

Intellectual Freedom Committee Report (#17)
2007-2008: Annual Report

November 2007-June 2008

The *NDLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook for Librarians* was created in 1985 and had not been updated since then. I created an updated edition of the handbook and the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) members proofread the update. I made the suggested changes and created a final draft which was given to Kirsten Baesler, Constitution Bylaws and Policies Chair. At the June Executive Board meeting, Kirsten requested that a motion be made to approve the second edition. The board approved the handbook. I emailed a copy of the handbook to Theresa Norton, NDLA Web Editor. She uploaded the handbook to NDLA's web site. The handbook is now easily accessible to members of NDLA.

May 2008

I suggested changes to the IFC policies handbook. Kirsten Baesler made the changes and proposed a motion to accept the changes at the June 2008 Executive Board meeting. The changes were approved.

I went through the box of IFC information that is passed on to each IFC chairperson. Most of the information was irrelevant to the committee and I recycled it. I went through the rest of the papers and organized them by decade and put them in folders. I'll be giving the folders to Rachel White, NDLA Archivist, to put in the NDLA Archives.

September 2008

I sent out a reminder to the NDLA email list about Banned Books Weeks along with a summary of what Banned Books Week is along with a few intellectual freedom definitions and helpful links.

The IFC will be presenting a session at the annual NDLA Conference. The session is titled "Banned Books in ND: It's Your Freedom We're Talking About." We'll be highlighting past challenges/bans in the ND, covering the basics of intellectual freedom and introducing the second edition of the *NDLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook for Librarians*.

Challenges

Library type: Public

Item(s): Movie: Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan.

Reason for challenge: Challenger wanted movie to be restricted to adults.

Resolution: Retained. Parents are given a choice of whether or not their children may check out movies with an R-rating.

Library type: Public

Item(s): Vibe magazine cover

Reason for challenge: Challenger said there was offensive cover art on the magazine.

Resolution: Retained.

Library type: Public

Item(s): Books on a sensitive subject matter.

Reason for challenge: Staff person requested permission to call a teen's parents to tell them what he checked out because the teen made comments to her that caused her to be concerned about the teen's well-being and the possibility of the teen harming himself. The subject matter of the books was related to the comments the teen made.

Resolution: Under ND law 40-38-12 Library records – Open records exception, the staff person cannot call the teen's parents and tell them what he checked out. However, the staff person may call the parents and tell them about the comments the teen made as long as the staff person doesn't relate the comments in any way to the books he checked out.

Library type: High School Library

Item(s): Book: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt

Reason for challenge: Challenged due to sexual content in the book.

Resolution: No resolution at this time.

Request for Patron Records

Library type: Public

Request by: local police officers

Action taken: Library Director cited ND law 40-38-12 Library records – Open records exception and did not give the officers the information. The officers left and did not pursue the request for the patron's library record.

I'm sure there have been other challenges in the state over the past twelve months. I heard about most of the challenges from other people (not associated with the library) or by reading about them in newspapers and journals. Overall, ND librarians are not reporting challenges to the IFC. Now that the *NDLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook for Librarians* is online, I'm hoping librarians use it and start reporting challenges.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Kujawa
Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair