Did you know?

On September 1, 1752, the Liberty Bell arrived in Philadelphia.

On September 1, 1787, The Constitution of the United States was completed & signed by a majority of the delegates attending the constitutional convention in Philadelphia. Check out the National Constitution Center at: http://www.constitutioncenter.org/

On September 15, 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail Company began delivering mail from St. Louis to San Francisco.

On September 1, 1882, the first Labor Day was observed in New York City by the Carpenters & Joiners Union.

On September 1, 1894, the U.S. Congress made Labor Day a national holiday.

On September 7, 1813, the earliest printed reference to America as “Uncle Sam” was found in the Troy-Post in Fort Worth, TX.

On September 17, 1787, The Constitution of the United States was completed & signed by a majority of the delegates attending the constitutional convention in Philadelphia. Check out the National Constitution Center at: http://www.constitutioncenter.org/

On September 22, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Emancipation Proclamation speech.

On September 22, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Emancipation Proclamation speech.

On September 23, 2006 is the 25th anniversary of Banned Books Week.

Library Hours

Extended!!

Effective immediately, the Library will be open three evenings each week. Library hours will now be:
- **Monday**: 8:30 am – 7:00 pm
- **Tuesday**: 8:30 am – 7:00 pm
- **Wednesday**: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
- **Thursday**: 8:30 am – 7:00 pm
- **Friday**: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

We hope that this change will be helpful to many of our students. Please be sure to let us know what you think.

Banned Books Week is September 23 – 30, 2006!
Celebrate your freedom to read by stopping in the Library & checking out a banned or challenged books.

READ A BANNED OR CHALLENGED BOOK TODAY!! THEY’RE YOUR TICKET TO FREEDOM!!

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.”

--Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas,
"The One Un-American Act."

From the Director’s Shelf…

Welcome back! I can’t believe the Fall semester is here again!
As you’ll learn in other articles, there are lots of things happening here in the Library & in other areas of the college. I’m hopeful that any changes make will improve our services to you. A good deal of this newsletter deals with information that some of you have received before but may need to be reminded about. I included this review of services because the information will be new to many of our students & faculty.

I’m always interested in hearing what resources you recommend each other or other services that we may be able to provide to you. I’m also interested in learning about websites that you discover & recommend for their reliable information.

Faculty: please consider incorporating a discussion about Banned Books Week, censorship, the freedom to read, or the First Amendment in your classes this month. This is a great time to discuss the topic into your classes since P.I.T. Library is celebrating Banned Books Week this month. Our celebration will include a display of titles owned by P.I.T. Library that have been challenged or banned at other libraries. Fighting censorship is an integral part of the role of a professional librarian. Just as much as protecting your privacy as a library user – the role that caused John Ashcroft to call us hysterical librarians because we’re fighting the loss of civil liberties through the institution of the Patriot Act.

If you’re planning a discussion about plagiarism with your class, I’d be happy to assist you by providing some information for them or by joining your class for the discussion.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of Banned Books Week (BBW), I have also written an extensive article about BBW & censorship. Hopefully this article will give you a better understanding of the issues surrounding Banned Books Week & why librarians (& many others) speak out against censorship.

Lynea @yourlibrary

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

“We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.”

-- ALA Code of Ethics

Library Trivia

What was the motto of the Butterfield Overland Mail Company?
Faculty Reminders:

Now that the fall semester has begun, please remember that you still have the option to place extra resources on RESERVE in the Library. Any current textbook (or the immediately previous edition) owned by the Library is being placed on reserve for in-Library use only. If there are additional resources in the Library or in your own collection that you wish to make more easily available to your students, let me know what they are or drop them off in the Library ASAP so that I can prepare them for use.

Are you still trying to decide what to do with the stacks of extra books, videos, etc. in your office? Want to find a better home for them than a landfill? If you have materials (including useful or current textbooks) in your office or at home that you no longer need, but which are still valuable resources for our students, please consider dropping them off at the Library. We’ll add them to the collection or try to find another home for duplicate titles.

We also accept materials not related to your subject specialty, for example, a novel or biography that you don’t plan to reread. If you’re not sure if we’d be interested, contact Lynea Anderman in the Library or at 610-892-1524 or landerman@pit.edu. If we can’t use the material, we’ll try to find another library that may need it. Donations are acknowledged with a donor bookplate inside the front cover. Please notify Lynea if you don’t want a donor bookplate or prefer to be “A Friend of the Library.”

