

Whose Values? Results of the 2013 Survey of Challenges to Library Resources and Policies in Canada

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The *Annual Challenges Survey* has been conducted on a voluntary basis since 2006 by the Intellectual Freedom Advisory Committee (IFAC), Canadian Library Association (CLA). The purpose is to shed light on challenges to materials, services, and policies that are experienced by publicly funded libraries across Canada in each calendar year, and how they respond to them. A challenge to library resources is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based on an objection by a person or group, in order to prevent or limit access; a challenge is not simply the expression of an opinion about the quality of a work. In the Canadian context, a policy challenge is an attempt to change normal access standards for library resources or services.

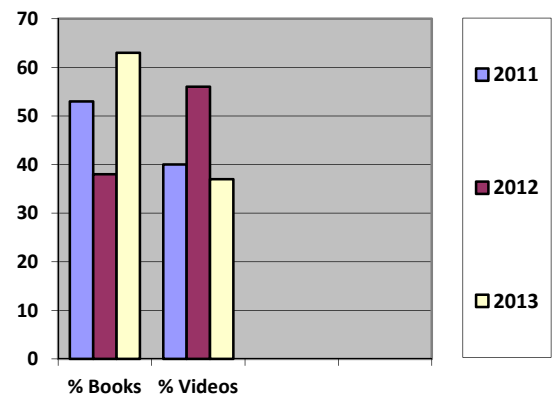
The 85 challenges reported in the 2013 survey occurred in 21 publicly-funded libraries in six provinces; these challenges were prompted by concerns that targeted works contained unacceptable or somehow objectionable content. Complainants typically demanded that titles be removed or restricted, or that changes be made to collection policies or service policies. These 85 instances amount to 4 challenges per reporting library in 2013, ranging from 1 to 10. In 2012, 14 libraries, all public, reported 73 challenges in three provinces, and the year before, 32 libraries, 90% public, reported 101 challenges across six provinces. Because the survey is strictly voluntary, it would be inaccurate to claim trending patterns from these figures as to whether challenges are increasing or decreasing over time.

All of the challenges in 2013 were experienced by public libraries with the exception of one instance in a post-secondary library and another in a K-12 school library. Libraries reporting challenges in the survey served a wide spectrum of municipal populations, from fewer than 20,000 people to more than 1 million. A total of 67 challenges targeted individual library materials and 18 were about library policies related to intellectual freedom and collection management principles. Challenged titles and policies are listed in the Appendix below.

In 2013, for the first time in the eight years of annual surveys, an unprecedented challenge was reported by a British Columbia public library to a “whole genre” of collection holdings. It was the third year in a row that a whole genre had been targeted somewhere in Canada, but this one focused on everything relating to a single individual: all titles published by or about cyclist Lance Armstrong prior to January 2013, when he finally admitted to illegal use of performance-enhancing drugs. Three months before that, as a result of what anti-doping authorities in the U.S. called “the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen,” the 41-year old had been stripped of all seven consecutive *Tour de France* titles and issued a lifetime ban from competition. With more than 30 books and videos implicated, the rationale for the challenge was “inaccuracy.” The same sort of challenge, but to a single title, was also reported on the other side of the country, in an Ontario public library, to a 2007 memoir by 2006 *Tour de France* winner (and doper) Floyd Landis, who was the first cyclist to be disqualified for any reason since 1904.

For the first time in eight years of surveys, too, another category was added to the random array of whole genre challenges previously reported: “all teen first person shooter video games,” on the grounds of “violence, poor use of public funds, and not being educational.” That challenge, in another British Columbia public library, was made via e-mail directly to municipal councillors, rather than through appropriate library channels. A whole genre challenge in 2012 targeted adult horror films with “graphically violent images on their covers,” and in 2011, another challenge singled out “all graphic novels” for explicit sexuality and violence, with specific mention of 16 titles authored or illustrated by Jaime Hernandez in the *Love and Rockets* series. (Whole genre challenges are counted in the survey as library collection policy challenges.)

Many more books than videos were targeted in 2013. Some two-thirds of the 67 challenges to library materials (63%) singled out books, including audiobooks, e-books, comics, mangas, graphic novels, magazines, and language learning kits, while one-third were to videos (37%). The ratio was the reverse of the pattern found in the previous year’s survey, 38% books versus 56% videos, while



in 2011 books accounted for 53% and videos for only 40%.

A surprising finding in 2013 was that challenges to adult titles outnumbered those to children's works, regardless of format, by two to one. Of adult works singled out, more non-fiction than fiction books were challenged: 11 challenges to non-fiction titles and 8 challenges to fiction titles. Adult videos (unrated, 18A, R, NC17, PG or PG13, and 14A or 14+) accounted for 22 challenges. Of children's titles singled out, more picture books were targeted than all other children's works combined. There were 11 challenges to picture books, 3 challenges to non-fiction, 2 challenges to young adult works, and 3 challenges to videos.

Only one series was reported in 2013, a season of six episodes of a television series "Eastbound and Down"; the reasons given were offensive language and having "no redeeming qualities." In 2012, another television series, "Little Britain USA," was challenged, and the previous year four series were targeted: the Jaime Hernandez titles in the *Love and Rockets* series of graphic novels, mentioned above; Philip Pullman's trilogy *His Dark Materials*; one season of four episodes in the ITV series "Trial and Retribution"; and one season of nine episodes of "The War Years," volume 2, in "The Adventures of the Young Indiana Jones" television series. Several other series were reported in earlier surveys: Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy; the *Harry Potter* movie series of seven titles; Charlaine Harris's series of 10 novels entitled *The Southern Vampire Mysteries*, challenged four times in one year in the same library; *Negima! Magister Negi Magi*, by Ken Akamatsu, a manga series of 29 titles known in Japan as *Magical Teacher Negima!*; Cecily von Ziegesar's series of 15 titles, *Gossip Girl*, the inspiration for the "Gossip Girl" teen drama television series; and the Dark Horse manga series of 14 titles based on four of the *Star Wars* movies.

Out of 66 unique titles challenged in 2013, only one was targeted more than once, the 2011 video crime thriller "Killer Joe," directed by William Friedkin and starring Matthew McConaughey and Emile Hirsch, which was challenged twice, in the same Ontario public library. In other survey years, as well, the vast majority of works received only one challenge each, regardless of format and intended audience.

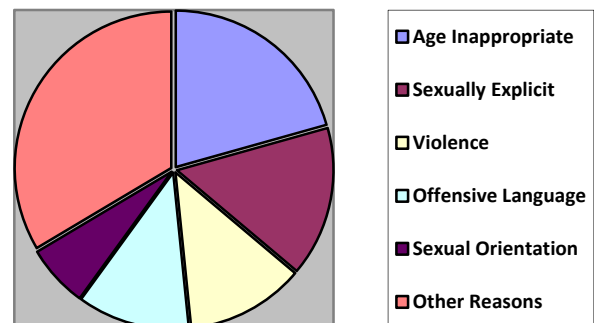
Reasons offered by complainants were almost as varied as the titles they singled out. There were on average some 2 reasons per challenge, whether to individual titles or library policies, similar to the 2012 ratio but lower than the 2.6 reasons on average in 2011. Reasons for challenges were frequently multifaceted. For example, the grounds offered for challenges to the

2002 children’s picture book *Spooky ABC*, by Eve Merriam and Lane Smith, were occult (religious viewpoint), violence, offensive, and being age inappropriate. Questions about the reasons offered for challenges, and the motivations and perceptions behind the reasons, are among the most important features of the annual survey.

Altogether, 155 reasons were given for the 67 challenges in 2013, underscoring the truisms that perception is in the eye of the beholder, and the author writes only half the book – just as the script writer writes only half the movie, the song writer composes only half the music; the painter paints only half the picture; and so on. As Alberto Manguel has observed of the act of reading itself, it is “conducted between the characters and the reader.” And, “We read what we want to read, not what the author wrote.” The author is absent.

An apt example of the reader’s role in interpreting text is the challenge to the 2012 video “ParaNorman,” directed by Chris Butler and Sam Fell, which was challenged for violence and age inappropriateness because of the jokes and themes raised, which were bullying, racism, fear, and violence. The complainant suggested that a more mature audience was appropriate than the PG rating indicated. By contrast, however, movie reviewer Rick Groen wrote that “ParaNorman” was a ghoulishly delightful exercise in stop-motion animation and a very good children’s tale: “But, beware, it’s not for the faint of heart. Kids should exercise extreme caution in only choosing adults mature enough to accompany them. That’s because the directors here are Brits with a wry sense of humour, a Grimm faith in the need of the young to confront the darker corners of their imagination, and a politically incorrect fondness for unpalatable truths” (*Globe and Mail*, August 17, 2012, R1).

While the grounds for challenges were typically multifaceted and complicated, they tended to concentrate into four major subject categories: age inappropriate, mentioned 32 times; sexually explicit, 24 times; violence, 19 times; and offensive language, 18 times. These four reasons accounted for 60% of all challenges. Remarkably, while trending over time is hard to discern in the actual number of challenges per year, these four grounds for challenges have predominated over several years. In the 2012 survey, the same top four reasons appeared in



identical ranking order, while the same four ranked differently in 2011: violence, sexually explicit, age inappropriate, and offensive language.

Ranking fifth in grounds for challenges in 2013 were 10 works about minority sexual orientation, the most in any survey year. One challenge was to *Coming Out of Homosexuality: New Freedom for Men and Women*, by Bob Davies and Lori Rentzel, a 20-year-old book that promoted the discredited religious ideology of ex-gay reparative therapy (“pray-away-the-gay” and marry-the-opposite-sex cure), on the grounds of inaccuracy, insensitivity, and opposition to a discredited theory of mental illness; the library endorsed the complainant’s reasons and removed the item, indicating as well that it would have soon been weeded in any event because of poor use.

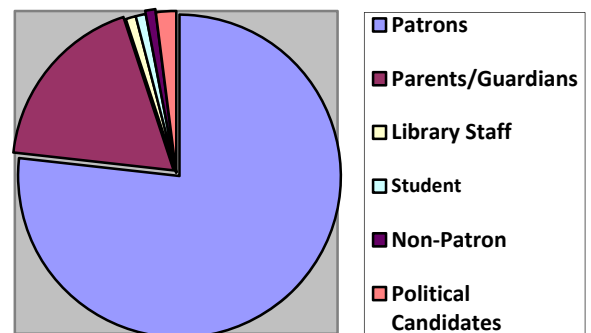
The video “Killer Joe” was challenged for its classification (rating), on the grounds of homosexuality and explicit sexuality; the decision to maintain the current approach prompted two further challenges to the same library’s collection management policies on video ratings. The previous year’s survey also recorded several challenges to a 2009 gay-themed film (2011 video release) entitled “I Love You Phillip Morris,” directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa and starring Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. Two other adult works were also singled out in 2013: *How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets*, by Garth Stein, which the complainant requested be removed from the library’s collection for “gross sexuality” and “alternative sexuality”, as well as for offensive language and being “age inappropriate” for adults, ; and, the e-book *Snowbound in Nowhere*, by Andrew Grey, to which the complainant wanted an “explicit sex” warning label attached, and when that failed, challenged the library’s general collection management policy on not labelling graphic content in adult fiction.

The same-sex children’s picture book *Daddy's Roommate* by Michael Willhoite, published almost 25 years earlier, was challenged on the grounds that the book “presents homosexuality as normal, acceptable and even moral.” Surveys before 2012 also reported frequent challenges to gay-themed books and magazines, notably, *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, challenged four years in a row from 2006 until 2009. *The Sissy Duckling*, by Harvey Fierstein, was challenged in 2011, *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*, by Sarah S. Brannen, in 2010, and *King and King*, by Linda de Haan, and *My Princess Boy*, by Cheryl Kilodavis, in earlier surveys.

Other grounds for complaints in 2013 were 9 for inaccuracy, 7 for nudity, 6 about insensitivity, 5 about sex education, four each for sexism, general offensiveness, and religious viewpoint, including one for a "traditionalist" viewpoint on marriage and another on the history of Halloween as connected with the devil, and not being educational. Three or fewer complaints were reported on the grounds of racism, political viewpoint, anti-ethnicity, child sex abuse, and the occult.

Quite a few challenges in 2013 were reported to much older titles, including the audiobook version of the adult novel *A Kiss Remembered* by Sandra Brown (1983), several children's videos such as "The Best of Dr. Seuss" (2000) with his 1942 story "Horton Hatches the Egg" and "Grimm's Fairy Tales," and a number of children's picture books such as Dr. Seuss's *If I Ran the Zoo* (1950) and *Hop on Pop* (1963), *Alligators All Around: An Alphabet* (1962) by Maurice Sendak, *Daddy's Roommate* (1990) by Michael Willhoite, *Lizzy's Lion* (1984) by Dennis Lee, *What a Truly Cool World* (1997) by Julius Lester, *Spooky ABC* by Eve Merriam and Lane Smith (2002, a revised edition of *Halloween ABC* published in 1987), *Me, Myself, and I: All About Sex and Puberty* (2002) by Louise Spilsbury and illustrated by Mike Gordon, and *Made with Love: How Babies are Made* (2003) by Kate Petty and illustrated by Charlotte Middleton.

Six in ten challenges called for the removal of titles from libraries (52 complaints or 61%). Two of the more unusual challenges included a complainant who singled out the adult fiction title *Styx*, by Sherrilyn Kenyon, for being sexually explicit. The complainant stated, "Repeated sexual and physical abuse of young boy, causing adult psychological trauma. Materials



should be identified as containing explicit child sexual abuse and not a 'paranormal romance'. I have paid replacement cost for the novel and will burn it to save others from being exposed to this material." Another complainant stated that *Deadly Sins*, by Thomas Pynchon, Mary Gordon, Gore Vidal, John Updipke, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Howard, A.S. Byatt, and William Trevor glorified sin: "The book entices and encourages people to actually commit the sins listed in the book, and any book that would encourage and glorify sin does not belong in a Christian's life or anybody else's life."

While these censorious attitudes, and demands for outright banning in many cases, may surprise most Canadians, who take free speech and unfettered access in public institutions for granted, there is a small strata of Canadian society that would like to dictate what reading, viewing, and listening materials their fellow citizens should be able to access through publicly-funded libraries, whether those are public, post-secondary, or school libraries. An informal web-based poll reveals support for these types of censorious attitudes. When the Ottawa Public Library announced it had received 11 challenges to titles in 2013, 10 calling for bans, more than 3% of the over 3,200 poll respondents agreed with all of the requested bans, and another 11% thought at least some of the demands were appropriate (“Ottawa library's 11 requests to remove books, DVDs,” CBC News, May 3, 2014, cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-library-s-11-requests-to-remove-books-dvds-1.2629981).

While most library users do not give censorship a second thought, it is worthwhile for all of us to keep in mind a slogan popularized by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the British Columbia Library Association some years ago: *There's something in my library to offend everybody*. What this conveys is that in each of us is a core belief system that can eventually be offended, given enough time and enough provocation.

One in four complainants (22) requested relocation, reclassification, or a change in video ratings and locations. Six requested warning labels. One complaint was about misleading artwork on a video cover, suggesting it be changed, which the library accommodated.

In the area of policy challenges, 14 of the 18 were linked to previously unsuccessful attempts to have items removed from collections outright. Alternatively, a few complainants wanted to have age-based lending conditions imposed for books, graphic novels, or videos; to have video ratings made more restrictive and shelf locations changed; or to have content warning labels attached to materials. The inclusion of questions about challenges affecting intellectual freedom in relation to library resources and services is a unique feature adopted in the Canadian survey in 2007.

Careful reviews by library staff resulted in no change to the status of materials or policies in some nine out of ten instances (87%), including the demand for a ban on teen “first person shooter video games.” In the Armstrong whole genre collection policy challenge, four titles were removed out of some 30 or more. Two were adult books likely to be of little further interest, because they prescribed success measures at odds with Armstrong's doping admission, and two

were aspirational youth books, one highlighting sports role-models for children and another focusing on the qualities of his formerly inspiring achievement. In the Landis challenge, after much consideration, the library decided to retain the title “as it provides a version of events at a certain point in time” regarding Landis’ role and might be useful in tracing the history of denials and cover-ups.

One challenge was to a library’s room rental policy and sought to prohibit a controversial anti-transgender speaker from giving a talk, and another was to a public library’s election materials display, which included election promises that two candidates apparently had wanted to rescind. Neither demand was accommodated.

Five titles were reclassified and relocated, and one video policy challenge of works rated PG, which was linked to the individually challenged “Hey, Hey, It’s Esther Blueburger,” leading to its relocation from the children’s collection to the adult collection. The result of one challenge, to the misleading cover of the “Grimm's Fairy Tales” video was to replace the artwork. In another, a “mature content” label was added to the adult French erotic novel *Vers Chez Les Blancs* by Philippe Dijan. In one other instance, a postsecondary library restricted access to a magazine title. Two titles were removed outright, one from a public library, the already mentioned *Coming Out of Homosexuality*, and the other from a K-12 school library, the graphic novel *The Walking Dead*, which had a 17+ reading level designation. As was the case with previous surveys, most challenges were resolved quickly, even the same day or generally within a month. Some libraries have time limits on challenge decisions and communications back to a complainant.

Professional core values, together with library missions and policies, particularly collection development criteria for selecting materials for acquisition, require a fine balance be struck between respect for complainants’ views and respect for library intellectual freedom principles and the reading public’s right to access constitutionally protected materials and information. It goes without saying that these two, sometimes competing, interests will create persistent tensions. As Marie DeYoung, CLA President and University Librarian at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, commented,

“One of the cornerstones of our profession is the strong commitment to ensuring material is available without censure. This survey affirms our responsibility to

support libraries as they provide Canadians with the opportunity to access the widest possible range of materials. It also validates the role of effective and informed advocacy by librarians and libraries. Thank you to the Committee for producing the report and to everyone who stood up to censorship, in all its manifestations.”

The *Annual Challenges Survey* is a voluntary survey sponsored by the CLA, so readers are cautioned that the self-reports described here represent a subset of challenges that occur. In fact, the American Library Association (ALA) has estimated that there may be as many as 4 or 5 unreported challenges for every challenge that is reported to them (“Frequently Challenged Books,” Office for Intellectual Freedom, on ALA’s website, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged>; <http://librarianinblack.net/librarianinblack/2011/03/bookchallenges.html>). This under-reportage phenomenon is thought to be greater in Canada.

The bilingual *Annual Challenges Survey* is now in its eighth year, inspired by two precursors, the Edmonton Public Library’s challenged materials spreadsheet, and the confidential database maintained since 1990 by the ALA, whose online challenge reporting form can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/challengeslibrarymaterials/challengereporting/onlinechallengeform/index.cfm>.

The goals of CLA’s *Annual Challenges Survey* are to document objections to materials and policies in publicly-funded Canadian libraries, in order to educate the Canadian public about library collection management principles; to inform the Association’s policy and advocacy work for intellectual freedom; and, to help library staff deal in a professional manner with difficult issues surrounding uncensored library access. It is important to be able to share information and learning with all Canadians, as well as with professional colleagues, on how challenges are handled and resolved, particularly those instances in which materials are withdrawn from library collections and those policies impacting library intellectual freedom are revised. The *Survey* also provides an opportunity for libraries to demonstrate their commitment to accountability to their users, stakeholders, elected officials, and the general public.

The Committee encourages all librarians and library administrators in all publicly funded library sectors to contribute data to future surveys when they experience resource or policy challenges. Only one school library participated in the 2013 survey, and it is hard to believe that in all of the 14,000 or so school libraries in Canada, only one challenge occurred across the entire country in a calendar year. Many large urban public libraries also do not contribute data, even though it is likely that at least some of them experience challenges on a fairly regular basis. As examples of public accountability and institutional transparency, Committee Convenor Alvin Schrader strongly endorses the release by local libraries of an annual report of the collection challenges they receive. In 2013, three institutions are known to have done so, Toronto Public Library, Ottawa Public Library and Edmonton Public Library (“Toronto library asked to ban 'violent' Dr. Seuss book Hop on Pop,” by Lauren O'Neil, CBC Community Blog, April 30, 2014, cbc.ca/newsblogs/yourcommunity/2014/04/toronto-library-asked-to-ban-violent-dr-seuss-book-hop-on-pop.html); “Ottawa library's 11 requests to remove books, DVDs,” CBC News, May 3, 2014, cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-library-s-11-requests-to-remove-books-dvds-1.2629981); “Edmonton library deals with regular challenges to pull items from shelves,” by Ryan Tumilty, *MetroNews*, March 6, 2014, <http://metronews.ca/news/edmonton/964475/edmonton-library-deals-with-regular-challenges-to-pull-items-from-shelves>).

The Committee reiterates, as we have in previous reports, that local institutions are not identified in any way in our reports or publicly accessible documents, following a 2011 CLA Executive Council policy endorsement of confidentiality of identifying data about institutions and municipalities. Identifying data are collected only for statistical purposes, verification of authenticity, and follow-up with reporting agencies when needed. Permissible geographic and jurisdictional disclosures are as follows: province or territory; type of institution (school, post-secondary, public, etc.); and type of complainant.

As in previous years, survey results are widely shared with the Canadian public, CLA membership, other library workers and advocates, the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council, its annual *Freedom to Read Week Kit*, the Office of Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association (ALA OIF), and the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA FAIFE).

Public access is available free of charge on the CLA website to the complete set of annual databases of challenged titles and policies, together with annual reports summarizing the results of the surveys

www.cla.ca/source/members/committeelist.cfm?committee=IF&Section=Committees). Further inquiries about the annual survey may be directed to Alvin M. Schrader, currently CLA/IFAC Convenor, at alvin.schrader@ualberta.ca.

