits, chocolate and cheap wine.” We avoid words that make the thing sound elitist or dry. We always include something that conveys the idea that the salon happens in a good-humored, friendly environment. We hope that's true! A typical ad would sound like this:

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE! A thriving contemporary conversation circle that's a blast from the past—incense, candles, beaded curtains and 75 floor cushions, holding the brightest, most wild-eyed people we've managed to round up during the past ten years. Crave the ordinary? This is it! Elgin area. Must be over 21—no lasts of the same—we both wear the same warn.

Start-your-own-Salon email
Fishbowl Engages Campus Community in Discussion on Gun Violence

February 26th, 2013 Danielle Kane

Students packed the Rehn Library for a fishbowl discussion titled "After Sandy Hook: How do we prevent similar forms of violence?" Photo by: John Morton ’15

Possible gun control, increased resources for mental health screening, and promotion of personal defense training were among the suggestions of a group of Holy Cross students, faculty and staff to combat gun violence in the United States.

Discussion at Holy Cross University

CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE
Crowds pack Darien Library for forum on Syria

By Bonnie Adler

More than 300 people packed the Darien library on a sunny Sunday for a public forum called by Fourth District Congressman Jim Himes to discuss whether or not the United States should strike Syria to penalize the Assad regime for its use of chemical weapons, as President Obama has requested. Congress is expected to vote on the issue this week.

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal also attended the meeting, which was highly charged with speakers from all over Fairfield County and throughout Connecticut, both pro and con on the issue, who lined the walls of the Darien library auditorium waiting for their chance to speak.

Before the public took their comments and questions to the mikes, Himes spoke briefly, saying he remains skeptical about what could happen after any potential US intervention. "Very few of us have any idea of what happens after a strike is complete," Himes said. "Hezbollah could undertake attacks against Israel. There are some very bad characters in Syria now who have been circling the region in violent ways. If we succeed in President Obama's goal of degrading the Assad regime, there will be some degree of chaos. We don't know what happens after that."

Himes remained undecided. "Before I can decide I want to know, what would be the objective?" he said.
Forum on Islam sparks heated debate at Orland Park Library

Muslim panelists calmly explain beliefs amid outbursts from some audience members

August 23, 2013 | By Michael Holtz, Chicago Tribune reporter

What a southwest suburban library had promoted as an educational forum this week on Muslim life in America quickly turned into a contentious debate about Islam.

The tone for the Thursday evening event was set while the three panelists at the Orland Park Library were still introducing themselves. In the first of many interruptions, a half-dozen audience members stood up and demanded that everyone recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director, Actor, Artist, Scholar
November 22, 1998

Festival Proves A Woman’s Place Is In The Director’s Chair
February 27, 1987

Angelina Jolie caps journey from wild child to doting mother
May 15, 2013

Complete List Of Events
RICHARD HARWOOD INSTITUTE

Calling All Librarians
Year-long Public Innovation training.
Part of ALA's The Promise of Libraries
Transforming Communities.

GET STARTED

MEET RICH HARWOOD  CALLING ALL LIBRARIANS  THE WORK OF HOPE

WHAT DO OUR PARTNERS HAVE IN COMMON?

NEWS & EVENTS

Get the book!

THE WORK OF HOPE

CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE

HARWOOD

ABOUT  TURN OUTWARD  BE A PARTNER  BE A PUBLIC INNOVATOR  ACTIVATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Go to The Summit!
Park City, UT Sept 20-
LIMITED SPOTS LEFT
WHAT HAPPENS in a Limited Public Forum?

- There is freedom to receive and to impart information that is protected by the First Amendment. We can express and we can receive information.
- But, this freedom can be limited by hours of service and other content neutral policies.
- Spaces are open to all, as defined by law.
- By ethical code, the space should feel welcoming to all.
- User privacy within the public forum should apply, even if it is PUBLIC.
POLICY
for Limited Public Forum

The Flagler County Public Library as a “limited public forum” has the authority to make reasonable rules that are universally applicable regarding the allowed use of the library buildings and property, including content-neutral restrictions of conduct involving passing out literature. The public sidewalks around the library property are a traditional public forum subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on those wishing to use them for purposes protected by the First Amendment. As such, the Library allows people to circulate petitions outside our facilities.