Conserve Resources!  Recycle the Library way! Useful resources gain a new life & the landfills don’t fill up so fast!

Information Literacy opportunities in the Library: Please remember to include at least one session for Information Literacy in your classes. This is especially important for your students who need to do research. Some faculty members prefer a single visit to review the resources & how to use them. Other faculty members prefer to bring their classes to the Library on several occasions for different segments of the training. We can work out which ever format will work better for your classes. For more information, see the article about Information literacy or contact Lynea.

Class visits to the Library in separate from an Information Literacy session must still be scheduled with Lynea to ensure that there are no conflicts with the time. There’s nothing more frustrating for faculty or students than to come to the Library as a group only to discover another class is already there. If two classes can work simultaneously, that’s great but it isn’t always possible because of limited seating, limited computer availability, or Lynea annoying one class by teaching another class. So faculty, SCHEDULE CLASS VISITS IN ADVANCE!

Student Resource Center Hours

Tutoring services are available by appointment or drop-in basis with peer & professional tutors during the following hours of service:

Monday -- Thursday: 8:00 am -- 8:30 pm
Friday: 8:00 am -- 2:00 pm
(After 2 pm on Fridays, contact an Academic Support Counselor for non-tutoring use or visit the Library for research support.)

Master Tutor Hours:
Ed McCauley: Mon--Thurs: 9am - 12pm
Nancy Huss: Mon & Wed: 1pm - 4pm
Mary Ann Broz: Mon & Wed: 1pm - 3pm
Tues & Thurs: 10am - 12pm

Peer Tutor Hours will be posted in the SRC & announced as they become available.

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

“Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech.”

-- Benjamin Franklin

Electronic Resources & Databases @ P.I.T. Library

Looking for relevant and reliable book and journal sources for research assignments? Want to share information with students & colleagues? Interested in tracking your published articles?

The Library has several online databases to help you!

Ebrary (ebooks)

The ebrary reader is being deployed to all the College PCs. Until this process is completed in Media, it is available on the following Terminal servers:

TSADMIN for faculty and staff usage; TSOFFICE for student usage; & TSWEB for student usage. For everyone who has the ebrary reader already deployed (including Center City) the URL or website link is: http://site.ebrary.com/lib/pit.

In the Library, the computers have a desktop icon which provides direct access to the ebrary Academic Complete Collection of ebooks. You can set up a personal bookshelf & save books to it along with highlights & notes within the books. One of the other great aspects of this database is that there are no limits on the number of people who can view a book at one time.

Instructions & training are available from Lynea for anyone who is interested in using these databases. A quick start guide or searching tip sheet is available at the Library for this database.

WilsonWeb Enhancements (database for journal articles)

P.I.T. Library also provides access to WilsonWeb’s OmniFile Full Text, Mega Edition journal & periodical database. The OmniFile database delivers research-quality information in a broad range of academic disciplines by merging 12 of the WilsonWeb full-text databases into one database which can be searched in its entirety or within one of the sub-databases. WilsonWeb’s OmniFile Full Text, Mega Edition is accessed at: http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/hww/shared/shared_main.jhtml from any computer on campus.

A number of enhancements to the database have recently been added. These enhancements include:

-- Spell checker: when there are zero results for a search, the spell checker suggests a different spelling for words & names in searches drawing terms from all the records in the database.

-- Easier full-text emailing: Instead of attachments, a citation record is sent, with convenient links to full text and/or page images. Click the icons to view your choice of full text or page images, just as you would on the WilsonWeb interface.

-- More alternate subjects show on results page: Above the result set a related “Subjects” list is displayed. Click any of these subjects to search that term. This service identifies the most frequent subjects found in your search to help users evaluate results, & focus on the top subjects.
“First Amendment freedoms are most in danger when the
government seeks to control thought or to justify its laws for that
impermissible end. The right to think is the beginning of freedom,
speech must be protected from the
government because speech is the
beginning of thought.”
—Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy,
Ashcroft V. Free Speech Coalition
(00-795) 198 F.3d 1083, affirmed.

Library Trivia

Answer

The Butterfield Overland Mail Company’s motto was: “Remember, boys, nothing on God’s earth must
stop the United States mail!”

