

**The Fear of Words:
Censorship and the Public Libraries of Canada**

by

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Overview

This book presents the findings of a study of access policies and censorship experiences of the public libraries of Canada. It addresses the issue of the prevailing climate of intellectual freedom in public libraries across the country. It shows just how much community pressure is brought to bear on public libraries to remove or restrict materials, and how their staffs respond to such pressures. It also makes tentative comparisons with recent American events.

The Fear of Words is the first attempt to document the public library experience of an entire nation. No other survey research on contemporary censorship in public libraries has been published that is comparable in scope, depth, or geographic coverage to the wealth of information contained in this book. A favorable response rate among public libraries, representing 76 percent of all Canadian residents, assures a high level of confidence in the findings.

The book begins with a selective review of recent literature about public library censorship in Canada and the U.S., focusing on the methods that have been used to study this phenomenon; several studies of school and academic library censorship are included. It then investigates the access structures and censorship experiences of Canadian public libraries across the country, focusing on institutional access policies, community challenges to library materials, staff reactions, and the effects of challenges on intellectual access.

The study shows that 70 percent of the respondent public libraries had some or all of the basic institutional access policies that relate to intellectual freedom--selection, objections, donations, objections form, and support of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom. Some 60 percent reported that they did not place restrictions on children and young adults.

The study also shows that during the three-year period from 1985 to 1987, an average of one direct challenge occurred every day of the year, somewhere in Canada. The rate of challenged institutions across the country was approximately 21 percent annually, and 35 percent over three years.

Almost as many different titles were challenged between 1985 and 1987 as there were challengers: over 500 titles by fewer than 600 individuals. The most common grounds for challenges were sex, violence, and unsuitability for an age group. Three

out of four complainants wanted the materials removed from the shelves. In 86 percent of the cases, however, public library staff did not remove the offending items.

The study also shows that at least one in ten public libraries experienced incidents of covert censorship--theft, defacement, alteration, mutilation, or destruction of materials. This works out to an estimated average of one incident per week somewhere in the country. As well, one in five public libraries was pressured unduly to acquire or accept materials for their collections.

These are some of the highlights of the story that unfolds in the chapters that follow. In this story, creative tension between institutional expertise and community advocacy is revealed as a continuous thread. Public library staff consistently use challenges to their collections as opportunities for fruitful dialogue with members of the community: individuals explain their concerns and values and attitudes, and staff explain the public library's role in a democracy and the need for tolerance in communities of cultural diversity.

I believe that this effort is of timely concern, and will be of interest not only to those working in the field of public librarianship around the world but also to students of human freedoms, especially the freedom to receive information.

It is hoped that this study sheds new light on the prevailing climate of intellectual freedom in Canadian public libraries, and that it will help to promote discussion about the proper limits on freedom of expression that are appropriate in a democratic society. Perhaps it will also serve as a "case study" for investigators in other democracies who might be interested in conducting similar research. The findings should be of value to public librarians everywhere in their ceaseless efforts to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of their own responses to censorship pressures and dilemmas.

It should be remembered that the national profile that emerges in this story is only a snapshot: every day, new twists are added to the emergent narrative that reveal how public library staff respond to the inherent tension between citizen advocacy and institutional prerogative.

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PART ONE: ISSUES OF ACCESS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

*And who shall silence all
the airs and madrigals that
whisper softness in chambers?
--Milton, Areopagitica*

In Quebec, one of the respondents to the study being reported here described how a parent had been scandalized to find his daughter reading a public library book on menstruation that was aimed at 10 to 14 year-olds. The daughter was 10. The father was a doctor. After staff discussed the matter with the complainant, the book was retained.

In Newfoundland, another study respondent reported that a patron wanted all of Kevin Major's books removed from the children's section of the public library. The public library responded by relocating his books to a newly-created, young adult section; but, as the respondent noted, children could still borrow materials from that area.

In Alberta, it was reported that a parent wanted *Trish for*

President removed from the young adult section of the public library, on the grounds that it was "definitely unsuitable" for a young adult. However, the real reason behind the objection, the study respondent noted parenthetically, was the liberated attitude of the girl in running for school president. In any event, after discussion with the parent, the book was retained.

In Saskatchewan, a patron objected to all adult western paperbacks in the public library, on the grounds that the explicit sex in them was demoralizing to young minds. The books were removed.

In Ontario, a parent wanted *Kevin* withdrawn from the public library collection, on the grounds that her son had been counselled "for this gay problem" that she claimed he was confused and unhappy about, and she strongly resented the content of this book, which in her view glorified it. After discussion, the book was retained.

Also in Ontario, a parent requested the removal of *Where Did I Come From?* by Peter Mayle, which she felt was too explicit and "damaging to her nine-year old son who was going into the priesthood." After discussion, the book was retained.

In Nova Scotia, a parent wanted the public library to remove its copy of *Nightmares: Poems to Trouble Your Sleep* because one poem, about a ghoul outside the school, "added to the things kids have to watch out for and be frightened of." After discussion, the book was retained.

In both Ontario and Quebec, there were various reports of public library patrons demanding the removal of all books dealing with astrology, the occult, witchcraft, magic, and parapsychology--"satanic books," as one complainant called them, and "the work of the devil," in the words of another. In all cases, the results were the same: after discussion with complainants, the books remained on the shelves.

In Alberta, a parent wanted a book removed from the public library collection so that children would not have access to the obscene words in it. The staff "relocated" it to the library's work section. The book in question? *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*.

In Manitoba, a patron described the public library's copy of *Kansan*, by Robert E. Mills, as pornographic and said: "This book ought to be burned and the author gelded." After discussion with the complainant, it remained on the shelves.

In Ontario, a patron objected to the inclusion in the public library collection of Marion Engel's *Bear*. The action requested? "Removal from the collection, jail for the librarian." After discussion, the book was retained (and presumably the threat of criminal charges abandoned!).

These are but a few of the hundreds of incidents that came to light in the course of the study reported here, research that was motivated by a desire to understand more clearly the climate of intellectual freedom that prevails in the public libraries of

Canada. While many Canadian residents believe that they can get anything they might want to read, view, or hear through their public library, the Book and Periodical Council, formerly the Book and Periodical Development Council (1984), has expressed a different view--Canada is a nation of quiet censors.

While there have not been any public book burnings, a quieter form of censorship exists in Canada. Often the suppression of a book is done so quickly the public is not even aware it has happened.

Censorship is becoming an acceptable way of dealing with social issues of concern to Canadians. (p.19)

But to what extent does this accusation apply to the nation's public libraries and public librarians? To the extent that it does apply, what is the role of the community in bringing about this "quiet censorship"? Does community role differ across the country? For example, are Alberta communities, among all the provinces and territories, rampant with would-be censors, as one of the stereotypes in prevailing wisdom holds? Are public libraries serving small rural communities more susceptible to censorial pressures than those serving large urban communities? Do public librarians exercise prior restraint in the selection process in order to avoid discord and rupture with public library boards who might be nervous about local controversy and volatile community support?

The impetus for the study summarized in the following pages was the realization that Canadian public librarians lacked national information on the scope and nature of community

pressures to censor materials housed in the nation's public libraries. Also lacking was information on the ways in which public library staff across the country have responded to these pressures. For a summary of the study findings, see Schrader (1991, 1992).

The literature on intellectual freedom is replete with condemnations of the censorial attitudes and self-censorship practices of librarians, and with exhortations to them to resist both internal and external community censorship pressures. But there is very little research into the kinds of community pressures that contribute to such attitudes and practices, or into how pervasive these censorial pressures are. And even less is known of just how frequently--or infrequently--public librarians actually remove or otherwise restrict patron access to materials as a result of such pressures. The literature rarely goes beyond personal impressions and experiences, anecdotal accounts and sporadic press reports, and one-time surveys that are constrained by geography or methodology or both.

In an analysis of published research on censorship and intellectual freedom in public and school libraries during the decade from 1975 to 1985, the (U.S.) National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (1986) noted that there was a perception of increased censorship activity but hard data were unavailable. The Commission concluded that there was no "accepted and recognized index of activity" regarding censorship.

A parallel situation characterizes Canadian public libraries. Until now, there has been no solid empirical basis for generalizations and comparisons about the existence or pervasiveness of community censorship pressures on public libraries across the country; most of the issues involving access to Canadian public library collections remain unexplored. The study reported here, the first national survey of its kind in the world, was designed to remedy this long-standing deficiency, and thus to shed light on the prevailing climate of intellectual freedom in Canadian public libraries.

It is hoped that the findings will be of interest to public librarians and trustees, provincial officials and professional associations, authors and publishers, journalists and students of the media, library and information studies educators and students, and members of the general public who are concerned about intellectual liberty in the Canadian body politic. Although the study describes Canadian institutions and their practices, it should also be of interest in other countries where there are strong traditions of public librarianship and democratic government.

CHAPTER 2

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Questions about the practice of public library censorship raise important social policy issues for Canadian society. Public libraries, by virtue of institutional precedent and social evolution, are increasingly sensitive to their client communities. This sensitivity issues from both legal and philosophical imperatives. In Canada, public libraries exist by virtue of provincial or territorial legislation that empowers them to provide public access to a wide variety of materials deemed useful to a mass audience.

The basic social mission of the public library is to facilitate community access to cultural records. More precisely, the challenge that has evolved over the past century or so is to make available an unbiased, "balanced," and "representative" collection--an optimal range and diversity of informational, educational, and recreational resources that represent many points of view of possible interest to a mass audience. These

resources are made available to the community at large, for each individual's own personal pleasure, education, critical review, and general self-enhancement.

To the extent that public librarians succeed in providing access to these resources, they have the opportunity--and the power--to promote public awareness of diverse points of view and thereby to affect public attitudes. To the extent that public librarians deny such access, the power to promote public awareness is thereby impaired, and the potential benefit of the public library to each member of the community is diminished, its worth trivialized.

But for public librarians, the philosophical imperative that gives shape and substance to client sensitivity is double-edged: responsiveness to community demands for more access to various points of view can conflict with responsiveness to other community demands for less access or no access at all. In this perspective, the public library is a collection of competing users and competing communities. As an agent of the people and an institution of cultural transmission, which of these communities should the public library serve? Does it not only select but also censor? Or can it serve both?

While some commentators in library and information studies, including some librarians, have asserted that there is no philosophical difference between the act of selection and the act of censorship, most have argued otherwise. Judith Serebnick

(1979), in a review of the published research on library selection and censorship, concluded that:

Though definitions of censorship differed, in general selection was considered an activity governed by professional standards, and censorship was a rejection of materials for nonprofessional reasons. (p.102)

Leon Carnovsky (1950), then a member of the faculty of the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago and a longtime leader in the fight for intellectual freedom, argued that:

We must clearly distinguish between identical effects that result from altogether different causes, and we shall never face the censorship problem squarely and honestly until we see that book selection (which implies book rejection) and censorship are not identical. (p.21)

Lester Asheim (1953, 1983) has provided further insights into the difference between library selection and censorship. In the midst of Senator Joseph McCarthy's fascist program of political terrorism that silenced most of America in the early 1950s, the American Library Association sponsored a Second Conference on Intellectual Freedom in Whittier, California. Asheim (1953), then dean of the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago, gave a paper about the nature of censorship that has become a landmark in the professional literature. He argued that the act which must be examined is the rejection of items that occurs as part of the library's selection process. He posed the question: How does this kind of rejection

differ from the censor's rejection?

Asheim (1953) held that the key characteristic that distinguishes selection from censorship can not be found in the criteria by which judgments are made, but rather in the motivation for judging. He argued that the selector's motivation is positive, while the censor's is negative. This difference in motivation transforms the entire act of rejection.

For to the selector, the important thing is to find reasons to keep the book. Given such a guiding principle, the selector looks for values, for strengths, for virtues which will overshadow minor objections. For the censor, on the other hand, the important thing is to find reasons to reject the book; his guiding principle leads him to seek out the objectionable features, the weaknesses, the possibilities for misinterpretation....And since there is seldom a flawless work in any form, the censor's approach can destroy much that is worth saving. (p.66)

Asheim noted that the censor sees nothing wrong with making judgments about a whole work on the basis of isolated parts that are taken out of context and given a weight completely out of keeping with their contribution to the overall work. To the censor, single words and unrelated passages are sufficient to damn a book--four letters can outweigh 500 pages (p.66). In Asheim's view, selection is democratic, and the social responsibility of the public library is to defend freedom of choice so that the individual can pursue whatever intellectual matters are of interest. In contrast, the censor's negative orientation leads to a search for reasons to ban and hence to take away the individual's right to choose freely.

Asheim summed up his views in this way:

Selection, then, begins with a presumption in favor of liberty of thought; censorship, with a presumption in favor of thought control. Selection's approach to the book is positive, seeking its values in the book as a book, and in the book as a whole. Censorship's approach is negative, seeking for vulnerable characteristics wherever they can be found--anywhere within the book, or even outside it. Selection seeks to protect the right of the reader to read; censorship seeks to protect--not the right--but the reader himself from the fancied effects of his reading. The selector has faith in the intelligence of the reader; the censor has faith only in his own. (p.67)

In arguing this position, however, Asheim also acknowledged the legitimacy of intellectual conflict between the library selector and the library user:

It is important to note here that, whether they annoy us or not, some pressures are legitimate and our patrons have every right to exert them, *so long as they are pressures on opinion, not on the expression of opinion.* So long as the opposing point of view may be expressed, the reader has a right to reject it, to take issue with it, and even to try to convince others of its falsity. Unfortunately, the methods taken to convince others often introduce elements which limit by intimidation the freedom to arrive at an honest judgment on the merits of the case alone.... (pp.66-67, italics in original)

Thirty years later, Asheim (1983) reaffirmed his view that the ultimate issue is the defence of access to ideas, to information, to aesthetic pleasure, to recreation, and to knowledge and the process that leads to knowledge. He wrote:

I still believe that the best solution to the problem of access is to add positively to the store of ideas, not negatively to reduce it. (p.184)

LeRoy Charles Merritt (1970) underscored Asheim's distinction

between selection and censorship, arguing that any librarian who understood the distinction need have no fear of a censor's success in the courts. He quoted approvingly Edward de Grazia's arguments at the Washington Conference on Intellectual Freedom in 1965:

It is my opinion that under present law no book selected by a librarian for his shelves can constitutionally be found obscene. Why? Because any such book must have at least some slight redeeming social importance. The very act of library selection testifies to and engrafts such importance upon it....Any material selected by a librarian, in the exercise of his function as a librarian, is protected. The protection extends both to his acquisition and retention of the material, and also precludes any valid prosecution of the librarian for acquiring or retaining it. (pp.22-23)

Like all individuals and institutions, the public library functions within a context of conflicting political values and changing social constraints. In this context, the process of selecting materials for public library collections can be viewed as a balancing act between community demands and institutional perspectives, and the censorship phenomenon as an inherent tension between citizen advocacy and institutional autonomy. In these struggles, what is at stake is political and social power, the power to control which points of view will be made available through the institution to the community.

Presumably, there exists a continuum of community reactions to intellectual freedom, ranging from legitimate expressions of personal opinion to oppressive infringements on the institutional mandate to serve all of the people. When the balance moves too

far in the direction of either protagonist, the potential for intellectual abuse exists: for the public library, the danger is alienation from its community; for the citizen advocate, the danger is arrogance and intolerance. Intellectual freedom has two sides, the freedom to disseminate ideas and the freedom to receive them, and in the end it is the librarian and the board of trustees who must assume responsibility for serving all the interests of the public library's public, not just those of the vocal minority or the intimidating majority.

There have been many ad hoc attempts to establish guidelines for the selection and acquisition of materials by public libraries, including guidelines for potentially controversial materials. But what has been lacking in the professional literature is a systematic analysis of precisely what happens when public library acquisitions elicit strongly negative reactions from individual members of the community. Without such knowledge, public librarians may ignore or misread important forces in the body politic; they may overestimate the power of some subgroups in the community, and they may ignore the needs of the voiceless individual.

What is needed to inform research into the censorship phenomenon in public libraries is a theoretical or conceptual framework that takes account of the larger political and social context within which public librarians function. For the most part, research efforts have proceeded without the benefit of an

explicit framework, and so the dynamic forces influencing public librarians to react to censorial pressures in the ways that they do have been ignored.

Two exceptions are found in the work of Serebnick (1979) and Dianne Hopkins (1989, 1991a, 1991b), both of whom have developed useful conceptual models. Working from a review of extant quantitative research and descriptive surveys, Serebnick (1979, pp.114-115) advocated the adoption of a broad conceptual framework for library censorship research in order to increase its explanatory and predictive power, a power that she regarded as weak. She conjectured that library selection and censorship activities are influenced by six main classes of variables:

- 1) librarian variables,
- 2) library variables,
- 3) community leader variables,
- 4) community and community action variables,
- 5) mass media variables, and
- 6) judicial and legal variables.

She argued that:

To explain and predict censorship in libraries, it may be necessary to deviate from primary or exclusive focus on librarian variables and rather to examine the additional classes of independent variables represented in [this review]. Problems of censorship in libraries usually occur in the context of larger problems, local and national, and it is doubtful that they can be explained adequately without investigating institutional and societal influences as well as attitudes, opinions, and demographic characteristics of librarians. (p.115)

Serebnick's framework is a useful starting point for theorizing about the censorship phenomenon in public libraries, but the

characteristics associated with selection need to be sorted out from those associated with censorial actions, and the factors that lead to censorship pressures need to be distinguished from those that result in differing resolutions of these pressures. In addition, censorship as a process grounded in the flux of time must be taken into account.

No framework has been constructed to help understand the censorship phenomenon in public libraries that is comparable in depth to the conceptual model developed for school libraries by Hopkins (1989, 1991a, 1991b). In this landmark work, the first comprehensive national study of censorship pressures on secondary school libraries in the United States, Hopkins focused on the outcomes of challenges and the factors influencing outcomes. She constructed a conceptual model of the path leading to an outcome, consisting of five determinants (Hopkins, 1989, p.249):

- 1) school district selection policy,
- 2) school librarian characteristics and values,
- 3) school environment,
- 4) community environment, and
- 5) initiator of a challenge.

On the basis of her study findings, Hopkins (1991b) later added a sixth determinant, complaint background, which consisted of two variables, active support for retention or removal, and medium of communication of a challenge (p.8:14).

Hopkins' final model (p.8:15) can be shown in the following diagrammatic form:

Figure 1. Hopkins' Conceptual Model for Outcomes to Challenges in Secondary School Libraries



In general terms, the censorship phenomenon may be viewed as both a process and a product: it is a process that occurs over time and it is also an outcome. The standard dictionary definition of the censor is one who suppresses, and the verb 'to censor' means to make deletions or changes in (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 8th ed., 1990). In the view of Norman Poppel and Edwin Ashley (1986), to censor is to attempt to influence human thoughts by limiting or designating what humans read, see, or hear. Jim Dochniak (1985) describes censorship as silencing: to censor is the process or act of silencing the expression of ideas. This process concept is also found in the definition of censorship that Judith Krug and James Harvey (1992, p.xiv) wrote for the fourth edition of the American Library Association's *Intellectual Freedom Manual*: censorship means "not only deletion or excision of parts of published materials, but also efforts to ban, prohibit, suppress, proscribe, remove, label, or restrict materials." The Intellectual Freedom

Committee (1987) of the American Library Association adopted the following definition at its annual conference meeting in San Francisco:

 censorship: a change in the access status of material, made by a governing authority or its representatives. Such changes include: exclusion, restriction, removal, or age/grade level changes, where the intent is to restrict access.

At the same meeting, three other definitions were promulgated:

- oral complaint: an oral challenge to the presence and/or appropriateness of the material in question.
- written complaint: a formal, written complaint filed with the institution (library, school, etc.) challenging the presence and/or appropriateness of specific material.
- public attack: a publicly disseminated statement challenging the value of the material, presented to the media and/or others outside the institutional organization in order to gain public support for further action.

Several terms--challenge, complaint, and objection--are used in the research literature to refer to actions designed to deny or restrict access to materials. Standard dictionary definitions suggest that these terms are similar if not identical in meaning: a 'challenge' is defined as a summons to prove or justify something or a call to respond; a 'complaint' is a grievance or an expression of dissatisfaction; and an 'objection' is an expression or feeling of opposition or disapproval, or an adverse reason or statement (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 8th ed., 1990).

Previous censorship studies, however, have sometimes made

rather arbitrary distinctions among these terms, such as taking a 'challenge' to be 'a written complaint' and a 'complaint' to be 'a verbal charge'. This conceptual inconsistency in the foundations of censorship research is cause for concern, because differences in findings may be an artifact of differences in definitions, rather than an accurate reflection of social reality. This issue is elaborated in the chapter on "Previous Research."

In summary, censorship encompasses both intent--censorial pressures, challenges, complaints, objections, requests or demands for review or reconsideration--and outcome. That is to say, it encompasses both successful and unsuccessful efforts to alter the composition of a library collection according to nonprofessional criteria, that is, criteria that are extraneous to the library's formal collection management policies and informal conventions.

However, censorship is not the only strategy by which members of the community can exercise power to influence the content of a collection and thereby to control public access to certain points of view. While both removal and restriction are actions designed to alter the content of a collection through subtraction, challenges to the appropriateness of materials can also imply pressure to add materials in such a way that the traditional selection policy goals of balance and representativeness are compromised. Pressure to add rather than

subtract materials has the same effect on the collection: criteria outside those found in approved policy are invoked to alter the make-up of the collection, to move its content in a partisan direction. Hence, it is argued here that an adequate conception of censorship as pressure to alter collection composition should recognize that several forms of censorial pressure exist: direct challenge, covert censorship, and acquisition pressure. All of these are challenges to the collection.

Based in part on the work of Serebnick and Hopkins, and supplemented by the concepts of process and feedback as derived from general systems theory (see, for example, Schrader, 1983), a conceptual framework for investigating and understanding censorship in public libraries may be constructed. The censorship phenomenon as it affects the public library occurs within a context that has several primary dimensions:

- 1) political and constitutional factors, including library governance and relationships with political entities such as municipal council,
- 2) social and community factors, including individual and group initiators of challenges, and
- 3) institutional factors, including library policies and practices and librarian attitudes, values, and behaviours.

In looking at the censorship phenomenon in public libraries as a process over time, three stages can be identified. The first stage is the censorial occurrence itself, and raises the

question: Why do some public libraries experience pressure to alter their collections in one way or another, while others do not?

The second stage is the resolution or outcome of a censorship incident. In the case of direct challenges to withdraw materials or restrict their access, the question is raised: Why are some challenged materials retained on the shelves, while others are restricted in access, and still others removed altogether? In the case of covert incidents of censorship, the question is: Why are some materials replaced on open shelves, while others are restricted in access, and still others are not replaced at all? In the case of acquisition pressure, the question is: Why are some materials acquired or accepted as a result of external pressure, while others are not?

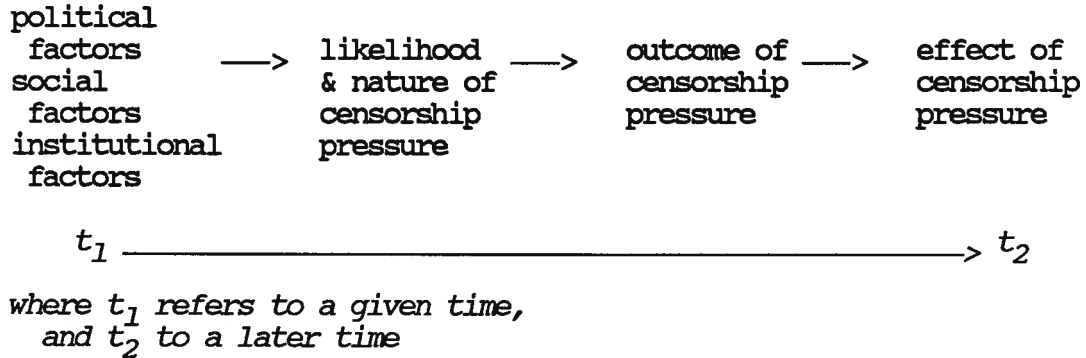
The third stage is the feedback or impact stage, and raises the question: What is the effect of a collection challenge on public library policies and practices? And in particular, is there a "chilling effect"--a reluctance born of fear to honor the public library's mandate to serve all of the people all of the time, so that increasingly conservative policies and practices are adopted in order to avoid potential conflict in the future with individuals or groups in the community?

These three stages of the censorship phenomenon can be summarized as:

- 1) the likelihood and nature of censorship pressure,
- 2) the outcome of censorship pressure, and
- 3) the effect of censorship pressure.

This process can be shown in the following diagrammatic form:

Figure 2. Conceptual Model of the Censorship Phenomenon in Public Libraries



Within each of the three groupings of political, social, and institutional factors, a number of variables can be identified that help to predict the various stages of a challenge. Not all of these factors, however, were investigated in the present study, and indeed not all of them can be quantified easily for either descriptive profiling or hypothesis testing; quantitative descriptive study based on a questionnaire methodology dictated the final selection of operational variables in this work. Nonetheless, an overall conceptual framework for systematic inquiry is needed in order to understand the dynamic political, social, and administrative circumstances within which the censorship phenomenon occurs in public libraries. Such a framework provides a guide for formulating good research problems into access and censorship issues, as well as a context for interpreting the results of research.

CHAPTER 3
STUDY QUESTIONS

The objective of the study was to gather information about censorship pressures on Canadian public librarians, during the three-year period from 1985 to 1987. Of particular interest was the identification of factors predictive of the final outcomes of such pressures. As well, some insight was wanted into the effects that censorial pressures have had on public library staff and on their institutional policies.

Research questions to shed light on the overall study objective were devised for the mail questionnaire under five main themes:

- a) institutional characteristics;
- b) access policies and practices related to intellectual freedom;
- c) direct challenges to collections and their effects on access policies and practices;
- d) covert censorship; and
- e) acquisition pressure.

Specific research questions that were constructed in order to provide insights into these five areas of interest were as follows.

- 1) How many Canadian public libraries had a written selection policy?
- 2) How many Canadian public libraries endorsed the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom?
- 3) How many Canadian public libraries had policies that restricted access or borrowing privileges by age?
- 4) How many public libraries had a written policy and an official form for dealing with challenges to materials? Was either or both used in the actual cases which occurred?
- 5) How many Canadian public libraries received requests of any kind during the study period to remove, restrict, relocate, reclassify, label, or expurgate materials?
- 6) How many such requests were received by each library during the study period?
- 7) Was the incidence of requests constant over the study period, or were there variations by year or by month?
- 8) Were the requests verbal or written?
- 9) How many titles were involved in each request? And what were the titles?
- 10) What type of material did each request involve in terms of:
 - a) format (books, magazines, video cassettes, films, etc.),
 - b) content (fiction or non-fiction), and
 - c) audience (children, young adults, or adults)?
- 11) What types of individuals and groups made these requests, and were they acting on their own behalf or on behalf of someone else such as their children? And were they registered borrowers?
- 12) What reasons were given for the requests and what actions were requested?

- 13) What was the final outcome of each request, that is, was the material in question retained, restricted, or removed? Who was involved in the process of resolving the request? How much time elapsed from initial request to final outcome?
- 14) Were the requests reported in the local press or through any other medium of mass communication?
- 15) What effect did these requests have on the policies, procedures, practices, or attitudes of public library staff and trustees? In particular, was a "chilling effect" at work in affected institutions, such that conservative policies and practices were adopted in order to avoid potential conflict in the future with individuals or groups in the community?
- 16) How many titles that had previously been challenged in Canadian public libraries were owned by public libraries at the time of the study? And were these titles also challenged during the study period?
- 17) How many Canadian public libraries treated certain materials considered to be potentially controversial differently from other materials?
- 18) How many Canadian public libraries experienced patron actions during the study period that were suspected to be attempts to prevent or restrict access by others? What were these actions and what titles were involved?
- 19) How many Canadian public libraries experienced pressures to accept or acquire certain titles or types of materials during the study period?

For a copy of the questionnaire and covering letter in English and French, see Appendix A.

It was hoped that the information thus gathered would permit the development of a national picture of how pervasive censorial pressures have been on public librarians across the country, and of the ways in which they respond to these pressures.

In examining factors that might explain or account for the likelihood of censorial pressure on a public library, several

variables were analyzed for their value as predictors of such likelihood. Several variables were also analyzed in regression models for their value as predictors of the final outcome of direct challenges to library collections. In this study, inferential patterns of association and regression models were tested at the .01 level for statistical significance (this reference is omitted from the body of the text in order to avoid endless repetition). The .01 level of significance was chosen as a more rigorous test of patterns and relationships than is obtained at the conventional .05 level in human science research, a level which tolerates more risk of coming to the wrong conclusions than I wished to accept.

It was hoped that the answers to these questions would refine and extend our understanding of the issues of access that constrain intellectual freedom in Canadian public libraries. It was anticipated that the study would have useful implications for those concerned with collection management and patron access policies, as well as for those concerned with public awareness and educational programs to promote the value of the public library in the life of the individual and the community.

More broadly, it was hoped that the study would stimulate discussion about the proper limits on freedom of expression that are appropriate in a democratic body politic.

CHAPTER 4

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A search of the professional literature reveals very few empirical investigations of the actual experiences of public librarians in dealing with censorial pressures: a few questions within a larger study of library-publisher relationships in English-language Canada (Beta Associates, 1982), two province-wide surveys, Alberta (Walker, 1984, summarized in Schrader and Walker, 1986) and Manitoba (Jenkinson, 1985, 1986), and a handful of state-wide surveys in the U.S. In the academic library sector, only one empirical study has been done: the three prairie provinces in Canada (Herring, 1986, summarized in Schrader, Herring, and de Scossa, 1989). Among school libraries, there have been a small number of province-wide and state-wide studies, as well as the recently published landmark study by Hopkins, already mentioned, of U.S. secondary school libraries. David Booth's (1992) personal reflection on the furor surrounding

school censorship and the *Impressions* reading program series is a remarkable addition to the literature.

At the the same time, the professional literature contains many exhortations, especially to public librarians, to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom. These include the formal statements on intellectual freedom of various local, regional, and national associations (see Appendix I for the statements of the Canadian Library Association (CLA), l'Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec/l'Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation/la Corporation des Bibliothécaires du Québec, the Ontario Library Association, and the American Library Association).

Although the exhortations have been many, empirical investigations that would assess their relevance to professional practice have been few. Following the landmark studies of self-censorship by Marjorie Fiske (1959) and Charles Busha (1972a, 1972b), much of the subsequent censorship research has also concentrated on librarians and their practices of self-censorship (Serebnick, 1979). Such research has generally taken as its unit of analysis the individual practitioner, not the institution, focusing on personality characteristics and attitudes and how these affect selection practices.

It was not until the early 1980s that the focus of research shifted from public librarians themselves to the broader social and political environments within which their decisions are made

and their actions carried out. In these later studies, the unit of analysis has generally shifted. In some, it has been the public library as an institution, in which the focus was on formal policies and procedures and other institutional variables. In others, the unit of analysis has been the censorship incident itself, sometimes including the attendant characteristics of the would-be censor. Claire England (1974) managed to include both perspectives in her study of attitudes and perceptions that might explain the personal censoriousness of public librarians in selected Ontario cities. She related these dimensions to the nature of library collections, the role of public demand, the role of the public library board, and personal experience of a censorship incident.

On the basis of previous studies of censorship incidents in public libraries, the focus of the present study has been refined and broadened to take account of earlier strengths as well as limitations. One type of limitation in past research that has constrained comparison and generalizability has been geographic. In Canada, only two provinces have been surveyed: Alberta public libraries by Keith Walker (1984) and Manitoba public libraries by David Jenkinson (1985, 1986).

In the United States, public libraries in at least twelve states have been investigated: Missouri (Englebert, 1982), Minnesota (McDonald, 1983), Nebraska (Gardner, 1983), Delaware (Delaware Library Association, 1985), Louisiana (Morse, 1985),

Indiana (Swan, 1986), Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana (American Civil Liberties Union, 1986, Chepesiuk, 1986, and Budlong, 1988), Oregon (Ginnane, 1988, and the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, 1990a and 1990b), Florida (Florida Library Association, 1990), Idaho (Reiss, 1992), and Washington (Heuertz, 1993). In passing, an entirely different kind of limitation in this research has been its very limited dissemination--several of these studies remain unpublished in somebody's office.

Another type of limitation in past censorship research has been methodological. In a study of relationships between libraries and publishers that was commissioned by the Canadian Book Publishers' Council, Beta Associates (1982) restricted coverage to English-language Canada. Jenkinson (1985, 1986) limited coverage of challenges in Manitoba public libraries to materials for children and teenagers of school age.

Another methodological limitation has related to time coverage. Some studies asked for information covering a one-year period, some for two years, one for one and a half years, another for two and a half years, another for four years, and still another for five years. These variations in time coverage make comparisons more or less impossible, particularly in terms of attempting to standardize the rates of censorship incidents per selected time period.

A difference in time coverage is the most likely explanation for the higher rate of challenges that was found in the Manitoba

public libraries survey by Jenkinson (1985, 1986), compared to the Alberta rate found by Walker (1984), 37 percent versus 22 percent respectively. The difference in rates between these two provinces is not a reflection of differences in community attitudes towards public library collections. Rather, the difference is at least in part an artifact of the dissimilar time periods studied by the researchers, two years in the Manitoba survey, one year in Alberta. Two years of censorship incidents can not be reduced to a per annum basis simply by arithmetic averaging; in the present study, for example, the 3-year rate was 34 percent of all respondents, but the annual rate was an estimated 21 percent. Without an adjustment in time coverage to "normalize" the two dissimilar periods, differences in rates of challenges between these two provinces are likely to be an artifact of time rather than a reflection of real differences in community attitudes towards public library collections.

While these limitations in research design make comparison and generalizability among the previous studies difficult, more serious still are the substantial differences in the kinds of censorial events that were investigated. The most specific conception was reflected in the survey by Beta Associates (1982), which asked for information about "demands to withdraw specific titles from circulation" (p.122). Slightly broader, Walker's (1984) survey asked if the library had been requested to remove any book "or other material" from the collection (p.33).

In contrast to these "action" approaches, many other studies asked for information about "challenges." This approach, unfortunately, invites considerably more variation in conceptualization of the nature of a "challenge." Following Alan Englebert (1982), "challenges" were usually defined as "any complaint about, or objection to, or request for the removal or restriction of any resource" (p.5). This conception of censorship is arguably broader in scope than what is reflected in the "action" approaches of both Beta Associates and Walker. Somewhat broader still were the definitions adopted by Fran McDonald (1983) and Jenkinson (1985, 1986), which added, to Englebert's definition, requests for the "review" of any resource.

The danger of these broadened concepts of censorship is that they may overstate the rate of occurrences in a particular jurisdiction, compared to the rate that would be obtained if an action approach were used instead. This difference in conceptual approach to what should be studied as censorship may explain in part the higher rate of challenges in Manitoba public libraries compared to the Alberta rate. That is to say, survey differences may be partly an artifact of dissimilar survey definitions adopted by the researchers. Earlier, England (1974) had forewarned of this definitional problem in her approach, which was simply to ask whether respondents had personally been involved in or cognizant of a "censorship incident." She had

anticipated that to define the term would impose the interviewer's perception of those events that should be reported. Survey participants confirmed her view. They did not consider complaints at the desk as incidents, and she speculated that an incident was "perhaps a more memorable or an acrimonious occasion involving argument and strong feeling" (p.145).

Others, however, distinguished between challenges and complaints. The survey of the Delaware Library Association's Intellectual Freedom and Open Access Committee (1985) defined a "challenge" as "a formal written complaint filed with the library questioning the presence and/or appropriateness of specific material," while a "complaint" was defined as "a verbal charge against the presence and/or appropriateness of the material in question."

Other studies have limited their coverage to written communications. In the first annual report of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (Ginnane, 1988), information was requested about "formal challenges," and a formal challenge was defined as "a written 'Request for Reconsideration' or 'Statement of Concern' submitted by a group or individual." Linda Heuertz (1993) asked Washington State public librarians to report formal challenges, which she defined as "any formal written request to remove materials from the collection, or otherwise restrict access to, any book, video, magazine or other material." Other studies asked for information about

"challenges" but provided no definition of the term.

John Swan (1986) asked for information about "patron complaints" (p.3). In her study of British Columbia public school censorship, Diana Poole (1986) distinguished between objections to materials, "informal complaints which may or may not result in censorship," and challenges, "formal expression of objections with the complainants asking for specific action from the recipients of the challenges which may also result in censorship of the material." She wrote that an act of censorship occurs when material is removed, restricted, or altered (pp.4-5).

Hopkins (1991a), however, in her U.S. study of factors influencing the outcome of library media centre challenges at the secondary public school level, used "challenge" and "complaint" synonymously: for purposes of the study a complaint was defined as "an oral or written challenge questioning the presence or appropriateness of library media material" (p.131).

Another important difference in research design relates to the generalizability of study findings from the case information collected. While a few studies asked for information about all censorship incidents that were experienced during a designated time period, many others requested information for one incident only, regardless of how many had occurred in a library.

Englebert (1982) asked for information about "the single most crucial or significant challenge." Similarly, McDonald (1983) and Charles Gardner (1983) asked for information about "the most

crucial, significant single challenge," or if only one challenge had occurred, for information about it. It is evident that findings based on crucial incidents as opposed to all incidents experienced by public libraries are not comparable: crucial incidents do not necessarily represent the range and nature of all incidents.

Still another limitation in the research designs of some previous studies is the population and unit of analysis selected for coverage. In several studies, questionnaires were mailed to public librarians and respondents are referred to as public librarians, while in others the references are to public libraries. It is unclear from the information provided in published reports whether the population was indeed librarians rather than institutions; if the former was the case, the research design is seriously at fault. Also unclear, in those studies that focused clearly on libraries, was the treatment of multi-branch libraries: was the unit of analysis the system or each branch of the system? This issue was rarely addressed in the published reports.

A related limitation in previous research is that the rates of censorship incidents are only reported in terms of the overall proportion of libraries affected and, possibly, the number of incidents per affected library. These figures are never related to other institutional characteristics, such as the proportion of municipal populations affected, or the number of incidents per so

many thousands of circulations. To illustrate, research may show that 20 percent of the libraries experienced censorship incidents--but does this 20 percent represent a similar percentage of the municipal population, or does it represent, say, 80 percent of the municipal population? Presumably, in the absence of such information, the researcher's assumption is that the proportions of both libraries and populations affected are the same. Such an assumption is quite unwarranted anywhere in Canada, with its typically intense concentrations of people in just a score or so of urban environments across the country and concomitantly few people scattered in many smaller centers.

In addition to the geographic and methodological limitations described above, it is impossible in most of the American studies to separate out public library data from aggregated results for several types of libraries that might have been included in the surveys.

In spite of these types of constraints, the previous studies represent a promising start in the search for a comprehensive picture of the patterns and trends in community challenges to the intellectual holdings of public libraries. The present study benefited from the previous research, and every effort was made to avoid the kinds of limitations described above.

CHAPTER 5
STUDY DESIGN AND LIMITATIONS

Overview

The study was carried out in early 1988 by means of a mail questionnaire, and asked for information from all public libraries across Canada for the three years 1985-1987. At the time of the survey, the total population of public libraries in Canada consisted of 998 autonomous institutions (libraries and library systems) with just over 3,000 service points. For a brief overview of the history of the project, see Appendix G.

Survey Questionnaire

The survey questionnaire consisted of two parts. The main survey contained a series of questions about institutional access policies and practices related to intellectual freedom issues, including questions about the incidence of various kinds of collection challenges between 1985 and 1987. The second part of the questionnaire was a "history sheet," a series of detailed

questions about each challenge that had occurred during the time period covered by the study; four copies of the history sheet were included for the convenience of respondents, on the assumption that few of them would have experienced more than four censorship incidents during that time period. See Appendix A for a copy of the questionnaire and covering letter sent to various categories of public libraries.

The survey instrument reflected the overall project objective by posing questions in the five areas already detailed in Chapter 3:

- a) institutional characteristics, including type of governance (single-unit or multi-branch library), province, municipal or service area population served, registered borrowers, circulation, hours per week of service, whether school-housed, language of questionnaire response, and language of acquisitions;
- b) access policies and practices related to intellectual freedom in the areas of selection, handling of challenges, donations, endorsement of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, access restrictions on children and young adults, treatment of potentially controversial materials, censorship vulnerability as measured by means of a checklist of controversial materials, and public library board reaction to Bill C-54;
- c) direct challenges to collections and their effects on access policies and practices;
- d) covert censorship; and
- e) acquisition pressure.

The survey questionnaire was based as much as possible on survey instruments used in previous censorship studies in Canada and the United States, in particular, the questionnaires by

Walker (1984) and Jenkinson (1986). While the focus was on public library instruments, the questionnaires used in studies of school and academic library censorship were also reviewed.

A number of innovative questions were devised for the survey instrument used in the present study that attempted to go beyond the level of information collected in previous research. These included questions relating to the following areas of interest:

- access restrictions on both in-house use of materials and lending,
- library treatment of potentially controversial or questionable materials,
- pressures to accept or acquire titles or types of materials,
- covert or subtle censorship activities, such as mutilating passages of text and theft of library materials suspected of having been motivated by censorial attitudes,
- effects of direct challenges on library selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation,
- qualitative commentary on the reason(s) given for direct challenges, including direct quotation of complainant wording if possible, rather than the inclusion of a forced-choice set of checklist reasons or subjects for respondent selection, and
- duration of direct challenges, from initiation to resolution.

Controversial Materials Checklist

Also included in the survey instrument was a controversial materials checklist. Although not an original approach to quantitative measurement (see England, 1974, Serebnick, 1979, 1982, Woods and Perry-Holmes, 1982, and Szuchewycz, 1990), the objective in designing an impartial checklist based on past

history was something of an experimental idea for the present study.

The overall purpose of the checklist was to determine how likely it would be that a library was vulnerable to future censorship pressures: the more checklist titles in the collection, the more controversial the collection and hence the more likely for a library to experience censorship pressures in the future. Based on the analogy of the empirical phenomenon that past use of library materials is the best predictor of future use, the spirit of the checklist for the present study was that past trouble over library materials would be the best predictor of future trouble.

The checklist consisted of 30 titles that could be deemed potentially controversial in that they had drawn public criticism during the previous four or five years as reported in other public library censorship studies in Canada. It was designed to "normalize" challenges to a given public library collection on the basis of how controversial its materials were at the time, irrespective of such factors as size of community served, size of collection, and annual acquisitions budget. It was also designed as an indicator of how similar public library collections are across the country, in terms of per capita availability of potentially controversial materials: if rates of checklist materials are appreciably lower in some political jurisdictions than in others, then one would expect fewer censorship challenges

in them because their collections are already more conservative in content.

As such, it was hoped that the checklist would serve as a benchmark or barometer of the likelihood of a public library being subjected to censorial pressure in the future. In passing, it should be emphasized that the checklist was not designed to measure self-censorship, the goal of previous checklist-based research (Serebnick, 1982), and there was no moral implication that public libraries ought to own all of the checklist titles.

The checklist was developed from the lists of challenged items that were identified in three previous surveys of Canadian public library censorship incidents: Walker (1984), Jenkinson (1985, 1986), and the then Book and Periodical Development Council (1986). Items from these surveys were excluded from the checklist if the challenge occurred in other than a public library, if the bibliographic data that was provided for an item was insufficient for specific title identification, if an item was of purely local interest, and if it could not be found in the materials of both the Edmonton Public Library and the Toronto Public Library. A list of titles identified in another study of Canadian public libraries, commissioned by the Canadian Book Publishers' Council (Beta Associates, 1982), was not used in the present research because large urban systems were disproportionately represented and because of the age of that study--data were collected at the beginning of the 1980s.

Two titles by Judy Blume, *Forever* and *Wifey*, appeared in all three surveys. One title by Maurice Sendak, *In the Night Kitchen* appeared in two of the three surveys. The remaining titles appeared only once among the three survey lists (see Appendix B, "Controversial Materials Checklist: Sources of Titles"). The resulting checklist consisted of 30 titles.

These 30 titles were classified into five standard categories: adult fiction, adult nonfiction, juvenile fiction, juvenile nonfiction, and picture books and easy. Those titles identified in Walker's study were classified according to information provided by questionnaire respondents, while the remaining titles were assigned classifications used in the catalogue of the Edmonton Public Library.

The proportion of titles in each category is shown below:

Adult fiction	- 10 titles
Adult nonfiction	- 4
Juvenile fiction	- 7
Juvenile nonfiction	- 4
Picture books and easy	- <u>5</u>
Total	30

French translations of the checklist titles were verified by consulting *Les Livres Disponibles 1987, Canadian Translations* (1986), the catalogue of the Library of the Faculté Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta, and a Languages Specialist, Barry Edwards, in the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library. Through these sources, 11 French translations were identified.

Questionnaire Pretesting

The survey questionnaire was pretested extensively with the staff of five public libraries: three of these were major systems serving municipalities of more than 500,000 people in Ontario and Alberta, and two were smaller public libraries in Alberta serving municipalities of approximately 10,000 people. It should be noted that altogether about 10 senior staff in two of the major systems were involved in pretesting the questionnaire. It should also be noted that the questionnaire and covering letter were reviewed with six other colleagues, both academic and professional, who had expertise in either questionnaire design or censorship issues.

Three versions of the covering letter were prepared, one for the chief executive officers of multi-branch library systems, one for the managers of individual branches within such systems, and one for the chief librarians of single-unit libraries. Sufficient copies of the questionnaire for all branches in multi-branch systems were mailed together to the chief executive officer, with a request in the accompanying covering letter that the questionnaires be distributed to individual branch managers. The covering letters and questionnaire were translated into French. All public libraries in Quebec received the French version of the questionnaire, and those in Ontario and New Brunswick that had French names and/or addresses received the questionnaire in both French and English.

Survey Population

The identification of Canadian public libraries to be included in the survey was based on a set of 1987 address labels purchased from Micromedia Limited. The list was examined to determine single-unit libraries and the total number of service points within each multi-branch library system, as well as the chief executive officer of each multi-branch system.

It should be noted that this list contained address labels for 2,464 service points--560 less than the 3,024 permanent service points reported by Statistics Canada for 1987 (*Canadian Library Yearbook 1990*, p.49). No explanation for the discrepancy was offered by the commercial supplier. Moreover, an analysis of the commercial supplier's list revealed concerns about the quality of the address information. In many cases, it was difficult to identify who the chief executive officer of a municipal library system was, when this title or a similar title was not used (frequently, "librarian" was the only term used). In many other cases, it was difficult to determine how many branches there were in multi-branch systems. As well, in Winnipeg, the bizarre term "Non-Librarian, Branch Head" appeared at least eleven times on the list. In other locales, the term "In Charge" was used after a person's name. In seven cases, there were duplicate listings for a single library because of the use of variant forms of the librarian's name or of different postal codes. In many cases, no person was identified at all, so

that the survey envelope could not be personally addressed. In one case, a library serving a municipal population of 36,000 was omitted (Brandon, Manitoba). At the other extreme, a Canadian Forces recreation library was included that was later discovered to be supported entirely by non-public funds. In another case, a bible institute library was included.

These were minor concerns, however, compared to two more serious deficiencies with the commercial list: 1) the difficulty in many cases of determining whether a library as listed was an independent organizational entity or part of a multi-branch system, and 2) the omission of address labels for the chief executive officers of regional library systems that function as governance entities in certain provinces. This deficiency is discussed in more detail below in the analysis of the questionnaire response rate.

Finally, in the course of analyzing survey responses, it became necessary to exclude from the study population the completed questionnaires of four respondents who appeared on the commercial list. These respondents represented institutions that did not conform to the ordinary notion of a public library serving a municipally-bounded population base. Inclusion of their data would have produced substantial double counting of various statistics, particularly municipal population and registered borrowers; at the same time, other statistics would have been enormously under-represented, for example, per capita

circulation, per borrower circulation, per capita hours of library service, and normalized rates of collection challenges. The most obvious instance of the problem was the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, which serves a regional population of 3.5 million people through specialized reference services and on-site access to materials but with very limited circulation; at the same time, all of these residents are also served by their local municipal public libraries and public library systems. Two institutions that reflected somewhat similar circumstances were the Jewish Public Library and the Fraser-Hickson Institute Public Library, both located in Montreal and both serving residents also served by local municipal public library systems. A fourth institution that had to be excluded on conceptual grounds was the Public Library Services Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, which is a provincial rather than a municipal jurisdiction; the Branch serves a relatively large population that does not have local public library access, but its borrower registration and its annual circulation of items are disproportionately small.

Survey Response

On February 16, 1988, questionnaires were mailed to the chief executive officers and chief librarians of all public libraries and public library systems across Canada that could be identified on the purchased mailing labels list. Returns were

requested by March 11, slightly more than three weeks from the mailout date. A postage-prepaid, printed return envelope was enclosed for the convenience of respondents. At the beginning of April, response rates by province were calculated to determine how much follow-up was needed to the initial mailout. Where individual responses from the branches of a multi-branch system were received, rather than a system-wide response from the chief executive officer or a representative, branch responses were aggregated to provide a system response for the survey data.

Response rates were calculated in two ways: a) returns by institutions per province; and b) returns by municipal populations per province (for these figures the 1988 edition of the *Canadian World Almanac and Book of Facts* was used).

Early in the course of the survey, a problem with the original mailout became evident from some of the comments on returned questionnaires. Many individual libraries, which actually belonged to regional systems, reported that censorship problems were only handled at the regional level, accordingly they indicated that they were unable to complete the questionnaire. This was the case in the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. Since, as mentioned above, the addresses for these regional systems were not included in the address labels purchased from the commercial supplier, telephone contacts were made to the provincial library services of these provinces to obtain the

addresses and phone numbers of the regional library systems in their province. The chief executive officer of each regional library system was contacted by telephone and asked if she or he would participate in the study. Questionnaires were then sent to the regional libraries between May 21 and 24, 1988.

Respondent Follow-Up

Between February 23 and March 31, 520 usable responses, based on public library governance units, were received. A total of 6 questionnaires were returned undelivered by the post office. Follow-up was pursued with selected non-respondents (multi-branch systems serving approximately 50,000 people or more) by means of questionnaires and telephone interviews in April and May, 1988. Further follow-up telephone calls were made at the end of July to those who still had not responded, and a reminder letter and copy of the questionnaire were sent (see Appendix A). The questionnaires of three large regional systems that had substantial amounts of missing information were returned, with a letter asking for the missing information if it was available.

After the follow-up initiatives of April through July, 40 more usable responses were received, accounting for an additional municipal population of 4 million people. With the last response of November 1, 1988, there were 560 usable questionnaires (see Appendix D for a graph of questionnaire returns over time). The

survey response rate is discussed later in this chapter.

Editing and Processing Responses

In order to tabulate and analyze the quantitative component of questionnaire responses, an SPSS program was used. This required the creation of a coding structure for quantitative questions on the survey instrument. In fact, two interconnected coding structures and two interconnected computer files were devised, one for the main body of the questionnaire, and a second for the "history sheets," which asked respondent public libraries for in-depth information about any censorship incidents that had been experienced. Coded responses representing the quantitative information on the questionnaire were recorded on optical machine readable sheets for entry into the respective computer files (as an aside, data coding required 2 to 4 minutes per questionnaire to fill in an estimated 100,000 circles on the optical scanning forms, and consumed 12 pencils!). Once the forms were completed and read into the computer files, SPSS was then used for the data analysis and hypothesis testing. Full documentation of the coding structure set up for SPSS file definitions is included in see Appendix E.

Where responses from the individual branches of a multi-branch system were received, they were compared for consistency of response. In some cases, branch respondents gave contrary answers to factual-type questions (for example, question

1, "Does your library have a written selection policy?"). In such instances, the affirmative response(s) was selected as the system response in the survey data.

In order to deal with the qualitative information collected on the survey instrument, authority files were set up for the open-ended questions on both the main questionnaire and the history sheets. For the main questionnaire, authority files were developed for the questions relating to: the titles of items subjected to some form of covert or subtle censorship (question 10); languages of acquisitions (question 15); and Library Board policies on Bill C-54 (question 18). For the history sheets, authority files were developed for the questions relating to: the titles of challenged items (question a), types of formats (question a), and age levels of challenged items (question a); specific reasons given for the objection (question h); action requested by complainants (question i); final results of the challenges (question j); and administrative level at which challenges were resolved (question l). The classification systems developed in these authority files were reviewed independently by three analysts, and category assignments among the three were compared for internal consistency. In particular, it should be stressed that the categories into which reasons for challenges were classified were derived from the descriptions as given by survey respondents; a predetermined, forced-choice checklist of categories was not superimposed on public library

respondents (and through them, therefore, on complainants). See Appendix C for the classification schemes devised for age level of challenged items, action requested by complainants, final outcomes, and administrative levels at which challenges were resolved.

For the authority file of challenged titles identified on the history sheets, a card file was created that consisted of a title card for each unique title reported by respondents. A numerical code was then assigned to it for purposes of coding identification in the history sheet computer file. The title cards were filed alphabetically by author in the card file, and reviewed for variant entries to ensure that there were no duplicates.

Other qualitative information that could not be transformed into coding schemes for quantitative analysis was recorded manually and patterns discerned. This applied to the following items on the main questionnaire: questions 4 through 6, which asked for elaborations on borrowing restrictions by age or grade level, on parental or guardian consent for the use of library materials by minors, and on other restrictions on access to library materials, questions 8 and 9, which asked for elaborations on the impact of censorship incidents on library policies and practices; question 10, details of covert censorship incidents; question 11, details of pressures to accept or acquire certain materials; question 13, description of special treatment

accorded potentially controversial or questionable materials; and question 17, other comments.

Most of the quantitative questions proved to be straightforward and unambiguous. Some minor problems of interpretation were evident with question 4, in that a few respondents considered "library borrowing privileges" to include the borrowing of equipment such as 16 mm projectors, and so answered "yes" to this question. In such instances, the questionnaire response was changed to "no." Similarly, with respect to question 6, some respondents considered "other access restrictions" to apply to non-circulating reference collections and to non-circulating special collections such as local history materials; accordingly, they answered "yes" to this question. Again, in such instances, the questionnaire response was changed to "no."

A more difficult twist on responses to question 6 appeared in a small number of instances. This occurred because respondents indicated access restrictions on selected materials kept in special areas due to repeated theft. As one respondent explained:

When we have to replace a title umpteen times because it has been stolen, we shelve the replacements beside the circulation desk, under the eyes of staff but accessible to users, with the designation "Ask at Desk" added to the call number. The collection is a strange mix of auto repair manuals, sex manuals if well illustrated, a certain local history and its separately published index, pharmacopoeia, GED study programs, and *Mr. Chips 101 Plans* (a favourite woodworking title).

In these few instances where an explanation such as the above was provided, the "access restriction" is more properly treated as a security protocol for protecting materials, and the questionnaire responses were accordingly revised to "no." Three history sheets that detailed security protocols for protecting materials from theft were also eliminated on this basis.

Some responses to question 18, regarding the public library board's position on Bill C-54, proved troublesome to interpret. While many respondents reported the board position as "withdraw the Bill," a few reported it as "withdraw and amend" or "withdraw and revise." Presumably, at least some of those who supported withdrawal might also have supported the additional qualification of amendment, had this been an option on the questionnaire. In any event, a separate category was created in the coding structure to cover "withdraw and amend" responses and the like.

Another problem with question 18 was the reference to public library boards at all, because in Quebec most public libraries are municipal administrative units that do not have boards of trustees. In the French version of the questionnaire, the term "conseil d'administration de votre bibliothèque" was used to recognize this difference in municipal governance systems.

Questions eliciting a dichotomous yes or no response were carefully reviewed in light of written elaborations and explanations, to ensure internal consistency and conformity with question intent. For example, with reference to question 6

regarding "other access restrictions," one respondent answered "yes" and explained:

If we think something might be offensive, we will mention it, especially as we know most of our patrons. But the choice is still left to the patron.

Given the nature of this explanation, the response for this question was therefore revised to "no."

Regarding question 16, ownership of titles on the controversial materials checklist, there was a minor problem concerning interpretation of some checklist responses. In instances where respondents indicated that items were on order or being ordered, these responses were treated as ownership. There were two other checklist ownership problems that could not be resolved. One of these was the presence in public library collections of uncatalogued paperbacks. In interpreting materials as reported by respondents, therefore, it should be kept in mind that, in many cases, the rates calculated may tend to understate actual ownership levels.

The other ownership problem was the reporting of French translations of the English language titles on the checklist. In the time available for this project, it was not possible to verify the existence of all French translations, largely because no comprehensive publication of such translations exists. As a consequence, ownership rates for French language public libraries may be understated if respondents did not report their French

language equivalents.

With regard to the history sheet that was completed for each direct challenge, a few challenges that were reported as initiated after the end of 1987 were eliminated from the analysis, as were challenges initiated and resolved completely by the end of 1984. Challenges in process during 1985, 1986, or 1987 were included. The development of satisfactory classification systems of responses on a number of history sheet questions proved difficult, in particular the question relating to reasons for objections. There were minor difficulties with the questions relating to the age level of the challenged item, actions requested by complainants, final outcomes of challenges, and administrative levels at which objections were resolved. In addition, it was discovered that a few respondents categorized novels and even picture books as nonfiction if they were given Dewey Decimal classification numbers in their particular library collections.

Once the qualitative coding was complete and the computer files created, data error checks and logical consistency checks were undertaken. Data error checks included looking for duplicate respondent identification numbers, blanks where there should have been numerical values, and embedded blanks (for example, a population of "34, 62" instead of "34,562"). The questionnaires for all system responses and for every sixth of the single-unit library responses were compared to the computer

data file for accuracy.

Logical consistency checks were designed to answer two questions: a) are values for each variable (question) within range? b) are values across related variables (questions) consistent? The first check was accomplished by reviewing univariate frequencies to identify numerical values beyond the possible range, for example, 27,000 hours per week of library service. The second check was carried out by reviewing bivariate frequencies (crosstabulations) to identify logically inconsistent responses, for example, if the respondent reported no censorship incidents (question 7), then follow-up questions 8 and 9 should have contained the numerical code for "not applicable."

Finally, missing data were identified and every effort was made to find relevant information from published and unpublished sources, including direct follow-up by telephone or mail with respondents. The annual public library statistics for 1987 or 1988 that are published by the various provincial library services were consulted extensively for missing institutional data such as registered borrowers, circulation, number of service points in systems, and weekly hours of service.

Item Response Rate

In part as a result of these measures, and in part because of general respondent care in answering questions, there were few missing values: response rates on individual questions were very

high, averaging 92 percent on the main questionnaire and 91 percent on the history sheets. That is to say, on average, 516 responses out of a possible 560 were received for each survey question on the main questionnaire and 592 responses out of a possible 649 on the history sheets. On the main questionnaire, with one exception, the CIA Statement (discussed below), the lowest response rate on an individual question was 72 percent (402 responses), and 70 percent (455 responses) on the history sheets. (For response rates to selected questions on the main questionnaire, see Appendix J.) A lower response rate on history sheet questions is reasonable in light of the high proportion of verbal challenges for which satisfactory records would not normally be kept; indeed, one respondent commented that only written complaints were filed and therefore their responses to the survey questions would not deal with verbal ones.

One respondent refused outright to complete the history sheet questions, writing that details about censorship incidents were considered to be confidential data--a position found among Canadian public librarians to be both unique and disturbing; in their capacity as agents of the public, such misguided secrecy can only be greeted with censure.

There was also one poorly structured question on the main questionnaire that resulted in an anomalous response rate. This question investigated institutional endorsement of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, but it was the second part of

a nested question on the existence of institutional policy for handling objections (see Appendix A). For some respondents, this placement may have obscured it visually, but for many others who did not have a written objections policy, it meant that the CIA question was not logically relevant to them at all. Nonetheless, these same respondents may have endorsed the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom through some other institutional policy mechanism, such as a mission statement, a written selection policy, or a written donations policy; unfortunately, the survey instrument was not structured in such a way that it would elicit this information. As well, it is to be regretted that, before the questionnaire was distributed, I was unaware of the existence of a Quebec counterpart of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, the "Charte des droits du lecteur" (see Appendix I) adopted by three Quebec organizations, l'Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association, l'Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation, and la Corporation des Bibliothécaires du Québec. While it should not come as a surprise that few Quebec public libraries would endorse an anglophone CIA's unilingual statement on intellectual freedom, only two respondents mentioned the Quebec document in its place.

As a result of these weaknesses, structural and conceptual, the survey data on institutional endorsement of intellectual freedom may understate Canadian public library support for a

formal policy statement in this regard. These seem to form the most plausible explanation for the low response rate to the survey question regarding the CIA Statement: a total of 266 respondents or 47 percent did not answer, while the non-response rate for similar questions was 8 percent (see Appendix J).

Survey Response Rate

The overall response rate for the survey was calculated from several different vantage points, in order to assess how representative the study's findings and conclusions were of all Canadian public libraries. The power to generalize research findings is easy to determine where a survey response rate is based on a relatively straightforward and consistent unit of analysis, such as individuals or households. However, the primary unit of analysis in the present study, the public library as an autonomous institution, does not meet this criterion of consistency: it is not the same concept everywhere in Canada.

This may come as a surprise to many, but at the level of governance, the legal concept of a "public library" varies widely from one political jurisdiction to the next in Canada. This is because very different kinds of structures have been adopted by the various provinces and territories for the governance and delivery of public library services. In Prince Edward Island, Yukon, and Northwest Territories, for example, there is only one governance structure in each jurisdiction--in effect, each has

one vast system that is responsible for public library services, and this system comprises many geographically dispersed service points which are variously called branches, branch libraries or just public libraries. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the primary governance structure is the multi-branch regional system. In Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, there are both urban and regional multi-branch systems. In Manitoba, there are even single-library regional systems, just to complicate the picture further; but for purposes of the present study, such regional organizations were treated as single-unit libraries unless they operated more than one service point. In Ontario, there are regional, county, and township systems that are multi-branch systems, in addition to single-unit municipal libraries. In British Columbia, there are also regional (consolidated) and urban systems in addition to single-unit municipal libraries. Only in Alberta is the primary governance structure the single-unit municipal library; but even there, two large urban multi-branch systems, Edmonton and Calgary, serve half of the population of the province and therefore dominate the entire provincial picture. Finally, most provinces provide direct lending and reference services for those rural areas where local public libraries have not been established.

Conceptually, all of these types of institutional structures can be grouped into two primary categories: single-unit libraries and multi-branch systems.

Table 1 shows the overall political distribution of respondents according to primary type of governance structure.

Table 1. Public Library Respondents,
by Governance and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Type of Governance Unit					
	Single		System		Total	
	<u>Num</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Per</u>
British Columbia	35	8%	13	11%	48	9%
Alberta	120	27	2	2	122	22
Saskatchewan			9	8	9	2
Manitoba	11	2	11	9	22	4
Ontario	211	48	49	41	260	46
Quebec	58	13	8	7	66	12
New Brunswick			5	4	5	1
Nova Scotia			11	9	11	2
Prince Edward Island			1	1	1	<1
Newfoundland			7	6	7	1
Yukon			1	1	1	<1
Northwest Territories			1	1	1	<1
Unidentified	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
National	442	100%	118	100%	560	100%

This table shows that the 560 survey respondents consisted of 442 single-unit libraries and 118 multi-branch systems. Ontario public libraries outnumbered all other jurisdictions with 46 percent of the respondents. Alberta accounted for 22 percent, Quebec 12 percent, and British Columbia 9 percent.

Table 2 below shows the questionnaire response rate by political jurisdiction, based on the number of autonomous institutions.

Table 2. Survey Response Rate, based on
Governance and Jurisdiction, 1987

<u>Province/Territory</u>	<u>Libraries* (Census)</u>	<u>Questionnaire Returns</u>	<u>Response Rate</u>
British Columbia	69	48	70%
Alberta	144	122	85%
Saskatchewan	10	9	90%
Manitoba	37	22	59%
Ontario	556	260	47%
Quebec	153	66	43%
New Brunswick	6	5	83%
Nova Scotia	12	11	92%
Prince Edward Island	1	1	100%
Newfoundland	8	7	88%
Yukon	1	1	100%
Northwest Territories	1	1	100%
Unidentified		<u>7</u>	
National	<u>998</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>56%</u>

*Source: 1987 Statistics Canada data, in
Canadian Library Yearbook 1990, p.49

The data show that, based on institutions, the response rate was 56 percent of all Canadian public libraries reported in the 1987 Statistics Canada census data. By political jurisdiction, this rate ranged from less than 50 percent in Quebec and Ontario, to 85 percent or more in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and the two territories.

The map below gives a visual picture of the pattern of survey responses based on governance units across the country.

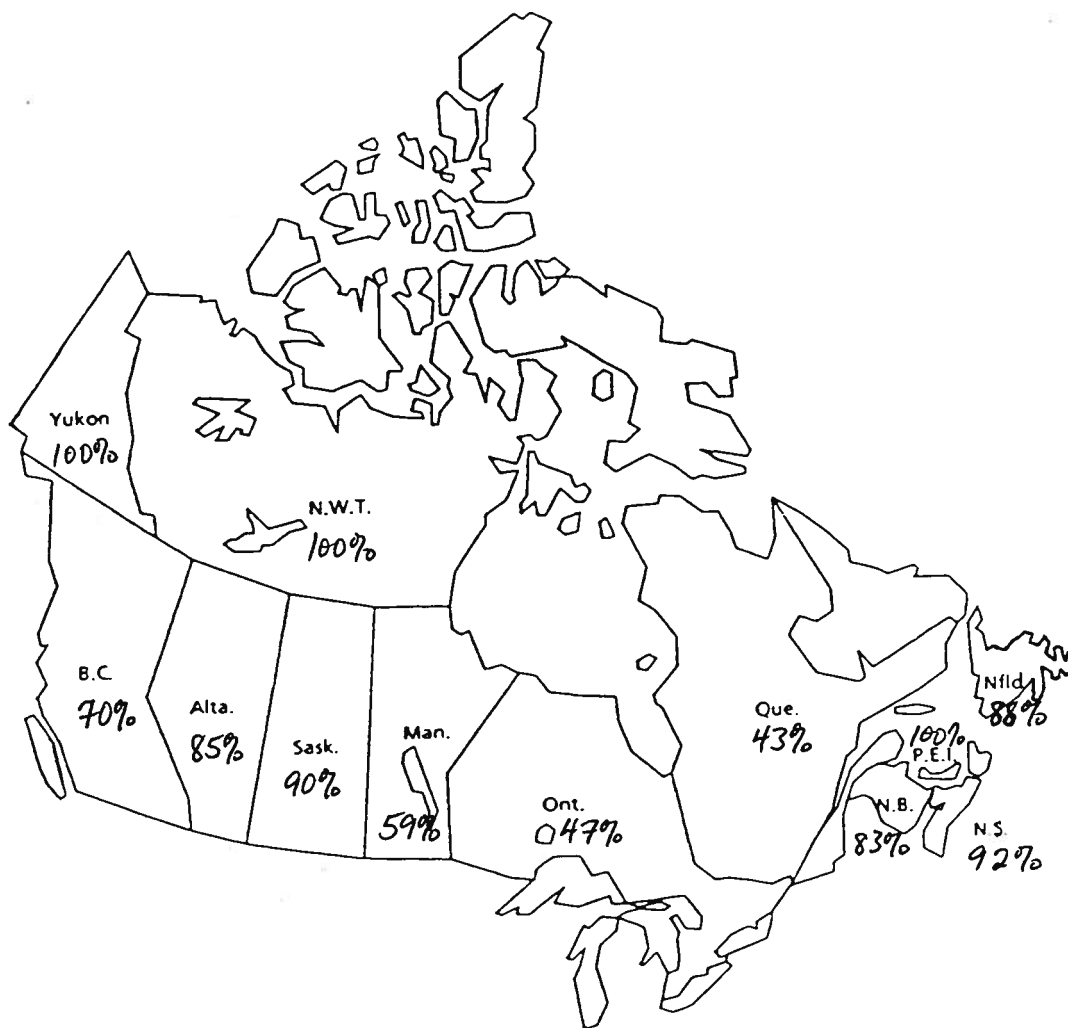


Figure 3. Percentage of Public Libraries Responding to Survey, 1987

However, basing provincial and national response rates solely on institutional frequencies presents a methodological problem: each responding institution is counted as one unit whether it serves a community of 500 people or 500,000. This is especially true where units differ substantially one from another. The table above demonstrates this: Alberta respondents consisted of 2 systems and 120 single-unit libraries, while in Saskatchewan, with half the population of Alberta, there were 9 systems and no single libraries. In British Columbia, which has 35 percent more people than Alberta, respondents consisted of 13 systems and only 35 single libraries. While Alberta public libraries accounted for 22 percent of all institutions in the study, British Columbia accounted for only 9 percent.

This makes it apparent that exclusive reliance on the number of responding public libraries does not reveal the whole story about the survey response rate. What is needed is a weighting factor that would differentiate institutions on the basis of other characteristics. A more complete picture of the survey response rate emerges when it is based on municipal population, registered borrowers, or library circulation. These measures provide more meaningful comparisons across municipalities and provinces. They also provide better indicators of the impact of public library policies and practices on client communities.

However, for purposes of the present study, census figures are available only for municipal population and public library

circulation.

The study represented 76 percent of all Canadian residents in 1987. This included 29 out of the 31 largest communities in Canada with populations of more than 100,000 (excluding the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library). Quebec residents, at 45 percent of the provincial population, were under-represented in the study. Manitoba residents at 71 percent and Newfoundland residents at 76 percent were somewhat better represented. For a breakdown across political jurisdictions of response rate based on municipal population, see Table F1 in Appendix F.

In passing, it should be noted that the table above reveals a few variations between census figures and survey figures. In some cases, respondents reported a "service area population" rather than municipal population; in others, figures reported by survey respondents differed from published census figures. Since all of the discrepancies were relatively minor, respondent figures were used as the study data.

The map below shows visually the political pattern of municipal populations represented in the study.

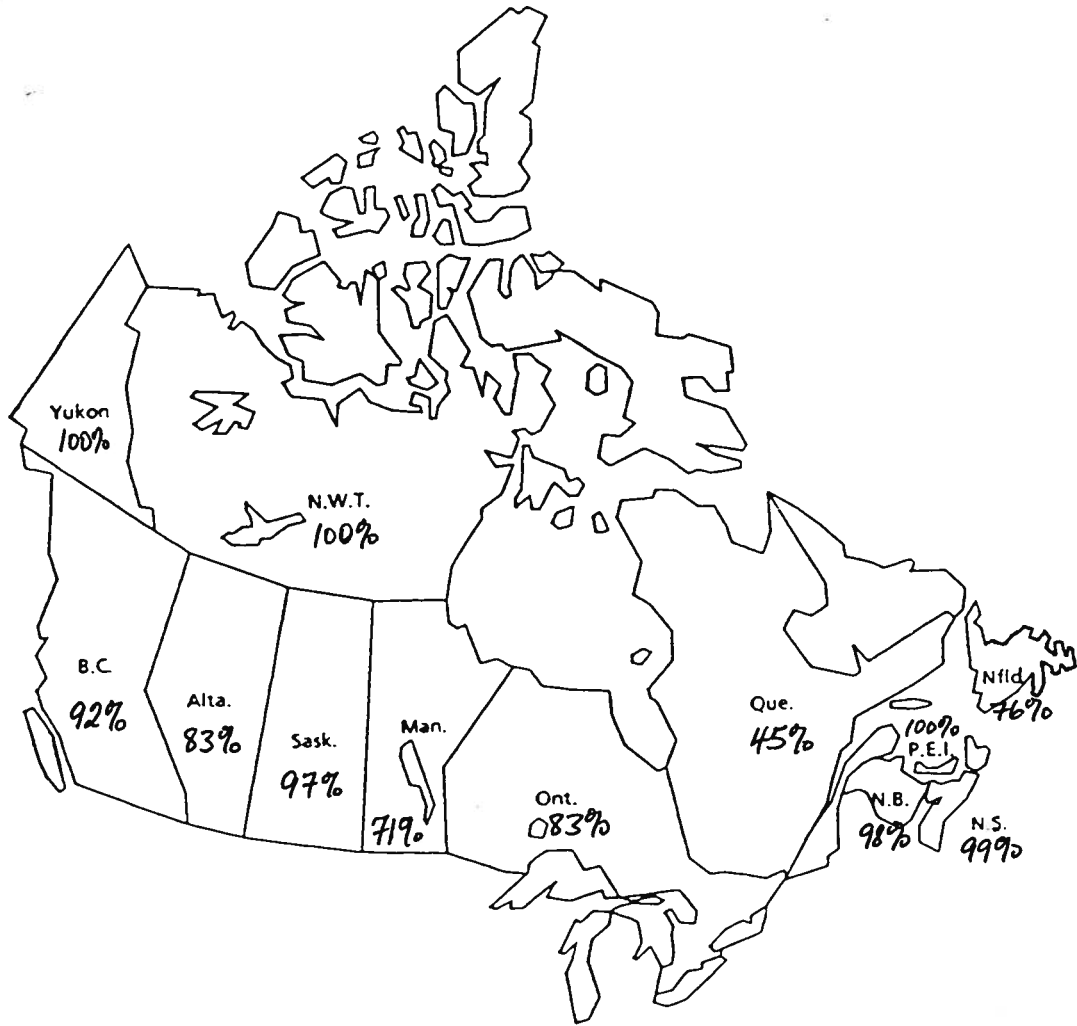


Figure 4. Percentage of Canadian Population Represented by Respondents, 1987

However, even municipal population figures have limited methodological meaning because they do not represent a survey response rate based on actual demand for public library services. Demand is traditionally--though imperfectly--reflected in the borrowing of library materials. Therefore, the impact of public library policies and practices on the most visible sector of its client community is reflected in the circulation of materials.

The study represented 82 percent of all public library lending in Canada in 1987. By political jurisdiction, response rates based on circulation were uniformly high across the country, with one exception: only about half of Quebec circulation was represented by the respondents to the study. For a breakdown across political jurisdictions of response rate based on public library circulation, see Table F2 in Appendix F. Again, in passing, variations between census figures and survey figures are noted. Where there were discrepancies, information provided by respondents was used as the study data.

The map below gives a visual picture of this lending pattern across Canada.



Figure 5. Percentage of Library Circulation Represented by Respondents, 1987

A comparison of these three rates of overall participation reveals that, while 56 percent of all public libraries across Canada responded to the questionnaire survey, they served municipalities containing 76 percent of the total population and accounted for 83 percent of all circulation in 1987.

Looking at survey participation rates on all three indicators, nine jurisdictions reported consistently high response rates that ranged from 70 to 100 percent: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. Response rates for Manitoba and Ontario were high from the vantage point of both municipal population and library circulation, but low in terms of governance units. At the other extreme, Quebec experienced consistently low response rates on all three indicators, between 43 percent and 52 percent. These varying response rates--based on institutional governance units, municipal population, and library circulation--are compared across political jurisdictions in Table F3 in Appendix F.

Another way of assessing survey representativeness is by determining how closely the demographic characteristics of survey respondents approximate those of the population of all Canadian public libraries across political jurisdictions. The proportion of survey responses based on governance units tended to over-represent Alberta and under-represent Ontario, while on the basis of both population and circulation, Quebec was under-

represented. Statistical analysis reveals significant demographic differences at the provincial level between survey respondents and the universe of Canadian public libraries (Table F1 in Appendix F). Caution must therefore be exercised in making generalizations from the survey data at the provincial level.

Another way of looking at response rates is in terms of the relationship between circulation and population at the national level in 1987, that is, national circulation per capita. The data show that both the survey rate and the census rate were the same, 6.7 items per capita. This similarity is another indicator that the survey respondents are typical of the institutional population as a whole.

In passing, it should be noted that the conventional method of calculating circulation per capita at the provincial or national level is an aggregate one, in which total provincial circulation is divided by total provincial population, or total national circulation by total national population. In other words, the aggregate method assumes that the unit of analysis is the province or country rather than the public library at the municipal level. With it, local figures are adjusted to their respective totals for the jurisdiction in question, and then a ratio is calculated. This method is appropriate if the focus of statistical description is on people rather than on institutions, or if populations and circulations are highly skewed across public libraries in the given jurisdiction.

If, however, the focus is on institutions, or if population and circulation figures are similar across public libraries, the rates can be calculated using the municipal or sub-provincial method. This method assumes that the unit of analysis is the local municipality served by the public library or public library system. With it, the rates of individual public libraries are averaged. The municipal method therefore reflects the variability in rates across all individual public libraries in the jurisdiction of interest, whether it be national or provincial. In other words, among public libraries there is a distribution of rates, and the standard deviation of these rates determines whether the aggregate method of calculating them will approximate the local municipal method. When the standard deviation is low, that is, when there is little variability among public library rates, the municipal method yields acceptable statistics.

But when these rates are highly skewed, the aggregate method may be more appropriate. To illustrate, in Alberta there is a large concentration of population (over 50 percent) in just two urban centers, so that if the rates in these municipalities differ significantly from those of the many small communities that account for the rest of the population, there will be a substantial difference between municipal and aggregate figures; for example, circulation per capita in Alberta in 1987 was 10.7 items if the aggregate method is used, but only 7.6 items with

the municipal method. This is also the case at the national level, where there is less severe skewing in favor of large urban centers: per capita national circulation reported by study respondents for 1987 was 7.4 items if the aggregate method is used, while the local method sets it at 6.7 items. Table F5 in Appendix F shows the differences between the two methods of calculating population, borrower, and circulation ratios, across provinces and territories.

Throughout this study, the local municipal method of calculation is used for ratio calculations, such as circulation per capita, challenges per capita, and challenges per borrower. However, in cases where there are substantial differences between local and aggregate calculations, both are reported.

In passing, it should be noted that another possible indicator of the survey response rate, borrower registration, was not used in the present study because this information is not collected nationally. In addition, registration data are less reliable than population and circulation data. Public libraries do not have a uniform approach to membership file management: no common cutoff point exists for reviewing borrower status and removing inactive members, and in fact some public libraries keep borrowers on file for many years whether they have used the library or not--and in some cases whether they still reside in the municipality or not.

As well, while it may be presumed that registered borrowers

were not all equally active users, registration is not an accurate indicator of library use. Of Canadian residents represented in the present study, 36 percent were registered borrowers. However, a survey of adult users of public libraries and bookstores conducted by Statistics Canada in February 1987 shows that this proportion understates public library users: of the 16,704 people aged 15 years and older who were included in that study, 44 percent reported at least one visit to a public library during the preceding year (Ben-Gera and Kingsley, 1980, and Watson, 1980). With the inclusion of residents under 15 years of age, overall user rates would likely be even higher.

The reason that borrower registration understates community use of public library services across the country is simple: by definition, on-site patrons who do not have a library card are excluded. In a study of public library users in one Canadian city with 125,000 residents, Schrader (1980) found that 25 to 29 percent of on-site visitors did not have borrower cards (p.145).

In passing, it should also be noted that circulation figures seriously under-represent total usage of public library materials. Traditionally, the obsessive reliance by public librarians on circulation data has led them to ignore in-house use of materials altogether. External use, however, is a poor indicator of in-house use. Richard Rubin (1986) has estimated that, for every item borrowed from a public library, another is used on-site (p.131). Some public librarians have attempted to

correct this imbalance through the use of table counts, that is, to count materials left on tables during specified data collection periods. In Schrader's (1980) study, table counts showed a ratio of 1 item used in-house for every 3 items borrowed; in-house use accounted for 15 to 32 percent of total circulation.

Nonetheless, Rubin's analysis reveals that public librarians using this method are still under-counting the number of materials used on the premises by at least one-half (p.120). Unfortunately, the table count method is the one recommended most recently for measurement in both public and academic libraries (Van House *et al.* (1987) in *Output Measures for Public Libraries*; Van House, Weil, and McClure (1990) in *Measuring Academic Library Performance*).

In any event, to conclude, the response by public librarians across the country to the survey was very positive, indicating solid support among them for this type of censorship research. With such high coverage, both sparsely populated areas and the large urban centers were well represented. Similarly, by whatever measure, governance units, population, or circulation, the level of response was sufficiently high that generalizations can be made with confidence from the study data to the Canadian community at large. As well, the per capita circulation rate of the respondents was typical of the national rate as a whole, another factor supporting generalizability of the study results.

These conclusions are reinforced by the personal interest shown in the study by many individual respondents themselves. One chief librarian, for example, sent her response by priority post in order to meet the deadline for returns. Three others telephoned long distance to say that their responses would be forthcoming; in one case the original questionnaire had not been received until March 2. Similarly, another respondent wrote a note to say she hoped her response would still be useful and that it was late because the questionnaire had not been received until the second week of March. The chief executive officer of a large urban system telephoned long distance to say that she would provide one consolidated response for her system, and also to convey some of the complexities of interpreting patron pressures to remove or conversely to add materials to the collection. Another respondent forwarded additional details about a censorship incident that he had been unable to recall earlier. Finally, it might be noted that 215 respondents, almost 40 percent, requested a summary of the study results, and for that purpose included self-addressed envelopes, and often postage, with their returns.

Survey Non-Respondents

Which institutions did not respond to the questionnaire? In general, they were single-unit libraries located in Ontario and Quebec that served small communities and circulated few items in

1987. Only 2 out of the 31 urban systems across Canada that served more than 100,000 people failed to respond to the study.

Altogether, 438 public libraries did not respond, 44 percent of the total. However, although non-respondents accounted for 44 percent of public libraries across the country, in 1987 they served only 24 percent of the total municipal population (6.2 million people) and circulated only 17 percent of all items (30.2 million items). In contrast, while public library respondents accounted for 56 percent of all institutions, they served 76 percent of the total population and circulated 83 percent of all items.

The typical non-respondent served an average of about 14,000 residents per institution in 1987 compared to 35,000 residents per institution among study respondents. Similarly, their average circulation was 69,000 items compared to 262,000 items among respondents. These figures work out (using the aggregate method) to a per capita circulation among non-respondent institutions of 4.9 items, while among respondents it was 7.4 items per capita (6.7 items per capita using the municipal method of calculation).

Study Limitations

It is important to note that the analysis and conclusions of this study must be viewed in the context of both the delimitations of its objectives and the limitations of its

methodology.

In terms of research delimitations, the study did not set out to investigate broad social and economic factors such as publishing industry forces and constraints, or government legislation and regulations. Also excluded were the complex matters of self-censorship in the public library selection process, both practices and attitudes, and of how public library staff attitudes towards censorship influence diverse aspects of institutional policy and activity. Although a few questions probed, variously, whether or not public libraries owned certain previously challenged titles, and whether or not their access policies and practices involved age-related restrictions or special treatment of certain materials, there was no direct attempt to investigate the phenomenon of prior restraint in the selection process. (An interesting question in this regard that might have been asked, but did not surface until after the questionnaire had been distributed, was whether there had been instances in which the controversiality of an item or an author had resulted in a decision not to purchase.)

Limitations of methodology involve weaknesses in certain survey questions, notably the question of public library endorsement of the CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, the question on covert censorship incidents, and the controversial materials checklist. The issue raised by the question regarding the CLA Statement is whether both its logical and physical

structuring on the questionnaire may have resulted in an understating of the proportion of public libraries which endorse it or its Quebec counterpart, "Chartre des droits du lecteur." The issue raised by the question regarding covert censorship is one of reliability: a substantial minority of survey respondents said that they were unsure whether certain acts of vandalism issued from attempts to deny access or whether issued from other motives.

The issues raised by the controversial materials checklist involve both validity and reliability:

- 1) Titles came from a small number of studies that may not be representative of the whole population, with particular under-representation of Quebec and French language titles;
- 2) Rates of ownership may be somewhat understated because many public libraries do not catalogue their paperback materials;
- 3) Equivalent titles not included on the checklist may be owned by a public library;
- 4) Rates of ownership may not be a valid representation of controversial materials among French language public libraries because all titles were originally written in English and may therefore have had less appeal to French speaking patrons, and because the checklist titles were English language publications that had drawn previous criticism in English language public libraries;
- 5) Because it was not possible to verify the availability in

French translation of all of the checklist titles (there is no comprehensive published list of French translations and in fact only 11 French translations among the 30 titles were identified), French language public libraries may not have reported all holdings of French translations of the English language titles on the questionnaire checklist.

In the light of these limitations, the controversial materials checklist is by no means prescriptive or "definitive," and ownership of the items included on it should not be considered a permanent barometer of susceptibility to censorship pressures. Collection development itself is properly regarded as a process rather than as a product, and similarly, what is controversial now may not be so five or ten years hence--censorship targets change with the seasons and the fashion industry--in the U.S., for example, "secular humanism" disappeared so quickly from the right-wing agenda and was so quickly replaced by "new age" and "occultism" that one is left in a state of wonderment if not amusement. Acquisitions librarians should be aware of the conceptual deficiencies of the controversial materials checklist designed for this study as a collection development tool.

Another limitation of study methodology relates to bounded recall or recall loss, that is, the possibility of the under-reporting of past events because records are not readily available and as a consequence respondent memory is the only

source of information. A reference period of three years for censorship pressures and their effects is probably too long for accuracy, especially when, as it turns out, about half of all direct challenges were only made verbally; this may account for the overall item response rate on history sheet questions of 91 percent compared to 98 percent on the main questionnaire. Even though the calendar year was used as the reference period, some degree of recall loss may mean that the study understates the incidence of various kinds of censorship pressures, notably those without formal documentation.

One other methodological limitation of the study concerns the survey response rate. Since some 438 public libraries did not respond out of a population of almost 1000, the possibility of a certain degree of non-response bias exists in the findings and conclusions of the study. However, the majority of non-respondents were small Ontario and Quebec public libraries that represented a relatively small proportion of Canadian residents, borrowers, and annual circulation.

Keeping these limitations in mind, there is no doubt that the present study has revealed a wealth of information that was previously unavailable. But it should also be remembered that any questionnaire survey gives only a snapshot of reality, a snapshot that reflects numerical social patterns at a particular point in time and place; indeed, reasoning in all human science research is based in statistical regularity and probability, not

in certitude, about both the past and the future.

PART TWO: CHALLENGES TO ACCESS

CHAPTER 6
INSTITUTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

What were the predominant demographic characteristics of the respondent public libraries? This chapter develops a profile of institutional patterns according to the following variables: type of governance structure (single-unit libraries or multi-branch library systems), number of service points operated by systems including number of school-housed facilities, provincial or territorial jurisdiction, municipal population, registered borrowers, annual circulation, weekly hours of service, languages of library acquisitions, and dominant language of the community (English or French).

Overall, 560 public libraries and public library systems across Canada responded to the survey, accounting for 56 percent of the 998 autonomous institutions in 1987. They served more than 19.4 million Canadian residents, or three out of four people in the entire country. They also reported 7.5 million registered borrowers and circulated almost 144 million items.

Of all residents accounted for in the study, registered borrowers represented 36 percent. On average, the survey data reveal a typical borrowing pattern in 1987 of 22 items per registered patron (two items per month), or 7 items per capita (one item every two months). Taken together, the responding institutions provided more than 46,000 hours of public service per week throughout Canada.

In the present study, single-unit libraries predominated. Out of 560 respondents, 442 or 79 percent were single institutions, while 118 or 21 percent were multi-branch library systems. The 118 multi-branch systems in the study consisted of both urban and regional governance systems. They operated 1,249 service points, including 83 school-housed facilities (which accounted for 7 percent of all outlets). The number of service points per system varied considerably, from 2 to 54, but the majority of systems were small: just over half had 5 or less service points each, and the average was 11 per system. At the other extreme, one in six systems (19 out of 118) had 20 or more outlets. The typical system reported that each of its 11 service points was open an average of 27 hours per week. Table F6 in Appendix F shows the distribution of service points among the multi-branch systems in the study.

Of the 118 systems represented in the study, 53 systems or 45 percent reported one or more school-housed facilities. The majority of them had only one such operation, but 15 percent had

between 2 and 10 each. Table F7 in Appendix F shows the number of joint service points reported by system respondents.

Turning again to the broader picture of all study respondents, the data show that multi-branch systems were demographically very different from single-unit libraries. Though far fewer in number, multi-branch systems were many times larger than single libraries. The typical system served 129,000 residents, reported 52,000 registered borrowers, and circulated over 1 million items. In contrast, the typical single library reported 9,000 residents, 3,000 borrowers, and 59,000 circulations. Statistical analysis reveals significant differences between systems and single libraries in these demographic variables (Table F8 in Appendix F). Hence, while multi-branch systems represented only 21 percent of institutional respondents, they accounted for 79 percent of all municipal residents in the study. Conversely, single libraries, while representing 79 percent of all respondents, accounted for only 21 percent of municipal residents.

Table 3 below shows the breakdown of demographic characteristics by type of governance unit reported in the study.

Table 3. Population, Borrowers, Circulation, and Service Hours, by Governance, 1987

Governance Structure	Public Libraries		Total	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> (000s)	<u>Percent</u>
Municipal Population				
Single	438	79%	4,160	21%
System	118	21	15,267	79
National	556	100%	19,427	100%
Registered Borrowers				
Single	430	78%	1,363	18%
System	118	22	6,109	82
National	548	100%	7,472	100%
Library Circulation				
Single	431	79%	25,437	18%
System	118	21	118,422	82
National	549	100%	143,859	100%
Library Hours				
Single	438	79	12,771	28%
System	115	21	33,633	72
National	553	100%	46,404	100%

With such high coverage, both sparsely populated areas and the large urban centers were well represented in the study. Respondent public libraries served municipalities with populations ranging from 100 people to almost 1 million. Registered borrowers varied from 17 patrons to almost 400,000, and circulation from 243 items to almost 8 million. Public service availability ranged from 1 hour per week for the smallest single-unit library to almost 2,000 hours per week for the largest system. In numerical terms alone, however, small public libraries far outnumbered large ones in the study, so the survey data tend to reflect the characteristics of small institutions

across the country.

Generally speaking, then, lower demographic figures describe single-unit libraries in the study, while higher figures describe systems. However, the differences between mean and median demographic features indicate highly skewed patterns of municipal residents, registered borrowers, library circulation, and library hours among respondent public libraries. Indeed, fully half of all responding public libraries served municipalities with 6,000 or less residents, reported 2,000 or less registered borrowers, circulated 36,000 or less items, and provided 33 hours or less of public service per week.

Because of these significant demographic differences among respondents, it is somewhat misleading to speak of a "typical" public library in the study. Rather, the data describe two patterns of institutions in the study, the single-unit library and the multi-branch system. This bimodal character is largely explained by the numerical preponderance of single-unit Ontario public libraries in the study. They accounted for 38 percent of all respondent institutions across the country (Tables 1 and F4). In contrast, single libraries in Alberta accounted for only 21 percent of all respondent institutions and in Quebec 10 percent. Hence, the data analysis tends to reflect the characteristics of Ontario public libraries.

While study respondents typify two statistical patterns, another important way of looking at these institutional

characteristics is through their interrelationships, that is, registered borrowers as a percentage of total municipal residents, circulation per borrower, and circulation per capita.

Table 4 shows these demographic interrelationships by governance structure.

Table 4. Ratios of Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, by Governance, 1987

	Governance Structure		
	<u>Single*</u>	<u>System**</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Borrowers/population	35%	39%	36%
Circulation per borrower	22.9	20.2	22.3
Circulation per capita	6.6	7.2	6.7

*approx n=426 for single libraries with <1% variation due to non-respondents (excluded from calculations)

**n=118 for systems

This table shows similar patterns of borrower behavior regardless of whether the service unit consists of a multi-branch system or a single library. Registered borrowers made up 35 percent of municipal populations served by single libraries in the study, while they accounted for 39 percent of those served by systems. Circulation by single libraries was approximately 23 items per borrower, while by systems it was 20 items per borrower. Circulation per capita was close to 7 items for both types of public libraries. Statistical analysis shows that governance structure had no significant effect on borrowers as a proportion of population, circulation per borrower, or

circulation per capita (Table F9 in Appendix F).

This is not surprising, since these three demographic measures--population, borrowers, and circulation--were highly interrelated. Statistical analysis reveals a very strong, significant correlation between pairs of these measures. What this means is that each demographic measure was a strong predictor of the others; registered borrowers and circulation were the strongest predictors of each other (Table F10 in Appendix F).

In addition to these demographic characteristics of interest, two linguistic features of respondent public libraries were also documented: dominant language of the community, English or French, and languages of library acquisitions. Dominant language was not specifically identified in the study questionnaire, but is assumed throughout the chapters that follow to be the language that was used by respondents in completing their return. It goes without saying, and therefore must be said, that such a linguistic correspondence between community speech and questionnaire response may not hold true 100 percent of the time. Nonetheless, insofar as respondent language on the questionnaire did reflect the majority language of the community, English predominated: 492, or 88 percent, of the questionnaire responses were in English. By municipal population served, the proportion of English language responses was similar, 84 percent, thus representing over 16 million Canadian residents in the

study.

French was the dominant language for 68, or 12 percent, of the respondents. Nine out of 10 French language responses (61 out of 68) came from Quebec; 5 were from Ontario, 1 was from New Brunswick, and 1 was unidentified. On the basis of both institutions and municipal population, therefore, the results of the present study tend to reflect the characteristics of English language public libraries across Canada.

In spite of the numerical preponderance of English language public libraries in the study, however, the size of municipal populations served by both French and English language respondents was similar. English language public libraries served an average 34,000 residents, while French language public libraries served 45,000 residents; the median population of French language municipalities was three times higher than that of English language municipalities, implying that disproportionately fewer small French language public libraries responded to the questionnaire survey than English language ones. Statistical analysis reveals no significant differences between the two dominant linguistic groupings with respect to population, borrowers, or circulation (Table F11 in Appendix F).

Two-thirds of all public libraries in the study reported that they acquired materials in both French and English, and in many cases in other languages as well. This proportion was similar for both English and French language public libraries

across the country. At the same time, however, some 30 percent of all respondents reported unilingual acquisitions--that is, materials were acquired in either French or English but not in both of Canada's constitutionally official languages. Table F12 in Appendix F shows the languages in which materials were acquired by respondent public libraries.

Unilingual acquisitions affected relatively few Canadian residents across the country. More than 17.5 million residents, or 92 percent of all people represented in the study, resided in municipalities in which their public libraries collected materials in both French and English, and often in other languages too. Table F13 in Appendix F shows the breakdown of municipal population by acquisition languages.

Summary

The survey data reveal the following demographic snapshot of public library respondents--though it is more like a "double exposure." Among single-unit libraries, which accounted for 79 percent of all institutions, the typical respondent:

- o was located in Ontario,
- o served a predominantly English language community,
- o collected materials in both French and English,
- o provided 29 hours of service per week,
- o served a small municipality of 9,000 people,
- o reported 3,000 registered borrowers, and
- o circulated 59,000 items, for a ratio of 23 items per borrower or just under 7 items per capita.

Among multi-branch systems, accounting for 21 percent of all

institutions, the typical respondent:

- o was located in Ontario,
- o served a predominantly English language community,
- o collected materials in both French and English,
- o operated 11 service points, including 1 school-housed facility,
- o provided 292 hours of service per week in total, or 27 hours per service point,
- o served a large municipality of 129,000 people,
- o reported 52,000 registered borrowers, and
- o circulated over 1 million items, for a ratio of 19 items per borrower or just over 7 items per capita.

These general patterns show that public libraries serving both sparsely populated areas and the large urban centers were well represented in the study. However, overall numerical findings reflect the characteristics of smaller public libraries across Canada, and more specifically those of English language public libraries found in Ontario—just because so many more small public libraries are located there and were respondents to this study. Nonetheless, users of single-unit libraries and multi-branch systems were alike in certain respects: circulation per capita was about the same, circulation per borrower was about the same, and borrowers constituted about the same percentage of municipal populations.

CHAPTER 7
ACCESS POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Do Canadian residents enjoy unfettered, unrestrained access to published materials through their public libraries? The answer is much more complex than the question: there are, in fact, several facets to it. There are broad social factors like the social, political, and economic culture of the mass media (for U.S. perspectives on this topic see, among others, Parenti, 1986; Herman and Chomsky, 1988; and Montgomery, 1989; and for a Canadian one see MacLean, 1981; and Ericson, Baranek, and Chan, 1991), publishing industry constraints, and governmental legislation and regulation at all levels. There is also the complex motivation involved in self-censorship by public library staff in the selection and acquisition processes.

The focus of the present study, however, was on more tangible barriers to patron access. Survey questions were designed to elicit a portrait of existing institutional policies, procedures, and practices that affect patron access to public

library materials across Canada.

The areas selected for investigation were:

- a) the presence of formal, written policies and procedures for selection, challenges, and donations,
- b) age-related restrictions on the use of materials,
- c) differential treatment of certain materials,
- d) censorship susceptibility of the institution, and
- e) reaction to Bill C-54, a federal legislative initiative.

The resulting portrait reveals in general terms the extent to which Canadian public libraries have adopted sound and consistent management practices that relate to intellectual freedom. A consideration of such practices furnishes the context for examining the scope, nature, outcome, and effects of collection challenges, including not only direct and covert incidents, but pressures to acquire materials as well. These themes, access policies and collection challenges, form the major chapters in the present work.

A. Selection, Challenges, and Donations

With regard to the presence of formal policies and procedures that have an impact on patron access to materials, five kinds of policy issues were investigated:

- Does the library have a written selection policy?
- Does the library have a written policy for handling objections?
- Does the library endorse the Canadian Library Association's

"Statement on Intellectual Freedom" (CIA Statement)?

- Does the library have a written form for registering objections?
- Does the library have a written donations policy?

Table 5 shows policy coverage among respondent public libraries by type of governance structure.

Table 5. Access Policies, by Governance, 1987

Extent of Policy Coverage*	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
All	91	21%	60	51%	151	27%
Some	195	44	48	41	243	43
None	<u>156</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>30</u>
National	442	100%	118	100%	560	100%

*policies for selection, objections, donations, endorsement of the CIA Statement, and form for objections

Overall, 70 percent of the public libraries in the study reported having some or all of these policies in place (including here as "policies" the endorsement of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the existence of a form for handling objections). Fewer single-unit libraries had some or all of them than did multi-branch systems, 65 percent compared to 92 percent. A total of 151 respondents or 27 percent had all five of these policies. Another 43 percent said that they had one or more but not all. At the other extreme, 30 percent or 166 respondents reported having none of these policies.

Among the 151 respondent public libraries with inclusive

policy coverage, there were 60 multi-branch systems and 91 single libraries. Systems were disproportionately represented among respondents with inclusive policy coverage--half of all systems in the study, compared to only 21 percent of single libraries. Partial policy coverage was approximately the same for both groups, 44 percent among single libraries and 41 percent among systems. Statistical analysis confirms that systems had a significantly higher level of access policy coverage than did single libraries (Table F14 in Appendix F).

While inclusive policy coverage was reported by only one out of four respondent public libraries, they accounted for over half of all municipal residents, registered borrowers, and circulations that were reported in the study. They served almost 10 million Canadian residents, recorded over 4 million registered borrowers, and circulated 81 million items. Another 7 million residents, 35 percent of the total, were served by the 243 respondents reporting partial policy coverage. Respondent public libraries with no access policies at all served municipalities with just under 3 million people in total, or 14 percent.

What these figures mean is that respondents serving larger municipal populations were far more likely to have all five access policies than those serving smaller populations. The typical public library with all five policies served a municipality with 65,000 municipal residents, 28,000 registered borrowers, and 536,000 library circulations. Those with partial

policy coverage were half as large, on average serving a municipality with 28,000 residents, 11,000 borrowers, and 208,000 circulations. Those with no access policies were smaller still: on average they reported 17,000 residents, 4,000 borrowers, and 81,000 circulations. Statistical analysis confirms that access policy coverage was significantly linked to municipal population, registered borrowers, and library circulation. That is to say, the larger the municipality--whether in terms of population, borrowers, or circulation--the more likely it was to have inclusive policy coverage (Table F15 in Appendix F).

However, the differences between mean and median demographic patterns among public libraries at each level of access policy coverage indicate highly skewed patterns of municipal residents, registered borrowers, and library circulation. Indeed, half of the 151 institutions having all five policies served municipalities with approximately 17,000 or less residents, reported 6,000 or less registered borrowers, and circulated 122,000 or less items. Among the 405 respondents having none or only some of these policies, half served municipalities with 5,000 or less residents, reported 1,000 or less registered borrowers, and circulated 22,000 or less items.

Among the respondent public libraries with inclusive policy coverage, all but one were English language institutions. Partial policy coverage was similar for both linguistic groups, just over 40 percent of respondents. At the other extreme, over

half of the French language public libraries had none of these access policies, compared to 26 percent of the English language respondents. Statistical analysis confirms that English language institutions were significantly more likely to have comprehensive access policy coverage than were their French language counterparts (Table F16 in Appendix F).

While only one French language respondent reported having inclusive policy coverage, among the 30 French language respondents with at least one of the five access policies were the following: 24 institutions had a written selection policy, 9 had a written policy for handling objections, 6 had a form for registering objections, 18 had a donations policy, and 6 endorsed the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom or its Quebec counterpart.

While inclusive policy coverage characterized 27 percent of the respondent public libraries across the country, there were wide variations among political jurisdictions: from under 30 percent of the public libraries in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and the Northwest Territories, to more than 85 percent in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and the Yukon. Since the study, the Northwest Territories has also implemented all five policies (personal communication). Parenthetically, Alberta public libraries were required some years ago to develop written policies for selection and donations ("The Libraries Regulation, 1984"), but it is apparent from the

study results that many had still not complied by 1987 (Tables F9 and F13 in Appendix F). Table F17 in Appendix F shows the political jurisdictions of those respondent public libraries having all five access policies.

Table 6 shows how many public libraries had each access policy in 1987, together with the number of residents that they served. Overall, each policy had been adopted by about half of the respondent public libraries across the country, and these institutions served approximately 75 percent of all Canadian residents represented in the study. In Hopkins' (1991b) nation-wide study of challenges to U.S. secondary school library materials, 72 percent of the respondents indicated that there was a written, board-approved selection policy (p.4:28).

Table 6. Individual Access Policies, by Population, 1987

<u>Type of Policy</u>	<u>Public Libraries</u>		<u>Population</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent*</u>	<u>(000s)</u>	<u>Percent**</u>
Selection policy	293	54%	15,344	80%
Objections policy	278	50%	12,681	65%
CIA endorsement	258	46%	13,861	71%
Objections form	234	43%	12,571	69%
Donations policy	310	57%	14,481	80%

*approx n=550 with <2% variation due to non-respondents (excluded from calculations)

**approx n=18.9 million with <5% variation due to non-respondents (excluded from calculations)

For a breakdown by political jurisdiction of respondent public

libraries having each of the five policies of interest, together with attendant municipal populations represented, see Tables F18-F22 in Appendix F.

Somewhat curiously (to me, at least), 22 public libraries reported having a form for handling objections, but no written objections policy. Also, 33 respondents reported that they endorsed the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, but had none of the other four policies of interest.

Table 6 above shows that the CIA Statement was endorsed by 258 respondents, representing 13.9 million Canadians. However, as noted earlier in Chapter 5, it is likely that this under-represents institutional endorsement because of the way in which this question was structured on the survey instrument and because there was no reference to the Quebec counterpart of the CIA Statement, "Charte des droits du lecteur"; only two Quebec respondents voluntarily mentioned this document in its place.

Overall, the present study has revealed a considerable amount of variation in the kinds of policies and practices that public libraries across Canada have adopted in relation to intellectual freedom and access. While most of the multi-branch systems reported having at least some of the relevant policies and practices in place, there were still a few systems as well as a very large number of smaller institutions that did not have all of them: 16 out of 94 respondent public libraries serving populations of 50,000 or more did not have a selection policy; 26

did not have a policy for handling challenges or a form; 4 did not endorse the CIA Statement; and 17 did not have a donations policy. French language public libraries are particularly noticeable for their absence of access policies compared to their English language counterparts.

Several respondents commented on book selection policies and practices in their libraries (respondent comments in French have been translated throughout the text):

- o Since book selection can not be a science, we can only hope to guard against our biases warping our collections. Changing staff doing the selection is probably the most palatable solution. Diversity of selectors should help provide balance. Please note that not only are there controversial and/or questionable books we do not buy, but also non-controversial, non-questionable books that we do not buy!
- o I feel selection of materials is getting more and more complex each year. Adults want mass market books on horror, violent crimes, sex, murder, etc. What is disturbing is young adults are starting to pick up their reading habits--they're into V.C. Andrews, Stephen King, Dean Kootz, etc. They're also into *Sweet Valley Highs* and will read very few hard copy books at all. You either provide the service--or have lots of books on shelves that look nice and never circulate. With dollars so tight, you're "damned if you do and damned if you don't."
- o Books in our library are chosen by committee (a children's book committee and an adult book committee). Each committee is chaired by a member of the library board. Committees are composed of members of the library. Each committee member serves for two years only. Sometimes the head librarian is a member, but mostly not. As head librarian, I find this method of choosing books is excellent. The reading public gets to read books of their choice and because members change frequently, a variety of interests are represented. It also takes all pressure off the head librarian.
- o Libraries must make it clear to staff when hiring what their policy is. Our policy is that a public library

should contain material for all interests and beliefs and access to all materials is open to all.

- o Very occasionally an adult, usually a parent or teacher, will suggest that an individual title is inappropriate to a public library in their view. We always thank them for their concern and examine the book or material in question. We refer to our policy and, usually, send the item back to the shelves. Inaccurate materials, out of date, etc., are removed.
- o We believe receiving complaints in written form, and responding with information on our policy, provides a consistent method of addressing "complaints."
- o This brings up the basic problem of trying to reconcile the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom with library book selection policies. Most librarians and library boards understand that the two work in concert--the Statement on Intellectual Freedom insures that material will not be excluded because of its subject matter but at the same time the material must also meet the criteria of the book selection policy such as demand and literary quality. Others, however, interpret the Statement on Intellectual Freedom to mean that libraries must accept all materials. I would be very interested to hear some discussion on how other librarians and boards have dealt with these issues.
- o As librarian, I generally select books for the library. I do consult with my board and with the patrons as to what should be added to our collection. We try to choose wisely, given a very limited budget. I tend to stay clear of controversial books that might offend, but if a book is requested I do try to obtain it for the patron, not necessarily by purchasing it. Selection, on a small budget, is not necessarily censorship.

B. Access Restrictions on Children and Young Adults

Another dimension of public library access policies involves the presence of constraints based on patron age or school grade level. These constraints generally take one of two forms: a) a

restriction on access to the institution, typically achieved by restricting borrowing privileges by age or school grade level, and b) a restriction on access to the collection, by requiring minors to have written parental or guardian consent to consult or borrow certain materials, either individual titles or types.

The study reveals that 334 respondent public libraries or 60 percent reported no age-based access restrictions at all. At the same time, a considerable number of Canadian young people did not enjoy unfettered access to public libraries in 1987: overall, 221 institutions or 40 percent either restricted borrowing privileges on the basis of age or required minors to have consent for the use of certain library materials or both. By type of restriction, 166 respondents (30 percent) restricted borrowing by age, while 125 respondents (23 percent) required consent for certain materials. A total of 70 institutions or 12 percent reported both forms of restriction.

While at the time of the study most public libraries allowed patrons who were over the age of 12 or 13 or in junior high school to borrow adult fiction, adult non-fiction, and sexually explicit books and comics, others limited borrowing privileges of these materials to patrons over the age of 14, 15, 16, 17, or even 18. Restricted access was frequently accomplished by having separate borrower cards for children or juveniles, or by discretely marking certain titles for staff alert. Some institutions restricted borrowing according to age, but not

in-house consultation of materials. Some institutions issued adult borrower cards to children who had parental permission. Another way that some public libraries restricted access was through separate areas for children's materials, young adult materials, and adult materials. Some took this separation of materials even further, as one respondent noted:

The youngsters do not have the right to access adult books, even if they are placed on the same shelf but in a different section.

Some respondents restricted access to specific titles or authors. Among the restricted works reported in the survey were: "Judy Blume adult titles," *Wifey*, *Forever*, *The Joy of Sex*, *The Hite Report*, *You and Your Child*, *Boys and Sex*, *Girls and Sex*, and *Our Bodies, Ourselves: A Book By and For Women*. Sometimes there was a provision for access to young adult or adult materials if written consent was provided by parents or teachers, or if parents were present. In many other cases, access was not restricted unless parents provided written instructions or library staff were otherwise aware of the views and wishes of the patron's parents. Some respondents mentioned that they would phone parents for permission if they thought a patron was too young to have certain materials.

A sizeable minority of respondents also restricted access to certain categories of materials, variously described as "questionable" adult material, books with "doubtful morality,"

adult fiction, adult type of material, sexually explicit material, adult comics, erotic comics, sexual enjoyment guides, books on sexuality, sex education books, books on childbirth, "pornographic" materials, "some controversial reference material (sex)," violent material, certain art and science books, or, in one case, "anything that is not housed in the children's room." One public library respondent in Quebec sent a copy of their restricted access policy which reads:

Minors entering the "adult" section must be accompanied by a parent if they wish to consult or borrow items dealing with the following subjects:

- books dealing exclusively with violence and destruction (e.g., Rambo)
- books dealing with horror, esotericism, the occult, various religious prophecies, cults (e.g., *The Exorcist*)
- books of an erotic nature
- adult comics are restricted to adults (not available to persons under 16, even with parental consent).

A few respondents indicated that it was left to the discretion of the library staff member to decide whether to allow a young patron to consult or borrow a "questionable" item; various factors in the decision might be the maturity or comprehension level of the prospective borrower, appropriateness or suitability of a book, a child's "level, emotional, mental or other," availability of children's material on a topic, referral from the children's department, and "what the book is needed for." Some respondents also restricted access to certain forms of publication, such as film and video; presumably, these restrictions issued from the laws and regulations imposed by

provincial governments.

Table 7 below shows the incidence among respondent public libraries of both forms of access restriction based on patron age, by type of governance structure.

Table 7. Access Restrictions Based on Age, by Governance, 1987

Form of Restriction	Governance Structure					
	Single*		System**		Combined	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Borrowing privileges	114	26%	52	44%	166	30%
Consent requirement	87	20%	38	32%	125	23%
Borrowing &/or consent	154	35%	67	57%	221	40%
Neither	283	65%	51	43%	334	60%

*approx n=439 with <1% variation due to non-respondents (excluded from calculations)

**n=118 with <1% variation due to non-respondents (excluded from calculations)

Among the 166 respondents with restricted borrowing privileges, there were 52 multi-branch systems and 114 single-unit libraries. These systems accounted for 44 percent of the systems in the study, compared to only 26 percent of the single-unit libraries. Statistical analysis shows that multi-branch systems were significantly more likely than single libraries to restrict borrowing privileges for minors (Table F23 in Appendix F).

While respondent public libraries with restricted borrowing privileges were more likely to be multi-branch systems than single-unit libraries, the municipal populations that they served

also differed. However, they were not different in registered borrowers or circulated items. Statistical analysis confirms that there was a significant difference in municipal residents between respondents who restricted borrowing and those who did not, but no significant difference in numbers of borrowers or of circulations (Table F24 in Appendix F). For a breakdown by political jurisdiction and municipal population of public libraries with restricted borrowing privileges for minors, see Table F25 in Appendix F.

By linguistic grouping, French and English language public libraries were similar in their approach to borrowing restrictions on minors: 43 percent of the French institutions in the study, 28 percent of the English. Statistical analysis shows that there was no significant difference between French and English language institutions in their rates of borrowing restriction (Table F26 in Appendix F).

There were mixed patterns among institutions that required minors to have consent for access to certain titles or types of materials. Among the 125 respondents reporting a consent requirement for minors, there were 38 multi-branch systems and 87 single-unit libraries. Institutions with this form of restriction on collection access accounted for one-third of the systems in the study, compared to only 20 percent of the single-unit libraries. Statistical analysis shows that multi-branch systems were significantly more likely than single

libraries to have consent requirements for minors (Table F27 in Appendix F).

While respondent public libraries with a consent requirement were more likely to be multi-branch systems than single-unit libraries, all institutions were similar in terms of municipal population, registered borrowers, and circulation. Statistical analysis shows that there were no significant differences in these demographic characteristics between respondents requiring minors to have consent and those not requiring consent (Table F28 in Appendix F). For a breakdown by political jurisdiction and municipal population of public libraries with a consent requirement, see Table F29 in Appendix F.

French and English language public libraries differed in their approach to restricted collection access. By dominant language of the community, significantly more French than English language institutions required minors to have consent to use certain public library materials: 49 percent of the French institutions in the study, 19 percent of the English (Table F30 in Appendix F).

