

# OLAQ

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## Quarterly

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*In this Issue*

**Special Focus—Intellectual Freedom**

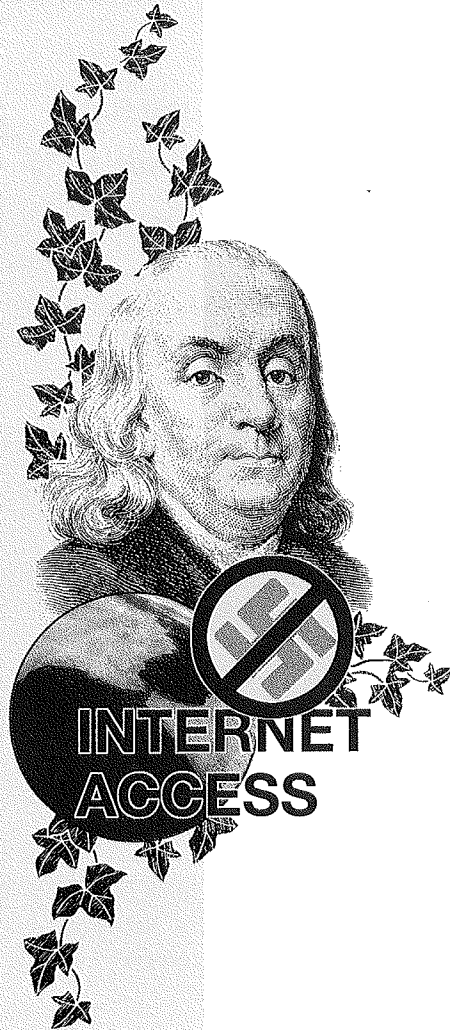
**Access to Electronic Information**

**Assuring Diversity  
in Library Collections**

**OLA's Lobbying Efforts**

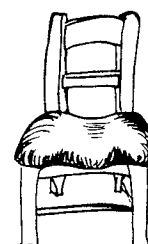
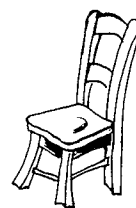
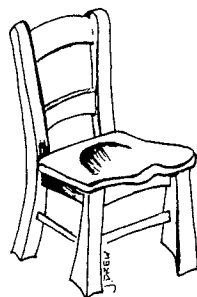
**OLA's Position on the OCA's Gay  
Rights Initiative**

*... and more!*



Winter 1996  
Vol 1 • No 4  
Oregon Library  
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# OLA QUARTERLY

## Intellectual Freedom in an Age of Change

Challenges to intellectual freedom in libraries rage like brush fires throughout Oregon and the country. Two hot-button issues have seized the imagination of a considerable segment of library users and non-users alike.

The first concerns kids and librarians: Do librarians have an obligation to monitor what kids see on the Internet and place out of their reach books and magazines that someone somewhere feels they should not read?

The second concerns diversity in our collections: Are we obligated to provide materials representing all sides of controversial issues, even if doing so violates someone's standard of decency?

Our traditional argument that we do not act *in loco parentis* does not play well in an environment where parents perceive dangers everywhere. Indeed, many parents are no longer willing to assume total responsibility for their children's welfare.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a kid and that all villagers must play a responsible role in the kid's upbringing. In our opinion and—we believe—that of most librarians, our responsible role is to supply materials that enable villagers to play their roles in an informed manner. Few librarians believe their role is to side with one faction.

In this issue of the *OLA Quarterly*, Deborah Jacobs suggests that librarians have not done a good job of assuring a diverse collection. They have self-censored in some areas and ignored others. Clearly, however, we have not failed entirely when not only the Oregon Citizens Alliance, but newly formed groups of librarians themselves, challenge our right to make certain books freely available or even buy them for our collections.

To allow some villagers to dictate the contents of our collections and decide how and to whom our books circulate violates our professional standards and flies in the face of our obligation to serve all segments of our increasingly diverse population. Further, it risks starting us down a slippery slope from which there may be no return.

We hope that this issue of the *OLA Quarterly* will shed some light on these issues.

**Carole Dickerson, Guest Editor**  
*Lake Oswego Public Library*

**Larry R. Oberg, Guest Editor**  
*Mark O. Hatfield Library,  
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The world is in the midst of an electronic communications revolution. Based on its constitutional, ethical, and historical heritage, American librarianship is uniquely positioned to address the broad range of information issues being raised in this revolution. In particular, librarians address intellectual freedom from a strong ethical base and an abiding commitment to the preservation of the individual's rights.

Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. These rights extend to minors as well as adults. Libraries and librarians exist to facilitate the exercise of these rights by selecting, producing, providing access to, identifying, retrieving, organizing, providing instruction in the use of, and preserving recorded expression regardless of the format or technology.

The American Library Association expresses these basic principles of librarianship in

its *Code of Ethics* and in the *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations. These serve to guide librarians and library governing bodies in addressing issues of intellectual freedom that arise when the library provides access to electronic information, services, and networks.

Issues arising from the still-developing technology of computer-mediated information generation, distribution, and retrieval need to be approached and regularly reviewed from a context of constitutional principles and ALA policies so that fundamental and traditional tenets of librarianship are not swept away.

Electronic information flows across boundaries and barriers despite attempts by individuals, governments, and private entities to channel or control it. Even so, many people, for reasons of technology, infrastructure, or socioeconomic status do not have access to electronic information.

In making decisions about how to offer access to electronic information, each library should consider its mission, goals, objectives, cooperative agreements, and the needs of the entire community it serves.

#### The Rights of Users

All library system and network policies, procedures or regulations relating to electronic resources and services should be scrutinized for potential violation of user rights.

User policies should be developed according to the policies and guidelines established by the American Library Association, including *Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Policies, Regulations and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Materials, Services and Facilities*.

Users should not be restricted or denied access for expressing or receiving constitutionally protected speech. Users' access should not be changed without due process, including, but not limited to, formal notice and a means of appeal.

Although electronic systems may include distinct property rights and security concerns, such elements may not be employed as a subterfuge to deny users' access to information. Users have the right to be free of unreasonable limitations or conditions set by libraries, librarians, system administrators, vendors, network service providers, or others. Contracts, agreements, and licenses entered into by libraries on behalf of their users should not violate this right. Users also have a right to information, training and assistance necessary to operate the hardware and software provided by the library.

Users have both the right of confidentiality and the right of privacy. The library should uphold these rights by policy, procedure, and practice. Users should be advised, however, that because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic transactions and files could become public.

The rights of users who are minors shall in no way be abridged. (See *Free Access to Libraries for Minors: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights; Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program; and Access for Children and Young People to Videotapes and Other Nonprint Formats*.)

