Intellectual freedom is one of the most contentious issues in the library profession. Book challenges, law enforcement requests for library records, use of library facilities by controversial groups—all tend to provoke heated argument that often degenerates until it borders on name-calling. The author, a former librarian with the Fairbanks (Alaska) library system and chair of the Alaska Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee since 1984, has written a level-headed guide both to the general principles of intellectual freedom as based on current interpretations of the First Amendment and to practical and tactful ways of dealing with disputes as they arise.

For challenges to items in the collection, a library's first and best line of defense is a written collection development policy, ideally written before any challenges occur. Pinnell-Stephens writes, "If it's not on the books in advance, the person filing the complaint will never believe it wasn't written just to frustrate her" (2). She also stresses the importance of having a detailed Internet use policy, providing a written example and a checklist. The author also provides examples of forms that patrons can use to express their concerns about library materials and form letters that libraries can use to respond to complaints.

Although responding to complaints about library materials is the public face (as it were) of the First Amendment at work in the library, Protecting Intellectual Freedom has two much-needed reminders that some librarians will find distasteful. The first is that patrons who protest items in a public library's collection are not to be written off as prudes or would-be censors: they're exercising their First Amendment right to "petition the Government for redress of grievances" (xi). Second, a library that has a lecture hall, meeting room, or auditorium available for public use cannot deny its use to an individual or group on the grounds of a disagreement with their views or a desire to avoid controversy. This reviewer discovered first-hand how difficult it is for some librarians to grasp this latter (and elementary) point when a Holocaust-denier group booked his workpiece's auditorium.

For a book dealing with such knotty topics as the legal definition of obscenity and the First Amendment's Establishment Clause as it applies to libraries, Protecting Intellectual Freedom is a surprisingly quick read. Pinnell-Stephens writes clearly and concisely. interspersed throughout the book are helpful "Focus" sections—brief summaries of important issues and legal decisions.

This book's only flaws are minor ones. For example, the author briefly discusses collection development issues, such as book donations and new formats (e.g., computer games), which are not entirely relevant to the overall topic. Likewise, it is unclear why a list of the "50 Most Popular Websites" is included (38–39).

Protecting Intellectual Freedom in Your Public Library is an essential addendum to staff professional development collections. Every public librarian in America should read it.

Article Categories:
- Library Reference and User Services
- Sources

Public Libraries and Intellectual Freedom. American Library Association. Retrieved from http://www.ala.org/advocacy/infreedom/iftoolkits/ifmanual/fifthedition/publiclibraries. This article offers insight to the impact of Intellectual Freedom from the public library sphere. The article details key concepts that help shape policies and discusses authority, censorship, and the concept of informed consent. Protecting Intellectual Freedom in Your Academic Library: Scenarios from the Front Lines. Chicago: ALA Editions. In this text, the author discusses the concepts behind intellectual freedom and how it applies to the academic library setting. This text provides narrative and scenarios, examples covering current topics in academic libraries such as academic freedom and Protecting Intellectual Freedom and Privacy in Your School Library. $55 in order to sort out fact from fiction and become effective, critically thinking adults in a global society, children need access to diverse points of view from authoritative sources in their school libraries. This book provides school librarians with easy-to-read guidance on specific aspects of intellectual freedom and privacy, explaining how the core values of the library profession translate into everyday practice. The readings supply current information and targeted