More Words of Wisdom

“I don’t want to be shut out from the truth. If they ban books, they might
as well lock us away from the
world.”
—Rory Edwards, 12,
Washington Post,
Getting It Down at Writing Camp

Censorship vs. The Freedom to Read

Back in 2003, many libraries &
bookstores recognized the 50th anniversary of the publication of Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Fahrenheit 451 is an indictment of censorship & expurgation, so the fact
that the book was expurgated & marketed by publisher Ballantine Books for 13 years before Bradbury became aware of the abuse is especially ironic. In 1979, after being alerted to the publisher’s expurgated edition by a friend, Bradbury demanded that Ballantine Books completely withdraw the expurgated version & replace it with the
complete version. The publisher agreed &
ONLY the complete version of Fahrenheit 451 has been available to purchase since 1980. Unfortunately, in 1992, at the Venado Middle School in Irvine, CA, students again received expurgated copies of the novel to
read. This time the expurgation was done locally by someone at the school with a
black pen. Students received copies in
which scores of words (mostly “hells” &
“damsns”) had been blacked out. After receiving complaints from parents & being contacted by reporters, school officials said the censored copies would no longer be
used.

Censorship doesn’t only happen somewhere else. Incidents of bannings or challenges have been reported to the
American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom from Pennsylvania. I remember the uproar over The Chocolate War at the Stroudsburg High School during the mid-90s & it was on the optional reading list. Since only a small percentage of challenges are actually reported to ALA, we know that far more incidents have actually occurred.

From 1998-2004, J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books were number 1 on the most
challenged list – during the 2004 count the dropped to number 2 after Phyllis Reynolds Naylor’s Alice series. In 2005, the Harry Potter books finally dropped out of the top
10, although they are still challenged in some locations. Have you wondered about the fuss that’s been raised concerning the Harry Potter books? This exciting series of books has awakened the imaginations of many adults & has helped to bring children back to reading. A few adults have complained to schools & public libraries claiming that the books are “evil” or
“promote witchcraft” or “will scare or confuse children.” If you talk to a child
about Harry Potter, you’re much more likely
to find that they delight in his adventures &
that they understand the stories are make-believe. In fact, these children are likely to look at you as if you’re crazy for asking them if Harry Potter is real. If children understand that these stories are make-believe, why are adults trying to censor the books? Why is there an outcry to remove these books from schools & libraries?

In response to the outcry against Harry Potter, John Monk, an editorial writer for The State in Columbia, SC wrote, “If we ban these books, a dark force stands to be unleashed. It’s not the occult. It’s ignorance.” But ignorance does not -- &
cannot -- extinguish our First Amendment right to choose to read all books -- banned,
challenged, or those otherwise considered “objectionable.”

Defining Censorship

According to The Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed. (which was banned in 1982; challenged in 1989 &
1993) to censor is “to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable.”

The term censor frequently summonsm a mental image of an unreasonable, contentious
person. This image, however, is misleading. In most cases, the would-be censor is a concerned parent or citizen who
is sincerely worried about the future well-being of their community. Although this
person (or group) may not have a broad knowledge of literature or of the principles
of freedom of expression, their reasons for questioning a book or other library material are
seldom unusual.

While stereotyping the censor is unfair, one generalization can be made:
Regardless of specific motives, all would-be
censors share one belief -- that they can recognize “evil” & that other people must be
protected from it. Censors do not necessarily believe their own morals should be
protected, but they do feel compelled to
save or protect their friends & neighbors.

Most censorship incidents begin with an
objection to a specific work. Numerous
grounds may be given for justifying a
request (or sometimes a demand) to
remove certain material from a library. The
 censor may believe that the materials will
corrupt minors, offend the sensitive or
unwary reader, or undermine the
community’s (or their own) basic values &
beliefs. Sometimes, based on these
reasons, they may argue that the materials
are of no interest or value to the
community. Generally, there are four basic
reasons which may influence a censor’s
actions & these reasons are in no way
mutually exclusive. They often merge in
both outward appearance & the censor’s
mind.