1. Persons circulating petitions for signatures or leafleting may stand on Library property, however, they may not engage in collecting signatures or distributing leaflets inside the Library building.
2. Only one person at a time is permitted to solicit signatures for a single petition or leaflet.
3. This person shall not block, hinder, interfere or otherwise impede patrons and staff wishing to exit or enter the building, nor seek to intimidate patrons or staff into signing a petition or accepting a leaflet.
4. Persons circulating petitions or leafleting are not allowed to place or erect tables, chairs or signs on Library property.
5. No leafleting or distribution of literature, or solicitation is permitted for the purposes of selling items, merchandise, tickets, or other for-profit activities.
6. No work or petitioning on behalf of candidates for elected office is allowed in the Library building or on the Library property.
7. Not-for-profit fundraising activities are not permitted in the Library building or on the Library property by any person or organization when the purpose is to benefit a group or organization other than the Library or the Friends of the Library of Flagler County.
8. Anyone wishing to solicit signatures for a petition or leaflet shall inform the Library Administration Office during normal business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) of their desire and intent to solicit signatures for a petition.
9. The Library staff, Friends of the Library of Flagler County and members of the Library Board of Trustees are exempt from the above constraints in promoting Library activities and issues.

*Any person or group who does not abide by the conditions stated above or creates a nuisance such that the regular business of the Library is disrupted shall be required to immediately cease all activities relating to solicitation for a petition or leafleting and to leave the Library property.

Approved by Flagler County Library Board of Trustees, 07/16/10

CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE 🦜
Speakers' Corner

FREE SPEECH ZONE in Singapore

CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE 🔥
My name is Au Waipang. I was born in 1952 in Singapore and am of Chinese descent. I am the third generation to live in Singapore, second generation born here. That is to say, all my grandparents were born in China, but both my parents were born here.

As both my parents were educated in English-language schools (run by Christian missionaries, as most English-language schools were in their day), the family language that I grew up with was English. My parents speak to me in English; all my teenage rows with them were in English.

So, regardless of the Singapore government’s silly notion that one’s mother tongue is determined by one’s race or ethnicity, I have always maintained that my mother tongue is English. I think in English, I dream in English, and as is apparent from this site, I write in English.

Yet, I am not entirely westernised like some second or third generation persons of Asian descent living in Europe or America. I live in Singapore, a small country – a small island – smack in the middle, not of China, but of Southeast Asia. Singapore is sandwiched between Muslim Malaysia and Muslim-but-officially-secular Indonesia. But in Singapore, Muslims are a small minority. The Chinese community in Singapore makes up 76% of our population, and was still culturally Chinese.
FREE SPEECH ZONES in the U.S.

CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE
In many communities, after the library and the computer lab close for the night, there is often only one place to turn for students without internet access at home: the local McDonald's. WSJ's Anton Troianovski reports from Citronelle, Alabama.

CITRONELLE, Ala.—Joshua Edwards's eighth-grade paper about the Black Plague came with a McDouble and fries.

Joshua sometimes does his homework at a McDonald's restaurant—not because he is drawn by the burgers, but because the fast-food chain is one of the few places in this southern Alabama city of 4,000 where he can get online access free once the public library closes.

Cheap smartphones and tablets have put Web-ready technology into more hands than ever. But the price of Internet connectivity hasn't come down nearly as quickly. And in many rural areas, high-speed Internet through traditional phone lines simply isn't available at any price. The result is a divide between families that have broadband access and those that have to plan their online use by the hours when the Internet access is available.
ALA-Google Symposium on “Revisiting the Children’s Internet Protection Act: 10 Years Later”

CIPR Director, Michael Zimmer, has been invited to join a gathering of national library, education, technology, legal and policy experts for a national symposium hosted by the American Library Association and Google considering the impact of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) on access to electronic information July 29 and 30. Librarians & researchers nationwide can join the virtual conversation with two Google Hangouts on July 30.

