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Locating Banned Books: A Collection Analysis of Libraries in Arkansas and Tennessee

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INTRODUCTION

The information presented in this research paper is not new to the world of libraries. Banned books have been around for many years and have continued to expand each year on what is considered acceptable reading materials for the public (ALA, 2016a). The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) *Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom* "requests that libraries and library staff hold fast to the standards of scholarly opportunity, uninhibited access to data and flexibility of expression and to perceive the safety of library client" (IFLA, 2016, p. 1). Cooper (2010) indicated that "intellectual freedom" is the freedom to allow individuals to let their minds take a role in exploring all formats of information without restrictions based on the contents within the shared knowledge (p. 218). Censorship and intellectual freedom have been a major concern among writers, publishers, and libraries.

The United States Educational Division of State Education (2015) estimates that about a quarter-million school-age children attend school and use public or non-public libraries. Censorship plays an important part in influencing what materials are considered acceptable for individuals. Because of its power, censorship often ties the librarian's hands when ordering materials for the library's collection. According to Oppenheim and Smith (2004), librarians and censorship have not been in agreement over what items are feasible for the library's collections for some time (p. 159).

No library can make everything available to its patrons. However, libraries should adhere to the American Library Association (ALA) for guidance on what items are banned from the library's collections. Censorship and intellectual freedom have gained attention for how it affects libraries and the restraints it individualized for banned or forbidden items.

Difficulties are characterized as formal, composed complaints recorded with a library or school asking for specific materials to be expelled from view because the substance may not be considered appropriate for the users.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to compare a selected set of previously banned books or challenged titles in the collections of twelve public libraries within two southern states: Arkansas and Tennessee. The titles include: *I Know Why the Cage Birds Sings* by Maya Angelou; *Beloved* by Toni Morrison; *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison; and *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.

Research Questions

- R1. How many of the selected library collections in this study include the selected banned or challenged titles?
- R2. Of the selected banned books in this study, which are most frequently absent in the library collection?

Definitions

American Library Association: "The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library in the world" (ALA, 2016a). It is the oldest library association with more than 60,301 members. The mission of ALA is "to provide leadership for the development of library services, improvement and change of library and data administrations of librarianship to improve learning and guarantee access to data for all individuals" (ALA, 2016a).

Banned Books: "Banning is the removal of materials that is not acceptable due to a specific issue. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material

from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others" (ALA, 2016a).

Censorship: "A change in the access status of material, based on the content of the work and made by a governing authority or its representatives. Such changes include exclusion, restriction, removal, or age/grade level changes" (ALA, 2016a).

Challenge: "Challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group opinion of an item" (ALA, 2016a). To take exception to; call in question (Challenge, 2016, para. 1). "A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint, filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness" (ALA, 2016).

Intellectual Freedom: Intellectual Freedom is often perceived or viewed as a central value of librarianship, particularly by the American Library Association, which has issued extensive directions to libraries about implementing scholarly flexibility freedom (ALA, 2016a).

Assumptions

It is assumed that the library catalogs used in this study are accurate, complete, and fully operational at the time of data collection.

Importance of the Study

This study may be of interest to librarians and library collection development specialists. Censorship is a critical issue not only for the library, but also for the writers, publishers, and book users. However, it is important for libraries to have challenged and banned books as a percentage of the library's collection for meeting the library patron's needs (Oppenheim & Smith, 2004).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Censorship and Banned Books

Censorship is an issue that has been present all through written history. It has been enacted by individuals and groups to control the access to books, magazines, movies, and newspaper articles that demonstrate a negative rejection of the written material inside. According to Oppenheim and Smith

(2004), the relationship between librarians and censorship has been a difficult one for a long time. Censorship is the concealment of words, images, and ideas that are considered hostile to a point of view (Oppenheim & Smith, 2004).

Censorship impacts many individuals, including authors, publishers, readers, and educators. Each of these groups suffers negative consequences because of censorship and lose out on the freedom of choice. The United States delights itself in the First Amendment, which offers the right to speak freely, freedom of religious belief, the privilege to talk naturally, and assembly, which is the opposite of censorship (ALA, 2016b). "Censorship is the governor of information shared among the public, yet it is the supervision of public written wording that is viewed as an insult with negative impacts on learning" (ACUL, 2016). The authors and readers receive more negative criticism than the publishers and educators because they are the individuals who compiled the information written. "*Censorship is a very critical issue in America*" (ALA, 2016b). Part of the issue behind censorship concerns is that individuals want to say what they want and have their written words acceptable to all readers (ALA, 2016b). However, the censorship goal and main focus are to assure that written materials or whatever source of transporting knowledge is suitable to all.

Censorship plays an important part in influencing what materials are considered acceptable resources for individuals to obtain knowledge. Challenged materials often offer an array of important facts, yet some writer's choice of words may not be acceptable to library customers (ALA, 2016b). Therefore, censorship is a critical issue for not only the library but also for the writers, publishers, and book users.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship in the Library

Cooper (2010) indicated that intellectual freedom and censorship in the library is probably a combination of freedom and the right that individuals allow their minds to take wherever they seek understanding and information and ideas. Additionally, intellectual flexibility is the belief that all individuals should have access to all information formats such as books, articles, films, radio,

television, et al., without restrictions based on the contents.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the educational curriculum was "restricted to the value of American that revolved around family, work, church, and country"; therefore, the textbooks rarely included issues that portrayed a negative atmosphere in daily life situations (Cooper, 2010).

Banning Books

Banning books from the library can be a particularly tricky issue. Petrilli (2009) stated that "censorship grows out of fear that some individuals are easily swayed, and one should never forget that challengers are fervent" (p. 5). Restriction of books can create library issues such as collection development, budgeting allocation for ordering, arranging, planning, selecting materials, and taking care of the concerns of the library users (ALA, 2016c). Books are usually challenged with the best intentions to protect individuals from difficult ideas and information (Liberty & Mill, 2016). Many books are challenged because of a desire to protect children from inappropriate sexual content or offensive language (Packard, 1999). The top reasons for banning books as documented by the Office of Intellectual Freedom are sexually explicit, offensive language, and unsuited to a specific age group (ALA, 2008; Appendix F).