Family values. The censor may feel threatened by changes in what they view as the
accepted, traditional way of life. Societal
changes in attitudes regarding the family &
related customs are naturally reflected in
library materials. Because these materials may challenge values, censors often want to protect children & adolescents from exposure to works that deal frankly with sexual topics & themes. Religion. The censor may also view explicitly sexual works & politically unorthodox ideas as attacks on religious faith. Antireligious works, or materials that the censor considers harmful to religious beliefs (usually their own), may raise concern about a society that many consider more & more hostile towards any religion, & strengthen beliefs that society is steadily disintegrating. Other would-be censors may regard any religious work or material as detrimental to their view of society. Political views. Changes in the political composition can be equally threatening. The censor may consider a work advocating radical change as subversive. (That these works are often seen as attacks on basic community values is confirmed by the number of attempts to label library materials with such broad terms as “communist, ” -American,” or “ungodly.”) If these works include less than polite language, the censor may also formulate an attack on the grounds of obscenity in addition to ( & sometimes to cover up) political objections. Minority rights. Not all censors are interested in preserving traditional social order. The conservative censor has been joined by groups who want their own special values acknowledged. For example, ethnic minorities & women struggling against long-established stereotypes are anxious to reject materials viewed as perpetuating those stereotypes. These groups may choose the devices of the censor for their campaigns. Along with the censor’s individual motives, attempts to suppress certain library materials may stem from a confused understanding of the role of the library or librarian & of the rights of other library users. The censor’s concern about library materials is based upon a view of the library as an important social institution. Unfortunately, the censor frequently fails to see that a library is fulfilling its obligations to the community it serves by providing materials presenting all points of view, & that it is not the function of the library to filter materials according to arbitrary standards of acceptability. Would-be censors often think that it is the role of the library to support only certain values or causes, which are, of course, their values & their causes.

Recent Developments

In the United States, under the First Amendment, no citizen & no librarian can properly assume the duty or right to restrict or suppress legally protected expressions of ideas. The censor may not understand that a request to label or restrict or remove certain works, if fulfilled, would lead to an abridgment of the rights of other library users.

In 1999, the Kansas State Board of Education determined that Darwinism cannot be mentioned on statewide tests, a ruling the supporters of Banned Books Week (BBW) found “less than evolved.” This ruling came nearly 75 years after substitute teacher John Scopes was convicted by a Tennessee court in the famed “Monkey Trial” for teaching evolution & 140 years after Charles Darwin published the controversial The Origin of Species. Judith Krug, director of ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, said, “While the Kansas board may believe it has the best interest of the community at heart, history shows that censorship is not effective. In an evolved society like ours, we should welcome all schools of thought. When we don’t, we regress.”

Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, believes the nation is also “in the middle of a censorship panic” that revolves around books, magazines & other entertainment media with violent content. He referred to a measure recently put before the U.S. Congress that would have made it a felony for anyone to sell a book to a minor if it has “violent content.” While the measure was defeated by a large margin, Finan noted that 150 members of Congress voted in favor of it. “Any Stephen King book, any book that depicted war in a particular fashion, the Holocaust for example, would be questionable under such a law,” Finan said.

Banned Books Week 2006

Observed since 1982, the annual event is a celebration of the freedom to read & reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. Banned Books Week 2006 (BBW) continues to demonstrate that books challenged or removed from library shelves are equal-opportunity “offenders” while it highlights the importance of our First Amendment right to choose to read all books. Librarians & others report & resist efforts to remove books by authors living & dead, with characters real & imagined, intended for audiences from young children to adults. It doesn’t seem to matter whether the offense is talking to God or believing in the devil, using language that’s either out-of-date or too up-to-date, or something as simple as not wearing pajamas. BBW reminds us that no one should be complacent in thinking that books are safe from censorship attempts. In schools & libraries across the country, thousands of books -- many of the classics -- are still being challenged today.

The sponsors of BBW are acutely aware that ALA has received reports of thousands of challenges over the past decade. Research shows that the reported challenges represent only 20 to 25 percent of all actual challenges. Of even greater concern is the fact that every challenge is an attempt to make ideas inaccessible to their intended audience. Books ranging from works by Dr. Seuss to “The Origin of Species” to the Bible have been challenged. In 2005, the ALA logged 405 attempts by groups or individuals to have books removed from library shelves & from classrooms. The “Ten Most Challenged Books of 2005” reflect a wide variety of themes. The books, in order of most frequently challenged are:

- It’s Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris, for homosexuality, nudity, sex education, religious viewpoint, abortion & being unsuited to age group;
- Forever by Judy Blume for sexual content & offensive language;
- The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger for sexual content, offensive language & being unsuited to age group;
- The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier for sexual content & offensive language;
- Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher for racism & offensive language;
- Detour for Emmy by Marilyn Reynolds for sexual content;
- What My Mother Doesn’t Know by Sonya Sones for sexual content & being unsuited to age group;
- Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey for anti-family content, being unsuited to age group & violence;
- Crazy Lady! by Jane Leslie Conly for offensive language; &
- It’s So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families by Robie H. Harris for sex education & sexual content.