#### Equity of Access

Electronic information, services, and networks provided directly or indirectly by the library should be equally, readily and equitably accessible to all library users. American Library Association policies oppose the charging of user fees for the provision of information services by all libraries and information services that receive their major

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## Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks:

*an Interpretation of the Library  
Bill of Rights*

by Donna Reidy Pistolis

Associate Director  
for Case Support and Research  
ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom

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*At the mid-winter conference of the American Library Association, the ALA Council unanimously adopted an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights regarding access to electronic information, services and networks. Donna Reidy Pistolis, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom Associate Director for Case Support and Research, reports that work is beginning on a question-and-answer-format brochure to interpret the interpretation, particularly looking at how it applies to different kinds of libraries.*

*The Intellectual Freedom Committee will meet in March to consider input from each of ALA's divisions and plans to produce a draft brochure before the annual conference, with a final product to follow the conference.*

*Text of the adopted interpretation comes courtesy of Ms Pistolis. Send questions to her via e-mail: donna.reidy.pistolis@ala.org.*

support from public funds (50.3; 53.1.14; 60.1; 61.1). It should be the goal of all libraries to develop policies concerning access to electronic resources in light of *Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights and Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Policies, Regulations and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Materials, Services and Facilities*.

#### Information Resources and Access

Providing connections to global information, services, and networks is not the same as selecting and purchasing material for a library collection. Determining the accuracy or authenticity of electronic information may present special problems. Some information accessed electronically may not meet a library's selection or collection development policy. It is, therefore, left to each user to determine what is appropriate. Parents and legal guardians who are concerned about their children's use of electronic resources should provide guidance to their own children.

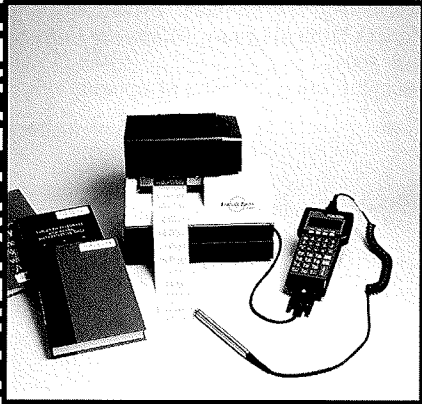
Libraries and librarians should not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of its allegedly controversial content or because of the librarian's personal beliefs or fear of confrontation. Information retrieved or utilized electronically should be considered

constitutionally protected unless determined otherwise by a court with appropriate jurisdiction.

Libraries, acting within their mission and objectives, must support access to information on all subjects that serve the needs or interests of each user, regardless of the user's age or the content of the material. Libraries have an obligation to provide access to government information available in electronic format. Libraries and librarians should not deny access to information solely on the grounds that it is perceived to lack value.

In order to prevent the loss of information, and to preserve the cultural record, libraries may need to expand their selection or collection development policies to ensure preservation, in appropriate formats, of information obtained electronically.

Electronic resources provide unprecedented opportunities to expand the scope of information available to users. Libraries and librarians should provide access to information presenting all points of view. The provision of access does not imply sponsorship or endorsement. These principles pertain to electronic resources no less than they do to the more traditional sources of information in libraries. (See *Diversity in Collection Development: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*.)



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While speaking recently at an *Intellectual Freedom Institute* in Elko, Nevada, I was again struck with the realization that librarians are the number one censors of library materials. Librarians with their *Library Bill of Rights* and Banned Books Week celebrations? Yes, absolutely!

In 1992, the Oregon library community took a strong stand opposing the Oregon Citizens Alliance's (OCA) anti-homosexual ballot initiative. We did this because we

believed that the legislation would have mandated censorship of library collections. Librarians around the state worked on the campaign and are justly proud of their role in defeating the initiative.

The following year, the OCA's communications director challenged the Oregon Library Association to a debate. While we handily

"won"—after all, we had the First Amendment on our side—some of us squirmed when the OCA representative quite correctly pointed out that some of their materials weren't to be found in Oregon library collections.

As a profession, we haven't always done the world's best job of ensuring diversity in library collections. Libraries of all types are vulnerable to attack when their collections lack diversity and fail to represent the multiplicity of viewpoints that exist on all topics. There are myriad reasons for this type of library self-censorship. Of key importance is the fact that most libraries are continually underfunded, thus making acquisition of all needed and requested materials impossible. Also, many of the items that make collections diverse are not always of the highest quality in terms of content and construction. These factors alone provide librarians with at least a superficial rationale for overlooking a potentially controversial book in favor of a less controversial one. Harder to understand is the fact that some librarians say "Oh, no one here would read anything like that!"

At the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library we work hard to balance the collection to meet the varied and diverse needs and interests of the community. I personally find it much easier to defend a book in our collection when I can ask the patron if they are able to find items that interest them. Invariably, they answer yes.

We also ask patrons to help us build diverse collections by letting us know when they discover weaknesses. We aren't trying to shift our responsibility to them, but we know they often have access to publisher lists and titles of which we may be unaware.

Last year, another staff member and I scheduled an appointment with the local Pastor Prayer Fellowship to talk with them about getting collection development assistance. They were amazed that we were interested in building the collection with items they might recommend. But

even more amazing to them was the fact that we already owned most of the items on the lists they produced. Prior to this meeting they assumed we wouldn't have books of interest to them or their parishioners. Now they regularly send us new lists and they know that they and their congregations can find the materials they want at the library.

Does this mean, for example, that libraries should buy Scott Lively's (of the OCA) *The Pink Swastika*? Most likely, yes. For those who may not be aware, this book explains that "Homosexuals created the Nazi Party" and "Everything we think about the Nazis comes from the minds and the perverted ideas of homosexuals." It concludes by suggesting that "If someone calls you a Nazi, they are calling you a homosexual sadomasochistic pedophile."

Does collection diversity mean that all sides of all issues will be represented equally on the shelves of our libraries? Most likely, no. Balance will never mean having a circumscribed number of books on each side of a controversial issue. However, it does mean that continuing to build strong, diverse, and balanced collections must remain our number one priority.

Finally, the best way to celebrate the First Amendment and the role of librarians as nurturers of the public good is to offer our patrons a broad range of materials. And, the best way to minimize the effect of those who would mandate censorship in our libraries is to work in an inclusive way with all members of our communities. By so doing, we will not only build stronger libraries, we will build stronger communities as well. ☐

*Reprinted from: Moveable Type: The Newsletter of the Mark O. Hatfield Library, Willamette University, v. 3, no. 1, Fall, 1995.*

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## Assuring Diversity in Our Collections

By Deborah L. Jacobs,  
Director  
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

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# The Flame that Never Dies:

*How We Celebrated the Holiday Season on COLLIB-L*

*Compiled by Larry R. Oberg  
University Librarian  
Willamette University.*

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In early December, 1995, a position announcement was posted on COLLIB-L (the College Librarians Listserv) by a religious institution of higher education that requires all applicants to provide a one-page "[Christian] faith statement." The appropriateness of this requirement was challenged immediately by several subscribers and a lively and sometimes acrimonious debate ensued. The conversation took several turns, touching on such topics as diversity, censorship, and Christmas. It concluded with a rousing argument over the appropriateness of certain traditional secular and non-secular holiday greetings. Excerpts from that conversation follow. (Names have been omitted to protect the innocent and guilty alike.)