** Alvin M. Schrader and Donna Bowman are colleagues on the Canadian Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Advisory Committee. Thanks to several Committee members for helpful comments on an earlier version of this report, as well as to Sandra Anderson, editor extraordinaire and Librarian for the Alberta Teachers' Association. An abbreviated version of this report is available under the title "Fine Balances and Persistent Tensions," published in the 2015 Freedom to Read Week Kit by the Book and Periodical Council.*

**List of Challenges to Resources and Policies
Reported by Publicly-Funded Canadian Libraries, 2013**

Challenges are listed alphabetically, categorized by number of challenges per item. Note that slightly corrected bibliographic data are recorded here from what was originally supplied by library officials who contributed to the 2013 Survey.

Series – 1 challenge:

“Eastbound and Down,” DVD (TV series of 6 episodes, first season)
- reasons: offensive language [No redeeming qualities.] [NS]

Individual items – 2 challenges each:

“Killer Joe,” DVD, directed by William Friedkin, starring Matthew McConaughey and Emile Hirsch
- reasons: sexually explicit, homosexuality [Change DVD rating.] [ON]

Individual items – 1 challenge each:

100% Me, by Elinor Greenwood

- reasons: sex education, sexually explicit, age inappropriate [BC]

Alligators All Around: An Alphabet, by Maurice Sendak

- reasons: racism [The book contains racist caricatures of Indigenous peoples under the 'I' section. It also reads 'Imitating Indians'.] [BC]

Allure magazine (December 2012 issue)

- reasons: nudity, sexism, age inappropriate [Do I see any nude males covers with testicles exposed? No! Are they (publishers) selling ideas or exploiting images of women? Sexism in body nudity in public domains! Seriously consider pre-adult exposure to the covers.] [AB]

“Andrei Rublev,” DVD, directed by Andrei Tarkovsky, starring Anatoly Solonitsyn and Ivan Lapikov

- reasons: violence [3 scenes of extreme cruelty to horses. Add an explicit warning as to content.] [BC]

“The Aristocrats” DVD, directed by Paul Provenza, starring George Carlin and Don Rickles.

- reasons: offensive language, violence, sexually explicit [The 'joke' in this movie explicitly discusses: incest, sodomy, pedophilia, bestiality, etc. and describes itself as 'unspeakable obscenity'. Provide a warning.] [BC]

“The Best of Dr. Seuss,” DVD, directed by Chuck Jones

- reasons: violence; age inappropriate [A fish shoots himself in the head in “Horton Hatches the Egg.”] [AB]

Coming Out of Homosexuality: New Freedom for Men and Women, by Bob Davies and Lori Rentzel

- reasons: inaccuracy, insensitivity, homosexuality [Promotes the view that homosexuality was an illness and espoused a discredited theory that it could be 'cured' by prayer and marriage.] [BC]

Complete Hindi, language learning kit, by Rupert Snell

- reasons: inaccuracy [Many grammatical inaccuracies and suggests that Hindi and Urdu are paired languages.] [ON]

“Compliance,” DVD, directed by Craig Zobel, starring Ann Dowd, Dreama Walker, and Pat Healy

- reasons: nudity, age inappropriate [Change the rating.] [ON]

Daddy's Roommate, by Michael Willhoite

- reasons: homosexuality, age inappropriate [Book presents homosexuality as normal, acceptable and even moral.] [ON]

“Darwin: The Voyage That Shook the World,” directed by Steve Murray

- reasons: inaccuracy [Claims Darwin was not organized. You can hold whatever opinion you like but you cannot alter the facts to suit your opinion.] [BC]

Deadly Sins, by Thomas Pynchon, Mary Gordon, Gore Vidal, John Updipke, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Howard, A.S. Byatt, and William Trevor

- reasons: glorifies sin [The book entices and encourages people to actually commit the sins listed in the book, and any book that would encourage and glorify sin does not belong in a Christian's life or anybody else's life.] [AB]

Docteur Dog, by Babette Cole

- reasons: age inappropriate [Smoking, teen smoking, including pictures; scratching private areas to describe taking care of one's health, including picture/illustration; bathroom humour, could be objectionable. Remove or add a label.] [BC]

“An Easter Bunny Puppy,” DVD, directed by David DeCoteau (as Mary Crawford)

- reasons: age inappropriate [Reference to murder within the first three minutes. Reference to Ancient Egyptian fertility rites at about 30-minute mark. Funny for adults, not 3-7 year olds. It's a narrative of nothing that has to do with the title. Just move to adult section and mark PG, not G rating.] [AB]

The Facts on Halloween, by John Ankerberg, John Weldon, and Dillon Burroughs

- reasons: religious viewpoint [Library staff member objected to the history of Halloween as connected with the devil, alleging it demonstrated a pro-religious bias.] [ON]

“Fantastic Mr. Fox,” DVD, directed by Wes Anderson, based on a novel by Roald Dahl, starring George Clooney, Meryl Streep, and Bill Murray (2009)

- reasons: violence, offensive language, age inappropriate [Included guns and offensive language, not appropriate for children age 6.] [BC]

“The Favourite Game” (aka “Le Jeu de L'ange”), DVD, directed by Bernar Hébert, adapted from Leonard Cohen's first novel

- reasons: nudity [ON]

Fifty Mighty Men, by Grant MacEwan

- reasons: insensitivity, racism [AB]

“Grimm's Fairy Tales,” DVD [4 classic tales]

- reasons: violence, age inappropriate [Replace misleading DVD cover illustrations depicting violent actions.] [AB]

GQ magazine (December 2012 issue)

- reasons: nudity, sexism, age inappropriate [Do I see any nude males covers with testicles exposed? No! Are they (publishers) selling ideas or exploiting images of women? Sexism in body nudity in public domains! Seriously consider pre-adult exposure to the covers.] [AB]

Head to Toe Guide to You, by Sarah Wassner Flynn

- reasons: sex education, sexually explicit, age inappropriate [BC]

“Hey, Hey It's Esther Blueburger,” DVD, directed by Cathy Randall

- reasons: age inappropriate [Too mature for children’s section – Ontario Film Review Board rating was PG, Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13.] [ON]

Hop on Pop, by Dr. Seuss

- reasons: violence [Children hop on their father, are encouraged to use wanton violence against their fathers.] [ON]

"Hope Springs," DVD, directed by David Frankel, starring Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, and Steve Carell

- reasons: sexually explicit, offensive, age inappropriate, not educational [Far too much sexual content for a 14+ rating; and was a comedy about an older couple.] [BC]

How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets, by Garth Stein

- reasons: homosexuality [‘alternative sexuality’], sexually explicit [‘gross sexuality’], offensive language, age inappropriate [AB]

If I Ran the Zoo, by Dr. Zeuss

- reasons: racism [BC]

In the Shadow of the Glacier, by Vicki Delaney

- reasons: inaccuracy [Incorrectly named areas (e.g., ‘Grey Point’ for Point Grey) and printing errors.] [BC]

It's a Book, by Lane Smith

- reasons: age inappropriate, offensive language [A children's book with the last line, 'It's a book, jackass' is not appropriate for 2-6 year olds. I don't want my 6-year-old to repeat that line at school and get a detention. The concept and the rest of the language is adorable, funny, and appropriate, but the subversive twist at the end makes it a picture book for grown-ups.] [AB]

Je déteste l'école, by Jeanne Willis

- reasons: age inappropriate [Illustrations scared grade 4 child (and patron herself).] [ON]

Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot, by Bill O'Reilly

- reasons: inaccuracy [Book contains falsehoods because it concludes Kennedy was killed by Oswald alone and not through a conspiracy.] [ON]

A Kiss Remembered (audiobook), by Sandra Brown

- reasons: sexism, sexually explicit [Book is obscene and offends current sexual morality.] [ON]

Lizzy's Lion, by Dennis Lee

- reasons: violence [Patron was upset to find a violent and disturbing book in a children's library which is a ‘safe place’.] [ON]

Made with Love: How Babies are Made, by Kate Petty, illustrated by Charlotte Middleton

- reasons: age inappropriate, sex education [Relocate to parenting collection.] [SK]

Me, Myself, and I: All About Sex and Puberty, by Louise Spilsbury, illustrated by Mike Gordon

- reasons: sex education, sexually explicit, age inappropriate [BC]

“The Muppets' Wizard of Oz,” DVD (TV), directed by Kirk R. Thatcher

- reasons: age inappropriate [Opening scene is graphic depiction of a house being destroyed and sucked up by a tornado and then dropped.] [AB]

The Natural Family: A Manifesto, by Allan Carlson and Paul T. Mero

- reasons: religious viewpoint, insensitivity [ON]

Never Fück Up, by Jens Lapidus

- reasons: offensive language [Title "Never f*ck up" with asterisk is blatant and offensive.] [AB]
- “ParaNorman,” DVD, directed by Chris Butler and Sam Fell
 - reasons: violence, age inappropriate [Jokes and themes raised (bullying, racism, fear, violence) for a more mature audience than PG rating.] [MN]
- Positively False: The Real Story of How I Won the Tour de France*, by Floyd Landis
 - reasons: inaccuracy [Written by Landis to refute doping charges but he later recanted, rendering the information in the book out-of-date and inaccurate.] [ON]
- Puberty Girl*, by Shushann Movsessian
 - reasons: sex education, sexually explicit, age inappropriate [BC]
- “Red State,” DVD, directed by Kevin Smith, starring Melissa Leo and John Goodman
 - reasons: offensive language, violence, sexually explicit [Perhaps any new DVD with an 'R' rating should be checked before being processed and added to the collection.] [BC]
- Rolling Stone* magazine (August 2013 issue, cover image of Boston Marathon bomber)
 - reasons: insensitivity [To idealize this man, this bomber, who blew people up is an affront to the people of Boston and all humane people of the world.] [BC]
- “Shame,” DVD, directed by Steve McQueen, starring Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan
 - reasons: nudity, sexually explicit [ON]
- The Skin Map* [part of a series], by Steven Lawhead
 - reasons: religious viewpoint [Relocate because nothing in the book earned the designation of a Christian fiction sticker.] [SK]
- Small Steps* (audiobook), by Louis Sachar
 - reasons: age inappropriate, violence [Objection to detailed section about attempted murder of a young girl. Relocate from junior to teen collection.] [BC]
- Snowbound in Nowhere*, e-book, by Andrew Grey
 - reasons: homosexuality, sexually explicit [Attach a label warning of explicit sex.] [ON]
- Spooky ABC*, by Eve Merriam and Lane Smith
 - reasons: occult, violence, age inappropriate, religious viewpoint, offensive [Violence and mention of Devil were found to be offensive. Letters ‘D’ and ‘I’ poems not very appropriate for kids to read, and quite honestly the whole book was not ok to read to a child of any age really. I don't know if it would be useful to another child. Many other alphabet books available. This one just seemed bad all across the board.] [BC]
- Styx*, by Sherrilyn Kenyon
 - reasons: sexually explicit [Repeated sexual and physical abuse of young boy, causing adult psychological trauma. Materials should be identified as containing explicit child sexual abuse and not a 'paranormal romance'. I have paid replacement cost for the novel and will burn it to save others from being exposed to this material.] [AB]
- Teach Yourself Gulf Arabic* [language learning kit], by Jack Smart and Frances Altorfer.
 - reasons: inaccuracy, offensive [Title and term Arabian Gulf are incorrect – should be Persian Arabic and Persian Gulf.] [AB]
- “That's My Boy,” DVD, starring Adam Sandler and Vanilla Ice
 - reasons: sexually explicit [Humourous treatment of teacher having sex with underage student is an expression of sick and illegal behaviour which is not acceptable in our society. The patron watched only the first ten minutes of the film.] [ON]
- The Untold Story of Milk*, by Ron Schmid
 - reasons: inaccuracy [Incorrect scientific information about raw vs. pasteurized milk.] [BC]