The American Library Association's Banned and Challenged Booklists were used to select the four books used for this study (ALA, 2016b). According to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, "Banned Book Week promotes the awareness of challenges to library materials and celebrates freedom of speech" (Bland, 2013, p. 12). This process has been done for over 40 years, allowing individuals to declare their freedom to read in public libraries (Bland, 2013). The Office for Intellectual Freedom's responsibility is to educate individuals about the effort's censorship goal to inform the public that there is a serious problem with some contents within the writings being read (ALA, 2015, p. 1).

Reasons Books Are Banned or Challenged

Materials in libraries have been banned and challenged for a number of reasons, including sexual activities, homosexuality, explicit, offensive languages, racism, religious viewpoints, violence, unsuited to age groups, anti-ethnic and anti-family content. Books usually are challenged with the best intentions to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information (Figure 1, Figure 2, Appendix E).

Figure 1. Challenges by Reasons, 1990-1999 (ALA, 2016)

Figure 2. Challenges by Reasons, 2000-09 (ALA, 2016)

Office of Intellectual Freedom

"Established December 1, 1967, the Office for Intellectual Freedom is founded on ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights, the Association's essential strategy on free access to libraries and library materials (ALA, 2016c). "The object of the office is to instruct librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries and to support librarians, instructors, and administrators experiencing a material or service challenge" (ALA, 2016d).

Each year reports on censorship of books and other educational learning materials are reviewed and submitted to the office of Intellectual Freedom to check. Some materials reviewed by individuals asked that these items be expelled from public libraries and public schools' library racks. There were 420 known endeavors to censor books in 2007, and more than 9,600 endeavors since the ALA's OIF started electronically arranging and distributing data on book challenges in 1990. In addition, it is probable that for each test or banning reported to OIF, there are four to five episodes not reported.

"Banned Books Week is an open door for the ALA to teach custodians and the general population about the significance of scholarly flexibility of materials," said Jim Rettig (2008). "Individuals must have the chance to pick what materials are fitting for themselves and their families during the Banned Book Week scheduled events" (ALA, 2016e). "Most book challenges reported to OIF have been reported from schools (71%) and public libraries (24%). Parents' concerns of materials comprise 61 percent of the book challenges, followed by library patrons at 15 percent, and administrators at 9 percent" (ALA, 2016d).

Collection Analysis

Heidelberg (2013) used a checklist method to study African-American poetry in the de Grummond Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her research indicated that the collection held all the Harlem Renaissance works listed on Patton's Anthologies, but only eight out of twenty-one poets from the Black Arts Movement list at poets.org (Heidelberg, 2013).

Best (2010) found that academic libraries are often free from book challenges, yet selection still holds a high standard for the development policy that

supports the academic curriculum. A checklist was used to compare a selected set of challenged books to library holdings focused on children and young adult literature. The final results indicated that academic libraries supported intellectual freedom and gave access to challenged books within the library's online and in-print collection. In addition, this study showed that a variety of book vendors were used to purchase materials for the collection that included challenged books (Best, 2010).

This study is similar to the Heidelberg 2013 study in that it uses a checklist of African-American authors for collection analysis and similar to the Best 2010 study in that it uses a checklist of banned books to analyze library collections. This study differs from these two studies in that it analyzes the collections of public libraries in two Southern states.

METHODOLOGY

Public library collections from two southern states, Arkansas and Tennessee, were the focus of this study. Libraries were randomly selected from each of the state's public library Internet listings based on geographic location. The collections of the six libraries from each state were examined by accessing the OPACs (online public access catalogs) to determine if the books selected from the list of ALA banned books were held within the collection (Table 1).

Sources of Information

The selected books from the "Banned Book List that Helps Shape America" (Petrilli, 2009, p. 5) are by Southern authors and address topics related to Southern African-American culture: *I Know Why the Cage Birds Sings* by Maya Angelou; *Beloved* by Toni Morrison; *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison; and *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. Web sites were used to obtain access to each of the twelve library catalogs for collection analysis.

Data for the number of selected banned books in each collection were compiled and displayed in a table. Another table was created to indicate the year each book was placed on the banned books list and the reason.

Limitations

This study is limited to the collections of twelve public libraries, six in Arkansas and six in Tennessee. The study is further limited to four selected books from the list of ALA banned books by Southern authors and related to Southern African-American culture. These study findings are valid only to the libraries whose collections are included in the study sample. Generalizations cannot be made to all libraries in either state or all libraries in the south.

Table 1. Southern Public Libraries Used in this Study

Arkansas	Tennessee
Caraway Public Library	Smith County Public Library
Central Arkansas Library System	Hickman County Public Library
Faulkner-Van Burden Regional Library	Jackson-Madison County
Fayetteville Public Library	Cedar Bluff Branch Library
Green Forest Public Library	Macon County Public Library
Garland County Branch	Whitehaven Branch Library

RESULTS

R1.How many of the selected library collections in this study include the specific titles of frequently banned or challenged books?

Arkansas Public Libraries

The research indicated that all six of the selected libraries in Arkansas housed some if not all the banned or challenged books for this study. Some of the banned or challenged items were in several formats, such as; books, films, CDs, research papers, and newsletters. Table 2 displays the number of selected banned books that are accessible to the library patrons of six Arkansas public libraries.

The results indicated that the Carroll and Madison Library System has within its collection a total of twenty-one (21) banned or challenged books in the study, but none of the book *I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. Eight items were found for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, eight for *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and five items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. A total of twenty-one (21) items was located in the Carroll and Madison Library System (Table 2).

Central Arkansas Library System serves the communities of Little Rock, Jacksonville, Perryville, Sherwood, and Wrightsville. There are fourteen (14) branches of the Central Arkansas Library System throughout the state of Arkansas. Over 403,000 customers have access to materials within the collection and online. Collection analysis indicates that a total of the eighty-five (85) items of the specific books were in the library collection in different formats, such as e-books, CDs, books, videos, and research papers for the topic, *I Know Why the Cage*

Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. One (1) item was located for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Eleven items were located for the book *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and a total of forty-eight (48) items were located for the book *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 2).

