

Policy Title:	Library Censorship and Challenge Policy
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Governing Body:	Academic Affairs	Policy Number:	AAD. 062
Policy Contact:	Collection Development Librarian	Date Revised:	05/01/25
Custodial Office:	Hannon Library	Date Approved:	07/11/25
Approved By:	Policy Council and President Bailey	Next Review:	
Related Policy:			

A. Description

Provides the process by which an individual can challenge the inclusion of library materials.

B. Definition(s)

None.

C. Policy Statement

Hannon Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the following statements the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) and the accompanying statements on Intellectual Freedom (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom>).

In addition, the *Oregon Revised Statutes*, Chapter 357.001, states:

The State of Oregon recognizes that:

- (1) An informed citizenry is indispensable to the proper functioning of a democratic society.
- (2) Libraries constitute a cultural, informational and educational resource essential to the people of this state.
- (3) Library services should be available widely throughout the state to bring within convenient reach of the people appropriate opportunities for reading, study and free inquiry.
- (4) Providing and supporting adequate library services is a proper and necessary function of government at all levels.

(5) It is a basic right of citizens to know about the activities of their government, to benefit from the information developed at public expense and to have permanent access to the information published by state agencies. [1975 c.476 §2; 1995 c.69 §1; 2005 c.33 §1]

Hannon Library does not promote particular beliefs or views, but instead presents quality materials containing opposition views for examination by its patrons. No materials shall be excluded from the collection because of the race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation of the authors, or the political, moral, or religious views expressed therein. In fact, we welcome materials from a variety of perspectives and value these additions to the scholarly corpus. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection.

Hannon Library recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library's collection. Whenever any person, using materials in Hannon Library, objects to the presence of any library material, the complaint will be given a fair hearing. All complaints to staff members will be referred immediately to the University Librarian who will discuss the matter with the complainant. The complainant will be asked to submit a "Statement of Concern about Library Materials" (MSWord) (https://hanlib.sou.edu/techserv/statement_of_concern.docx) so that a formal consideration can be made. The University Librarian will examine the item in question and will decide whether or not to withdraw or restrict the material in question and within 30 days will write to the complainant stating the reasons for the decision. The Provost will be notified of the library's decision. Materials will remain on the shelf until decisions are made and procedures complete. Should the complainant disagree with the decision of the University Librarian, an appeal must be made within 30 days to the Provost. Within 30 days the Provost will appoint and convene an ad hoc review committee consisting of students, faculty, and the Provost which will review the University Librarian's decision and within 30 days will forward a written statement to both the complainant and the University Librarian affirming or denying the original decision. Both the University Librarian and the complainant will be allowed to present their positions before the ad hoc committee.

This policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior policy and are effective immediately upon approval.

D. Relevant Authority

192.355: Public records exempt from disclosure. The following public records are exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.311 to 192.478: (23) The records of a library, including: (a) Circulation records, showing use of specific library material by a named person; (b) The name of a library patron together with the address or telephone number of the patron; and (c) The electronic mail address of a patron.

E. Other Information

None.

The Policy Contact, defined above, will write and maintain the procedures related to this policy and these procedures

will be made available within the Custodial Office.