Vers Chez Les Blancs, by Philippe Dijan

- reasons: sexually explicit [Just pornography.] [BC]

The Walking Dead [part of a comic book series], by Robert Kirkman, Tony Moore, and Charlie Adlard]

- reasons: violence, offensive language [profanity], age inappropriate for K-12 school [rated 17+ book] [AB]

The Way I Am, by Eminem

- reasons: nudity, sexually explicit, not educational [Rude and inappropriate because book contained pictures of "half-naked girls dancing on a pole topless. I think libraries should have friendly pictures and not inappropriate pictures. Sexual photos are just improper for readers to see.] [BC]

What a Truly Cool World, by Julius Lester

- reasons: anti-ethnicity, offensive language [Poor grammar and 'stereotypical' black language in portraying African Americans.] [ON]

What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense, by Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson, Robert P. George

- reasons: religious viewpoint, insensitivity [Written from a 'traditionalist' viewpoint.] [ON]

"World's Greatest Dad," DVD, directed by Bobcat Goldthwait, starring Robin Williams

- reasons: sexually explicit offensive language [Sexually suggestive situations (masturbation) and cursing.] [ON]

Unnamed magazine

- reasons: sexism [NS]

Unnamed title of Arabic book on history and geography

- reasons: religious viewpoint, political viewpoint [ON]

Policy challenges:

Collection management policy in a BC public library relating to all titles about or by cyclist

Lance Armstrong prior to January 2013 when he confessed publicly to doping, following the US anti-doping agency's decision in August 2012 to strip him of all his Tour de France titles for dishonesty, amounting to some 30+ books and DVDs

Collection management policy in a BC public library relating to all teen "first person shooter video games" on the grounds they are not educational and do not support curriculum

Display policy in an Alberta public library relating to candidate election materials, such as brochures, business cards, and a slide show with key election promises, claiming the display might be prohibited under the City's election bylaw and requesting election materials be destroyed

Library rental room policy in a BC public library sparked by a speaker's negative statements about transgendered people and legalization of prostitution, demanding the speaker be banned.

Policy in an Ontario public library of failing to add a warning label to books containing graphic content and explicit sex – linked to individually challenged e-book *Snowbound in Nowhere*

Policy in a BC public library of showing a PG video in the children's summer programming – linked to individually challenged video "Fantastic Mr. Fox"

Policy challenged seven times in four Ontario and BC public libraries of appropriate video classification, failing to review content, or failing to add an explicit warning label to R rated videos, 18A videos, or other adult videos, but just following the Motion Picture Association of

America or the Canadian Motion Picture Association ratings – linked to individually challenged videos “The Aristocrats,” “Red State,” “Andrei Rublev,” “Compliance,” “Hope Springs,” and “Killer Joe” (challenged twice)

Policy in an Ontario public library of using Ontario Film Board video ratings for DVDs instead of ratings by the Motion Picture Association of America – linked to individually challenged video “Hey, Hey, It’s Esther Blueburger”

Policy in a Manitoba public library of following official video ratings for classification and shelving instead of recognizing that a PG rating indicated a more mature audience – linked to individually challenged video “ParaNorman”

Policy challenged three times in two Alberta public libraries of video classification and shelf location – linked to individually challenged videos “Easter Bunny Puppy,” located in the J (juvenile) section for 8-12 year olds, “The Muppets’ Wizard of Oz,” noting the Motion Picture Association of America rated it as TV-PG while the library placed it in the J (Juvenile) section for 8-12 year olds, and “The Best of Dr. Seuss”

List of Challenges to Resources and Policies Reported by Publicly-Funded Canadian Libraries, 2013

Material type	Bibliographic Info/Policy title	Reason and reason details	Who made complaint?	Type of Library	Final response and details	P r / T	Date of challenge & resolution
1 Film/DVD, Children's	"The Best of Dr. Seuss" (2000)	Violence [Age inappropriate] There is a scene in an episode of "Horton Hatches the Egg" [original children's picture book published 1942] where a fish shoots himself in the head. The challenger found this violence unacceptable in a children's film.	Parent/guardian	Public	Material retained Head Librarian watched and researched the movie and after discussion with the library board a letter was sent including the following explanation: The cartoon "Horton Hatches the Egg" dates from 1942. At the time Peter Lorre was a well-known Hungarian-American actor who frequently played film roles as a sinister foreigner. Lorre's distinctive accent and large-eyes were frequently characterized by cartoonists at the time and the sinister fish in Horton is reputed to be a Peter Lorre caricature. It is not uncommon, even today, for adult humour to be incorporated into children's cartoons and movies. More recent examples include a scene in Toy Story (1995) when the Mr. Potato Head character has the Etch a sketch draw a hangman's noose to hint to the character Woody that he intends to hang him. Many other popular children's programs such as SpongeBob SquarePants and Shrek contain numerous instances of sexual innuendo. With the passage of time, the adult-targeted humorous reference of the Horton episode has seemingly lost relevance and, without a contextual understanding, may be rather surprising to today's viewer. The Board of the [...] Library is committed to upholding the following Statement of Intellectual Freedom as adopted by Canadian Library Association: ...2 Every person in Canada has the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity and to express their thoughts publicly. The right to intellectual freedom under the law is essential to the health and development of Canadian society. Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom. It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular, or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials. It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them. Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups. Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles. In keeping with this policy, we respect your right as an individual and as a parent to make choices about what books to read and what movies to view. After careful consideration of your request the Board of the [...] Public Library has concluded that "The Best of Dr. Seuss" meets the requirements of our Materials Selection Policy and should be retained in our collection.	A B	July 2013; resolved September 2013
2 Book/	How Evan	Homosexuality	[Patron	Public	Material retained		October

	Textbook, adult fiction	Broke His Head and Other Secrets, by Garth Stein (2005)	Sexually explicit Offensive language Age inappropriate Patron felt the title was age inappropriate, citing "gross sexuality", "alternative sexuality" (I assumed this to mean "homosexuality," and "profanity," as reasons.	J Non-library member left note on librarian's desk			A B	2013
3 4 5 6 7 8	Film/DVD – a 6-part TV series – adult unrated	"Eastbound and Down" (first season 2009)	Offensive language Patron had borrowed and viewed DVD at home. Patron indicated her concern about the DVD to a staff member at the Library, and questioned if it should be in the collection. Stated DVD had no redeeming qualities and poor choice for library collection.	Patron	Public	Material retained Librarian responsible for AV collections contacted patron to explain the criteria used for selecting the item (reviews, etc.).	N S	January 2013; resolved within a few days
9	Graphic novel/ Comic/ Manga	The Walking Dead graphic novel [part of series]	Violence Offensive language Age inappropriate The material was challenged on the abundance of violence, profanity and it is rated a 17+ book The parent brought the book to the attention of the administration asking that it be pulled	Parent/guardian	K-12 school	Material removed As the material is clearly labeled 17+, it was deemed inappropriate for a Jr. high library	A B	spring of 2013; resolved in about a week
1 0	Book/ Textbook, adult non-fiction	Fifty Mighty Men, by Grant MacEwan (1958)	Insensitivity Racism	Patron	Public	Material retained The Library wrote to the customer explaining the historical significance of both the book and the author to [...municipality] and Alberta. The Library referred the customer to its Materials Selection Policy and to CLA's statement on intellectual freedom.	A B	March 2013; resolved March 13, 2013
1 1	Film/DVD rated R in U.S., 14A in Canada	"World's Greatest Dad," produced by Tim Perrell et al., 2009	Sexually explicit Offensive language Submitted via email: film is offensive and contains sexually suggestive situations (masturbation) and cursing.	Patron	Public	Material retained Meets library's selection criteria: Film rating is 14A, peer-reviews are very positive (97% approval), material has circulated widely without complaint.	O N	June 27, 2013; resolved July 3, 2013
1 2	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book	Daddy's Roommate, by Michael Willhoite (1990)	Homosexuality Age inappropriate Book presents homosexuality as normal, acceptable and even moral.	Patron	Public	Material retained Book fits collection profile, selection criteria and accords with Collections Management policy.	O N	October 5, 2013; resolved October 9, 2013
1 3	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book; juvenile non-fiction	Made with Love: How Babies are Made, by Kate Petty, illustrated by Charlotte Middleton Macmillan,	[Age inappropriate] [Sex education] The patron felt that the book should be in the parenting collection rather than in the children's section because of its content. The patron did not ask for the book to be removed from the library. The patron spoke to a staff member about the book and did not fill out a request for reconsideration form	Patron	Public	Material retained Because the book was a children's book, rather than a story, the library felt that the juvenile non-fiction was an appropriate place for the book.	S K	February 7, 2013; letter was sent on June 13. The library had misplaced the