A search of Faulkner-Van Burden Regional Library's OPAC indicated fifty (50) items of *I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, one (1) item of *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and four (4) items of *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison (Table 2).

Fayetteville Public Library's OPAC search found a total of seventy-three (73) of the selected items located within the library collection: sixteen (16) items of *I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, three (3) items of *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, eight (8) items of *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and forty-six (46) items of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 2).

Green Forest Public Library's collection showed twenty-eight (28) of the selected books: two (2) of *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, nine (9) of *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and seventeen (17) of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. There were no items found for *I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (Table 2).

The Garland County Branch Library, located in Hot Spring, Arkansas, had in its collection a total of forty (41) items: no items were located for *I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, six (6) items for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, nine (9) items for *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and twenty-six (26) items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of Books in Arkansas Public Libraries

	Carroll and Madison Library System	Central Arkansas Library System	Faulkner-Van Burden Regional Library	Fayetteville Public Library	Green Forest Public Library	Garland County Branch	Total
<i>I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou	0	25	50	16	0	0	91
<i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison	8	1	1	3	2	6	21
<i>Bluest Eye</i> by Toni Morrison	8	11	4	8	9	9	49
<i>The Color Purple</i> by Alice Walker	5	48	12	46	17	26	154
TOTAL	21	85	67	73	28	41	315

Tennessee Public Libraries

Six public libraries were randomly selected based on geographic location from the web list of public libraries within the state of Tennessee, and a search was conducted of their OPACs for each of the banned books in this study. Table 3 below shows the number of selected banned books per library collection.

Smith County Public Library's collection included: no item of *I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, one (1) item for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and one (1) item for *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. There were no items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. In all, there were only two (2) items of the selected banned or challenged books within Smith County Public Library (Table 3).

The Hickman County Public Library, located in Centerville, Tennessee, has a collection of more than 50,000 items in print and non-print resources (Hickman County Public Library, 2016). Within their collection, there were four (4) items for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, two (2) items for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, one (1) item for the *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and two (2) items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. A total of nine (9)

items of the selected banned books were found in the collection (Table 3).

Jackson-Madison County Public Library, located in Jackson, Tennessee, has a collection of more than 12,000 print and non-print resources (Jackson-Madison County Public Library, 2016). A search of the library's OPAC for the banned books in this study found a total of nineteen (19) items: three (3) items for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, three (3) items for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, four (4) items for *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and six (6) items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 3).

Cedar Bluff Branch Public Library, located in Knoxville, Tennessee, contains more than one million books, periodicals, compact discs, films, audiobooks and downloadable through 19 locations across Knox County, including one of the best ancient historical and ancestral collections in the Southeast (Cedar Bluff Branch Public Library, 2016). The Cedar Bluff Branch Public Library's collection was searched for each of the selected banned books, and twenty-nine (29) items were found: fifteen (15) items for *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings* by Maya Angelou, eleven (11) items for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, one (1) item

for *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and two (2) items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 3).

The Whitehaven Branch Library, located in Memphis, Tennessee, includes within their collection a total of 78 items related to the selected banned books in this study: four (4) items of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, twenty-two (22) items of *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, twelve (12) items of *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and forty (40) items of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 3).

Nashville Public Library's collection contained a total of one hundred six (106) items of the banned books in this study: twenty-two (22) items for *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings* by Maya Angelou, thirty-one (31) items for *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, fourteen (14) items for the title, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and thirty-nine (39) items for *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of Books in Public Libraries in Tennessee

	Smith County Public Library	Hickman County Public Library	Jackson-Madison County Public Library	Cedar Bluff Branch Public Library	Nashville Public Library	Whitehaven Branch Public Library	Total
<i>I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou	0	4	3	15	22	4	48
<i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison	1	2	3	11	31	22	70
<i>Bluest Eye</i> by Toni Morrison	1	1	4	1	14	12	33
<i>The Color Purple</i> by Alice Walker	0	2	6	2	39	40	89
TOTAL	2	9	16	29	106	78	240

R2. Of the selected banned books in this study, which are most frequently absent in the library collection?

The six selected public libraries within the state of Arkansas included a total of three hundred fifteen (315) items related to the banned books in this study. The book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou was not found in the Carroll and Madison Library System, Green Forest Public Library, or Garland County Public Branch Library.

The six selected public libraries within Tennessee included two hundred forty (240) items of the banned books in this study. The Smith County Public Library had no items related to *I Know Why the Cage*

Birds Sings by Maya Angelou or *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

For the twelve libraries in Arkansas and Tennessee, the most frequently absent book titles are *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (Table 2, Table 3). This book is considered banned and/or challenged due to the following reasons:

The content is sexually explicit, homosexuality, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, smoking, unsuited age level groups, lying, inaccurate information, drinking, and violence (ALA.org, 2016).

According to Doyle (2014), banned or challenged books are an essential reference designed for all individuals who read, write, and publish books (p. 116). Librarians, educators, students, and parents have a right to show interest and concern for the materials presented within public libraries and school libraries. Censorship is a method of protection designed to attend to the many concerns and complaints that may bring questions about the published materials that are accessible to the readers (<http://gilc.org/speech/osistudy/censorship/>). The definition of censorship from the American Library Association is, "The modification in the access position of materials, made by a leading consultant or its representatives. Such changes include exclusion of constraint, elimination, or age-appropriate level changes" (ALA.org). Therefore, "Censorship is meant to protect the family, the church and the state" from undesirable words (<http://gilc.org/speech/osistudy/censorship/>).

The American Library Association (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom compiles and analyzes complaints about banned or challenged books. Listed below are the titles of each book and the most common reasons the book was banned or challenged.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This research examined the number of banned books related to Southern African-American culture by African-American female authors in the collections of selected public libraries in two Southern states, Arkansas and Tennessee. Most of the banned books in this study were located in the twelve libraries, but some of the items were non-circulating. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou was missing from two of the public library collections in Arkansas and one public library collection in Tennessee, which was also missing *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Table 2, Table 3).