The first Hangout will start at 11 a.m. EDT and focus on an “Introduction and Overview of CIPA 10 Years Later.” The second one will share “Symposium Themes and Conclusions” starting at 12:15 p.m. EDT. Participants will join a wide range of experts as they share insights looking at legal, ethical, and political implications of how the CIPA requirements have been implemented in the past 10 years. Did CIPA meet its intended goals, and have there been unintended consequences?

“Revisiting the Children's Internet Protection Act: 10 Years Later” is part of ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) and Office for Intellectual Freedom’s (OIF) larger project on CIPA and access to information, made possible through support of Google, Inc. A white paper will be released this fall.

Here’s how to join the conversation:

- You can watch the live stream directly on YouTube on the ALA Washington Office channel. ALA will tweet the URL using #CIPA_ALA13 at 10:45am EST, right before the Hangout goes live.
- You can also tweet @oittp using our hash tag CIPA_ALA13. We’ll be watching the Twitter feed and passing these comments to the speakers, as well.

Participants are encouraged to actively share their experiences, reflections and questions via tweets and online comment boards. ALA will use the back-channel conversation to inform our ongoing work on the impacts of filtering on access to information.
Protecting Library Users' Privacy in a Digital Age

Barbara M. Jones, American Library Association

Acknowledgement: Deborah Caldwell-Stone, American Library Association

WHO’S TRACKING YOU?

Choose privacy. PRIVACYREVOLUTION.ORG
Privacy Myths

public is the new private

privacyrevolution.org
People Care About Their Privacy

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Consumer Reports Poll: Americans Extremely Concerned About Internet Privacy

Most Consumers Want More Control Over How Their Online Information Is Collected & Used

Mobile users avoid, uninstall apps over privacy concerns: Pew Report

Study: Youth Not Only Care About Facebook Privacy, They Do Something About It

Majority Uncomfortable with Websites Customizing Content Based Visitors Personal Profiles
Our Data

• Who we are
• What we read and think
• Where we go and when we go there
• Who we talk to, and what we say to them
• What we earn, how we manage it, what we spend it on
Privacy and Pointillism
In February, 2010 advertising and marketing startup Clearsight Interactive announced that it had purchased enough personally identifiable information about individuals to enable it to link 65 million home IP addresses with their actual users.

—Daily Online Examiner, February 25, 2010
http://www.mediapost.com/publications/?fa=Articles.showArticle&art_aid=123280&lfe=1
Every day, collection systems at the National Security Agency intercept and stores 1.7 billion e-mails, phone calls and other types of communications.


http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/
Historical Lessons from Estonia

KGB Museum at Hotel Viru
In Tallinn, Estonia
Historical Lessons from East Germany

• The Lives of Others
Historical Lessons from South Africa

Non-Stop Against Apartheid

Surveillance of anti-apartheid activists revealed

Posted on March 26, 2013

After the exposure of long-term police infiltration of environmental and anti-capitalist activist networks over the last couple of years, the idea that the British police monitored anti-apartheid activists in the 1980s is hardly a surprise. However, two publications from March 1985 give an insight into the different ways in which activists responded to this surveillance.

On 23 March 1985, Seumas Milne published an article in The Guardian about the national Anti-Apartheid Movement’s disaffiliation of the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group. The Guardian sub-editors must have thought they were very clever when they came up with the headline – “Separate developments in common” – playing on the apartheid regime’s ideological doublewhammy for its logic frameworks of racial inequality. Milne’s
Lessons from the United States

• USA Case Study: NSA Surveillance Revealed
  – Spring, 2013: Edward Snowden, U.S. citizen, secretly provides documents to selected journalists, including Glenn Greenwald.
**Introduction**

U.S. as World’s Telecommunications Backbone

- Much of the world’s communications flow through the U.S.
- A target’s phone call, e-mail or chat will take the **cheapest** path, not the physically most direct path – you can’t always predict the path.
- Your target’s communications could easily be flowing into and through the U.S.
Protecting What Matters

- Personal privacy
- Consumer privacy
- Online privacy
- Youth and privacy
- Government surveillance
- Reader privacy
Privacy in the Library

“In a library (physical or virtual), the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one’s interest examined or scrutinized by others.”

Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

http://ifmanual.org/privacyinterp
Privacy in the Library

“Confidentiality exists when a library is in possession of personally identifiable information about users and keeps that information private on their behalf.”

Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
http://ifmanual.org/privacyinterp
We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.”

Article III, ALA Code of Ethics
http://ifmanual.org/codeethics
Laws That Protect Library Users' Privacy

- First Amendment
- Fourth Amendment
- Court Opinions
State Laws and Reader Privacy
Federal Laws and Reader Privacy

- Video Privacy Protection Act
- Electronic Communications Privacy Act
- USA PATRIOT Act
USA PATRIOT Act & Libraries

- Section 215 – Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Orders
- Section 505 – National Security Letters
PATRIOT Act Gag Orders

• Gag Orders attached to these orders prohibit recipients from disclosing the existence of the warrant, or the fact that records were turned over to the FBI.

• Exceptions:
  – legal counsel
  – persons needed to comply with the order
NSA and The PATRIOT Act

- Section 215 used to authorize the bulk collection of U.S. phone call metadata on the grounds that the data, when queried, may produce information relevant to an investigation.
- Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act used to authorize the collection and examination of stored communications and other Internet data from ISPs. (PRISM)
Privacy in the Library: Law Enforcement Inquiries

privacyrevolution.org
It can happen anywhere

• The one-room Deming Public Library, part of the rural Whatcom County Library System was served with an FBI subpoena that sought the names and addresses of persons who borrowed a biography of Osama Bin Laden.
Privacy in the library:
Ensuring privacy for library users

Scimus Quae Legis, Et Non Dicimus

(We know what you read, and we're not telling)
Crafting Privacy Policies

• Communicate the library’s commitment to protecting library users’ personal information
• Explain how users’ personal information is used, stored, and protected
• Explain when library records might be disclosed to third parties and law enforcement
ALA Privacy Policies

• Policy on the Confidentiality of Library Records
• Policy Concerning Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information about Library Users
• Resolution on the Retention of Library Users’ Records

www.ifmanual.org

privacyrevolution.org
Conducting a Privacy Audit

• What data is recorded?
• Where is it located?
• Who has access?
• How long is data kept?
• Evaluate existing privacy policy

Resource: Karen Coyle, Library Privacy Audits
http://www.kcoyle.net/privacy_audit.html
Policy: Records Retention

- Retention plan
- Destruction schedules
- Purging personally identifiable information
- State laws
Policy: Law Enforcement

• Identify who is responsible for responding to requests for library records and information
• Describe the scope of employees’ and volunteers’ authority to respond to requests for library records or for information about library users
• Identify circumstances under which the library will release library records or information about library users
User Data the Library Doesn’t Control

Library Consortia

Internet Service Providers

Resource:
ICOLC Privacy Guidelines for Electronic Resources Vendors
http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/2002privacyguidelines.html

privacyrevolution.org
Choose Privacy Week

Choose Privacy

Someone is watching your every move. Financial transactions, communications records, media consumption, social networking, and GPS locations are all tracked. But we can't often tell by whom.

Information should go both ways, or not at all.

May 1-7

Choose Privacy Week is held annually May 1-7. Start planning now for your library's participation and programming. Choose Privacy Week materials are available now in the ALA Store.

