

Intellectual Freedom Task Force Members

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Please join us in taking the
pledge to pass on information
about intellectual freedom to
at least one colleague.

Logo from passitonupdate.wordpress.com

ISLMA SURVEY

In May 2012, one hundred and seventy-two ISLMA members responded to an online survey regarding intellectual freedom issues.

- 51 respondents reported experiencing a formal challenge
- 7 respondents reported the challenge to the ALA
- 53 respondents reported avoiding the purchase of controversial materials in hopes of avoiding a challenge
- 64 respondents reported limiting the availability of controversial materials in hopes of avoiding a challenge

These statistics represent a small group of media specialists. What about our colleagues who are not members of a professional organization? Please help us by educating and supporting them with information about intellectual freedom issues. Will you PASS IT ON?

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA) RESOURCES



ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF)

The home page for the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom offers links to numerous intellectual freedom resources. Contact information is available for OIF staff members. Library media specialists are encouraged to subscribe to the Newsletter for Intellectual Freedom, check the OIF blog, and/or follow OIF on Twitter.

<https://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/index.cfm>

Reporting Challenges: A Quick How To Video

In this short video, Angela Maycok, Assistant Director of the OIF, explains the process for reporting a challenge. She defines a challenge and discusses numerous methods of reporting and the types of support that ALA can provide. She emphasizes that all reporting is anonymous. <http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=3407>

Reporting a Challenge & ALA Public Awareness Campaign, “Defend the Freedom to Read: It’s Every body’s Job”

The OIF relies on newspapers and individuals to report challenges. It is crucial that library media specialists report challenges and bans to support their efforts. To report a challenge, use the link below. Downloadable graphics for the ALA public awareness campaign are on the same page.

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/challengeslibrarymaterials/challengereporting>

Banned Books Week

Library media specialists are encouraged to celebrate Banned Books Week during the last week of September to “highlight the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States.” Suggestions for getting involved can be found at <https://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm>.