		2003	The patron felt that because of the content, the book should not be in the juvenile collection.				reconsideration.
1 4	Book/ Textbook [part of a series]; adult fiction	The Skin Map, by Steven Lawhead	[Religious viewpoint] The patron felt that the book should not have received a Christian fiction sticker as he felt that there was nothing in the book that earned that designation.	Patron	Public	Material retained Although the book has a science fiction flavour, the author is considered a Christian author and it was decided to retain the book in the Christian fiction section	S K early June 2013; resolved June 13, 2014
1 5	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book, fiction (early reader)	Je déteste l'école, by Jeanne Willis	Age inappropriate Patron was a parent who felt that the illustrations on the book were scary and age inappropriate. No further details given. Parent wrote that the pictures in the book scared and upset her son (and herself). The son was in Gr. 4 in a Fr. Immersion program, and they had borrowed the book to practise his Fr. reading. No specific details were provided regarding how the pictures scared her son or what they depicted.	Parent/ guardian	Public	Material retained Collection Development staff read and discussed the book in question. They consulted professional reviews and checked the holdings of other libraries in Canada. Reviews described the art depicting hairy monsters as "the perfect accompaniment to the exaggerated humor of the text". Library staff decided that the book was appropriate in the Early Reader collection (for Gr. 1-3) and a letter was sent to the complainant explaining the decision to retain the book.	O N Jan. 24, 2013; resolved March 15, 2013
1 6	PG Film/DVD	"Hey, Hey, It's Esther Blueburger" directed by Cathy Randall (2008)	Age inappropriate Patron felt the storyline was too mature for the children's section. This film was given a PG rating by the Ontario Film Review Board. The Motion Picture Association of America gave it a PG-13 rating. The parent saw this latter rating on the cover and felt that that should preclude it from being in the children's collection. Patron felt the storyline was too mature for the children's collection. This DVD depicts a girl who escapes from her Bat Mitzvah party and becomes friends with a "cool" girl whose lifestyle is attractive to Esther Blueburger. She leaves her family to spend time with her new friend, her friend's single parent family, and attend her public school.	Parent/ guardian	Public	Material relocated/reclassified It was decided that since some of the material in this film was geared towards a more mature audience, we would move the film from the Children's collection to the Adult collection. The differences between the Ontario Film Review Board ratings and the US ratings may be looked at in more depth in 2014.	O N Jan. 2013; resolved Jan. 21, 2013
1 7	Book/ Textbook; adult non-fiction	Deadly Sins, 8 essays by Thomas Pynchon, Mary Gordon, Gore Vidal, John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Howard, A.S. Byatt, and William Trevor (1994)	[Glorifies sin] The book entices and encourages people to actually commit the sins listed in the book, and that any book that would encourage and glorify sin does not belong in a Christian's life or anybody else's life.	Patron	Public	Material retained Deadly Sins is a collection of eight essays written by some of the best contemporary writers, including Thomas Pynchon, Mary Gordon, Gore Vidal, John Updike and Joyce Carol Oates, which were originally published in the New York Times Book Review during the summer of 1993. Each author reflects thoughtfully on one of the seven deadly sins, plus despair, and looks at it from his or her personal and often unique perspective. The book was favorably reviewed in several newspapers and journals. The Vancouver Sun (March 30, 1996) described it as a collection of "slight, often witty, generally entertaining ruminations on universal temptations." The Province (March 31, 1996) characterized it as "a literary feast fashioned by seven authors of international stature for the New York Times Book Review." The Publishers Weekly (October 3, 1994) stated that the, "...anthology considers, one by one, the legendary seven deadly sins. But in addition to sloth, anger, lust, gluttony, avarice, pride and envy, this volume includes despair, which	A B November 3, 2012; resolved January 2, 2013

						Joyce Carol Oates calls "the sole sin that cannot be forgiven." Although each reflection is engaging and thoughtful, Mary Gordon's description of the murderous nature of anger is especially powerful. William Trevor's experience with a gluttonous accountant skates along the thin line separating comedy and tragedy, and Richard Howard offers a poem about avarice. Each sin is whimsically represented by one of Delessert's playful black-and-white line illustrations."		
1 8	Magazine/ Journal	Allure magazine (December 2012 issue)	Nudity Sexism [Age inappropriate] Objects to the female nudity on the covers of these 2 magazines. "They are sexist in content. Do I see any nude males covers with testicles exposed? No! Are they (publishers) selling ideas or exploiting images of women? Sexism in body nudity in public domains! Seriously consider pre-adult exposure to the covers."	Patron	Public	Material retained The [...] Public Library subscribes to hundreds of magazines that cover a wide range of subject matter and interests. We do not screen magazine covers or content before we put them out for use by the public. While the library acknowledges your personal response to these magazines, they do fall within the [...] Public Library's guidelines for inclusion in the magazine collection. In keeping with our adherence to the Statement on Intellectual Freedom and our commitment to support a diverse collection which reflects varying tastes and points of view, the Library will not be pre-screening magazines before they are put on display.	A B	January 5, 2013; resolved January 15, 2013
1 9	Magazine/ Journal	GQ magazine (December 2012 issue)	Nudity Sexism [Age inappropriate] Objects to the female nudity on the covers of these 2 magazines. "They are sexist in content. Do I see any nude males covers with testicles exposed? No! Are they (publishers) selling ideas or exploiting images of women? Sexism in body nudity in public domains! Seriously consider pre-adult exposure to the covers."	Patron	Public	Material retained The [...] Public Library subscribes to hundreds of magazines that cover a wide range of subject matter and interests. We do not screen magazine covers or content before we put them out for use by the public. While the library acknowledges your personal response to these magazines, they do fall within the [...] Public Library's guidelines for inclusion in the magazine collection. In keeping with our adherence to the Statement on Intellectual Freedom and our commitment to support a diverse collection which reflects varying tastes and points of view, the Library will not be pre-screening magazines before they are put on display.	A B	January 5, 2013; resolved January 15, 2013
2 0	Children's Film/DVD	"Grimm's Fairy Tales" [4 classic tales]	Violence [Age inappropriate] The cover illustrations depict violent actions, seemingly identifying the content of the DVD. The content would be inappropriate for viewing by young children. This was located in the children's movie section.	Patron	Public	[Material retained and misleading cover artwork replaced] This DVD is misrepresented by the artwork on the cover. The content is a collection of fairy tale retellings previously produced as Shelley Duval's Faerie Tale Theatre. These retellings were originally produced in the 1980s and have been popular at The Library since then. They are gentle, humorous and well-reviewed. Often, published works are repackaged to update the appeal to current audiences; this appears to be the case with Grimm's Fairy Tales. While The Library has no control over the packaging we agree that the current artwork does not fairly represent the content of the DVD or appeal to the appropriate audience. The Library will replace the artwork on Grimm's Fairy Tales with artwork that is more age appropriate or generic in nature. Grimm's Fairy Tales will remain in the children's collection.	A B	February 14, 2013; resolved March 20, 2013
2 1	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book	It's a Book, by Lane Smith (2010)	Age inappropriate [Offensive language] "A children's book with the last line 'It's a book, jackass' is not appropriate for the intended audience. I don't want my 6-year-old to repeat that line at school. "The concept and the rest of the language is adorable, funny, and appropriate. It looks like it's made for kids 2-6 years old, but the subversive twist at the end makes it a	[Parent / guardian]	Public	Material retained This title has been well reviewed by numerous library reviewing journals and mainstream press. While some acknowledge the possible controversy surrounding the final line, It's a Book has overwhelmingly positive reviews describing it as "a clever choice" and "kid friendly". It's a Book has a recommended reading age of 6 and up by the publisher and many library reviewing journals. While the [...] Public Library acknowledges your concerns about this title, it does fall firmly within the Library's guidelines for the picture book collection and will remain in this collection. The Library also acknowledges that other	A B	April 9, 2013; resolved May 1, 2013

			picture book for grown-ups. Children repeat what they hear and read, but repeating 'It's a book, jackass' will only get her detention."			readers will have different reactions to the content of It's a Book and are bound to provide unlimited access to it and similar titles.		
2 2	Film/DVD; children's, family film	"An Easter Bunny Puppy," dir. David DeCoteau (as Mary Crawford) (2013)	Age inappropriate "Reference to murder within the first three minutes. Reference to Ancient Egyptian fertility rites at about 30- minute mark." "Funny for adults. It's a narrative of nothing that has to do with the title. Just move to adult section and mark PG, not G rating. Definitely not appropriate for 3-7 year olds."	Patron	Public	Material retained This title is unrated, meaning that it has not been assigned a classification (G, PG, etc.) by the Motion Picture Association of America or the Canadian Home Video Rating System. It is not the role of the Library to assign or reassign these ratings. The Library does use its own classification system to help guide its customers when selecting appropriate material, particularly for young viewers and readers. The DVD Easter Bunny Puppy is classified in the J (juvenile) collection which indicates that the intended audience is ages 8 to 12; as well, the supplier of the DVD lists this title as a "Family Film", indicating that it is suitable for a range of viewers. You indicated that this title is not appropriate for children ages 3 to 7. The Library agrees that a more appropriate audience is children ages 8 to 12, as indicated by the J classification. The Library strives to provide a broad range of material to its customers and while you felt the content of Easter Bunny Puppy was not suitable for your family, this title has been popular since being added to the collection in April, 2013. The librarian responsible for Children's Collections has reviewed this title, with the intended audience in mind, and the Library has decided to leave this title in the J fiction DVD collection, without additional labels as to content.	A B	August 2, 2013; resolved August 14, 2013
2 3	Film/DVD rated PG - supplier lists as a "Family Film" TV	"The Muppets' Wizard of Oz" directed by Kirk R. Thatcher	Age inappropriate "More appropriate for adolescents and pre-teen than young kids. Opening scene is graphic depiction of a house being destroyed and sucked up by a tornado and then dropped."	Parent/ guardia n	Public	Material retained You indicated that this DVD contains material that is inappropriate for young viewers, particularly under the age of 6. You specifically referenced one of the beginning scenes where a tornado destroys a house. The Muppets' Wizard of Oz has been rated TV-PG by the Motion Picture Association of America, indicating that it may contain material that is inappropriate for young viewers, noting age 7 and below. The story is summarized on the disc case with a specific reference to the tornado. The Library does use its own classification system to help guide our customers when selecting appropriate material, particularly for young viewers and readers. The DVD Muppets' Wizard of Oz is classified in the J (juvenile) collection which indicates that the intended audience is ages 8 to 12; as well", indicating that it is suitable for a range of viewers. You indicated that this title is not appropriate for children ages 6 and under. The Library agrees that a more appropriate audience is children ages 8 to 12, as indicated by the J classification.	A B	August 18, 2013; resolved September 12, 2013
2 4	Language learning kit	Teach Yourself Gulf Arabic, by Jack Smart & Frances Altorfer. McGraw-Hill	Inaccuracy [Offensive] Patron objects to the title Gulf Arabic as well as to the numerous references throughout the text to the term Arabian Gulf. In patron's opinion the correct title of the publication should be Persian Arabic and the Arabian Gulf should be referred to in the text as the Persian Gulf. Patron says the United Nations have established a rule/charter regarding this and that this publication contravenes this ruling. Patron finds this text extremely offensive.	Patron	Public	Material retained Wikipedia defines Gulf Arabic as "a variety of the Arabic language spoken around the shores of the Persian Gulf" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_Arabic). A search of The Alberta Library catalogue (www.talonline.ca) shows that Gulf Arabic is a standard term used for Arabic language learning titles. While the term Arabian Gulf may be controversial, a search of The Alberta Library catalogue and the Internet shows that it is still frequently being used. In keeping with our adherence to the Statement on Intellectual Freedom and our commitment to support a diverse collection which reflects varying tastes and points of view, the Library will retain the language learning kit Teach Yourself Gulf Arabic in its collection. However, you may wish to contact the publisher, McGraw-Hill, to express your concern regarding the use of the terms Gulf Arabic and Arabian Gulf in their publication. McGraw-Hill Customer Service can be reached in Canada by telephone at 1-	A B	September 20, 2013; resolved November 4, 2013

