

NDLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook for Librarians

Committee members proofread their assigned sections. I sent the final draft, along with the 1985 edition, to Kirsten Baesler.

Kirsten will propose a motion to accept the updated 2008 NDLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook for Librarians at the May Executive Board Meeting.

Intellectual Freedom Policies Handbook

I made a few changes to the policies, with the help of Kirsten Baesler, so the wording in the policies and Intellectual Freedom Handbook are in agreement.

Kirsten will propose a motion to accept the updated policy handbook changes at the May Executive Board Meeting.

Intellectual Freedom Box of Information

The box of information given to incoming Intellectual Freedom Chairs was full of outdated, extraneous documents. I went through every document thoroughly and recycled most of them. Most of the recycled documents included fax cover sheets and general articles on intellectual freedom from the 1980's and NDLA information not specific to the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

The documents I kept relate to Intellectual Freedom correspondence and newspaper articles concerning challenges and bans in North Dakota. I sorted the information by year and put them in two folders labeled "NDLA Intellectual Freedom Committee 1984-1989" and "NDLA Intellectual Freedom Committee 1990-1998". I will give the two folders to Rachel White, NDLA Archivist, to place in the NDLA archives.

In the future, I think it would be more efficient for IF Chairs to gather IF correspondence and state newspaper articles throughout the year and then give the documents to the NDLA Archivist at the end of their term in September. This would insure that the documents are safe and archived, rather than toting them around in a box year after year.

Challenges in Fargo

Paulette Nelson informed me that there were two challenges in the news this spring at the Fargo Public Library, including the March issue of *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*. I emailed library director, Tim Dirks, the beginning of May and asked him to keep the committee informed of further developments and other challenges in the future, even if he doesn't request assistance/guidance from the committee.

This is from the Fargo Public Library's Board of Trustees meeting minutes held January 15, 2008 (Retrieved May 23, 2008.

<http://www.ci.fargo.nd.us/CityInfo/Departments/Library/LibraryBoard/2008Minutes/January152008Minutes.aspx>):

A. Collection Development Team's recommendations regarding current material challenges

A statement of concern was received regarding the movie Borat requesting it be restricted to adults.

It was determined by the Collection Development Team the movie Borat met the library collection development criteria. The library does not act in loco parentis. It was recommended to retain this movie in our collection.

A second statement of concern was received regarding offensive cover art on Vibe magazine. This magazine was also reviewed by the Collection Development Team and fit all the collection development criteria for the library. With the new facility magazines are now displayed with the face out. No portion of the access to materials policy details cover art.

Tim Dirks will review other library policies for best practices nationwide regarding movies and video games with rating systems. He will research the American Library Association for a position on the subject and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Currently the library has video games that are rated E for everyone and T for teen but has not purchased mature rated games. The library also does not purchase rated X movies.

An article (**Parents can restrict kids' DVD access**) in the *Fargo Forum* from March 19, 2008, states that

Parents will soon be able to decide whether they want their children to check out DVDs from the Fargo Public Library. The change, approved by Library Board members Tuesday, is the result of a discussion that started after two library patrons filed complaints last fall..."The library system cannot block certain users from checking out one category of DVDs, such as those with an R rating. It can, however, prevent a user from checking out any DVDs", Library Director Tim Dirks told board members, who directed him to move forward. That means a child whose parents use the option will not be able to check out any DVDs, even those with a G-rating or PG-rating..."Nobody has to do this," board member Herbert Snyder said. "It's completely parent-controlled." He moved to make the change, with the stipulation that it be explained to parents when they register their children for library cards...

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kujawa
Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair