



2020 Annual Report

On Challenges to Intellectual Freedom in Oregon Libraries & Schools

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

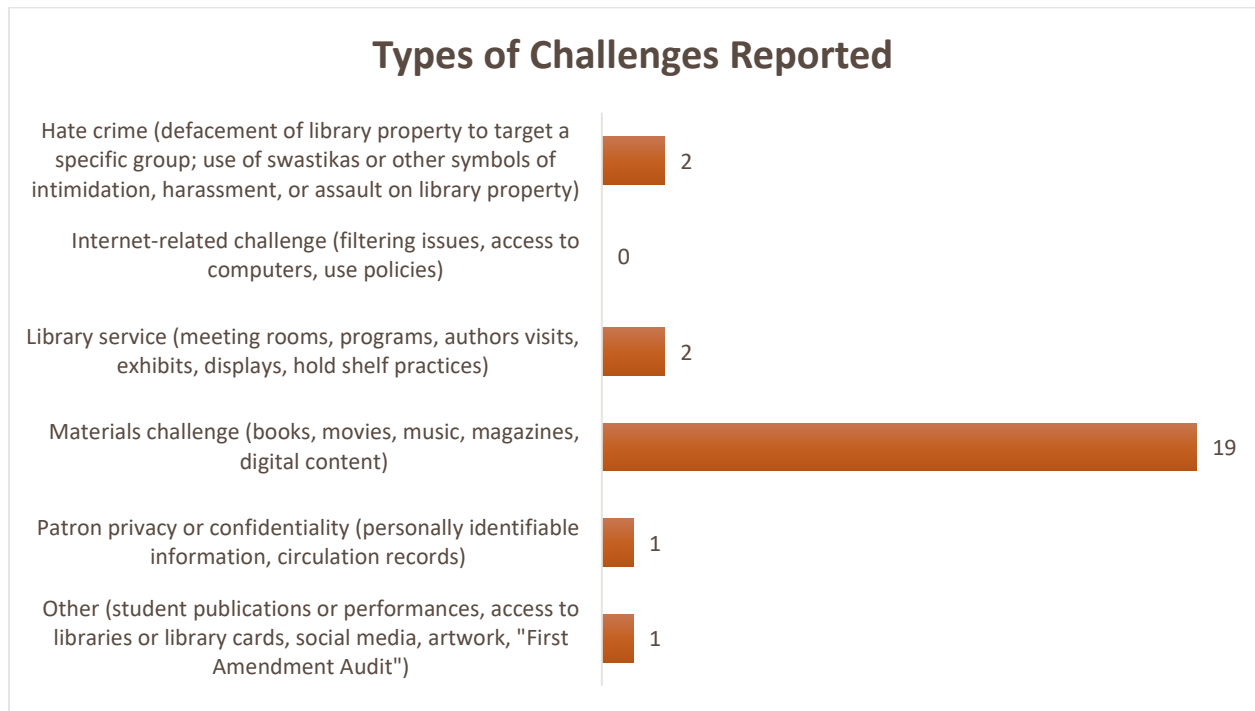
Updated August 2020

Scope of This Report

The [Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse](#) (OIFC) collects reports about challenges to intellectual freedom in all types of Oregon libraries and schools. Entities report the information to OIFC on a voluntary basis.

Summary of Challenges Reported

The OIFC received reports of 25 challenges from 1 academic library, 12 public libraries, and 4 school libraries. This number is down from last year, which could be due in part to library and school building closures during the pandemic.



Hate Crimes

Two hate crimes were reported, both at public libraries.

At one library, a patron used a racist slur against another patron. The library followed their patron code of conduct policy in dealing with the situation.

At another library, a racist, threatening picture was photocopied and placed at tables around the premises. Staff believe the message was from a patron evicted from the library for inappropriate behavior who, during the process, verbally threatened a staff member. Staff was advised to collect the pictures and destroy them.

Internet-Related Challenges

No internet-related challenges were reported.

Library Service Challenges

Two library service challenges were reported, both at public libraries.

At one library, a visitor complained to staff about an item on display with *New Books, Feminist Cross-Stitch: 40 Bold & Fierce Patterns* by Stephanie Rohr. The initiator objected to “offensive language” being accessible to children. The library kept the item on display.

At another library, a patron left a threatening voice mail and sent an email regarding a virtual screening of the documentary *Rigged*. He threatened to “get a group together to storm the library and remove all staff” if the library were to go ahead and show the documentary. The Library Director sent an email describing the incident to the library Advisory Board, the Board of Directors and the staff. The library decided to go ahead with the screening.