*Wed, 13 Dec 1995 23:56:17*

Are you, as I suspect, asking applicants to announce their religious affiliation? Is religious belief an appropriate criterion for hiring a librarian?

*Thu, 14 Dec 1995 15:43:16*

In response to the question of whether or not religious belief is an appropriate criterion for hiring a librarian, of course it is—for a religion institution. It is an integral factor in determining whether the candidate will be able to support the institution's mission and goals ... The opinions expressed on this list are my own—and thank God I am free to express them!

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 05:46:22*

Isn't that special!

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 04:58:45*

Yes, but at some religious institutions you might not be free to express certain opinions, and that restriction would be imposed in the name of that same God.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 14:35:10*

I find the inability of some people on this list to distinguish the difference between a private religiously based institution and a public institution amazing. I am not saying that a sympathetic agnostic or atheist could not provide good service [at a religious institution], however, this is a [church school] whose mission is tied into the [church] ...

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 22:10:09*

[I disagree with you because:] 1. I think diversity (pluralism) is healthy. 2. I think that one-issue litmus tests are ultimately self-defeating. 3. Though I have an on-going battle with a professor who eschews the dissemination of any values in his class, I grudgingly admit that there have been occasions on which I valued his counterpoint. Sometimes my enemy is my best ally.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 08:08:18*

Boy, I feel sorry for you and your institution. There can never be a good measure of library/librarian effectiveness. Also, [in reference to an earlier posting not reproduced here] Jesus is not the reason for the season. The winter solstice existed long before Jesus did, whoever he/she/it was ... Keep your religious pretensions off our list, please.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 08:26:21*

Are you advocating that we censor this list for mentions of religion? Peculiar position for a librarian.

*15 Dec 1995 09:55:46*

I don't know what brought on the "Jesus is the reason for the season" comment earlier but your response amazes me! You are mistaking the seasons of winter with the season of Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the wonderful celebration of Christmas ...

*15 Dec 1995 10:56:46*

Yes, there is a reason I have to immerse myself in all this stuff—I have a wife with Christian origins, and I have two small children. What I don't have is patience for Christians who foist their values and beliefs on professional listservs.

*15 Dec 1995 11:44:48*

I do not want to trigger a flame war, or even a discussion of what some may find to be an extraneous issue, but I do find myself to be very uncomfortable with [the last poster's] harsh response regarding the "Jesus is the reason for the season" message ...

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 12:00:08*

[...] I have just had the opportunity to read my transmission [and I note] a misspelling. The message refers to sending a personal "communicator," and this of course should be "communication." Unless, that is, one assumes a Freudian slip, and a secret wish that [the previous poster] have a series of close encounters of the sort experienced by Scrooge in Dickens' Christmas Carol. Or perhaps a desire to send an enforcer of large muscles and small words to visit those who include elements in their signature that I do not like. I had neither of these in mind.:)

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 12:46:33*

Language is my enforcer.



*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 12:56:21*

[...] I am responsible for the "Jesus is the reason for the season" message and I was so surprised by [the] harsh response that I haven't been able yet to reply. [...] Forgive me if the happiness that I feel during this joyous season has overflowed into my workday and onto this list. It hasn't hindered my professional duties in any way ... they may have even been more prosperous!

## Subscribe to COLLIB-L

Those of you who feel moved to subscribe to COLLIB-L can do so by sending the following command: "subscribe collib-l Your Name" to "listproc@willamette.edu". If the list gets too much for you, you can quit by sending the following command: "unsubscribe collib-l Your Name" to the same address.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 13:44:43*

... It is all too easy for those of us in the christian majority (lower case 'c' intended to include all those unchurched secular types) ... to blissfully ignore the millions of Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, etc., who live and work with us ... Hence, the attitude that came out of this thread: If you do not \*love\*

Christmas, you must be sub-human ... So, back off, you Christmas lovers. It ain't a sin to feel otherwise.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 13:48:02*

Now CHILDREN! Where is the good spirit? This is relevant to librarians and any other institutions in a Christian society ...

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 14:20:08*

I wonder if the use of the term "Christian society" was meant deliberately to inflame, or was it meant in jest? Membership in one's personal exclusive societies is no indicator of where the rest of the nation, or world, is or belongs.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 14:22:11*

I wonder: Does this list speak only to librarians living in XX's "Christian society?" If so, please unsubscribe me.

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 14:32:11*

Well, I've tried. I sat on my hands, bit my tongue, wrote and deleted my own messages. But, XX's message would not let me be silent. For starters, I want to ask XX why he calls this a "Christian" society? I thought it was an American one ...

*Fri, 15 Dec 1995 14:48:06*

Hey, all this heavy talk is getting to me.

*Sat, 16 Dec 1995 10:34:41*

To the person who wrote: Keep your religious pretension off our list, please: Thank GOD we have the freedom to thank God on this list.

*Sat, 16 Dec 1995 10:58:09*

And thank Horus we have the right to object to your smug assumptions about list members.

*Sat, 16 Dec 1995 11:16:28*

I think we have the framers of the U. S. Constitution to thank for freedom of speech and religion—god had nothing to do with it ... using a list created to discuss college library issues to express one's faith seems a bit over-zealous and inappropriate to me.

*Sat, 16 Dec 1995 14:27:57*

... I will not post on this subject again as I think enough has been said. But I did find some of the discussion on the topic interesting, and a reflection of the struggles we have in this country regarding the difference between private and public religious expression, and the appropriate place of religiously based schools in helping students to understand and integrate their religious traditions into all walks of life.

*Sat, 16 Dec 1995 15:20:08*

... Merry Christmas to all (or should I say best wishes for any year-end/year-beginning observances of a secular or religious or cultural nature that you might observe, and I am quite sure I have offended someone by acknowledging that anyone would ever celebrate anything! I'm thinking that people in libraries are being awfully touchy this December!

*Tue, 19 Dec 1995 09:50:59*

... I maintain that Christmas is NOT a Christian holiday anymore, except for those who choose to celebrate it as such. It's a cultural holiday. In fact, Christmas, even in its religious form, is an adaptation of pre-Christian Winter Solstice holidays ... Happy holidays to all, no matter how you celebrate or don't celebrate them!