The Arkansas public libraries examined in this study contained the highest number of items related to the banned books in this study: The Faulker-Van Burden Regional Library had 50 items related to *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou; the Central

Arkansas Library System included 48 items related to *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker; the Fayetteville Public Library had forty-six (46) items related to *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. It is interesting to note that the two banned books missing from three public libraries' collections were the ones available in the most quantity in three other public libraries (Table 2, Table 3).

All of the books chosen for this study from the list of banned books were written by African American female authors. The reasons these books were banned or challenged included: language contents were offensive, sexual content, racial, negative religious viewpoints, and unacceptable age-level written materials for young children and young adult readers (Appendix E).

The results of this research indicate that with few exceptions, books that are banned or challenged are generally available in the public library collections examined in this study. Future research could build upon this study by expanding the number of public library collections that are analyzed or increasing or modifying the list of banned books.

The American Library Association promotes the freedom to choose and open access to those who wish to read certain materials. It is important that library users can access materials that they find interesting and educational. Librarians, library employees, library patrons all should be aware of what is considered a challenged or banned item (ALA Banned & Challenged Books; Appendix A).

The Library Bill of Rights Law is designed to protect not only the reader but also the author and publisher (Appendix B). Many books have been banned or censored in one or more categories of what is considered legal or unprofessional (ALA, 2016). The reasons books are banned may still raise questions; therefore, the *Library Bill of Rights* protects the user's right to take a stand on what they believe (ALA, 2016; Appendix C). According to the American Library Association, each book that is banned or challenged is based upon the contents within the book's pages (Appendix E).

Table 4. Reasons for Banned or Challenged Books in this Study

Book Title	Author	Reasons
<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	Maya Angelou	sexually explicit scenes, rape, molestation, homosexuality, offensive language, racism, unsuited to age
<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison	violent, language content, age appropriate, racism, sex, sexual materials, sexually explicit, religious viewpoint
<i>Bluest Eye</i>	Toni Morrison	offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
<i>The Color Purple</i>	Alice Walker	sexual & social explicitness, rough language, profanity & sexual references, rape, homosexuality, incest portrayed

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Appendix A

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/aboutbannedbooks>

Banned & Challenged Books

The American Library Association promotes the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinions even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular, and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those viewpoints to all who wish to read them. The following is a list of frequently asked questions on banned and challenged books:

What is the difference between a challenge and banning?

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. Due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.

Why are books challenged?

Books usually are challenged with the best intentions—to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information. See: [Notable First Amendment Cases](#).

Censorship can be subtle, almost imperceptible, as well as blatant and overt, but, nonetheless, harmful. As John Stuart Mill wrote in *On Liberty*:

If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind. Were an opinion a personal possession of no value except to the owner; if to be obstructed in the enjoyment of it were simply a private injury, it would make some difference whether the injury was inflicted only on a few persons or on many. But the peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.

— *On Liberty*, John Stuart Mill

Often challenges are motivated by a desire to protect children from "inappropriate" sexual content or "offensive" language. The following were the top three reasons cited for challenging materials as reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom:

1. the material was considered to be "sexually explicit"
2. the material contained "offensive language"
3. the materials was "unsuited to any age group"

Although this is a commendable motivation, [Free Access to Libraries for Minors](#), an interpretation of the [Library Bill of Rights](#) (ALA's basic policy concerning access to information) states that, "Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources." Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

As Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., in *Texas v. Johnson*, said most eloquently: If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable. If we are to continue to protect our First Amendment, we would do well to keep in mind these words of Noam Chomsky: If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all. Or these words of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (" *The One Un-American Act.*" *Nieman Reports*, vol. 7, no. 1, Jan. 1953, p. 20):

Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.

Who challenges books?

Throughout history, more and different kinds of people and groups of all persuasions than you might first suppose, who, for all sorts of reasons, have attempted—and continue to attempt—to suppress anything that conflicts with or anyone who disagrees with their own beliefs.

In his book *Free Speech for Me—But Not for Thee: How the American Left and Right Relentlessly Censor Each Other*, Nat Hentoff writes that "the lust to suppress can come from any direction." He quotes Phil Kerby, a former editor of the Los Angeles Times, as saying, "Censorship is the strongest drive in human nature; sex is a weak second."

According to the Challenges by Initiator, Institution, Type, and Year, parents challenge materials more often than any other group.

Appendix B

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/>

Library's Bill of Rights Law

"The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

The Library's Bill of Right Law found at <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> is designed to access the rights and regulation of the "*First Amendment, Intellectual Freedom and Civil Liberties, and Censorship and First Amendment Issues.*" A history of the Library Bill of Rights is found in the latest edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual and through American Library Association website (ALA, 2016). Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning the application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights" (ALA, 2016).

According to the American Library Association, there are many reasons the written materials of the chosen African American author's published works may cause concern of credible publications that a library may not wish to add certain books to its collection (ALA, 2016).

Appendix C

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/intfreedom/librarybill/lbor.pdf>

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939.

Amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed J January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council.

Appendix D

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

The Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We, therefore, affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a

broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society, individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association

Association of American Publishers

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression

The Association of American University Presses, Inc.

The Children's Book Council

Freedom to Read Foundation

National Association of College Stores

National Coalition Against Censorship

National Council of Teachers of English

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

Appendix E

<https://libguides.butler.edu/c.php?g=34189&p=217686>

Common Reasons for Banning Books

Each book that is banned or censored is done so for the content within the pages. There are a few common reasons that books have been banned or censored in schools, libraries, and bookstores. This include:

Racial Issues: About and/or encouraging racism towards one or more group of people.

Encouragement of "Damaging" Lifestyles: Content of book encourages lifestyle choices that are not of the norm or could be considered dangerous or damaging. This could include drug use, cohabitation without marriage, or homosexuality.