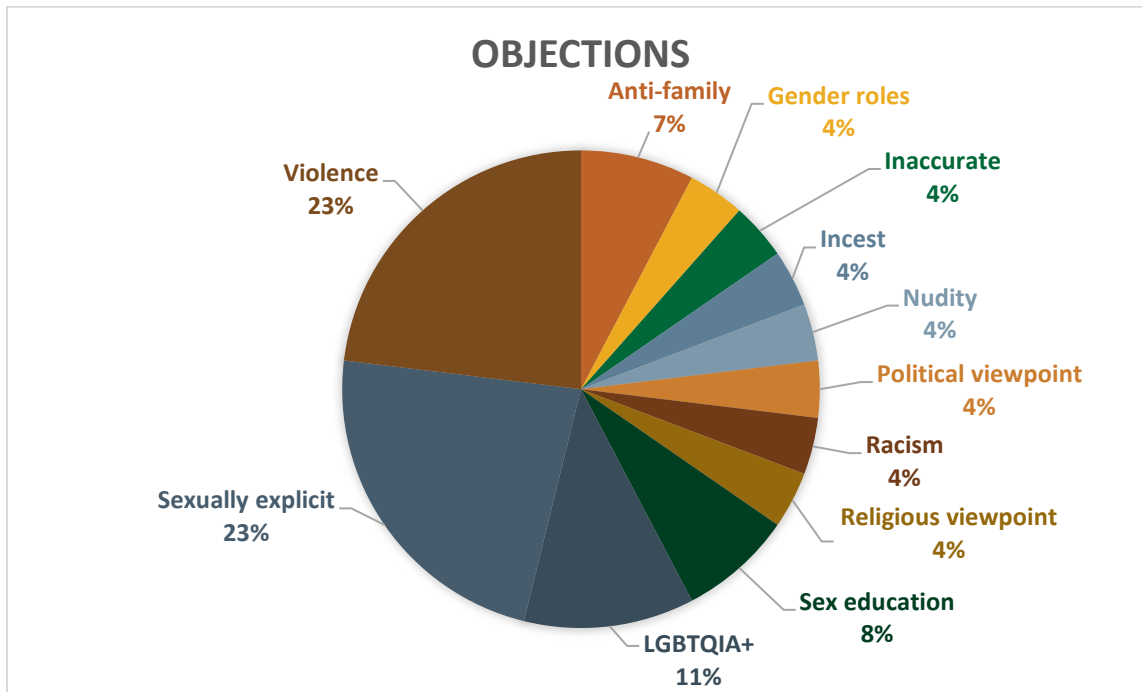
Materials Challenges

Of the 19 materials challenges reported:

- Most are books
- Half were initiated by patrons (on their own behalf) and half by parents (expressing concern about something that affects their child)
- Four occurred in a school library and the rest in public libraries
- Two were relocated, one was removed, and the rest were retained

Reasons for Challenges

Items were challenged for a variety of reasons:



List of Challenged Items

The following items are organized alphabetically by title.

Item	Objection	Initiator of the challenge	Location	Decision	Comments
<i>Beet Fields: Memories of a Sixteenth Summer, The</i> by Gary Paulsen [Book]	Incest, Sexually explicit, Violence	Parent	Public library	Relocated	Library moved the item from juvenile to young adult nonfiction collection.
<i>Bible, The</i> [Book]	Religious viewpoint	Parent	School library	Retained	
<i>Black Widow: The Name of the Rose</i> by Marjorie Liu and Daniel Acuña [Graphic Novel]	Nudity, Sexually explicit, Violence	Parent	Public library	Relocated	Library moved the item from young adult to adult graphic novel collection.
<i>Chocolate Me</i> by Taye Diggs [Book]	Racism	Patron	Public library	Retained	

<i>Dangerous Alphabet, The</i> by Neil Gaiman & Gris Grimly [Book]	Violence	Parent	Public library	Retained	
<i>Esto No Es Un Libro De Sexo</i> by Chusita Fashion Fever [Book]	Sexually explicit	Patron	Public library	Retained	
<i>Everything You Need: 8 Essential Steps to A Life of Confidence in the Promises of God</i> by David Jeremiah [Book]	Religious viewpoint	Patron	Public library	Retained	
<i>George</i> by Alex Gino [Book]	LGBTQIA+	Parent	School library	Retained	
<i>Hedgehog: A Sharp Lesson in Love</i> by Ben Sutton and Dan Pinto [Book]	Violence	Parent	Public library	Retained	
<i>Japanese American Internment Camps</i> by Bryan J. Grapes [Book]	Political viewpoint	Patron	Public library	Removed	Library removed the item due to condition and age.
<i>Letting Go</i> by Maya Banks [Book]	Sexually explicit	Patron	Public library	Retained	
<i>Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls' Rights</i> by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick [Book]	Violence	Parent	School library	Retained	
<i>Mighty Heart of St. James</i> by Ashley Herring Blake [Book]	LGBTQIA+	Patron	Public library	Retained	
<i>Mini-Weapons of Mass Destruction, The</i> by John Austin [Book]	Violence	Teacher	School library	Retained	
<i>On Becoming Baby Wise: Giving Your Infant the Gift of Nighttime Sleep</i> by Gary Ezzo and Robert Bucknam [Book]	Inaccurate	Patron	Public library	Retained	
<i>Ready For It</i> by Chusita Fashion Fever [Book]	Sex education	Parent	Public library	Retained	
<i>Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU</i> by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth [Book]	Gender Roles, LGBTQIA+, Sex education	Parent	Public library	Retained	

<i>True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig, The</i> by Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter, and Caprice Crane [Book]	Anti-family	Patron	Public library	Retained	
<i>Ungovernable Force</i> directed by Paul M. McAlrney [DVD]	Sexually explicit	Patron	Public library	Retained	

Patron Privacy or Confidentiality Challenge

One privacy challenge was reported. At a university library, a video security camera was installed in the front desk area. The Library Director was concerned that the location allowed the camera to capture private information such as patron and staff IDs, library materials borrowed, credit card numbers, and personal conversations. Following the library's policy on patron privacy, the Director asked administration to relocate the camera to the main entrance.

Other Challenge

One other challenge – a “First Amendment Audit” – was reported. At a public library, an individual questioned policies regarding filming patrons in the library. He felt he had a right to video record the interior of the library without consent of the members of the public, and cited the rights of the free press, as well as the First Amendment. He did not actually video record staff or patrons. The Library Director shared the library’s behavior policy with the individual, gave him contact information for relevant City staff, and, after conferring with the City attorney, responded via email to his initial questions. She also related the incident to staff, city officials, and the State Library.