*Tue, 19 Dec 1995 10:49:59*

Oh [come on], you can "maintain" all you want. My Jewish and pagan friends wouldn't buy it, although they might feel overwhelmed by your very articulate enthusiasm and not say anything. And as far as Christmas being a cultural celebration in which "everyone" takes part, you're way off base. Jews? Muslims? And what about those African-Americans who have rejected the commercial mess we've made of the season in favor of Kwanzaa? ☐

*"You have not converted  
a man because you have  
silenced him."*

—John Morley

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# Intellectual Freedom and the Oregon Legislature

*Looking back and looking ahead.*

By Nan Heim  
OLA lobbyist

---

Once upon a time, not so long ago, it was a rare occasion when the Oregon Legislature even considered a bill which might seriously threaten intellectual freedom. Occasionally during the '80s, a censorship bill would get scheduled for a hearing. OLA would oppose the bill, and it would invariably die in committee.

Today, those seem like the good old days! In the 1995 session of the Oregon Legislature, dozens of bills threatening intellectual freedom were introduced and seriously considered.

## Legislature passes "Son of 19"

Senate Joint Resolution 41, dubbed the "Son of 19," passed the Legislature in the closing days of the 1995 session. SJR 41 proposes a constitutional amendment nearly identical to Ballot Measure 19 opposed by OLA and defeated by Oregon voters in the November 1994 general election. The "Son of 19" will be on the statewide ballot in November 1996. If it passes, it will allow state and local governments to censor "obscenity" as long as they do not violate the U.S. Constitution.

In testimony, letters and other contacts, OLA opposed SJR 41 and its companion bill, SB 1120, the ballot title for the measure.

"The Oregon Library Association opposes SJR 41 and SB 1120. OLA stands in opposition to any measure that weakens the free speech provisions of the Oregon Constitution. ... SJR 41 and SB 1120 would open the door to more restrictive local definitions of obscenity and would increase materials being challenged. More materials, including classic literature and books on health, would be removed from our libraries. Freedom to read is a basic individual right. We must not deny the citizens of Oregon this fundamental right by allowing the few to decide what the rest can or cannot read."

*From OLA's memo to legislators on  
SJR 41 and SB 1120, June 1, 1996*

## OLA supported Minority Report

There was a battle in the House over SJR 41. Reps. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, and Tony Corcoran, D-Cottage Grove, introduced a Minority Report to limit the effect of the bill to child pornography. OLA supported the Beyer-

Corcoran Minority Report, as did the ACLU.

If there was a definitive vote on freedom of expression in the 1995 Legislature, it was probably the House vote on the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report to SJR 41. If a legislator had any interest in protecting intellectual freedom, he or she could vote for the Minority Report and still be against child pornography. The Minority Report was a "moderate" proposal and should have been a relatively easy vote. But in the 1995 Legislature, there were few easy votes on intellectual freedom. The House defeated the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report by a close vote of 28 'yes' to 32 'no' and then went on to pass the original SJR 41. The measure had already passed the Senate.

SJR 41's companion bill, SB 1120, also passed the Legislature. But Gov. John Kitzhaber vetoed it. He had no opportunity to veto SJR 41 because measures that refer constitutional amendments to voters do not go to the governor for signing. OLA supported the governor's veto of SB 1120. Had it become law, it would have prescribed the language for the ballot title of "Son of 19." With the veto, it is now up to the attorney general's office to write the ballot title and there is hope for more neutral language than what was prescribed in SB 1120.

## Other obscenity legislation in the '95 session

OLA played a role in the Legislature's consideration of other bills related to obscenity in 1995.

One was House Bill 2310, introduced by Rep. Kevin Mannix, D-Salem, to make it a crime to furnish obscene material to minors by electronic means. In February, this bill had a hearing before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. After consulting with OLA's leadership, I presented testimony recommending an exemption for librarians. Actually, we had concerns about the bill itself.

## About the Author

Nan Heim (left) is OLA's lobbyist. Her associates, John Donovan and Jody Fischer also lobby for OLA. Nan has managed an independent government relations firm for the last 15 years, representing such groups as the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology, Oregon Psychological Association and Tri-Met, as well as OLA. Nan is president of the Oregon Capitol Club, the lobbyists' professional association. Jody, an attorney, has lobbied with Nan for the last eight years. John joined them during the 1991 session.



But we wanted to make sure that, if it did pass, librarians would be exempted. The subcommittee agreed to the amendment. During the hearing, however, a number of other problems with the bill surfaced and HB 2310 eventually died.

Rep. Del Parks, R-Klamath Falls, introduced HB 2692, a bill to make it a crime to encourage child sexual abuse. The definition included "knowingly possessing or controlling

any photograph ... or video tape of sexually explicit conduct involving a child for the purpose of arousing or satisfying the sexual desires of the person or another person."

Rep. Parks' bill was considered the moderate alternative to the Constitutional amendment proposed by SJR 41. Our main concern with HB 2692 was making sure that the

See Intellectual Freedom page 15

## House vote on the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report to SJR 41

The House defeated the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report, which would have limited the effect of SJR 41 to child pornography, on June 8, 1995, by a vote of 28 'yes' to 32 'no.' The Senate did not vote on the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report to SJR 41.

### The following representatives voted 'yes,' in support of OLA's position:

Lee Beyer (D-Springfield)	Tony Federici (D-St. Helens)*	Lisa Naito (D-Portland)	Gail Shibley (D-Portland)
Kate Brown (D-Portland)	Avel Gordly (D-Portland)	Del Parks (R-Klamath Falls)	Frank Shields (D-Portland)
Chuck Carpenter (R-Beaverton)	Eldon Johnson (R-Medford)	Kitty Piercy (D-Eugene)	Larry Sowa (D-Oregon City)
Margaret Carter (D-Portland)	Bryan Johnston (D-Salem)	Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene)	Veral Tarno (R-Coquille)
Tony Corcoran (D-Cottage Grove)	Denny Jones (R-Ontario)	Anitra Rasmussen (D-Portland)	Terry Thompson (D-Newport)
George Eighmey (D-Portland)	Tim Josi (D-Tillamook)	Lonnie Roberts (D-Portland)	Judy Uherbelau (D-Ashland)
Mike Fahey (D-Portland)	Mike Lehman (D-Coos Bay)	Barbara Ross (D-Corvallis)	Cynthia Wooten (D-Eugene)