Returning to the list this year after several years off it are I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, for sexual content, racism, offensive language, violence & being unsuited to age group; & the Captain Underpants series by Dave Pilkey, for insensitivity & being unsuited to age group. For the first time in many years, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, normally challenged for racism, insensitivity & offensive language, was not on the list.

“Those that are able to read, speak, think & express ourselves freely are core American values,” said Judith Krug, director of ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom. “We hope Banned Books Week helps to remind Americans of the importance of our freedom at a time when freedoms are being eroded in the United States. Now – more than ever – we must let freedom read.”

Why Banned Books Week?

Each year, ALA is asked why the week is called “Banned Books Week” instead of “Challenged Books Week,” since the majority of the books featured during the week are not banned, but “merely” challenged. There are two reasons. One, ALA does not “own” the BBW name, but is just one of several cosponsors; therefore, ALA cannot change the name without all the cosponsors agreeing to a change. Two, none want to
do so, primarily because a challenge is an attempt to ban or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A successful challenge would result in materials being banned or restricted.

Celebrate Freedom & Protect the First Amendment!

For 25 years BBW has been celebrating the freedom to read. This freedom, not only to choose what we read, but also to select from a full array of possibilities, is firmly rooted in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech & freedom of the press. Although we may enjoy an increasing quantity & availability of information & reading material, we must remain vigilant to assure that access to this material is preserved; would-be censors continue to threaten the freedom to read & come from all quarters & all political persuasions. Even if their motivations for restrictions are well intentioned, censors try to limit the freedom of others to choose what they read, see, or hear. The annual observance of BBW is a celebration of the freedom to choose & the freedom to express one’s opinion, even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular. The BBW observance also stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them & the importance of not taking this precious democratic freedom for granted. Intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met. The freedom to express yourself through a specific form of communication is virtually meaningless if access to that information is not also protected.

The freedom to read is about individual choice & respecting the right of others to choose for themselves & their families what they wish to read. Book banning & challenging, if successful, will have a domino effect. If we stand quietly by, allowing the first book to come off the shelf, we run the risk that they will all come tumbling down. A true democracy allows free people to read freely. Although they were the targets of attempted bannings, most of the books featured during BBW were not banned, thanks to the efforts of librarians to maintain them in their collections. Imagine how many more books might be challenged & possibly banned or restricted if librarians, teachers, & booksellers across the country did not use BBW each year to teach the importance of our First Amendment rights & the power of literature, & to draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society.

Challenges are often motivated by a desire to protect children from “inappropriate” sexual content or “offensive” language. Although this is a commendable motivation, Free Access to Libraries for Minors, an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (ALA's basic policy concerning access to information) states that, “Librarians & governing bodies should maintain that parents -- & only parents -- have the right & the responsibility to restrict the access of their children -- & only their children -- to library resources.” Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

In Texas v. Johnson, Supreme Court Justice William Brennan eloquently stated, "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the Government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." As we continue to protect our First Amendment, we should also remember these words of Noam Chomsky: "If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all.”

100 Best Novels of the 20th Century

In 1998, when the Modern Library published its list of the 100 Best Novels of the 20th Century, it sparked considerable debate over what is & isn't a great novel. The list also provided a vivid illustration of what BBW is all about.

Not surprisingly, exactly one third of the titles on the list of "best" novels, including 6 of the top 10, have been removed or threatened with removal from bookstores, libraries & schools at some point. The Grapes of Wrath, number 10 on the list, has been one of the most vilified works since its publication in 1939. Burned at the St. Louis (Mo.) Public Library immediately after publication, it also was banned from the Buffalo (N.Y.) Public Library because of "vulgar words." It was challenged in the Greeniville, SC schools because it used the names of God & Jesus "in a vain & profane manner" & was banned in Kern County, CA where the story was set. Today, it continues to be one of the most challenged books in schools & libraries.

Other banned books in the Modern Library's "Top Ten" include The Great Gatsby & Brave New World. Today, it's hard to imagine a library or a school curriculum without these works. John O'Hara, his Appointment in Samarra is listed at number 22, found himself unwelcome in his hometown (both in person & in print) because his work included descriptions of "fictitious" towns & residents that were too accurate for his neighbors' comfort. He chose to leave town, but for years his books were nearly impossible to find in his hometown.

Fortunately, few books are permanently banned from library & bookstore shelves in the United States. Why? -- Because librarians, booksellers, educators, parents & others actively defend our right to read.

