

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE

The Montana Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee (MLA-IFC) maintains a record of challenges made to library materials in the state. The information for this record is compiled with the attached Library Materials Challenge Report form. “A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others” – ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.

Every individual has the right to both seek out and obtain information from all points of view without restriction and it is MLA’s responsibility to promote freedom of access to information and assist our Montana libraries when they are faced with a challenge. It is important that IFC records and archives Montana library experiences in facing and resolving a challenge as it can be helpful to other libraries in the future. It is particularly important to report the outcome.

The record, which includes information about challenges (challenged work; institution/type of institution being challenged; type of work; grounds for challenge; initiator of challenge), is available on the MLA website <http://mtlib.org/> OR

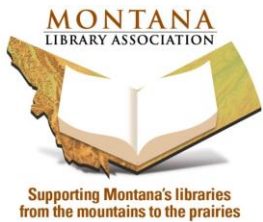
The MLA-IFC wiki at: www.mlaif.pbworks.com

Whenever an incident occurs in your library, please complete the Library Materials Challenge Report form. The IFC Committee’s goal is to keep data on all objections/challenges to materials, regardless if they are resolved informally or continue through the formal challenge process. If the challenge is resolved quickly, one form can be submitted with both the challenge and resolution information included. If the challenge takes longer to be resolved, a form can be submitted when the challenge occurs and again when there is a final resolution

The MLA-IFC is committed to providing assistance to any library facing a challenge to library materials. Please contact the IFC Chair with questions or requests for support:

mlaifc@mtlib.org

Intellectual Freedom policies should be included in your library’s Collection Management Policy and be approved and understood by the governing authority of the library (Board of Trustees, School Board, administration). The policy should also include the formal step-by-step procedure for any challenge to library materials. This information is valuable to both staff who need to implement library policies/procedures and to patrons who need to understand how materials are selected for the library collection.



MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION – INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE

LIBRARY MATERIALS CHALLENGE REPORT FORM

MLA – IF Use Only		
MLA-IF Record #:	Date of Report:	File by:

1. CHALLENGED WORK

Title: _____

Author/Performer(s): _____

(Last, first name)

Copyright Issue Date: _____

Publisher/Producer: _____

2. TYPE OF WORK

Print: ___Book ___Textbook ___Magazine ___Newspaper ___Pamphlet ___Play ___Student Publication

Non-Print: ___Artwork ___Film ___Photo ___Sound Recording ___Video/DVD ___CD ___Gaming

Other: ___Realia ___Exhibit ___Performance ___Speech ___On-Line Resources (Database/E-Book/E-Audio)

3. GROUNDS FOR CHALLENGE

Cultural

- ___Anti-Ethnic
- ___Insensitivity
- ___Racism
- ___Sexism
- ___Inaccurate

Sexual

- ___Homosexuality
- ___Nudity
- ___Sex Education
- ___Sexually Explicit
- ___Unsuited to Age Group

Values

- ___Anti-Family
- ___Offensive Language
- ___Political Viewpoint
- ___Religious Viewpoint
- ___Violence

Social Issues

- ___Abortion
- ___Drugs
- ___Occult/Satanism
- ___Suicide

___OTHER: _____

4. INITIATOR OF CHALLENGE

___Patron ___Parent ___Teacher ___Board Member ___Administrator ___Clergy ___Patron

___Elected Official ___Government ___Pressure Group ___Religious Organization

___OTHER (please specify): _____

5. ORGANIZATION(S) SUPPORTING CHALLENGE

6. INSTITUTION BEING CHALLENGED

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

7. TYPE OF INSTITUTION BEING CHALLENGED

K-12 School Related: ___ School or ___ School Library or ___ School Curriculum: Grade Level Affected ___ to ___

Other Library: ___ Public ___ College/University ___ Special ___ Community Group ___ Prison ___ Publisher
___ Museum/Gallery ___ Student Group ___ Theater ___ Other: _____

CONTACT PERSON FOR INSTITUTION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

STATUS OF MATERIAL

___ Unknown ___ Material Retained ___ Materials Removed ___ Materials Stolen/Defaced

Comments: _____