### The following representatives voted 'no':

Ron Adams (R-West Linn)	Leslie Lewis (R-Newberg)	Bob Montgomery (R-Hood River)	Ken Strobeck (R-Beaverton)
Ray Baum (R-LaGrande)	Jane Lokan (R-Milwaukie)	Chuck Norris (R-Hermiston)	Bob Tiernan (R-Lake Oswego)
Tom Brian (R-Tigard)	Dennis Luke (R-Bend)	Carolyn Oakley (R-Albany)	Liz VanLeeuwen (R-Sweet Home)
Bev Clarno (R-Bend)	Lynn Lundquist (R-Baker City)	Eileen Qutub (R-Beaverton)	John Watt (R-Medford)
Peter Courtney (D-Salem)	Kevin Mannix (D-Salem)	Bob Repine (R-Grants Pass)	Larry Wells (R-Jefferson)
Bill Fisher (R-Roseburg)	Bill Markham (R-Riddle)	John Schoon (R-Rickreall)	John Meek (R-Hillsboro)
Jerry Grisham (R-Beavercreek)	Patti Milne (R-Woodburn)	Lynn Snodgrass (R-Boring)	Jim Welsh (R-elmira)
Cedric Hayden (R-Lyons)	John Minnis (R-Troutdale)	Charles Starr (R-Hillsboro)	Sharon Wylie (R-Gresham)

\* now deceased

## House and Senate Votes on SJR 41

### In the House, SJR 41 passed by a vote of 49 'yes' to 11 'no.' The following 11 House members voted 'no,' in support of OLA's position:

Kate Brown (D-Portland)	Tim Josi (D-Tillamook)	Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene)	Gail Shibley (D-Portland)
George Eighmey (D-Portland)	Del Parks (R-Klamath Falls)	Anitra Rasmussen (D-Portland)	Judy Uherbelau (D-Ashland)
Bryan Johnston (D-Salem)	Kitty Piercy (D-Eugene)	Barbara Ross (D-Corvallis)	

### The Senate passed passed SJR 41 by a vote of 19 'yes' to 11 'no.' The following 11 Senators voted 'no,' in support of OLA's position:

Brenda Brecke (D-Coos Bay)	Bill McCoy (D-Portland)	Bill Dwyer (D-Springfield)	Cliff Trow (D-Corvallis)
Randy Leonard (D-Portland)	Ron Cease (D-Portland)	Dick Springer (D-Portland)	Jeannette Hamby (R-Hillsboro)
Stan Bunn (R-Newberg)	Peter Sorenson (D-Eugene)	Shirley Gold (D-Portland)	

### The following senators voted 'yes':

Brady Adams (R-Grants Pass)	Paul Phillips (R-Tigard)	Lenn Hannon (R-Ashland)	Greg Walden (R-Hood River)
John Lim (R-Gresham)	Gene Derfler (R-Salem)	Shirley Stull (R-Keizer)	Bill Kennemer (R-Milwaukie)
Ken Baker (R-Clackamas)	Marylin Shannon (R-Brooks)	Tom Hartung (R-Beaverton)	Mae Yih (D-Albany)
Randy Miller (R-Lake Oswego)	Joan Dukes (D-Astoria)	Gene Timms (R-Burns)	Bob Kintigh (R-Springfield)
Neil Bryant (R-Bend)	Gordon Smith (R-Pendleton)	Rod Johnson (R-Roseburg)	

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# Banned Books, Politics and Ethics:

*a Conversation Between Larry R. Oberg  
and Maresa L. Kirk*

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*Maresa L. Kirk serves as Circulation Services Coordinator at the Hatfield Library, and is one of the many young voices of the profession speaking out in defense of intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. Larry R. Oberg serves as University Librarian for the Mark O. Hatfield Library at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. He has been an outspoken advocate of intellectual freedom and a strong supporter of paraprofessionals in today's academic libraries.*

Today, libraries across the country are under attack from a variety of extremist groups that would ban books that somehow offend their beliefs. In Oregon, librarians and library staff defend their collections, intellectual freedom, and cultural diversity daily against the deeply anti-intellectual Oregon Citizens Alliance, or OCA. Since the founding of the OCA, attempts to ban library books have increased dramatically. The 1994 OCA sponsored anti-gay rights initiative, Measure 13, would have mandated censorship of libraries in the state. This is the story of how one library staff member chose to fight back. It is also a story that illustrates the extraordinary range of initiatives many library support staff undertake and the commitment they demonstrate to the values the profession has long defended.

LRO: Maresa, tell me a little about your background and what brought you to the Mark O. Hatfield Library?

MK: I grew up in Eugene, Oregon, the youngest of two girls. I graduated from the University of Oregon with a B.A., having majored in English and minored in anthropology. After graduation, I really had no idea what I wanted to do, so I took a couple of odd jobs before I stumbled across this one. When I saw the advertisement in the paper, I thought: "I love books and, even though I've never worked in a library, this sounds like something I could do." So, I decided to apply. I came to Salem for the interview and, by the time I got home, there was a message on my answering machine offering me the position of Circulation Services Coordinator.

LRO: Since you came to work in the library, you have shown an exceptional interest in the areas of intellectual freedom, banned books, and the rights of the disabled. What prompted your interest?

MK: Growing up in my family, we were taught and encouraged to speak up, to stand up and speak out, especially if we were witness to something profoundly wrong. We learned to set goals for ourselves and have our own

thoughts and our own opinions instead of letting someone else decide what we were to be and what we were to think. We were also taught to respect other people's ways. My parents were pretty contemporary for their time, I guess! I suppose that this upbringing taught me to respect everyone's rights. This includes the right for people to read, watch, or listen to whatever they wish. We can't make judgements for other people, nor should we. When I began working in the library, I was amazed at the amount of censorship occurring in my own backyard. It was Jan Tudor, a librarian I work with, who first motivated me in my fight against censorship. Jan had learned of my interest and it was she who suggested that I do a display for banned books week. I've never been the same since! My becoming involved with the rights of the disabled came about by having disabled family members and seeing the problems that they and their caretakers have to deal with daily. Things that we take for granted can be quite difficult, if not impossible, for the disabled.

LRO: Most everyone in the country knows by now that Oregon is the home of the OCA, a group that wants to deny civil rights to gays and lesbians. A lot of folks may not know, however, that the OCA's agenda also includes banning books in publicly supported libraries. In fact, the extraordinary growth in the number of challenged books in Oregon libraries in the past few years has paralleled the growth of the OCA. How did this threat to our collections influence you?

MK: I'd say that this threat influenced me strongly! In fact, it has made me fight even harder. It made me want to get involved, to put up displays, bring in speakers and, in short, to do everything I could to defend intellectual freedom. I would say the theme of this year's display came as a result of the political climate in Oregon, this strange



Maresa Kirk stands in front of a banned books display she designed.

need for one group of people to oppress other groups of people. A person doesn't have to be gay to be concerned with what's happening here. The influence the OCA has obtained here in Oregon is frightening, especially when you consider that most of the people out there aren't even aware of what they would be losing if Measure 13, the 1994 OCA-sponsored anti-gay rights initiative, or now the new "Daughter of 13" measure were to pass. The implications are much broader than people know or want to imagine. I want to try and help them see, try to enlighten them on the dangers that threats like these pose to all of us. I think the OCA and its supporters also need to know that there are people out here who don't agree with their discriminatory views. I mean, who are they going to go after next? People of color? Overweight people? Tall people? Where would it all stop?