For a substantial minority of public libraries at the time of the study, age-related access restrictions appeared to go hand in hand with support for intellectual freedom principles. Among respondents who said that they endorsed the CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, many also reported one or both forms of access restriction on minors. Of the 258 institutions supporting

the CIA Statement, 77 or 30 percent restricted borrowing privileges on the basis of age and 51 or 20 percent reported consent requirements for minors; 32 institutions reported both forms of restriction. However, statistical analysis reveals that the overall difference between support for the CIA Statement and the presence or absence of age restrictions was not significant. That is to say, respondent public libraries were just as likely to restrict access based on age, whether they endorsed the CIA Statement or not (Tables F31-F32 in Appendix F).

It should not be surprising, then, to discover that for a substantial minority of respondents, the presence of patron access policies was no guarantee against age-related access restrictions. Among the 151 respondents who had the five access policies discussed in the previous section, 43 or 28 percent restricted borrowing privileges on the basis of age and 33 or 22 percent required minors to have consent for access to certain materials; 19 institutions with inclusive policy coverage had both forms of age-related access restriction. However, statistical analysis reveals that the overall difference between inclusive policy coverage and the presence or absence of age restrictions was not significant. That is to say, respondent public libraries were just as likely to restrict access based on age, whether they had all five access policies or not (Tables F33-F34 in Appendix F.)

Verbatim comments by many respondents indicated a wide range

of attitudes and policies among respondents about intellectual freedom issues involving minors. Several respondents mentioned the particular circumstances of public library service to small communities.

- o In a small town library, if you allow youngsters to take out questionable material, you may soon find the parents upset and stop the children from borrowing. Everyone knows everyone here and most people believe if you take a book from the library it should be suitable. Adults' values are already formed and they should be free to read anything.
- o Our library is very small as is our community, therefore, the Librarian is in a position to watch everyone in the library and see to it that children are not exposed to adult reading.
- o Being a small village we know our patrons and will tell children that such a book is not to be taken out by them. If I think a book might offend an older patron I will tell them it is violent or sexually explicit.
- o I don't believe the library as such should have to remove or restrict items unless it's pornographic. The library has all kinds of reading for the public. We have never refused anyone any kind of material--except for a school age child, say 10-12 wanting to read some adult novel that they wouldn't understand. I just tell them when they're older they can read it. Our village is only 300 so you know everyone and sometimes you have to refuse (for own peace of mind) a youngster, but I always get him another book and they're happy.
- o We restrict to the point that we know patrons and families (small town) and are able to monitor books taken out quite well. If in doubt, we phone the parents.
- o Library assistants monitor the 14 and under age group and make suggestions if they feel a book is inappropriate. (We are a small local library.)

One respondent suggested that age-related access restrictions had a positive effect on library use:

It happens that the parents are sensitive to book illustrations: naked women, naked breasts in comics. It goes without saying that they pay attention to our collection of films and video cassettes. We only loan films to adults who will decide whether the whole family should see them. That implies the intellectual and material responsibility of the parents. A great advantage is that the young people bring their parents to the library.

Other respondents gladly acted *in loco parentis* to monitor and control children's access to library materials, or otherwise aligned themselves with parents:

- o No restrictions, but I did deny *Wifey* to a 12 year old who thought it was a YA book. She took it out while I was on holidays! I withdrew it!
- o If the borrower is juvenile and taking an adult book we question them to find out if their parents are aware of what they are reading.
- o Loose control only, by staff, for example if a minor brought, for example, *Wifey*, to the desk to sign out, we would discourage the young patron if possible and question the reading of an adult book. Usually this works but if a teenager was to insist on borrowing it we would allow it to go out.
- o Although our policy states no age restrictions, I think there still may be some residual "control" of this by wily staff.
- o Parents must approve certain individual titles that may not be suitable for that child. We do not want to make that decision if the title is a controversial one.
- o Young boys can not look at or borrow books in our reference area, ie. *Our Bodies, Ourselves* which is a woman's reference manual.
- o Judy Blume adult titles require written consent from a parent when requested by borrowers under 14 (mostly to protect us from angry mothers).
- o In our case, certain art, science and sex education books would be restricted from a child's use if it was not to be used constructively, we would contact parents.

- o Some books have a notice on the front that parental discretion is suggested for readers under (years of age).
- o Nothing formal—common sense and parental permission.

Other respondents commented on the additional role that teachers played in policies on age-related access restrictions:

- o Since the library is in the school, the teachers sign out the books for the children and know exactly what they are reading.
- o Due to pressure from teachers (we are presently located in a public school) certain materials (*You and Your Child*) have to have parental consent to be viewed by children.

One respondent took social responsibility further, seeing in age-related access restrictions the opportunity to play a didactic role in parent-child relationships:

Not written, just verbal consent. We have several very graphic "Facts of Life" books which parents should be aware their younger children have, so that they can discuss the material with them.

One respondent's comments revealed no concern about the very likely negative impact of restricted access policies on public library use by children and young adults:

Our library is very distinctly divided and until children go into grade 7 their nook is the children's room. They are not "banned" from the adult room but unless parents are with them it's rare they venture into the adult section.

Another's comments revealed no concern about the likelihood that special shelving might constitute an important barrier to access:

In the children's section, books on childbirth are kept behind the counter. But any children can take them out (staff uses their judgment).

In contrast, other respondents were clearly uncomfortable acting *in loco parentis* and eschewed responsibility for monitoring children's materials, although some noted the dilemma in which they found themselves:

- o We have had parents who put the onus on the librarian.
- o Part of the problem about censorship is a lack of education--somehow parents feel it is the job of the public library to "censor" material for their children rather than take the responsibility themselves.
- o We suggest that younger patrons take out Jr. books. Responsibility for what children read rests with their parents or legal guardians.
- o Sometimes we feel certain books should be restricted particularly at the Junior level, but don't feel we have the right to tell an individual he shouldn't take out a certain book. We feel this is the parent's responsibility to screen what books their children are reading.
- o On joining the library, parents are told, in writing, that every effort will be made to ensure that children take only appropriate materials, but responsibility lies ultimately with parent. Up to junior high, children take only from children's area.
- o I started out thinking this [parental consent] might be a good idea, but it's cumbersome and actually unnecessary. The kids control their own reading, know what suits them, and the parents who care come with their kids or make an effort to read their books themselves.

Many respondents also reported age-related access restrictions because of costs and ability to handle properly certain types of materials such as records, films, videos, VCR's,

CD's, and film projectors.

In many instances where parental consent was required by the public library in order to extend borrowing privileges to a minor, the motivation was as much or more a concern about legal liability for the loss or damage of materials or for the payment of fines, as it was a concern about parental responsibility for their children's reading. A typical rationale for this policy was reflected in one respondent's comments:

All children must have their parents authorize their membership application. This is to ensure that parents are aware that their child is borrowing library materials rather than any subtle form of censorship.

To summarize the overall pattern of age-related access restrictions in 1987 that emerge from this study, institutions with age constraints shared several of the same demographic characteristics as institutions without them; two exceptions were noted: institutions with age constraints were more likely to be multi-branch systems than single-unit libraries, and they tended to serve on average about twice as many municipal residents as those without age constraints. Indeed, out of the 94 respondents serving municipal populations of 50,000 or more, 39 restricted borrowing by minors and 28 required them to have consent for borrowing.

Moreover, for a substantial minority of respondents, institutional support for intellectual freedom principles and written access policies were no guarantee against age-related

restrictions on access to either the institution or the collection. Neither endorsement of the CIA Statement nor the adoption of the other formal access policies by respondent public libraries automatically ruled out their imposition of age restrictions on access. Respondent public libraries were just as likely to have age restrictions if they endorsed the CIA Statement as if they did not endorse it, and just as likely to have age restrictions if they had formal access policies as if they did not.

Overall, the present study has revealed a great deal of variation in age-related access restrictions by Canadian public libraries. The evidence from this study suggests that among respondent public libraries, there appeared to be a fairly common qualification to the principle of unrestricted choice for children. However, public librarians did not have a consistent approach in their policies on institutional and collection access for children and young adults. At that time, what minors experienced was unpredictable and unsystematic treatment by public librarians across the country, even among large urban centers.

C. Differential Treatment of Materials

Institutional policy is one thing, practice is another; and reported practice is still another. In a study of the kind that was conducted here, however, relying as it did on respondent

self-disclosure for all information about the climate of intellectual freedom in Canadian public libraries, reports of practise were the only means of gaining additional insights into patron access. Respondents were asked if they treated potentially controversial or questionable materials differently from other collection holdings in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation. They were also asked if they restricted in-house access or borrowing privileges to certain titles or types of materials, other than by patron age or school grade level.

Overall, 424 public libraries or 79 percent said that they did not treat potentially controversial or questionable materials differently in any way, while 114 respondents or 21 percent did. Among those reporting differential treatment, there were 32 multi-branch systems and 82 single-unit libraries, 28 percent and 24 percent respectively. Statistical analysis shows that there was no significant difference between systems and single libraries in their treatment of potentially controversial or questionable materials (Table F35 in Appendix F).

Statistical analysis also shows that there were no significant differences in municipal population, registered borrowers, or circulation between respondents treating certain materials differently and those not doing so (Table F36 in Appendix F). For a breakdown by political jurisdiction of public libraries with differential treatment of some materials, together

with the attendant municipal populations potentially affected, see Table F37 in Appendix F.

Analysis by linguistic grouping reveals that respondents reporting differential treatment of certain materials were just as likely to be English as French language institutions, 20 percent compared to 28 percent, respectively. This difference in proportions was not statistically significant (Table F38 in Appendix F).

The evidence from this study reveals that public libraries reporting differential treatment of these materials also tended to support public library restrictions based on patron age. Among the 113 respondents reporting differential treatment of some materials, 50 or 44 percent also restricted the borrowing privileges of minors. In contrast, only 109 or 26 percent of respondents without differential treatment did so. Similarly, among the 113 respondents reporting differential treatment of materials, 39 or 35 percent also required minors to have consent for the use of the collection. Only 81 or 19 percent of respondents without differential treatment had a consent requirement. Statistical analysis shows that the overall difference between institutions reporting differential treatment of potentially controversial or questionable materials and the presence or absence of age restrictions was significant. That is to say, respondent public libraries tended to restrict access based on age if they also treated such materials differently in

selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation (Tables F39-40 in Appendix F).

However, the study showed that public libraries reporting differential treatment of materials were just as likely to support the CIA Statement as not. Among the 56 institutions that treated these materials differently in one way or another, 86 percent also endorsed the CIA Statement. Among those that did not report differential treatment, still, 88 percent endorsed the CIA Statement. Moreover, institutions with differential treatment were just as likely to have any or all of the five access policies explored earlier, including support for the CIA Statement, as not to have any of them. Among respondents treating certain materials differently in one way or another, 68 percent had all or some of these access policies; but 71 percent of respondents not doing so had them too. Statistical analysis shows that the overall difference between institutions reporting differential treatment of some materials and the presence or absence of access policies, including support for the CIA Statement, was not significant. That is to say, respondent public libraries tended to treat potentially controversial or questionable materials differently in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation even if they had access policies (Tables F41-42 in Appendix F).

Respondent explanations indicated that most of the differential treatment of such materials involved selection,

classification, physical location, or labelling. The materials affected were usually sexually explicit fiction, sex education books, or books on the occult. Several respondents commented on the question of differential selection of potentially controversial or questionable materials. Some reported that if a book was "pornographic" or too controversial, they would not buy it. Others, in contrast, said that no title would be rejected merely because it was likely to offend someone. Several noted that they would select controversial titles if there was a need to balance the collection and if there were favourable reviews or sufficient patron demand. Typical of those admitting to self-censorship during the selection process were the following statements by respondents:

- o As a small library with limited funds, we simply do not purchase items of a controversial nature.
- o A book will be rejected during selection if it seems overly or needlessly violent or pornographic. The books rejected are those which, according to the judgment of the librarian, could offend the majority of patrons and not a minority. It is therefore uncommon enough that the books are rejected due to this criteria.
- o No, but we do not select materials we know to be pornographic.
- o In as much as selection is a type of censorship in that we do not order materials that the majority of readers in our community would find objectionable, then we do censor. We feel finances are limited and we should meet the demands of the majority not the minority. Controversial materials may still be obtained through interloan.
- o Selection policy is very conservative. For example, a gay magazine that I wanted purchased was put "on hold." No Nancy Drews, etc. in system.

- o Some branches are used by more conservative people than in others. We are careful about what we send to some rural areas.
- o The only restriction I can recall is no books on religion pertaining to a certain faith, but general religion gladly accepted.
- o At the selection stage, when illicit illustrations are found chiefly on covers of comic books.
- o Adult comics occasionally raise some comments, above all if they have drawings that are erotic or tendentious. The only book not acquired, or censored was the well-known French book *Suicide: Directions*.
- o In selection of records, we attempt to avoid music which has a strong sexual message, or material in which the language would not be acceptable to the majority of our patrons (e.g., some of Eddie Murphy's comedy routines).

Several respondents noted that their selection policy did not endorse differential selection of any materials, but added that the reality was not perfect:

- o By policy, no; in practice, yes, especially in the children's area which can state the budget is too small to buy everything and thus they must buy only materials which meet what they believe to be community standards. I suspect that this is the rationale most of us use.
- o I don't think that we do discriminate but of course in selecting books I use my own judgment and that can be a pretty subjective area.

Several respondents noted that reviews were important in the selection of potentially controversial or questionable materials:

- o If a reviewer says that a book is likely to be controversial, staff who do selection will certainly discuss the purchase. If it is a favourable review overall, we will probably order 1 copy so that we know what is being published, what is being reviewed, etc. It keeps us knowledgeable about new materials for children even those that are controversial.

- o Seek reviews from reputable reviewing sources prior to purchase.
- o We make sure we have several reviews to back our selections.
- o Religious materials--restricted to favourably reviewed materials or to materials carefully examined. Medical--the library system adds only materials which have favourable reviews or which have been carefully examined.
- o Selection--attempt to purchase recommended, basic titles. Wait and see if specific titles or subjects requested, e.g., gay rights/erotica/cults.

Others noted that patron demand was a factor in acquiring certain materials:

- o If a book is questionable (for example sexually explicit) and is on a best-sellers list, we wait until two patrons ask for the book before purchasing.
- o If I judge that a book could bring about controversy, I avoid buying it unless a patron suggests buying it.

Still other respondents stressed the goal of collection balance in the process of selecting materials on controversial topics:

- o If issues are seen as controversial, the library will take particular care to ensure that the collection represents all points of view (e.g. abortion).
- o At the selection stage we think about these materials more carefully, spend more time weighing their pros and cons, but no title will be turned down just because it is likely to offend someone.
- o Controversial titles are purchased only if the subject matter demands it--if the collection needs a title on that subject and if the book itself is of high quality--writing, coverage of subject, in good taste, etc.
- o Only in the sense that we try to select controversial materials which reflect both sides of the argument. More obscure issues or perhaps questionable materials are simply not purchased, but we would make no restrictions on

obtaining such information for a patron via interlibrary loan.

A second way in which some respondents treated certain materials differently was in classification and shelving. Some said that they occasionally used classification as a means of restricting physical access to certain categories of materials. One example mentioned was sex education books written for children, classified and shelved as adult books. Explicit comics were also treated this way on occasion. In other public libraries, certain materials were classified in the conventional manner but kept, variously, on a separate shelf, behind the reference or circulation desk, in an office, or in a storeroom, and had to be asked for. These items were available upon request to adults or to children with parental permission. Items typically targeted for differential shelving were sex education manuals, other sexually explicit materials, those dealing with cults or horror, and some health and diet books. In several libraries, new books bypassed the "New Book" shelf if they were potentially controversial.

Respondent comments reveal how public library staff used classification and shelf location as means of controlling and restricting access to certain materials or titles:

- o If a particular picture book is very controversial, it may be catalogued in a particular place e.g. *Slugs*. We had so many complaints about *Slugs* when it was classified in the picturebook collection that I had it reclassified to poetry; but it still remained in the children's area of the library.

- o We do have objections to certain books being recommended for junior high, for example, which when we catalogue them we feel are inappropriate--and end up including them with adult fiction. Would like to see more careful screening/selection of these age recommendations, eg. Norma Klein's *Love is One of the Choices*, Brancoto's *Facing Up*.
- o We did have a written complaint about *Then Again, Maybe I Won't* by Judy Blume, a number of years ago. At a senior staff level, it was decided to recatalogue from juvenile to adult.
- o Very rarely, the library has classed and shelved in the adult section a title that ordinarily would be classed as "young adult" due to frank treatment of controversial subjects. However, no attempt is made to limit its use by the age of the patron.
- o All material dealing with sexual education is classified as adult material.
- o Books for children and teens about sex and growing up are put in adult non-fiction. The parents can take the books out for their children. Teens are also allowed to sign them out. For example: *Knowing about Sex* by Dr. James Hemming, *Growing and Changing* by Kathy McCoy.
- o As quite young teens (or even younger children) often read books from our Young Adult section, I try to be careful about what is there. If I have doubts about a book, I usually put it in the adult section.
- o In children's collection, some titles are placed on "Parent's shelf," otherwise everything is shelved.
- o Comics are examined carefully as much as possible and placed in adult section if the theme is found too violent or characters pornographic. This category of books causes some problems with the users, but here the problem of censorship is not serious.
- o I am somewhat careful in which area I place fiction material particularly in the Young Adult and Juvenile sections.
- o Special treatment, i.e. placing material in special collections, has occurred with books dealing with Canadian History that portray Native Indians in a very negative light. This has occurred with *Little Black Sambo* and with a diet book that was deemed dangerous by medical

authorities. The books can still be accessed by patrons through the main catalogue and can be borrowed but a special request is required to bring them to the branch.

- o Materials for children which are no longer acceptable to the community or are of historic interest only are housed in the Children's Historical Collection shelved in the children's coordinator's office. They are available for borrowing and location is identified in the catalogue. This is the only instance of which I am aware.

One respondent forwarded an information sheet "Notice to all parents and adults":

If you or your children happen to find a book that is classified in the children's department, but that you find morally or sexually offensive, please signal it out to me so that we can make the necessary changes. I am sorry if this is happening, but I do not have the time to read every book that comes in here. They say you can't judge a book by its cover and I guess this is quite true as in one particular case that was pointed out to me. Thank you.

Some respondents noted that access to certain materials was controlled by means of shelving location. Often the concern was access by children.

- o Books on drawing, adult, not suggested for children; supplied others for children's shelf; placed adult ones higher up on shelf.
- o We have a high shelf for sexual or horror type books.
- o Juvenile Parent section is housed on a top shelf.
- o Occasionally we will bypass the prominently displayed new books shelf and place a book immediately on the regular shelves so that the book is available for those who need, but it escapes the attention of the casual browsers, who may object to it, e.g. *Safe Sex* by John Prestin.

In some cases, respondents went further in their efforts to

control the use of public library materials. They reported that selected items were shelved in non-public areas to prevent unauthorized access by patrons (usually children and young adults). While it goes without saying that such items were only available to those patrons willing to disclose their personal interests to staff members, respondents did not appear to view this practise as a barrier to "legitimate" use of materials.

- o Only children's books dealing with sex education/abuse are housed in office but are freely accessible if asked for.
- o Some librarians keep the racier titles behind the desk.
- o The librarian before me bought erotic books which she would keep hidden in the library.
- o 24 titles are shelved in a non-public area and must be requested. They contain visual representations of sexual activity.
- o Only one book--*The Joy of Sex* by Alex Comfort--is behind the desk and has to be asked for. (Because we were tired of the giggling Jr. boys.)
- o One volume only, *The Illustrated Joy of Sex*, has written on top of catalogue cards, "Please ask for at counter" due to easy access of children.
- o Just one book, *The Joy of Sex*, has store room on the catalogue cards. This is so children won't have access to it.
- o *Joy of Sex*, due to continual theft, is kept at the Reference desk and patrons must leave their card to use it.
- o *Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex* are shelved behind circulation desk; card catalogue directs borrower to this location and tells them to "Ask staff."
- o We use dummy books on shelf that have a note which directs patrons over 16 years to ask librarian for access

to restricted book section (sex manuals, etc. that have very intimate detail and pictures).

- o Adult books are in a locked shelf.
- o Books describing adult sexuality are in a place different from other publications and are accessible only upon request.
- o Two titles are shelved in librarian supervisor's office with a note directing browsers to ask for them. One is a nutrition book for pregnant women (Adelle Davis, *Let's Have Healthy Children*), the other *Why Men Rape: Interviews with Convicted Rapists*, ed. by Sylvia Levine and Joseph Koenig. Placement is to ensure a librarian talks to the potential borrower about seeing a doctor before starting the diet or about the explicit descriptions and attitudes of the people interviewed. Both were treated in this manner after complaints about content of titles within our materials selection policy.
- o "Denial of the Holocaust" type of material is kept in the closed stacks--but catalogued in the public catalogue and marked "stacks."
- o Books such as O'Huigins' *I'll Belly Your Button in a Minute*, MacKlem's *Jacques the Woodcutter*, and Musgrave's *Haghead* have been placed on restricted shelves in HQ but may be circulated on request. Often, books published in a picture book format can be quite offensive in the wrong hands. We have found that American reviewers often find acceptable books which are too violent for our young readers. Normally the selection policy precludes purchase of questionable material on the basis of quality, reliability/accuracy of content, and suitability for the intended audience.
- o Material such as dictionaries of slang are kept behind the desk because of the coarseness of many of the phrases.
- o Only one book, Will McBride's *Show Me*, is restricted two copies in the system. One copy is in stacks at central, which circulates to anyone who wishes to borrow it. The other copy is in the Juvenile coordinator's office, for use in lecture talks, on censorship. All our other sex education books are in open stacks.
- o Some materials (Blume's *Forever*) are kept off the shelves and given out only if the person asking for it is mature enough to handle the information.

- o Some health and books dealing with cults are shelved in back room.
- o No general restriction, although on occasion we remove problem material to our reference office, e.g. about 10 years ago a police officer informed us that a book on "locksmithing" was a "how to" primer for a burglar.
- o Since children have access to adult books for school projects, erotic or potentially erotic material is shelved separately in an adults only area.
 - a) Nude photography books, techniques and how-to
 - b) *Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex*
 - c) *Men in Love*, Nancy Friday
 - d) *Tales from the Smokehouse*, Herbert T. Schwartz
 - e) *Man and Woman: Encyclopedia of Adult Relationships*, Volumes 1-6
 - f) *Woman Alive Series, The Sexual Side of Love*
 - g) *Woman's Experience of Sex* by Sheila Kitzinger.
- o We get a magazine from Russia which we don't put out and also magazines from various religious organizations which we don't put out, mainly because we don't get all of them.
- o A Communist newspaper was kept in cupboard, now on shelf.

One respondent noted the political difficulties associated with access to materials housed in a joint facility:

One of our branches shares facilities with an elementary school. We find we sometimes have to house explicitly sexual material off shelf for awhile if visiting classes become "inappropriately" (the word is the school's, not ours) interested in it. We have never really resolved this problem since our staff is not present during class visits, the branch site is important to the community and we are willing to live with a less than perfect situation in order to offer library service to the public there. One of the problems of shared facilities--to date we feel the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, although we are uncomfortable with this issue.

In several instances, respondents noted that access restrictions were imposed in order to prevent theft or defacement

of materials:

- o When we have to replace a title umpteenth times because it has been stolen, we shelve the replacements beside the circulation desk, under the eyes of staff but accessible to users. The designation "Ask at Desk" is added to the call number. The collection is a strange mix of auto repair manuals, sex manuals if well illustrated, a certain local history and its separately published index, pharmacopoeia, GED study programs, and *Mr. Chips 101 Plans* (a favourite woodworking title).
- o *Guns, Knives Illustrated, Digest*, etc. have been placed behind the counter because pages are often removed from them. Patrons can borrow them but they have to ask.
- o A very few titles, among them *The Joy of Sex*, are retained in basement storage and must be requested to circulate. The book is a high risk theft item and will be returned to the open stacks after we have installed a security system.
- o Certain materials are stored in reference office due to theft. Patrons must ask staff.
- o I think some staff may restrict access in spite of my warning. I cannot be 22 places at once. We have some branches that keep *Joy* and *More Joy* under the counter more to prevent theft and mutilation.

A few respondents dealt with controversial materials by labelling them for the benefit of patrons. This differential treatment was explained as follows:

- o Notations are on library cards received with talking books, e.g., "explicit descriptions of sex" etc. Copies of these are being placed on containers themselves for staff/patron information when selecting for themselves or others.
- o This is a small town--we occasionally put a small label in a book "Portions of this book may be offensive to some readers." We may suggest that certain books chosen by a patron may not be what they would enjoy! Rare.
- o We had public concerns about some books, but no real complaints. Some patrons took offence to "dirty language"

in books and mentioned it. We put a note into 2 paperbacks warning "language may be offensive."

- o Potentially controversial 16mm films have a message on the can that prior screening is important so as to ensure best use of film.
- o All materials describing violence, horror, esotericism, science occults, sects with erotic characteristics are indicated with a yellow binding for loan.
- o Certain pocketbooks such as *Valley of the Horses* (Auel) and *Wifey* (Blume) are marked "Adult."
- o A couple of children's books on homosexuality had Young Adult stickers applied.

These respondent comments indicate a fascinating variety of attitudes and practices regarding access to materials housed in the nation's public libraries. While most respondent public libraries selected and shelved all materials on a similar basis, among the minority which did not, differential shelving practices ranged from the purely pragmatic (to prevent theft), to the cautious ("We wait and see if specific titles or subjects are requested, for example, gay rights/erotica/cults"), to the openly censorious ("We attempt to avoid music which has a strong sexual message, or material in which the language would not be acceptable to the majority of our patrons").

Summary

Overall, institutions that treated potentially controversial or questionable materials differently in way one or another shared the same demographic features as those without such

practices. Differential treatment by certain institutions did not depend on type of governance (system or single unit), linguistic grouping (French or English), size of municipal population, number of registered borrowers, number of circulations, or the presence of access policies (including support for the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom). However, institutions with differential treatment did tend to restrict access based on age. Most differential treatment involved selection, classification, physical location, or labelling. Judging by respondent comments in the study, most staff engaged in these practices viewed them as responsible and positive actions designed to honor majority standards and norms.

D. Collection Vulnerability

In order to try to predict how vulnerable a public library might be to complaints about its collection, a controversial materials checklist was devised for the study. This checklist consisted of titles that could be deemed potentially controversial in that they had drawn criticism for their presence in Canadian public libraries during the recent past. The thinking behind the checklist was that the more checklist titles in a collection, the more likely the collection would include still other potentially controversial titles, and hence the greater the risk of future conflict with somebody in the community. For example, in an institution with a low rate of checklist materials, one would expect fewer calls for censorship

because the collection contains fewer controversial materials--is more conservative--than those collections containing a high rate of the checklist materials. In this thinking, the checklist would represent overall collection vulnerability: past trouble with collection holdings in public libraries somewhere in Canada will be the best predictor of future trouble in a given institution. Hence, it was hoped that the checklist would serve as a benchmark or barometer of the likelihood of a public library being subjected to censorial pressure. The hypothesis of a link between checklist materials and experiences of censorship is discussed below in Chapter 9.

The checklist for the study consisted of 30 titles that had been subjected to censorial pressure during the previous four or five years as reported in three recent public library censorship studies in Canada (see Chapter 5, "Controversial Materials Checklist" for more information about how the list was created).

Table 8 summarizes respondent holdings of the checklist titles by type of governance unit.

Table 8. Controversial Materials Checklist, by Governance, 1987

Titles Owned	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0	10	2%	0	0%	10	2%
1-5	79	18	1	1	80	14
6-10	160	37	7	6	167	30
11-15	113	26	17	15	130	24
16-20	54	12	26	22	80	14
21-25	18	4	41	35	59	11
26-30	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>5</u>
National	439	100%	117	100%	556	100%

Overall, half of the public libraries in the study owned 11 or more titles on the checklist. Only 10 out of 556 respondents owned none of the titles at all. At the other extreme, 30 respondents owned 26 or more. Mean ownership was 12.5 titles per respondent, or 42 percent of the checklist; in other words, a patron would have about a 40 percent chance of obtaining a checklist title through any Canadian public library in the study. It should be kept in mind, however, that shelf availability for high-demand materials, that is, the probability that an item is immediately available on the shelf to a patron, is always considerably lower than ownership success rate.

The study shows that multi-branch systems differed substantially from single-unit libraries in their ownership of titles. More than half of the systems owned 21 or more titles, while only 5 percent of single libraries did. In fact, the typical system owned on average twice as many checklist titles as did the typical single library, 20 titles compared to 10. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F32 in Appendix F).

The significant difference in ownership rates between systems and single libraries was also reflected in institutional characteristics. While the typical public library that owned 12.5 titles served a municipality with 35,000 residents, institutions owning 10 or fewer checklist titles served on average 7,000 residents. At the other extreme, those owning

between 26 and 30 titles served municipal populations averaging almost 200,000. (For a breakdown of respondents and mean population by title ownership, see Table F44 in Appendix F.)

Respondent public libraries serving larger municipal populations tended to own more checklist titles than did those serving smaller populations. Statistical analysis shows that this correlation was significant; however, it explained only 23 percent of the variation between population and checklist ownership, as did the correlation between registered borrowers and ownership and between library circulation and ownership (Table F45 in Appendix F).

French and English language public libraries also differed in ownership rates. On average, French language respondents owned fewer checklist titles than their English language counterparts, 8 versus 13 respectively, a difference found to be statistically significant (Table F46 in Appendix F). This difference is hardly surprising, given the English language bias of the checklist. What is surprising, however, is that French language respondents owned as many of the titles as they did.

Checklist ownership was also influenced by institutional access policies (selection, objections, donations, objections form, and support of CIA Statement, as discussed at the beginning of this chapter). The study shows that respondents with access policies tended to own more checklist titles than those with none of them. On average, respondents with all five access policies

had 17 titles each and those reporting some had 12 each. In contrast, those with none had only 9 titles each. Statistical analysis shows that checklist ownership was significantly influenced by access policy coverage (Tables F47-F48 in Appendix F).

Respondent public libraries reporting more direct challenges tended to own more checklist titles than those reporting fewer. Statistical analysis shows that this correlation was significant; however, it explained only 18 percent of the variation between number of challenges and checklist ownership (Table F65 in Appendix F). Similarly, checklist ownership was associated with acquisition pressure. On average, respondents reporting acquisition pressure had 17 titles each while those not reporting this type of pressure had 11 titles each. Statistical analysis shows that checklist ownership was significantly related to acquisition pressure (Table F95 in Appendix F).

At the same time, however, the study found that checklist ownership was the same for institutions with age-related access restrictions as for those without restrictions. Similarly, differential treatment of controversial or questionable materials--whether in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation--did not significantly influence checklist ownership rates. Average ownership was the same for institutions practising differential treatment as for those without this practise. Statistical analysis shows no significant difference

between checklist ownership and age restrictions or between checklist ownership and differential treatment (Table F49 in Appendix F).

While this analysis provides some insight into factors that influenced checklist ownership, it is likely that several of these determinants are related to each other. This possibility makes it advisable to analyze the relationship of each one in the presence of all others that were statistically significant in bivariate comparisons. This procedure isolates those factors that account for the greatest influence on checklist ownership.

Analysis of these several factors together reveals that public library selection of checklist titles was more than just a function of the size of the municipality being served. Other factors carried additional weight in the process of collection development and management insofar as was manifested in checklist ownership.

The most important conditions of checklist ownership were the following determinants: number of direct challenges to institutional material during the three years 1985-1987, dominant language spoken in the community (English or French), possession of a selection policy, exposure to acquisition pressure, governance (multi-branch system or single unit), and municipal population (library circulation is an almost equally strong factor in place of population). Statistical analysis shows that these institutional characteristics were significant predictors

of checklist ownership (Table F50 in Appendix F).

High checklist ownership was associated with the following institutional conditions: a high number of direct challenges, service to an English language community, possession of a selection policy, exposure to acquisition pressure, presence of a multi-branch system, and service to a high municipal population (or an institution with high circulation).

So, for example, *ceteris paribus*, a French language system that experienced three direct challenges between 1985 and 1987, had a written selection policy, was pressured to acquire or accept material for the collection, and served 100,000 residents would be predicted to own 17 checklist titles. An English language single library that experienced no direct challenges, did not have a written selection policy, reported no acquisition pressure, and served 10,000 residents would be predicted to own 9 titles (Table F50 in Appendix F).

These relationships of influence on checklist ownership can be shown in the following diagrammatic form:

Figure 6. Model of Predictors of Checklist Ownership



When the language factor is excluded, the other determinants--direct challenges, selection policy, acquisition pressure, governance, and population--are still significant predictors among English language institutions; however, this is not the case among their French language counterparts (Table F50 in Appendix F).

These determinants together accounted for 52 percent of significant influences on the selection of checklist titles for respondent collections (Table F50 in Appendix F). Other factors not identified and examined in the present study accounted for the remaining influence on checklist title selection. Analysis of checklist ownership shows that collections were strongest in the adult fiction category, in which 7 out of 10 titles were owned by half or more of the respondents. At the same time, collections were weakest in juvenile non-fiction, in which none of the 4 titles was owned by half or more of the respondents.

Table 9 below shows checklist ownership according to five common categories of classification.

Table 9. Controversial Materials Checklist, by Category, 1987

Category	Total Titles	Titles Owned by Half or More Respondents	
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Adult fiction	10	7	70%
Adult non-fiction	4	1	25%
Juvenile fiction	7	2	47%*
Juvenile non-fiction	4	0	0%
Picture books and easy	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	40%
Total	30	12	40%

*includes one title owned by 47%
of respondents

For a view of rates of individual ownership grouped by these five categories, see Table F51 in Appendix F.

Examination of title ownership indicates that Canadian public libraries collectively owned all 30 books on the controversial materials checklist.

Table 10 shows each checklist title by rate of public library ownership.

Table 10. Controversial Materials Checklist, by
Public Library Ownership, 1987

		Owning Libraries*	
		Number	Percent
Auel, J.	<i>Valley of the Horses</i>	511	92%
Andrews, V.C.	<i>Flowers in the Attic</i>	502	90
Uris, L.	<i>The Haj</i>	456	82
Blume, J.	<i>Then Again, Maybe I Won't</i>	450	81
Robbins, H.	<i>Goodbye Janette</i>	381	69
Blume, J.	<i>Forever</i>	373	67
	<i>Wifey</i>	339	61
Major, K.	<i>Hold Fast</i>	325	59
Jong, E.	<i>Fear of Flying</i>	326	59
Seuss, Dr.	<i>Butter Battle Book</i>	298	54
Baigent, M.	<i>Holy Blood Holy Grail</i>	290	52
Sendak, M.	<i>In the Night Kitchen</i>	280	50
Klein, N.	<i>It's Okay If You Don't Love Me</i>	259	47
Suddon, A.	<i>Cinderella</i>	203	37
Kosinski, J.	<i>The Painted Bird</i>	200	36
McCoy, K. & C. Wibbelsman	<i>The Teenage Body Book</i>	197	35
Doerkson, M.	<i>Jazzy</i>	189	34
Bellairs, J.	<i>Figure in the Shadows</i>	182	33
Lovelace, L. & M. McGrady	<i>Ordeal</i>	155	28
Dayee, F.	<i>Private Zone</i>	131	24
Wildsmith, B.	<i>The True Cross</i>	126	23
Cohen, B.	<i>I Am Joseph</i>	124	22
Ferry, J. & D. Inwood	<i>The Olson Murders</i>	120	22
Johnson, C. & E. Johnson	<i>Love and Sex and Growing Up</i>	119	21
Neufeld, J.	<i>Freddy's Book</i>	90	16
Rockwell, T.	<i>The Thief</i>	88	16
Dickinson, P.	<i>City of Gold and Other Stories</i>		
	<i>from the Old Testament</i>	82	15
Maestro, Betsy	<i>Lambs for Dinner</i>	64	12
Lareuse, J.	<i>Devils in the Castle</i>	44	8
Smedley, A.	<i>Chinese Destiny</i>	37	7

*n=556

As the table shows, not only were all of the checklist titles available somewhere in Canada, but 4 were owned by more than 80 percent of respondent public libraries: *Flowers in the Attic* by V.C. Andrews, *Valley of the Horses* by Jean Auel, *The Haj* by Leon Uris, and *Then Again, Maybe I Won't* by

Judy Blume. At the same time, 6 titles were owned by less than 20 percent of the respondents.

Checklist ownership differed widely across political jurisdictions. Respondents collectively owned all 30 titles in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec, while 1 to 7 titles were missing from collections in the other seven Canadian jurisdictions (Table F52 in Appendix F). It is not surprising that the collections of respondents in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Prince Edward Island were missing more checklist titles than anywhere else in Canada, since those jurisdictions contain the smallest population bases.

Table 11 shows missing titles by political jurisdiction.

Table 11. Controversial Materials Checklist, by Titles Missing from Canadian Jurisdictions, 1987

<u>Province/Territory</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Missing Titles</u>
Manitoba	1	<i>Chinese...</i>
New Brunswick	3	<i>Chinese, Devils, Lambs</i>
Nova Scotia	1	<i>Freddy's</i>
Prince Edward Island	6	<i>Chinese, Devils, Freddy's, Jazzy, Lambs, True Cross</i>
Newfoundland	4	<i>Chinese, City, Lambs, Private</i>
Yukon	7	<i>Chinese, Devils, Freddy's, Goodbye, Lambs, Olson, Teenage</i>
Northwest Territories	6	<i>Chinese, Devils, Freddy's, Jazzy, Lambs, Thief</i>

This table shows that *Chinese Destiny* was missing from respondent collections in six jurisdictions, *Lambs for Dinner* was missing in five, *Devils in the Castle* and *Freddy's Book* in four, *Jazzy* in two, and missing in one jurisdiction

each were *City of Gold*, *Goodbye Janette*, *The Olson Murders*, *Private Zone*, *The Teenage Body Book*, *The Thief*, and *The True Cross*. The other 18 checklist titles were found in all twelve Canadian jurisdictions.

It bears repeating that there are some limitations about the checklist concept that should be kept in mind in drawing conclusions from the analysis of findings reported above. In the first place, rates of ownership may be somewhat understated because many public libraries do not catalogue their paperback holdings. Second, equivalent titles not included on the checklist may be owned by a public library, but such information is unavailable on a systematic basis. Thirdly, rates of ownership may not be a valid representation of controversial holdings among French language public libraries for two reasons: a) checklist titles were English language publications that had drawn previous criticism in predominantly English language public libraries; and b) checklist titles were not all available in French translation, and in fact only 11 French translations among the 30 titles could be identified.

A few respondents commented on the shortcomings of the checklist for French language collections:

- o Our library develops its collection according to the following percentages: 70-75% French, 25-30% English. Many books dealing with controversial subjects (*Annie on My Mind* by Nancy Jordan) are unfortunately not translated into French. However, I have taken note of certain books in your list with the intention of buying them.

- o It would be preferable to make a distinctive list of titles for francophone libraries. It appears that the limited number of French titles makes it difficult to evaluate the degree of censorship in a library.

Other respondents offered their own comments on the overall validity of the checklist concept. One wrote as follows:

Since you indicated [in the covering letter with the questionnaire] that the checklist is something of an experimental idea, I wanted to make a few comments with regard to our system. Perhaps other libraries will also find this list somewhat of a problem. Several of the titles on the list date from the 60's and early 70's. Some of these, although controversial, were never more than ephemeral titles to begin with.

In the course of 20 years these titles wear out or otherwise disappear from the collections. Our Collection Development plans would not advise replacement. One example is *Freddy's Book*. All our libraries had this at one time. However, there were serious literary flaws in this book that had nothing to do with its subject matter and therefore this title would probably not be replaced. The same is true of Harold Robbins. Since this author produces books almost yearly, and patrons want what is new, we would tend to buy multiple copies of the new titles but not replace older ones.

Another aspect which might skew the results is that many of the older titles are replaced in paperback format, e.g. *Jong's Fear of Flying*. Since paperbacks are not available in our online database, some of our libraries may not be able to establish ownership of some titles. I would hope that this list would not be used to score any library's Collection Development practices.

I applaud your attempt to produce a list. Checking it will remind our staff of some titles which perhaps should be replaced.

Other respondents wrote:

- o Some of these older titles were in the branch at one time. When withdrawn as past usefulness, they were not replaced.
- o As you may know, we have an extensive interlibrary loan network, though many of these books aren't in our

collection, that doesn't mean patrons don't have easy access to them through the different branches and regions by a simple order form.

- o While we do not have quite a few of the books listed, we do have other books by the same authors. We are a very small library with limited funds and no room to expand.
- o I'm embarrassed to see how many of your titles we don't have but that is in a collection of 8000 and we do have free access through our county cooperative and ILLIO which we depend on for many of the popular non-fiction.
- o Books not owned is due more to money problems than to censorship.
- o Although we don't seem to have too many of the titles listed it's certainly not because I've been "afraid" to buy them! Being a small rural library, we have to consider each purchase very carefully in order to "get the most for our money."
- o I am fascinated by this survey. The books on the checklist are a dog's dinner of titles. I am at a loss to explain why many of them have (I assume) been the focus of censorship attempts. Although we are missing a few of these in our collection, it is only omission. We are going to order the few we do not own. I cannot imagine why anyone would object to Suddon's *Cinderella*, Wildsmith's story of *St. Helena*, or *City of Gold*--EXCEPT that I assume you have some rabid fundamentalists on your hands. We all know about fanaticism and fear of knowledge, from Jehovah's Witnesses to Tories.

Anyway, I think the major thing missing in all these reference surveys is a clear comparison of number of incidents and social class of the library's clientele. As you can see, we never have any real complaints here (except yuppie ones about the environment) because the city of ... is the clearest class-divided city in Canada. There is a long-standing perception in this city that the library is only for educated people who live in clearly identified cultural barriers. The lower/working classes seldom cross the bisecting thoroughfare in the city for any cultural event, and they are not made welcome, of course, but politely scorned by the proprietary intelligentsia. The organized fundamentalists take on the School Board over sex education and homosexuality (but they always lose, after time to rant and rave) and they

ignore the public library, because it is clearly not their preserve.

Therefore—can you test for social class? I assume that many of these books [on the checklist] are perceived by lower class fundamentalists as "dangerous" politically or socially or religiously (*Holy Blood, Figure in the Shadows, The Haj?*). I assume *Lambs for Dinner* is a yuppie target (too funny—violence is a no-no, of course human beings don't hit anyone or tear the clothes off soldiers and beat them to death.... After all the Irish are civilized, not like the Pakis...). What is the objection to the wimpy Dr. Seuss? Perhaps in the areas in which these books have been the target of censorship, somehow working class zealots have dared to enter the middle classes private club....

I would like to see the results of your survey, and I would also like to see any articles or information on WHY these books have been attacked. There are so many much more radical books out there, why pick on these wimpy ones?

- o I found it interesting that a number of books that I expected to find in our library are not in our catalogue. I suspect that we have probably had copies which are now missing and I am looking into this.

Summary

Overall, half of the public libraries in the study owned 11 or more of the 30 titles on the controversial materials checklist. Collectively, all 30 were owned somewhere in Canada. Analysis of checklist categories shows that collections were strongest in adult fiction and weakest in juvenile non-fiction.

High checklist ownership was associated with the following institutional characteristics of respondent public libraries: number of requests to remove or restrict material 1985-1987, an English-language institution, a written selection policy,

acquisition pressure, a multi-branch system, and high municipal population.

Ceteris paribus, the more direct challenges that an institution had, the more checklist titles it owned: for every challenge experienced, an additional 0.2 checklist title was owned. English language respondents owned more titles than their French language counterparts, 13 titles compared to 8. Institutions with a selection policy had 15 titles each compared to 9 each among those without one. Institutions reporting acquisition pressure owned 17 titles compared to 11 among those not reporting such pressure. The typical multi-branch system owned twice as many checklist titles as the typical single library did, 20 titles compared to 10. Institutions serving more residents owned more checklist titles: for every 10,000 people, an additional 0.1 checklist title was owned. Institutions circulating more items also owned more checklist titles: for every 100,000 transactions, an additional 0.1 checklist title was owned.

To the extent that the titles on the survey checklist represent controversial library holdings, it can be inferred in general that controversial material tends to be acquired by English language multi-branch systems that serve a large number of people, have a written selection policy, and experience both direct challenges and acquisition pressure.

Nonetheless, these determinants accounted for only half of

the influences on selection decisions to acquire checklist titles; other factors not examined in the present study accounted for the rest. The value of the controversial materials checklist as a predictor of censorial pressure is explored in the chapter on direct challenges to public library collections.

E. Bill C-54

Although somewhat peripheral to the overall focus of the present study, both the controversiality and the timing of this federal legislative initiative made it opportune to query respondents about it. On May 4, 1987, about nine months before this survey was undertaken, the Canadian government introduced new censorship legislation, Bill C-54, to replace the obscenity provisions in the Criminal Code. The proposed legislation, promoted by the Minister of Justice of the day as an "urgent response" to child sexual abuse, child pornography, sexual violence against women, and other "hard-core pornography," drew immediate fire from virtually the entire cultural community across the country. While critics deplored sexual abuse and sexual violence, they nevertheless charged that Bill C-54 would criminalize virtually any public reference to human sexuality--in direct opposition to the 1985 recommendations of the Fraser Committee, the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution that had been established by the federal government two years earlier.

Librarians, particularly public librarians, were among the leaders of the opposition. The Canadian Library Association (1987) criticized the bill in a letter to the Minister of Justice on June 29, 1987; and over the next few months, letters and submissions were sent to him and to other federal politicians by a wide variety of other library associations at the provincial, regional, and national levels, public library boards and public library trustees associations. There were also letters, press releases, and public protests by arts and artists organizations, art galleries and museums, art gallery and museum associations, authors and writers and poets associations, book and periodical publisher and marketing associations, bookseller associations, civil rights associations, university teacher associations, women's issues organizations, anti-censorship coalitions, and even governmental agencies such as the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council. The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association expressed concern about the impact of the proposed legislation on libraries in Canada (Schmidt, 1987). For a compilation of some of this mountain of documentation, see Schrader (1988), "Information Package on Bill C-54."

By December of that year, Bill C-54 had quietly disappeared from the government's agenda, and the public library community, along with the rest of Canada, waited uncertainly about what would happen next. As of this date, the answer is nothing--yet.

In order to gauge the Canadian public library community's overall response to Bill C-54, respondents to the questionnaire survey were asked to indicate whether their board or municipal council (in the case of Quebec) had written to the Minister of Justice about it or had otherwise taken a public stand on it, and if so, to note the nature of the board or council position.

The study reveals that the public library community was deeply concerned about the proposed legislation. Overall, 238 respondent public libraries or 51 percent reported that their boards and councils had written to the Minister or otherwise taken a public stand on it by spring 1988. Among these 238 respondents, there was near unanimity of opinion. Fully 92 percent--220 institutions--called for withdrawal of the Bill or in a few cases for withdrawal and amendment. Only 8 percent--18 respondents--supported the legislation without qualification. Those opposed to the Bill served municipal populations totalling 12.3 million Canadian residents, thus accounting for 72 percent of all Canadian residents represented in the study. In contrast, those supporting it represented only 300,000 people.

The boards and councils of multi-branch systems were more likely to have taken a stand one way or another than single libraries, 72 percent compared to 44 percent. This difference was statistically significant (Table F53 in Appendix F). However, there was no difference between systems and single libraries in the proportions of boards and councils calling for

withdrawal or amendment of the bill, 97 percent of systems and 89 percent of single libraries. Statistical analysis shows that this difference in proportions was not significant (Table F53 in Appendix F).

Although there was no difference in levels of opposition to the Bill between systems and single libraries, there was a difference in municipal populations served by respondents. Boards and councils calling for withdrawal of the Bill tended to serve much larger municipalities than its supporters did, 54,000 residents compared to 17,000 residents, respectively. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F54 in Appendix F).

These patterns are detailed in Table 12 below.

Table 12. Official Reaction to Bill C-54, by Public Libraries and Population, 1987

<u>Official Position</u>	<u>Public Libraries</u>		<u>Population</u>		<u>Mean</u> (000s)
	<u>Number</u> (000s)	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> (000s)	<u>Percent</u>	
Yes	239	45%	12,273	72%	51
No	233	44	3,371	20	15
Don't know	60	11	1,483	8	26
National	532	100%	17,127*	100%	
Support	18	8%	309	3%	17
Withdraw	220	92	11,964	97	54
Total	238**	100%	12,273	100%	

*n=529 public libraries

**1 respondent who said the board had taken an official position did not indicate the nature of that position

The proportion of French language boards and councils

opposed to the Bill was somewhat similar to the proportion of their English language counterparts. However, since only three French language institutions had taken a stand one way or another on the Bill, statistical comparisons are inconclusive (Table F55 in Appendix F).

Board and council reaction to Bill C-54 was not influenced by the adoption of institutional access policies (selection, objections, donations, objections form, and support of CIA Statement). Similarly, reaction was not influenced by the adoption of age-related access restrictions. Again, reaction was not influenced by the presence of differential treatment of potentially controversial or questionable materials, whether in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation (Table F56 in Appendix F). These statistical patterns indicate not only a very high level of public library trustee and staff interest in the federal government's censorship legislation, but a remarkably consistent level of opposition to it as well.

Among the few respondents who supported the Bill, written comments nonetheless indicated qualified support.

- o The board supports the bill insofar as it gives some protection for children.
- o Support the intent of the bill, but with the request that "public libraries" should not be included or judged on the same level as the corner store where offensive material is displayed for all to see.
- o Our council supports Bill C-54 because it's completely normal to retrieve from our shelves books or magazines with pornographic characteristics or other since we should protect our users from this kind of reading material. If they wish, the bookstores have them.

However, the written comments of the majority of respondents indicated that many believed the definition of pornography in the Bill, while superficially precise, was too broad. For others, the Bill's most alarming aspect was the "reverse onus" clause, a shifting of the burden of proof from the prosecutor who normally must prove guilt, to the defendant to prove innocence; many asserted that this clause violated natural justice. Some respondents stated that public libraries could not effectively perform their functions while they endured the constant threat of criminal charges. Some suggested that libraries should be exempt from the legislation.

Several respondents sent, along with their completed questionnaires, copies of letters written by their public library boards to the Minister of Justice, other Members of Parliament, and so on; in some cases, they also included copies of the replies that had been received. One public library board's letter to the Minister of Justice declared:

We have been serving our community for over 100 years, and we have a great deal of experience in dealing with public response to our materials. Only a small number of complaints are received, and we, as most other libraries, have a formal review process in place. Under Bill C-54, an individual would be able to cause a criminal charge to be laid against the Library Board, its librarians, clerks, and pages (many of whom are teenagers). Bill C-54 takes the normal complaint process out of the community and political arena and into the arena of criminal law. Library workers become censors and yet may still be liable to prosecution.

Another board expressed similar views in a letter to its federal

Member of Parliament:

The ... Public Library Board wishes to register our strong opposition to the proposed pornography legislation, Bill C-54, as it will mean radical reorganization of library services and operations in our library, and indeed in libraries across Canada. The subsequent literature separations into over and under age 18 categories; the screening processes; the subsequent staff classifications and the loss of society's freedom are particularly abhorrent to us.

One public library board followed up its earlier letter to the Minister of Justice with another submission, noting that his response had not allayed their fears.

You note ... "that these proposals are directly aimed at hard core pornography." We do not for a moment question this intention. However, I and many others have studied the bill and come to the conclusion that this intention is not served by Bill C-54. Library material may contain descriptions of sexual activities and may also contain depictions of same. Whether such depictions are erotic or pornographic or neither, are highly debatable and subjective issues. Librarians have selected from their collections clearly innocent material that could fall within the definition of pornography in the Bill. Regardless of your good intentions, Bill C-54 if enacted will restrict artistic creativity in this country and ensnare innocent library material.

[You] go on "to point out that the detection of pornographic material and the determination of the use to which such material is put are placed in the hands of responsible persons who would be aware of these special defences available and cognizant of the guarantee of free expression including artistic expression contained in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*." It should be noted that the Minister of Justice will not be administering this legislation if it is enacted. It will be administered at the local level by municipal police forces. The Minister of Justice is not in a position to guarantee that frivolous or harassing charges will not be made by private individuals or publicity seeking groups.

Finally, your comments on the issue of reverse onus fail to relieve us. You have confirmed that the issue of reverse onus is real. You have confirmed that library boards and

librarians may be subject to lengthy, expensive, and emotionally exhausting litigation. And you have confirmed that even after that trauma, library material may still be stigmatized as pornographic, albeit with a defense.

Written comments by questionnaire respondents provided further insights into the reaction by public librarians and public library trustees to Bill C-54. Among them were the following:

- o The idea of such a bill has been received with an outburst of laughter. Even if it was passed, it would not be applied to Quebec, I'm sure of this.
- o Pornography is disgusting but some parts of the bill would be difficult for small libraries to comply with. Porn should be controlled at the publishing stage.
- o The ... Board was split, some feeling the books in question are not pornographic, others concerned about the availability of pornographic material to kids in other places. All were concerned about censorship.
- o We are not opposed to a bill on pornography, just this one.
- o Reword the bill in a more clear text so that both patrons and staff will be protected.
- o Amend the bill so that the rights of the individual are respected.
- o I oppose any restriction on the publication of any material in Canada, and endorse the Statement on Intellectual Freedom.

I came from Germany and have some knowledge of Hitler's Germany and East Germany, and what censorship can do to a people. I also oppose minorities, religious or moral, who try to impose their standards and values on the rest of the population. I sincerely hope Canada does not go back to the Middle Ages.

Each individual should have the right to publish, select and read what he chooses, without the government being responsible for their choice. I do not agree with everything that is published, sold or held in public libraries, but I am not arrogant enough to judge what is right for other people.

The library where I work and select books will have the widest choice of materials, opposite opinions and controversial materials.

- o We have a major concern about how to operate the library should Bill C-54 be passed. It would appear we would have to restrict access to the Adult Department where most of the "controversial" material is housed and eliminate our YA collection (that is, integrate a collection presently housed separately into the restricted adult collection). It is interesting to note that no one has actually made plans to deal with the situation should, God forbid, this bill be passed.
- o We have had little trouble here, so far. This is why we have not had a written policy up until now. We are educating our public to the perils of the bill however. It is amazing that with all the media hype, people still are totally unaware that Bill C-54 even exists.
- o In our small town, most people are totally unaware of Bill C-54. However, our board and I personally oppose the bill as it is presently worded. We have never had problem with controversial materials, and have never felt any need to restrict or remove material from our shelves. The idea of being forced to do so is repugnant to us.
- o The bill at present is too broad and we feel requires greater clarification in respect to libraries. We support the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom.
- o Bill C-54 fills me with alarm and dismay. While I am familiar with the kind of mentality that supports the bill, I cannot comprehend it. Let us hope that reason prevails and the bill is withdrawn.
- o Administration supports withdrawal of Bill C-54, supportive of privacy and intellectual freedom.
- o We were going for a major funding increase while opposing the bill and two members of Council were upset by our opposition, however, the funding passed anyway.
- o I am seriously concerned about the government's attempt to legislate pornography, in literature, in this manner-- too much government intervention is a detriment to an open-minded, future-sighted society. I am deeply disturbed that Bill C-54 will cause extreme Victorian regression, especially in literature. As a librarian I believe only in the freedom of choice!

- o The staff here is strongly opposed to Bill C-54 in its present form. We are not censors.

One respondent noted that the Bill, if passed, would have a chilling effect on the selection process:

It made me realize that even in a small library, Bill C-54, if passed in its present form, could strongly affect our library. As I select all our books, and decide on access, etc. I resolved to be more circumspect than ever in the future.

The strongest reactions were from several respondents who vowed that they would resign from their public library duties if Bill C-54 became law.

- o If this bill becomes legislation I will have to seriously reconsider my willingness to continue to work as a librarian. The restrictions would completely change the whole tone of my work here.
- o If Bill C-54 becomes law in its present form, I am resigning. This is a small library and the wages are not worth the risks and hassle.

In addition to letters to politicians, some respondents reported that they had initiated a variety of public awareness campaigns to publicize their opposition to the bill. Among these were book displays, public speakers, panel discussions, press releases, interviews with the local press, newspaper columns, editorials in professional journals (see, for example, Fowlie, 1988), "stop censorship" signs, printed postcards for the public to send to the Minister of Justice, and petitions for patrons to sign for forwarding to the Minister of Justice. There was also

the widely-reported closing of the Toronto Public Library system on December 10, 1987 in symbolic protest over the bill ("28 libraries close....").