In 2003, Oprah Winfrey brought back her Book Club. Ms. Winfrey's selection of Steinbeck’s East of Eden put the 51-year-old book on the New York Times bestseller list, & encouraged Americans to return to classic literature. Like many classic novels, including To Kill a Mockingbird & The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, East of Eden has been subject to several attempts to remove it from library bookshelves. Called "ungodly & obscene" in Anniston, AL, it was removed, then reinstated on a restricted basis in the town's school libraries in 1982. Greenville, SC, schools also saw a challenge to the book in 1991. Ms. Winfrey has also selected 1982's Nobel Prize in Literature winner Gabriel Garcia-Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude which has been purged, removed or challenged from several high school reading lists from 1988-1998.

"Unfortunately, any book can come under attack for any reason," said Chris Finan, president of American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression.

"Steinbeck’s books have been deemed 'filthy' & 'profane,' while Maurice Sendak’s popular In the Night Kitchen has been challenged for nudity. I hope families will pick up a banned book & read it & discuss it together."

In April 2002, in the first legal challenge to a restriction on the use of Harry Potter books in the public schools, a federal judge ordered the school district in Cedarville, AR., to return J.K. Rowling's books to the open shelves of its libraries. A 4th grader & her parents sued the Cedarville school board after it removed the books in response to a complaint that the books show “that there are ‘good witches’ & ‘good magic’” & that they teach "parents/teachers/rules are stupid & something to be ignored."

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom has recorded more than 8,700 book challenges since 1990, including 405 in 2005. It is estimated that less than ¼ of all challenges are reported & recorded. A "challenge" is defined as a formal, written complaint filed with a library or school about a book’s content or appropriateness. The majority of challenges (roughly 60 percent) are brought by parents followed by library patrons & administrators. Each challenge represents an effort to remove books from school curricula or library shelves.

"Not every book will be right for every reader, but the freedom to choose for ourselves from a full array of possibilities is a hard-won right that we must not take for granted in this country," said Judith Platt, director of the Association of American Publishers' Freedom to Read program.

Final Thoughts

These challenges are not just complaints. They are serious requests to have materials removed from library shelves & curricula, most frequently in our nation’s schools. The annual observance of Banned Books Week by bookstores & libraries across the nation, including P.J.T. Library, is intended as a reminder not to take one of our most important freedoms for granted --
On the Web:
Special thanks go to Dr. Paul Smith, who discovered this website & passed the link on to me.
The Professional Development Services website http://pds.hccfl.edu/pds/at Hillsborough Community College has a number of resources that may be of interest to P.I.T.’s faculty & staff.
HCC has created a site with a variety of professional development tools aimed at 2-year college instructors & K-12 teachers. Under the Training link you can find information about the variety of workshops that are offered by the HCC PDS staff. Also of interest through the training page is a link to their various training manuals http://pds.hccfl.edu/pds/train/manuals.htm which you can view & use.
The Best Practices page http://pds.hccfl.edu/pds/best/index.htm includes links to a variety of topics that may be of interest to P.I.T. Faculty. For example, the page includes a PowerPoint presentation on Managing Disruptive Classroom Behavior & an article about Instructional Simulations: the Make-Believe Real World.
The current Best Practices article, Positive Relationships for Productive Library Assignments by Alicia B. Ellison, is one that I strongly encourage the P.I.T. Faculty to read. Ms. Ellison’s major points include:
• Identify the reasons for assigning a paper [or project] that requires library research.
• Know that librarians are your friends & your partners.
  • Library Science is a discipline
  • Librarians know how information is produced & packaged, & where to find it.
  • Librarians are trained to connect information seekers with the material they want or need. We know “where the good stuff is,” & we can help you find it!
• Librarians want to work with you & help your students succeed.
• Schedule a library orientation session for your class.
• Avoid scavenger hunts.
• Plan library research assignments well.
• Ask the librarian to review available resources with you.
• Suggest items for purchase.
Take a look at the Professional Development Services website & see what other useful information you can find.

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

“Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”
-- Library Bill of Rights
American Library Association

Upcoming displays!
During September the Library resources displays will change several times. Our focus is currently on college success (survival) resources. If you are considering a transfer to a 4-year school after graduation, review our extensive collection of other colleges’ catalogs. These catalogs must be used in the Library & are shelved next to the display.
Near the middle of the month we will shift to the U.S. Constitution in honor of the anniversary of its ratification. Finally Banned Books week will be the focus during the last week. Most of these resources can be checked out if you would like to use them. Just ask.