Blasphemous Dialog: The author of the book uses words such as "God" or "Jesus" as profanity. This could also include any use of profanity or swear words within the text that any reader might find offensive.

Sexual Situations or Dialog: Many books with content that include sexual situations or dialog are banned or censored.

Violence or Negativity: Books with content that include violence are often banned or censored. Some books have also been deemed too negative or depressing and have been banned or censored as well.

Presence of Witchcraft: Books that include magic or witchcraft themes. A common example of these types of books are J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Series.

Religious Affiliations (unpopular religions): Books have been banned or censored due to an unpopular religious views or opinions in the content of the book. This is most commonly related to satanic or witchcraft themes found in the book. Although, many books have also been banned or censored for any religious views in general that might not coincide with the public view.

Political Bias: Most Commonly occurs when books support or examine extreme political parties/philosophies such as: fascism, communism, anarchism, etc.

Age Inappropriate: These books have been banned or censored due to their content and the age level at which they are aimed. In some cases children's books are viewed to have "inappropriate" themes for the age level at which they are written for.

Many books have been banned or censored in one or more of these categories due to a misjudgment or misunderstanding about the books contents and message. Although a book may have been banned or labeled a certain way, it is important that the reader makes his/her own judgments on the book. Many books that have been banned or censored later were dropped from banned books lists and were no longer considered controversial. For this reason, banned books week occurs yearly to give readers a chance to revisit the past or recently banned books to encourage a fresh look at the controversies the books faced.

Source: "Common Reasons for Banning Books," Fort Lewis College, John F. Reed Library. Banned Books, Censorship & Free Speech. November 15, 2013. Web. March 19, 2014.
<http://libguides.butler.edu/bannedbooks?p=217686>

Appendix F

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>

Top Ten Most Frequently Challenged Books

Top Ten for 2015

Out of 275 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

View the [2015 book challenge infographic](#)

Looking for Alaska, by **John Green**

Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited for age group

1. *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E. L. James

Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, and other ("poorly written," "concerns that a group of teenagers will want to try it")

2. *I Am Jazz*, by **Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings**

Reasons: inaccurate, homosexuality, sex education, religious viewpoint, and unsuited for age group

3. ***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*, by Susan Kuklin**
Reasons: anti-family, offensive language, homosexuality, sex education, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group, and other ("wants to remove from collection to ward off complaints")
4. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon**
Reasons: offensive language, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group, and other ("profanity and atheism")
5. ***The Holy Bible***
Reasons: religious viewpoint
6. ***Fun Home*, by Alison Bechdel**
Reasons: violence and other ("graphic images")
7. ***Habibi*, by Craig Thompson**
Reasons: nudity, sexually explicit, and unsuited for age group
8. ***Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan*, by Jeanette Winter**
Reasons: religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group, and violence
9. ***Two Boys Kissing*, by David Levithan**
Reasons: homosexuality and other ("condones public displays of affection")

Top Ten for 2014

Out of 311 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

View the 2014 [book challenge infographic](#)

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie**

Reasons: anti-family, cultural insensitivity, drugs/alcohol/smoking, gambling, offensive language, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group, violence. Additional reasons: "depictions of bullying"

1. ***Persepolis*, by Marjane Satrapi**
Reasons: gambling, offensive language, political viewpoint. Additional reasons: "politically, racially, and socially offensive," "graphic depictions"
2. ***And Tango Makes Three*, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell**
Reasons: anti-family, homosexuality, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group. Additional reasons: "promotes the homosexual agenda"
3. ***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**
Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited for age group. Additional reasons: "contains controversial issues"
4. ***It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris**
Reasons: nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group. Additional reasons: "alleges it is child pornography"
5. ***Saga*, by Brian Vaughan and Fiona Staples**
Reasons: anti-Family, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited for age group
6. ***The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini**
Reasons: offensive language, unsuited to age group, violence
7. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group. Additional reasons: "date rape and masturbation"
8. ***A Stolen Life*, Jaycee Dugard**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group
9. ***Drama*, by Raina Telgemeier**
Reason: sexually explicit

Top Ten for 2013

Out of 307 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***Captain Underpants (series)*, by Dav Pilkey**
Reasons: offensive language, unsuited for age group, violence
2. ***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
3. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
4. ***Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E.L. James**
Reasons: nudity, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
5. ***The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins**
Reasons: religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group
6. ***A Bad Boy Can Be Good for A Girl*, by Tanya Lee Stone**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit
7. ***Looking for Alaska*, by John Green**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
8. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
9. ***Bless Me Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya**
Reasons: occult/Satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit
10. ***Bone (series)*, by Jeff Smith**
Reason: political viewpoint, racism, violence

Top Ten for 2012

Out of 464 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

***Captain Underpants (series)*, by Dav Pilkey**

Reasons: offensive language, unsuited for age group

1. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group
2. ***Thirteen Reasons Why*, by Jay Asher**
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, suicide, unsuited for age group
3. ***Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E. L. James**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit
4. ***And Tango Makes Three*, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson**
Reasons: homosexuality, unsuited for age group
5. ***The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit
6. ***Looking for Alaska*, by John Green**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group
7. ***Scary Stories (series)*, by Alvin Schwartz**
Reasons: unsuited for age group, violence
8. ***The Glass Castle*, by Jeanette Walls**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit
9. ***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**
Reasons: sexually explicit, religious viewpoint, violence

Top Ten for 2011

Out of 326 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***ttyl; ttfn; l8r, g8r (series)*, by Lauren Myracle**
Reasons: offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
2. ***The Color of Earth (series)*, by Kim Dong Hwa**
Reasons: nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
3. ***The Hunger Games* trilogy, by Suzanne Collins**
Reasons: anti-ethnic, anti-family, insensitivity, offensive language, occult/satanic, violence
4. ***My Mom's Having A Baby! A Kid's Month-by-Month Guide to Pregnancy*, by Dori Hillestad Butler**
Reasons: nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
5. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
6. ***Alice (series)*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**
Reasons: nudity, offensive language, religious viewpoint
7. ***Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley**
Reasons: insensitivity, nudity, racism, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit
8. ***What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones**
Reasons: nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit
9. ***Gossip Girl (series)*, by Cecily Von Ziegesar**
Reasons: drugs, offensive language, sexually explicit
10. ***To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee**
Reasons: offensive language, racism