The Bill, which was at the second reading stage when the House of Commons rose at Christmas adjournment in 1987, did not appear on the government's agenda in the new year. At a meeting in June, 1988, of the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council, the chair of the Committee suggested that widespread opposition to the Bill had lowered its priority on the federal agenda, and the Council's executive director noted that

...the position taken by librarians and libraries was pivotal as government does not perceive them to be as radical as other cultural groups" (Book and Periodical Council, 1988, p.2).

As a footnote to the storm of controversy that confronted Bill C-54 across the country, the federal politician who spearheaded this ignominious legislative initiative was subsequently appointed Governor-General of Canada.

CHAPTER 8
COLLECTION CHALLENGES

While some institutional policies inhibit or deny patron access to public library collections, community pressures and actions are also a major source of barriers to access. These pressures and actions take one of three general forms: direct challenge, covert censorship, and undue pressure to acquire material. All of these are strategies to influence the make-up and balance of a collection on grounds other than those justified by standard professional criteria. Most people think of the direct challenge as the essence of public library censorship activity. A "direct" or "overt" challenge refers to a specific request that is communicated to library staff to remove or restrict access to certain titles or subjects. However, the issues of covert censorship activity and acquisition pressure are also part of the picture of patron access to library materials. A "covert" or "indirect" censorship activity refers to a more subtle form of censorial behavior--those incidents of collection loss, theft, defacement, alteration, mutilation, or

destruction that are or are suspected of being attempts to prevent or restrict access by others. "Acquisition pressure" refers to a demand that is perceived to be "undue" pressure to accept or acquire material for a collection.

Only 26 public libraries in the study experienced all three forms of censorship pressure between 1985 and 1987. But while they accounted for only 5 percent of responding institutions, they served municipalities with 19 percent of the study population, 3.6 million residents. Another 219 respondents or 39 percent reported at least one form of censorship pressure during this period. They served almost 11 million people, over half of the study population. At the other extreme, 315 public libraries or 56 percent reported no pressures at all. They served comparatively smaller municipalities totalling 4.8 million people or 25 percent of the study population.

Table 13 summarizes these various forms of censorship pressure over the three years of the study.

Table 13. Collection Challenges, by
Public Libraries and Population, 1985-1987

<u>Type of Challenge</u>	<u>Public Libraries</u>		<u>Population</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> (000s)	<u>Percent</u>
Direct challenges	193	35%	13,632	70%*
Covert incidents	57	10%	5,387	30%*
Acquisition pressures	121	22%	9,845	54%*
All three	26	5%	3,643	19%
Two or one	219	39	10,975	56
None	232	41	1,922	10
Don't know, no response	83	15	2,886	15
National	560	100%	19,426	100%

*approximate n=18.5 million with <3% variation due to non-respondents (excluded from calculations)

In general terms, the data reveal that those public libraries reporting one or more types of collection challenges during the study period served larger municipal populations. In contrast, those experiencing no collection challenges served comparatively small populations.

What the study discovered about each of these forms of collection challenge among Canadian public libraries is treated in more detail in the following chapters.

CHAPTER 9

DIRECT CHALLENGES

Respondents were asked in the survey questionnaire to indicate whether or not they had received direct challenges to their collections between 1985 and 1987, that is, requests to remove materials or otherwise restrict access to them. If so, they were also asked to provide as much detail as possible about each occurrence. The rich snapshot of information that this study has collected about direct challenges is presented in four sections: a) overview, b) profile, c) outcomes, and d) effects.

A. Overview of Direct Challenges

Altogether, 367 respondent public libraries or 65 percent reported no direct challenges between 1985 and 1987. At the same time, 193 institutions or 35 percent received one or more requests to remove or restrict materials during these three years. The annual rate of challenged institutions during this period was approximately 21 percent. Extrapolating from these

data to the whole population of Canadian public libraries, it is estimated that one direct challenge occurred every day of the year between 1985 and 1987, somewhere in Canada. And every week as many as three different institutions across the country were involved in these disputes.

Table 14 shows the incidence of challenges reported by respondents according to calendar year.

Table 14. Direct Challenges, by Year, 1985-1987

<u>Challenges</u>	<u>Public Libraries</u> (n=167)	<u>Percent of Respondents</u> (n=560)
1985	81	15%
1986	82	15%
1987	115	21%

As this table indicates, among respondents who reported challenges by calendar year, 15 percent experienced at least one challenge in 1985, 15 percent in 1986, and 21 percent in 1987 (an additional 118 incidents were listed but not by year of occurrence). The higher rate of challenged institutions in 1987 may be more apparent than real, however. In all probability, it is due to better respondent memories and better library records for those events immediately preceding the questionnaire survey. For one thing, about half of all challenges during the study period were communicated verbally, so the only available "records" were the memories of public library staff. For another thing, even when cases were documented, the policy at some

institutions was to keep written records for one year only, thus necessitating reliance, again, on memory recall for incidents in the earlier years. Furthermore, an additional 118 challenges were noted for which year of occurrence was not provided by respondents. It is plausible that many of these challenges were experienced in the earlier years, and that as a consequence the overall rate of affected institutions remained relatively stable over the three-year period of the study.

The challenge rate of 21 percent per year between 1985 and 1987 is remarkably similar to the rates reported in two previous studies, one by Beta Associates (1982), the other by Walker (1984). In the study by Beta Associates, which focused on large, English language public libraries across Canada, 27 percent of the respondents received requests to withdraw titles from circulation during the one-year period September 1981 to August 1982. In Walker's study, 22 percent of Alberta public libraries said that they had been asked to remove materials from their collections during 1983. In the earlier study by England (1974), 15 percent of the public librarians in six medium-sized Ontario public libraries said that they had personally been involved in a censorship incident, while another 20 percent said that they had worked in an institution whether there had been a censorship incident within the previous 10 years (p.144); it should be remembered, however, that England did not delimit responses to a one-year period, and that, because the unit of analysis was the

individual rather than the institution, some librarians may have been referring to the same incident.

In the present study, respondent public libraries reported 687 direct challenges to well over 500 different titles. Extrapolating to the whole population of Canadian public libraries, an estimate of one challenge per day involving three different institutions in a week was based on the 1987 data (254 challenges were reported), conservatively adjusted upwards by 11 percent per year of the 438 survey non-respondents to account for unreported challenges among this group (approximately 48 challenges per year in an equal number of institutions).

Overall, half of the respondents who reported challenges were involved in 2 or more disputes. A total of 72 out of 188 respondents experienced only one challenge in three years, while another 80 experienced one or more every year. At the other extreme, a small number of public libraries across the country were fairly busy dealing with challenges: 16 institutions reported involvement in three or more disputes per year. One respondent was involved in as many as 15 challenges per year. Among respondents with disputes, the mean was 3.6 challenges over three years, or 1.2 per year. Among all respondents in the study, the mean was 1.2 challenges over three years, and 0.4 per year.

The pattern of challenges documented in the present study is somewhat different from the pattern for secondary school library

media centers that Hopkins (1991b) found in her nationwide U.S. study covering the three school years 1986-1987 through 1988-1989. Just over half of the U.S. media centers each reported one challenge during this three-year period, while among Canadian public libraries only 38 percent had one challenge each during a similar three-year period. The overall rates of challenge, however, were similar for the two studies, 36 percent of American media centers compared to 34 percent of Canadian public libraries.

The present study shows that challenged institutions were much more likely to be multi-branch systems than single-unit libraries. Two out of three systems experienced challenges, compared to only 25 percent of all single libraries. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F57 in Appendix F). Among multi-branch systems alone, respondents reporting direct challenges had twice as many service outlets as those without any, 13 outlets versus 5 outlets, respectively. This difference in the number of branches among challenged systems compared to those without challenges was significant (Table F58 in Appendix F).

While public libraries involved in disputes represented only one out of three respondents between 1985 and 1987, they accounted for 70 percent of all Canadian residents in the study, and even higher proportions of registered borrowers and library circulation, 77 percent and 79 percent respectively. In 1987,

they served 13.6 million people, recorded 5.7 million registered borrowers, and circulated 114.2 million items. In general terms, what these figures imply is a potential denial of access to particular public library materials for 7 out of every 10 Canadian residents in the study population.

The significant difference in direct challenges between systems and single libraries was also reflected in institutional characteristics. Respondent public libraries serving larger municipalities were far more likely to experience challenges than those serving small centers. The typical public library involved in challenges served a municipality with 71,000 people, 30,000 registered borrowers, and 595,000 library circulations in 1987. Those without challenges served an average municipality of 16,000 people, 4,900 borrowers, and 83,000 circulations. Statistical analysis shows that challenged institutions during the study period served significantly larger municipalities in terms of residents, borrowers, and circulation than did those with no challenges (Table F59 in Appendix F).

Respondent public libraries serving larger municipalities tended to experience more direct challenges than did those serving smaller municipal centers. Statistical analysis confirms the existence of a moderately positive correlation between municipal population and direct challenges. Similar correlations were recorded between registered borrowers and direct challenges, and between library circulations and direct challenges. These

correlations were significant; however, they explained only 24 percent of the variation between population and challenges, approximately the same as for the variation between registered borrowers and challenges, and between library circulation and challenges (Table F60 in Appendix F).

French and English language public libraries did not differ in their rates of direct challenges to materials. Among French language respondents (as reflected in the choice of language for questionnaire responses), 34 percent reported challenges, while among their English language counterparts, 35 percent reported challenges. This similarity in rates is somewhat surprising because of the commonly-held belief, at least among francophone Canadians, that they are more tolerant of others' views, especially in matters of sexuality, than are other Canadians. Statistical analysis confirms the absence of any systematic difference between French and English language institutions in their rates of challenge (Table F61 in Appendix F).

Challenge rate was also influenced by the presence of institutional access policies (selection, objections, donations, objections form, and support of CIA Statement). Respondents with all five access policies experienced more challenges than did those with no policies, on average almost three challenges each compared to 0.4 challenges, respectively. Those with some but not all five access policies had approximately one challenge each over the study period. Statistical analysis shows that challenge

rate was significantly influenced by access policy coverage (Tables F62-63 in Appendix F).

Challenge rate was related to the ownership of potentially controversial titles that formed the survey checklist. Institutions with direct challenges owned an average of 16 checklist titles, while those without challenges owned 10 titles each. Statistical analysis shows that institutions with more checklist titles experienced significantly more direct challenges than did those with fewer titles (Table F64 in Appendix F). However, while the correlation between ownership and challenge rate was significant, it explained only 18 percent of the variation in the number of challenges that were experienced (Table F64 in Appendix F).

Challenge rate was also related to acquisition pressure. Institutions reporting direct challenges also experienced pressure to accept or acquire material. On average, those with acquisition pressure had three direct challenges, while those with no pressure had just under one. Statistical analysis shows that challenge rate and acquisition pressure were significantly related (Table 95 in Appendix F).

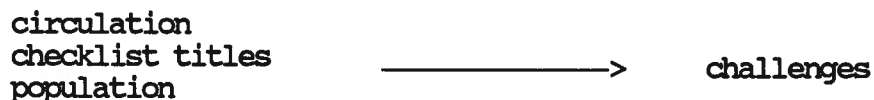
Challenge rate was not associated, however, with age-related access restrictions or with differential treatment of potentially controversial or questionable materials. In other words, whether or not an institution had age restrictions made no difference in how many challenges it experienced. Similarly, whether or not an

institution treated certain materials differently in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation, made no difference to its rate of challenges. Statistical analysis shows that the number of challenges received by a respondent was not significantly associated with the presence of either age-related access restrictions or differential treatment of certain materials (Tables F65 in Appendix F).

Because some of these factors may be interrelated, each determinant was analyzed in relationship to all others that were statistically significant in bivariate comparisons. Analysis of these several factors together shows that direct challenges to public library collections tended to involve institutions with high circulation and high checklist ownership but serving a slightly lower municipal population. So, for example, *ceteris paribus*, a public library that circulated 1 million items annually, owned 25 checklist titles, and served 100,000 residents would be predicted to experience four challenges to its collection every three years, while one with a circulation of 100,000 items, 10 checklist titles, and 10,000 residents would be predicted to experience only one challenge every three years.

These relationships of influence can be shown in diagrammatic form as follows:

Figure 7. Model of Predictors of Direct Challenges to Public Library Collections



Nonetheless, statistical analysis shows that these three determinants together accounted for only 36 percent of significant influences on the likelihood of a challenge to a respondent collection (Table F66 in Appendix F). Other factors not identified or examined in the present study accounted for two-thirds of the influences on challenge rates among Canadian public libraries.

Direct challenges were experienced by public libraries in every territory and province of Canada, but there were wide variations--30 percent or fewer of the public libraries in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario; all institutions in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and the two territories (Table F67 in Appendix F). However, these percentages do not tell the whole story. Two other rates are of interest: challenges per library, and challenges per 100,000 population. While the nationwide annual mean rate was 0.4 direct challenges per institution between 1985 and 1987, the range was from 0.3 challenges per library annually in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec to 3.6 in Saskatchewan.

Challenges per 100,000 population is another way of comparing patterns among political jurisdictions. This method "normalizes" rates of challenge by taking into account total provincial population. While the nationwide normalized rate per year was 1.2 challenges per 100,000 people, normalized rates for other political jurisdictions ranged from less than one challenge

annually per 100,000 population in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia to more than three challenges per 100,000 population in Saskatchewan. (It should be kept in mind that the rates for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory are theoretical calculations only, since their respective populations are far less than 100,000.)

Annual rates per library and annual rates per 100,000 population, according to political jurisdiction, were as follows:

Table 15. Direct Challenges Annually per Library and per 100,000 Population, by Jurisdiction, 1985-1987

<u>Province/Territory</u>	<u>Challenges per Library</u>	<u>Challenges per 100,000 People</u>
British Columbia	1.1	1.9
Alberta	.3	1.8
Saskatchewan	3.6	3.3
Manitoba	.3	.7
Ontario	.3	.9
Quebec	.3	.6
New Brunswick	1.2	.9
Nova Scotia	.5	.5
Prince Edward Island	1.7	1.3
Newfoundland	.7	1.1
Yukon	1.3*	4.9*
Northwest Territories	.7*	1.3*
National	.4	1.2

*theoretical calculations only

Summary

Overall, the present study has revealed that at least one direct challenge to public library materials occurred on average every day of the year, somewhere in Canada. As many as three

public libraries per week were affected, thus accounting annually for 21 percent of all institutions across the country. Nationwide, there were 1.2 challenges annually per 100,000 population; higher than average rates were experienced in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

While one out of three respondents reported direct challenges during the three years of the study, they accounted for 70 percent of all Canadian residents in the study. In general terms, what these figures imply is a potential denial of access to particular public library materials for 7 out of every 10 Canadian residents in the study population.

A high rate of direct challenges was associated with high circulation, high checklist ownership, and slightly lower municipal population; presumably, these libraries already owned more controversial materials than did those with few or no challenges. But these three factors accounted for only 36 percent of the influences on the likelihood of direct challenges to public library collections.

B. Profile of Direct Challenges

What were these direct challenges all about? Who were the complainants, what did they object to, what were their reasons, and what did they want done? Among respondents who reported these details, the study found that 583 individuals and groups lodged 649 requests to remove or restrict access to well over 500

titles between 1985 and 1987. Most complainants, 83 percent, made only one challenge, but as many as 17 percent made two or more. To put these patterns into perspective, over a three-year period, fewer than 600 individuals and groups across Canada attempted to intervene in the public library selection process, basing their actions on personal tastes, preferences, beliefs, values, fears, and prejudices as legitimate criteria for determining the collection content that should be made available to more than 13 million other Canadian residents.

Table 16 shows the incidence of challenges.

Table 16. Direct Challenges per Complainant, 1985-1987

<u>Challenges per Complainant</u>	<u>Complainants</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	484	83%
2 or more	44	8
Not sure how many	<u>55</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	583	100%

1. Who Were the Complainants?

Most complainants were registered borrowers--79 percent of the 610 whose public library membership status was known at the time of challenge. Respondents reported that just under half of the complainants described themselves as parents and a similar proportion as adults. No young adults or children were among the complainants.

Table 17 shows the social status of complainants as described to respondents.

Table 17. Status of Complainants, 1985-1987

<u>Complainant Status</u>	<u>Challenges</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Parent	288	45%
Adult	286	45
Library staff	20	3
School staff	12	2
Library trustee	12	2
Council member	5	1
Group	8	1
School trustee	3	<1
Other	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	638	100%

Public library and school staff together accounted for 32 complainants or 5 percent. Only 12 complainants or 2 percent were public library trustees, and 1 percent were members of municipal councils. Groups accounted for 1 percent. One complainant was a lawyer representing the Aga Khan, alleging that *The Aga Khans* by Mihir Bose was libellous and should be withdrawn from the public library collection.

Self-described social status is one thing, but self-assumed responsibility is another. It is curious, therefore, that even though so many complainants described themselves as parents, only one in five (57 parents) indicated that their challenge was on behalf of a child.

Table 18 compares the representation reported by complainants with their self-described status.

Table 18. Complainant Representation, by Social Status,
1985-1987

Complainant Represented	Adult		Complainant Status Parent		Total	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Self	250	90%	220	77%	470	83%
Child	6	2	57	20	63	11
Other	22	8	10	3	32	6
Total	278	100%	287	100%	565	100%

The majority of adults and parents who said that they were acting for themselves, rather than for their child, nonetheless requested the removal or restriction of materials written for children and young adults.

Half of the twelve complainants who were public library trustees said that they were acting for themselves in challenging public library materials, and this was also true for two of the three complainants who were school trustees; the other complainants acted on behalf of local residents. All five complainants who were members of municipal councils acted for themselves in initiating challenges.

Table 19 shows the intended age level of challenged titles according to the social status of complainants who said they were acting on their own behalf.

Table 19. Age Level of Challenged Material, by Complainants Representing Themselves, 1985-1987

Age Level of Material	Complainants Representing Themselves					
	Adult		Parent		Total	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Preschool	7	3%	21	11%	28	7%
Elementary	27	13	80	42	107	26
High School	34	16	61	32	95	24
Adult	<u>145</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>43</u>
Total	213	100%	192	100%	405	100%

Overall, the table shows that in less than half of the challenges that were initiated by adults and parents who acted for themselves was the offending material written for adults. Among parents alone, this proportion was much lower still: only 15 percent of their challenges were to adult material, while 85 percent presumed to speak for all children and young adults.

While most challenges were initiated by individuals acting on their own behalf or for a child, 33 out of 649 or 5 percent were initiated by groups or by individuals representing groups.

Respondents named the following groups:

- Canadian Arab Federation
- Canadian Association in Support of Native People
- Human Rights Association of Nova Scotia
- Muslim Association of New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission
- Real Women of Canada, and
- Sri Lanka United National Association of Canada.

There were also many different local groups: a committee protesting violence against women and children, a women's group against pornography, a citizens' group ("spiritual fanatics," in

the words of the survey respondent), a group of parents, two day care groups, a Christian Fellowship church, a Christian Reformed church, a Church of Scientology, a Mormon Church, and several other local religious organizations.

Requests to remove or restrict material were communicated to library staff almost equally in verbal and written forms, 47 percent and 53 percent respectively. It is almost certain, however, that this understates the proportion of verbal requests, which are by nature more elusive and more difficult to keep track of than written challenges are. Along these lines, one respondent noted that:

Verbal complaints always outnumber written--many are not taken seriously by staff and never reach the branch head for action.

And another observed:

Our staff throughout our system know that we will not remove books because of pressure from the public to do so. This probably means that a great many complaints do not get beyond a verbal complaint at the desk. No records have been kept of complaints at this level.

In a similar vein, another respondent noted that the reputation of the institution discouraged challenges to materials in the collection:

Locally it is a well known fact that attempts at pressure censorship of any kind will be met with strong resistance and public media coverage. So far no one has attempted to "bell the cat." I, personally as a citizen and librarian, would not allow any citizen or group, legal or otherwise, to remove from the library shelf any book, magazine, video, etc. without a public stand, hue and cry against this kind

of censorship. Standing for a principle, and eternal vigilance, is the price and requirement for the preservation of freedom. This type of censorship cannot be allowed in a free nation or society. Censorship in my view is a red flag to most librarians, or should be, it strikes at the very heart of what librarianship is all about.

Another respondent wrote that it was institutional policy to ignore verbal complaints altogether:

As we only retain and deal with written requests for reconsideration, the few we have do not reflect the concerns we hear more and more frequently. Sexual content is the number one concern, particularly as it affects the young. Our branch librarians are as concerned as are the public, maybe more concerned.

Another respondent observed that:

Although the library has policies and procedures in place, the whole situation of people expressing concern about a title is hard to deal with. Many people do not bother filling out a form. I suppose that the form to a certain extent turns people away as being too formal. Some people just mention in passing that a particular book was found to have too much bad language, sexual description, but don't wish to object formally as they are aware others may not find the material offensive.

Still another respondent wrote:

I am new here as chief librarian. As is commonly the case, the previous chief librarian went out of her way to make sure "official" complaints were not lodged. The request for reconsideration form explicitly stated that it was only to be used if the chief librarian could not be reached. Even when used, the situation was resolved without creating any "record." This policy is now changed.

In her nationwide study of challenges to U.S. secondary school library materials, Hopkins (1991b) found that the ratio of verbal to written challenges was quite different from the mix

identified in the present study. In her study, 73 percent of the challenges were verbal compared to 27 percent written (p.4:24).

In terms of the distribution of challenges over time, the present study found that challenges were initiated about equally throughout the year regardless of month, on average 13 per month; slightly more were reported in December of each year, on average 19. Table F68 in Appendix F shows the incidence of challenges by month. Among the 579 challenges for which respondents indicated the calendar year of initiation, there were 155 and 160 respectively in each of 1985 and 1986, and 254 in 1987. Rather than representing a real change, as already mentioned, the 1987 increase was more likely due to better library records and better respondent memories, and in particular better recall of the more recent verbal challenges. At the same time, a few challenges lodged prior to 1985 remained unresolved during part or all of the period under study. One such challenge had been initiated in 1978, and another in 1983. Eight begun in 1984 carried over into 1985. Table F69 in Appendix F shows the incidence of challenges over time.

2. What was Challenged?

Challenged material was published over a wide range of years, one title as early as 1899, but half had imprints from 1980s and one-third in the 1970s. The mean date of publication was 1979.

Table 20 shows challenged items by publication date.

Table 20. Publication Date of Challenged Material, 1985-1987

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Challenged Titles Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1890s	1	<1%
1900s		
1910s		
1920s	2	<1
1930s	4	1
1940s	1	<1
1950s	7	1
1960s	18	3
1970-1974	63	12
1975-1979	118	23
1980-1984	201	39
1985-1987	<u>103</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	518	100%

What material was challenged in terms of publication format, fiction/nonfiction status, and age level?

Table 21 shows the publication format of challenged items.

Table 21. Publication Format of Challenged Material, 1985-1987

<u>Publication Format</u>	<u>Challenged Titles Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Books	423	72%
Picture books	96	16
Comic books	32	6
Periodicals	19	3
Records	6	1
Films and videos	3	1
Other	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	584	100%

Most of the offending items consisted of print formats: 72 percent books, 16 percent picture books, and 6 percent comic

books. Very few were non-print media such as records, films, or videos--a not surprising pattern given the relatively small public library that typified the overall survey response.

Fiction was by far the most common category of challenges, three out of four titles, while non-fiction accounted for another 26 percent. By target audience, publications written for adults accounted for 43 percent of all challenged titles; 7 percent were intended for preschool children, one-quarter were for children aged 6 to 12, and another quarter were for teenagers aged 13 to 18. The most frequently challenged categories of material were nonfiction written for adults and fiction written for children and young adults. Nonfiction for adults was challenged much more frequently than was nonfiction for children and young adults, 64 percent compared to 36 percent respectively. In contrast, fiction for adults was challenged much less frequently than fiction for children and young adults, 65 percent compared to 35 percent. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F70 in Appendix F).

Table 22 compares age level for which challenged materials were written with their status as fiction or nonfiction.

Table 22. Age Level of Challenged Titles, by Fiction/Nonfiction Status, 1985-1987

Age Level	Fiction		Nonfiction		Total	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Preschool	36	9%	4	3%	40	7%
Elementary	102	27	26	19	128	25
High School	111	29	19	14	130	25
Adult	<u>136</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>43</u>
Total	385	100%	135	100%	520	100%

What titles were involved in these challenges? Almost as many different titles were challenged as there were challengers: well over 500 titles by 630 individuals and 8 groups (respondents were able to identify 498 titles specifically). There were also 21 complaints against multiple titles in a particular genre or subject area, or by a particular author. Among the multi-title challenges were the following:

- all books by Kevin Major, because a patron argued that "they shouldn't be in the children's section,"
- older children's books by Natalie Savage Carlson, because of alleged sexism, cruelty to animals, and spanking,
- all books by V.C. Andrews, because of the topic of incest and horror,
- all books by Harold Robbins, because a patron did not want her son reading them,
- all heavy metal groups such as AC/DC and Twisted Sister, because of references to sin and killing, and because they "destroy respect for life and people--library should not be responsible for supplying such destructive garbage,"
- certain books of "daring passages" and certain comics with "daring drawings,"
- paperbacks with "lurid covers," not suitable in a school-public library,
- various groups of books because of "objectionable swearing," explicit sexual scenes, violence, or a combination of these,
- all books on astrology, on the grounds that "truth was not in astrology but in the Catholic religion,"
- all books dealing with the occult, because "satanic books damage the minds of the youth and could turn people away from Christianity,"
- all books on witchcraft, magic and parapsychology, "the work of the devil,"
- all books on witchcraft and homosexuality, which would "lead young people into a lifestyle that was not normal and damaging,"
- general books on drugs, of which a patron felt that the library had too many, "thus making drug information available to teens,"
- a series of westerns called "The Gunsmith", because a parent was concerned that his son was reading explicit sex material before reaching puberty,
- various groups of adult western paperbacks, because of explicit sex that was "demoralizing to young minds."

Almost all of the 498 titles identified by respondents were complained about only once, but 64 received two or more challenges each. One title was challenged 11 times and another 8 times. Table F71 in Appendix F shows the incidence of challenges per title during the study period.

The study shows that a few titles were challenged several times, while most titles were challenged only once. What this pattern appears to imply is that, although it may be possible to identify specific subjects that are vulnerable to censorship pressure, it may not be possible to predict the specific titles that will be challenged. The choice of titles deemed offensive seems to be capricious if not altogether random. However, there are a few exceptions. Several titles have been regularly challenged since the early 1980s. This is shown by comparing titles challenged in the present study with titles challenged between 1983 and 1985 in previous surveys, as represented on the controversial materials checklist discussed earlier. In total, 7 out of the 30 checklist titles were also challenged frequently between 1985 and 1987. These titles were: *Forever*, *The Haj*, *Wifey*, *The Butter Battle Book*, *In the Night Kitchen*, *Cinderella*, and *Flowers in the Attic*.

Table 23 identifies the 64 titles most frequently challenged.

Table 23. Challenged Titles, 1985-1987

<u>Title</u>	<u>Challenges per Title</u>
<i>Lizzy's Lion</i>	11
<i>Forever**</i>	8
<i>The Haj**</i>	6 each
<i>Slugs</i>	
<i>Wifey**</i>	
<i>Outside Over There</i>	4 each
<i>Where Did I Come From?</i>	
<i>The Butter Battle Book**</i>	3 each
<i>Creepshow</i>	
<i>Gorky Rises</i>	
<i>The Hoax of the Twentieth Century</i>	
<i>In the Night Kitchen**</i>	
<i>Indian Summer</i>	
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Pig's Evening Out</i>	
<i>Naomi in the Middle</i>	
<i>Out of the Oven</i>	
<i>The Tin Pot Foreign General and the Old Iron Woman</i>	
<i>Web of Deceit</i>	
<i>The Werewolf Family</i>	
<i>What's Happening to Me?</i>	
<i>Angel Dust Blues</i>	2 each
<i>Bear</i>	
<i>The Beast of Monsieur Racine</i>	
<i>Blue Trees, Red Sky</i>	
<i>The Body Politic (periodical)</i>	
<i>Cinderella**</i>	
<i>Collection: Livres dont vous êtes le héros</i>	
<i>Croc (periodical)</i>	
<i>Dancer of Gor</i>	
<i>Deenie</i>	
<i>The Devil Did It</i>	
<i>Don't Hurt Me, Mama</i>	
<i>The Enormous Crocodile</i>	
<i>Fairy Tales of New York</i>	
<i>Father Christmas</i>	
<i>The First Deadly Sin</i>	
<i>Flowers in the Attic**</i>	
<i>The Gunsmith</i>	
<i>Hag Head</i>	
<i>Hands of a Stranger</i>	
<i>Happy Lion</i>	
<i>Histoires fantastiques</i>	
<i>I'll Fix Anthony</i>	
<i>Juggling</i>	
<i>King of the Cats</i>	

Table 23--Continued

<i>King Stork</i>	(2 each)
<i>The Love of Rich Women</i>	
<i>Murder in the Family</i>	
<i>Now (periodical)</i>	
<i>Ordeal</i>	
<i>The Penguin Book of Limericks</i>	
<i>The Rapist File</i>	
<i>Religion Inc.: The Church of Scientology</i>	
<i>Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark</i>	
<i>Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself</i>	
<i>The Story of Henny Penny</i>	
<i>Tranches de vie</i>	
<i>Upchuck Summer</i>	
<i>The Vagabond of Limbo: The Ultimate Alchemist</i>	
<i>The Vagabond of Limbo: What is Reality, Papa?</i>	
<i>Valerie</i>	
<i>A Way of Love, A Way of Life: A Young Person's</i>	
<i>Introduction to What It Means to be Gay</i>	
<i>Where Has Deedie Wooster Been All These Years?</i>	
<i>Witchery Hill</i>	

**also on the controversial materials checklist

This table shows that a few titles were objected to several times, while most titles received only a few objections. Leading the statistics for most offensive title was *Lizzy's Lion* by Dennis Lee, with 11 challenges over the three years in the study; this work, incidentally, was awarded the Canada Council's Children's Literature Prize for Illustrations in 1984. In second place with 8 challenges was *Forever* by Judy Blume. Tied for third were three titles that each received 6 complaints: *Wifey* by Judy Blume, *Slugs* by David Greenberg, and *The Haj* by Leon Uris.

The pattern of challenged authors was similar to that of challenged titles: a few authors had several works challenged,

while most authors had only a few challenged. Four authors and two singing groups had all of their works challenged--V.C. Andrews, Natalie Savage Carlson, Kevin Major, Harold Robbins, AC/DC, and Twisted Sister. In addition, 10 works by Judy Blume were challenged, 7 works by Norma Klein, and 5 works each by Raymond Briggs, Roald Dahl, and Maurice Sendak.

The authors who had two or more titles challenged during the study period were as follows:

Table 24. Challenged Authors, 1985-1987

<u>Author</u>	<u>Titles Challenged</u>
V.C. Andrews	"all"
Natalie Saveage Carlson	
Kevin Major	
Harold Robbins	
AC/DC	
Twisted Sister	
Judy Blume	10
Norma Klein	7
Raymond Briggs	5 each
Roald Dahl	
Maurice Sendak	
Peter Mayle	4 each
Christian Godard and Ribera	
René Durand	3 each
Paul Galdone (illustrator)	
Lauzier	
Graham Oakley	
Lawrence Sanders	
Frank Asch	2 each
Anthony Browne	
Sol Gordon	
Constance Greene	
Wallace Hamilton	
Ashida Kim	
Milo Manara	
Eric Maple	
John Norman	
Daniel Pinkwater	

Table 24--Continued

Jack Prelutsky	(2 each)
Malcolm Ross	
Alvin Schwartz	
William Steig	
Tomi Ungerer	
Wolinski	

While the large number of offending titles identified in the present study suggests that it may not be possible to predict potentially vulnerable titles in the future, the study shows that there are several authors whose works have been challenged persistently in the recent past. It seems reasonable to predict that much of their present and new work will continue to be challenged, as long as they are alive to write and able to resist the chill of sustained minority censure.

A comparison of frequently challenged works with those identified in the study by Hopkins (1991b) of challenges to materials in U.S. secondary school libraries reveals few titles in common. Ranking first in challenges in Hopkins' study was *Forever*, which received 13 challenges over a three-year period; this compares to 8 challenges over three years in the present study of Canadian public libraries. It was followed by three titles that each received 10 challenges, *Go Ask Alice*, *The Chocolate War*, and *Clan of the Cave Bear*. Only two other titles appeared on both lists of frequently challenged items: *Deenie* and *Angel Dust Blues*, each of which was challenged 4 times in U.S. secondary schools and 2 times in Canadian public libraries.

3. What Were the Reasons for Challenges?

What were the grounds for challenges? Complainants gave 857 reasons for 687 requests to remove or restrict access to well over 500 titles (respondents were able to identify 498 titles specifically). In 220 challenges or 32 percent, they gave two or more reasons. These data probably understate the incidence of reasons for challenges, particularly in the case of verbal ones.

Specific reasons given for objections, by frequency of mention, were as follows:

Table 25. Reasons for Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

<u>Complainant Reason</u>	<u>Challenged Titles</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Sexually explicit, nudity	155	18%
Unsuitable for age group	121	14
Violence, cruelty	116	14
Promotes unacceptable (negative) moral values	95	11
Coarse language, profanity	64	7
Scary, frightening to child	47	5
Promotes the occult, witchcraft	36	4
Pornographic	35	4
Offensive to religion, blasphemous	28	3
Sexist, demeaning to women	26	3
Promotes homosexuality	24	3
Misinformation, bias	24	3
Racist	22	3
In bad taste	17	2
Badly written	16	2
Anti-semitic	14	2
Promotes drug use	6	1
Other	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	857	100%

Three clusters of reasons accounted for over half of all challenges. The most common grounds for requests to remove or

restrict materials were sexual explicitness, nudity, and pornography (22 percent of all challenges). Second were objections to violence, cruelty, and scary works (19 percent). Third were objections to titles deemed unsuitable for a particular age group (14 percent)—this, often in combination with additional grounds such as sex or violence.

These patterns are somewhat similar to those found in several American studies of public libraries in individual states or regions. The most frequently mentioned reasons reported by respondents to the various surveys in that country were morality, sexual content, obscenity, profanity, immaturity of users, and the occult and witchcraft (Minnesota by McDonald, 1983; Missouri by Engelbert, 1982; Delaware by the Intellectual Freedom and Open Access Committee of the Delaware Library Association, 1985; Nebraska by Gardner, 1983; Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana by the American Civil Liberties Union, 1986; Oregon by the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, 1990a and 1990b; and Florida by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Florida Library Association, 1990). Noticeably absent from the upper ranks of this composite list, however, were violence, cruelty and scary titles, which figured prominently in the present study.

It is interesting that violence did not figure prominently in recent American studies of school library censorship either. In Hopkins' (1991b) nationwide study of challenges to materials in secondary school libraries, responses showed that violence was

at the bottom of the list of concerns, while sexuality, profanity, obscenity, and morality ranked highest (p.4:24):

- sexuality	242 times
- profanity	213
- obscenity	174
- morality	143
- witchcraft	90
- immaturity of students	77
- nudity	77
- family values	77
- occult	72
- violence	<u>67</u>
	1232

Similarly, the American Civil Liberties Union (1986) found that school library materials in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana were challenged primarily because of obscenity, profanity, and morality. This pattern was echoed in the findings of a survey by the National Council of Teachers of English (Burress, 1979), in which objections to language and sexual references accounted for the majority of challenges to curricular and library materials.

In Canada, a study by Jenkinson (1985, 1986) showed that the main reasons for challenges in Manitoba school libraries were immaturity of readers, profanity, and explicit sex. In British Columbia school libraries, Poole (1986) found sexual references, profanity, violence, and inappropriateness were the most frequent reasons for challenges to materials.

The reasons for challenges reveal a fascinating--and at times bewildering--spectrum of community values, social

attitudes, and ideological mindsets. Although the statistical pattern depicted in the table above looks relatively straightforward, it nonetheless masks a great deal of ideological complexity in the thinking of complainants. It masks their attitudes towards other citizens, especially towards children and young adults. Above all, it masks their beliefs about the power of ideas to persuade and tempt, and it masks their fear of the power of reading, images, and words.

Ideology, attitudes, beliefs, and fears are revealed in part through the words of the complainants themselves as they have communicated to public library staff their grounds for challenging materials. Many complainants were opposed to the public presentation of certain ideas through fiction written for adults--or, at the least, to the availability of these ideas through the public library. In some cases, complainant concern was motivated by the fear that children might accidentally be exposed to such ideas. Verbatim comments by complainants and summary statements of their views by public library staff reveal the complexity of approaches to offending material (bracketed information about titles and reading categories were supplied by respondents).

- o "Sexually explicit accounts, especially oral sex. This behavior might become more and more acceptable."
[*Romance* by Gwen Davis]
- o "Information regarding topic of incest is too voyeuristic. Real danger that this book could encourage incestuous urges." [*Kiss Daddy Goodnight* by Louise Armstrong, adult non-fiction]

- "Too animalistic. Be careful who takes this book out."
[*Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean Auel]
- "I don't think homosexuality is something to be witty about." [Buried on Sunday by Edward Phillips, adult fiction]
- "Book glorified homosexuality, which is against the teachings of God." [Ice Blues: A Donald Strachey Mystery, author not given, adult fiction]
- "Disgusting. Author is promoting immoral behavior." [Fairy Tales of New York by J.P. Donleavey, adult fiction]
- "This is a filthy book. Get rid of it!" [Bear by Marian Engel]
- "Absolute filth." [The Mad Woman's Underclothes by Germaine Greer]
- "Objected to basis of book--rape--lurid and filthy sex habits described and the considerable use of foul language." [Hands of a Stranger by Robert Daley, adult fiction]
- "The whole book is an insult to human intellect. Nothing but depravity in human behavior, narcotics addicts, violence, perversity, etc. etc. with no redeeming features whatsoever--neither in style, language or artistic endeavor." [Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter S. Thompson]
- "The book portrays 'lust' from cover to cover...Senior people should be a positive example to the younger generation when immoral degeneracy has crept in, yet this book depicts seniors as an immoral sexy generation, who are unfaithful to their spouses, men and women alike. I would want to hope that the book does not portray life in our senior citizens complexes." [Darling I am Growing Old by Gene Stone]
- "Suggests that whoring is an acceptable lifestyle." [Taming a Sea Horse by Robert Pooker, adult fiction]
- "Women used as sexual objects by men. Indicates acceptance of rape, sexual abuse of children." [Maia by Richard Adams, adult fiction]

- "Degrading to women...only happy as sex slaves to men."
[*Fighting Slave of Gor* by John Norman, adult fiction]
- "Good plot, well told, why ruin it with pornographic sex scenes." [A *Pride of Healers* by Richard Clark Hirschhorn, adult fiction]
- "Represented bestiality, verging on pornographic, was in poor taste, and would be offensive to many people"
[*Playboar*]
- "I don't believe this book is suitable for a public library. I would not like children to be able to pick up this book and read detailed sexual acts. Many of these are not normal situations; in fact I would suggest pornographic." [*Storyteller* by Harold Robbins]
- "Violence and sex and bestiality linked together and would not be understood by young users." [*La Terre de la bombe* by Ramaioli and Durand, adult comic book]
- "The painful birth of a child followed by death and flies circling the body; the funeral director masturbating over a dead woman's body; the traumatic death of a prostitute followed by suicide of her husband with details. The reader who innocently reads the inner jacket will not be prepared for the incidents that occur."
[*Heart of the Country* by Gregory Matthews, adult fiction]
- Objection to portrayal of Roman Catholic Church: "When I think of all the Protestant hands this book has been through." [*The Piercing* by John Coyne, adult fiction]
- "Extreme violence in a prison, shocking treatment."
[*The Farm* by Clarence L. Cooper, Jr., adult fiction]
- Patron objected to the "deranged sex killer." [*Hero and the Terror* by Michael Blodget, adult fiction]
- "Negative depressing book with no redeeming features."
[*Unlucky Wally* by Raymond Briggs, adult fiction]
- "Language, lack of any kind of purpose in the writing... Burn it!" [*Less Than Zero* by Bret Easton Ellis, adult fiction]
- "This is not poetry." [*The Man With Seven Toes* by Michael Ondaatje, adult fiction]

- o "Bad literature. Should be removed." [*Princesse Daisy* by Judith Krantz, adult fiction]

In the non-fiction literature for adults, challenges were lodged against ideas not only about sex, but also against ideas about sexism, religion, racism, and politics. At stake were the credibility and veracity of the offending ideas, and in some cases, the appropriateness of depicting reality.

- o "Feminist literature undermines the sanctity of family life." [*Ms Magazine*]
- o "Book comes close to child abuse or neglect; new or confused parents might believe methods." [*The Discipline of Raising Children* by M.A. Treadwell]
- o "Everything in this book is contrary to human decency. Every author in it approved of pornography and indecency, the book was biased...This type of book leads to abuse against women, sometimes violence." [*Perspectives on Pornography* compiled by Douglas A. Hughes]
- o "Men's fantasies (sexual)--could get the same thing in *Penthouse*--little or no research conducted." [*Men in Love: Male Sexual Fantasies* by Nancy Friday, adult non-fiction]
- o "Promotes homosexuality." [*Gay Parenting: A Complete Guide for Gay Men and Lesbians with Children* by Joy Schulenburg, adult non-fiction]
- o "Pictures of oral sex could turn on homosexuality. Shows injection of the parts of the body; also ejaculation...I think everyone should experience these things in the marriage bed, sanctified and undefiled." [*The Sex Atlas: A New Illustrated Guide* by Erwin J. Haeberle]
- o "An explicit account of her sexual activities. Language is foul and uncalled for. Goes into detail--homosexual relations, orgies, and bestiality. I feel this book is pure pornography." [*Ordeal* by Linda Lovelace]
- o 14 year old boy borrowed several back issues--parent

admitted boy looks over 18--centrefolds all removed. Said withdraw or else she'd get local alderman after us. [Playboy]

- o "Book advocates murder." [Compulsory Parenthood by Wendell Watters, adult non-fiction]
- o "Fear that sex offenders will get their hands on a copy and do what one killer-rapist did--re-enact the brutal acts." [The Rapist File by Les Sussman, adult non-fiction]
- o "It has been a known catalyst for a brutal rape-murder and has, in our opinion, the potential for inciting other similar responses." [The Rapist File]
- o "Disgusting. Photos depicting an execution." [Life Magazine]
- o "The book illustrates with photographs assassination techniques, stealth, throat-slitting, etc." [Secrets of the Ninja by Ashida Kim, adult non-fiction]
- o "How-to-kill fighting techniques could have lethal consequences if acted on by young readers." [Ninja Death Touch by Ashida Kim, adult non-fiction]
- o "Author encourages anal sex in a book for family consumption. Anal sex is even frowned upon in an all male prison. What about the AIDS problem? The rest of the subjects are dealt with in a straightforward and commonsense manner." [Human Sexuality by Sharon Goldsmith, adult non-fiction]
- o "The title alone is offensive--who needs instruction in adultery?! Zero value--didn't read entire book--it is trash! Can't recommend better book--the person who would read this book needs a marriage counsellor not another "how-to" book." [Adultery for Adults by Joyce Peterson]
- o "Chapter 7 p.174-175 dealing with sexuality...incest." [Understanding Your Child from Birth to Three by Joseph Church, adult non-fiction]
- o "Unnatural and cruel. Group sex." [Unspeakable Acts by Simon Bond, adult non-fiction]
- o "Young boys who would be attracted to this book would be

affected by the pornography and think, because it was from their library, it would be okay." [*Vans: Customized Vans in Colour* by Alberto Martinez and Jean-Loup Nory, adult non-fiction]

- o "Three-page discussion of historical and current information regarding sexual relations between humans and dogs and section on fighting dogs." [*The Dog Crisis* by Iris Nowell, adult non-fiction]
- o "Chapter titles suggested illegal or immoral occupations--marijuana grower; kept woman/man, etc." [*132 Ways to Earn a Living without Working for Someone Else* by E. Rosenthal and R. Lichtey, adult non-fiction]
- o "Human degradation--contents of this record don't deserve exposure in libraries. What good does that record contribute to society?" ["Bicentennial Nigger" by Richard Prior, adult LP]
- o Patron objected to misinformation in book regarding Mormons. [*Meeting the Mormons* by Jack Roundhill, adult non-fiction]
- o "The book is not the issue--only parts of it. After reading those parts, I was disgusted. I don't think this is literature, not for a public library." [*The Penguin Book of Limericks*]
- o "Book encourages women to buy fur coats. Animals should not be killed for this purpose." [*Furs; An Appreciation of Luxury, A Guide to Value* by Edythe Cudlipp]
- o "Negative attitude towards handicapped people. Archaic, overblown language and descriptions." [*Your Child's Mind: The Complete Guide to Infant and Child Emotional Well-Being* by Herman Roiphe]
- o "The proposition that allegiance to Satan brings wealth, romance, power and happiness." [*A Witch's Grimoire of Ancient Omens, Portents, Talismans, Amulets and Charms* by Gavin and Yvonne Frost, adult non-fiction]
- o "I object to the entire book and its author, its original author Satan and all they stand for...obviously the destruction of Biblical Christianity...Anyone who is interested in anything related to witchcraft or anything else related to the worship of Satan through reading this book will fall from God's grace." [*Buckland's Complete*

- Book of Witchcraft* by Raymond Buckland, adult non-fiction]
- o Patron felt it gave very biased viewpoint with nothing to substantiate it. [*The Word of the Lord Brought to Mankind by an Angel* by W. Draves, adult non-fiction]
 - o "Unfair representation of Scientology." [*Religion Inc.* by Stewart Lamont, adult non-fiction]
 - o "Eckankar is not a religion. It is mind control pure and simple." [*Eckankar: Compiled Writings*, Vol. 1, adult non-fiction]
 - o "Anti-Catholic and racist." [*Ireland: A Terrible Beauty* by Jill and Leon Uris, adult non-fiction]
 - o "Book was racist. Presented the Indian as a savage." [*Indian Summer* by F.N. Monjo]
 - o Book deemed to be libellous. [*The Aga Khans* by Mihir Bose, adult non-fiction]
 - o Patron believed the book had been banned by the Court. [*The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* by Arthur R. Butz, adult non-fiction]
 - o "Anti-history, dangerous and insulting--a complex narrative that denies the Holocaust--enough evidence and proof have been given without having to rebut the cold sociopathic untruth of Butz's propaganda." [*The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*]
 - o "Don't promote this man's ideas by having his book here." [*Keegstra; The Trial, The Issues, The Consequences* by Steve Mertl, adult non-fiction]
 - o Anti-semitic, denies "Hollywood version" (author's term) of Holocaust. The author's books receive maximum publicity--TV, radio, newspaper, politicians, school boards. Why would the library have hate literature on its shelves? [*Web of Deceit* and *Spectre of Power* by Malcolm Ross, adult non-fiction]
 - o "Deceitful propaganda--putting the Fuhrer in a favourable light." [*Adolf Hitler: Pictures from the Life of the Fuhrer, 1931-35* by Carl Underhill Quinn, adult non-fiction]

- "Implication that Lester B. Pearson was a Communist." [No Sense of Evil: The Espionage Case of Herbert Norman by Barros James, adult non-fiction]
- Book concerned political/legal "scandal" involving patron's relative. Patron insisted on buying the book; didn't want it to circulate. [title not given]
- Complainant felt the book constituted U.S. Government propaganda. [The Day We Bombed Utah by John G. Fuller, adult non-fiction]
- Patron felt the book had a subtle pro-communist bias and should be removed. [Preussen, von den anfangen bis zur Reichsgründung, author not given]
- "Leftist. Remove and/or add The Spotlight." [New Internationalist]
- "It is obscene, degrading and perverted." [The Maple Laugh Forever edited by Douglas Barbour, adult non-fiction]
- "I do not feel this book provides a balanced approach. It is an over-reaction...It concerns me that some woman desperately needing surgery would not go through with it after reading this book." [The Castrated Woman by Naomi Stokes, adult non-fiction]
- Presented only pro-life side of issue. Patron wanted a more balanced representation of the issue. [Abortion in Canada, author not given]
- "Contained information on how to herbally induce spontaneous miscarriage (abortion)." [Healing the Family by Joy Gardner, adult non-fiction]
- "There is no proven cure for arthritis--yet." [A Doctor's Proven New Home Cure for Arthritis by Giraud W. Campbell, adult non-fiction]
- "Erroneous information doing harm to people with epilepsy." [Nerves in Collision by Walter Alvarez, adult non-fiction]
- "Book is classified in medical science--it is dangerous bunk...The uninformed might change their habits to more dangerous ones without consulting a doctor or dietitian." [Diet for a Strong Heart by Michio Kushi, adult non-fiction]

- o Patron is a qualified dietitian and felt this material could be harmful to health if followed closely. [*Fit for Life* by Harvey and Marilyn Diamond, adult non-fiction]
- o "Out of date information." [*An Act of Mercy: Euthanasia Today* by Richard Trubo, adult non-fiction]
- o Dog training manual unrevised 30-year old edition still in print, recommending cruel methods--cattle prods, water, striking, confinement in a dark closet. [*This is the Cocker Spaniel* by Leon F. Whitney, adult non-fiction]
- o "The examples illustrating the rules are insidious and devious." [*Complete Guide to Punctuation*, author not given, adult non-fiction]
- o "Carried criticisms by local minister of unnamed people who would be offended." [*United Church Newsletter*]

Like the complaints about adult fiction, complaints about fiction for children and young adults usually centered around sex and sexual taboos. But even more pronounced than with adult literature, many challenges to fiction for children and young adults were motivated by the fear that impressionable and younger children might accidentally be exposed to such material. In these instances, parental responsibility was imputed to public library staff. Several complainants commented in this vein:

- o "The flap on book did not at all even hint to the abundance of sexual information my child was suddenly confronted with--pg.15,20,45--I do want my children to be aware of all this, but not at age 8 and certainly not by accident." [*Naomi in the Middle* by Norma Klein, fiction for grade 4]
- o It would upset her children, who don't know about these things. The patron does realize this occurs in some homes. [*Don't Hurt Me, Mama* by Muriel Stanek, fiction for ages 7-8]
- o Felt book was too mature for patron's 8 year old daughter. [*Are You There God, It's Me Margaret* by Judy Blume, fiction for ages 10 and up]

Other verbatim comments by complainants and summaries by staff were:

- o "Suggestions are very explicit. Work is too revealing for young teens and seems to condone sexual freedom." [*Beginner's Love* by Norma Klein, teen fiction]
- o "Book promoted acceptance of masturbation as acceptable." [*Run, Shelley*, author not given, young adult fiction]
- o "Severely lacking morals; advocates abortion, sleeping around." [*It's Not What You Expect* by Norma Klein, young adult fiction]
- o "Inappropriate classification--YA novel about gay teenage boys. Language and subject too crude for early teens who gravitate to YA-designated books." [*The Boys on the Rock* by John Fox]
- o "Discovering the mother and father had sex and the feelings of girls for girls etc." [*Flick* by Wendy Kesselman, fiction for age 13]
- o "Implied lesbianism and vulgar terms." [*Bouquets for Brimbal* by J.P. Reading, fiction for ages 14 plus]
- o "Book dealt with lesbianism." [*Annie on My Mind* by Nancy Garden, fiction for ages 11-15]
- o Book content had a lesbian relationship in it which apparently gave the child nightmares. [title not given]
- o Wrong cataloguing; concern over "changing" Hercules to (female) Heraclea. [*Heraclea* by Bernard Euslin, juvenile fiction]
- o "I find the profanity objectionable as well as the explicit description of sexual intercourse on p.109. It seems to me that both of these make the book unsuitable for young teens at whom it seems to be aimed." [*Dark but Full of Diamonds* by Katie Letcher Lyle, young adult fiction]
- o "Specific description of masturbation made children want to try it." [*Deenie* by Judy Bloom, juvenile fiction]
- o "Female nudity would corrupt children." [*Tell Me Grandma Tell Me Grandpa*, author not given, preschool]

- o "Their only relationship is sleeping together--there is no normal relationship." [*Family Secrets* by Norma Klein, young adult fiction]
- o "Sex unnecessary to the story line. Book should be labelled as unsuitable for teens." [*Ariel* by Jack M. Bickham, adult fiction]
- o "Incredibly sexually graphic pictures. They were truly pornographic. The breast, the vagina as a source of violence. This is a sexual nightmare come true." [*The Tin Pot Foreign General and the Old Iron Woman* by Raymond Briggs, fiction for ages 12 and over]
- o "Pictures disgusting...warps the mind...book discriminates against Margaret Thatcher." [*The Tin Pot Foreign General and the Old Iron Woman*]
- o "Small children might not get the message about the effects of war and could incorporate these ideas into their play." [*The Tin Pot Foreign General and the Old Iron Woman*]
- o "Sexual comments--condoms mentioned--not necessary in collection, not even a good story." [*Where has Deedie Wooster Been All These Years?* by Anita Jacobs, young adult fiction]
- o "Sexual content too specific--use of condoms." [*Angel Dust Blues* by Todd Strasser]
- o "Book described boy's sexual experiences with girl friend." [*Juggling* by Robert Lehrman, young adult fiction]
- o "There is an account of Melissa's first sexual experience (16 yrs) on pages 131-2. There is no hint of this type of content, however, on the jacket description inside cover. Could we have some sort of dot or other system whereby the books in our young adult area could be coded for older and for younger young adult. [*Nothing in Common: A Novel* by Barbara Bottner, young adult fiction]
- o Patron had read a critique which claimed book was an allegory of rape. [*The Witches* by Roald Dahl, fiction for ages 8-12]
- o Graphic representation of birth of puppy offended mother. [*The Last Puppy* by Frank Asch, preschool picture book]

- o "Gives children the wrong impression about sex." [*What's Best for You* by J. Angell, young adult fiction]
- o "Nudity, unpleasant story no child could enjoy." [*In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak, preschool fiction]
- o "Sexual references re prurient interests of male adolescents." [*Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself* by Judy Blume, fiction for ages 10-13]
- o "Book too graphic about genital parts in a negative way-- making fun of genitals, etc." [*Les Aventures magiques de Corentin au Pays de PipiCaca*, author not given, juvenile fiction]

A fascinating cluster of challenges centered around portrayals of less than perfect adults and dysfunctional families--portrayals that some individuals apparently found threatening. Specific themes found offensive by complainants were disrespect of children for parents, unacceptable behaviors such as incest, abuse, violence, and suicide, and inappropriate role modelling.