LRO: One of the things that you have done that I really admire is this year's banned books exhibit that you pretty much single-handedly designed and constructed. It was very well received! Tell me about this exhibit and how it came about.

MK: Thanks! I've done a display twice before this one, and I really wasn't happy with either one of them. For the display this year, I took some of the ideas from the first two (and some library money) and expanded the display using a shadow-graffiti motif. I wanted shadows to represent powerlessness, people making decisions for you because they've decided you aren't able to make them for yourself.

So you're left standing in the shadows watching someone else make those life decisions for you, allowing others to cover your eyes, ears, and emotions. The last part of the display is showing people how they can come out of the shadows and take control. I've included information on how to register to vote, organizations that fight censorship, and encouragement to keep reading, watching, listening to banned materials. I think all of us, knowingly or not, have read at least one book that has been banned, censored, challenged, or expurgated by someone, somewhere. And whether or not we enjoyed the book, at least we learned something from the experience and we were able to decide if it was appropriate for us to read it ... not someone else. The people who worry that their children have access to books that they disapprove of should monitor their own children. They should not expect teachers, librarians, and baby sitters, to be responsible for what their children read. The argument that "I'm too busy" doesn't work. Both my parents worked full time and they were very aware of what my sister and I read, watched, or listened to.

LRO: You also talked me into sponsoring two continuing education workshops on values and ethics for all library staff this past summer. They were expensive to produce, so you must have been convincing! Like a lot of librarians, I guess that I had thought interest in the *Library Bill of Rights* and the other library policy statements on values and ethics was pretty much limited to librarians. Why do you think that they are important to support staff as well?

MK: Well, actually, I was only responsible for one workshop, *Ethics in Academic Libraries*. The other one I just helped organize. However, I do think that these library standards are important to everyone who works in a library and not limited to librarians alone. Support staff are just as likely to encounter ethical dilemmas as anyone else in a library, probably more so if they work in access or public services. We need to have as much information and training as possible to be able to respond effectively and to make the right decisions. When I began working here at Willamette, I wasn't presented with the *Library Bill of Rights* or the *Code of Professional Ethics*, but I was cautioned that we don't release certain pieces of information to patrons, such as who has the book charged out. My first question was why? I mean, I understood the desire for privacy, but it was never explained to me where this policy came from or how it came about. I found the *Library Bill of Rights* at a seminar I went to and then it all made sense: Everything came together. I realized that it wasn't just my library that had this policy! That understanding, that knowledge of the ethics of the profession of librarianship then clicked everything into place and now I am able to answer questions much more clearly, respond to patrons more accurately, and explain why we won't tell them who checked out the book they want. Then, instead of getting angry because they don't get the information they want, they appreciate the protection they are getting.

See Banned Books page 14



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# OLA's Position Paper on the OCA Gay Rights Initiative

*Draft: March 1996*

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**T**he third statewide initiative by the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) to restrict gay civil rights in Oregon is currently being circulated. If 97,000 valid signatures are obtained by the OCA, the initiative will be placed on the November 1996 general election ballot. July 1996 is the deadline for collection of signatures.

## What the Initiative Says

In general, the measure is a rehash of the OCA's earlier proposals, with more of the initial extravagant language toned down. The intent, however, is exactly the same as before: to curtail the civil rights of gays and lesbians, and to establish anti-gay attitudes as public policy in Oregon.

The summary ballot question reads: "Shall constitution forbid basing civil rights on homosexuality, other sexual behaviors, desires; bar spending public funds in way approving homosexuality."

The measure bans minority status on the basis of sexual behavior; maintains opposition to homosexuality is a right of conscience and not discrimination; forbids expenditure of public funds in a manner that has the purpose or effect of approving homosexuality; bans marital status or spousal benefits on the basis of homosexuality; permits award of licenses, permits, services, and benefits to homosexuals; declares a person's private, lawful sexual behavior to be non-job related; and declares that material expressing approval of homosexuality in a public library must pass review under local community standards, and may be available to minors only under parental supervision.

## How the Initiative Would Affect Libraries

If no public funds may be expended that have the purpose or effect of expressing approval of homosexuality, then two points are immediately clear:

- A school, public, or academic library may not acquire any new material that addresses homosexuality in a neutral or approving manner, which would include, of course, reference works and scholarly and research publications in medicine and psychology.
- The test of expressing approval would have to be applied, using local community standards, to all existing library holdings—book by book, article by article.

Keeping a book on a shelf costs money, however small the amount. Spending money, then, on Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" to maintain it on the shelf (utilities, dusting, etc.) would constitute a clear violation of the measure.

That being the case, Oregon libraries would have to purge their collections under the clear direction of Section 1, Sub (1) of the initiative. If, however, a court were to "grandfather" a public library's existing collection, Section 4 would become viable.

Section 4 says that material in public libraries expressing approval of homosexuality must be "kept from minors," with access available only under parental supervision. Even then, such material would have to pass a review process under the test of "local community standards."

Libraries would be confronted with an administrative nightmare:

- The entire collection would have to be inventoried for possible approval of homosexuality.
- Material dealing with homosexuality but passing the scrutiny of review would have to be segregated to keep it from minors.
- Such material would have to be readily available to adults who might wish to preview it or permit their children to see it under their direct supervision.

Under the most sympathetic reading, the OCA initiative is a mish-mash of contradictory and illogical statements. Inventories of existing collections and screenings of acquisitions would impose impossible and costly burdens on libraries, even assuming that rational judgments could be made about whether a given piece of writing expressed approval of homosexuality.

If an item expressed approval of homosexuality, but passed local community standards, how could it be kept in the collection without having public funds expended to maintain it? What kind of a system could possibly be devised that would segregate material that was neutral or approving of homosexuality to keep it from youngsters but yet be available to them and their parents?

## Position of the Oregon Library Association

The Oregon Library Association opposes the OCA initiative from both practical and philosophical standpoints.

The initiative would require public libraries to search their collections for language that might be construed as expressing approval of homosexuality, to screen all potential acquisitions using the same stringent test, and to segregate portions of the collections so that access could be restricted from minors without their parents. Such requirements would be virtually impossible to implement.

Philosophically, the OLA believes that libraries must have diverse collections representing all points of view. In a free society, it is up to individuals to choose among the materials they find on their library shelves, and to take responsibility for the choices of their minor children. It is not the responsibility of government to decide what Oregonians can and cannot read, listen to, or view.

The OLA will oppose this OCA initiative and any other such measures that seek to take away our freedom to select from a diversity of material in our libraries. **Q**

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**H**ow can a piece of legislation be called indecent when it draws a standing ovation from Congress and praise from stand-up comedian Lily Tomlin?