						800-565-5758 or by email at cs_queries@mcgrawhill.ca .		
2 5	Book/ Textbook; adult fiction	Styx, by Sherrilyn Kenyon	[Sexually explicit] Explicit and descriptive child sexual abuse "Repeated sexual and physical abuse of young boy, causing adult psychological trauma. Materials should be identified as containing explicit child sexual abuse and not a 'paranormal romance'. I have paid replacement cost for the novel and will burn it to save others from being exposed to this material."	Patron	Public	Material retained You have not suggested that the [...] Public Library take any action on this book, although you did comment that the material should be "identified as containing explicit child sexual abuse and not a paranormal romance." This book was published by St. Martin's Press and is number 23 in the Dark-Hunters series by Kenyon. We do not place warning labels regarding the content on any of the books we hold in our collection. The [...] Public Library makes every effort to maintain books in an entire series. While the library acknowledges your personal response to this book, it does fall within the [...] Public Library's guidelines for inclusion in the collection for adults. The inclusion of this book in the adult fiction collection alerts all customers to the fact that the content is intended for adults. While the subject matter may be considered graphic and offensive to some, [...] Public Library requests that you return the borrowed material in good condition as soon as you are able.	A B	October 28, 2013; resolved November 4, 2013
2 6	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book	Alligators All Around: An Alphabet, by Maurice Sendak (1962)	Racism Image for "I" in alphabet book depicts 2 alligators wearing Aboriginal headdress, and one is smoking a peace pipe; text reads "Imitating Indians." From the patron's request for reconsideration: "The book contains racist caricatures of Indigenous peoples under the 'I' section. It also reads "Imitating Indians." Both the images and the language are totally unacceptable in a children's book."	Patron	Public	Material retained Sendak's book has been celebrated as imaginative and engaging, and reflects public sensibilities at the time of publication (1962). Materials that reflect a reality no longer relevant or with which we may disagree present a teachable moment to engage with children about how we have changed as a society but need to be aware of the hurt that a word or image can inflict on a real child.	B C	Feb. 13, 2013; resolved Feb. 15, 2013
2 7	Film/DVD; 18A rating; doc'y	"The Aristocrats," directed by Paul Provenza; starring George Carlin, and Don Rickles. Adult unrated	Offensive language Violence [Sexually explicit] From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "The 'joke' in this movie explicitly discusses: incest, sodomy, pedophilia, bestiality, etc. and describes itself as 'unspeakable obscenity.'" Patron requests library review, rate, and provide a warning on DVD case.	Patron	Public	Material retained The library does not have the legal authority to create its own ratings or warning labels or to change a film's rating. The CMPDA rating of 18A is visible on the DVD case. In addition, the DVD cover packaging also contains several warnings of offensive content.	B C	Feb. 18, 2013; resolved Feb. 25, 2013.
2 8	Book/ Textbook; adult Christian non-fiction	The Facts on Halloween, by John Ankerberg, John Weldon, and Dillon Burroughs	Religious viewpoint A librarian objected to the history of Halloween as connected with the devil, alleged that it demonstrated a pro-religious bias	Library staff membe r (libraria n)	Public	Material retained	O N	2013
2 9	Film/DVD; Ontario Film Board rating 18A	"The Favourite Game" (aka "Le Jeu de L'ange"), dir. By Bernar Hébert, Montreal, Que., Alliance	Nudity	Patron	Public	Material retained	O N	2013

		Atlantis, 2003. Adapted from Leonard Cohen's first novel					
30	Film/DVD, rated R in U.S. – no rating given on amazon.ca	"Killer Joe," directed by William Friedkin, starring Matthew McConaughey and Emile Hirsch (2011)	Sexually explicit Homosexuality Wanted rating changed	Patron	Public	Material retained	ON 2013
31	Book/ Textbook; adult non-fiction	What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense, by Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson, Robert P. George (2012)	Religious viewpoint Insensitivity Book written from a "traditionalist" viewpoint.	Patron	Public	Material retained	ON May, 2013
32	Book/ Textbook; adult non-fiction	The Natural Family: A Manifesto, by Allan Carlson and Paul T. Mero. Spence: (2007)	Religious viewpoint Insensitivity	Patron	Public	Material retained	ON May 2013
33	Film/DVD; Feature film, rated R	"Red State," directed by Kevin Smith; starring Melissa Leo and John Goodman	Offensive language Violence Sexually explicit From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "Perhaps... any new DVD that has been given an 'R' rating by its makers should be checked before being processed and added to the collection....In my opinion, violence is the most serious concern [about this film]."	Patron	Public	Material retained The library does not have the legal authority to create its own ratings or warning labels or to change a film's rating. The MPAA rating and accompanying warnings are visible on the DVD case.	BC Mar. 7, 2013; resolved Mar. 27, 2013
34	Film/DVD; Feature film Unrated adult film	"Andrei Rublev," directed by Andrei Tarkovsky, starring Anatoly	[Violence] cruelty to animals From patron's Request for Reconsideration: 3 scenes of "extreme cruelty to horses. A necessary explicit warning as to content" [should be added]	Patron	Public	Material retained Information about the DVD's content is amply provided on the DVD case, which notes that it was "immediately suppressed by the Soviets in 1966...as too experimental, too frightening, too violent" and provides context for the work via interviews with the director, audio and video essays by a Harvard film professor and a timeline of key events in Russian history. The library does not have the legal authority to create its own ratings or	BC May 3, 2013; resolved May 29, 2013

		Solonitsyn and Ivan Lapikov. Unrated			warning labels or to change a film's rating.		
3 5	Film/DVD; adult doc'y, bio-pic, unrated	"Darwin: The Voyage That Shook the World," directed by Steve Murray	Inaccuracy From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "The basic theory of the DVD is that Darwin was not organized....Remove from distribution. You can hold whatever opinion you like but you cannot alter the facts to suit your opinion. This is what has been done in this case."	Patron	Public	Material retained While the DVD may present a biased point of view, the library makes available to library users materials covering a range of subject matter and varying points of view.	B C May 9, 2013; resolved June 7, 2013
3 6	Book/ Textbook; children's French picture book	Docteur Dog, by Babette Cole	Age inappropriate "The content was a little outdated and inappropriate for younger children." From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "smoking, teen smoking, including pictures; scratching private areas to describe taking care of one's health, including picture/illustration; bathroom humour, could be objectionable." Recommends "either removing it or labeling it in reference to content."	Patron	Public	Material relocated/reclassified Review sources suggest an age range starting at kindergarten for this title - we recommended the book be moved to the library's French "primary fiction" collection, generally for 5 - 8 year old readers, and out of the picture book collection, generally for preschoolers.	B C July 11, 2013; resolved July 24, 2013
3 7	Magazine/ Journal; adult	Rolling Stone Magazine, August 2013 issue – cover image of Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev	Insensitivity From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "To idealize this man, this bomber, who blew people up is an affront to the people of Boston and all humane people of the world."	Patron	Public	Material retained Note the library had not yet received its copies of the August 2013 issue of Rolling Stone at the time of the challenge. The cover photo stirred up public controversy, but many reputable news outlets also published information offering a more balance perspective, reporting that the article in the magazine is thoroughly researched, and not out of keeping with its past journalistic offerings. Several sources dispelled the misconceptions about the image itself, which is at the heart of the controversy - it was a self-portrait taken from Facebook and used previously by both the New York Times and Washington Post. The Library Board endorses the Statement on Intellectual Freedom adopted by CLA. The Board is aware some materials are controversial and may offend some patrons.	B C July 18, 2013; resolved July 29, 2013
3 8	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book	What a Truly Cool World, by Julius Lester (1997)	Anti-ethnicity Offensive language Poor grammar and felt the book used "stereotypical" black language. Customer felt the book used stereotypical language and bad grammar in portraying African Americans.	Patron	Public	Material retained	O N October 9 2013, October 28, 2013
3 9	Film/DVD; adult feature film, US rating NC 17	"Shame," directed by Steve McQueen, starring Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan	Nudity Sexually explicit Film was sexually explicit and should not be in a public library	Patron	Public	Material retained	O N Jan. 27, 2013; Feb. 4 2013

40	Book/Textbook, Children's Picture Book	Lizzy's Lion, by Dennis Lee (1984)	Violence A robber breaks into a little girl's house and is eaten by her pet lion. The patron found the book to be violent and disturbing, was upset to find it in a children's library which is a "safe place" and wanted it removed from the collection.	Patron	Public	Material retained The book is a fantasy, which depicts a girl facing her fears with the help of an imaginary lion - a common theme in children's stories from Red Riding Hood to Where the Wild Things Are. Lee actually wrote the book to help children deal with bullies. Lee is a well-known poet and author and the illustrator, Marie-Louise Gay, won the Canada Council Prize for her illustrations.	ON	Nov. 22, 2013; Feb. 14, 2014
41	Film/DVD Adult rated 18A	"That's My Boy," starring Adam Sandler and Vanilla Ice. Rated R	[Sexually explicit] At the beginning of the movie, a female teacher has sex with an underage student, which is illegal. The situation was depicted as humorous. The patron only watched the first ten minutes of the film and found the humorous treatment of sex between a teacher and underage student to be "an expression of sick and illegal behaviour which is not acceptable in our society".	Patron	Public	Material retained The ongoing affair between teacher and student results in her getting pregnant and receiving a 30-year prison sentence for statutory rape so the act was recognized as illegal and the adult punished. The film stars well-known actors and is popular, although not for everyone. It has an 18A rating and cannot be borrowed by anyone under that age.	ON	Aug. 28, 2013; Nov. 13, 2013
42	Language learning kit	Complete Hindi, by Rupert Snell	Inaccuracy The course contains many grammatical inaccuracies and suggests that Hindi and Urdu are paired languages.	Patron	Public	Material retained The kit was reviewed by a professor from a major university who specializes in Hindi language and literature. She replied to each of the patron's detailed complaints and this was attached to our response. In general the relationship between Hindi and Urdu is complex, both politically and historically and there are different opinions on usage in all languages. The author is a prominent Hindi/Urdu scholar and the kit is on the curriculum of many universities.	ON	April 16, 2013; July 2, 2013
43	Audiobook [CD/Sound recording] of adult romance fiction book	A Kiss Remembered, by Sandra Brown (1983)	Sexism [Sexually explicit] A woman says no to sex but eventually succumbs. The patron found the audiobook to be obscene and to offend current sexual morality.	Patron	Public	Material retained The book's approach to romance is dated as it was published in 1983 (sic) [2002]. However, Brown is a very popular author and her fans want to read everything she has written regardless of date.	ON	Mar. 26, 2013; June 17, 2013
44	Book/Textbook; Children's Picture Book	Hop on Pop, by Dr. Seuss (1963)	Violence Children hop on their father. Children are encouraged to use wanton violence against their fathers. Remove from the collection.	Patron	Public	Material retained Hop on Pop is a well-loved picture book by a major children's author. It was well-reviewed on its publication 50 years ago and remains on "best" lists today.	ON	Mar. 4, 2013; May 16, 2013
45	Book/Textbook; adult non-fiction	Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot, by Bill O'Reilly	Inaccuracy Book does not contain facts that prove Kennedy was not killed by Oswald but as a result of a conspiracy.	Patron	Public	Material retained The author accepts the results of the Warren Commission - one of the currently accepted versions of the assassination. The Library carries other titles that present other versions, including those recommended by the patron. The book was a bestseller and is very popular.	ON	Jan. 25, 2013; Apr. 25, 2013
46	Magazine/Journal	[Title not given]	Sexism	Post-secondary student	Academic	Material restricted	NS	February 12, 2014
4	Book/	Never Fück Up,	Offensive language	Patron	Public	[Material relocated/reclassified]	A	July 28,