Vanishing Liberties: The Rise of State Surveillance in the Digital Age

Our Allies

privacyrevolution.org
Video Gallery

Choose Privacy Week 2012 Video: Vanishing Liberties
Choose Privacy Week Video
Michael German on Data Mining, Government Surveillance, and Civil Liberties
Choose Privacy Week Trailer
Hali Niedwiedzki on Privacy
Privacy in an Era of Change

privacyrevolution.org
I’m Starting with the Man in the Mirror
Libraries, Ethics, and Change
Barbara M. Jones, Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, ALA
“Man in the Mirror”

If You Wanna Make the World A Better Place
Take a Look At Yourself, And then Make a . . .
CHANGE—Michael Jackson
I. Personal Ethics

- Different cultural practices and beliefs
- Important to understand one’s personal values
- Based on your personal values, what books or library materials would you ban?
- How do your personal values differ from professional values of librarianship? Or do they differ?
II. Professional Ethics

Codes from national library associations:

http://www.ifla.org/faife/professional-codes-of-ethics-for-librarians
“All Librarians and/or Infomediaries must be members of good standing of the Botswana Library Association.”
China

Library Society of China
Code of Ethics

Adopted in 2002.

Staff of the Library and information organization should follow the code of ethics below:

1. To establish right concept of the occupation and carry out social responsibilities.
2. To meet the needs of the time and have the sense of innovation.
3. To provide the best services to readers with enthusiasm.
4. To protect the readers’ rights and respect their individual privacy.
5. To respect the intellectual property and promote the access to information.
6. To take care of the library collections and follow the working standards.
7. To work hard and improve the professional skills.
8. To carry forward the team spirit and show the professional image.
9. To enhance the inter-library cooperation and resources sharing.
10. To promote the social collaborations and build the civilization of the society.
Israel

• **Bias**

The librarian distinguishes clearly between his/her own opinions and those representing the library or institution in which he/she works. The librarian does not impose his/her own opinions on subjects of public controversy while formulating and executing library policy.
The foundation of the Code is our self-awareness as librarians. Without this, there is neither validity nor sanction to enforce this Code. However, it should be noted that, by the publication of the Code, we are disclosing to society our common goal, our effort to reach that goal, and our criteria of judgment and behavior as members of the library profession. Moreover, it means that if we are to promise to society that we will devote ourselves to the realization of our ideals prescribed in the Code, any gap between the ideal and the reality will bring us severe criticism firstly from those people who place their trust on our library services, and secondly, from society as a whole.
Japan (cont'd)

6) Because of the high literacy rate (99.1%) and of the trend of the general public to buy books and keep them at home, the public library service has not been given priority in the policies of local governments. Moreover, it has been thought by government officials that one who can read and write can handle books, and any professional knowledge is not needed in maintaining a library. Accordingly, most of the local governments have not developed the professionality of librarians in their system of personnel administration.
Nigeria

Penalties for unprofessional conduct

http://www.kwasu.edu.ng/library/
Handling of Materials of Indigenous Peoples

- http://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/resources.html
International Code

Key Points in IFLA Code

• Tied to Article 19—international human rights, to which many IFLA librarian countries are signatories
Access to Information

Keep costs low for users
International standards for accessibility
Responsibilities towards individuals and society

- Autonomous users should be able to find the information they need.
- Respect for language minorities.
Privacy, Secrecy, and Transparency

Recognition of the important role of whistleblowers.
Open access and intellectual property

A professional duty to advocate for exceptions and limitations to copyright restrictions for libraries.
Neutrality, personal integrity and professional skills

Stand against corruption.
Segregate personal and professional values and beliefs.
Colleague and employer/employee relationship

Equal pay for men and women.
Globethics.net

http://www.globethics.net/
ALA’s activities for ethics

1. Committee on Professional Ethics
2. ALA Code of Professional Ethics
3. Workshops on professional ethics for state conferences
4. Webinars
Banned Books
and
ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom

Barbara M. Jones | Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom | August, 2012
What is a Banned Book?

Library content that has been challenged, restricted or removed from the shelves of a public, school, or academic library.
Why Does the U.S. Have So Many Banned Books?

• The U.S. publishes 180,000 books annually.
• The U.S. does not have prior restraint to publishing. (There are exceptions)
• The U.S. does not have an official government censor or censorship office.
• U.S. states do not have lists of books for libraries.
• Therefore, more potentially controversial books are in libraries.
What About the Internet?

• Internet sites are blocked by filters.
• These are the same filters being used by governments like Iran.
• Many U.S. public and school libraries have filters.
• This year we will celebrate “Banned Sites Day.”
My Mom’s Having a Baby

By Dori Butler

- Reasons: nudity; sex education; sexually explicit; unsuited to age group
Mom says that when a man and a woman love each other so much that they want to make a baby, they lie really close to each other and hug and kiss. All this hugging and kissing feels nice. It makes the man and woman want to get even closer to each other.

The man puts his penis between the woman’s legs and inside her vagina. After a while, a white liquid shoots out of the man’s penis and into the woman’s vagina. The liquid is full of millions of sperm. They swim up the woman’s vagina, through her uterus, and into one of her fallopian tubes. If a sperm and egg join together, nine months later, a new baby will be born!
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

By Sherman Alexie

• Reasons: Offensive language; racism; religious viewpoint; sexually explicit; unsuited to age group.
Offensive Language and Cartoons

Did you just say books should give me a boner?

Yes, I did.

Are you serious?

Yeah...

I don't think you're supposed to get that excited about books.

Don't you get excited about books?
The Qur’an
Young Adult Novels

Drama

By Raina Telgemeier

- Reasons: sexually explicit; graphic novel.
Homosexuality

And Tango Makes Three
By Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson
What Does the Office for Intellectual Freedom Do About Banned Books?

We collect confidential reports from all over the United States.
Reporting a Challenge

DEFEND THE FREEDOM TO READ
IT'S EVERYBODY'S JOB

Visit: www.ala.org/challengereporting

New! Downloadable “Defend the Freedom to Read” artwork below

Since 1990, the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom has maintained a confidential database on challenged materials. ALA collects information from two sources: newspapers and reports submitted by individuals. All challenges are compiled into a database. Reports of challenges culled from newspapers across the country are compiled in the bimonthly Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom; those reports are then compiled in the Banned Books Week Resource Guide. Challenges reported to the ALA by individuals are kept confidential. In these cases, ALA will release only the title of the book being challenged, the state and the type of institution (school, public library). The name of the institution and its town will not be disclosed. A list of most frequently challenged books is compiled from these challenges for each annual Banned Books Week.

To report a challenge, please submit an Online Challenge Database Form. Alternately, you can print the Challenge Database Form (PDF), complete it, and fax it to the Office for Intellectual Freedom, at 312-280-4227.

Need Assistance?

For assistance with actual and possible challenges to library materials, series, and programs, contact Angale Monaghan.
Banned Books Week Readouts

City Lit Theatre celebrates Banned Books Week at Library

By Debby Preiser | Community Member
Sep. 20, 2011 at 8:29 a.m.

A talented group of actors from City Lit Theatre Company in Chicago performed dramatic readings from the Top 10 Banned Books of 2010 at the Oak Park Public Library Tuesday night. Topping the list compiled by the American Library Association was a book based on a real story of two penguins in a zoo.

ALA has been celebrating the freedom to read by hosting Banned Books Week for 30 years. Patrons and staff at the library have been getting their photos taken with their favorite banned book all week. You can see these photos at www.ireadbannedbooks.tumblr.com.
Banned Books Week Readouts

University of Iowa Homecoming Parade
Virtual Readouts
Web Sites

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Banned Books Week 2012: Sept. 30-Oct. 6

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week and the theme is “30 years of Liberating Literature.” Check back frequently to find out more information about Banned Books Week events and this year’s Banned Books Virtual Read-Out.

Help support Banned Books Week by purchasing merchandise through ALA
Merritt Fund

LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund

About the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund

The LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund was established in 1970 as a special trust in memory of Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt, devoted to the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians who, in the Trustees' opinion, are:

- Denied employment rights or discriminated against on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, religion, age, disability, or place of national origin; or
- Denied employment rights because of defense of intellectual freedom; that is, threatened with loss of employment discharged because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom, including promotion of freedom of the press, freedom of speech, the freedom of librarians to select items for their collections from all the world's written and information, and defense of privacy rights.