Top Ten for 2010

Out of 348 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***And Tango Makes Three*, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson**
Reasons: homosexuality, religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group
2. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
3. ***Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley**
Reasons: insensitivity, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit
4. ***Crank*, by Ellen Hopkins**
Reasons: drugs, offensive language, sexually explicit
5. ***The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins**
Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
6. ***Lush*, by Natasha Friend**
Reasons: drugs, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
7. ***What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones**
Reasons: sexism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
8. ***Nickel and Dime*, by Barbara Ehrenreich**
Reasons: drugs, inaccurate, offensive language, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint
9. ***Revolutionary Voices*, edited by Amy Sonnie**
Reasons: homosexuality, sexually explicit
10. ***Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer**
Reasons: religious viewpoint, violence

Top Ten for 2009

Out of 460 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***ttyl; ttfn; l8r, g8r (series)*, by Lauren Myracle**
Reasons: drugs, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

2. ***And Tango Makes Three*, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson**
Reasons: homosexuality
3. ***The Perks of Being A Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: anti-family, drugs, homosexuality, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, suicide, unsuited to age group
4. ***To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, unsuited to age group
5. ***Twilight (series)* by Stephenie Meyer**
Reasons: religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
6. ***The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
7. ***My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
8. ***The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things*, by Carolyn Mackler**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
9. ***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
10. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

Top Ten for 2008

Out of 513 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell**
Reasons: anti-ethnic, anti-family, homosexuality, religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group
2. ***His Dark Materials* trilogy, by Philip Pullman**
Reasons: political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, violence
3. ***ttyl; ttfn; l8r, g8r (series)*, by Lauren Myracle**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
4. ***Scary Stories (series)*, by Alvin Schwartz**
Reasons: occult/satanism, religious viewpoint, violence
5. ***Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya**
Reasons: occult/satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, violence
6. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: drugs, homosexuality, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit, suicide, unsuited to age group
7. ***Gossip Girl (series)*, by Cecily von Ziegesar**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
8. ***Uncle Bobby's Wedding*, by Sarah S. Brannen**
Reasons: homosexuality, unsuited to age group
9. ***The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
10. ***Flashcards of My Life*, by Charise Mericle Harper**
Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

Top Ten for 2007

Out of 420 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell**
Reasons: anti-ethnic, anti-family, homosexuality, religious viewpoint, sexism, unsuited to age group
2. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, violence
3. ***Olive's Ocean*, by Kevin Henkes**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit
4. ***The Golden Compass*, by Philip Pullman**
Reason: religious viewpoint
5. ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain**
Reason: racism
6. ***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit
7. ***ttyl*, by Lauren Myracle**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
8. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**
Reason: sexually explicit
9. ***It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris**
Reasons: sex education, sexually explicit
10. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

Top Ten for 2006

Out of 546 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell**
Reasons: anti-family, homosexuality, unsuited to age group
2. ***Gossip Girls (series)*, by Cecily Von Ziegesar**
Reasons: homosexuality, sexually explicit, offensive language, unsuited to age group
3. ***Alice (series)*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**
Reasons: offensive language and sexually explicit
4. ***The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*, by Carolyn Mackler**
Reasons: anti-family, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
5. ***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
6. ***Scary Stories (series)*, by Alvin Schwartz**
Reasons: insensitivity, occult/Satanism, unsuited to age group, violence
7. ***Athletic Shorts*, by Chris Crutcher**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language
8. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
9. ***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
10. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, violence

Top Ten for 2005

Out of 405 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*, by Robie H. Harris**
Reasons: abortion, homosexuality, nudity, religious viewpoint, sex education, unsuited to age group

2. ***Forever*, by Judy Blume**
Reasons: offensive language, sexual content
3. ***The Catcher in the Rye*, by J. D. Salinger**
Reasons: sexual content, offensive language, unsuited to age group
4. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: sexual content, offensive language
5. ***Whale Talk*, by Chris Crutcher**
Reasons: racism, offensive language
6. ***Detour for Emmy*, by Marilyn Reynolds**
Reason: sexual content
7. ***What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones**
Reasons: sexual content, being unsuited to age group
8. ***Captain Underpants (series)*, by Dav Pilkey**
Reasons: anti-family content, unsuited to age group, violence
9. ***Crazy Lady!*, by Jane Leslie Conly**
Reason: offensive language
10. ***It's So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families*, by Robie H. Harris**
Reasons: sex education, sexual content

Top Ten for 2004

Out of 547 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
2. ***Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, violence
3. ***Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, by Michael A. Bellesiles**
Reasons: inaccurate, political viewpoint
4. ***Captain Underpants (series)*, by Dav Pilkey**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit
5. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit
6. ***What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones**
Reasons: offensive language, unsuited to age group, sexually explicit
7. ***In the Night Kitchen*, by Maurice Sendak**
Reasons: nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit
8. ***King & King*, by Linda deHaan**
Reason: homosexuality
9. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
10. ***Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, violence

Top Ten for 2003

Out of 458 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***Alice (series)*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**
Reasons: sexual content, offensive language, unsuited to age group
2. ***Harry Potter (series)*, by J.K. Rowling**
Reasons: occult/Satanism

3. ***Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck**
Reason: offensive language
4. ***Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, by Michael Bellesiles**
Reason: inaccuracy
5. ***Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers**
Reason: drugs, offensive language, racism, sexual content, violence
6. ***Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous**
Reason: drugs
7. ***It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris**
Reasons: homosexuality, nudity, sexual content, sex education
8. ***We All Fall Down*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: offensive language, sexual content
9. ***King & King*, by Linda de Haan**
Reason: homosexuality
10. ***Bridge to Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson**
Reasons: occult/Satanism, offensive language