7	Textbook; adult fiction	by Jens Lapidus	The book was entitled "Never f*ck up" [asterisk included in title] As stated on our internal challenge form: "The title --- swear is blatant and offensive."			The title was taken off of a prominent face-out display and moved to the general collection.	B	2013; resolved July 30, 2013
4 8	Book/ Textbook; adult non- fiction	Positively False: The Real Story of How I Won the Tour de France, by Floyd Landis (2007)	Inaccuracy Patron wrote that the book had been written by Landis to refute doping charges but he later recanted, rendering the information in the book out-of-date and inaccurate.	Patron	Public	Material retained Our response: After much consideration, we have decided to retain "Positively False" by Floyd Landis in the collection. We appreciate your concerns about the veracity of his story as presented in the book considering his later statements. This same reasoning though makes this a suitable item for our collection as it provides a version of events by one of the competitors at a certain point in time. Those who are interested in the doping scandal and Landis' role may find this book useful in tracing the history of denials and cover-ups, especially in light of the ongoing litigation between Landis, Armstrong and the USPS.	O N	November 14, 2013; resolved by November 25, 2013.
4 9	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book	Spooky ABC, by Eve Merriam and Lane Smith (2002)	Occult Violence [Age inappropriate] [Offensive] Inappropriate subject matter for children. Violence and mention of Devil were found to be offensive. "Letters "D" and "I" poems not very appropriate for kids to read, and quite honestly the whole book was not ok to read to a child of any age really. I don't know if it would be useful to another child. Many other alphabet books available. This one just seemed bad all across the board." Spooky ABC is a collection of illustrations corresponding to each letter of the alphabet, accompanied by a poem for each letter.	Patron	Public	Material relocated/reclassified This book was reclassified and moved from the "Concepts" area to the non-fiction poetry section in the children's area.	B C	January 2, 2013; resolved on February 28, 2013.
5 0 5 1 5 2 5 3	Book/ Textbooks; children's Non-Fiction [3 titles]; YA non- fiction [1 title]	1) Me, Myself, and I: All About Sex and Puberty, by Louise Spilsbury, illus. Illustrated by Mike Gordon; 2) 100% Me, by Elinor Greenwood; 3) Puberty Girl, by Shushann Movsessian; & 4) Head to Toe Guide to You, by Sarah Wassner Flynn	Sex education Sexually explicit [Age inappropriate] Patron felt that these books are "not appropriate for the kids' department. She also felt that the content of these books was "totally out of [her son's] age [he is 9] and the books come with some terms that are too soon to introduce to his age." Patron felt that these books are "not appropriate for the kids' department. She also felt that the content of these books was "totally out of [her son's] age [he is 9] and the books come with some terms that are too soon to introduce to his age." Patron asked us to re-shelve the books to the teen reading section. She felt that "not all families welcome the early and in-depth knowledge about sex. Once the kids learn the terms, they'll go online to look up the terms and that's when disaster comes in."	Parent/ guardia n	Public	Material relocated/reclassified (1); Material retained (3); Me, Myself, and I was relocated to the teen section as it contains more mature content. The other 3 books were kept in the kids' section as they are geared more towards a younger age group.	B C	February 8, 2013; resolved on May 6, 2013. A final letter was drafted on March 12, 2013 but by mistake, never got mailed

5 4	Book/ Textbook; adult non- fiction	The Way I Am, by Eminem	Nudity Sexually explicit [Not educational] Patron felt the biography's explicit sexual photos were inappropriate for a library book. Patron felt the contents of the book were "rude and inappropriate because it contained pictures of "half-naked girls dancing on a pole topless. I think libraries should have friendly pictures and not inappropriate pictures." Customer felt it was not educational in any way and "if a child picks up that book they'll see it. It shouldn't be in books because it's just improper for audiences reading the book." The patron wanted the book removed from the library.	Patron	Public	Material retained The evaluating committee felt that this autobiography does educate the reader about Eminem's life and the book was kept in the adult non-fiction collection.	B C	March 5, 2013; resolved on March 27, 2013.
5 5	Book/ Textbook; adult fiction French erotica	Vers Chez Les Blancs, by Philippe Dijan	Sexually explicit Customer felt it was just pornography and had no place in a public library. They asked us to remove the novel from the library. Customer felt that the French novel was pornography and had no place in a public library.	Patron	Public	Material retained in the French fiction collection and a "Mature Content" label was added.	B C	March 18, 2013; resolved on April 12, 2013
5 6	Film/DVD; adult, rated 14+ in Canada, PG 13 in U.S.	"Hope Springs"	Sexually explicit [Offensive] [Age inappropriate] [Not educational] Customer said: "Far too much sexual content for a DVD movie which was rated as okay for 14+; and was a comedy about an older couple. Very offensive. Not educational in any shape or form." Customer wanted it removed from the shelves.	Patron	Public	Material retained The film is circulating well and is popular with library customers. The reviewing committee determined that this film is relevant and appropriate for our community.	B C	April 17, 2013; resolved on June 14, 2013.
5 7	Film/DVD; Rated PG	"ParaNorman," directed by Chris Butler and Sam Fell	Violence Age inappropriate The concern was that the film was rated PG and the customer felt it was meant for a more mature audience due to the nature of the jokes and the themes raised (bullying, racism, fear, violence.)	Patron	Public	Material retained A letter of response was drafted and sent to the customer. The PG rating states Parental Guidance: theme or content may not be suitable for all children. [...] Public Library believes that library customers will make selections based on their own interests and preferences. Parents are the best decision-makers when choosing library materials that are appropriate for their child's interests, personality and stage of development.	M N	March 8, 2013; response by March 14, 2013
5 8	Audiobook CD/Sound recording, YA fiction book	Small Steps, by Louis Sachar	Violence [Age inappropriate] Objection to section of work that detailed an attempted murder of a young girl. Request to move the item from the junior to the teen collection.	Patron	Public	Material retained -- not relocated	B C	April 2013; resolved May 14, 2013
5 9	Book/ Textbook; adult non- fiction	Coming Out of Homosexuality: New Freedom for Men and Women, by Bob	Inaccuracy Insensitivity [Homosexuality] Patron was concerned that this work promoted the view that homosexuality was an illness and espoused a	Patron	Public	Material removed Item would have been weeded due to poor use, but it was misshelved (which is one reason why it took so long to resolve). On examination, we agreed the patron's concerns were valid.	B C	July 26, 2013; resolved October 17, 2013

		Davies and Lori Rentzel (1993)	discredited theory that it could be "cured" by prayer and marriage.					
6 0	Book/ Textbook (Large Print Edition), adult fiction	In the Shadow of the Glacier, by Vicki Delaney	Inaccuracy Patron was concerned that neighbourhoods in Vancouver were named incorrectly (e.g. "Grey Point" for Point Grey), and that there were printing errors in this edition.	Patron	Public	Material retained We noted that while the printing errors and the errors with names of neighbourhoods were annoying, the book had circulated a number of times with no previous complaints or comments. We concluded the errors were not sufficient to make it impossible to follow and enjoy the story.	B C	Dec 20, 2013; resolved Dec 23, 2013
6 1	Book/ Textbook; children's picture book	If I Ran the Zoo, by Dr. Zeuss (1950)	Racism Patron considered text and illustrations on 2 pages to be racist.	Patron	Public	Material retained	B C	May 2013
6 2	Film/DVD Rated PG 13 in U.S. and PG in Canada	"Fantastic Mr. Fox," a Roald Dahl film shown as part of summer programming in Children's Library, directed by Wes Anderson, based on the novel by Roald Dahl, starring George Clooney, Meryl Streep, and Bill Murray (2009)	Violence Offensive language [Age inappropriate] Complaint that film included guns and offensive language, not appropriate for children age 6.	Parent/ guardia n	Public	Material retained	B C	July 2013
6 3	Book/ Textbook; adult non- fiction	The Untold Story of Milk, by Ron Schmid	Inaccuracy Patron maintained that book had incorrect scientific information about raw vs. pasteurized milk.	Patron	Public	Material retained	B C	May 24, 2013
6 4	Book/ Textbook Adult non- fiction	Arabic book on history and geography [title not given] – information from CBC news story	[Religious viewpoint] [Political viewpoint]	Patron	Public	Material retained	O N	Not provided
6 5	e-Book/ textbook; adult fiction	Snowbound in Nowhere, by Andrew Grey – info from CBC	[Homosexuality] [Sexually explicit] Patron wanted a label attached to warn of explicit sex	Patron	Public	Material retained Label not affixed	O N	Not provided

		news story							
6 6	Film/DVD R	"Compliance," directed by Craig Zobel, and starring Ann Dowd, Dreama Walker, and Pat Healy. Rated R in U.S. (info from CBC news story) – but not in Canada?	[Nudity] [Age inappropriate] Patron wanted rating changed	Patron	Public	Material retained		ON	Not provided
6 7	Film/DVD, rated R in U.S. – no rating given on amazon.ca	"Killer Joe," directed by William Friedkin, starring Matthew McConaughey and Emile Hirsch (2011)	Sexually explicit Homosexuality Wanted rating changed	Patron	Public	Material retained		ON	2013
P 1	Intellectual freedom [children's Film/DVD]	Policy linked to DVD challenge of "The Best of Dr. Seuss" (2000)	Violence [Age inappropriate] There is a scene in an episode of "Horton Hatches the Egg" where a fish shoots himself in the head. The challenger found this violence unacceptable in a children's film.	Parent/ guardia n	Public	The Board of the [...] Library is committed to upholding the following Statement of Intellectual Freedom as adopted by Canadian Library Association: ...2 Every person in Canada has the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity and to express their thoughts publicly. The right to intellectual freedom under the law is essential to the health and development of Canadian society. Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom. It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular, or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials. It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them. Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups. Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.		AB	July 2013; resolved September 2013
P 2	Display policy on election materials	The challenge was to a display of election materials	[Political viewpoint] The candidates who challenged the display claimed it was prohibited by the City's election bylaw. The challenge was initiated by 2 candidates in the municipal election. All	muni cipal political candid	Public	Material retained The question was forwarded to the City's returning officer who initially responded with: "I do believe the bylaw [...] is specific to boulevards and outside public property however we have the Public Property bylaw that could also be a factor in this. I will try to get back to		AB	October 11, 2013; resolved October 21,