- o "Material depicted youths exhibiting disrespect for parents." [*Angel Dust Blues* by Todd Strasser, young adult fiction]
- o "Taught children disrespect to relatives and other adults when parents were trying to teach manners." [*Dinner at Aunt Rose's* by Janet Munsil, fiction for preschool to 8 years old]
- o "Too violent. Showed parents in a bad light." [*Jim Who Ran Away from his Wife and Was Eaten by a Lie* by Ailaine Zelloe, picture book for ages 3-8]
- o "I felt the main message to kids to be that violence, abuse, disobedience, disrespect, etc. are not offensive--injurious to kids' minds." [*Hector Protector* by Maurice Sendak, preschool fiction]
- o "Swearing, smoking marijuana, teen attitudes towards adults." [*Wheels for Walking* by Sandra Richmond, young adult fiction]

- o "Too scary for children, too violent, seems to condone child abuse." [*Daddy is a Monster...Sometimes* by John Steptoe, picture book for ages 3-7]
- o "Child abuse." [*Tom Thumb* by Charles Perrault, picture book for ages 6-12]
- o "Book discussed family cruelty (wife abuse), violence." [*Cracker Jackson* by Betsy Byers, young adult fiction]
- o "Book deals with incest, child abuse." [*Abby, My Love* by Hadley Irwin, young adult fiction]
- o "Book not suitable for children's library (or indeed any library) because of graphic description of sex, violence, child abuse." [*Barbe-bleue* by Jacques Martin, a comic book for ages 8-12]
- o "Content and violent pictures show incestuous behavior." [*Le Petit chaperon rouge* by Bruno de la Salle, fiction for ages 6-8]
- o "The relationship between the brother and sister is simply not a healthy relationship mostly when they are sleeping together, last page and also putting the baby on the mantelpiece. Really." [*My Crazy Sister* by M.B. Goffstein, preschool fiction]
- o Patron felt book was for 10-12 year olds, indirectly about suicide. "Not suitable for children at all...withdraw." [*Le Petit chien* by Jean Prignaud, picture book for ages 4-7]
- o "Total despair in the conclusion--child commits suicide." [*The Brothers Lionheart* by Astrid Linogren, fiction for ages 8-12]
- o At one point in the story, it states the hero's parents "were so worried they were ready to kill themselves." Patron was horrified that such a statement should be in a kid's book. [*Gorky Rises* by William Steig, picture book for preschool to grade 3]
- o When son is lost mother is so distraught she says she will kill herself. [*Gorky Rises*]
- o "Talks about people committing suicide NOT appropriate for small children." [*Gorky Rises*]

- o Patron felt boy's response was overly violent--not true to life. Disliked the ending where the mother fantasizes she would be able to watch soap operas while her son fed the baby. [*When the New Baby Comes, I'm Moving Out* by Martha Alexander, preschool picture book]
- o Patron said the book had unfeeling treatment of the subject of death, and disturbed her child who chose it because of its blue cover, in response to our summer reading game. It should be moved to non-fiction. [*Cookies for Luke* by Sheila J. Bleeks, juvenile fiction]
- o "Lesson indicates that greed, craftiness and laziness pay off--result of using: a warped sense of values in small children." [*Tom Fox and the Apple Pie* by Clyde Watson, picture book for ages 5-7]
- o "Gross habit: putting in picture and writing a grandpa blowing his nose without a handkerchief. Disregard just that one particular page." [*My Old Grandad* by Wolf Harranth, picture book]
- o Patron found illustrations and poetry offensive and of poor quality, offbeat, e.g. p.15 "urine" picture of grandmother. [*High Wire Spider* by George Swede]
- o Patron felt the male/female relationship in the book was an extremely negative influence on students: "Burn book (seriously!)." [*One On One* by Jerry Seigel, fiction for grades 9 and up]
- o Patron thought book condoned forced marriages, i.e. teen pregnancies. [*Pennington's Heir* by K.M. Peyton, young adult fiction]
- o Patron felt the book was showing a bad boy who, although he did misbehave, was never punished. Children reading it would think it was cute to be naughty. [*Bad Thad* by Judy Malloy, preschool picture book]
- o "Stereotyped. Reinforces acceptance of problems rather than encouraging action." [*New Friend* by Charlotte Zolotow, preschool fiction]
- o Patron felt book encouraged children to trust strangers. [*Will you Cross Me*, author not given, fiction for grade 1]

- o "The child in the story is wearing a t-shirt with her name on it, which is not recommended practice because of danger from child molesters." [*The Other Emily* by Gibbs Davis, picture book for preschool/primary]
- o "Not proper for a child to read about having to look after a sibling because they are handicapped; children do not understand about people being different." [*Ben* by Victoria Shennon, juvenile fiction]
- o "Didn't think it right that an adult could take over from children and didn't like tone of book." [*The Rotten Old Car* by Geraldine Kaye, fiction for preschool to 7 years old]
- o "Book shows Father Christmas (Santa) drinking alcoholic beverages." [*Father Christmas* by Raymond Briggs, picture book for ages 5-10]
- o Patron said book had no plot or story, sexist, age-discrimination, racist. [*The Just Right Family*, author not given, juvenile fiction]
- o "Did not like children forgetting about dead bird for which they had had a funeral." [*The Dead Bird* by Margaret Wise Brown, fiction for preschool to grade 2]
- o "I was very disappointed to hear the endless stream of insults...I'm trying to teach good vocabulary." [*Two Stupid Dummies* by Mark Thurman, fiction for ages 3-7]
- o "Picture of dog defecating on floor." [*Some Swell Pup* by Maurice Sendak, picture book for ages 4-8]
- o "Not tactful in showing need to have possessions." [*Charlie's Pillow* by Haken Jaensson and Arne Worlin, easy fiction]

Several complainants opposed portrayals of the occult, witchcraft, and religion in literature for children and young adults.

- o Parent objected to devil being blamed for child's unacceptable behavior--felt this went against learning to accept responsibility for own actions. [*The Devil Did It* by Susan Jeschke, fiction for preschool to grade 3]

- "The devil becomes a girl's friend. Becoming a friend of the devil is not good entertainment especially for kids." [*The Devil Did It*]
- "Dragons are devil figures--shouldn't be in a children's book." [*Firerose*, author not given, fiction for ages 3-5]
- "Witchcraft is represented as being a real and vital threat to the lives of children...The resolution of the story leaves the witches and underworld figures in the same powerful and threatening position." [*Hag Head* by Susan Musgrave and Carol Evans, fiction for ages 6-11]
- "Introducing the occult in a matter-of-fact, supposedly innocent way." [*Bumps in the Night* by Harry Allard, picture book for ages 3-8]
- "Devils juxtaposed with church, religion." [*Out of the Oven* by Jan Mark, picture book]
- "Ridicules religion by creating an extra-terrestrial being." [*Les Huits jours du diable dans "Super Tintin"* by D. Convard, comic book for ages 9-13]
- Patron objected on religious grounds--pastor not portrayed correctly in the story. [*The Church Mice at Bay* by Graham Oakly, picture book for ages 3-10]
- Patron said that God was depicted as vengeful, not loving. [*Moses--The Escape from Egypt* by Geoffrey Butcher, board book for preschool-grade 1]

Many complainants objected to representations of violence and what they considered to be excessive or inappropriate violence.

- "Morbid and contains several senseless murders...Teaches children to solve their problems by using violence and murder." [*Big Claus and Little Claus* by Hans Christian Anderson, children's fiction]
- "Violence gratuitous and distasteful. Children torture, rape and finally murder babysitter and successfully blame it on a transient farm worker." [*Let's Go Play at Adams'* by Mendal W. Johnson]
- "Encourages children to feel violence will solve

- problems, encourages revenge--terrible qualities to teach." [*I'll Fix Anthony* by Judith Viorst, picture book for ages 3-10]
- o "Promotes disunity between brothers. There is no love or forgiveness but only hatred and revenge." [*I'll Fix Anthony*]
 - o "Violence condoned. Not a good role model for young children." [*Beast of Monsieur Racine* by Tomi Ungerer, fiction for ages 5 and up]
 - o "Makes nuclear war sound like fun." [*The Butter Battle Book* by Dr. Seuss, fiction for ages 3-8]
 - o "Ending is too warlike." [*The Butter Battle Book*]
 - o "Book condoned war." [*The Butter Battle Book*]
 - o "Fighting, hating and selfishness." [*Mine's the Best* by Bonsall Crosby, easy fiction]
 - o "Emotional content, rape scene, death and cremation may be too intense for junior YA (ages 11-13). Might be more suitable to senior YA (14-16)." [*Crabbe* by William Bell]
 - o "Babysitter wanted to eat kids." [*Mr. and Mrs. Pig's Evening Out* by Mary Rayner, picture book fiction]
 - o "Story is violent, inappropriate for 3 yr. old being left with babysitter." [*Mr. and Mrs. Pig's Evening Out*]
 - o "Child was visibly upset by the pictures of eating a live cat and bird and the final basement picture. Upset by wording and torture scene on pages 23 and 24 especially." [*The Werewolf Family* by Jack Gantos and Nicole Rubel, picture book for ages 4-10]
 - o Too violent for patron's child--fox snapped off the heads of his victims. [*The Story of Henny Penny* illustrated by Tom and Blonnie Holmes, easy fiction]
 - o Patron objected to the second verse of London Bridge, specifically "chopped off their heads." [*Sally Go Round the Sun* by Edith Fowke, preschool fiction]
 - o "This book is gross! It's violent to eat humans--cannibal, and violent to fall apart and split open." [*The Greedy Old Fat Man* illustrated by Paul Galdone, preschool picture book]

- "Frightening for a child because the vain queen eats the heart of Snow White (she thinks it's her heart, actually a wild boar's heart)." [*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Wanda Gag, junior fiction]
- "Child was upset by Tittymouse and Tattymouse because Titty was scalded to death." [*Tales to Tell* by Harold Jones, preschool picture book]
- "Body being beaten, hanging." [*The Punch and Judy Book* by Ron Mann, juvenile/easy fiction]
- Patron was offended by the illustrations in which some faces are grotesque, the giant is scary, and Tom comes out of a cow in a cowpat. [*Adventures of Tom* by Freire Wright, picture book]
- Patron found offensive the part where the tiny woman goes to the graveyard and removes a bone from the top of a grave and then uses it to make soup. [*The Teeny Tiny Woman* by Barbara Seuling, fiction for ages 3-8]
- "Story is gory, very unhappy ending, disturbing to young child." [*Big Monster* by Shane Zarowny, easy fiction]
- Dialogue had frightened child when parent read the book to him. Crocodile eats child. Wanted us to warn parents that book would scare children. [*The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl, easy fiction]
- "Moral dubious, violent, not educational, scary." [*Five Chinese Brothers* by Claire Bishop, children's picture book]

Sexism and racism were often other grounds for challenges.

- "Sexist, taught rigid sex roles--1944 publication." [*Let's Play House* by Lois Lenski, picture book for ages 4-6]
- Patron thought book was damaging to the image of women, contained violence towards women, women portrayed as sex objects. [*King Stork* by Howard Pyle, picture book for ages 6-12]
- "Sexist, anti-male, anti-father, anti-Jewish." [*Fortunate Catastrophe* by Adela Turin, picture book for ages 5-8]

- o "Female teddybear served cocoa to male teddybear at work in post office--sexist." [*Teddybear Postman* by Phoebe Worthington, preschool fiction]
- o "This was the worst of the lot in its description of Indians eg 'naked wild man' p.23, 'naked savages' p.24, 'red devils' p.28." [*Savage Sam* by Fred Gipson, fiction for ages 8-12]
- o "Prejudice against native people; violent, causes fear in young children." [*Indian Summer* by F.N. Monjo, fiction for grades 1-3]
- o "Section on cowboys and Indians is not flattering to the Indians. The girl-boy behavior is also stereotyped. The girls have a passive role overall although it isn't quickly apparent." [*Jump from the Sky*, author not given, fiction for grade 2]
- o Poem "Foreign Children" offensive to Inuit people. [*A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Severson, picture book for ages 3-8]
- o "Pejorative in character depiction...The name Little Black Sambo has been used as a degrading nomenclature...I do not think our public library should be sowing the seeds of disharmony." [*Little Black Sambo* by Helen Bannerman, fiction for ages 3-7]

Several complainants objected to the use of profanity in literature, often urging removal or restriction of material on the basis of a single word.

- o "Use of word 'fuck'." [*Freddy's Book* by John Neufeld, fiction for ages 8-12]
- o "The little boys and girls spoke rudely about a penis as a hot dog." [*Blue Trees, Red Sky* by Norma Klein, picture book for ages 3-7]
- o "It teaches that nudity at play is acceptable--the use of 'slit' instead of 'vagina'." [*Thomas is Different* by Gunilla Wolde, picture book for ages 4-8]
- o "Pg. 11 word 'slut.' Warn other parents." [*Cinderella* illustrated by Bernadette, juvenile fiction]

- o "One part of the text--'Oh my God'." [*Les Aventures de Benji* by Disney, cassette-book for ages 6-8]
- o "Encouraged swearing." ["Soap-Box Derby" by the National Film Board, juvenile video]
- o Patron objected to language (cat called Fluffybum). [*Badjelly the Witch* by Spike Milligan, junior fiction]
- o "Inappropriate language (fucking, whore's guts) and explicit graphics (couples copulating, naked females). The theme (that God is a depraved old man) is equally offensive." [*The Vagabond in Limbo: The Ultimate Alchemist* by Ribera Godard, fiction for young adults and adults]
- o "Might make coarse language seem acceptable--damn, bull, up yours, go to Hell." [*Alan and Naomi* by Myron Levoy, children's fiction]
- o Patron complained about language--bastard, pissed, Hot Damn, and some we could not find. [*Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself* by Judy Blume]
- o "Coarse language--'Mrs. Minish is such a bitch' (p.30). 'Damn that Blubber! (p.50). 'Damn!' Mom said (p.69). Categorize the book so that children under age 11 are less likely to read it." [*Blubber* by Judy Blume, fiction for grades 4-6]

Finally, complainants were opposed to a variety other literary depictions.

- o "Children may perceive wolves to be like domesticated animals, which in fact they are not." [*A Wolf Story* by David McPhail, easy fiction]
- o "Ecologically unsound (garbage was not recycled)." [*Dear Garbage Man* by Gene Zion, picture book for ages 5-7]
- o "Varied from original story." [*The Frog Prince* by Galdone]
- o Written for the "ghetto"--inappropriate here. Had to "translate" the book which she then enjoyed. [*I Been There* by Carol Hall, preschool fiction]

- o "The author deals with some sensitive subjects in a very insensitive manner." [*I Know You, Al* by Constance Greene, fiction for ages 9-15]
- o "Distorted view of humour; illustrations in poor taste." [*Won't Somebody Play With Me* by Steven Kellogg, juvenile fiction]
- o "Language not suitable for young patrons; made mockery of nursery rhymes." [*Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes* by Roald Dahl, juvenile fiction]

Although challenges to juvenile non-fiction were less common than were challenges to adult non-fiction, some of the grounds indicated by complainants were as follows:

- o "Book contained a picture of a woman removing a bra." [book on rock musical group, title and author not given, non-fiction for ages 10-18]
- o "Objection to the title--this is not a book for the young and teenagers are young. Sin is never something to be proud of. I would think this book might result in a very sick society in the future." [*Young, Gay and Proud* edited by Sasha Alyson, young adult non-fiction]
- o "Some vulnerable teenager entering puberty might actually believe that homosexuality is okay and give it a try and reap some serious consequences in later years." [*A Way of Love, A Way of Life* by Frances Hanckel and John Cunningham, young adult non-fiction]
- o "Mention of masturbation, periods, wet dreams could make children experiment early (prepuberty)." [*What's Happening to Me: A Guide to Puberty* by Peter Mayle, young adult non-fiction]
- o Patron objected strongly to one sentence on masturbation being pleasurable, i.e., okay. [*What's Happening to Me: A Guide to Puberty* by Peter Mayle]
- o "Material was very explicit and actually encouraging of teenage girls to experiment with pre-marital sex." [*Girls and Sex* by Wardell B. Pomeroy, young adult non-fiction]

- o "I object to the tone of the chapter on sex. You as librarian are in a perfect position to set a high moral standard for the community." [*The Teenage Survival Book* by Sol Gordon, teen non-fiction]
- o We serve an Iroquois Indian reserve as well as the town of [...]. Tribe member complained book was obscene and spurious. [*Tales from the Smokehouse* by Herbert T. Schwarz, non-fiction for ages 16 and up]
- o "Will initiate curiosity, resulting in sexual experimentation by the children." [*Did the Sun Shine Before You Were Born?* by Sol Gordon, non-fiction for ages 3-7]
- o "My son brought this book to my attention and was upset and embarrassed." [*The Body Book* by Claire Rayner, junior non-fiction]
- o "Too detailed for young children." [*Learning About Sex: Contemporary Guide for Young Adults* by Gary Kelley]
- o As a Catholic parent, patron was concerned that child would have access to such material, especially about birth control. [*Learning about Sex: A Guide for Children and Their Families* by Jennifer Aho]
- o Patron specifically objected to a sentence that used the word "penis"--parent of grade 3 girl felt that she didn't want her daughter to know what a penis was at this early age. [*The Joy of Birth* by Camilla Jessel, described as non-fiction for preschool to grade 3]
- o "Mention of chastity belt." [*Alexander the Great* by Constance C. Greene, non-fiction for ages 10-12]
- o "Sexist statements regarding appropriate behavior for boys and girls." [*Girls and Boys Book of Etiquette* by Barbara Hazen, non-fiction for ages 5-9]
- o Patron believed that if book gets in the hands of the wrong child, a lot of evil could come out of it. Felt it is for university level only. [*Out of the Cauldron* by Bernice Kohn, non-fiction for ages 10-13]
- o Patron said the book was contrary to the teachings of her fundamentalist church. [*The Big Bang* by Lydia Bailey, children's non-fiction]
- o The poster of the rock star Prince was with many others displayed in the YA Listening Centre. The patron found it

offensive that his midriff was exposed, and believed he could see pubic hair.

- o "Very violent methods used to kill the cat are grossly unacceptable." [*The Cat Came Back* by Dahlov Ipear, children's non-fiction]
- o "Prejudicial to the majority community in Sri Lanka." [*A Question of Race* by Beverly Birch, non-fiction for ages 8-12]
- o Patron felt book contained many inaccuracies. [*Gerbils* by Fiona Henrie, children's non-fiction]

Not only was there wide variation in the grounds that complainants offered to justify requests to remove or restrict materials, there were also differences in point of view on the same title. For example, although violence was a recurring theme in complaints about *Lizzy's Lion*, there were many different interpretations given to this theme among the 11 complainants who sought its suppression:

- "Very violent--may frighten children aged 3-6"
- "Unnecessary exposure to violence that a young child does not need to be subjected to"
- "Lion eating up robber--frightening--inappropriate material for young children"
- "Whole book objectionable--caused children to have nightmares"
- "Too violent--a depressing book"
- "Violence was too graphic"
- "Violence--body parts dumped in trash"
- "Violent and scary"
- "Break and enter ideas; insensitive and uncaring about people in general."

Similarly, although sexual explicitness was a recurring theme in objections to *Forever*, several interpretations were also given to this theme by complainants:

- "My daughter's romantic illusions have been shattered. Not suitable for an 11-year old"
- Patron objected to this book being considered a children's book when it had sex scenes
- Patron thought subject matter was teaching children to have sex
- Patron did not want his teenaged daughter reading a sexually explicit book
- "Too much sex, no remorse on girl's part"
- "Too sexually explicit"
- "Too explicitly sexual."

The grounds for objections to *Wifey* were also expressed in a variety of ways:

- Unsuitable for children--adult material written by popular children's author
- Patron felt that it was inappropriate for YA--cover listed book as adult, too explicit sexually
- Not for children
- Patron was extremely upset as to sexual nature of book and very angry as to placement
- "Unsuitable for young people"
- "Entire content."

The reasons for objections to *Slugs* were as follows:

- Too violent for children
- "The book is a bad influence on child-animal relationships and is generally in bad taste"
- "Gross content, extreme violence indicated, would promote violence and cruelty in children, etc."

With *The Haj*, grounds for challenges ranged from charges that it was anti-Arab to charges that it was pro-Jewish:

- "Unfair treatment of Arabs--openly racist"
- "Statements in this book e.g. 'women are the chattel of me' (p.11) are in the opinion of the Muslim Association 'typical traditional insults of Islam and work of mischiefmongers'"
- "Racial slurs, misrepresentation of a particular group"
- "Depiction of Arabian people"
- "Portrayed Arabs in a bad light"
- Patron felt topic was biased in favour of Jewish faith.

Objections to *Where Did I Come From?* were as follows:

- Patron felt book was too explicit and damaging to her 9-yr. old son who was going into the Priesthood
- "Unsuitable for children without parental supervision...writing in poor taste...pictures presented in a poor manner... encourages children to experiment"
- Patron said chapter "Making Love" was too much of a how-to and inappropriate for age of readers to which it was directed
- Patron felt book should be housed in office because children shouldn't be able to get at it themselves; subject matter should be dealt with by parent.

Objections to *Outside Over There* were as follows:

- "Desensitizes children to accept ugly; shows children expected to take on an adult's responsibility; the magic has an occult flavour; the illustrations make the gnomes look like adults"
- "Terrifying pictures"
- "Unnatural, scary story, not educational"
- "Simply weird, not suitable for children...doesn't make sense."

The multiplicity of grounds that have been advanced to justify challenges to library materials is best explained by reference to reading theory. The reader, or viewer or listener, participates in creating the meaning of a text. Indeed, sometimes the reader's interpretation of meaning is so divergent that it appears the reader has created her or his own text quite independent of whatever the author intended. Response to a text is based in the reader's personal history, in the reader's reading history, and in the text itself (see, among others, Chambers, 1983). The reader reacts to a text, consciously or unconsciously, on the basis of several socially constructed criteria. Among these criteria are literary merit, social merit (that is, a text's efficacy as an instrument for socializing

individuals into acceptance of certain values and morals), and perceived popularity. These complex interactions are no better illustrated than in the frequently divergent reasons that people give for disapproving the same title.

4. What Did Complainants Want?

Regardless of the varying grounds for challenges, what action did the complainants want carried out? Table 26 shows the pattern of demands made by complainants.

Table 26. Action Requested by Complainants, 1985-1987

<u>Action Requested</u>	<u>Challenged Titles</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Remove	481	76%
Restrict access	39	6
Relocate children's to young adult	37	6
Relocate young adult to adult	23	4
Relocate children's to adult	11	2
Label	16	2
Reclassify	5	1
Alter content	2	<1
Not specific	<u>20</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	634	100%

Three out of four complainants wanted the offending material removed from the public library collection--some even wanted it burned or destroyed as well! And a fringe element also wanted the library staff punished in draconian ways. One-quarter of the complainants wanted some form of restriction imposed on the offending material, or action that would have had the effect of restriction. Internal relocations made up 12 percent of the

requests, usually from children's to young adult or adult sections. While most of these requests were made on the grounds of "unsuitability for a particular age group", many may have been attempts to discourage access by making it harder for certain age groups to find a given item. Other complainants were more forthright in calling for barriers to access: 6 percent requested that borrowing privileges or in-house use be explicitly restricted by age. In addition, a small number of complainants wanted a warning label placed on an item, a few wanted materials to be reclassified, and a very small number even wanted content altered.

Some 20 complainants were not specific about what they wanted the library to do, and there is some question whether or not these cases constituted collection challenges *per se*. Nonetheless, the survey respondents themselves reported these incidents as challenges, so they have been treated as such in the analysis.

The action requested by a complainant (removal or restriction) depended on several factors: age level of the offending title, grounds for a challenge, and whether the challenge was communicated verbally or in writing. Statistical analysis shows that these patterns were significant (Table F72 in Appendix F). By age level, 48 percent of the titles slated for removal were adult, while for restriction it was only 33 percent of adult titles. The reverse was true for children and young

adults: 22 percent of the titles slated for removal were children's, while for restriction it was 28 percent; 22 percent of titles for removal were young adult, while for restriction it was 34 percent.

By grounds for challenges, complainants wanted withdrawn virtually all of the titles alleged to be pornographic and 9 out of 10 titles deemed "to promote negative moral values." On the other hand, only half of the titles judged "unsuitable for age group" were targeted for withdrawal.

Medium of communication also made a difference in the kind of action requested by complainants. Of requests for removal, 70 percent were made verbally, while 81 percent were in writing.

Action requested by complainants was not associated with the publication format of offending titles, with whether they were fiction or nonfiction, or with the recency of their publication. Institutional characteristics--type of governance, dominant language of the community, municipal population, registered borrowers, and library circulation--were also unrelated to the kind of action requested by complainants. Statistical analysis confirms that there were no significant differences (Table F72 in Appendix F).

There were many requests that public library staff act *in loco parentis* by removing or restricting materials, or by denying to a particular child access to certain titles or subjects. One parent told the library staff that she wanted them

to remove the teen novel *Queen of What If* by Norma Klein because the language was too frank for her 12 year old and "she couldn't pre-read everything the child brought home." Another patron wanted the library to withdraw *The Companion* by Scott Siegel, a story for 12-year-olds, because it was a horror story. The patron said to staff: "What do you mean by letting my child read such a book."

Still another patron wanted her son--but only her son--to be denied access to *Hoodoo Conjuraction Witchcraft Rootwork* by Harry Middleton Hyatt. The survey respondent wrote:

Apparently he was bringing it home repeatedly. Complainant did not want general access to be restricted, but threatened to burn the book if her son brought it home again.

In yet another instance, a parent reported that his six-year old daughter had read *Don't Hurt Me Mama* by Muriel Stanek and was frightened by the content on child abuse; he felt the book should be in the adult section, although he agreed that it was well done and if he had been aware of the nature of the book, his child would not have read it.

Not only did the reasons expressed by complainants for challenges to materials reveal diversity in their attitudes and values, but their demands also took on a variety of forms. In the case of *Lizzy's Lion*, for example, out of 11 challenges, five complainants wanted the book withdrawn from the collection, two wanted it relocated from the picture book shelf, one patron

said to "put it in an upper elementary section or discard it completely," and one wanted it reviewed by the library staff; respondents reported that two complainants were unclear in what action they wanted taken.

Similarly, out of the 8 challenges to *Forever*, five complainants wanted it withdrawn, two wanted access restricted to people over a certain age, and one was not specific. Out of six challenges to *Wifey*, three complainants wanted it withdrawn, two wanted it relocated to the adult collection and restricted in access, and one said "do not let my daughter take these books out." In the case of *Slugs*, the challenges were more uniform: all six complainants wanted it removed from the collection. Challenges to *The Haj* were also uniform: five out of the six complainants wanted it withdrawn, while one did not say. In the case of *Where Did I Come From?*, two complainants wanted the book removed, and two wanted it relocated internally, one said to the office so that it would have to be asked for and the other said to a parent's shelf. In the case of *Outside Over There*, three complainants wanted it withdrawn, and one wanted children to be warned about it.

One respondent noted the peculiarity of complainant demands that children's material be withdrawn from all patrons rather than just from children:

I find it interesting that all of the requests for withdrawal that we receive are made by adults on behalf of children/young adults, and yet the majority of recommendations suggest that the books should be withdrawn from all patrons.

Summary

Regardless of any factor considered in this study, it can be confidently stated that complaints about titles in public library collections are motivated by individual opinions. Fewer than 600 individuals were so concerned about words and ideas expressed in public library materials that they attempted to intervene in the institutional process. Nonetheless, the actions of this small group of people had the potential to affect access to particular materials by more than 13 million other Canadian residents. Three in four challenges called for the removal of the offending material from the public library collection. Complainants were about half adults and half parents who said they were acting for themselves. Nonetheless, the majority of complainants targeted materials written for children and young adults. Requests to remove or restrict material were communicated to staff almost equally in verbal and written forms, although the proportion that were verbally conveyed is probably understated.

Most of the challenged items were published in the 1980s, either books of nonfiction written for adults or books of fiction written for children and young adults. More than 500 different titles were challenged, and there were as well 21 complaints against multiple titles in a particular genre or subject area or by a particular author.

Complainants gave 857 reasons for their requests to remove or restrict access to the 498 titles specifically identified in

the study. The most common grounds were sexual explicitness, nudity, and pornography. Second were objections to violence, cruelty, and scary works. Third were objections to titles deemed unsuitable for a particular age group, often in combination with additional grounds such as sex or violence. These three clusters of reasons accounted for over half of all challenges between 1985 and 1987. This pattern was similar to the findings of American studies with the exception of complaints about violence, which figured prominently in the present study but ranked very low in American findings.

Most titles were challenged once only, but a few were challenged several times. Similarly, most authors had only one work challenged, while a few had many works challenged. These patterns suggest that, although it may not be possible to predict specific titles that will be vulnerable to censorship pressure in the future, specific subjects can be identified. In the case of highly cited titles and authors, however, there may be an exception: a few titles and authors have been challenged consistently throughout the 1980s. This is corroborated by the findings of previous studies.

C. Outcomes of Direct Challenges

How did public library staff across Canada respond to challenges? In 540 or 86 percent of the disputes, challenged titles were retained. However, not all of these titles were

retained intact on regular library shelves. In 58 instances (13 percent), materials were either relocated within the library, reclassified, labelled, or restricted by age or grade level. In 8 relocations, titles were removed to library storage, a cupboard, "the back room," staff work sections, or an office. The general effect of most of these relocations, reclassifications, labellings, and age restrictions on challenged materials might have been some limitation on access. If a title was in the catalog and not on the shelf, the patron would have to ask for it; this is no different, however, from trying to find a book that is already in circulation except that the librarian will be able to retrieve and provide it from wherever it is stored. On the other hand, some patrons rely on serendipitous browsing, and in this case the chances of identifying useful titles would be affected. Reduced access therefore might lead to reduced use, but there is no way of verifying this. In six challenges, titles were only temporarily removed and later returned to the collection, sometimes at the request of other patrons. One respondent said that a title was removed for a few months "until other patrons requested it," and another said that a juvenile title was removed until the opinions of several parents were sought, who recommended putting it back. Another respondent noted that a title was removed until a patron on exchange from another country returned to their home. While these actions amounted to a denial of patron access for some period of time,

they have been viewed in this study somewhat differently than permanent withdrawals.

Table 27 shows the result of challenges over the three years of the study.

Table 27. Outcomes of Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Challenges</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Retained without change	448	72%
Relocated internally	58	9
Restricted by age/grade	21	3
Reclassified	4	1
Labelled	3	<1
Removed temporarily	6	1
Removed permanently	85	14
Total	625	100%

Comparison with other studies shows that the Canada-wide rate of public library withdrawal identified in the present survey is relatively low. In the one-year study by Beta Associates (1982) of larger public libraries across the country, respondents reported that 39 percent of challenges had resulted in the removal of materials. In his one-year study of Alberta public libraries, Walker (1984) found that 29 percent of the challenges resulted in withdrawal of materials. In Manitoba public libraries, Jenkinson (1985, 1986) found over a two-year period that juvenile materials were withdrawn in 16 percent of the challenges. In Hopkins' (1991b) three-year secondary school library study in the U.S., 26 percent of the questioned materials were removed (p.4:27).

Table 28 shows the extent to which public library staff adhered to institutional policy in dealing with challenges.

Table 28. Policy Adherence in Resolving Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

<u>Policy Followed</u>	<u>Challenges</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	495	90%
Partially	44	8
No	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	553	100%

Among institutions that had a policy to deal with challenges, respondents reported that it was followed in 90 percent of the cases resolved between 1985 and 1987. In Hopkins' (1991b) study of U.S. secondary school libraries, among institutions with a library materials selection policy of any kind, only two in three respondents indicated that their policy was used during a challenge. Even among this group, there was considerable variation in the extent to which the policy was used (p.4:30).

Table 29 shows the pattern of administrative involvement in resolving challenges.

Table 29. Administrative Level in Resolving Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

Administrative Level	Challenges	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Chief executive officer	192	32%
Branch manager	128	21
Senior management	84	14
Public library board	57	9
Head, children's services	53	9
Supervisor other than management	26	4
Head, public relations	19	3
Review committee	17	3
Municipal council	14	2
Head, youth services	8	1
Head, adult services	6	1
School official	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	608	100%

Decisions about how to handle challenges were made most frequently by the chief executive officer (32 percent), by a branch manager (21 percent), or by a variety of other senior managers such as head of children's services, head of young adult services, head of adult services, or head of public relations (28 percent). In 9 percent of the incidents, the decision was made by the public library board, and in 2 percent by the municipal council. In only 3 percent of the incidents was a review committee involved in resolving disputes.

Almost half of the challenges were resolved within a month--and in fact, many were resolved on the same day as the complaint was made. While another 28 percent took up to two months to resolve, a total of 96 percent were resolved within six months of initiation. Some 18 challenges took seven months or

longer to resolve, including one that took 34 months. Nine challenges were still unresolved at the end of 1987, including one that had been initiated in 1978. Table F73 in Appendix F shows the length of time taken to resolve challenges.

In only 24 challenges, or 4 percent of 624 incidents, was there a report in the local media. This reinforces a finding by Laurie Bildfell (1984) that only 8 accounts of book bannings could be found in Canadian newspapers in 1982. Almost all of the media coverage in the present study consisted of newspaper articles; in one challenge a radio interview was also involved. None of the reported challenges was covered by journals or magazines--a noteworthy finding in view of Melody Burton's (1986) analysis of Canadian periodical literature, which identified 240 periodical articles on freedom of expression and freedom of access between 1981 and 1985. In Hopkins' (1991b) study of U.S. secondary school libraries, less than 6 percent of the challenges resulted in media coverage (p.4:27).

Table 30 shows the reasons given by complainants for those challenges that resulted in permanent withdrawals from public library collections.

Table 30. Reasons for Direct Challenges to Titles Withdrawn, 1985-1987

Complainant Reason	Challenged Titles	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Sexually explicitness, nudity	24	19%
Violence, cruelty	18	14
Unsuitable for age group	16	13
Pornographic	13	10
Promotes negative moral values	11	9
Misinformation, bias	8	6
Scary, frightening to child	5	4
Offensive to religion, blasphemous	5	4
Sexist, demeaning to women	5	4
Coarse language, profanity	4	3
Promotes homosexuality	4	3
Promotes the occult, witchcraft	4	3
Racist	4	3
Badly written	3	2
Anti-semitic	2	2
Promotes drug use	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	127	100%

Complainant grounds for withdrawn materials paralleled the grounds given for all challenges: sexual explicitness, nudity, and pornography (29 percent for withdrawn titles versus 22 percent for all challenges); violence, cruelty, and scary themes (18 percent for withdrawn titles versus 19 percent for all challenges); and unsuitability for a particular age group (13 percent for withdrawn titles versus 14 percent for all challenges).

It should also be noted that public library responses to challenged titles were not always consistent across the country. Just as complainants did not always request the same action for a given title, public library staff did not always respond in the

same way for a given title. Some challenges resulted in retention, others in internal relocation, and still others in withdrawal. Among the most frequently challenged titles already identified, the following mixed outcomes were noted:

- o Of the 11 challenges to *Lizzy's Lion*, 8 resulted in retention of the title after discussion with complainants. But in 2 cases, it was relocated to a juvenile section, and in another, it was taken out of circulation temporarily.
- o Of the 8 challenges to *Forever*, 5 resulted in retention of the title after discussion with complainants. In two cases, it was relocated to a young adult section (one respondent noted, however, that children could still take out YA books if they wished to), and in another, it was temporarily removed but later returned to the shelves.
- o Of the 6 challenges to *Wifey*, outcomes were equally divided between retention and relocation; in one case, it was relocated to adult fiction, in another to a supervised shelf, and in the third to a restricted adult cart. Of the 6 challenges to *Slugs*, outcomes were more uniform: in all cases it was retained, although in one instance it was recatalogued to poetry in the children's section. In all 6 challenges to *The Haj*, the book was retained.
- o Of the 4 challenges to *Where Did I Come From?*, 2 resulted in retention and 2 in relocation. Of the 4 challenges to *Outside Over There*, 3 resulted in retention and 1 in a warning label written on the pocket.

In examining factors that might account for the final outcome of direct challenges to public library collections, analysis shows that outcome depended on factors that can be clustered into two groupings, challenge characteristics and institutional characteristics:

a) characteristics of the challenge--whether the offending title was fiction or nonfiction, its age level, grounds for a

challenge, whether library policy was followed in handling a challenge, and whether local media reported the incident, and b) institutional and demographic characteristics--number of challenges that were experienced, number of titles on the controversial materials checklist that were owned, whether there was an objections policy, an objections form, or a donations policy, existence of a consent requirement for minors, type of governance unit, dominant language of the community, municipal population, registered borrowers, and library circulation. Statistical analysis shows that all of these factors were significant as determinants of whether offending titles were retained or withdrawn by the library (Table F74 in Appendix F).

By characteristics of a challenge, 88 percent of the offending fiction was retained, compared to 79 percent of the nonfiction. By age level, 27 percent of the titles retained were elementary, compared to 12 percent withdrawn. For adult titles, the reverse was true: 59 percent of removed titles were adult, in contrast to 41 percent of retained titles. By grounds for challenges, only 58 percent of titles alleged to be pornographic were retained, compared to a mean of 85 percent overall. In contrast, of items with offensive language, 93 percent were retained, and of those alleged to be "unsuitable for age group," 91 percent were retained.

The retention rate was higher in institutions in which library policy was followed in dealing with challenges. In 89

percent of the disputes where library policy was followed, the offending material was retained. This contrasts with the rate of retention for disputes in which library policy was not followed or only followed in part, 75 percent and 49 percent, respectively. The retention rate was higher in disputes that did not involve local media coverage: 85 percent of the challenged items were retained in disputes not reported in the local media, while only half of the challenged items were retained in disputes covered by the media. It should be noted, however, that the total number of cases reported in the media was very small, 21 disputes compared to 588 not reported.

By characteristics of the institution, retention rates were higher in multi-branch systems and in English language institutions. Of incidents where material was retained, 77 percent occurred in single-unit libraries, compared to 89 percent in systems. Of incidents where material was retained, 87 percent were in English language institutions, compared to 53 percent in their French language counterparts. Retention rates were higher in larger municipalities. Institutions that retained offending material served an average 152,000 people, reported 70,000 registered borrowers, and circulated 1.5 million items. By comparison, those which withdrew titles served 86,000 people, had 38,000 borrowers, and circulated 754,000 items.

Retention rates were higher in institutions that had an objections policy and form as well as a donations policy. Of

incidents where material was retained, 88 percent occurred in institutions that had either an objections policy or form. In cases where there was no policy, the retention rate was only 73 percent of challenged items; where there was no form, it was 78 percent. Similarly, of incidents where material was retained, 86 percent occurred in institutions with a donations policy, compared to 74 percent in those without one. Retention rates were higher in institutions that did not require minors to have consent to use the library. Of the incidents where materials were retained, 90 percent occurred in institutions that had no consent requirement. In contrast, 73 percent occurred in institutions with a consent requirement.

Institutions that experienced a higher rate of challenges tended to retain the material more than those experiencing a lower rate of challenges. Institutions that retained offending titles reported on average 9 challenges over three years, while those removing them reported under 7.

Retention of challenged material was also more likely in institutions reporting high rates of ownership of the controversial materials checklist. Institutions that retained offending material owned an average of 21 checklist titles. Among institutions that withdrew material, there were fewer than 17 titles per library.

Retention rates were not associated with any of the following factors: whether the challenged title was a print or

nonprint format, whether the challenged title was published recently, whether the challenge was communicated verbally or in writing, whether complainants represented themselves or a child, the administrative level at which the dispute was resolved, the length of time taken for resolution, the presence of a selection policy, support for the CIA Statement, the presence of an age restriction on borrowing privileges, the presence of differential treatment of potentially controversial material, or pressure to acquire or accept material for the collection. Statistical analysis confirms that the retention of challenged titles was not significantly related to any of these factors (Table F74 in Appendix F).

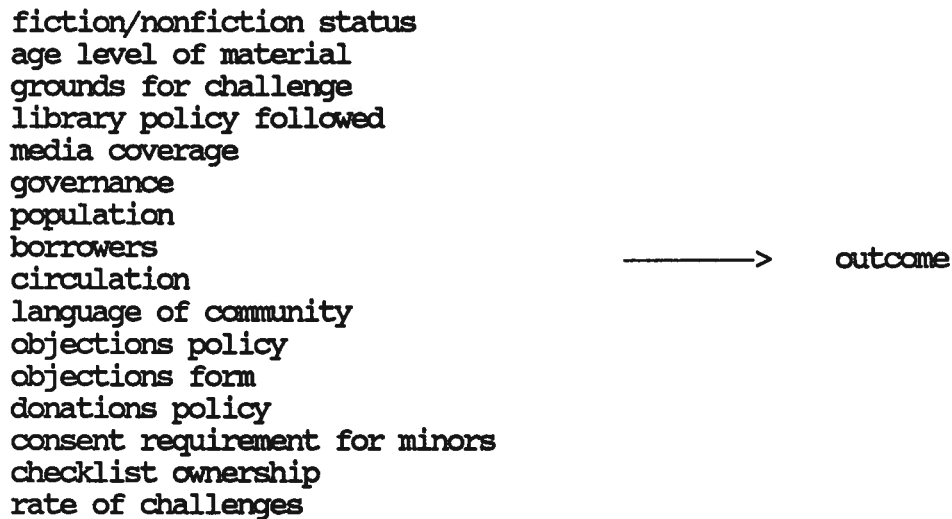
This picture of influences is summarized below.

Table 31. Summary of Influences on the Outcomes of Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

<u>Retention</u>	<u>Removal</u>
o fiction	o non-fiction
o elementary age group	o adult
o offensive language	o pornographic
o unsuitability for age group	o library policy not followed
o library policy followed	o media coverage
o no media coverage	o single library
o library system	o less population
o more population	o fewer borrowers
o more borrowers	o less circulation
o more circulation	o French language community
o English language community	o no objections policy
o objections policy	o no form for objections
o form for objections	o no donations policy
o donations policy	o consent requirement
o no consent requirement	o fewer checklist titles
o more checklist titles	o fewer direct challenges
o more direct challenges	

These relationships of influence can be shown in the following diagrammatic form:

Figure 8. Model of Predictors of Outcomes of Direct Challenges to Public Library Collections



Insofar as they are comparable, the pattern of outcomes documented here is somewhat different from the pattern for secondary school library media centers that Hopkins (1991b, pp.7:1,13) found in her nationwide U.S. study covering the three school years 1986-1987 through 1988-1989. She found that material was more likely to be retained where there was a board-approved selection policy that was followed during the challenge process, the school had a large enrolment, the challenge was in written form, the challenged material was fiction, and the challenged material was in book format. Caution

is advised in making comparisons, however, because in her statistical analysis Hopkins included "restricted" material with withdrawals, not with retentions as the present study did.

D. Withdrawn Titles

The following discussion profiles those challenged titles that were withdrawn from public library collections across the country between 1985 and 1987. Respondents reported that the following titles were withdrawn in accordance with extant policy for dealing with objections:

- adult comics (several titles)
- a heavy metal magazine
- a poster of Prince
- *An Act of Mercy: Euthanasia Today*, by Richard Trubo
- *Algonquins of the Eastern Woodland*, by Edward Rogers
- *Les Aventures magiques de Corentin au Pays de PipiCaca*
- *Big Bigger Biggest*, by Edward Dolch
- *The Body Politic*
- *Brave Cowboy*, by Joan Anglund
- *The Brothers Lionheart*, by Astrid Linogren
- *Cinderella*, by Jacob Grimm
- *Dancer of Gor*, by John Norman
- *The Devil Did It*, by Susan Jeschke
- *Dirty Beasts*, by Roald Dahl
- *The Discipline of Raising Children*, by M.A. Treadwell
- *Fell's Guide to Doubling Performance of Your Car*, by Phillip Hampton
- *Lamia*, by Tristan Travis
- *Let's Go Play at Adam's*, by Mendal W. Johnson
- *Meet the Mormons*, by Jack Roundhill
- *Men in Love: Male Sexual Fantasies*, by Nancy Friday
- *Murder in the Family*, by Marc Brandel (two challenges)
- *National Lampoon*
- *Ninja Death Touch*, by Ashida Kim
- *Le Petit chaperon rouge*, by Bruno de la Salle
- *Petit et grand Albert*
- *Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes*
- *The Ultimate Frontier*, by Eklal Kueshana
- *The Werewolf Family*, by Jack Gantos and Nicole Rubel
- *You Think Just Because You're Big You're Right*, by Albert Cullum
- *Where Do I Come From?* by Peter Mayle.

In the case of some challenges, respondents reported that library policy was not followed or only partially followed in deciding to withdraw items. The titles were:

- adult western paperbacks (several titles)
- *Annie on My Mind*, by Nancy Garden
- *Catherine saute au paf*, by Cabu
- *Daddy is a Monster...Sometimes*, by John Steptoe
- *Did the Sun Shine Before You Were Born?* by Sol Gordon
- *Lizzy's Lion*, by Dennis Lee
- *Mons corps est à elles*, by Wolinski
- *Nine and a Half Weeks*, by Elizabeth McNeill
- *Paulette*, by Wolinski
- *The Penguin Book of Limericks*, by E.O. Parrott
- *Playboar*
- *Les Rockeurs sanctifiés*, by Lucien Francoeur
- *Secrets of the Ninja*, by Ashida Kim
- *Seven Little Monsters*, by Maurice Sendak
- *Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings*, by Joel Chandler Harris
- *Zoom*.

In the case involving *Lizzy's Lion*, the respondent noted that the book was temporarily taken out of circulation even though in this instance the complainant had not requests any specific action. In another challenge, in a joint public-school library, the survey respondent reported that a school trustee "circumvented normal channels, took book to board meeting and all hell broke loose!!!"

The following items were withdrawn from institutions that reported having no policy for dealing with objections:

- *La Bas*
- *Boys on the Rock*, by John Fox
- *Creepshow*, by Stephen King
- *Diary of a Drug Fiend*, by Aleister Crowley
- *Fungus the Boogeyman*
- *Guide des caresse*, by Pierre Valinief

- *L'Histoire de Kiki Grabouille*, by Jeanne Willis and Margaret Chamberlain
- *La Femme piege*
- *Fit for Life*, by Harvey and Marilyn Diamond
- *The Joy of Life*, by Alan Kingdom
- *Lampoon*
- *Marmouset et Makumba*, by Dina-K. Tourneur
- *Naomi in the Middle*, by Norma Klein
- *Poilus, Vélus, Barbus*, by Babette Cole
- *Reproduction*, by Gynne Verers
- *La Vagabond des limbes*, by Christian Godard and Ribera
- *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*
- *Witchery Hill*, by Katz
- *Witches*, by Usborne.

Of the 24 incidents reported in local media, more titles were withdrawn than in the study at large. There were 9 withdrawals, 7 retentions, and 4 internal relocations (the offending material was stolen in 2 other cases and resolution had not been achieved in 2 others at the time of the study). The titles involved in media reports are indicated below, together with the outcomes of the challenges:

- *adult westerns* (removed)
- *La Bas* (removed)
- *The Body Politic* (removed)
- *Catherine Saute au Paf* (removed)
- *Mon Corps Est à Elles* (removed)
- *Murder in the Family* (removed)
- *Paulette* (removed)
- *Les Rockeurs sanctifiés* (removed)
- *Zoom* (removed)

- *Devils and Demons* (retained)
- *Father Christmas* (retained)
- *The Haj* (retained)
- *Paris Match* (retained)
- *The Rapist File* (two challenges, in both cases retained)
- *The Vagabond of Limbo: What is Reality, Papa?* (retained)

- *Forever* (relocated to young adult)
- *Lizzy's Lion* (relocated to juvenile non-fiction)
- *The Vagabond of Limbo: The Ultimate Alchemist* (relocated to adult fiction)

- *When the Wind Blows* (relocated to adult)
- *Healing the Family* (stolen)
- *South African Digest* (stolen)
- *Spectre of Power* (unresolved)
- *Web of Deceit* (unresolved)

Some of the reasons why respondents withdrew certain materials from their collections may well be grounded in legitimate selection policy criteria, especially as applied to nonfiction: materials contained factually incorrect information; materials were obsolete or irrelevant; materials were little or never used; materials were inappropriately selected in the first place; and, materials were being replaced with others of better quality in one way or another, for example, providing a more balanced perspective. As such, they would have little claim to public library shelf space.

Some of the withdrawals reported by respondents that appear to have been justifiable in light of such criteria were:

- o *Dr. Abravanel's Body Type Program for Health, Fitness and Nutrition*, by Elliott D. Abravanel. The respondent wrote to the publisher about dangerous misinformation in this book, requesting that a corrected page be sent to replace the incorrect information. The publisher replied that the hardcover edition contained an inadvertent typographical error which had been corrected in the paperback edition and all stocks of the hardcover had been destroyed.
- o *Nerves in Collision*, by Walter Alvarez. In response to a complaint that this book contained erroneous information about epilepsy that could harm people with the disorder, expert opinion was sought by the library staff. It was determined that the information in the book was dated and should be replaced by up-to-date titles, and it was therefore withdrawn.

- o *Fell's Guide to Doubling Performance of Your Car*, by Phillip Hampton. The complainant alleged that this book contained incorrect information, but it was not clear, from the information provided in the survey response, what the nature of the incorrect information was or whether expert opinion was sought before it was withdrawn. Given the lack of information on which to judge, this may be considered a "borderline" case.
- o *This is the Cocker Spaniel*, by Leon F. Whitney. The challenge to this 30-year-old book was based on the "cruel methods" of dog training advocated by the veterinarian author. The staff sought the opinion of the local veterinarian, who considered the methods "pretty draconian." The respondent informed the publisher of the withdrawal of the title from the library and also suggested a revision to it, since there are more "enlightened" dog-training methods available. The publisher, however, disagreed and chastised the respondent for infringing on the right to freedom of expression, comparing the withdrawal to Hitler's book-burning methods.
- o *Girls and Boys Book of Etiquette*, by Barbara Hazen. The respondent agreed with the complainant that there were better etiquette books for children than this one published in 1971.
- o *An Act of Mercy: Euthanasia Today*, by Richard Trubo. Unfortunately, the respondent only indicated that the complainant objected to the "out-of-date" information in this 1973 book. It is therefore impossible to judge whether the complainant wished more current material to be substituted, or whether the challenge was on other grounds, such as that euthanasia was "out of date." Given the lack of information on which to judge, this may be considered a "borderline" case.

Several respondents noted that challenged items had been acquired inadvertently or had arrived unsolicited. Some of their comments were as follows:

- o *The Word of the Lord Brought to Mankind by an Angel*, by W. Draves. The complainant alleged that this book was biased and offered no substantiation for its claims. The respondent noted that it had been received unsolicited from the publisher. After discussion by the library board, it was returned to the publisher as unsolicited material. There was

no indication by the respondent that the library had a selection policy for dealing with religious material or a donation policy for dealing with unsolicited material, so this may be another "borderline" case.

- o *La Bas*, an adult comic book. The respondent agreed with the complainant that this book should be removed: "After taking a picture by picture look at the book, I realized what had slipped through my hands. I destroyed it in the wood stove."
- o *Ryder, The Tong Wars*, by Cole Weston. The respondent wrote to the complainant explaining that this title had been purchased inadvertently as part of a bulk order, and would be withdrawn.
- o *Somebody Stole Second*, by Louise Munro Foley. The respondent reported that this title was an uncatalogued paperback that had not been chosen by the library's selection committee.
- o *Barbe-bleue*, by Jacques Martin. The respondent observed that this book must have arrived in the library with a large order of comic books and was obviously not examined by the children's librarian. It was definitely not suitable for a children's library, or even intended by the publisher as a book for young children.
- o *Image of the Beast*, by P. Jose Farmer. The respondent noted that the library board and staff agreed that this title was unsuitable for the collection.
- o *The Nursery*, by William W. Johnstone. The respondent noted that paperbacks were normally chosen on the basis of notes on the cover, which in this case inaccurately described the book's contents.
- o *Witchcraft and Black Magic*, by Peter Haining. The respondent wrote that reviews indicated this book was of poor quality and on this basis and its physical condition, it was withdrawn.
- o *Tales from the Smokehouse*, by Herbert T. Schwarz. The respondent wrote that: "We were not concerned about the erotica, but we could not tolerate the inaccuracies."
- o *Torture Tomb*, by C.D. Andersson. The respondent noted that: "Book was removed due to: a) condition, b) no redeeming qualities being evident."

- o *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, by Arthur Butz (two challenges). One respondent wrote: "Please note that provincial Attorney General's office has informed us that RCMP was informed the book is illegal according to Canada Customs and that legal action could ensue if Library circulates. Consequently the book still sits awaiting someone else to test its status, for the legal fees in such suits are beyond budget!"
- o *New Internationalist*. The respondent noted that this magazine did not circulate much.
- o *Croc*. The respondent noted that this magazine was removed because of the problem of binding--once borrowed it had to be mended right away.
- o *Creepshow*, by Stephen King. The respondent wrote that this title had been due to be weeded shortly anyway, and it was objectionable to many parents for youth to be reading Stephen King (the only volume by him in the youth collection).
- o *Naomi in the Middle* and *Creepshow*. The respondent wrote: "I have only removed two books for content. One was called *Naomi in the Middle*. A board member paged through it before it was processed and suggested that I read it before putting it out. I did and decided that it was a "nothing" sort of book and not worth the effort to process. The other was *Creepshow* by Stephen King--a protean horror. I read it after 4 kids complained that it was too scary and they had nightmares from it. I thought it was pretty extreme and removed it from circulation. I was not asked to remove the book in either case."
- o (title not given). The respondent wrote that donations were often accepted and catalogued for the shelves, particularly paperback shelves: "This particular patron was offering his helpful assistance and was suggesting we rid ourselves of a lousy book. Staff person did so; however, this is not the ideal way to handle a complaint."
- o (title not given). The respondent commented that a sex education book for youth had been bought on the strength of a newspaper article, but it did not fit into the library's selection criteria.
- o (title not given). The respondent wrote that this paperback was falling apart and would have been discarded without the complaint about teen premarital sex.

The arguments in favor of "justifiable censorship" of the above materials have less to do with censorship than with selection and weeding. The removal of material that is outdated, factually incorrect, or potentially harmful is good collection management and should not be viewed as action that denies patron access--nor should those who inform library staff about the contents of such material be automatically labelled censors. In this same vein, Jenkinson (1986) observed that:

Some challenges...are going to be completely legitimate, and so the task then becomes one of ensuring that a process is in place to respond consistently and appropriately to valid requests while rejecting those that are not worthy. (p. 15)

Summary

The profile of direct challenges reported in this study for the three-year period from 1985 to 1987 is as follows:

- o at least one direct challenge occurred every day of the year somewhere in Canada
- o 21 percent of public libraries were affected annually
- o 600 individuals challenged public library materials
- o 188 public libraries reported 687 challenges altogether, averaging 1.2 challenges per year per affected institution
- o French and English language institutions were equally affected
- o 3 challenges per 100,000 population per year were initiated
- o 83 percent of complainants lodged only one challenge during three years
- o 5 percent of challenges were by or on behalf of groups

- o challenges were communicated about equally between verbal and written forms
- o 94 percent of challenges were to materials in print format
- o 74 percent of challenges were to fiction
- o 56 percent of challenges were to materials for children and teenagers
- o 1979 was the mean publication date of challenged titles
- o more than 500 titles were challenged, 87 percent only once during three years
- o 21 challenges were to multiple titles by an author or to a particular genre or subject area
- o 22 percent of challenges were on the grounds of sexual explicitness, nudity, and pornography, followed by 19 percent on the grounds of violence, cruelty, and scary themes
- o 76 percent of challenges were to remove materials
- o 86 percent of challenges resulted in retention of material
- o 90 percent of challenges were dealt with according to library policy for handling challenges
- o 32 percent of challenges were decided by the chief executive officer and another 21 percent by a branch manager
- o 47 percent of challenges were resolved within a month of initiation
- o 96 percent of challenges were never reported in local media.

Challenged material was more likely to be retained if:

- o it was fiction rather than non-fiction,
- o it was for an elementary age group rather than for adults,
- o it was targeted because of offensive language or of unsuitability for age group rather because of pornographic content,

- o library policy was followed in the challenge process,
- o there was no local media coverage,
- o the library was a multi-branch system rather than a single unit,
- o the library served a large municipality in terms of population, borrowers, and circulation,
- o the dominant language of the community was English rather than French, and
- o there was a written objections policy,
- o there was a form for dealing with objections,
- o there was a donations policy,
- o the library did not require minors to have consent,
- o the library owned a large number of checklist titles,
- o the library experienced more direct challenges.

E. Effects of Direct Challenges

Public library respondents who experienced direct challenges were asked to indicate their effects on institutional policies and practices. First, they were asked to comment on whether, in looking back on the challenges received and the experience of handling them, they would have changed their approach generally or in any particular circumstance. Second, they were asked to indicate the effects, if any, of direct challenges on library policies and practices in the areas of selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation.

1. Change in Approach to Handling Challenges

Overall, 157 out of 178 respondents (88 percent) said in retrospect that they would not have changed their approach to the handling of the challenges that they experienced. They served municipalities with 12 million residents or 93 percent of the population represented in the study. Only 12 percent of respondents, accounting for 7 percent of residents served, said that they would have changed in retrospect.

The study data show that the reactions of single-unit libraries and multi-branch systems were similar, 85 percent of the former and 93 percent of the latter would not have changed their approach to the challenges that they encountered. Statistical analysis confirms that the differences were not significant (Table F76 in Appendix F). The similarity between

single libraries and systems in judgments about the need for changing their approach to challenges was also reflected in institutional characteristics. Institutions reporting that no change was necessary served municipalities with approximately the same population, registered borrowers, and library circulations as those indicating that they would have changed their approach in retrospect (Table F77 in Appendix F).

Similarly, French and English language public libraries did not differ in their perceptions of whether or not change in handling challenges was needed. Among French language respondents, 85 percent said that no change was necessary, while among their English language counterparts, it was 89 percent. Statistical analysis confirms the absence of any systemic difference between French and English language institutions in their perceptions of the need for change in the way that direct challenges had been handled (Table F78 in Appendix F).