Top Ten for 2002

Out of 515 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***Harry Potter*, by J.K. Rowling**
Reasons: occult/Satanism, violence
2. ***Alice (series)*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**
Reasons: homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
3. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
4. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
5. ***Taming the Star Runner*, by S.E. Hinton**
Reason: offensive language
6. ***Captain Underpants*, by Dav Pilkey**
Reasons: offensive language, unsuited to age group
7. ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain**
Reason: offensive language
8. ***Bridge to Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson**
Reasons: occult/Satanism, offensive language, violence
9. ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, by Mildred D. Taylor**
Reason: offensive language
10. ***Julie of the Wolves*, by Jean Craighead George**
Reasons: unsuited to age group, violence

Top Ten for 2001

Out of 448 challenges recorded by the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. ***Harry Potter*, by J.K. Rowling**
Reasons: anti-family, occult/Satanism, religious viewpoint, violence
2. ***Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, unsuited to age group, violence
3. ***The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence

4. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit
5. ***Summer of My German Soldier*, by Bette Greene**
Reasons: offensive language, racism, sexually explicit
6. ***The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger**
Reasons: offensive language, unsuited to age group
7. ***Alice* (series), by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**
Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
8. ***Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous**
Reasons: drugs, offensive language, sexually explicit
9. ***Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers**
Reason: offensive language
10. ***Blood and Chocolate*, by Annette Curtis Klause**
Reasons: sexually explicit, unsuited to age group

100 Most Frequently Challenged Books by Decades

100 Most Frequently Challenged Books: 1990–1999

1. *Scary Stories* (series), by Alvin Schwartz
2. *Daddy's Roommate*, by Michael Willhoite
3. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
4. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
5. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
6. *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck
7. *Forever*, by Judy Blume
8. *Bridge to Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson
9. *Heather Has Two Mommies*, by Leslea Newman
10. *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
11. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry
12. *My Brother Sam is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
13. *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris
14. *Alice* (series), by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
15. *Goosebumps* (series), by R.L. Stine
16. *A Day No Pigs Would Die*, by Robert Newton Peck
17. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
18. *Sex*, by Madonna
19. *Earth's Children* (series), by Jean M. Auel
20. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, by Katherine Paterson
21. *In the Night Kitchen*, by Maurice Sendak
22. *The Witches*, by Roald Dahl
23. *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L'Engle
24. *The New Joy of Gay Sex*, by Charles Silverstein
25. *Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous
26. *The Goats*, by Brock Cole
27. *The Stupids* (series), by Harry Allard
28. *Anastasia Krupnik* (series), by Lois Lowry
29. *Final Exit*, by Derek Humphry
30. *Blubber*, by Judy Blume

31. *Halloween ABC*, by Eve Merriam
32. *Julie of the Wolves*, by Jean Craighead George
33. *Kaffir Boy*, by Mark Mathabane
34. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
35. *What's Happening to my Body? Book for Girls: A Growing-Up Guide for Parents & Daughters*, by Lynda Madaras
36. *Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers
37. *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood
38. *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton
39. *The Pigman*, by Paul Zindel
40. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
41. *We All Fall Down*, by Robert Cormier
42. *Deenie*, by Judy Blume
43. *Flowers for Algernon*, by Daniel Keyes
44. *Annie on My Mind*, by Nancy Garden
45. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
46. *The Boy Who Lost His Face*, by Louis Sachar
47. *Cross Your Fingers, Spit in Your Hat*, by Alvin Schwartz
48. *Harry Potter* (series), by J.K. Rowling
49. *Cujo*, by Stephen King
50. *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl
51. *A Light in the Attic*, by Shel Silverstein
52. *Ordinary People*, by Judith Guest
53. *American Psycho*, by Bret Easton Ellis
54. *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley
55. *Sleeping Beauty Trilogy*, by A.N. Roquelaure (Anne Rice)
56. *Bumps in the Night*, by Harry Allard
57. *Asking About Sex and Growing Up*, by Joanna Cole
58. *What's Happening to my Body? Book for Boys: A Growing-Up Guide for Parents & Sons*, by Lynda Madaras
59. *The Anarchist Cookbook*, by William Powell
60. *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*, by Judy Blume
61. *Boys and Sex*, by Wardell Pomeroy
62. *Crazy Lady*, by Jane Conly
63. *Athletic Shorts*, by Chris Crutcher
64. *Killing Mr. Griffin*, by Lois Duncan
65. *Fade*, by Robert Cormier
66. *Guess What?*, by Mem Fox
67. *Slaughterhouse-Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut
68. *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding
69. *Native Son*, by Richard Wright
70. *Women on Top: How Real Life Has Changed Women's Fantasies*, by Nancy Friday
71. *Curses, Hexes and Spells*, by Daniel Cohen
72. *On My Honor*, by Marion Dane Bauer
73. *The House of Spirits*, by Isabel Allende
74. *Jack*, by A.M. Homes
75. *Arizona Kid*, by Ron Koertge
76. *Family Secrets*, by Norma Klein
77. *Mommy Laid an Egg*, by Babette Cole

78. *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo A. Anaya
79. *Where Did I Come From?*, by Peter Mayle
80. *The Face on the Milk Carton*, by Caroline Cooney
81. *Carrie*, by Stephen King
82. *The Dead Zone*, by Stephen King
83. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain
84. *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison
85. *Always Running*, by Luis Rodriguez
86. *Private Parts*, by Howard Stern
87. *Where's Waldo?*, by Martin Hanford
88. *Summer of My German Soldier*, by Bette Greene
89. *Tiger Eyes*, by Judy Blume
90. *Little Black Sambo*, by Helen Bannerman
91. *Pillars of the Earth*, by Ken Follett
92. *Running Loose*, by Chris Crutcher
93. *Sex Education*, by Jenny Davis
94. *Jumper*, by Steven Gould
95. *Christine*, by Stephen King
96. *The Drowning of Stephen Jones*, by Bette Greene
97. *That Was Then, This is Now*, by S.E. Hinton
98. *Girls and Sex*, by Wardell Pomeroy
99. *The Wish Giver*, by Bill Brittain
100. *Jump Ship to Freedom*, by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009