Tomlin's stage character of Ernestine, the telephone operator who took great pride in her prudish upholding of decency on the *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-in Comedy Hour*, was resurrected as part of a media event that accompanied President Clinton's signing of major new telecommunications legislation on Feb. 8, 1996.

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## The Telecommunications Act of 1996: The Indecency of it All!

By Gary M. Klein

Management/Business Economics Librarian  
Mark O. Hatfield Library  
Willamette University

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Lily Tomlin clearly knew that her satiric routine ushered in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. But, did she know that it also ushered in an adjunct piece of legislation that now is casting a cloud over the Internet, academic computing, and libraries?

Less than one day after President Clinton signed the Communication Decency Act of 1996 (CDA), twenty organizations, including the

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Human Rights Watch, the National Writers Union, and the Clarinet Communications Corporation, joined together in filing a lawsuit to challenge it.

Why is this of concern to the Hatfield library? Because, quite simply, we provide our students unlimited Internet access, including access to the very resources that are criminalized under the CDA. Since this legislation makes it illegal for minors to gain access to certain types of electronic resources, librarians could be prosecuted for helping Willamette students.

Furthermore, in its current form, the Communications Decency Act does not define what it terms "patently offensive" nor what it terms "indecent," an omission that lends the bill considerable ambiguity. However, it clearly spells out that almost any electronic transmission of abortion information is automatically declared indecent and subject to prosecution.

Aside from abortion, the CDA does not offer any precise definitions of indecency, nor of what is patently offensive. Yet, the Internet providers are subject to the CDA's provisions if a minor "may" have access to offending materials, regardless of the nature of the student's request.

Thus, if a student under the age of 18 writing a term paper on the ethics of abortion turns to an Internet resource, the Communications Decency Act can suddenly be called into action. The CDA clearly states that people found responsible for violating its restrictions "shall be fined under Title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

Ironically, if this same abortion information were obtained from printed sources, then no crime would have been

committed because those publications are protected by the First, Fourth, Fifth and Ninth Amendments of the United States Constitution. Although abortion is a valid topic for a student to explore, dispensing information on abortion to minors over the Internet has become a crime.

Who ever thought that turning to electronic resources could be a crime? Will libraries and computer laboratories all across the country have to start "carding" their students before connecting them to Internet resources?

The role of libraries and librarians in an academic setting is to help students to find information by whatever means are appropriate and provide resources that students can analyze, digest, and synthesize and from which they can learn. With this new legislation taking effect the minute that President Clinton signed it, however, librarians may have to start censoring their recommendations, otherwise they could land in prison for two years.

New York State's legislators recently signed into law an even stronger bill that criminalizes any electronic transmissions of nudity, whether visual, textual or spoken. Museums are up in arms over the New York bill because it does not offer any provision for artwork, such as a critic's discussion of Marcel DuChamps' *Nude Descending a Staircase*. I wonder how the Vatican would feel if New York's legislation was used to declare the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel indecent because it includes nudity?

How far will legislators go in defining indecency?

And who will police the Internet connections available from the Hatfield library's InfoStations when students start turning their Web browsers to the Vatican's artwork, where anyone in the world can view Michelangelo's artistry? **Q**

*Reprinted from: Moveable Type: The Newsletter of the Mark O. Hatfield Library, Willamette University, v.3, no. 2, Spring, 1996.*

*"Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."*

*—Winston Churchill*

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*From the President*

## Intellectual Freedom: Liberties and Liabilities

by Deborah A. Carver  
Knight Library  
University of Oregon

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**L**ibrarians in Oregon have had numerous opportunities over the years to immerse themselves in intellectual freedom issues. We have experienced the common challenges to individual titles and the general complaints that our library collections lack balance and a spiritual perspective. In addition to these typical situations, Oregon librarians have been thrust into the political arena on issues that affect the public's freedom to read and the library's role to provide access to information. In the past two general elections, we have been faced with ballot measures that would have shackled our role as information providers. During the last few legislative sessions, we have witnessed the introduction of several bills and resolutions clouding the principles of intellectual freedom and first amendment rights. To make matters more complex, new concerns surrounding easy access to Internet resources have escalated the debate over censorship and obscenity. It should be no surprise that our own profession, a long-time champion of intellectual freedom principles, is showing signs of stress and confusion.

Given this set of conditions, it seemed logical to focus on intellectual freedom as this year's presidential theme. As an organization, we have advanced our level of interest, commitment, and understanding of the issues. But the dialog needs to continue. As professionals in the field of information, we must be prepared to fulfill our responsibilities as information providers and to cope with the inevitable conflicts.

Several steps can be taken to make ourselves and our organization stronger and better prepared. First, intellectual freedom issues are everyone's concern. Academic librarians, long sheltered from the usual complaints from parents, must get educated and involved. In the past few years, higher education has become more vulnerable to public scrutiny. Increased accountability is a good thing, but excessive oversight can have its costs. Academic librarians can learn a great deal from their public library colleagues, and greater support from all sectors of the library community will only strengthen our position on intellectual freedom principles.

Second, reacquaint yourself with the *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations. Know what "free access to libraries for minors" means. Read the corollary on access to electronic information, and familiarize yourself on the debatable points within that recent document. The polices of ALA are based on, and consistent with, federal and state constitutional protections as interpreted by the judiciary. And while that fact should provide us with a high comfort level when we refuse to limit access based on age, it will not necessarily help us reach a better understanding with concerned parents who expect us to act *in loco parentis*.

Third, understand the implications of the new telecommunications act and its controversial Exon amendment. Make an attempt to understand the terminology. What do people mean when they use the terms "indecenty," "harmful to minors," "obscenity," and "pornography." There is currently a great deal of fear and uncertainty about the new law and some of the other pieces of legislation that would bear down on Internet providers. Spokespersons for the ACLU have stated that these legislative efforts put "people like teachers and librarians in a situation where they may have to choose not to use the Web at all or to face criminal prosecution." We must understand the potential liabilities, investigate acceptable use policies, talk to our legal advisors, read the cases involving sexual harassment and the Internet, and sponsor workshops to help educate our staffs.

Finally, we need to listen to the opposition. We will never have a full understanding of our own position until we hear the opposing point of view. This is why intellectual freedom is so important to everyone. What happened at the Family Friendly conference in Cincinnati? What are the points of contention within our own ranks? Are there groups in your community or on your college campus that feel disenfranchised by your library's collection? Can their appreciation be raised by building the collection in new areas, rather than limiting access to materials that are of interest to others?

By focusing on intellectual freedom this year, I hope OIA will be better prepared to face the future challenges. One aspect of this issue is certain: The conflict will always be with us. It is not a crusade that will be won and put to rest.