On the other hand, respondents who reported that they followed library policy in handling a challenge were more likely to say in retrospect that there was no need to change their approach. Of the challenges in which library policy was followed, only 7 percent of the respondents said that they would have changed their approach in retrospect. In contrast, where library policy was not followed or only partially followed, 43 percent of the respondents said that a change in approach was needed. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was

significant (Table F79 in Appendix F).

Among other several other factors examined, need for change was independent of the five access policies discussed previously: age-related access restrictions, acquisition pressure, number of titles on the controversial materials checklist that were owned, number of direct challenges that were experienced, outcome of challenges, and time needed to resolve challenges. Statistical analysis shows that none of these factors was a significant determinant of a need for change in retrospect (Table F79 in Appendix F). By political jurisdiction, respondent public libraries in several provinces and territories indicated that in retrospect they would have changed their approach to challenges. They were British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec (Table F80 in Appendix F).

Public library respondents were asked to elaborate on their responses to the question of change in retrospect. Some respondents reported that challenges had led to a decision to act on complaints more quickly and to follow library policies with more confidence in the future. In some cases where titles were removed from the shelves, respondents said that they would not take this action again. Some respondents reported that new policies and forms had been developed, and others said they were being considered. In several cases, respondents indicated that materials were being looked at more carefully at the selection

stage. Other respondents stated that patrons were now being asked to put their complaints in writing. Some respondents noted that the library's intellectual freedom position was being publicized to increase patron awareness of the library's role.

Selected comments from respondents indicate the wide range of reactions and views on the impact of challenges on staff perceptions and institutional policies and practices:

- o No change in retrospect--every incident requires a creative response. No two are the same.
- o I was a tool in the battle against censorship. Our board of directors accepted the requests of this group of spiritual fanatics because they belonged to our community as well as being taxpayers. It's a political question. The result was to yield to this demand.
- o In case of paperbacks, condition of book did not warrant time spent. If it had been hard cover, procedure would have been followed.
- o The municipal council received a petition aimed at dropping a kind of literature, adult comics, which was judged inadequate regarding public morality; afterwards, the council advised us that the withdrawal of this kind of literature would be appreciated.
- o The incident illustrated the need to re-examine periodicals before subscription renewal. It seemed that the nature of *National Lampoon's* humour--although always risqué--had degenerated to a level unacceptable to both librarians and our public.
- o We did change because of past problems and our new policy has worked beautifully over the past 2 years--no problems at all and we feel we did a good job.
- o Note: the practices and process for assessment of material are now being codified. A different comment form, for the public's use, is being devised to allow for the receipt of specific details of complaint.
- o No change looking back, but would like to experiment with written form of complaint.

- o In one case, I withdrew a book which should have remained.
- o Would have put objections to library director's decision in writing and brought to board's attention, or at least insisted on involvement of other branch heads to counter director's arbitrariness.
- o No change--although the book was a valuable addition to our joint school-public library's collection and added greatly to the information available to students about their sexual growth. I think the school superintendent's decision was a correct reflection of community standards. It therefore should have been removed.
- o In future, I would be more confident in expressing library policy without going to the board with complaints. However, if the patron insisted I would take the complaint to the board.
- o Would have publicized the incidents more, made more public aware of our anti-censorship stand.
- o Yes and no. I personally feel it's the parents who should look out for their children's reading habits. We're not there to censure people. I wouldn't put *Playboy* or material like that but good literature should be read; even if I don't like it. People should have a choice.
- o Have incidents dealt with immediately in future. That is now being remedied. The board have appointed a censorship committee and all books will be dealt with in the next couple of months with answers given to respective patrons.
- o We should have had the person who complained about *Annie on my Mind* fill out the "Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Materials" form.
- o I would insist--which has already been included in our "selection policy"--that the complaint must be made in writing in order that it would be considered.
- o Yes, for *Le Vagabond des limbes*. No for all the other cases.
- o In this case, patron was probably right that the book was lousy. But as administrator, I do not want to remove books on any one patron's request.
- o After incident I then took a course in Collection Development offered by Ontario Library Services (similar

to SATT course) and as a result wrote up a comprehensive selection policy which was approved unanimously by the board and gives me the backing to respond to complaints with confidence.

- o I would not have removed *Fungus the Boogeyman* from circulation. It was not objectionable to me but it was the first complaint I have ever received and was unsure of how to proceed.
- o No, but I would eventually like free access to all library materials and am opposed to hiding books in the office. However, I think such changes have to occur slowly especially in a small town.
- o I would write up a procedure manual. I would draft complaint forms. I would set up an office to study complaints. But I have neither time nor staff to do so.

2. Effect on Policies and Practices

As to the question of whether or not direct challenges have had any effect on library selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation, a total of 131 out of 176 respondents or 74 percent reported no effects in any of these areas. Of the 12.9 million Canadians represented by institutions responding to this question, those who said there had been no effects served municipalities with 10.3 million people or 80 percent. Only 26 percent of respondents, accounting for 20 percent of residents served, said that challenges had affected their policies and practices.

The reactions of single-unit libraries and multi-branch systems were similar: 73 percent of the former and 76 percent of the latter reported no effects on library policies and

practices. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was not significant (Table F81 in Appendix F). The similarity between single libraries and systems in the judgments about the effects of challenges on policies and practices was also reflected in institutional characteristics. Institutions reporting no effects served municipalities with approximately the same population, registered borrowers, and library circulations as those indicating that there were effects. Statistical analysis shows that differences were not significant (Table F82 in Appendix F).

French and English language public libraries were similar in reporting no effects on policies and practices. Among French language respondents, 60 percent said there were no effects, while among their English language counterparts, it was 76 percent. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was not significant (Table F83 in Appendix F).

However, respondents who said that they followed library policy in handling a challenge were more likely to report no effects of the experience on institutional policies and practices. Of those challenges in which library policy was followed, only 23 percent of the respondents reported library effects. In contrast, where library policy was not followed or only followed in part, approximately half of the respondents reported effects. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F84 in Appendix F).

Outcome of challenges was also related to effects on institutional policies and practices. Of those challenges in which items were withdrawn, 40 percent of the respondents reported effects of the experience, while only 25 percent reported effects in challenges where items were retained. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F84 in Appendix F).

Among other factors examined, effects of challenges on institutional policies and practices were independent of the five access policies discussed previously, age-related access restrictions, acquisition pressure, number of titles on the controversial materials checklist that were owned, number of direct challenges that were experienced, outcome of challenges, and time needed to resolve challenges. Statistical analysis shows that none of these factors was a significant determinant of effects on library policies and practices (Table F84 in Appendix F). By political jurisdiction, public libraries in 8 out of 12 Canadian jurisdictions reported that direct challenges had had institutional effects. Only respondent public libraries in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the two territories reported no effects. See Table F85 in Appendix F.

Respondents who reported effects were asked to explain them in more detail. Some suggested that subsequent selection was more conservative and cautious, and that published reviews had become more important in the selection process. Others

mentioned that reviews of controversial books were being kept on hand to help respond to complaints. Some respondents noted that materials such as comics and books for children and young adults were being examined more carefully before purchase and shelving. Other effects reported by respondents were that some types of books, especially those with violent or sexual content or covers, were not being purchased at all, or that access to them was being restricted to adult patrons only. In some libraries, the response to challenges was that young adult books were being classified as adult books to prevent access by younger patrons. Some respondents mentioned that they had started to label controversial items.

Verbatim comments by respondents about effects on library policies and practices were as follows:

- o We try to avoid purchasing books with violent or sexual characteristics. For those publications of this nature already in the library, we have not modified their category or classification, hoping they will not be noticed by children.
- o We add no more novels with violent covers: battered women, tied up, chained, or too pornographic.
- o At present, yes, in the acquisition of materials especially adult and children's comics; in the access to publications in the adult section for children who must be accompanied by their parents; all materials which describe violence, horror, esotericism, science, occults, sects with erotic characteristics are indicated with a yellow binding for loan.
- o In selection, books are being scanned from one cover to the next before any invoice is paid off, especially in the case of French comic books.

- The specific item was a comic book style for an adult audience and because of that, it didn't fit either adult or juvenile sections. We won't buy that type of material in future--because it was unsuitable in level not content or subject.
- In regards to witchcraft books--how to's and step-by-step guides are generally avoided, but books on the history of and of general interest are still added to the collection. Books on homosexuality are still added, depending on the quality of subject.
- We have put occult and witchcraft books behind the counter and people have to ask for them. I am not comfortable with this but since we have done this the teenagers have quit coming to look for them (and there were quite a few). I still don't feel comfortable doing this as I feel it is not up to me to censor.
- Became more aware of occult influence on young children.
- Not in the display but in selection. We have eliminated occult literature.
- More careful check that children do have permission to borrow adult books before books are signed out.
- Very subtly. I would say I have started to buy "younger" young fare.
- One item complained about was what turned out to be a soft-porn western that we agreed had little to recommend it. It had been ordered from a paperback list and we made note of the author and series, so we won't buy any more. That book and others in the series were withdrawn.
- It certainly makes one more aware and accepting of others' viewpoints although one may not remove the book from the shelf.
- Selection has become more conservative; some of our branches have been given bad PR in their communities which may negatively affect circulation.
- I am more sensitive about offending community standards but am also more determined to ensure that students have access to materials that they see as useful.
- More careful reviewing of picture books with an eye to

nonsexist content. Because of our problem with defacing we have shelved *Wanderings* by Chaim Potok, a beautifully illustrated copy, in the back room.

- o In a rural area such as this I buy less explicit material than I would if I were a city librarian.
- o It has resulted in a closer scrutiny of magazines before subscriptions are renewed.
- o I have to admit I pay more attention to book reviews and try to obtain more than one review of a book. Some materials, for example, explicit self-help books on sex, should be shelved separately, where they're not accessible, but available upon request by the patron.
- o I feel I tend to be more "cautious" ie, will the trustee screech about this one?, but only on occasion--mostly things are about the same.
- o I'm a little more careful about what books I put up for a teenage display and try to choose those books I am sure would not have adult content in them. At the same time, I cannot refuse a teenager who wishes to read an adult book.
- o We now keep reviews of any books that might be in the least way controversial--YA titles only.
- o It has a cautionary effect. I had only been in the job about a year and didn't need that kind of trouble. I cannot say, however, that it had a very significant effect on selection.
- o In exercising stricter supervision over the illustrations and text of children's books. If there is ambiguity I put it in the adult collection or we find a section BD again.
- o Children's librarian has been instructed to examine all "bandes dessinées" before adding them to collections. These comic-book format books published in French are often intended for an adult audience--the format can be misleading. The good ones (eg. *Astérix*) are very much enjoyed by the children, but others are inappropriate.
- o Young adult titles which carry the potential of parental complaint are generally classified in the adult collection. A controversial title may be placed in the central library collection only.
- o The books were to be classified as "X--controversial literature."

- o Pop records were moved into adult collections; guidelines for buying trips are being developed to ensure that unsuitable material is not being purchased without some form of review, series of books (as in the Paul Kropp) will have more attention paid to reviews to ensure appropriateness of individual titles, procedures for receiving and handling complaints on library materials are now being codified.
- o We did create young adult sections in the libraries in my region. Books were classified as either adult or juvenile or picture books before. There were books written for YA's which were classified as adult and shelved with the adult books, where teenagers would not think of looking for them and there were books classified as juvenile which contained more adult themes or language.
- o I reorganized and divided the YA collection. I saw this as an uncensoring step in a sense because there were several books I felt older teens should have access to-- Zindal, Cormier, Hinton, but they had been "hidden" amongst the adult books.
- o All teen books were read by staff and a system of labelling introduced to assist parents who are involved in selecting materials for their children. The labelling indicates a title suitable for 12 to 14 year olds, or 15+ (the latter are more likely to deal with sexual matters).
- o Individual cases merited changing the shelving of certain items. Otherwise no effect.
- o We will try to be more careful about content when shelving junior books.
- o Perhaps in some cases a positive effect. We look more closely at the older "how-to" books seeking evidence of outmoded or antiquated methods.
- o We won't buy adult westerns which are described on the cover as being "bawdy and lustful." Apart from that, no effects.
- o More careful research so that sensible selection can be made.
- o I am more careful in selection and also classification.
- o Somewhat with regard to Adult fiction dealing with explicit sex scenes. This as a result of occasional complaints prior to 1986 and 1985.

- I think continual staff/public awareness programs are essential--for example, during Freedom to Read Week--to ensure that these complaints don't have a slow "erosion" effect on selection.
- The lesson for the future is not to direct that patron to wartime fiction about Vietnam.
- We became much more selective when book buying.
- Greater care in selecting comics, avoiding works with too much violence or degrading sexual behavior.
- Greater prudence in selecting publications for children.
- Certain publications could have "daring" passages. Unfortunately all these publications are not read from beginning to end. Some comics also have "daring" drawings. We are more serious in our selection now and we have thought about an adult comics section.
- I have, following a complaint, suggested that there be a policy requiring the participation of more than one branch head and maybe a board member when library material is challenged. Nothing has happened although the suggestion was well received. Challenges here are fortunately rare.
- More attention in my choice of comics, I consider them more individually from the point of view of the two sexes.
- This is difficult to determine as one does not know how much influence these matters have on the subconscious. On the whole, the library tries to select materials that are requested by the public at least to a certain degree. Often the materials with potential for controversy are the ones requested by the public.
- As a librarian for 32 years in the same community I can state that there have been occasions, as expected, of concern about certain titles, mainly from well-meaning but misinformed citizens as to the public library's role and the protection of intellectual freedoms and the public's right to read all points of view. When the principle was explained and a firm stand taken against censorship, the matter was resolved. It is my experience that parents and other concerned citizens depend to a remarkable degree on the discretion and judgment of library personnel as far as children's reading is concerned. They expect the use of common sense in regard to minors' access to the stacks and depend on professional staff for guidance as to reading material for age and development.

- o The library has received some general complaints from a fundamentalist clergyman that a lot of our magazines are left wing, socialist-communist but this was only a comment made when he paid for a magazine subscription (for a religious magazine) for the library.
- o A school has removed *A Children's Almanac of Words at Play* from its library here. The subsequent controversy has increased interest in the book and we have two copies for general circulation.
- o Since the Keegstra controversy, I have made a point of stocking numerous books on the Holocaust, racism in Canada, etc. and occasionally patrons have argued with me about the validity of the contents of these books-- especially Bencalon's *A Trust Betrayed*, so we have experienced a lot of reverse discrimination regarding accepted titles. No one, however, has questioned us stocking them or offered us obviously racist material.

A few respondents commented on the difficulties encountered in joint public-school library facilities:

- o Since the public library is a guest in the school, the board feels that the school children should not be exposed to blatant sex and violence as described in some books.
- o Most complaints are from non-members and non-users, all have been from Born again or Baptist parishioners, all have been very upset, angry, disgusted and not pleasant in their approach. However a new policy and guidelines developed 2 years ago had successfully diffused the last 3 complaints. Problems develop because of the joint library setup. In a municipal library separate from school, the policy would make parents responsible for what child reads, not the librarian.

A few respondents commented on problems that may arise from having multilingual collections:

- o One of the major objections that is made from time to time is to do with the multilingual collections. We collect some 30 languages and have now in excess of 50,000 volumes as well as video tapes, audio tapes and periodicals all of which are quite expensive. The major complaints revolve

around the concept that people coming to Canada should learn English and that the library board is only encouraging people to hang-on to their language and culture. The board, however, has a policy of complementing the culture as reflected in the make-up of the people living in the city.

We have, as well, in the past had objections to some children's books, for example, *Curious George*. The complaints have been lodged from the point-of-view that the books represent a sexist approach; the doctors are always men, the nurses are always women.

So far the library board has resisted all attempts to withdraw books that have already been purchased through the policies that are laid out in our official document.

- o We now have a Japanese high school...which educates students from Japan in English. They use this library, but have very rigid restrictions on what they may read. It is sometimes difficult to find appropriate material.
- o Complaints that are the most difficult to deal with in the branch are ones about books and magazines in other languages. Because we cannot read them, we have to forward the complaints to our central selector when a discussion in the branch with the patron might have sufficed, as in the case of most complaints about English language materials.

Several respondents commented on the unique circumstances of public libraries in small centers:

- o In our small community, the public library atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly. We encourage patrons to discuss pros and cons of books, but rarely find major objections. Our verbal policy is "If you don't like the content, put it down. Don't read it."
- o This is a very small "recreational readers" library. The librarian has traditionally been a member of the community and has been aware of the fairly conservative nature of the local population. Being on a limited budget, the approach to book buying has been one of buying selections which are likely to be read, rather than those which might serve to "shake up" the user. Therefore, the books which we have on hand reflect the reading habits of our members rather than a specific stance on reading material.

- o This library is a one-man operation in every respect. As the "one-man," I don't go out of my way to acquire questionable material on our very limited budget. I look for informative, entertaining materials that have a broad appeal. I personally believe adults should be allowed to view whatever they desire but I abhor any aspect of perverted, and kiddy porn type material.
- o Many of my patrons are older people. If they feel a book is improper (loose morals) they bring it back without reading it and avoid that type of book. They make a comment about the book being unfit to read. We do not have many young readers and the few we have, do not read that type of material.
- o We really have never had a serious problem with censorship. If a little old lady takes a book that's sexually explicit, we will tell her and nine times out of ten she agrees that she wouldn't want it and leaves it here.
- o Being a small library and with a limited budget, I've to be very careful in my selection of both juvenile and adult books (\$12,000 for both in 1987). Being in a community with more seniors using the library my book selection is inclined to be conservative.
- o Although this board has no written policies as yet, they are supportive of my unwritten ones. This is a small town that I grew in which makes it much easier to have a "feel" for accepted community standards. I personally feel that censorship is the responsibility of the parent or the individual (if an adult). Many times I've seen parents deny a book only to have the child take it out later unknown to the parent (forbidden fruit is sweet). However, I can see the potential for trouble here as there is a growing "fundamentalist" movement in this area which has created trouble over *The Diviners* by M. Lawrence. I make selections with this in mind but I use community standards as a whole. Thankfully I've been able to operate this library for 7 years 'at my discretion' with no problem.
- o I would like to finish with a plea that librarians and trustees, most of whom live and work in urban areas, look for ways to support their colleagues in small communities. In small towns, library staff and board members frequently feel very isolated. Often they do not even have the finances to send anyone to attend provincial

conferences where they would have a chance to talk with others dealing with similar problems. We also need the support and encouragement of provincial organizations to make a stand on censorship issues.

While attempts to censor materials in urban areas receive much media attention, I believe that it is the small community libraries across the province and across the country who bear the brunt of attempts to control information available in libraries--both in terms of trying to keep certain materials out and trying to have other materials included in collections. I say this because libraries in small communities are more visible and their staff and board members more accessible. In small communities with limited facilities, libraries become the main resource centre. Because the library plays such a prominent role in the community its collection tends to be examined more critically than might be the case in an urban area where there are many institutions supplying information. And because staff and board members are easily identified and often known in other roles, they are more likely to be approached on book selection issues, both in and outside the library. Libraries in small communities depend on annual grants from their municipalities and donations from the community. With the funding base so precarious it is natural that both library boards and staff in small communities attempt to avoid controversy. This leads to what I consider the most insidious form of censorship--self-censorship. The other problem which may arise is that there is always the potential that members of special interest groups may attempt ... to elect their candidates to the board in the hope that they will be able to influence book selection policy. One only has to look at what has happened with hospital boards to understand the implications this could have for library boards.

- o One advantage a small library has over larger ones is that over 75% of patrons are known personally to the staff-- particularly in the matter of their reading habits, so complaints can usually be avoided. Also, what is laughingly referred to as my "annual book budget" effectively precludes a spending spree on pornography!

Some respondents commented that, while they had not experienced overt censorship pressure in the past, the possibility seemed imminent.

- o I regret to say that the library staff probably exercise a significant degree of caution in selection of materials and avoid materials such as *Playboy* that are overtly objectionable. We do, however, have many titles that appear on the lists of titles being attacked elsewhere in North America. Our community has a significant number of fundamentalist churches, active pro-life groups, and anti-pornography/violence against women in the media groups. To date, they have not attacked us but we can sense the encircling forces just awaiting a favourable opportunity to pounce.
- o We feel this survey is a little early! We anticipate some action from pro-life groups, fundamentalists, etc. We have experienced two attempts in the past (1980) to have certain books removed. The policy procedures were followed and apart from some letters in the local newspaper, nothing happened. These letters evoked a spate of letters supporting the library's intellectual freedom stance.

At the same time, another respondent was more optimistic:

On the whole I remain surprised when we don't get more complaints. Most people are reasonable when voicing their feelings and are prepared to accept that others have different standards and opinions. Most people are satisfied by being allowed to voice their concerns and having them heard. Many complaints arise because a book is not what it appears to be--people tend to avoid books they think will offend them.

Summary

In summary, among respondent public libraries reporting direct challenges to their collections, overall, only a very small proportion said that in retrospect they would have changed their approach to the handling of those challenges. Similarly, few respondents reported any effects of previous challenges on institutional policies and practices in the areas of selection,

classification, shelving, access, or circulation.

Respondents who reported no need to change their approach tended to be those who followed library policy in handling a challenge. Similarly, respondents who reported no effects of the experience on library policies and practices tended to be those who followed institutional policy in handling challenges. In challenges where titles were retained, respondents were more likely to report no effects than in challenges where titles were withdrawn.

CHAPTER 10
COVERT CENSORSHIP

Although covert censorship of public library collections is another part of the picture of patron access, previous research has not taken it into account. Covert or indirect interference with collection access represents a more subtle--and therefore a somewhat more insidious--form of censorial activity than do direct requests to withdraw or restrict materials. Covert censorship activity consists of incidents of collection loss, theft, defacement, alteration, mutilation, or destruction that were or were thought to have been attempts to prevent or restrict access. Obviously, the unequivocal identification of such incidents is not always possible; indeed, fully one-quarter of the respondents in the present study said that they were uncertain whether or not various incidents that occurred in their institutions had issued from censorship motives.

Altogether, 57 respondent public libraries or 10 percent reported covert incidents of suspected censorship of materials

between 1985 and 1987. The annual rate of affected institutions during this period was 3.5 percent. A total of 99 covert incidents were reported over the three year period. Extrapolating to the whole population of Canadian public libraries from survey respondents, it is estimated that between 1985 and 1987 there was one covert incident of suspected censorship per week. Three different institutions across the country were involved monthly. These estimates were based on the survey data, conservatively adjusted upwards by 3 percent per year of the 438 survey non-respondents to account for unreported censorial activity among this group (approximately 13 incidents per year in an equal number of institutions). Among respondents reporting suspected covert censorship, the mean was just under one incident per year. One respondent was involved in 4 incidents annually over the three years of the study period.

The present study shows that affected institutions were likely to be multi-branch systems. One-quarter of all systems experienced covert incidents between 1985 and 1987, compared to only 7 percent of all single libraries. Statistical analysis shows that this difference was significant (Table F86 in Appendix F). While public libraries affected by these incidents represented only one out of ten respondents, they accounted for 30 percent of all Canadian residents in the study, and slightly higher proportions of registered borrowers and total circulations. They served 5.4 million people, recorded 2.5

million registered borrowers, and circulated 49.1 million items. These data reveal a potential denial of access to particular public library materials for three out of ten Canadian residents in the study population, between 1985 and 1987. The significant difference in covert incidents between systems and single libraries was also reflected in institutional characteristics. Respondent public libraries serving larger municipalities were more likely to experience this kind of incident than those serving small centers.

The typical respondent involved in covert incidents served a municipality with 95,000 people, 45,000 registered borrowers, and 862,000 library circulations. In contrast, those not affected served an average municipality of 15,000 people, 5,000 borrowers, and 89,000 circulations. Statistical analysis shows that affected institutions served significantly larger municipalities in terms of residents, borrowers, and circulation than did those not affected (Table F87 in Appendix F).

French and English language public libraries did not differ in their rates of suspected covert incidents. Among French language respondents, 6 percent reported incidents, while among their English language counterparts, 11 percent reported incidents. Statistical analysis confirms the absence of any systematic difference between linguistic groupings (Table F88 in Appendix F). Because of the small number of respondents

reporting covert incidents of suspected censorship, no further statistical analysis can credibly be executed.

Covert censorship activity affected public libraries in all but three Canadian political jurisdictions--Prince Edward Island and the two territories. There were, however, wide variations, ranging from 10 percent or less of the respondents in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, to 25 percent of the respondents in New Brunswick, 29 percent in Newfoundland, and 56 percent in Saskatchewan (Table F89 in Appendix F).

Public library respondents were asked to describe each incident of covert censorship, including year, type of damage, title and author, and library response. The materials most frequently stolen, lost, defaced, or destroyed were those on the occult, witchcraft, abortion, creationism, political theory, sex education, and human sexuality. Materials with profane language were frequently mutilated, with whole pages torn out or the offending words either blackened or cut out. Remarks were often written in the margins of controversial books. In some cases, materials thought to be controversial were discovered misshelved, apparently hidden to make them more inaccessible. There was no discernible pattern according to year in which incidents occurred.

In most cases, public library staff were unable to identify the offenders. In those cases where he or she was known, action was sometimes taken, but in many cases nothing was done beyond

issuance of a verbal warning. Often, missing pages or entire volumes were replaced at the institution's--and hence, taxpayer's--expense. It was noted by many respondents that it was difficult to determine whether some incidents were attempts to prevent or restrict access, or just vandalism prompted by other motives such as a person wanting certain pictures, pages or books for themselves, a youngster stealing "D&D books" (dungeons and dragons) to prevent competition, or a student attempting to prevent access by other students to materials for school projects. One respondent commented, for example, that certain books had been stolen, especially drug books and muscle-building books, but that the thefts had nothing to do with restricting access. Yet another respondent took a very definite view of these kinds of disappearance:

Articles in encyclopedias may have been cut out in hopes of stopping classmates' access--which is censorship of another damaging kind--and very frustrating. Another respondent reported that in only one instance, where a teacher brought in a project which included pictures cut from materials in the library, was there more than just suspicion of the latter motivation.

Other respondents voiced a degree of suspicion about the motivation behind certain activities:

Does the *Satanic Bible* keep disappearing because people are trying to suppress it or because they want their own copy? Our branch staff tend toward the latter opinion.

There are so many write-offs from long overdues that I would be surprised if a percentage of such loss (hopefully small) was not attributable to intentional retention to prevent access.

Verbatim comments by respondents indicate the wide range of covert actions suspected to have been attempts to censor public library materials. Several comments related to incidents involving the occult, witchcraft, and other religious issues.

- The book *Les Rocqueurs sanctifiés* by Lucien Francoeur has been placed in the adult section. One person wanted to burn the book and not return it to the library. The book was eventually returned but the complaints began.
- A *Witch's Grammar of Ancient Omens, Portents, Talismans and Charms* disappeared shortly after it was returned to the shelves, after reconsideration by the Board.
- When patron lost but paid for *Nostradamus Predictions* and was told if it turned up and was returned within 2 years the money would be refunded, I was assured the book would not!! turn up--although conversation to that point gave the impression it had been misplaced.
- Loss of *Book of Predictions* by D. Wallechinsky, *Science and the Supernatural* by T. Taylor, *Learning to Read Music* by Lilienfeld, *Measurement of Melody* by G. Millar, assortment of craft books, *This is South Africa*.
- Parent tore Shirley Jackson book in half and garbaged it--devil worship and work of the devil, she said. Parent billed and paid for the book and told she was destroying public property etc. etc.
- One Portuguese book questioning authenticity of the Virgin of Fatima was suspected stolen by someone who found it offensive. Several books on occult, witchcraft have been mutilated, possibly for the same reason.
- Section on Mormons in the book *Cults* cut out. Didn't replace as we had other material on this subject which was more current. Hard to say if other material has "walked"--we are not on computer yet and don't have time to keep a check on every book.
- In the past anti-Scientology books have had a short life span but I am unaware of any specifics recently.

- o One patron has systematically gone through our collection of Dutch books and obliterated any profanity/obscenity.
- o Latter part of 1987, longtime patron--avid reader--suddenly decided he was fed up with blasphemy, deleted all references to 'God', 'Christ', 'Jesus Christ', etc. about one dozen mysteries and war stories "treated" before we caught up with him. No further problems since it was gently pointed out that library privileges did not include editing!

Several incidents involved materials of a more directly political nature:

- o Defacement of socialist oriented magazine, *Canadian Dimensions*--comments were added to the magazine and sections were blacked out.
- o I do not have any dates or specific incidents I can cite but there has been an increase in the numbers of books being defaced, comments being written in the margins, and the majority of these books are of a controversial nature e.g. Palestinian question, Israel, Iran, Zundel trial, etc.
- o One patron borrowed several books dealing with Jewish-Nazi relationships and wartime experiences. He covered the margins with editorial comments and crossed out some lines in the books with which he disagreed. Some of the material had to be discarded. Patron was phoned and warned that further destruction would result in having to pay for the damaged books.
- o *Nuremburg and Other War Crimes Trials* was stolen. *101 Uses for a Cabbage Head Doll* was taken out and then reported missing. *The Holocaust--120 Questions and Answers* is missing from our collection.
- o *Web of Deceit*--this title, because of publicity, was heavily requested. While on loan to another library, the book was reported lost. We suspected that this was an attempt to remove title; however, after some weeks, the book was returned.
- o *Keegstra* by Steve Mertl and John Ward, and *Holy Terror* by Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman--writing

throughout, on margins, stapled in articles and booklist from the Canadian Intelligence Service. *Missile Envy* by Helen Caldicott, *With Enough Shovels* by Robert Scheer, and *Starmageddon* by Richard Rohmer--all of these books are defaced with the same handwriting by a person with fascist views; the comments are cross-referenced and systematic. No action yet taken or solution found; unable to discover who's doing it.

- o *The Sexual Life of Savages in North-Western Malanesia* by Bronsilaw Malinowski--defacement throughout, written comments which were abusive in nature, rude illustrations. *Let's Visit Pakistan*--written racial slurs, rude illustrations throughout, cover of book defaced. Various other books--all defacement appears to have been committed by one person who exercises two types of censorship: 1) any swearing involving the word "Christ" is heavily inked out (four letter words are allowed to pass without comment), and 2) running commentary placed in book, some of which is very strange and involves novel's character statements, especially as they relate to class. Staff at this particular branch attempt to check material after return by the particular borrower to determine any defacement. They hope to have a conversation with the borrower regarding this treatment of materials.
- o European magazines are sometimes turned back out or tucked behind other periodicals. Books are sometimes tucked away in unusual locations within the library.
- o One branch experienced repeated borrowing of a phonorecord of North Vietnamese songs purposefully removed in this manner by the South Vietnamese community.

Abortion as politics was also a source of covert activity:

- o A group of Pro-life borrowers requested the purchase of more such materials and we suspect have taken some abortion information from our files.
- o Photographic sections of anti-abortion books have been defaced--whether or not this was politically motivated is unclear.
- o Right wing anti-abortion group has offered donations, requested titles, removed pamphlets and books that are pro-choice or informative.

- Our copy of *Morgentaler* by Pelrine was slashed. Back and front cover and inside with a razor blade. We mended and put back in circulation.
- We suspect that our collections of books discussing abortion might be being depleted by those campaigners on both sides of the issue. Pro-choice supporters are removing the "right-to-life" titles and the right-to-lifers are removing the pro-choice books.

Incidents involving popular novels were also mentioned.

- A section of Harold Robbins's book was cut out--we did not know whether it was an attempt to restrict material or whether some patron wanted to duplicate a particularly nasty torture-rape type scene.
- Ken Follett *Lie Down with Lions*, pages 211-214 cut out. Other patrons annoyed to find pages missing.
- Someone removed all traces of romance from the paperback Westerns. They did not touch the hardcovers!! I find most annoying people who cut out pieces from books and magazines for their own use, rather than copying them.
- We have not kept track of specific incidents, but on several occasions pages have been ripped out from popular novels, i.e., Jackie Collins' *Hollywood Husbands*, *Girls in High Places*, Sydney Sheldon's *Rage of Angels*. In each case, the library has replaced the missing pages with photocopies. No verbal or written complaints have been received about the content of the material.
- *Kane and Abel* by Jeffrey Archer--pages were torn (the "dirty" parts). We traced it to the patron, a young 16-year-old, either her mother (a Jehovah's Witness) ripped them or the young girl kept them. Our response was not to get involved in family matter, we simply discarded it and bought another one. We also get children's books damaged--a variety of them.

A number of incidents involved materials about sexuality, and in particular sexuality and children. Several incidents involving *The Joy of Sex* were suspected by respondents to have been

covert attempts to censor it.

- A lot of our anatomy books and human sexuality/reproduction materials get drawn on.
- A sex education book (L.C. 612) illustrated was put in the toilet.
- *Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex* disappeared from shelves--replacements also vanish. Have finally given up replacing them.
- *Joy of Sex* repeatedly goes missing--is replaced every year. We don't know what the reason for the theft is--to censor or to own a copy.
- It is possible that *Joy of Sex*, *More Joy of Sex*, and *Show Me* were taken by people wishing to censor. It is hard to be sure of reason.
- The only book that we know was actually taken from the collection for censorship reasons was *The Rapist File*. This occurred some years ago and was a city-wide incident that hit the newspapers and then the newspapers in their indubitable way located all the copies and, as you may well imagine, all of the copies went missing.
- Two copies of *The Castrated Family Lost*. Purchased new copy (still in catalogue). *Ordeal* by Linda Lovelace stolen, and returned anonymously with pages 30-40 ripped out, others destroyed. *Dancers of Arun* by Elizabeth Lynn lost from collection sometime after a verbal request by patron to remove it from collection was not complied with.
- Certain pages (2) describing homosexual acts. Another book about black magic 3 pages removed. Certain novels had one or two pages removed. I ignore the reason for this or the content of these pages.
- M. Foster's *A Not So Gay World*--had text altered, notations that we had to erase. V. Newall's *Encyclopedia of Witchcraft and Magic* had pages destroyed and removed--had to replace with photocopies. William J. Whalen's *Handbook of Secret Organizations*--circulating copy defaced--had to withdraw.
- Mother destroyed young adult paperback *Beginner's Love* by Norma Klein. Library charged mother for book. Fine paid.

- Hutterite children put beards on adult males in children's picture book.
- Pre-1983 comic books were introduced to our libraries. A gentleman ripped up several comic books and asked the library to bill him. As an orthodox Jew, he objected to having such material available to children. The library reminded him of their policy of open access to a variety of materials to various communities. There have not been any problems with the comic books since.
- A parent tore one page from the magazine "Comics Notebook" which showed a naked man.
- *The Body Book*, preschooler's gr. 1-2 level book on the human body, borrowed by Born-Again Christian family--page with 4 small cartoons depicting cro-magnon man evolving into modern man and statement underneath "Some people believe man evolved from monkeys"--crossed out and in LARGE BLACK letters: "WRONG! BLASPHEMY! GOD CREATED MAN!" No way to prove it--no response except inner anger!
- *In the Night Kitchen*, M. Sendak,--naked little boy got felt marker diapers--couldn't finger the culprit. Also, I have suspected prochoice material stolen out of my vertical file (the file contains both views) on abortion.
- *Doctors of Death* stolen--replaced, and stolen again. All our books on AIDS defaced.

Summary

Overall, the study has revealed that covert censorship activity in Canadian public libraries is not nearly as pervasive as are direct challenges to the presence of certain materials. It is estimated that there was one covert incident of suspected censorship per week between 1985 and 1987. While this involved only one out of ten public libraries across the country, they served municipalities with 30 percent of the people represented in the study. These figures imply a potential biasing of public

library collections for three out of ten Canadian residents in the study population.

Those few incidents that were reported by respondents occurred about equally often in both French and English language institutions. Multi-branch systems everywhere were more likely targets of this kind of censorial activity than single-unit libraries, as were larger municipalities.

Nonetheless, caution is warranted in interpreting the study data, because fully one-quarter of the respondents said that they were undecided about whether or not various incidents that had occurred in their institutions were in fact motivated by a desire to prevent access by other residents of the community: the problem of diagnosis remains in large part beyond the grasp of empirical observation and measurement, intractable if not altogether unsolvable. What is especially lacking is the percentage of covert censorship of the adult collection compared to the young adult and children's collections. Based on respondent comments, it might be conjectured that it is the latter materials that are affected rather than those intended for adults, but this cannot be verified.

CHAPTER 11
ACQUISITION PRESSURE

Another kind of community activity that has been neglected in the research literature is "undue" pressure on public library staff to acquire certain materials. Such pressure would go beyond the level of suggestion, recommendation, request, or even "strong encouragement," as one respondent put it, for acceptance or acquisition of items. The survey questionnaire asked respondents to indicate whether or not they had been pressured to accept or acquire certain individual titles or certain types of materials for their collections. While some readers will have difficulty thinking of acquisition pressure as a censorship problem rather than as an attempt to influence book selection policy, it is included here for two reasons. One is that such pressure can be viewed as a strategy for influencing the make-up and balance of a collection, and the other is that such pressure sheds light on the overall climate of intellectual freedom in public libraries. If a challenge to remove or restrict material in a collection is unsuccessful, perhaps a

somewhat similar result can be achieved by attempting to have materials with a certain viewpoint added to it.

Overall, 121 respondent public libraries (22 percent) said that they had experienced acquisition pressure. Based on these data, it is estimated that among the whole population of Canadian public libraries, one institution was pressured to acquire or accept materials every week during the study period, somewhere in Canada. The estimated rate of acquisition pressure on one library per week was calculated from survey information, conservatively adjusted upwards by 7 percent per year of 438 non-respondents to account for unreported acquisition pressure among this group (approximately 13 institutions). The typical institution reporting acquisition pressure was more likely to be a multi-branch system than a single library. Almost half of all systems experienced acquisition pressure, compared to only 16 percent of all single libraries (Table F90 in Appendix F).

Public libraries reporting acquisition pressure accounted for one out of five institutions, but they represented 54 percent of all Canadian residents in the study, and slightly higher proportions of registered borrowers and library circulations. They served municipalities with 9.8 million residents, 4.2 million borrowers, and 80.7 million circulations. These data reveal a potential biasing of public library collections for more than half of all Canadian residents in the study population.

The significant difference in acquisition pressure between

systems and single libraries was also reflected in institutional characteristics. Respondent public libraries serving larger municipalities were more likely to be pressured to acquire or accept certain materials than those serving small centers. The typical respondent affected by acquisition pressure served a municipality with 81,000 people, 35,000 registered borrowers, and 680,000 circulations. In contrast, those not affected served an average municipality of 20,000 people, 7,000 borrowers, and 139,000 circulations. Statistical analysis shows that affected institutions served significantly larger municipalities in terms of residents, borrowers, and circulation than did those not affected (Table F91 in Appendix F).

French and English language public libraries did not differ in their rates of acquisition pressure. Among French language respondents, 28 percent reported incidents, while among their English language counterparts, it was 22 percent. Statistical analysis confirms the absence of any systematic difference between linguistic groups (Table F92 in Appendix F).

Acquisition pressure was associated with the presence of institutional access policies (selection, objections, donations, objections form, and support of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom). Respondents with all five access policies experienced more pressure to acquire or accept materials for their collections than did those with either some policies or none at all. Among respondents with all five policies, 37 percent experienced

acquisition pressure. Among those with some but not all five policies, it was 22 percent, and among those with none, it was 10 percent. Statistical analysis confirms a significant relationship between acquisition pressure and access policy coverage (Table F93 in Appendix F).

While acquisition pressure was not associated with age-related borrowing restrictions, it was related to the requirement for minors to have consent to use certain materials. Among respondents with a consent requirement, 35 percent experienced acquisition pressure. In contrast, only 19 percent of those not requiring consent said that they experienced acquisition pressure. Statistical analysis confirms a significant relationship between acquisition pressure and consent requirements (Table F94 in Appendix F). Similarly, whether or not an institution treated certain materials differently in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation, made a difference in rates of acquisition pressure experienced by respondents. Among those reporting differential treatment, one-third also reported acquisition pressure, while only 18 percent of those without differential treatment said that they experienced acquisition pressure. Statistical analysis confirms a significant relationship between acquisition pressure and differential treatment of certain materials (Table F94 in Appendix F).

Acquisition pressure was also related to checklist ownership (ownership of titles on the potentially controversial checklist instrument developed for the questionnaire survey), and to direct

challenges to withdraw or restrict materials. Institutions experiencing acquisition pressure owned an average of 17 checklist titles, while those without this pressure owned 11 titles each. Statistical analysis shows that institutions affected by acquisition pressure owned significantly more checklist titles than did those not reporting this pressure (Table F95 in Appendix F). Similarly, pressure to acquire or accept material went hand in hand with challenges to remove or restrict material. Institutions experiencing acquisition pressure reported 2.9 challenges per respondent compared to 0.8 challenges for those not experiencing such pressure. Statistical analysis shows that institutions affected by acquisition pressure experienced significantly more direct challenges than did those not reporting this pressure (Table F95 in Appendix F).

Acquisition pressure affected public libraries in all but two Canadian political jurisdictions--New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Forty percent or more of the respondents in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the two territories were affected (Table F96 in Appendix F).

Respondents were asked to elaborate on the pressures they had experienced. One wrote that:

Our biggest problem is pressure to buy, or accept donated material, not demands for the withdrawal of controversial books.

While several respondents noted that being "pressured" was too strong a description, they said they were constantly being "urged" to accept donations or purchase materials on a wide variety of subjects.

Overall, the most common sources of these pressures and requests were religious groups and political interest groups which wanted literature supporting their beliefs to be placed on the shelves of the public library. One of the most frequently mentioned topics of pressure-group interest was abortion. Respondents did not, however, mention any trend, such as an increase or decrease in these kinds of pressures. Respondents noted that, after evaluation, much of the material intended for donation was rejected, with a tactful explanation of the library's selection policy. In some cases, materials were accepted but not processed, merely being made available on tables or on racks for in-house use.

Verbatim comments by other respondents indicate the wide range of acquisition pressures experienced by public libraries across Canada. The following selected comments illustrate this diversity of pressures and the materials involved:

- o Every church/religious organization in town tries to put their materials on the shelf. "Thank heaven" for the existence of our policy on donated material.
- o Every now and then certain religious groups try and sneak in their material (J.W.'s and "The Plain Truth", Pentecostals, Rosicrucians, etc.).
- o Organizations such as Scientology, RajNee, TM, press to have multiple copies of their titles in library. Similarly, small religious groups who want high profile display of their material. Policy is to select a few representative titles from each group.
- o Interest groups Freemasonry, fundamentalist religions.
- o Jehovah's Witness pressured to have J.W. material included to inform public. I explained it was inappropriate and that the library did not disseminate official points of view.

- We have been asked occasionally to buy more wholesome "Christian" books (especially in the YA field). We feel we buy a balance now. We have not changed our buying though we are producing a booklist of "family/happy" type YA books.
- Bible stories--have plenty, did not buy--responded by buying more Muslim stuff.
- Other than pressure for different formats (videos) and donations, the library has been specifically campaigned to acquire: 1) *The Christian Socratic*, a periodical published by local citizen; 2) *Compleat Mother*, magazine about pregnancy, birth, and breast-feeding; 3) *Children's Own*. These were accepted for free distribution to the public--not added to the periodical collection of the library.
- A bookseller is very insistent that I purchase her "Christian" storybooks so that readers can see how to live a "good life." She is a Born-again Fundamentalist and her books reflect her philosophy in a very heavy-handed manner.
- Pressure by pro-life groups; by persons wanting certain religious materials in the library; by business firms wanting their catalogues in the library; and some persistence by such groups as Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.
- The local Pro-life chapter has donated a subscription to their periodical and a selection of anti-abortion permabound paperbacks. We invoked the library policy of allowing them to choose the two most important works from their donation to be placed on the shelves and promised to examine the remaining group for possible inclusion under our normal criteria. (We added one additional title.)
- A pro-life group wanted to give the library some abortion/fetal models in plastic to be displayed. The library board turned down the request. When pro-life person was contacted about the decision, she was annoyed.
- A local "pro-life" organization donated 6 books promoted by their organization. These books have not been incorporated into our collection but an effort was made to elaborate information in our vertical file on both "pro-life" and "pro-choice" abortion issues.
- Antichoice abortion groups have "donated" material they expect me to put directly on the shelves.

- o We were pressed to accept several 'pro-life' titles. Some we did and others we rejected. We have from time to time been approached by, or offered gift books by the Jehovah Witnesses, Bahai faith and a gentleman promoting a list of right-wing fundamentalist titles called the "Must Book List".
- o Baptist preacher wanted 26 pro-life, anti-abortion books purchased for library. Born-again Christian faction urged large purchase of Christian literature--fiction. Same faction wanted preachings of Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart, etc. on shelves.
- o Pro-life and religious groups are particularly interested in having their materials in our collections. We have several approaches: 1) accept material, process it as PA with note indicating "Placed in library by....", 2) refuse material as not meeting selection policy, 3) let organization know we will refer requests (if any) for this type of material to them.
- o Right to Life, Eckanar.

One respondent told in great detail of the persistence of a local special-interest group in having its literature made available through the public library.

Local Pro-Life group donated a package of books to the library. With a couple of exceptions the books were very sensational in style and poorly written. I felt it was important that some of the Society's material be added as the group is an active organization with many supporters in the community. I decided to keep two of the books and anticipating the potential for controversy, I discussed my decision with the board which concurred with my decision. Two years later, a member of the Pro-Life Society asked why the books were not in the collection. I explained my decision and pointed out that we had a number of books which dealt with the abortion controversy, presenting both sides of the issue. The reply I received was, "There is no other side."

Shortly afterwards I received a phone call and later a visit from the mayor who had been receiving phone calls from members of the Society saying that the library had ten "pro-abortion" books but none representing the pro-life position. I found out later that some board members had

received similar phone calls. I explained the type of material we had and followed up our discussion with a memo to the mayor and the library board, listing the books we had on the subject of abortion and giving a short outline of their contents. With the exception of the Pro-Life donations, all the books in our collection attempted to deal with the issue as a controversy, discussing both perspectives.

About a month later the Pro-Life Society asked to make a presentation to the library board. At that time they stated that although most of the library's books on abortion purported to deal with both sides of the issue, they were really pro-abortion. They presented excerpts from each book to support this position. I suggested to them that it was possible that they could go through the same books and find excerpts that supported the pro-life position. After a great deal of discussion with the board we agreed that on this subject it appeared to be impossible to deal with both sides of the issue in one book to everyone's satisfaction. I indicated that I had already ordered a couple of titles representing a pro-life position and would order others, while also ordering books that promoted a pro-choice position. The board conveyed this policy to the Pro-Life Society and we have not had any complaints from them since. I have to say that we now have an unbalanced collection on the subject of abortion as while I had no trouble finding pro-life titles, books presenting the pro-choice position have been difficult to locate--most books deal with both sides of this difficult issue and do not present a strong advocacy position.

Several respondents mentioned the pressure brought to bear by particular religious groups to have their literature made available through the public library:

- o Apart from individual authors selling their books, the church of Scientology and supporters of "creationism" have made a concerted effort to make sure that we have sympathetic titles in stock.
- o I notice a repeated insistence from the Scientology church to give or deliver us their bible.
- o Not great pressure but Scientologists occasionally check to make sure Ron Hubbard's *Dianetics* is available. Patrons have commented that the collection does not reflect right wing points of view as well as perceived left wing views.

- The Bahai Faith local organization was persistent in giving us their video which was very acceptable. A local "author" made sure we got her vanity press autobiography (quite racy!).
- A member of the Bahai faith was concerned that materials about his religion were not in the library's collection. He donated materials which he insisted should be added to the library. The librarian at that time did not feel the materials were suitable and did not add them.
- A member of the Bahai faith wanted to donate 5 books on the religion to the library. After going through them per policy only two were accepted and the others returned (one in the German language). Materials on comparative religions are welcome but it was felt that considering demand, space, and content, these two were sufficient. The person was upset.
- Religious groups such as the Bahai and "creationist" Baptists attempt to force us to accept their material.
- Mormon bible and other Mormon literature.
- Material representing certain religions such as Hari Krishna, material in subject areas (usually represented by a club or association), material by a particular author (usually represented by that author). Books for children prepared by specific religious groups: adult Christian fiction.
- Several church groups have donated their books to us. One lady, a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, was determined we should add to our collection one of their publications on creationism to represent "the other side." We did add it to the collection.
- Fundamentalist periodicals. Accepted two, *Plain Truth* and *Watchtower*, in "free pile"--not retained.
- A leader of a local religious offshoot complained we would not shelve all the books he wanted pertaining to his religious sect. Even wrote a letter to city council. Explained we had 2 books on shelf and could show overbalance to any one viewpoint. Man took back his books and left threatening to never darken our door again.
- *Schools on Trial: A Positive Alternative* and various other materials with a religious bias.

- o Children's and adults' material on creationism, to "balance" the paleontology collection. Prolife material to balance the prochoice collection.
- o Metaphysical books and books dealing with the occult.

Several other respondents noted pressure to acquire or accept material in a variety of subject areas.

- o We are often pressured into buying Fad Diet books not recommended by Public Health, as well as "hype" books on AIDS, Masters and Johnson's new book, *And the Band Played On*, etc.
- o Besides some suggestions for ordering, some people exerted pressure on the library to buy books dealing with subjects that are non-conventional, agnostic, esoteric, etc.
- o One patron insisted we buy books on UFOs, inventions, and other life forces.
- o No real pressure, although some donors can be quite persistent, e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous.
- o Some groups wanted us to distribute the magazine "La ... Verité" but we refused.
- o One user strongly insisted that the library should acquire *J'accuse ma... de victorian Theoret* [?]. This sensationalism does not fit into the library's policy for collection development.
- o We were pressured to increase our French content--which is not applicable to this area.

Several respondents mentioned pressure by political groups to have materials added to the public library collection, Holocaust "revisionist" publications in particular.

- o The library welcomes patron suggestions, but a few patrons become rather insistent. Most pressure in recent years has usually been in connection with periodicals, e.g., *Natural Motherhood*; a militant/radical/back-to-basics periodical published in Ontario. Some other titles were turned down as too specialized or too esoteric for our community.

- o One member is pressuring on a regular basis to purchase material published by the Institute for Historical Review in California. We did purchase *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* as an example of this particular school of thought. As a result of his complaints that our collection was heavily "Pro-Zionist" (our population is 20% Jewish) we did an evaluation of our books on the Middle East and have since purchased books (from reviews) explaining the Palestinian perspective so that our collection is now better balanced.
- o Arthur Butz's *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* and other publications of this type.
- o Revisionist material concerning the holocaust.
- o Right wing group asked to have material distributed and after reading I complied.
- o Western Guard newspaper.
- o Documents sent by embassies (U.S.S.R., South Africa) by propaganda organizations (movements of GRAAL etc.).
- o By book donations, above all regarding philosophy or new and doctrinal beliefs. Also about certain countries like Albania and South Africa.
- o Mostly foreign embassies.
- o Ethnic publications often costly periodicals without substantial population to support its use--and publications which focus on one regional group.
- o Some Sikhs insisted we subscribe to a Sikh newspaper. We decided that it was more a political broadside than newspaper and did not subscribe. No further pressure was applied.

One respondent told in detail of the extremes to which a local member of the community had gone to have certain periodical accessible through the public library:

I am sure all librarians deal with huge amounts of unsolicited mail and I suspect much of yours goes the same place mine does--straight into the garbage. About a year and a half ago we started receiving an unsolicited

publication called *The Spotlight*. This is an American paper purporting to tell the true news suppressed by left wing publications like *Time* and *Newsweek*. The content is almost entirely American although there are occasional articles dealing with international issues such as the conspiracy to suppress the Philippines election results. *The Spotlight* claimed that Marcos won by a landslide and not President Aquino as had been reported in the international press. Needless to say I put this paper into the circular bin along with many other unsolicited publications. A couple of months later I received a letter from a man saying that he had donated a subscription of *The Spotlight* to our library and asking why it was not on display in the library alongside the other magazines.

I replied saying that I had no idea the publication had been donated, explained our donation policy, and declined to add the publication to our periodical collection because it dealt almost entirely with American politics for which there is little demand in our library. I also pointed out that I had been unable to find any reviews of the paper and it was not listed in Katz's *Magazines for Libraries*. I concluded by suggesting that in future if he wished to make a donation, he discuss it with me in advance so that he could choose an appropriate publication for our library. In reply I received a long abusive letter, which was also copied to library board members and the newspaper. In the letter the donor accused me of suppressing information I did not agree with and filling the library with material presenting my views.

The library board discussed *The Spotlight* at length and after all members had read issues of the paper, decided to uphold my initial decision, citing three criteria in the book selection policy: a) poorly written or badly presented material, b) unreliable information, c) little or no demand.

While the newspaper did not print the donor's letter, it did print several articles about the issue. It also printed an editorial in which the editor accused the library of stifling freedom of expression by refusing to put *The Spotlight* on its shelves.

Summary

Overall, it is estimated that approximately one institution per week was pressured to acquire or accept materials between

1985 and 1987. While this involved only one out of five public libraries across the country, they served municipalities with 54 percent of the people represented in the study. In general terms, what these figures imply is a potential biasing of public library collections for more than half of all Canadian residents in the study population. Acquisition pressure tended to involve multi-branch systems serving large municipalities; French and English language institutions were similar in the rates of pressure that they experienced to acquire or accept materials.

The study has also shown that acquisition pressure was associated with the presence of institutional access policies, the requirement for minors to have consent to use certain materials, and treatment of certain materials differently in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation, and checklist ownership. It also went hand in hand with high checklist ownership and a high rate of direct challenges.

PART THREE: ACCESS IN THE FUTURE

CHAPTER 12

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Institutional characteristics:

Canadian public libraries are organized administratively either as single-unit libraries or as multi-branch systems, and the systems are either urban or regional (though there are also cooperative regional systems that do not function as administrative organizations, such as those in Alberta and Ontario). There are many more single libraries across the country, but they serve a much smaller percentage of the population than do the multi-branch systems. In spite of the difference in populations served, public library users are alike in major characteristics for the two types of institutions: circulation per capita is about the same, circulation per borrower is about the same, and borrowers constitute about the same percentage of municipal populations.

Respondents to the study represented 56 percent of all institutions and 76 percent of all Canadian residents in 1987.

Access policies and practices:

A major finding is that, overall, 70 percent of the public libraries had some or all of the basic institutional access policies relating to intellectual freedom--selection, objections, donations, objections form, and support of the CIA Statement on Intellectual Freedom. Fewer single-unit libraries had some or all of them than did multi-branch systems, 65 percent compared to 92 percent. English language institutions were more likely to have them than were their French language counterparts.

Access restrictions on children and young adults:

Age-related access restrictions were identified in the study as either restricted borrowing privileges for children and young adults or the requirement that minors have parental or guardian consent to borrow or consult materials. A major finding is that 60 percent of all public libraries placed no restrictions on children and young adults. Multi-branch systems were more likely than single-unit libraries to restrict access based on age. English and French language institutions did not differ in the extent to which they restricted access by age. Institutions that endorsed the CIA Statement were just as likely to have age restrictions as those that did not. Institutional treatment of children and young adults may be related to the concept of *in loco parentis*: in small towns where people are apt to know each other, there may be less need to devise formal policy

restrictions, while in larger, more diverse communities, these restrictions play a role which individual library staff members do not have the time for. Also, literature is published for children and in recent years the class of young adult literature has matured, so now public libraries have three general age-group collections to manage. While there are materials in each of these classes that spark controversy, some public library staff have used age restrictions as a solution to the problem of dealing with juvenile titles. The most common concerns behind the restrictions on children and young adults, however, are the same as for television and music videos--sex and violence.

Differential treatment of materials:

Institutions with age-related restrictions also tended to treat potentially controversial or questionable materials differently from others in the collection in one way or another--selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation. Differential treatment was the same in both single-unit and multi-branch libraries, in both English and French language communities, and regardless of the size of the municipal population. Overall, however, a major finding is that 79 percent of the public libraries treated such materials similarly to other materials.

Collection vulnerability:

A measure of the susceptibility of a collection to censorship pressure was constructed for the study in the form of a checklist of potentially controversial materials. It consisted of 30 titles that had been challenged in previous Canadian censorship studies; for this reason, some of the titles were not of very recent publication date. Half of the public libraries owned 11 or more of the checklist titles. Multi-branch systems owned twice as many of these titles as did single-unit libraries. Since the titles were all published originally in English, French language public libraries owned fewer than their English language counterparts, but what was surprising was that they owned as many of the titles as they did. Checklist ownership was related to the presence of institutional access policies: the more checklist titles that the public library owned, the more likely that it also had such policies, particularly a selection policy. Checklist ownership was also related to collection challenges: the more checklist titles that the public library owned, the more challenges it was apt to experience.

