

State Librarian's Report

Intellectual Freedom, a Matter of Attitude



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State Librarian

Considering Libraries as Places to Freely Explore, Express, and Exchange Ideas

The articles in this edition of the State Library of Ohio Newsletter emphasize the important role libraries play as places for the public to freely explore, express, and exchange ideas. This emphasis is prompted by the approach of Banned Books Week, an annual celebration of

the freedom to read, which will be observed in libraries and schools across the U.S. during the last week of September. Judith Krug, a prominent advocate for libraries and the First Amendment, founded Banned Books Week in 1982. A banned book is one that has been removed from a school or library while a challenged book is one that a group or individual has attempted to ban. The American Library Association (ALA) notes that books are most often "challenged with the best intentions – to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information."

[more...](#)

One of the best ways to promote Intellectual Freedom in one's library is to do things that curtail attacks. Rather than responding to censorship attacks, which one has to do occasionally, a major way to combat censorship and promote intellectual freedom is to be proactive rather than reactive.



(Pictured L to R: Author Jaime Adoff and Librarian Chuck Steinbower at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility)

One needs to reach out to one's institution and go beyond the walls of the library and get involved in the life of the institution. There are various ways that this can be done. [more...](#)

ACCESS – Small Word, Big Concept

Access is the foundation of everything we do in libraries. Just think about the reason we perform most library tasks, and I'll bet access comes to mind for almost all of those duties. Access is why we exist, why we do what we do each day. However, when we think about providing access to patrons, we often just think about physical access and ADA requirements.



[more...](#)

The Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA)

The much-anticipated bill S. 1373, the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2009, was introduced on June 25, 2009. Sponsored by Senators Cornyn (R-TX) and Lieberman (I-CT), the bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. According to the bill language, its purpose is, "To provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency."

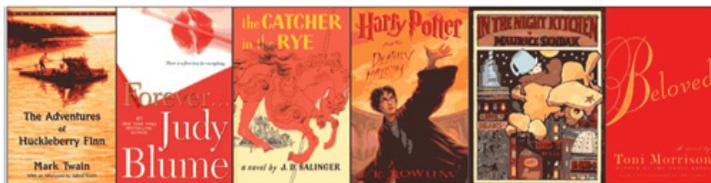


[more...](#)

Information and Resources

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

September 25 - October 2, 2010



This year, Banned Books Week will take place from September 25 to October 2. Take a look at the resources below to learn more about how your institution can observe Banned Books Week and make your users aware of the importance of intellectual freedom: [more...](#)

The First 30 Seconds: Helping Front Line Staff Respond to Challenges

As quoted in "12 Ways Libraries Are Good for the Country," children's librarian Dorothy Broderick contends that every library in the country ought to have a sign on the door reading, "This library has something offensive to everyone. If you are not offended by something we own, please complain." Unfortunately, library employees are far more likely to encounter complaints and challenges from customers that are offended by materials in the collection than those that are not. Our actions in the first 30 seconds of these encounters can defuse the situation and prevent the issue from going further. [more...](#)



Don't Pooh-Pooh Policy – A Pop Quiz



To a new member of the library community who, until recently, thought "weeding" required gardening shears and sunscreen, being asked to write an article as an authority on intellectual freedom is rather daunting. But to a public sector HR guy, writing from the policy development perspective isn't quite as intimidating. [more...](#)

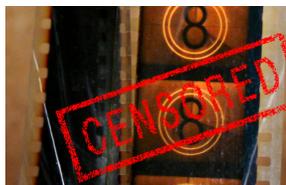
The Ohio Library Council's Intellectual Freedom Committee

In a democratic society, the people are responsible for their own governance. Effective self-governance in turn requires that citizens be well informed. Libraries play a vital role in this regard by providing the means to access information and promoting the idea of intellectual freedom. [more...](#)



Film Censorship in Ohio

Many years before movies were "Suggested for Mature Audiences" or rated "PG-13," Ohio pioneered a law censoring motion pictures. Beginning in September 1913, the Ohio Industrial Commission appointed a three-person Board of Censors to examine all films before they could be exhibited in the State. [more...](#)



What is the Freedom to Read Foundation?

The Freedom to Read Foundation is an organization separate from the American Library Association that defends intellectual freedom and librarians. Judith Krug founded the organization which celebrated its 40th Anniversary last year. It remains, however, a mysterious organization to many librarians. [more...](#)



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