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*"The layman's constitutional view is that what he likes is constitutional and that which he doesn't like is unconstitutional."*

—Hugo L. Black



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## Banned Books

*continued from page 10*

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LRO: I don't know if putting up the Banned Books Week displays and organizing workshops on ethics and values is typical of support staff initiatives around the country or not, but I'll bet that a lot of folks are saying to themselves that they probably wouldn't get the support they need to do these things in their own libraries. What advice to you have for them.

MK: I'd love to know what others are doing! I can't think that I am that atypical. Advice to folks that want to do this and aren't sure if they will be allowed to? Ask! You don't know the answer until you ask. If the answer is no, keep asking. Inform the powers that be about the importance of Banned Books Week and continuing education. Start small if you have to. I only got fifty dollars for the first display and had to borrow the books from bookstores and from staff! For the second year's display, I reused materials from the first. This year, I was able to obtain more money, which was a great help for creative purposes and visual effects. But again, the big help came from people lending materials and giving donations. The text that I wrote or cited was free of cost, and a faculty member donated his time to come and speak free of charge. If you aren't in an academic setting, that doesn't have to stop you. Solicit speakers from your local university or bookstore. You might be lucky and find someone who is willing to speak free of charge. If you can pull it off the first time, chances are the powers that be will have a harder time saying no the second time. With regards to workshops, they can be done with minimal charge to your institution as well. We linked up with one of our local consortia (Valley Link) and split the cost of the two seminars we held over the summer. If that's not an option, formulate a presentation yourself. Run off copies of the *Library Bill of Rights* and the *Code of Professional Ethics*, hand them out to participants, and then discuss them. Set up case studies and ask how, in the light of these policy statements, they would deal with the situation if it were to occur in their library. And go to a workshop yourself and report back on what you learned at your next staff meeting. Additionally, I would ask University Librarians and Library Directors to accept, promote and encourage the enthusiasm paraprofessionals show for their job and work to accommodate requests such as these.

LRO: Maresa, its been great talking to you! My last question is what you plan to do next, both here in the library and your own life?

MK: Thanks, Larry! It has been nice talking with you, too! At this point, I have decided that I would like to go on to graduate school and obtain my MLS. This was a very difficult decision to make because I truly enjoy what I am doing and opportunities for paraprofessionals are growing rapidly and the jobs are becoming more challenging — for example, I now work on the reference desk several

hours a week. However, what I ultimately want to do is be in a position that will allow me to combat censorship more effectively; a position in which I can be more involved than I am currently. To do that, I need to further my education. As for now, I'm already thinking about what to do for next year's Banned Books Week. I also plan to take a class on intellectual freedom at a local college this year as well as attend the Oregon Library Association's annual conference. In short, I'm going to be as involved as I can be and continue to learn as much as I can. **Q**

*Editor's note: The OCA-sponsored Measure 13 was narrowly defeated by voters in November 1994 (51%-49%). In Idaho, a similar measure was defeated by fewer than 4,000 votes. In both states, supporters of these measures vow that they will be back in 1996 to try again.*

*Reprinted from: Library Mosaics, v. 6, no. 4, July/August, 1995.*

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# Intellectual Freedom

*continued from page 8*

librarians' existing statutory exemption on distribution of such materials applied to this bill as well. Rep. Parks made sure that it did. HB 2692 passed both chambers, but it did not stop the Legislature from passing SJR 41.

## **The changing political climate.**

"All in all, the 1995 Legislature was the most perilous session for civil liberties since the late 60s."

*Dave Fidanque  
ACLU lobbyist*

Why was the 1995 Oregon Legislature so different from those in the recent past? The key difference is the political climate and the candidates who are winning elections. In district after district throughout our state, voters are electing candidates who have promised to be "tough" on crime. Few candidates today even address the question of protecting individual liberties.

## **What can you do about all this?**

You can get involved. Get to know your legislators. Attend their town hall meetings. Call OLA's lobbyists at (503) 224-0007 and ask us about their records. For starters, we are including the House vote on the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report and the House and Senate votes on the final passage of SJR 41.

Thank those legislators who have done a good job for intellectual freedom and support them. This year OLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee is giving Champions of Intellectual Freedom awards to legislators who have fought for individual rights. This exciting project will not only give recognition to legislators who deserve it, it will also help inform OLA members who in the Legislature is most concerned about intellectual freedom.

What if your legislator has not done a good job on intellectual freedom or is retiring? Get to know the candidates in your area. Anyone intending to run for the Oregon Legislature for 1997 must file by March 12, 1996. Find out who they are and what they stand for. Organize your colleagues and volunteer for a campaign.

Getting involved politically is not rocket science. It's easy. And it is not off-limits to public employees. In fact, volunteering for a campaign on your own time is your legal right, not to mention your responsibility.

Can you make a difference? Absolutely! With just three more votes in the Oregon House, we could have passed the Beyer-Corcoran Minority Report and effectively taken the life out of SJR 41. That's just three more legislators who would give some priority to freedom of expression.

Maybe we can't bring back the "good old days" when the Legislature barely considered bills threatening intellectual freedom. But we must all stay vigilant in trying to defeat the challenges which have become so common these days.

If we give up, these challenges will surely succeed.

As OLA's lobbyists, we urge you to remember John Kennedy's words on how to have an impact in politics: "Things don't just happen. They are made to happen."

If we want to defeat the challenges to intellectual freedom in our state, we must help make it happen.

Last year, the Oregon Library Association changed the way it communicates with members. We ceased publishing the monthly *Oregon Library News* and created two new publications: *OLA Hotline* and *OLA Quarterly*. The bi-monthly *OLA Hotline* focuses on timely information. Each *OLA Quarterly* has a special focus—such as youth or intellectual freedom—and attempts to deal with issues in a more in-depth manner.

Now that we have experimented with this new publication strategy for more than a year, we want feedback from the membership. Do the new publications work for you? If not, why not? Take a few minutes to answer the following questions and offer your suggestions. The OLA Publications Committee thanks you for your time.

1. I read *OLA Hotline* on a regular basis  
 Yes  
 No.  
If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I would like to receive *OLA Hotline* electronically rather than in print form  
 Yes  
 No
3. I find the information in *OLA Hotline* timely and interesting  
 Yes  
 No
4. The things I like best about *OLA Hotline* are (check as many as apply):  
 Calendar                       Employment  
 Happenings                       Continuing Ed.  
 Association News               Intellectual Freedom Info.  
 People                               Other
5. I read *OLA Quarterly* on a regularly.  
 Yes  
 No
6. My favorite issue of *OLA Quarterly* so far has been:  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The publications are the single most costly item in OLA's budget. Do you feel we need both the *Hotline* and *Quarterly*?  
 Yes  
 No  
If no, how can your information needs be better served? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return by mail or FAX by May 1, 1996 to: **Carolyn Peake**  
**Lake Oswego Public Library**  
**Lake Oswego, OR 97034**  
**FAX: (503) 635-4171**

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