Bill C-54:

Although peripheral to the overall focus of the study, the reaction of public library boards and municipal councils to Bill C-54 is instructive. Some 51 percent (238 respondents) had

written to the Minister of Justice or otherwise taken a public stand on this Bill which proposed to introduce new censorship legislation for Canada. Among those 238 respondents, the reaction was nearly unanimous: 92 percent called for its withdrawal. There was no difference in reaction between multi-branch and single-unit libraries. In fact, none of the variables studied was a significant factor in board response to the Bill; public library trustees reacted remarkably alike on this issue.

Direct challenges:

The most important finding is that 65 percent of the public libraries experienced no direct challenges to their collections over the three years studied; one in five were challenged annually. Almost as important is the finding that there were fewer than 700 challenges to collections; extrapolating to all public libraries, it is estimated that there was one challenge every day somewhere in the country. Challenged institutions were much more likely to serve larger municipal populations, circulate more materials, and own more checklist titles. Language did not play a significant role in the incidence of challenges--somewhat surprising in view of the folklore that French speaking Canadians are more tolerant than English speaking Canadians, at least in matters of sex. Neither age-related restrictions nor differential treatment of certain materials played a role in the

incidence of challenges.

Almost all of the challenges were made by unaffiliated adults acting on their own behalf. One might have thought that library trustees, council members, and school trustees and staff (several units were housed in public schools) would initiate challenges in fairly large numbers because at least some members of these groups may view their role in society as having a "watchdog" aspect to it. This was not the case, however. Together they accounted for only 8 percent of all challenges, often acting for themselves rather than for members of the community. Even when adults objected to materials for children and young adults, they rarely claimed to be representing a child.

Regardless of any factor considered in the three years studied, it can be confidently stated that complaints about titles in public library collections during this period were motivated by individual opinion. There was no groundswell of censorship by the population of public library users of Canada, no concerted attack by organized groups on public librarians and their book selection policies. The vast majority of challenges were initiated by unaffiliated individuals: fewer than 600 of them were sufficiently concerned about the words and ideas expressed in public library materials that they attempted to intervene in the institutional process. They objected to well over 500 different titles. Only 5 percent of all challenges were initiated by groups or individuals acting on their behalf. These

data suggest that censorship pressure on Canadian public libraries is almost entirely an individual affair. The fact that three out of four challenges were about fiction indicates the general tenor of complaints, and the topics that bothered the majority of individuals were sex and violence.

A major finding is that direct challenges were handled primarily by public library staff themselves, and with considerable dispatch. Only 11 percent of the challenges were decided by public library boards or municipal councils. Challenges were resolved speedily--almost half within a month. They were also resolved without the involvement of the local media.

Another major finding is that 86 percent of all challenged titles were retained; in a minority of cases, the complainant was satisfied when the offending item was relocated internally, reclassified, or labelled. Only 14 percent of all challenged titles were permanently withdrawn from public library collections. Not unexpectedly, the rate of retention was higher in multi-branch systems than in single-unit libraries, and in larger municipalities. English language institutions retained more of the challenged titles than their French language counterparts. Retention rates were also higher in those institutions that owned more of the checklist titles, and in those that experienced more challenges. Retention rates were higher in institutions with an objections policy and form, a

donations policy, and where minors were not required to have consent to borrow materials. Retention was higher for fiction than non-fiction, elementary age materials than adult materials, and materials targeted for offensive language or unsuitability for age group than for pornographic content. It was also higher when library policy was followed and when local media did not cover the incident.

Public librarians were, overall, fairly confident in their professional stance towards collection challenges: 88 percent said that with hindsight they would not have handled these cases differently. And almost as many were satisfied with the way that they conducted their ongoing professional activities: 74 percent reported that the challenges they experienced had had no effect on the selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation of materials. This was as true of the staff of single-unit libraries as of multi-branch systems, and of the staff in French as in English language institutions.

Covert censorship:

This concept was more difficult to measure than direct actions, but the best data gathered in this study indicate that at least one in ten public libraries experienced incidents of covert censorship--theft, defacement, alteration, mutilation, or destruction of materials. Multi-branch systems were more often subjected to this kind of activity than were single-unit

libraries. French and English language institutions did not differ in covert censorship. One tentative finding about this activity is different from direct challenges: the range of subjects is somewhat wider when censorship is done on the sly than when the individual must speak face to face with a member of the staff. Here subjects included the occult, witchcraft, "D&D books" (dungeons and dragons), drugs, muscle building, Naziism, the Holocaust, religion, anthropology, popular novels, romances, westerns, creationism, politics, sex education, and, of course, sex in general. Since this kind of activity is secretive, one cannot know if it is primarily done by children, young adults, or adults. Many of the titles suggest the handiwork of young adults; one might conjecture that it is the result of age-related access restrictions, but there is no evidence to verify this. The problem of diagnosis of covert incidents of suspected censorship remains intractable, in large part beyond the grasp of empirical observation and measurement.

Acquisition pressure:

This concept was not only difficult to measure but also difficult to reconcile with the concept of censorship; nonetheless, "undue" pressure on public library staff to acquire or accept certain materials for the collection suggests another strategy for achieving censorial ends--to control the content and orientation of the collection. One in five public libraries

reported this kind of activity. Again, multi-branch systems were more often subjected to it than were single-unit libraries. As well, French and English language institutions did not differ in the extent to which they reported such pressure. Tentative evidence suggests that acquisition pressure was exerted by single-interest groups with political and social agendas: anti-abortion and religious groups were frequently mentioned.

Summary:

Censorship activity in Canadian public libraries will continue--the fear of words will not be overcome anytime soon. While some readers will see in the evidence of this study a considerable amount of censorship pressure taking a variety of forms to alter the composition of public library collections across Canada, it is important to keep this activity in perspective. Of the tens of millions of items that were borrowed and consulted in-house by many millions of library users during the period studied, only a few hundred individuals felt so strongly about their negative reactions to particular library materials that they complained. Nonetheless, the actions of this small group of people had the potential to affect access to particular materials by more than 13 million other Canadian residents.

Presumably, the millions of uncontested items are evidence that public library staff are successfully meeting patron

demands. From respondent comments, I do not perceive a notion that the staff are trying to "change" their clientele with provocative literature. Rather, they are familiar with the interests of members of the community and are trying to satisfy those interests. This may be especially true in smaller communities, where it might be conjectured that there are more shared values because people know each other; respondents there frequently reported knowing personally many members of the community. This familiarity with the community could account for librarians' knowledge of which books to select in order to match users and their interests. In larger communities, the goal is the same but staff rely more on formal policies and social patterns to assist them in satisfying the interests of their users.

In conclusion, this study has revealed, in the responses of public library staff to censorial challenges, a pattern of creative tension between institutional expertise and community advocacy. In most instances, public library staff used collection challenges as opportunities for fruitful dialogue with members of the community. Individuals communicated their concerns and values and attitudes, and staff communicated the public library's role in a democracy and the need for tolerance in communities of cultural diversity. In this interaction between staff and citizen can be found a public education process: the staff learn more about the community, the citizen

learns more about the public library. Many of the written comments by respondents showed this educational dialogue in action. In one letter explaining the thinking behind the selection of an item, a staff member wrote to a patron who had requested reconsideration of *Lizzy's Lion* that:

Prior to purchasing any book for our collections, we consult reviews of the book by noted critics and librarians. The reviews for *Lizzy's Lion* were excellent. Dennis Lee, the author, is a former recipient of the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians' medal awarded to the author of the most outstanding children's book of the year in Canada. The illustrator, Marie-Louise Gay, was awarded the Canada Council Children's Literature Prize for her work on *Lizzy's Lion*.

Lizzy's Lion is written in the form of nonsense verse. Children's literature has had many famous practitioners of this form from Edward Lear and Hilaire Belloc through to modern authors such as Jack Prelutsky and, of course, Dennis Lee, who has written the Canadian classics *Alligator Pie* and *Garbage Delight*. Nonsense verse, besides verging on the ridiculous, will often include some grotesque scenes which are meant to add to the nonsense. It is all meant as fantasy, but there are often moral overtones as well, with good overcoming evil as is the case in *Lizzy's Lion* when the little girl overcomes the robber.

Lizzy's Lion is not meant to be taken seriously, but because it is a picture book, we recommend that parents preview all such books before they are read to children. Indeed, we request parental responsibility for a child's reading by asking parents to countersign their child's library card.

Because *Lizzy's Lion* has been judged as an outstanding Canadian children's book, it will not be withdrawn from our collection. I would like to thank you, however, for taking the time to make your concerns known to me.

As Robert Hicks (1991) has urged, in a highly critical analysis of the extraordinary claims that are currently being peddled about the influence of the occult and satanism on children and

young adults, we should not underestimate the intelligence of children; rather, we should give them the tools to be critical thinkers (p.53).

I think we can say from the evidence of this study that the Canadian public library is functioning effectively in the arena of censorial pressures: while public librarians are open to challenges and challenges are indeed initiated, the materials in dispute remain accessible for the most part. Vocal members of the community are not silenced, but, in the vast majority of cases, the staff uphold the public mandate of their institutions to safeguard freedom of expression for all members of the community, not just for those segments of it that are so clear and firm in their convictions that they take the time to press them openly.

I have suggested that public librarians are functioning effectively in safeguarding intellectual freedom--however, they do not function perfectly. Perfect achievement of goals is a utopian ideal that can never fully be realized. But, as Martin Duberman (1973, p.297) wrote in another context, only utopian goals will allow us partly to succeed.

CHAPTER 13
CONCLUSIONS

This study, the first national comparative project of its kind in the world, has attempted to identify the scope and nature of community pressures to censor materials housed in the nation's public libraries, and to document the ways in which public librarians across the country have responded to these pressures.

Several respondents mentioned that they were pleased to see a study in the area of censorship problems and had been influenced by it to reconsider the issues involved. Many noted that they and their boards were against any kind of external censorship and strongly condemned it as an infringement on the rights of patrons. Some respondents, however, admitted that to a degree their staff probably do engage in self-censorship during the selection process. Many respondents commented that their small book budgets did not allow them to purchase a lot of questionable material.

There are at least three areas which merit further

examination and discussion by Canadian public librarians. The first is the matter of formal, written policies relating to intellectual freedom and access. The second is the public library community's treatment of one of its largest constituencies, children and young adults. And the third is the public library community's public defence and promotion of freedom of expression.

Many public libraries still do not have adequate access policies for materials selection, donations, and handling objections. And yet, comments by numerous respondents indicated that the key to dealing successfully with challenges to public library collections was the implementation of a collection development policy. Further, patrons should be made aware of these policies to help them better understand the role and responsibility of the public library in facilitating freedom of expression and in promoting each person's right to choose. A concern for due process is not new. In a study of cases of English language book censorship in Canada since 1935, Peter Birdsall and Delores Broten (1978) argued that public librarians as a group had not been "outstanding champions of the library's responsibility to the whole community" and that it was easier for them to "withstand pressure from minorities outside of mainstream beliefs, such as the Scientologists, than from the more vociferous local Christian sects" (p.59). They urged public librarians to adopt formal procedures for dealing with challenges

to their collections, noting that they should "insist that the library board must not act against the collection before public complaints are received and evaluated" (p.60).

Although the existence of formal policy will not guarantee the public library's freedom from censorship pressure, policy is imperative for rational and consistent organizational response to such pressure. It is also essential for staff guidance and for the protection of the public. As one respondent observed:

We have found that suggesting that the complainant read the library's selection policy and then put their complaint in writing helps to give the patron a cooling off period. Reading the policy seldom makes them change their minds, but it does put the procedure on a more businesslike basis. In the written reply, the library quotes from the policy, may quote from reviews, and mentions any awards the author has received. In *Fairy Tales of New York*, for example, we explained that the author was attempting satire, not condoning behaviour. We try not to sound condescending but simply factual.

And another commented:

We have found that clear policies and a well-trained staff provide a solid basis for responding to a range of patrons and patron demands. Perhaps the reason we have had so little trouble with our collection and service is that we try to be responsive to the community, and not to determine or set its values.

In our view, any comment or serious complaint regarding service or material is appreciated. It is both an opportunity to hear from our patrons and our public, as well as an opportunity to show them what we do offer and to explain Board policy. It is also a source of feedback to the Board and provides for ongoing evaluation of the policy.

Until formal access policies are worked out and adopted by a public library, its commitment to intellectual freedom is

somewhat qualified. The absence of formal policy initiatives may be viewed as another manifestation of a phenomenon observed by Michael Pope (1984) in his study of librarians' opinions about sexually oriented literature:

Research indicates that librarians give strong support to the concepts of intellectual freedom and open access to information but do not necessarily implement these concepts in their libraries. (p.184)

Principles divorced from practice are trivial and irrelevant at best, and at worst they breed cynicism about the integrity of the public library as a social institution; principles not transformed into institutional mechanisms send mixed messages to both staff and clientele, leading to inconsistency in policy and practice.

Moreover, formal policies should not only be adopted but they should be seen--literally. How many public libraries with approved access policies, and especially policies endorsing the institution's commitment to intellectual freedom, display copies prominently for patron information? These policies should also be readily available in manuals at reference and circulation service points for both staff and patrons. Examples of collections policies are found in a recent manual published by Kay Ann Cassell and Elizabeth Futas (1991).

The Office for Intellectual Freedom (1992) stresses the advantages of a written policy and form for handling challenges:

First, it encourages stability and continuity in the library's operations. Library staff members may come and go

but the procedures manual, kept up-to-date, of course, will help assure smooth transitions when organization or staff changes occur. Second, ambiguity and confusion are far less likely to result if a library's procedures are set down in writing. (p.205)

. . . .
Having a prepared form is not just an additional piece of record keeping. There are a number of advantages in having a complaint procedure available. First, knowing that a response is ready and that there is a procedure to be followed, the librarian will be relieved of much of the initial panic which inevitably strikes when confronted by an outspoken and perhaps irate library patron. Also important, the complaint form asks complainants to state their objections in logical, unemotional terms, thereby allowing the librarian to evaluate the merits of the objections. In addition, the form benefits the complainant. When citizens with complaints are asked to follow an established procedure for lodging their objections, they feel assured they are being properly heard and that their objections will be considered. (p.215)

The purpose of a procedure and form for handling challenges, then, is to facilitate dialogue in case of a dispute and to provide a defined course of action for both patron and staff to follow.

However, having a policy is one thing, having a defensible policy is another. Public library treatment of children and young adults brings this distinction into sharp focus. The evidence from the present study shows that public librarians as a professional community do not have a defensible national policy on intellectual freedom for minors. Among respondent public libraries, there appears to be a fairly common qualification to the principle of unrestricted choice for children. Moreover, there are wide variations across Canada in the age at which these

restrictions apply. What is the philosophical foundation for restricting access to patrons aged 13 and over in some public libraries, while in others the age is set at 14, or 15, or 16, or 17, or 18? Why do some public libraries classify and shelve sex education books written specifically for children as though they were adult books? And even when a public library does not restrict access to print materials, what is the philosophical foundation for age restrictions on access to film and video, in quiet obedience to the inconsistent policies imposed by provincial regulatory and censorship agencies across the country? These provincial barriers to information access are, in themselves, a major source of inequality of citizen rights guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, but that is another story.

The Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom makes no mention of age-related access restrictions. On the contrary, it states that "all persons" in Canada have the fundamental right of access to "all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity." Age-related restrictions therefore violate the CIA principle; they also violate the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, which has prohibited discrimination on the basis of age since 1967 (Krug and Harvey, 1992, p.xix). Nonetheless, neither endorsement of the CIA Statement nor the adoption of the other formal access policies by public libraries automatically rules out their

imposition of age restrictions on access. The present study shows that they were just as likely to have age restrictions if they endorsed the CIA Statement as if they did not endorse it, and just as likely to have age restrictions whether or not they had other patron access policies.

When public library staff with age-related access restrictions see the words "all persons" in the CIA Statement, do they make a mental translation to "all adults"? One suspects that a certain amount of self-delusion plays a role in this kind of discrimination. Comments by some respondents showed that they saw no barriers to access in age restrictions:

"Children's books dealing with sex education/abuse are housed in the office but are freely accessible if asked for."

"In the children's section, books on childbirth are kept behind the counter. But any children can take them out (staff uses their judgment)."

"Our library is very distinctly divided and until children go into grade 7 their nook is the children's room. They are not "banned" from the adult room but unless parents are with them it's rare they venture into the adult section."

There is yet another dimension to the assumption of institutional *in loco parentis*: blanket age restrictions on all children deny to parents their freedom--and right--to determine their own child's reading, viewing, and listening. If a parent wishes her or his child to have access to certain material that the institution has restricted on the basis of age, is parental autonomy infringed? In addition, many public

libraries require minors to have parental or guardian consent for borrowing or using library materials on-site. While staff may argue that a consent requirement is merely an affirmation of the legal responsibility of parents and guardians for minors, the effect may be to discriminate against children and young adults and to constrain their access to public library materials.

Other major barriers to access by minors that many public libraries need to reconsider are a variety of policies and practices identified in "Free Access to Libraries for Minors; An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" (Office for Intellectual Freedom, 1992). Among others, these barriers include: restricted reading rooms for adult use only, library cards limiting circulation of some materials to adults only, closed collections for adult use only, collections limited to teacher use, or restricted according to a student's grade level, and interlibrary loan service for adult use only (pp.22,24).

There is also the issue of client confidentiality. While respondent comments suggest a caring service philosophy in their treatment of minors, some respondents said that they occasionally telephone parents to discuss a child's intended borrowing. This appears to be an invasion of privacy and a breach of client confidentiality. Again, the public library community in Canada does not have a defensible national policy on library rights for children and young adults.

The most unsettling ramifications of these restrictive

policies and practices, however, are twofold: first, that they are self-reinforcing, and second, that young people will come to see suppression, by the example of their authoritarian elders, as an acceptable way of responding to controversial ideas (American Association of University Professors, 1986). By limiting access so as to appease a few vocal adult patrons and parents, restrictive policies condition the community and its children to believe that the institution has the right and duty to act for parents--and even in their place. This message may have a chilling effect on intellectual freedom, and for some young people the by-product is surely distrust or resentment of public librarians. It may also promote the ideology of state control, an ideology in which the state and its institutions decide everything of importance for the citizenry, and assume both the right and the obligation to protect citizens and their children from themselves.

The evidence from this study suggests that public librarians as a community should become more consistent champions of the rights of children and young adults to have unqualified access to library materials. While it is true that books and other materials are published for specific age groups, age-related restrictions and other institutional barriers to access violate the social contract for intellectual freedom that public library staff have unofficially "signed." The point here is that public librarians ought to recognize that a Canadian kid is a Canadian

kid is a Canadian kid.... How a balance can be achieved between social ideology that expects public librarians to protect children, and the larger moral imperative to respect the rights of minors, is an unresolved--and difficult--issue.

At the same time, it would be incorrect to leave the impression that the ideas to which children are exposed have no power. As Alison Lurie (1990) has observed,

Most of the great works of juvenile literature are subversive in one way or another: they express ideas and emotions not generally approved of or even recognized at the time; they make fun of honored figures and piously held beliefs; and they view social pretenses with clear-eyed directness, remarking--as in Andersen's famous tale--that the emperor has no clothes.

...If the best children's literature is subversive, it is perhaps because its creators knew the failings of the grown-up world too well. Because they tell the truth with ingenuity and charm, these stories will be read and reread long after more proper and sentimental tales have been forgotten (p.4).

Nonetheless, as Susan Madden (1989) pointed out in a presentation to the 1989 Alberta Libraries Conference in Jasper, Alberta, the public should not fear reading but rather the inability to read:

I was a juvenile court librarian for 7 years. During that time I saw literally thousands of kids, but I never saw one who was in lock-up because of something they had viewed or read. In fact, I would say that over 80% of them were there because they could not read...wouldst that we could devote as much time to the literacy of our patrons as we do to their protection (p.21).

Another concern that arises from the present study is the need for more vigorous and sustained campaigns by the public

library community to defend and promote freedom of expression in Canada. With the major exception of the concerted reaction to Bill C-54, public librarians have not taken a national leadership role on intellectual freedom issues. They have been slow to support Freedom to Read Week, an event that is run by the Book and Periodical Council.

Intellectual freedom has a relatively low priority for the Canadian Library Association, if one can judge by its 1992 Strategic Plan (Canadian Library Association, 1992), which does not mention it, and by its annual conferences, which have not regularly included programs on intellectual freedom in recent years. The Association has come a long way, however, from the days of its Committee on Undesirable Literature, established in 1958 to "consider the various types of undesirable literature which are being published or distributed in Canada" (Horn, 1978); this Committee metamorphosed three years later into the present Intellectual Freedom Committee.

There are, however, exceptions, such as the Halifax City Regional Library's ongoing public programs of support for intellectual freedom (see, for example, their booklets "Canadian Books and Challenges to Intellectual Freedom" and "Censored Imagination: Banned or Challenged Fiction and the Freedom to Read"), the City of Edmonton Public Library's brochure "Freedom," and the formal proclamations of support for Freedom to Read Week 1992 by the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, the first major

metropolitan centers in Canada to do so, and again for 1993 by Edmonton. The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Library Association of Alberta initiated the 1992 requests for municipal proclamations and the 1993 one for Edmonton was sponsored by the Alberta Writers' Guild. CANSCAIP Minus-30, the Northern Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers, has launched an active program to promote public awareness of censorship activity in Alberta schools and libraries, and to provide support for librarians involved in challenges.

The value to public librarians of a more active public awareness strategy was revealed in the comments of several respondents to the study:

"We had a prominent display during "Freedom to Read Week" which aroused a lot of interest in the community. In general, it seems that proximity to the city has resulted in more tolerant attitudes to different types of material than I have experienced in many rural areas. The general feeling about "Freedom to Read Week" was that censorship can't/doesn't happen here."

"Displays, posters in branches, during "Freedom to Read Week" resulted in good media coverage in larger centres and a lot of interest/questions from patrons."

"I think our regional library has a good attitude towards censorship. We have been encouraged to participate in "Freedom to Read Week" and have displays up and activities to make patrons aware of the facts."

It is obvious that other factors, not studied here, also play an important role in the public library censorship phenomenon. Some of these concern the governance of the

institution--trustee leadership, municipal council support, the leadership of the chief librarian, and the relations among these constituencies. Other factors concern the cultural mix of the local community--religious orientation, political affiliation, education, and other socio-demographic characteristics. Still other factors relate to the institutional culture of the local public library and staff--their attitudes toward selection and self-censorship, their attitudes toward censorship and intellectual freedom, their philosophy of client service, their perception of community and political support, overall institutional effectiveness in the community, and other socio-demographic characteristics. Finally, there are broad social, political, and economic factors associated with the culture of the mass media, the publishing industry, and governmental policies such as the federal goods and services tax on reading.

At the more intimate level of the individual psyche, there are other factors at work in explaining the phenomenon of public library censorship. Reader response theory, for example, helps to explain why there were so many different reasons given by complainants to justify their objections to particular library materials. As Aidan Chambers (1983) explains it, response to a text is based in a coming together of the reader's personal history, the reader's reading history, and the text itself. The reader inevitably participates in creating the meaning of a text,

a meaning that for each reader may differ either somewhat or substantially from the author's original concept. A reader's personal history includes the formation of cultural, moral, and aesthetic values. These values play a part in determining a reader's response to a text, and are among the criteria a reader uses, consciously or unconsciously, to decide whether a text is good or bad. If a text is judged on its literary merit, aesthetic values should be the dominant criteria. But literature has always been understood to be a force for socializing individuals, and the moral and cultural values a reader brings to and finds in a text will influence the reader's judgment of it. These complex interactions are nowhere better illustrated than in the frequently divergent reasons that people give for disapproving of the same title.

But reader response theory does not explain why some people want to prevent or restrict access to public library material; and little if any empirical research has been done to answer this question (one promising anecdotal account is provided by Poppel and Ashley, 19??). Among supporters of censorship, there appears to a pervasive fear of the power of words and ideas. They appear to hold the view that images have fixed meanings--exactly the opposite of what reader response theory says. They appear to hold the view that the human mind--especially the mind of a child or adolescent--is like a sponge, absorbing everything in its path without discrimination, seduced by and imitating every idea

without reflection, incapable of distinguishing between imagery and reality, between virtual experience and actual experience. They seem to believe that we are what we read last, that environment, schools, peers, and extended family leave no permanent mark on our values and belief systems.

It is unfortunate that this sponge theory of the effect of reading has not been adequately examined in the literature. One fruitful avenue for further study is the perspective of general systems theory (Bertalanffy, 1968). In this perspective, for example, the human mind is regarded as a system with both biological and cultural dimensions that interacts with other systems, both human and non-human. Information in one form or another is constantly being presented to the human mind *qua* system from its surroundings, and the function of the system is to select that which it wants and to reject that which it does not want. Hence, not everything offered to a system is taken in by it--just as not everything that it offers to its surroundings is accepted by them. In such a general systems view of the human condition, fear of exposure to ideas would be replaced by respect for the autonomous individual's capacity for evaluating ideas and for acting in accord with the moral and ethical responsibilities that issue from the social contract.

Another fruitful avenue for further study is the perspective of learning theory, in which one important element is the affective filter: people affirm what fits into their value

system and concomitantly have strong emotional reactions that tend to confirm rather than change their beliefs. While it is true that we are shaped by what we read, see, and hear, we are nonetheless safe as long as we are exposed to a diversity of views. The real danger is in having access to only one view.

All of these problems, from theoretical perspectives to empirical patterns, await a more complex research design than the one constructed for the present, descriptive investigation. Other areas for research may also be suggested. Of course the most obvious is a replication of the present study so that trends could be determined in rates of censorship pressure and kinds of institutional response. Studies could also be undertaken of English and social studies teachers, school administrators, school consultants, and school librarians. At a more focused level, a broader and more representative checklist of potentially controversial titles could be developed for periodic testing of the censorship susceptibility of Canadian public libraries. Qualitative case studies of complainants and their motivation could also be undertaken.

Another major area that is ripe for further research is self-censorship; although Fiske (1959) and Busha (1972a, 1972b) made important contributions, their landmark studies have not led to the development of a research tradition in this area. As McKee (1977) noted, studies matching the rigor of their work are uncommon. Self-censorship can take a variety of forms--avoiding

controversial topics and titles, citing the absence of reviews to justify the exclusion of controversial titles, resorting to budget constraints, and ignoring alternative press publications (according to Willett, 1992, *Alternative Press Index* is unavailable in large areas of the U.S.; the situation in Canada is unknown). Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt (1990) enumerated ten myths that many librarians cling to about gay and lesbian patrons, in defence of self-censorship of materials and services to them:

1. "No gays and lesbians live around here..."
2. "Well, if there are any lesbians or gay people living near me, they don't seem to use my library..."
3. Gay/lesbian materials are too technical/too academic/too clinical/too esoteric for the people who use my library."
4. "But it's so difficult to find reviews of these materials..."
5. "Library vendors don't handle those books, do they?"
6. "We don't/shouldn't cater to specialized needs..."
7. "We simply haven't yet found the time to devote attention to covering this particular subject area..."
8. "I'm not qualified to order those books..."
9. "Can't people just use interlibrary loan to get these things?"
10. "My library can't afford these materials..." (pp.4-5)

In particular, Virgil Blake (1987) suggested further research into the relationship between librarian self-esteem, self-censorship, and response to challenges. And when one hears stories about a staff member who accidentally spills something on any library book thought to be offensive so that it can be discarded (thus, presumably, in good conscience), or about catalogers who never quite get around to processing certain

titles, or about others who simply "disappear" items that they personally dislike, we should not be complacent about the need for further investigation into the many forms that self-censorship can take. Still, the tentative evidence from the present study suggests that the great majority of Canadian public librarians do not knowingly and deliberately treat potentially controversial or questionable materials differently from others in their collections in any way, whether it be in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation.

Finally, although it is of a different order than the empirical and bibliographic studies suggested above, the twin concepts of the balanced collection and public library impartiality bear further research, particularly with respect to such issues as sexism, racism, homosexuality, and other sexual values. In this context, the words of Bernard Berelson (1938) still merit attention. He argued that the balanced collection concept, in which the public library provides material on all sides of a question but takes no side, was a convenient barrier behind which the profession could retreat "from the responsibility of serving a more useful social purpose" (p.87). Although he made it clear that the public library must provide material on all sides of a question, he suggested that this was only the beginning of its social function, not the end. He wrote:

I say that the library should not be impartial, for instance, between democracy and dictatorship, or between

intelligence and stupidity or prejudice, or between the general public welfare and special interests, or between peace and war, or between reason and force. If the library wishes to be considered as seriously devoted to the best interests of society, then it must realistically recognize that impartiality is not always compatible with such devotion and it must be prepared to take its place in defense of those interests. (p.88)

The national profile that emerges within these pages is an unfinished story: every day, new twists are added to the ongoing narrative. It is hoped that this study will shed light on the prevailing climate of intellectual freedom in Canadian public libraries, and help to promote discussion about the proper limits on freedom of expression that are appropriate in the Canadian body politic.

It is true that words and ideas are powerful, but they are not supernatural. Their magic is the magic of enchantment and excitement, not the magic of the occult. The instinct for freedom and individual responsibility are the keystones to social organization and to democratic government. As long as words convey ideas, public librarians would do well to ponder these concerns for their own institutions and their patrons. In the fine balance between institutional prerogative and the citizen's right to dissent, the public library should strive to serve all of its potential clientele.

One of the most important and one of the most intractable problems for democratic institutions is the role of the expert in the service of the lay community: who decides, ultimately, which

ideas will find their way onto public library shelves? Unless public librarians live the principles of intellectual freedom and access as agents for all the body politic, through policies, procedures, and integrity, they abdicate their claim to institutional prerogative and institutional autonomy. As Asheim (1983) commented, the defense of ideas is the librarian's concern, and "the best solution to the problem of access is to add positively to the store of ideas, not negatively to reduce it" (p. 184).

How far the stacks can be closed in an open society is undoubtedly a subject for eternal debate. Nonetheless, the social philosophy and moral responsibility of the public library should be to respond to any and all constituencies that the institution is able to acknowledge, free from the restraints imposed by external power. If the metaphor of "closed stacks" were to become the Canadian reality, the institution's struggle for autonomy in decision-making, for autonomy in carrying out its moral and legal obligations, would be lost. In closed stacks, the public library yields its honorable tradition of intellectual freedom to the vigilante power of self-appointed gatekeepers of community thought and belief. As one respondent commented,

I feel censorship, in any form, is the worst crime against libraries and the public in general. I always felt, and still do, that our country's freedoms and rights are what make life here so enjoyable. Freedom of choice is what separates us from countries where the government is the ultimate power.

In the final analysis, for public librarians, as for all Canadians who respect the civil rights of their fellow citizens, the price of continuing liberty is indeed eternal vigilance. For one prediction can be made that needs no comprehensive study to back it up: the desire to censor will never die.

It is hoped that the research reported here will be of value to public librarians everywhere in their continuing efforts to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of their own responses to censorship pressure.

As this is a book about what public library staff say and do on a day-to-day basis in their service to the community, it is fitting that they should have the last word. Among the many frank and insightful and humorous comments that have been received, one respondent reminded us:

Since book selection can not be a science, we can only hope to guard against our biases warping our collections. Changing staff doing the selection is probably the most palatable solution. Diversity of selectors should help provide balance. Please note that not only are there controversial and/or questionable books we do not buy, but also non-controversial, non-questionable books that we do not buy.

And finally, this respondent reminds us that all research findings are impermanent by nature:

Questionnaires do not always tell the whole story. This community may be ripe for a challenge. We do not know.

POSTSCRIPT

Unfortunately, even the continuing vigilance of the Canadian public library community will not guarantee unfettered patron access to published materials. Lois Bewley (1983) identified five federal statutes which provide legal authority to censor public communication. National public library policy needs to be developed to counter the massive intrusion by governments and politicians--at all levels--into the realm of freedom of expression and the right to receive that expression. It is startling to realize, for example, that until 1969, it was a criminal offence in Canada to disseminate birth control information; that in 1970, freedom of speech was temporarily stripped from Canadians when the War Measures Act was invoked; and that later still, in 1976, the federal government passed an Order-in-Council prohibiting the publication of information about an international uranium cartel on pain of five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine--information that was routinely available in the *U.S. Congressional Reports*. Still in force is a 60-year old ban in Canada's Broadcasting Act on religious radio and television stations.

This massive intrusion currently includes the following political and governmental initiatives:

- o 1988 amendments to the Criminal Code, Bill C-264, that criminalize literature about illicit drug use;

- o 1993 amendments, Bill C-128, aimed at pedophiles, that outlaw the production, distribution, and possession of film, video, photography, other "visual representation," and some written materials (though excluding books and other literary depictions) that depict "explicit sexual activity" by anyone under 18 or anyone represented as being under 18;
- o the hate propaganda provisions of the Criminal Code; the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission's Canadian content quotas that exclude performers who sometimes record outside the country, extended in 1985 to regulate news content on two Windsor radio stations, and other Commission programming rules such as the prohibition against comic-book heroes, mythological figures, and characters from fairy tales as protagonists on the children's television channel;
- o the continuing intervention by elected politicians as self-appointed arbiters of music (especially rap music), painting, and public taste;
- o the ban by the Hamilton and Toronto city councils of a song "Killing an Arab" from public performance in their jurisdictions and the resolution that it be banned throughout Ontario;
- o the attempt by the Saskatchewan Legislature to ban the use of quotes from the Assembly for light entertainment, political satire, paid advertising, and election advertisements;
- o the McCarthyite hearings--for the second time in recent years--by the Canadian Senate into films that failed to glorify Canadians at war (in the 1992 Star Chamber proceedings, the filmmakers were not even allowed to appear in order to defend themselves, and they were subsequently betrayed by their own people, the upper management of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation);
- o the discriminatory language law in Quebec, Bill 178, that bans English from most outdoor commercial signs, and the similarly discriminatory actions of several Ontario municipalities to declare themselves "English only" communities;
- o the efforts by Quebec politicians in early 1992 to suppress Montreal author Mordecai Richler's witty but stinging rebuke of Quebec nationalism (*Oh Canada! Oh Quebec! Requiem for a Divided Country*);

- o Quebec's Bill 51, which restricts Quebec library book purchases to government-certified booksellers, and Bill 109, which makes it illegal for anyone from outside Quebec to distribute films and videos in the province;
- o the subjection of the Canadian body politic to overwhelming military censorship during the Gulf War;
- o the secret investigation of perhaps one million Canadians by the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service;
- o the denunciation in the winter of 1993 by a Senator of a film that has not even been made yet on the subject of the FLQ's assassination of Pierre Laporte in 1970;
- o the unprecedented Senate hearings announced in 1993 into a complaint by still another Senator against the Canadian Press news agency that her parliamentary privileges had been violated by a news story about a confidential government report on missing government documents on the Canada-U.S. free trade negotiations that had found her papers had little historical or archival value even though she had been paid handsomely in compensation for the loss by the federal government;
- o the request by the City of Ottawa's advisory committee on visible minorities that Ottawa schools and the public library consider "discouraging" the use of dictionaries that purportedly contain biased definitions for three words, "black", "white", and "ethnic";
- o the over-reaching of judicial authority in the ban on a satirical Calgary play, as well as on the production of any movies, newscasts, plays, or documentaries, about racial supremacists while Jim Keegstra was on trial in 1992 for anti-Semitic hatemongering;
- o the similar over-reaching of judicial authority in the ban on television broadcast--on appeal limited to Ontario and western Quebec--of a fictional account of sexual abuse in a religious-run institution while four Ontario members of a Roman Catholic lay order, the Brothers of Christian Schools, were on trial for sexual assault;
- o the short-lived 1993 "gag law," Bill C-114, an unconstitutional attempt by three federal political parties to restrict the right of citizens and lobby groups to buy political advertising during federal election campaigns;

- o a bill endorsed unanimously by the House of Commons in 1992 that would make it illegal to "burn, deface, defile, mutilate, trample upon or otherwise desecrate the national flag of Canada";
- o the dangerous precedent set by the Ontario Human Rights Commission in deciding to apply the Human Rights Code to the arena of free speech by hearing complaints about the alleged "hostile climate" for women created by corner stores that carry magazines such as *Playboy*;
- o the ever-present threat of another federal censorship bill to replace the current obscenity provisions of the Criminal Code, sporadically fuelled by coalitions of religious leaders; and
- o the continuing assault by Canada Customs--with the strong support of elected politicians in Ottawa--on the importation of materials for reading, viewing, and listening.

At the moment, this assault finds its primary focus in systematic governmental discrimination against the right of the gay community to celebrate its own literature and erotica. Freedom to Read Week was launched in 1985 with Canada Customs' own version of this event: they pressured a book distributor to withdraw *The Joy of Gay Sex* from booksellers across the country, even though it had been legally imported since 1977. Within the past two or three years, however, Canada Customs has been experimenting with more extensive social controls on a variety of subjects--witness the unbridled interference in the importation of the works, among many others, of authors Salman Rushdie, Jane Rule, Marcel Proust, André Gide, Oscar Wilde, Allan Ginsberg, Anne Cameron, Kathy Acker, and Bret Easton Ellis. In 1986, Canada Customs detained copies of a documentary film on the life of Nelson Mandela on the grounds that it constituted "hate

propaganda" against white South Africans. In 1989, Canada Customs also celebrated Freedom to Read Week with its own agenda--a directive to stop importations of *The Satanic Verses*. During Freedom to Read Week in 1990, Canada Customs maintained the tradition by detaining Rule's *The Young in One Another's Arms*, which, incidentally, had been legally available in Canada since the 1970s. And again in 1993, Canada Customs honored precedent by detaining Andrea Dworkin's conservative feminist work *Hating Women*, an irony surely unrecognized in the corridors of Ottawa bureaucracy.

This political agenda violates the civil liberties of all Canadians; the Canada Customs censorship activities are largely unrestrained and unchecked by proper judicial process. And it is both instructive and alarming that Canada Customs has begun to broaden its targets of surveillance to include works being imported by women's and alternative bookstores across the country. In 1992, magazines featuring tattooing were seized as being "degrading and dehumanizing."

Moreover, it is ironic if not amusing that the vast majority of material from which Big Canadian Brother is protecting us comes from another great democracy, the United States of America! Among the ironies in the Canada Customs agenda is that a whole mass of material that can be legally owned within Canadian borders can not be legally brought across them. Many people mistakenly believe that a Canada Customs ban automatically

makes illegal the ownership of banned items, but this is not the case at all. If such a work were to be acquired through legal means, for example, a Canadian work published in both Canada and abroad, only the imported edition could be prohibited by Canada Customs. Many people also mistakenly assume that a Canada Customs ban is the result of due process of judicial determination; on the contrary, Canada Customs bans are abusive exercises in prior restraint through the force of secretive bureaucratic regulation. And Canada Customs actions routinely include the destruction or damaging of publications before Canadian recipients are notified or have an opportunity to appeal a seizure. A recent example that illustrates the tactics used by this dangerous federal agency was the seizure and shredding of the manuscript of an unpublished novel (*Heroes, Dreams and Incest*) written by Alberta author Robert Lally when it was confiscated on its way back from an American literary agent (destruction of evidence is routine procedure in Canada Customs); the Alberta Attorney General's office later determined that the work did not violate the Canadian Criminal Code. Furthermore, the greatest hate propaganda of all time, *Mein Kampf*, is perfectly legal in Canada--at the present time--though it or any other item can suddenly appear on the list of prohibited materials. This schizophrenic treatment is unlike the application of Canadian law to any other material goods, for example, controlled substances, where possession within Canada is

equally illegal as are attempts to import them.

Another irony is that in being denied access to certain materials, for example, those designated as hate propaganda, Canadians find themselves at a considerable disadvantage compared to supporters, for they can not examine the materials on which these repugnant philosophies are based. Those who espouse them possess a power that ordinary Canadians do not: they have access to "knowledge" that is denied everyone else. This paternalistic protectionism prevents Canadians from preparing themselves through critical analysis to deal effectively with such views and the "reasoning" that informs them. As Matthew Hoffman (1991) has written,

It is far better to be offended than to be ignorant. The cost of free speech, although great, is nothing like the cost of its abridgement." (p.25).

The most sobering observation about the view that there is solace in prosecuting or censoring hateful ideas is the recognition that nothing can save a society that is already morally corrupt, that is already pervaded with racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, or misogyny. These social and intellectual pathologies will survive without ever being spoken in public, without ever being written down, and without ever being represented on library shelves.

Further, there is no solace to be taken in the role that the Supreme Court of Canada has played to date in its interpretations

of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*: in the name of Canadian democracy, the Court has consistently supported limitations on freedom of expression that would be unthinkable in the United States. The Court's most recent limitation was a 1992 decision to uphold the federal obscenity law in the Butler case, on the grounds that some sexually explicit material is harmful and can cause violence against women; no empirical research informed this decision, merely the testimony of the women's Legal, Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and two American (!) women who have crusaded for decades against sexually explicit imagery, and the first victim of the Court's new insight was the seizure of a lesbian sex magazine. For a more detailed analysis of freedom of expression and Canadian libraries, see Yves de Montigny (1985), and for more recent analyses of *Charter* issues that have implications for public libraries, see David Schneiderman (1991).

Another way in which freedom of expression is abridged in Canada is through weak access legislation. The federal Freedom of Information Act, for example, has been so constrained that more information about Canadian events can sometimes be obtained through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act than can be obtained at home. And the same is true for corporate data; thanks to the requirements of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, American investors have access to much more information on U.S. companies than Canadians have on Canadian companies. Canadian

libel laws are also far more conservative than the U.S. ones, with the result that libel chill is an increasing threat to freedom of expression in Canada: wealthy individuals and companies have even threatened legal action in recent years on the basis of what might be written and what might be published--though not a single word has yet been put to paper.

Among those who support government intrusion into the realm of private life, an unconstrained marketplace of ideas is feared rather than admired. In the ideology of government control, unpopular and controversial ideas must be restricted, suppressed, and sanitized; they are not to be debated. For these proponents, compromise and tolerance of diversity are not virtues but weaknesses. But as John Locke (1689) asserted over 300 years ago, force can compel compliance but not belief.

The Canadian public library community will need to broaden its domain of concerns if its traditional commitments to freedom of expression and democratic forms of government are to have any relevance in the future. As the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (1968-1969) argued in a brief against the censorship of "hate literature,"

...a politically free, self-governing people can rightly authorize its governments to do many things, often restrictive things, in its name; BUT it cannot authorize its governments to serve as a censor. To do this, even in one area, would thereby diminish the people's self-governing capacity and render them less fit for their civic role. To have democratic choices it is a basic requirement that we have the freedom to express and hear all the ideas and doctrines; without this, we cannot claim to be free (p.1).

Freedom is safer than repression. This is not a political party issue, not a liberal or a conservative principle, neither right nor left. Freedom is the very foundation of political issues, of liberal and conservative principles, of right and left. In the last resort, it is not the force of law but only the force of intelligence that can save a people from its own folly.

Appendix A

Survey Questionnaires and Covering Letters



University of Alberta
Edmonton

Canada T6G 2J4

Faculty of Library Science

3-20 Rutherford South
Telephone (403) 432-4578/4140 Envy 100: FLS.UofA

February 16, 1988

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

I would be most grateful for your cooperation in distributing the enclosed survey forms to your branch heads and central library manager for their response. If not enough copies are included, please feel free to make more—no copyright problem!

The objective of this survey is to gather information about pressures to remove or restrict materials in public library collections across Canada, over the past three years. It is the first national survey of its kind.

The project is funded in part by generous grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts and the University of Alberta's Small Faculties Endowment Fund.

Information from the survey should provide a comprehensive picture of how public librarians throughout the country have handled objections and concerns of various kinds. The results of the survey should be useful to public librarians, trustees, other policy-makers, students, and educators.

Please be assured that no person, library, or library system will be identified in any report, whether verbal or written, of this project.

Would you please ask appropriate staff to complete the enclosed form, and return it in the postage-paid envelope by March 11, 1988. If you have any questions about the survey, please call me collect at (403) 432-4578.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvin M. Schrader".

*Alvin M. Schrader, PhD
Associate Professor*



University of Alberta
Edmonton

Faculty of Library Science

Canada T6G 2J4

3-20 Rutherford South, Telephone (403) 432-4578/4140

February 16, 1988

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The project consists of two parts, a survey questionnaire and a checklist of selected holdings. The checklist is something of an experimental idea for a project like this, consisting of items that have drawn public criticism during the past 4 or 5 years, as reported in other studies.

Information from the survey should provide a comprehensive picture of how public librarians throughout the country have handled objections and concerns of various kinds. The results of the project should be useful to public librarians, trustees, other policy-makers, students, and educators.

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*Alvin M. Schrader, PhD
Associate Professor*



University of Alberta
Edmonton

Faculty of Library Science

Canada T6G 2J4

3-20 Rutherford South, Telephone (403) 432-4578/4140

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Associate Professor



University of Alberta
Edmonton

Faculty of Library Science

Canada T6G 2J4

3-20 Rutherford South
Telephone (403) 432-4578/4140 Envoiy 100: FLS.UofA

le 16 février, 1988

*Madame la directrice des services d'information,
Monsieur le directeur des services d'information,*

Je vous saurais gré de demander aux bibliothécaires en chef des succursales de votre réseau ainsi qu'au directeur de la bibliothèque centrale de remplir le questionnaire ci-joint. Si vous n'avez pas suffisamment de questionnaires, n'hésitez pas à en faire des photocopies - il n'y a pas de droits d'auteur!

L'objectif de la présente enquête est de recueillir des données sur les pressions exercées dans les bibliothèques publiques du pays au cours des trois dernières années pour enlever diverses ressources ou en restreindre l'accès. Il s'agit de la première enquête de ce genre à l'échelle nationale.

Ce projet est rendu possible, en partie, grâce à des subventions considérables de l'Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts et du Fonds de dotation des petites facultés de l'université de l'Alberta.

Les données tirées de cette enquête nous permettront de mieux connaître la réaction des bibliothécaires des bibliothèques publiques face à des plaintes et à des préoccupations de diverses sortes. Les résultats de cette enquête seront certainement utiles aux bibliothécaires du secteur public, aux membres des conseils d'administration de bibliothèques, aux autres décideurs, aux étudiants et aux éducateurs.

Personne, ni aucune bibliothèque ni aucun réseau de bibliothèques, ne sera identifié, oralement ou par écrit, dans tout rapport qui paraîtra sur cette enquête.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de demander aux personnes appropriées de remplir le questionnaire ci-joint et de nous le retourner dans l'enveloppe pré-affranchie prévue à cette fin d'ici le 11 mars, 1988. Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à me téléphoner, à frais virés, au (403) 432-4578.

En vous remerciant de votre collaboration, je vous prie d'agréer, Madame la directrice des services d'information, Monsieur le directeur des services d'information, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Alvin M. Schrader
Professeur agrégé



University of Alberta
Edmonton

Faculty of Library Science

Canada T6G 2J4¹

3-20 Rutherford South, Telephone (403) 432-4578/4140

le 16 février, 1988

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Monsieur le directeur de la bibliothèque,*

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Le projet comprend deux parties : un questionnaire et une liste de certains titres de ressources. Cette liste constitue une idée expérimentale pour un projet de ce genre étant donné qu'elle comprend des titres de ressources qui ont soulevé des plaintes du public au cours des 4 ou 5 dernières années, selon ce qu'ont constaté d'autres études.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Alvin M. Schrader'.

Alvin M. Schrader
Professeur agrégé

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY:

REQUESTS TO REMOVE OR RESTRICT LIBRARY MATERIALS, 1985-1987

Please be assured that no person, library, or library system will be identified in any report, whether verbal or written, of this survey.

LIBRARY _____

BRANCH _____ POSTAL CODE _____

1. Does your library have a written selection policy? Yes ___ No ___
2. Does your library have a written procedure or written policy for handling objections to materials in the collection? Yes ___ No ___

If YES, does the policy endorse the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom? Yes ___ No ___
3. Does your library have a written form for registering objections to or requesting reconsideration of materials in the collection? Yes ___ No ___
4. Does your library restrict borrowing privileges by age/grade level? Yes ___ No ___

If YES, please elaborate: _____

5. Does your library require minors to have written parental/guardian consent to consult in-house or to borrow certain individual titles or certain types of materials? Yes ___ No ___

If YES, please elaborate: _____

6. Other than by age/grade level, does your library restrict in-house access or borrowing privileges to certain individual titles or to certain types of materials? Yes ___ No ___

If YES, please elaborate: _____

7. During 1985, 1986 or 1987, was your library requested to remove from its collection, or otherwise to restrict access to any book, magazine, or other material? Yes ___ No ___

If NO, please go to question #10. If YES, to next page, "History Sheet."

HISTORY SHEET

(Use one sheet per title per objection—photocopy if more are needed)

For each request to remove or restrict materials during 1985, 1986 or 1987 (and earlier if you wish), please provide the following background information.

- a) Title: _____
Author/creator: _____
Date of publication: _____ Type of format: _____
Fiction Non-fiction Age level: _____
- b) Date of initial objection (month/year): _____
- c) Who was the objector? Adult patron Parent School trustee
Library staff Council member Library trustee
Other (specify) _____
- d) Was this person representing: self other (specify) _____
- e) Was this person a registered borrower? Yes No Don't know
- f) Was this the only objection received during 1985, 1986 and 1987 from this person?
Yes No Not sure If NO, note on other History Sheets.
- g) Was the objection: Verbal Written Verbal, then written
- h) Specific reason(s) given for the objection (please quote if possible):

- i) Action requested by complainant: _____

- j) Final result of the objection:
● discussion with complainant, no further action
● material removed from library
● material relocated to where? _____
● other (please elaborate) _____

- k) Was library policy followed in dealing with the objection?
Yes No Partially No policy
If NO or PARTIALLY, please explain the circumstances: _____

- l) At what administrative level was this objection resolved? _____

- m) Date of final resolution (month/year): _____
- n) Was this incident reported in the local media (newspaper, radio or television)? Yes No If YES, please enclose clippings, etc.

8. Looking back on the objection(s) received, and your experience in handling them, would you have changed your approach generally or in any particular circumstances? Yes No

If YES, please elaborate: _____

9. Would you say that the objection(s) received have had any effect on your library's selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation? Yes No

If YES, please elaborate: _____

10. During 1985, 1986 or 1987, did your library experience loss, theft, defacement, alteration, mutilation, or destruction of any book, magazine or other material which you suspected was an attempt to prevent or restrict access by others? Yes No Hard to say

If YES, please describe each incident, including year, type of damage, title and author, library response, etc. (use additional sheets if necessary):

11. Has your library been pressured to accept or acquire certain individual titles or certain types of materials, during 1985, 1986 or 1987?
Yes ___ No ___

If YES, please elaborate: _____

12. Does your library have a written policy on donation of materials for the collection? Yes ___ No ___

13. Does your library treat potentially controversial or questionable materials differently from other materials in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation? Yes ___ No ___

If YES, please describe the special treatment and identify the types of materials or specific titles:

14. Background information on your library:

- municipal population in 1987: _____
- service area population (if different) in 1987: _____
- registered borrowers in 1987: _____
- circulation in 1987: _____
- hours per week open to the public in 1987: _____
- Check here if your library is school-housed: ___
If YES, school enrollment in 1987: _____

15. Does your library collect materials in:
English ___ French ___ Other languages ___

16. Please indicate whether or not your library owns or has ordered the materials listed below—in any edition or language. (Not all French translations of English-language titles have been verified.)

		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
ADULT FICTION			
Andrews, V.C.	Flowers in the attic / Fleurs captives	—	—
Auel, Jean	Valley of the horses / La Vallée des chevaux	—	—
Blume, Judy	Forever	—	—
	Wifey	—	—
Doerkson, Margaret	Jazzy	—	—
Jong, Erica	Fear of flying / Le Complexe d'Icare	—	—
Kosinski, Jerzy	The Painted bird	—	—
Robbins, Harold	Goodbye Janette	—	—
Smedley, Agnes	Chinese destiny	—	—
Uris, Leon	The Haj / Le Hadj	—	—
ADULT NON-FICTION			
Baigent, Michael	Holy Blood Holy Grail / L'Enigme sacrée	—	—
Ferry, J. and D. Inwood	The Olson murders	—	—
Lovelace, Linda and Mike McGrady	Ordeal	—	—
McCoy, Kathy and Charles Wibbelsman	The Teenage body book	—	—
JUVENILE FICTION			
Bellairs, John	Figure in the shadows	—	—
Blume, Judy	Then again, maybe I won't / Et puis, j'en sais rien	—	—
Klein, Norma	It's okay if you don't love me	—	—
Major, Kevin	Hold fast / Tiens bon	—	—
Neufeld, John	Freddy's book	—	—
Rockwell, Thomas	The Thief	—	—
Suddon, A.	Cinderella [Cendrillon]	—	—
JUVENILE NON-FICTION			
Cohen, Barbara	I am Joseph	—	—
Dayee, Frances, S.	Private zone	—	—
Dickinson, Peter	City of Gold and other stories from the Old Testament	—	—
Johnson, Corinne and Eric Johnson	Love and sex and growing up	—	—
PICTURE BOOKS AND EASY			
Lareuse, Jean	Devils in the castle	—	—
Maestro, Betsy	Lambs for dinner	—	—
Sendak, Maurice	In the night kitchen / Cuisine de nuit	—	—
Seuss, Dr.	Butter battle book	—	—
Wildsmith, Brian	The True cross / La Légende de la vraie croix	—	—

17. Do you have any other comments?

18. Has your Library Board written to the Minister of Justice about Bill C-54, or otherwise taken a public stand on it?
Yes No Don't know

If YES, what was the Board's position?

- support the Bill
- withdraw the Bill
- other (please specify) _____

19. Survey results will be published, but if you would like to receive a summary of findings, please enclose a self-addressed envelope with this form.

Thank you for contributing to this project. Please return this form, in the envelope provided, by March 11, 1988, to:

Canadian Intellectual Freedom Study
Etude sur la liberte intellectuelle au Canada
Room 3-20 Rutherford South
Faculty of Library Science
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 9Z9

QUESTIONNAIRE:

**DEMANDES VISANT A ENLEVER DES RESSOURCES DE LA BIBLIOTHEQUE
OU A EN RESTREINDRE L'ACCES (1985-1987)**

Personne, ni aucune bibliothèque ni aucun réseau de bibliothèques, ne sera identifié, oralement ou par écrit, dans tout rapport sur cette enquête.

BIBLIOTHEQUE _____

SUCCURSALE _____ CODE POSTAL _____

1. Votre bibliothèque possède-t-elle des lignes de conduite écrites concernant le choix des ressources? Oui Non
2. Votre bibliothèque possède-t-elle des directives écrites ou des lignes de conduite écrites concernant la façon de traiter les plaintes soulevées à l'égard des ressources qui font partie de votre collection? Oui Non

Si OUI, ces lignes de conduite appuient-elles l'Énoncé de la Canadian Library Association sur la liberté intellectuelle? Oui Non

3. Votre bibliothèque a-t-elle mis au point une formule que doivent remplir les personnes qui soulèvent une plainte ou qui désirent que l'à-propos de certaines ressources soit étudié à nouveau? Oui Non
4. Votre bibliothèque restreint-elle les privilèges de prêt en fonction de l'âge/l'année d'études? Oui Non

Si OUI, donner plus de détails. _____

5. Votre bibliothèque oblige-t-elle les mineurs à fournir le consentement écrit de leurs parents ou de leur tuteur pour consulter, à la bibliothèque même, ou emprunter certaines ressources ou certains genres de ressources? Oui Non

Si OUI, donner plus de détails. _____

6. Votre bibliothèque restreint-elle l'accès, à la bibliothèque même, à certaines ressources ou à certains genres de ressources, ou en limite-t-elle le prêt à certaines personnes en fonction d'un autre facteur que l'âge/l'année d'études? Oui Non
7. En 1985, 1986 ou 1987, a-t-on demandé à votre bibliothèque d'enlever des livres, des revues ou d'autres ressources, ou d'en restreindre l'accès d'une autre façon? Oui Non

Si NON, passer directement à la question no 10. Si OUI, remplir la page "Historique".

