

# Developing Collections: Preparing for Challenges

NHLTA

Spring  
Conference

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# Overview

- **Challenge Scenario**
  - **Principles of Collection Development**
    - Value of policy
    - Elements of policy
  - **Applying Policy**
  - **Educating the public**
    - Freedom to read
  - **Need for Trustee Support**
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# Challenge Samples

## Sample 1

A patron sends a letter to the Board of Trustees with a complaint about a book they found. They are irate that your library would allow such a book. They want the book immediately removed from the shelves or they will go to the press

## Sample 2

A patron comes to the desk while you are there with the Director. They say they were just in the children's room and saw such-and-such book on the shelves. They say, "I don't want to ban books. I just think that this one does not belong in the children's room."

# **The Collection Development Policy**



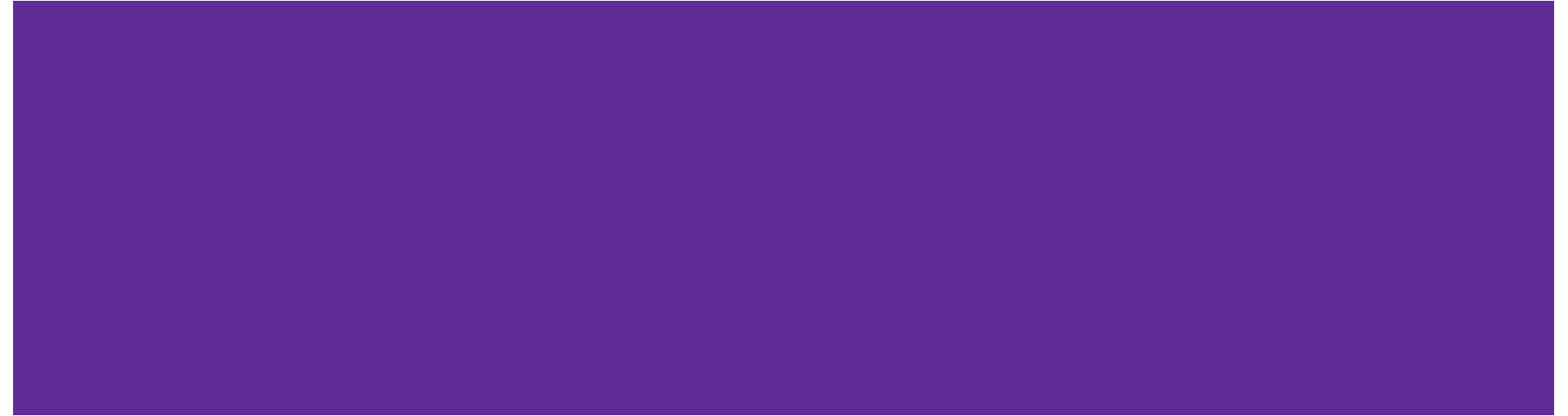
# Principles of Collection Development Policy

- Grows from the library's mission
- Guides purchasing decisions
- Guides acceptance of donations
- Guides weeding decisions
- Educates the public about collection development
- Helps defend decision making when necessary

# Elements of a Collection Development Policy

- Define authority in charge of collection development
- Define the tools used in collection decisions making
- Discuss areas of focus
- Aim for diversity
- Consider what other collaborating libraries have (ILL)
- Consider how detailed it needs to be

# Applying the Policy



# Are there exceptions?

Consider these other collections:

- Digital collections: Hoopla, Overdrive, Kanopy
  - Overdrive Advantage
- Local authors
- Genealogy and Local History
- Library of Things



# Take it one step further

- Books and materials on display
- Displays by community groups
- Programs and presenters
- Recommended websites

# **Educating about the Freedom to Read**



# ALA Freedom to Read Statement




...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.

For the full statement visit: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>



**BANNED BOOKS WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 1 – 7, 2023**

  @BANNEDBOOKSWEEK  
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# Top 13 most challenged of 2022

1. ***Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe**  
Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
2. ***All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson**  
Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
3. ***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**  
Reasons: depiction of sexual abuse, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content
4. ***Flamer* by Mike Curato**  
Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
5. (TIE) ***Looking for Alaska* by John Green**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content
6. (TIE) ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, depiction of sexual abuse, drugs, profanity
7. ***Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison**  
Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
8. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity
9. ***Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit
10. (TIE) ***A Court of Mist and Fury* by Sarah J. Maas**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit
11. (TIE) ***Crank* by Ellen Hopkins**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs
12. (TIE) ***Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews**  
Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity
13. (TIE) ***This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson**  
Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit

# Most commonly banned books of all time

**1984** by George Orwell

Reason: pro-communism ideas, sexuality

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain

Reason: racism

**The Catcher in the Rye** by J. D. Salinger

Reasons: offensive language, unsuited for certain age groups

**The Color Purple** by Alice Walker

Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited for certain age groups

**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou

Reason: sexually explicit

**The Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald;  
**Matthew J. Bruccoli** (Preface by)

Reasons: reference to drugs, sexuality, and profanity

**Lord of the Flies** by William Golding

Reasons: profanity, sexuality, racial slurs, and excessive violence

**Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck

Reasons: offensive language, racism, violence

**One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Ken Kesey

Reasons: racism, misogyny, sexually explicit

**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee

Reasons: offensive language; racism

“When you choose censorship as your tool for controlling access to information and controlling individuals’ ability to learn more about various ideas,” she said, “inevitably it’s going to sweep up ideas and materials that you actually agree with.”

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/why-the-bible-is-getting-pulled-off-school-bookshelves/2022/12>



OFFICE FOR  
*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association



Established December 1, 1967, the Office for Intellectual Freedom is charged with implementing ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the *Library Bill of Rights*, the Association's basic policy on free access to libraries and library materials. The goal of the office is to educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries.

- Challenge report form
- [oif@aol.org](mailto:oif@aol.org)
- 312-280-4221



# **Library Trustee's Code of Ethics**

“Sustain the core freedoms of our democracy by providing a broad diversity of viewpoints, beliefs, information, and literature and equal access to everyone.”

# Trustee Support



# Trustees role in material challenges

- Be informed : your policy, NH community, national news
- Use library policy as a guide for any challenges or discussions
- Include your Director in deliberations and decision making
- Communicate as a Board, not individuals

# RESOURCES

Link to these slides <https://bit.ly/3M8fqRf>

- Kingston Community Library Collection Development Policy  
[https://www.kingston-library.org/uploads/6/8/8/0/68803845/collection\\_development\\_policy.pdf](https://www.kingston-library.org/uploads/6/8/8/0/68803845/collection_development_policy.pdf)
- Nashua Public Library Materials Selection Policy  
<https://nashualibrary.org/about/policies/english/materials-selection-policy/>
- American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement  
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>
- Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Esw\\_azwPj3tyiA1j78MbYK-YzTT-0vAT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115241468628870561523&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Esw_azwPj3tyiA1j78MbYK-YzTT-0vAT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115241468628870561523&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- Reconsideration Committee Report Conway Public Library  
<https://conwaypubliclibrary.org/sites/conwaypubliclibrary.org/files/page-attachments/RECONSIDERATION%20COMMITEE%20REPORT%20You%20Know%20Sex.pdf>