1. *Harry Potter* (series), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Alice* series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
3. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
4. *And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
5. *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck
6. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
7. *Scary Stories* (series), by Alvin Schwartz
8. *His Dark Materials* (series), by Philip Pullman
9. *ttyl; ttfn; l8r g8r* (series), by Lauren Myracle
10. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky
11. *Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers
12. *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris
13. *Captain Underpants* (series), by Dav Pilkey
14. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
15. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
16. *Forever*, by Judy Blume
17. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
18. *Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous
19. *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
20. *King and King*, by Linda de Haan
21. *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
22. *Gossip Girl* (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar
23. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry

24. *In the Night Kitchen*, by Maurice Sendak
25. *Killing Mr. Griffen*, by Lois Duncan
26. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
27. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier
28. *Bridge To Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson
29. *The Face on the Milk Carton*, by Caroline B. Cooney
30. *We All Fall Down*, by Robert Cormier
31. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones
32. *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya
33. *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson
34. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things*, by Carolyn Mackler
35. *Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging*, by Louise Rennison
36. *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley
37. *It's So Amazing*, by Robie Harris
38. *Arming America*, by Michael Bellasiles
39. *Kaffir Boy*, by Mark Mathabane
40. *Life is Funny*, by E.R. Frank
41. *Whale Talk*, by Chris Crutcher
42. *The Fighting Ground*, by Avi
43. *Blubber*, by Judy Blume
44. *Athletic Shorts*, by Chris Crutcher
45. *Crazy Lady*, by Jane Leslie Conly
46. *Slaughterhouse-Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut
47. *The Adventures of Super-Diaper Baby: The First Graphic Novel* by George Beard and Harold Hutchins, the creators of Captain Underpants, by Dav Pilkey
48. *Rainbow Boys*, by Alex Sanchez
49. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, by Ken Kesey
50. *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini
51. *Daughters of Eve*, by Lois Duncan
52. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, by Katherine Paterson
53. *You Hear Me?*, by Betsy Franco
54. *The Facts Speak for Themselves*, by Brock Cole
55. *Summer of My German Soldier*, by Bette Green
56. *When Dad Killed Mom*, by Julius Lester
57. *Blood and Chocolate*, by Annette Curtis Klause
58. *Fat Kid Rules the World*, by K.L. Going
59. *Olive's Ocean*, by Kevin Henkes
60. *Speak*, by Laurie Halse Anderson
61. *Draw Me A Star*, by Eric Carle
62. *The Stupids* (series), by Harry Allard
63. *The Terrorist*, by Caroline B. Cooney
64. *Mick Harte Was Here*, by Barbara Park
65. *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien
66. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, by Mildred Taylor
67. *A Time to Kill*, by John Grisham
68. *Always Running*, by Luis Rodriguez
69. *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury
70. *Harris and Me*, by Gary Paulsen
71. *Junie B. Jones* (series), by Barbara Park

72. *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison
73. *What's Happening to My Body Book*, by Lynda Madaras
74. *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold
75. *Anastasia* (series), by Lois Lowry
76. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving
77. *Crazy: A Novel*, by Benjamin Lebert
78. *The Joy of Gay Sex*, by Dr. Charles Silverstein
79. *The Upstairs Room*, by Johanna Reiss
80. *A Day No Pigs Would Die*, by Robert Newton Peck
81. *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright
82. *Deal With It!*, by Esther Drill
83. *Detour for Emmy*, by Marilyn Reynolds
84. *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*, by Yoko Watkins
85. *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*, by Chris Crutcher
86. *Cut*, by Patricia McCormick
87. *Tiger Eyes*, by Judy Blume
88. *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood
89. *Friday Night Lights*, by H.G. Bissenger
90. *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'Engle
91. *Julie of the Wolves*, by Jean Craighead George
92. *The Boy Who Lost His Face*, by Louis Sachar
93. *Bumps in the Night*, by Harry Allard
94. *Goosebumps* (series), by R.L. Stine
95. *Shade's Children*, by Garth Nix
96. *Grendel*, by John Gardner
97. *The House of the Spirits*, by Isabel Allende
98. *I Saw Esau*, by Iona Opie
99. *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*, by Judy Blume
100. *America: A Novel*, by E.R. Frank

Background Information from 2000 to 2009

View the [2000-2009 book challenge infographic](#)

From 2000 to 2009, 5,099* challenges were reported to the Office for Intellectual Freedom.

- 1,577 challenges due to "sexually explicit" material
- 1,291 challenges due to "offensive language"
- 989 challenges due to materials deemed "unsuited to age group"
- 619 challenged due to "violence"
- 361 challenges due to "homosexuality"

Further, 274 materials were challenged due to "occult" or "Satanic" themes, an additional 291 were challenged due to their "religious viewpoint," and 119 because they were "anti-family."

Please note that the number of challenges and the number of reasons for those challenges do not match because works are often challenged on more than one ground.

1,639 of these challenges were in school libraries; 1,811 were in classrooms; 1,217 took place in public libraries. There were 114 challenges to materials used in college classes, and 30 to academic libraries. There are isolated cases of challenges to library materials made available in or by prisons, special libraries, community groups, and students.

The vast majority of challenges were initiated by parents (2,535), with patrons and administrators to follow (516 and 489 respectively).

* We receive challenge reports after the Top Ten lists have been published. This number reflects all the challenges we received since July 31, 2013 for the 2000-2009 time period.

Before 1990

OIF has only been collecting data about banned books since 1990, so we do not have any lists of frequently challenged books or authors before that date.

Appendix G

<https://www.ala.org/tools/ethics>

Code of Ethics of the American Library Association

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

- I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.
- II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.
- III. 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.
- IV. We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
- V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.
- VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.
- VII. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.
- VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.

Adopted at the 1939 Midwinter Meeting by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 1981; June 28, 1995; and January 22, 2008.

This page has long held the incorrect amendment date of June 28, 1997; the Office for Intellectual Freedom regrets and apologizes for the error.