Information Literacy
“Simply put, information literacy is knowing how to find information, evaluate it and use it effectively.”
Information Literacy: Critical Skills for a Changing World by the American Library Association
At P.I.T. faculty, students, administration & staff recognize that information literacy skills are a valuable asset to lifelong learning. Research projects can be viewed as opportunities to learn the information literacy skills needed for life.
Our goal is to assist students in developing skills which will enable them to function as information literate individuals capable of using & applying current information technology.
Students will learn to determine when information is required, and will develop skills in acquiring information using library resources & computer technologies. Students will learn effective searching, evaluation of information, & use of the World Wide Web & Internet.
Faculty members who are interested using the Library’s Information Literacy program for their classes should contact Lynea to set up times as soon as possible. Approximately 22 classes took advantage of this service during the spring semester as did several JumpStart classes. Many of the students returned to the Library afterwards to say that the time in the Library was extremely helpful as they did their research. With our increased enrollment, we are anticipating even more classes making use of this special service.
Schedule your class as early as you can by contacting Lynea Anderman at 610-892-1524 OR at landerman@pitt.edu OR by stopping in the Library.

New on the Shelf
Books recently added to the P.I.T. Library include:
Bongso, Ariff. Stem Cells: From Bench to Bedside. QH 588 .S83 2005
Buckminster Fuller: Anthology for a New Millennium. TA 140 .F9 B83 2002
Canobbio, Mary M. Mosby’s Handbook of Patient Teaching. RT 90 .C36 2006

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

“Don’t join the book burners . . .”
Carrier, Ewa. 100 Questions & Answers about Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation. RD 123.5 3C37 2004

Consumer Reports Buying Guide. Ref TX 335 .C663 2006

Covey, Stephen R. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. BF 637 .S8 C68 2004

Edward, John. One Last Time: A Psychic Medium Speaks to Those We Have Loved and Lost. BF 1283 .E34 A3 1999

Eisenberg, Ronni. Organize Yourself. TX 147 .E47 1997

Eyles, Mary O. Mosby’s Comprehensive Review of Practical Nursing for the NCLEX-PN Examination. RG 951 .W87 2006

Gardner, David. The Motley Fool’s Rule Breakers, Rule Maker. HG 4529.5 .G3723 1999

Grafton, Sue. “K” is for Killer. PS 3557 .R13 K2 1994

Ignatavicius, Donna D. Introduction to Long Term Care Nursing. RT 120 .L64 138 1998


Morganstern, Julie. Organizing Yourself From the Inside Out. TX 147 .M67 2004


Patterson, James. Lifeguard: a Novel. PS 3566 .A822 L54 2005


Poor, Belinda. End of Life Nursing Care. R 726.8 .P65 2001


Ropka, Mary E. HIV Nursing and Symptom Management. RC 607 .A26 H5764 1998


Siefring, Thomas A. The United States Marines. VE 23 .S53 1979

Simmons, Edwin Howard. The Marines. VE 23 .M375 2004

Spector, Rachel E. Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness. RA 418.5 .T73 S64 2004

Culture Care: Guide to Heritage Assessment and Health Traditions. RA 418.5 .T73 S643 2004


Swanson, Elizabeth A., ed. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the Older Adult. RA 564.8 .H4293 2001

**HINDERLITER COLLECTION**

(Located at the front of the Library.)

Ford, John. Tutankhamen’s Treasures. DT 87.5 .F6 1978


Therapeutic Relationship. RA 418.5 .T73 S643 2004

Communication: The Key to the Therapeutic Relationship. RT 86.3 .S525 2000

Siefring, Thomas A. The United States Marines. VE 23 .S53 1979

Simmons, Edwin Howard. The Marines. VE 23 .M375 2004

Spector, Rachel E. Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness. RA 418.5 .T73 S64 2004

Culture Care: Guide to Heritage Assessment and Health Traditions. RA 418.5 .T73 S643 2004


Swanson, Elizabeth A., ed. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the Older Adult. RA 564.8 .H4293 2001

**MORE WORDS OF WISDOM**

“Books won’t stay banned. They won’t burn. Ideas won’t go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas.”

-- Alfred Whitney Griswold

**MORE WORDS OF WISDOM**

“Without Freedom of Thought, there can be no such Thing as Wisdom; and no such Thing as publick Liberty, without Freedom of Speech.”