		(brochures, business cards, a slide show with key election promises) at the library.	candidates were invited to provide brochures, business cards and a slide stating 3- 5 key election promises for a display at the library so community members would have "one stop shopping" access to election information (and to encourage citizens to make informed election choices). The challenge started with this email from one candidate: "Hello [...], I plan on being there for coffee. The City's election bylaw may prohibit candidates displaying campaign material on City owned property but I am checking—I don't want anyone to get in trouble. I will let you know. [...], Q.C. [...] & Company LLP Barristers & Solicitors [postal address and telephone number] Website: [...]." It was followed by this comment, " Good morning, I called and left a message on your answering machine as I'm not sure what is being proposed is legal under the Elections act. I did send you my ad copy but would ask that it not be used. Please destroy the copy. Call me on your return, but you should maybe clarify with the City. Thanks [...]." (Note: Librarian found the law firm signature in the first email to be threatening)	ate		you as quick as I can." On election day, we were told we were not breaking the bylaw and the display could remain in place.		2013
P 3	Video games [collection]	All Teen first person shooter video games	Violence Not educational [does not support curriculum] Via email to City Councillors	Patron	Public	Material retained	B C	January 4; January 9 resolved.
P 4	PG film/DVD policy	Policy of going by Ontario Film Board Review ratings linked to DVD "Hey, Hey, It's Ester Blueburger" challenge	Age inappropriate This film was given a PG rating by the Ontario Film Review Board. The Motion Picture Association of America gave it a PG-13 rating. The parent saw this latter rating on the cover and felt that that should preclude it from being in the children's collection. Patron felt the storyline was too mature for the children's collection.	Parent/ guardian	Public	Policy revised It was decided that since some of the material in this film was geared towards a more mature audience, we would move the film from the Children's collection to the Adult collection. The differences between the Ontario Film Review Board ratings and the US ratings may be looked at in more depth in 2014.	O N	Jan. 2013; resolved Jan. 21, 2013
P 5	Children's film/DVD Policy	Policy linked to the audience level challenge of "Easter Bunny Puppy"	Age inappropriate "Reference to murder within the first three minutes. Reference to Ancient Egyptian fertility rites at about 30-minute mark." "Funny for adults. It's a narrative of nothing that has to do with the title. Just move to adult section and mark PG, not G rating. Definitely not appropriate for 3-7 year olds."	Patron	Public	Policy retained This title is unrated, meaning that it has not been assigned a classification (G, PG, etc.) by the Motion Picture Association of America or the Canadian Home Video Rating System. It is not the role of the Library to assign or reassign these ratings. The Library does use its own classification system to help guide its customers when selecting appropriate material, particularly for young viewers and readers. The DVD Easter Bunny Puppy is classified in the J (juvenile) collection which indicates that the intended audience is ages 8 to 12; as well, the supplier of the DVD lists this title as a "Family Film", indicating that it is suitable for a range of viewers. You indicated that this title is not appropriate for children ages 3 to 7. The Library agrees that a more appropriate audience is children ages 8 to 12, as indicated by the J classification. The Library strives to provide a broad range of material to its customers and while you felt the content of Easter Bunny Puppy was not suitable for your family, this title has been popular since being added to the	A B	August 2, 2013; resolved August 14, 2013

						collection in April, 2013. The librarian responsible for Children's Collections has reviewed this title, with the intended audience in mind, and the Library has decided to leave this title in the J fiction DVD collection, without additional labels as to content.		
P 6	PG DVD Policy	Policy of classifying DVDs according to their own classification, linked to challenge of "The Muppets' Wizard of Oz"	Age inappropriate "More appropriate for adolescents and pre-teen than young kids. Opening scene is graphic depiction of a house being destroyed and sucked up by a tornado and then dropped."	Parent/guardian	Public	Policy retained You indicated that this DVD contains material that is inappropriate for young viewers, particularly under the age of 6. You specifically referenced one of the beginning scenes where a tornado destroys a house. The Muppets' Wizard of Oz has been rated TV-PG by the Motion Picture Association of America, indicating that it may contain material that is inappropriate for young viewers, noting age 7 and below. The story is summarized on the disc case with a specific reference to the tornado. The Library does use its own classification system to help guide our customers when selecting appropriate material, particularly for young viewers and readers. The DVD Muppets' Wizard of Oz is classified in the J (juvenile) collection which indicates that the intended audience is ages 8 to 12; as well", indicating that it is suitable for a range of viewers. You indicated that this title is not appropriate for children ages 6 and under. The Library agrees that a more appropriate audience is children ages 8 to 12, as indicated by the J classification.	AB	August 18, 2013; resolved September 12, 2013
P 7	Policy of not labelling 18A film/DVDs	Policy linked to challenge of DVD "The Aristocrats," directed by Paul Provenza	Offensive language Violence [Sexually explicit] From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "The 'joke' in this movie explicitly discusses: incest, sodomy, pedophilia, bestiality, etc. and describes itself as 'unspeakable obscenity.'" Patron requests library review, rate, and provide a warning on DVD case.	Patron	Public	Policy retained The library does not have the legal authority to create its own ratings or warning labels or to change a film's rating. The CMPDA rating of 18A is visible on the DVD case. In addition, the DVD cover packaging also contains several warnings of offensive content.	BC	Feb. 18, 2013; resolved Feb. 25, 2013.
P 8	DVD/film R rating Policy	Policy of video classification linked to "Killer Joe" DVD challenge (2011)	Sexually explicit Homosexuality Wanted rating changed	Patron	Public	Policy retained	ON	2013
P 9	Policy about DVD/film R ratings	Policy linked to challenge of DVD "Red State"	Offensive language Violence Sexually explicit From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "Perhaps... any new DVD that has been given an 'R' rating by its makers should be checked before being processed and added to the collection....In my opinion, violence is the most serious concern [about this film]."	Patron	Public	Policy retained The library does not have the legal authority to create its own ratings or warning labels or to change a film's rating. The MPAA rating and accompanying warnings are visible on the DVD case.	BC	Mar. 7, 2013; resolved Mar. 27, 2013
P 10	Policy of DVD/film adult	Policy of not changing film ratings linked to	[Violence] cruelty to animals	Patron	Public	Policy retained Information about the DVD's content is amply provided on the DVD case, which notes that it was "immediately suppressed by the Soviets in 1966...as too experimental, too	BC	May 3, 2013; resolved

	unrated ratings	challenge of "Andrei Rublev"	From patron's Request for Reconsideration: 3 scenes of "extreme cruelty to horses. A necessary explicit warning as to content" [should be added]			frightening, too violent" and provides context for the work via interviews with the director, audio and video essays by a Harvard film professor and a timeline of key events in Russian history. The library does not have the legal authority to create its own ratings or warning labels or to change a film's rating.	May 29, 2013
P 1 1	Collection policy [approx. 25 books & 5 film/DVDs]	All titles in the library's collection relating to Lance Armstrong produced prior to January 2013 when he confessed to doping	Inaccuracy From patron's Request for Reconsideration: "In August 2012 the US anti-doping agency stripped cyclist Lance Armstrong of all his Tour de France titles for his dishonesty. In January 2013, Lance confessed...publicly."	Patron	Public	Material retained (26 titles); Material removed (4 titles): The library reviewed all titles relating to Lance Armstrong in its collection (some 30+ books and DVDs). The library retained titles that related to Armstrong only tangentially, or that were biographies or autobiographies that represented the public record at the time of their publication. We recommended removing 2 adult books (How Lance Does It, and The Lance Armstrong Performance Program) because they prescribe measures for success that are at odds with Armstrong's admission to using performance-enhancing drugs, and will likely be of little interest now to readers. We also recommended removing 2 youth books (Lance Armstrong, Benchmark All-Stars series, and Lance Armstrong: A Biography) because the former is part of an aspirational series highlighting sports role-models for children, and the latter focuses on the aspirational qualities of Armstrong's formerly inspiring achievement.	July 12, 2013; resolved Aug. 9, 2013 B C
P 1 2	Policy re DVD/film ratings 14+	Policy linked to "Hope Springs" about adult relationships and sexuality	Sexually explicit [Offensive] [Age inappropriate] [Not educational] Customer said: "Far too much sexual content for a DVD movie which was rated as okay for 14+; and was a comedy about an older couple. Very offensive. Not educational in any shape or form." Customer wanted it removed from the shelves.	Patron	Public	Policy retained The film is circulating well and is popular with library customers. The reviewing committee determined that this film is relevant and appropriate for our community	April 17, 2013; resolved on June 14, 2013 B C
P 1 3	Policy of DVD/film rating PG	Policy linked to "ParaNorman"	Violence Age inappropriate The concern was that the film was rated PG and the customer felt it was meant for a more mature audience due to the nature of the jokes and the themes raised (bullying, racism, fear, violence.)	Patron	Public	Policy retained A letter of response was drafted and sent to the customer. The PG rating states Parental Guidance: theme or content may not be suitable for all children. [...] Public Library believes that library customers will make selections based on their own interests and preferences. Parents are the best decision-makers when choosing library materials that are appropriate for their child's interests, personality and stage of development.	March 8, 2013; response by March 14, 2013 M N
P 1 4	Policy of showing DVD rated PG 13 in U.S. and PG in Canada DVD/film in children's dept.	Policy linked to "Fantastic Mr. Fox"	Violence Offensive language [Age inappropriate] Complaint that film included guns and offensive language, not appropriate for children age 6.	Parent/guardian	Public	Policy retained	July 2013 B C
P 1 5	Policy allowing all speakers to	Library room rental policy linked to Janice	Insensitivity Homosexuality That speaker had made controversial statements about	Unknwn	Public	Library issued a statement [URL] and the event proceeded in the rented space. Cited free speech and its limits via hate speech law and BC Human Rights Code	November 2013 B C

	rent space in the public library	Raymond speaking at [City] Rape Relief and Women's Shelter event	transgendered people and work in the sex trade. That speaker had made negative statements about transgendered people and for her perspective on the legalization of prostitution. That library should not permit speaker at event in rented space on library's premises.					
P 1 6	Policy on not labelling graphic content in novel adult fiction	Policy challenge linked to book challenge of Snowbound in Nowhere	[Homosexuality] [Sexually explicit] Patron wanted a label attached to warn of explicit sex	Patron	Public	Policy retained Label not affixed	O N	Not provided
P 1 7	Policy to not changing R ratings of DVDs/films	Policy linked to challenge of DVD rating of "Compliance"	[Nudity] [Age inappropriate]	Patron	Public	Policy retained	O N	Not provided
P 1 8	DVD/film R rating Policy	Policy of video classification linked to "Killer Joe" DVD challenge (2011)	Sexually explicit Homosexuality Wanted rating changed	Patron	Public	Policy retained	O N	2013