-- Benjamin Franklin

**Remember to take advantage of the great resources that are available to you @ your library!**
Interested in being a Guest Columnist?

Off the Shelf features 2 special columns that need your help to succeed.

Out of the Backpack features student writing submitted to the Library through a Faculty Member or an Academic Support Counselor.

My Say features faculty or staff writing. While I originally envisioned it as a book review columns for titles available in the P.I.T. Library, I'd be delighted to include other staff writing as well.

These columns may not appear every month, but I hope to receive more submissions in the future. (I'm really looking forward to them!) If you have an article that you'd like to see included in Off the Shelf, contact Lynea at x1524 or by email at landerman@pit.edu.

Update on Dewey to LC Change

Books & other materials are arranged in P.I.T. Library by subject with all the material on one subject shelved together. You are already familiar with the Dewey Decimal Classification System which assigns a number from 001 to 900 for each subject as illustrated below:

- 000 – Generalities
- 100 – Philosophy & Psychology
- 200 – Religion
- 300 – Social Sciences
- 400 – Language
- 500 – Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- 600 – Technology (Applied Sciences)
- 700 – The Arts
- 800 – Literature & Rhetoric
- 900 – Geography & History

Dewey is used by most school & public libraries. Currently most of the P.I.T. Library collection is organized using the Dewey Decimal System. Only a small portion of the collection is assigned a Library of Congress (LC) classification number. We are gradually converting all of the collection from Dewey to LC & you are probably wondering why we are making this change. Let me take a moment to explain.

Our students are the primary reason we are converting. Many of you will transfer to a 4-year school to continue your education. One part of our mission at P.I.T. is to prepare students to succeed in their educational endeavors. So, I need to provide you with the skills to use another college library. Nearly all of the libraries at the colleges our students transfer to use LC, the best way for you to learn to use LC is by converting the P.I.T. Library to LC.

The LC Classification System uses letters & numbers to denote subjects. It was first designed & used by the Library of Congress. Today, most academic libraries also use it. Each subject is assigned a one or two letter code. The letters do not necessarily stand for the first letter of the subject they represent. For instance, Political Science is letter J, and Art is letter N.

As you use the Library, you will be directed to materials with an LC call number. The book items are located on the first shelves adjacent to the Circulation/Reference desk. (Videos & special collections are at the beginning of their respective shelves.)

Mathematics will now be found in the QAs (including QA 76 for computer languages & programming); Human Anatomy is now in QS; and NAs are books about architecture.

The following is a brief listing of the Library of Congress Classification System illustrating the letters assigned to general subjects:

- A -- General Works
- B-BJ -- Philosophy
- BF -- Psychology
- BL-BX -- Religion
- C -- Auxiliary Sciences of History
- D -- History (General) & History of Europe
- E -- History: America
- F -- History: America - States
- G -- Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
- H -- Business & Social Sciences
- J -- Political Science
- K -- Law (KF – Law of the United States)
- L -- Education
- M -- Music & Books on Music
- N -- Fine Arts (including Architecture)
- P -- Language & Literature (PR – English Lit.; PS – American Lit.)
- Q -- Mathematics, Science & Computer Science
- R -- Medicine
- S -- Agriculture
- T -- Technology, Engineering
- U -- Military Science
- V -- Naval Science
- Z -- Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources (General), Printing, & Publishing

For a little while we will continue to have both Dewey & LC call numbers, so you may have check two places for materials. Please don’t hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Reference Review

This month’s reference title is Censorship: A World Encyclopedia edited by Derek Jones.

This 4-volume set provides a wide-ranging view of censorship, spanning ancient Egypt to present times & covering art, literature, music, news, visual arts, & many other topics. The set also includes discussions of major controversies for specific movies, books, & television shows. Derek Jones offers a wide interpretation or definition of censorship to cover the “formal and informal, overt and covert” ways that “restrictions are imposed on the collection, display, dissemination and exchange of information.”

Although some entries could be expanded to provide even greater coverage they are scholarly & well documented. Overall the articles include sufficient historical background to provide appropriate context for the policies or events of censorship they document.


Off the shelf is a monthly newsletter designed to inform P.I.T. students, faculty & staff of services & developments in the Library. We hope you find this publication informative & interesting. If you have any suggestions for future issues, please contact Lynea Anderman at (610) 892-1524, by fax at (610) 892-1523 or by email at landerman@pit.edu.

[Image 157x742 to 193x768]