HISTORIQUE

(Une feuille par titre par plainte—faire des photocopies si besoin est)

Prière de donner les renseignements suivants sur chaque ressource qu'on vous a demandé d'enlever en 1985, 1986 ou 1987 (et avant si vous voulez) ou dont on a souhaité que l'accès en soit restreint.

- a) Titre : _____
Auteur/Créateur : _____
Date de publication : _____ Format : _____
Groupe d'âge : _____ Romans, nouvelles, etc. ___ Etudes, essais, etc. ___
- b) Date de la première plainte (mois/année) : _____
- c) Personne à l'origine de la plainte : Client adulte ___ Parent ___
Counseiller scolaire ___ Personnel de la bibliothèque ___ Counseiller municipal ___
Membre du conseil d'administration ___ Autre personne (préciser) _____
- d) Cette personne agissait-elle : en son propre nom ___ au nom d'une autre personne ou d'un organisme (préciser) _____
- e) Cette personne était-elle un abonné inscrit? Oui ___ Non ___ Je ne sais pas ___
- f) Est-ce la seule plainte qu'a portée cette personne en 1985, 1986 ou 1987?
Oui ___ Non ___ Incertain ___ Si NON, identifier les autres Historiques connexes.
- g) Cette plainte a-t-elle été faite : oralement ___ par écrit ___ oralement puis par écrit ___
- h) Quelle(s) raison(s) précise(s) motivait/motivaient cette plainte? (citer textuellement si possible) _____

- i) Quelles mesures préconisait cette personne? _____

- j) Résultat final :
o conversation avec la personne - aucune autre mesure prise ___
o ressource enlevée de la bibliothèque ___
o ressource déplacée ___ où? _____
o autre mesure (donner plus de détails) _____

- k) Les lignes directrices de la bibliothèques ont-elles été suivies en ce qui concerne la plainte? Oui ___ Non ___ En partie ___ Aucune ligne directrice ___
Si NON ou EN PARTIE, expliquer les circonstances. _____

- l) A quel niveau administratif la plainte a-t-elle été réglée? _____

- m) Date à laquelle la plainte a été réglée (mois/année) : _____
- n) Cet incident a-t-il été signalé dans les médias locaux (journal, radio ou télévision)? Oui ___ Non ___ Si OUI, inclure les coupures de presse, etc.

8. *Quand vous repensez aux plaintes reçues et à la façon dont vous les avez traitées, changeriez-vous votre approche d'une façon générale ou particulière? Oui Non*

Si OUI, donner plus de détails. _____

9. *Diriez-vous que les plaintes reçues ont influé sur vos lignes de conduite en matière de choix, de classification, de classement sur les étagères, d'accès ou de prêt? Oui Non*

Si OUI, donner plus de détails. _____

10. *En 1985, 1986 ou 1987, des livres, des revues ou d'autres ressources ont-ils été abîmés, endommagés, volés, barbouillés ou détruits en raison, selon vous, d'une tentative d'en interdire ou d'en restreindre l'accès à d'autres personnes? Oui Non Difficile à dire*

Si OUI, décrire chaque incident et donner l'année, la nature du dommage, le titre, l'auteur, la réaction de la bibliothèque, etc. (annexer d'autres feuilles en cas de besoin).

11. A-t-on exercé, en 1985, 1986 ou 1987, des pressions sur votre bibliothèque pour qu'elle accepte ou acquiert certaines ressources ou certains genres de ressources?
Oui Non

Si OUI, donner plus de détails. _____

12. Votre bibliothèque possède-t-elle des lignes de conduite écrites concernant le don de ressources à la collection? Oui Non

13. Votre bibliothèque traite-t-elle les ressources controversables ou susceptibles de faire l'objet de plaintes d'une façon différente des autres ressources en ce qui concerne le choix, la classification, le classement sur les étagères, l'accès ou le prêt? Oui Non

Si OUI, décrire les mesures spéciales prises et identifier les sortes de ressources ou les titres.

14. Renseignements d'arrière-plan sur votre bibliothèque :

- Population de la municipalité en 1987 : _____
- Population de la zone desservie en 1987 (si elle est différente) : _____
- Nombre d'abonnés inscrits en 1987 : _____
- Nombre de prêts en 1987 : _____
- Nombre d'heures d'ouverture par semaine de la bibliothèque au public en 1987 : _____
- Cocher si votre bibliothèque est située dans une école :
Si OUI, effectif scolaire en 1987 : _____

15. Votre bibliothèque collectionne-t-elle des ressources en :
anglais français d'autres langues

16. Indiquer si votre bibliothèque possède ou a commandé les ressources énumérées ci-dessous - sous n'importe quel format ou dans n'importe quelle langue. (Les traductions françaises des ouvrages anglais n'ont pas toutes été vérifiées.)

		<u>OUI</u>	<u>NON</u>
ROMANS, NOUVELLES, ETC. POUR ADULTES			
Andrews, V.C.	Fleurs captives / Flowers in the attic	—	—
Auel, Jean	La Vallée des chevaux / Valley of the horses	—	—
Blume, Judy	Forever	—	—
	Wifey	—	—
Doerkson, Margaret	Jazzy	—	—
Jong, Erica	Le Complexe d'Icare / Fear of flying	—	—
Kosinski, Jerzy	The Painted bird	—	—
Robbins, Harold	Goodbye Janette	—	—
Smedley, Agnes	Chinese destiny	—	—
Uris, Leon	Le Hadj / The Haj	—	—
ETUDES, ESSAIS, ETC. POUR ADULTES			
Baigent, Michael	L'Enigme sacrée / Holy Blood Holy Grail	—	—
Ferry, J. et D. Irwood	The Olson murders	—	—
Lovelace, Linda et Mike McGrady	Ordeal	—	—
McCoy, Kathy et Charles Wibbelsman	The Teenage body book	—	—
ROMANS, NOUVELLES, ETC. POUR LA JEUNESSE			
Bellairs, John	Figure in the shadows	—	—
Blume, Judy	Then again, maybe I won't	—	—
Klein, Norma	It's okay if you don't love me	—	—
Major, Kevin	Tiens bon / Hold fast	—	—
Neufeld, John	Freddy's book	—	—
Rockwell, Thomas	The Thief	—	—
Suddon, A.	Cendrillon [Cinderella]	—	—
ETUDES, ESSAIS, ETC. POUR LA JEUNESSE			
Cohen, Barbara	I am Joseph	—	—
Dayee, Frances, S.	Private zone	—	—
Dickinson, Peter	City of Gold and other stories from the Old Testament	—	—
Johnson, Corinne et Eric Johnson	Love and sex and growing up	—	—
LIVRES IMAGES ET FACILES A LIRE			
Lareuse, Jean	Devils in the castle	—	—
Maestro, Betsy	Lambs for dinner	—	—
Sendak, Maurice	Cuisine de nuit / In the night kitchen	—	—
Seuss, Dr.	Butter battle book	—	—
Wildsmith, Brian	La Légende de la vraie croix / The True cross	—	—

17. Avez-vous d'autres commentaires? _____

18. Est-ce que le conseil d'administration de votre bibliothèque a écrit au ministre de la Justice au sujet du projet de loi C-54, ou pris publiquement position d'une autre façon? Oui Non Je ne sais pas

Si OUI, quelle était la position du conseil d'administration?

- appui du projet de loi
- retrait du projet de loi
- autre (préciser) _____

19. Les résultats de l'enquête seront publiés; toutefois, si vous désirez recevoir un résumé sur les conclusions, inclure une enveloppe pré-adressée.

Nous vous remercions d'avoir collaboré à ce projet. Prière de retourner le présent questionnaire, dans l'enveloppe prévue à cet effet, d'ici le 11 Mars, 1988, à :

*Etude sur la Liberté intellectuelle au Canada
Canadian Intellectual Freedom Study
Room 3-20 Rutherford South
Faculty of Library Science
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 9Z9*

Appendix B

Controversial Materials Checklist: Title Sources

		Titles on Previous Surveys* <u>Walk Jenk Coun</u>		
ADULT FICTION				
Andrews, V.C.	<i>Flowers in the Attic</i>	x		
Auel, Jean	<i>Valley of the Horses</i>		x	
Blume, Judy	<i>Forever</i>	x	x	x
	<i>Wifey</i>	x	x	x
Doerkson, Margaret	<i>Jazzy</i>		x	
Jong, Erica	<i>Fear of Flying</i>	x		
Kosinski, Jerry	<i>The Painted Bird</i>		x	
Robbins, Harold	<i>Goodbye Janette</i>	x		
Smedley, Agnes	<i>Chinese Destiny</i>	x		
Uris, Leon	<i>The Haj</i>			x
ADULT NON-FICTION				
Baigent, Michael	<i>Holy Blood Holy Grail</i>		x	
Ferry, J. and D. Inwood	<i>The Olson Murders</i>		x	
Lovelace, Linda and Mike McGrady	<i>Ordeal</i>		x	
McCoy, Kathy and Charles Wibbelsman	<i>The Teenage Body Book</i>		x	
JUVENILE FICTION				
Bellairs, John	<i>Figure in the Shadows</i>	x		
Blume, Judy	<i>Then Again, Maybe I Won't</i>		x	
Klein, Norma	<i>It's Okay If You Don't Love Mex</i>			
Major, Kevin	<i>Hold Fast</i>			x
Neufeld, John	<i>Freddy's Book</i>		x	
Rockwell, Thomas	<i>The Thief</i>		x	
Suddon, A.	<i>Cinderella</i>	x		
JUVENILE NON-FICTION				
Cohen, Barbara	<i>I Am Joseph</i>		x	
Dayee, Frances S.	<i>Private Zone</i>		x	
Dickinson, Peter	<i>City of Gold and Other Stories from the Old Testament</i>		x	
Johnson, Corinne and Eric Johnson	<i>Love and Sex and Growing Up</i>		x	

Titles on
Previous Surveys*
Walk Jenk Coun

PICTURE BOOKS AND EASY

Lareuse, Jean	<i>Devils in the Castle</i>		X
Maestro, Betsy	<i>Lambs for Dinner</i>		X
Sendak, Maurice	<i>In the Night Kitchen</i>	X	X
Seuss, Dr.	<i>Butter Battle Book</i>		X
Wildsmith, Brian	<i>The True Cross</i>		X

*Sources of titles:

Walk - Walker (1984)

Jenk - Jenkinson (1985, 1986)

Coun - Book and Periodical Development Council (1986)

Appendix C

Classification Schemes for Responses to Selected Questions
on History Sheets

Age-Grade Classification Scheme for Challenged Items:

The categories that were developed interrelate age and grade levels with general qualitative descriptors. The primary decision rule was to classify according to the predominant age category, keeping in mind that the concern in challenges is generally for the younger reader and their interests and reading levels.

Adult, 18+
all
general

13-18 years, grades 7-12, all high school, young adult
juvenile
senior high school-adult
young adult-adult
12+ years
grade 9+
13-15 years, grades 7-9, junior high school
12-14 years
12-15 years
13 years
13-16 years

6-12 years, grades 1-6, all elementary
child
child/adult
primary-elementary
school age
10+ years
11+ years
9-12 years, grades 4-6, upper elementary
middle elementary
8-10 years
8-12 years
8-14 years
9-13 years
9-15 years
10-13 years
10-14 years
grade 4
grades 5-6

6-8 years, grades 1-3, primary elementary
easy
5+ years
5-8 years
6-9 years
grade 1
grade 2
grades 2-4
grades 3-4

Preschool-elementary

3-7 years
3-8 years
3-10 years
4-7 years
4-9 years
5-10 years
preschool-grade 1
preschool-grade 3

0-5 years, preschool
3-5 years
3-6 years

Action requested by complainant:

The primary decision rule was to classify according to the least intrusive option where the complainant suggested a choice, for example, "keep it for adults or burn it completely" was categorized under "restrict access" and "remove page or relocate from children's area" was categorized as "relocate." Although some requests to relocate items would have the effect of greater restrictiveness, they were categorized as relocations unless the complainant made clear the intent to restrict access.

Remove

remove and destroy
destroy
discard
withdraw
burn
garbage it
cut down
return to publisher
do not process and put on shelves
review for possible withdrawal
reevaluate suitability
question value of book in collection

- forward complaint to publisher
- stop distribution
- remove from bookmobile
- object to purchase and circulation of title
- replace with classic works
- replace with other material
- book illegal, take to police
- don't subscribe
- cancel subscription

Alter content

- correct or withdraw

Restrict access and borrowing, in loco parentis

- put in storage room
- remove or restrict
- wanted only her child to be denied access to book
- restrict borrowing from adult and young adult fiction to patrons over a certain age
- place book in reserve collection
- place on "parent's shelf" - parental discretion
- put in "x-rated" section
- be careful who takes this book out

Relocate from young adult to adult, or from younger to older teens

- remove from juvenile collection
- remove from young adult material
- remove or reclassify to adult section
- reclassify to adult section

Relocate from children's to young adult, or from younger or older children's

- review suitability for children
- relocate from picture book shelf to juvenile
- move from easy collection
- class as "J"
- transfer to juvenile section
- remove from children's collection
- more suitable to senior young adult (14-16 yrs)
- remove from "E" bin

Relocate from children's to adult

- relocate from children's to adult

Label

- disregard one page
- label book with warning
- library warnings about book contents
- coding system to indicate suitability for young or older young adults

Reclassify

- book to be housed in section which clearly indicates type of material contained
- recatalogue
- move from fiction to nonfiction
- move from nonfiction to fiction
- reevaluate location of book in collection

No specific request

- requested review or contact
- discussion only
- unspecified, unclear
- make note of content, treatment
- bring to library's attention

Result of challenge:

Withdrawn

- removed from library
- book returned to publisher
- complaint forwarded to publisher
- periodical subscription not renewed
- periodical issue removed, subscription not renewed
- material relocated to library work section
- material relocated to storage area temporarily
- material removed temporarily, later returned to shelves
- material relocated to storage room
- material relocated to cupboard
- material relocated to children's librarian's office

Access restricted

- relocated to adult restricted status
- relocated to reference office
- children cannot borrow this book
- relocated to reserve
- relocated to supervised shelf
- relocated to supervised shelf, with word explained

Reclassified

- recatalogued to poetry, children's library section

Warning label

- library warning note attached

Relocated

- relocated to adult section
- relocated from children's to young adult collection
- relocated from picture book to primary
- relocated from display shelves to regular shelves

relocated to juvenile fiction
relocated to parents' shelf
relocated to senior young adult
relocated from picture book to folktale area
relocated to intermediate shelves
designated juvenile talking books

Retained

verbal discussion
discussion - written letter
book remained in collection
discarded because of physical condition
reviewed by board
book shown to board
leave book as classified
reevaluated and returned to circulation
complainant asked to fill in form, but didn't
adhered to policy that parents are responsible for children's
reading
no measure
book remained in collection, patron donated others
no name given, no discussion, no further action

Unresolved

complaint still being investigated
removed temporarily for board decision
complaint not resolved yet

Administrative level at which challenge was resolved:

Municipal council

Library board

chief librarian and board
public librarian and library board
regional board
general board

Chief executive officer

chief librarian
director
regional director
assistant chief librarian
acting director
assistant regional librarian
regional librarian
city librarian
assistant director
executive

associate chief librarian
head librarian
administrator

Branch head
assistant branch head

Senior management other than CEO and branch head
department head
division head
area head
services coordinator
senior management
senior management committee
manager
supervisor, lending division
head, branch services
coordinator, heads of staff, assistant heads of staff
acquisitions manager
deputy director, public services
librarian selector
department head, collection coordinator
department head, central services
materials selection committee
managerial
area head
headquarters librarian
department supervisor
administrative librarian, public services
headquarters
head, reference department

Head, children's services
coordinator, children's services
area head, children's library
children's librarian
children's/ya services coordinator
head, children's department

Head, youth services
coordinator, youth services

Head, adult services
adult coordinator
adult book selection committee

Head, public relations

Other supervisor or staff
mid-management

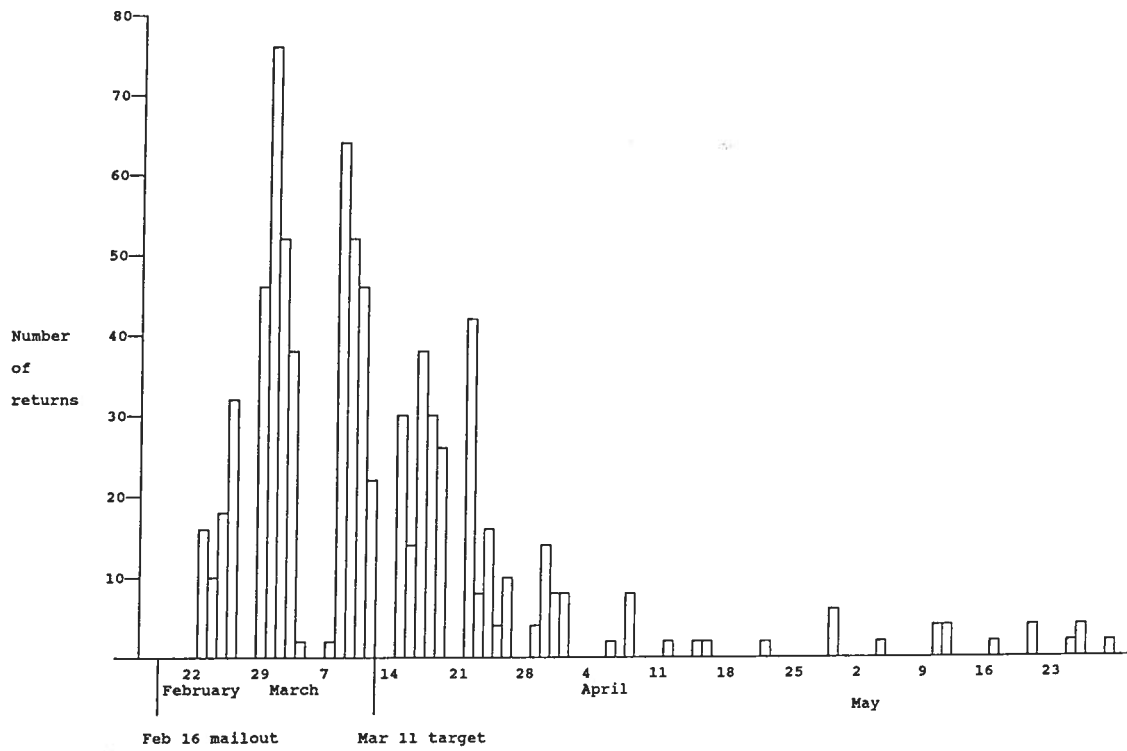
supervisor
assistant supervisor
professional staff
open shelf supervisor
circulation desk
staff
clerk
person in charge
local

Review committee

School official
principal
school superintendent

Appendix D

Graph of Questionnaire Returns



Appendix E

Coding Structure for SPSS Data Analysis

Public Library Variables:

Cols	Code	Variable/Values
11-13	id	respondent number
14	s	type of governance unit 0 single unit library 1 multi branch system
15-16	u	if system, number of service points
17-18	pr	province 1 british columbia 2 alberta 3 saskatchewan 4 manitoba 5 ontario 6 quebec 7 new brunswick 8 nova scotia 9 prince edward island 10 newfoundland 11 yukon 12 northwest territories
19	l	language 1 english 2 french
20	wsp	Q1, written selection policy 1 yes 2 no
21	wob	Q2, written objections policy 1 yes 2 no
22	cla	Q2a, CIA endorsement 1 yes 2 no
23	fob	Q3, form for objections 1 yes 2 no
24	bra	Q4, borrowing restrictions by age 1 yes 2 no
25	pc	Q5, parental consent requirement 1 yes 2 no
26	bro	Q6, borrowing restrictions, other 1 yes 2 no

27	rar	Q7, challenges to remove or restrict materials 1 yes 2 no
28-29	n7	Q7a, number of challenges
30	ch	Q8, change in retrospect 1 yes 2 no 3 don't know
31	ef	Q9, effect on library 1 yes 2 no 3 don't know
32	scp	Q10, covert censorship 1 yes 2 no 3 hard to say
33-34	n10	Q10a, number of covert incidents
35	pres	Q11, pressure to accept/acquire materials 1 yes 2 no
36	dp	Q12, donation policy 1 yes 2 no
37	dift	Q13, different treatment of materials 1 yes 2 no
38-44	mp	Q14a, municipal or service area population
45-50	rb	Q14b, registered borrowers
51-57	circ	Q14c, circulation
58-61	hrs	Q14d, hours open per week
62-65	sche	Q14e, number of joint school facilities
66	loa	Q15, language of acquisitions 1 English 2 French 3 English, French 4 English, other 5 French, other 6 English, French, other
67	t1*	Q16, flowers
68	t2	Q16, valley
69	t3	Q16, forever
70	t4	Q16, wifey
71	t5	Q16, jazzy
72	t6	Q16, fear
73	t7	Q16, painted
74	t8	Q16, goodbye
75	t9	Q16, chinese
76	t10	Q16, haj
77	t11	Q16, holy

78	t12	Q16, olson
79	t13	Q16, ordeal
80	t14	Q16, teenage
81	t15	Q16, figure
82	t16	Q16, then again
83	t17	Q16, it's okay
84	t18	Q16, hold
85	t19	Q16, freddy's
86	t20	Q16, thief
87	t21	Q16, cinderella
88	t22	Q16, i am
89	t23	Q16, private
90	t24	Q16, city
91	t25	Q16, love
92	t26	Q16, devils
93	t27	Q16, lambs
94	t28	Q16, in the night
95	t29	Q16, butter
96	t30	Q16, true
97-98	nto	Q16a, number of titles owned
99	c54	Q18, bill C-54 stand 1 yes 2 no 3 don't know
100	bp	Q18a, board position 1 support 2 withdraw 4 amend, modify, reconsider

*t1 through t30: 1 yes

Challenge Variables:

Cols	Code	Variable/Values
11-13	id	respondent number
14-15	hs	history sheet number
16-18	title	challenged titles (code only)
19-20	pubn	publication date
21	format	publication format 1 paperback 2 hardcover 3 magazine, periodical 4 film, video 5 book 6 picture book 7 sound recording, cassette 8 comic book 9 other

22	fic	fiction/nonfiction status 1 fiction 2 nonfiction
23-24	age	age category 1 adult 2 preschool, up to 5 years 3 primary, 6-8 years, 1-3 grades 4 upper elementary, 9-12 years, 4-6 grades 5 junior high, 13-15 years, 7-9 grades 6 elementary, 6-12 years, 1-6 grades 7 high school, 13-18 years, 7-13 grades 8 preschool-elementary
25-26	grade	grade category (not used)
27-28	objctm	month of initiation 1 january 2 february 3 march 4 april 5 may 6 june 7 july 8 august 9 september 10 october 11 november 12 december
29-30	objctyr	year of initiation
31-32	objctr	status of objector 1 adult 2 parent 3 school trustee 4 library staff 5 council member 6 library trustee 7 other 8 school staff 9 group
33	repn	objector represented who? 1 self 2 group 3 other 5 child 6 other family 7 teacher, students 9 library patron
34	rhs	registered borrower status of objector 1 yes 2 no 3 don't know

35	same	objector had other objections? 1 only objection 2 one other 3 two other 4 three other 5 four other 6 five other 7 other objections but don't know how many 8 not sure 9 multiple already reported on first record
36	medium	oral or written objection 1 verbal 2 written 3 verbal, then written
37-38	reason1	reason for objection 1 violence 2 sexually explicit, nuditiy 3 promotes negative moral values, behavior 4 anti-semitic, Holocaust denial 5 scary, frightening 6 in bad taste, gross 9 promotes drug use 13 coarse language, profanity 15 badly written 21 unsuitable for age group 23 political bias, misinformation 24 misinformation in medicine, science 28 pornographic 29 offensive to religion, blasphemous 33 racist 48 homosexuality 64 sexist 74 occult, witchcraft, supernatural 99 other
39-40	action	action requested 1 removal, withdrawal 7 not specific, discussion 9 relocation young adult to adult 23 reclassification 32 label 33 relocation children's to young adult 35 relocation children's to adult 54 restrict access 60 alter content
41-42	result	result of objection 1 retained 2 withdrawn

		3 relocated internally
		15 warning label
		26 access restricted
		32 reclassified
		99 not resolved
43	pflwd	policy followed
		1 yes
		2 no
		3 partially
		4 no policy
		9 not resolved
44-45	admlvl	administrative level of resolution
		1 branch head
		3 CEO
		4 board
		5 review committee
		6 school official
		14 head, adult services
		16 senior management
		17 other supervisor
		22 head, public relations
		36 head, children's services
		58 municipal council
		66 head, youth services
		99 not resolved
46-47	resultm	month of resolution
48-49	resultyr	year of resolution
50-51	months	total months for resolution
		1 one month or less
		99 not resolved
52	media	media report
		1 yes
		2 no
53-54	reason2	second reason for objection
		[see above]

0=no response for all variables

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F1. Survey Response Rate based on Population, by Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Census* (000s)	Reported (000s)	Response Rate
British Columbia	2,926	2,687	92%
Alberta	2,380	1,987	83%
Saskatchewan	1,014	981	97%
Manitoba	1,079	764	71%
Ontario	9,271	7,687	83%
Quebec	6,593	2,986	45%
New Brunswick	712	698**	98%
Nova Scotia	879	870**	99%
Prince Edward Island	127	125**	100%
Newfoundland	568	432	76%
Yukon	24	27**	100%
Northwest Territories	52	52	100%
Unidentified		131	
National	25,625	19,427	76%

F2. Survey Response Rate based on Circulation, by Jurisdiction, 1987

British Columbia	29,271	27,569	94%
Alberta	22,790	21,262	93%
Saskatchewan	8,286	8,820**	100%
Manitoba	6,289	5,817	92%
Ontario	69,586	54,952	79%
Quebec	27,590	14,446	52%
New Brunswick	3,140	3,004	96%
Nova Scotia	4,481	4,594**	100%
Prince Edward Island	615	600**	100%
Newfoundland	1,897	1,956**	100%
Yukon	132	132	100%
Northwest Territories	108	85**	100%
Unidentified		621	
National	174,183	143,858	83%

*source: 1987 Statistics Canada data, in *Canadian Library Yearbook 1990*, pp.49,52

**respondent data differ slightly from census data

F3. Comparison of Survey Response Rates for Institutions, Population, and Circulation, by Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Institution Rate	Population Rate	Circulation Rate
British Columbia	70%	92%	94%
Alberta	85%	83%	93%
Saskatchewan	90%	97%	100%
Manitoba	59%	71%	92%
Ontario	47%	83%	79%
Quebec	43%	45%	52%
New Brunswick	83%	98%	96%
Nova Scotia	92%	99%	100%
Prince Edward Island	100%	100%	100%
Newfoundland	88%	76%	100%
Yukon	100%	100%	100%
Northwest Territories	100%	100%	100%
National	56%	76%	83%

F4. One-Sample Chi-Square Tests of Survey Representativeness based on Institutions, Population, and Circulation, by Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Institutions*		Population*		Circulation*	
	All	Sur	All	Sur	All	Sur
British Columbia	7%	9%	16%	14%	17%	19%
Alberta	14	22	9	10	13	15
Saskatchewan	1	2	4	5	5	6
Manitoba	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ontario	56	46	36	40	40	38
Quebec	15	12	26	15	16	10
New Brunswick	1	1	3	4	2	2
Nova Scotia	1	2	4	4	2	3
Prince Edward Island	<1	<1	1	1	<1	<1
Newfoundland	1	1	2	2	1	1
Yukon	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Northwest Territories	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Unidentified		1		1		<1
National	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Survey Representativeness	Chi-Square	DF**	Prob***
Institutions	42.0	6	.000
Population (000s)	1169.4	8	.000
Circulation (000,000s)	44.9	6	.000

*institutions: N=998 (census), n=560 (survey)
 population: N=25.6 million (census), n=19.4 million (survey)
 circulation: N=174.2 million (census), n=143.9 million (survey)
 **observed and expected values are survey and census data (only larger jurisdictions included)
 ***all chi-square tests significant (p<.01)

F5. Municipal and Aggregate Methods of Calculating Ratios for Institutions, Population, and Circulation, by Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Borrowers/ population		Circulation per borrower		Circulation per capita	
	Mun	Agg	Mun	Agg	Mun	Agg
			(items)		(items)	
British Columbia	45%	55%	19.6	18.7	8.3	10.3
Alberta	31%	40%	31.1	27.1	7.6	10.7
Saskatchewan	37%	40%	31.1	27.1	7.6	10.7
Saskatchewan	37%	37%	25.5	24.4	8.8	9.0
Manitoba	43%	36%	21.6	21.4	8.4	7.6
Ontario	38%	40%	19.3	17.7	6.3	7.1
Quebec	29%	23%	21.9	20.6	5.2	4.8
New Brunswick	38%	40%	14.7	10.7	4.6	4.3
Nova Scotia	36%	34%	15.8	15.3	5.4	5.3
Prince Edward Island	26%	26%	18.2	18.2	4.8	4.8
Newfoundland	27%	24%	18.8	18.8	4.8	4.5
Yukon	52%	52%	9.5	9.4	4.9	4.9
Northwest Territories	15%	15%	10.6	10.6	1.6	1.6
Unidentified	28%	22%	27.7	21.4	7.1	4.7
National	36%	38%	22.3	19.2	6.7	7.4

F6. Public Library Service Points, by System, 1987

Number of Service Points	Multi-Branch Systems	
	Number	Percent
2	25	21%
3	21	18
4	10	9
5	6	5
6	5	4
7	2	2
8	2	2
9	5	4
10-14	11	9
15-19	10	9
20-29	11	9
30-39	3	3
40-49	2	2
50-54	3	3
National	118	100%

F7. School-Housed Public Libraries, by System, 1987

Number of Joint Facilities	Multi-Branch Systems	
	Number	Percent
1	45	85%
2	1	2
3	3	6
4	1	2
5	1	2
6		
7		
8	1	2
9		
10	1	2
National	53	100%

F8. T-Test of Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, by
Governance, 1987

Variable	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Single (n=438)	9,497	14,060			
System (n=118)	129,386	162,669			
T-test			-8.00	117.47	.000
Borrowers					
Single (n=430)	3,171	5,320			
System (n=118)	51,768	69,841			
T-test			-7.55	117.37	.000
Circulation					
Single (n=431)	59,019	102,371			
System (n=118)	1,003,577	1,446,850			
T-test			-7.09	117.32	.000

*all t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates
(p<.01)

F9. T-Test of Demographic Ratios by Governance, 1987

Variable	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Borrowers/population					
Single (n=427)	.35	.20			
System (n=118)	.39	.17			
T-test			-2.18	218.63	.030
Circulation/borrower					
Single (n=422)	22.9	16.85			
System (n=118)	20.2	7.95			
T-test			2.39	414.03	.017
Circulation/capita					
Single (n=430)	6.6	4.03			
System (n=118)	7.2	2.89			
T-test			-1.82	255.48	.070

*all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F10. Correlation of Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1987

Variables	Pearson Correlation	Prob*	Variance Explained
Population and borrowers (n=545)	.88	.000	77%
Population and circulation (n=548)	.90	.000	81%
Borrowers and circulation (n=540)	.95	.000	90%

*all correlations significant (p<.01)

F11. T-Test of Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Respondent Language	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
French (n= 68)	44,757	124,058			
English (n=488)	33,573	84,531			
T-test			-0.72	75.91	.473
Borrowers					
French (n= 68)	10,188	19,895			
English (n=480)	14,123	40,200			
T-test			1.30	159.46	.196
Circulation					
French (n= 67)	215,769	471,326			
English (n=482)	268,470	812,143			
T-test			0.77	128.71	.443

*all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F12. Language of Acquisitions, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Languages of Acquisitions	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
French	20	30%			20	4%
English			142	30%	142	26
French, English	33	49	152	32	185	34
French, English, other	14	21	166	34	180	33
English, other			18	4	18	3
National	67	100%	478	100%	545	100%

F13. Language of Acquisitions, by Population, 1987

Languages of Acquisitions	Municipal Population (000s)	Population Percent
French	401	2%
English	1,114	6
French, English	3,861	20
French, English, other	13,733	72
English, other	67	<1
National	19,176	100%
	(n=541)	

F14. Chi-Square Test of Access Policy Coverage, by Governance, 1987

Access Policies*	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All	91	21%	60	51%	151	27%
Some	195	44	48	41	243	43
None	156	35	10	8	166	30
National	442	100%	118	100%	560	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob**				
	54.5	2	.000			

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections
 **chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F15. Analysis of Variance in Access Policy Coverage, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1987

Extent of Policy Coverage*	Public Libraries		Total	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
Municipal Population				
All	151	27%	9,823	51%
Some	243	41	6,853	35
None	166	30	2,751	14
National	560	100%	19,427	100%
Registered Borrowers				
All	151	27%	4,175	56%
Some	243	41	2,652	35
None	166	30	645	9
National	560	100%	7,472	100%
Library Circulation				
All	151	27%	80,989	56%
Some	243	41	50,197	35
None	166	30	12,673	9
National	560	100%	143,859	100%
	DF	F	F	
	(Between, Within)	Ratio	Prob***	
Population**	(2,553)	12.8562	.000	
Borrowers**	(2,545)	16.6928	.000	
Circulation**	(2,546)	14.9307	.000	

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections
 **all, some, or none of the policies
 ***all F-tests significant (p<.01)

F16. Chi-Square Test of Access Policy Coverage, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Access Policies*	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All	1	2%	150	31%	151	27%
Some	30	44	213	43	243	43
None	37	54	129	26	166	30
National	68	100%	492	100%	560	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob**				
	34.7	2	.000			

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections

**chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F17. All Access Policies*, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Prov Percent	Number (000s)	Prov Percent
British Columbia	30	63%	2,188	81%
Alberta	34	28%	1,017	51%
Saskatchewan	8	89%	877	89%
Manitoba	9	41%	618	81%
Ontario	53	20%	4,075	53%
Quebec	2	3%	9	<1%
New Brunswick	1	20%	170	24%
Nova Scotia	5	45%	368	42%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	6	86%	347	80%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories**	0	0%	0	0%
Unidentified	1	14%	2	2%
National	151	27%	9,823	51%

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections

**all 5 policies adopted since the study

F18. Public Libraries with a Written Policy for Selection, by
Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	36	77%	2,633	98%
Alberta	71	62%	1,879	95%
Saskatchewan	9	100%	981	100%
Manitoba	13	59%	653	85%
Ontario	114	45%	5,920	77%
Quebec	25	39%	1,166	39%
New Brunswick	5	100%	698	100%
Nova Scotia	9	82%	776	89%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	7	100%	432	100%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	1	100%	52	100%
Unidentified	1	14%	2	2%
National	293	54%	15,344	80%
		(n=545)		(n=19.2 million)

F19. Public Libraries with a Written Policy for Objections, by
Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	38	79%	2,655	99%
Alberta	83	68%	1,164	59%
Saskatchewan	9	100%	981	100%
Manitoba	14	64%	688	90%
Ontario	99	38%	5,022	65%
Quebec	11	17%	338	11%
New Brunswick	5	100%	698	100%
Nova Scotia	7	64%	494	57%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	7	100%	432	100%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	1	100%	52	100%
Unidentified	2	29%	2	2%
National	278	50%	12,681	65%
		(n=551)		(n=19.4 million)

F20. Public Libraries Endorsing the CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	38	79%	2,655	99%
Alberta	69	57%	1,816	59%
Saskatchewan	9	100%	981	100%
Manitoba	13	59%	688	90%
Ontario	98	38%	5,022	65%
Quebec	6	9%	676	23%
New Brunswick	5	100%	698	100%
Nova Scotia	9	82%	642	74%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	6	75%	347	80%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	1	100%	52	100%
Unidentified	2	29%	2	2%
National	258	46%	13,861	71%
		(n=560)	(n=19.4 million)	

F21. Public Libraries with a Form for Handling Objections, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	36	75%	2,593	96%
Alberta	61	50%	1,127	57%
Saskatchewan	9	100%	981	100%
Manitoba	15	68%	733	96%
Ontario	84	32%	5,270	69%
Quebec	7	11%	263	11%
New Brunswick	4	80%	535	77%
Nova Scotia	6	55%	427	49%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	7	100%	432	100%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	1	100%	52	100%
Unidentified	2	33%	2	2%
National	234	43%	12,571	69%
		(n=548)	(n=18.3 million)	

F22. Public Libraries with a Written Policy for Donations, by
Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	38	79%	2,273	85%
Alberta	87	71%	1,924	97%
Saskatchewan	8	89%	877	89%
Manitoba	16	73%	700	92%
Ontario	119	46%	6,243	81%
Quebec	20	30%	863	29%
New Brunswick	2	40%	333	48%
Nova Scotia	8	73%	681	78%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	7	100%	432	100%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	0	0%	0	0%
Unidentified	2	29%	3	2%
National	310	57%	10,886	57%
		(n=548)		(n=19.1 million)

F23. Chi-Square Test of Restricted Borrowing Privileges for
Minors, by Governance, 1987

Restricted Borrowing	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	114	26%	52	44%	166	30%
No	324	74	65	56	389	70
National	438	100%	117	100%	555	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
14.9 1 .000

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F24. T-Test of Restricted Borrowing Privileges for Minors, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1987

Restricted Borrowing	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n=165)	53,862	121,999			
No (n=386)	27,044	71,859			
T-test			2.64	214.24	.009
Borrowers					
Yes (n=165)	19,853	43,792			
No (n=378)	11,044	35,585			
T-test			2.28	262.67	.024
Circulation					
Yes (n=165)	375,695	830,535			
No (n=379)	214,941	755,478			
T-test			2.13	287.26	.034

*only first t-test significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F25. Public Libraries with Restricted Borrowing Privileges for Minors, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	6	13%	501	19%
Alberta	31	25%	99	5%
Saskatchewan	3	33%	444	45%
Manitoba	9	41%	656	86%
Ontario	77	30%	4,218	55%
Quebec	29	44%	2,150	72%
New Brunswick	2	40%	348	50%
Nova Scotia	2	18%	195	22%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	2	33%	81	23%
Yukon	0	0%	0	0%
Northwest Territories	0	0%	0	0%
Unidentified	4	57%	72	55%
National	166	30%	8,887	46%
		(n=555)	(n=19.3 million)	

F26. Chi-Square Test of Restricted Borrowing Privileges for Minors, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Restricted Borrowing	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	29	43%	137	28%	166	30%
No	39	57	350	72	389	70
National	68	100%	487	100%	555	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
6.0	1	.014				

*chi-square test non-significant ($p > .01$)

F27. Consent Requirement for Minors, by Governance, 1987

Consent Requirement	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	87	20%	38	32%	125	23%
No	350	80	80	68	430	77
National	437	100%	118	100%	555	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
8.0	1	.005				

*chi-square test significant ($p < .01$)

F28. T-Test of Consent Requirement for Minors, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1987

Consent Requirement	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n=125)	54,746	129,170			
No (n=426)	29,375	74,877			
T-test			2.10	149.23	.038
Borrowers					
Yes (n=125)	20,013	44,705			
No (n=418)	11,809	36,195			
T-test			1.88	175.38	.062
Circulation					
Yes (n=124)	379,749	858,000			
No (n=420)	229,017	755,363			
T-test			1.76	182.92	.079

*all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F29. Public Libraries with Consent Requirement for Minors, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	6	13%	461	17%
Alberta	19	16%	64	3%
Saskatchewan	4	44%	376	38%
Manitoba	9	41%	686	90%
Ontario	48	19%	2,880	38%
Quebec	33	51%	2,092	71%
New Brunswick	1	20%	127	18%
Nova Scotia	0	0%	0	0%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	0	0%	0	0%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	0	0%	0	0%
Unidentified	2	29%	6	4%
National	125	23%	6,843	35%
		(n=555)	(n=19.4 million)	

F30. Chi-Square Test of Consent Requirement for Minors, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Consent Requirement	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	33	49%	92	19%	125	23%
No	34	51	396	81	430	77
National	67	100%	488	100%	555	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
31.20269 1 .000

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F31. Chi-Square Test of Restricted Borrowing Privileges for Minors, by CLA Statement, 1987

Support of CLA Statement	Restricted Borrowing					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	77	91%	181	87%	258	88%
No	8	9	28	13	36	12
National	85	100%	209	100%	292	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
0.9 1 .345

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F32. Chi-Square Test of Consent Requirement for Minors, by CLA Statement, 1987

Support of CLA Statement	Consent Requirement					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	51	86%	205	88%	256	88%
No	8	14	28	12	36	12
National	59	100%	233	100%	292	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
0.1 1 .748

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F33. Chi-Square Test of Restricted Borrowing Privileges for
Minors, by Access Policy Coverage, 1987

Access Policies*	Restricted Borrowing				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
All	43	26%	108	28%	151	27%
Some	71	43	169	43	240	43
None	52	31	112	29	164	30
National	166	100%	389	100%	555	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob**				
0.4	2	.814				

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA
Statement, and form for objections
**chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F34. Chi-Square Test of Consent Requirement for Minors, by
Access Policy Coverage, 1987

Access Policies*	Consent Requirement				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
All	33	26%	118	27%	151	27%
Some	51	41	188	44	239	43
None	41	33	124	29	165	30
National	125	100%	430	100%	555	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob**				
0.7	2	.690				

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA
Statement, and form for objections
**chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F35. Chi-Square Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Governance, 1987

Differential Treatment	Governance Structure				Total	
	Single Number	Single Percent	System Number	System Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	82	24%	32	28%	114	21%
No	341	76	83	72	424	79
National	423	100%	115	100%	538	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
3.9	1	.050				

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F36. T-Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1987

Differential Treatment	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n=113)	55,974	121,574			
No (n=421)	28,177	66,650			
T-test			2.34	130.57	.021
Borrowers					
Yes (n=111)	25,161	63,595			
No (n=417)	10,703	27,742			
T-test			2.34	121.34	.021
Circulation					
Yes (n=114)	479,113	1,316,971			
No (n=414)	2047685	539,568			
T-test			2.17	123.62	.032

*all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F37. Public Libraries with Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Percent	(000s)	Percent
British Columbia	8	17%	919	34%
Alberta	19	16%	1,324	67%
Saskatchewan	2	22%	254	26%
Manitoba	3	16%	580	78%
Ontario	56	22%	1,838	24%
Quebec	18	29%	518	27%
New Brunswick	2	40%	347	50%
Nova Scotia	4	40%	356	44%
Prince Edward Island	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	0	14%	0	0%
Yukon	0	0%	0	0%
Northwest Territories	0	0%	0	0%
Unidentified	1	14%	68	48%
National	114	21%	6,329	35%
		(n=538)	(n=18.1 million)	

F38. Chi-Square Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Differential Treatment	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	18	28%	96	20%	114	21%
No	46	72	378	80	424	79
National	64	100%	474	100%	538	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
2.1 1 .148

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F39. Chi-Square Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Restricted Borrowing Privileges for Minors, 1987

Restricted Borrowing	Differential Treatment				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	50	44%	109	26%	159	30%
No	63	56	311	74	374	70
National	113	100%	420	100%	533	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
14.2	1	.000				

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F40. Chi-Square Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Consent Requirement for Minors, 1987

Consent Requirement	Differential Treatment				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	39	35%	81	19%	120	23%
No	74	65	339	81	413	77
National	113	100%	420	100%	533	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
11.8	1	.001				

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F41. Chi-Square Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by CIA Statement, 1987

Support of CIA Statement	Differential Treatment				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	48	86%	200	88%	248	87%
No	8	14	28	12	36	13
National	56	100%	228	100%	284	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
0.2	1	.686				

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F42. Chi-Square Test of Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, by Access Policy Coverage, 1987

Access Policies*	Differential Treatment					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All	26	23%	120	28%	146	27%
Some	51	45	183	43	234	44
None	37	32	121	29	158	29
National	114	100%	424	100%	538	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob**				
1.5	2	.468				

*for selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections
 **chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F43. T-Test of Checklist Ownership, by Governance, 1987

Variable	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Single (n=439)	10.3	5.5			
System (n=117)	20.5	5.9			
T-test			-16.86	174.61	.000

*t-test significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F44. Checklist Ownership, by Mean Population and Public
Libraries, 1987

Titles Owned	Mean Population	Libraries
0	9,161	10
1	1,808	4
2	17,336	12
3	6,168	15
4	4,158	20
5	5,801	27
6	3,874	24
7	6,521	24
8	5,221	33
9	12,298	37
10	6,932	47
11	10,949	32
12	7,513	21
13	6,808	34
14	15,511	24
15	24,503	19
16	17,308	21
17	120,933	15
18	24,648	20
19	24,237	9
20	38,317	15
21	49,398	16
22	129,982	11
23	105,992	12
24	141,564	11
25	161,473	9
26	188,333	9
27	190,643	10
28	188,559	5
29	306,474	3
30	170,479	3
National		552

F45. Correlation of Checklist Ownership with Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1987

Titles Owned	Population per Library	Borrowers per Library	Circulation per Library	Libraries
0	9,161	2,034	30,337	10
1- 5	7,020	2,001	43,957	80
6-10	7,289	1,931	35,066	167
11-15	12,134	3,843	69,491	130
16-20	43,291	13,522	235,475	80
21-25	110,213	44,306	899,342	59
26-30	199,170	92,617	1,724,874	30

Checklist and	Pearson Correlation	Prob*	Variance Explained
- population (n=552)	.481	.000	23%
- borrowers (n=545)	.502	.000	25%
- circulation (n=546)	.482	.000	23%

*all correlations significant (p<.01)

F46. T-Test of Checklist Ownership, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Respondent Language	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
French (n= 68)	7.6	6.9			
English (n=488)	13.2	5.2			
T-test			7.96	103.44	.000

F47. Analysis of Variance in Checklist Ownership, by Access Policy Coverage, 1987

Extent of Policy Coverage*	Title Ownership		
	Mean	SD	
All (n=150)	17.2	6.7	
Some (n=241)	12.3	6.3	
None (n=165)	8.5	6.2	
National (n=556)	12.5	6.9	
	DF (Between, Within)	F Ratio	F Prob***
Title Ownership**	(2,553)	79.8	.000

*selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections
 **all, some, or none of the policies
 ***F-test significant (p<.01)

F48. T-Test of Checklist Ownership, by Individual Policy, 1987

Policy	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Selection					
Yes (n=291)	15.3	6.9			
No (n=250)	9.4	5.5			
T-test			11.02	536.42	.000
Objections					
Yes (n=275)	15.2	6.9			
No (n=272)	9.8	6.0			
T-test			9.83	536.52	.000
CIA Statement					
Yes (n=255)	15.9	7.1			
No (n= 36)	11.4	6.0			
T-test			4.14	50.14	.000
Objections form					
Yes (n=231)	15.7	7.1			
No (n=313)	10.2	5.9			
T-test			9.64	441.18	.000
Donations					
Yes (n=309)	14.8	6.8			
No (n=236)	9.6	6.1			
T-test			9.42	529.02	.000

F49. T-Test of Checklist Ownership, by Age-Based Access Restrictions and Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, 1987

Variable	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Restricted Borrowing					
Yes (n=165)	12.9	7.3			
No (n=386)	12.3	6.8			
T-test			0.86	290.47	.390
Consent Requirement					
Yes (n=124)	12.9	7.7			
No (n=427)	12.4	6.7			
T-test			0.69	180.49	.490
Differential Treatment					
Yes (n=114)	13.0	7.4			
No (n=422)	12.5	6.9			
T-test			0.58	169.83	.561

*all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F50. Multiple Regression Analysis of Checklist Ownership with Selected Variables, 1987

Multiple R		Analysis of Variance			
Adjusted R Sq	Standard Error	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	
.72	4.83	6	13780.86	2296.81	
.52		540	12571.82	23.28	
		F = 98.7	Sig F = .000		

Variables in the Equation*	Reg Coeff	T	Sig T
Direct challenges	.24	3.42	.001
Language (English or French)	4.64	7.28	.000
Selection policy	2.83	6.45	.000
Acquisition pressure	2.22	4.14	.000
System or single library	5.85	9.25	.000
Population per 1000	.013	4.43	.000
Constant	4.49	7.29	.000

The resulting regression model is: Checklist titles owned = 4.5 + .24/challenge + 4.6(Eng) + 2.8(sel) + 2.2(acq) +5.8(sys) + .013/1000(popn)

Model with library circulation instead of municipal population:

Multiple R	.72	Analysis of Variance		
Adjusted R Sq	.51		DF	Sum of Squares
Standard Error	4.82	Regression	6	13314.34
		Residual	534	12406.73
		F = 95.5	Sig F = .000	Mean Square
				2219.06
				23.38

Variables in the Equation*	Reg Coeff	T	Sig T
Direct challenges	.20	2.78	.006
Language (English or French)	4.43	6.94	.000
Selection policy	2.77	6.29	.000
Acquisition pressure	2.14	3.98	.000
System or single library	6.17	10.11	.000
Circulation/1000	.014	3.91	.000
Constant	4.87	7.89	.000

The resulting regression model is: Checklist titles owned
 = 4.9 + .2/challenge + 4.4(Eng) + 2.8(sel) + 2.1(acq) +6.2(sys)
 + .014/1000(circ)

First model, with English language:

Multiple R	.72	Analysis of Variance		
Adjusted R Sq	.51		DF	Sum of Squares
Standard Error	4.83	Regression	5	11656.65
		Residual	473	11023.06
		F = 100.04	Sig F = .000	Mean Square
				2331.33
				23.30

Variables in the Equation*	Reg Coeff	T	Sig T
Direct challenges	.21	2.82	.005
Selection policy	2.93	6.25	.000
Acquisition pressure	2.36	4.02	.000
System or single library	5.92	8.85	.000
Population/1000	.002	4.34	.000
Constant	9.00	26.65	.000

First model, with French language:

Multiple R	.48	Analysis of Variance			
Adjusted R Sq	.17	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	
Standard Error	4.71	Regression	5	412.38	82.48
		Residual	62	1378.09	22.23
		F = 3.71		Sig F = .005	

Variables in the Equation*	Reg Coeff	T	Sig T
Direct challenges	-.14	-.30	.767
Population/1000	.008	1.54	.129
Selection policy	1.90	1.55	.127
Acquisition pressure	1.21	.90	.373
System or single library	3.93	1.96	.054
Constant	5.80	7.10	.000

*English=1, selection policy=1, acquisition pressure=1, system=1
(opposites=0, ie: French=0, no policy=0, no pressure=0, single=0)

F51. Checklist Ownership, by Classification Category, 1987

		Libraries*	
		Number	Percent
<u>Adult Fiction</u>			
Andrews, V.C.	<i>Flowers in the Attic</i>	502	90%
Auel, J.	<i>Valley of the Horses</i>	511	92%
Blume, J.	<i>Forever</i>	373	67%
	<i>Wifey</i>	339	61%
Doerkson, M.	<i>Jazzy</i>	189	34%
Jong, E.	<i>Fear of Flying</i>	326	59%
Kosinski, J.	<i>The Painted Bird</i>	200	36%
Robbins, H.	<i>Goodbye Janette</i>	381	69%
Smedley, A.	<i>Chinese Destiny</i>	37	7%
Uris, L.	<i>The Haj</i>	456	82%
<u>Adult Non-Fiction</u>			
Baigent, M.	<i>Holy Blood Holy Grail</i>	290	52%
Ferry, J. & D. Inwood	<i>The Olson Murders</i>	120	22%
Lovelace, L. & M. McGrady	<i>Ordeal</i>	155	28%
McCoy, K. & C. Wibbelsman	<i>The Teenage Body Book</i>	197	35%
<u>Juvenile Fiction</u>			
Bellairs, J.	<i>Figure in the Shadows</i>	182	33%
Blume, J.	<i>Then Again, Maybe I Won't</i>	450	81%
	<i>It's Okay If You Don't</i>		
	<i>Love Me</i>	259	47%
Major, K.	<i>Hold Fast</i>	325	59%
Neufeld, J.	<i>Freddy's Book</i>	90	16%
Rockwell, T.	<i>The Thief</i>	88	16%
Suddon, A.	<i>Cinderella</i>	203	37%
<u>Juvenile Non-Fiction</u>			
Cohen, B.	<i>I Am Joseph</i>	124	22%
Dayee, F.	<i>Private Zone</i>	131	24%
Dickinson, P.	<i>City of Gold and Other Stories</i>		
	<i>from the Old Testament</i>	82	15%
Johnson, C. & E. Johnson	<i>Love and Sex and Growing Up</i>	119	21%
<u>Picture Books and Easy</u>			
Lareuse, J.	<i>Devils in the Castle</i>	44	8%
Maestro, Betsy	<i>Lambs for Dinner</i>	64	12%
Sendak, M.	<i>In the Night Kitchen</i>	280	50%
Seuss, Dr.	<i>Butter Battle Book</i>	298	54%
Wildsmith, B.	<i>The True Cross</i>	126	23%

*n=556

F52. Checklist Ownership, by Jurisdiction, 1987

Province/Territory	Mean Titles per Library	Number of Libraries
British Columbia	16	47
Alberta	11	121
Saskatchewan	26	9
Manitoba	14	22
Ontario	12	259
Quebec	8	66
New Brunswick	20	5
Nova Scotia	20	10
Prince Edward Island	24	1
Newfoundland	19	7
Yukon	23	1
Northwest Territories	24	1
		549

F53. Chi-Square Test of Public Library Board Reaction to Bill
C-54, by Governance, 1987

	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Taken a stand						
Yes	160	44%	79	72%	239	51%
No	203	56	30	28	233	49
National	363	100%	109	100%	472	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
27.0	1	.000				
Board reaction						
Support	16	11%	2	3%	18	8%
Withdraw	143	89%	77	97	220	92
National	159	100%	79	100%	238	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
4.3	1	.039				

*only first chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F54. T-Test of Public Library Board Reaction to Bill C-54,
by Population, 1987

Board Reaction	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Support (n=18)	17,155	35,347			
Withdraw (n=386)	54,379	99,936			
T-test			-3.47	45.01	.001
Borrowers					
Support (n=18)	10,189	25,547			
Withdraw (n=386)	23,518	48,896			
T-test			-1.90	26.34	.069
Circulation					
Support (n=18)	146,625	331,530			
Withdraw (n=386)	419,718	867,662			
T-test			-2.80	40.53	.008

*only second t-test non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F55. Chi-Square Test of Public Library Board Reaction to Bill
C-54, by Language of Survey Response, 1987

Board Reaction	Respondent Language				Total	
	French		English		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Support	1	33%	17	7%	18	8%
Withdraw	2	67	218	93	220	92
National	3	100%	235	100%	238	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
2.9	1	.089				

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F56. Chi-Square Test of Public Library Board Reaction to Bill
C-54, by Selected Characteristics, 1987

Variable	Support		Board Reaction Withdraw		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Selection Policy						
Yes	6	33%	137	63%	143	61%
No	12	67	80	37	92	59
National	18	100%	217	100%	235	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
6.2	1	.013				
Objections Policy						
Yes	7	39%	125	57%	132	56%
No	11	61	94	43	105	44
National	18	100%	219	100%	237	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
2.2	1	.135				
CLA Statement						
Yes	9	100%	124	91%	133	91%
No	0	0	13	9	13	9
National	9	100%	137	100%	146	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
9.9	1	.333				
Objections Form						
Yes	5	28%	108	49%	113	48%
No	13	72	111	51	124	52
National	18	100%	219	100%	237	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
3.1	1	.079				
Donations Policy						
Yes	6	38%	132	61%	138	59%
No	10	62	86	39	96	92
National	16	100%	218	100%	234	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
3.3	1	.070				

Variable	Support		Board Reaction Withdraw		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Restricted Borrowing						
Yes	6	33%	66	30%	72	30%
No	12	67	153	70	165	70
National	18	100%	219	100%	237	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
0.1	1	.777				
Consent Requirement						
Yes	4	22%	48	22%	52	22%
No	14	78	171	78	185	78
National	18	100%	219	100%	237	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
0.0	1	.976				
Differential Treatment						
Yes	4	24%	49	23%	53	23%
No	13	76	168	77	181	77
National	17	100%	217	100%	238	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
0.0	1	.928				

*all chi-square tests non-significant (p>.01)

F57. Chi-Square Test of Direct Challenges, by Governance,
1985-1987

Direct Challenges	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	113	26%	80	68%	193	35%
No	329	74	38	32	367	65
National	442	100%	118	100%	560	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
73.5 1 .000

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

Challenges per Library (1985-1987)	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	329	75%	38	33%	367	66%
1	53	12	19	16	72	38
2	22	5	14	12	36	19
3	16	4	10	9	26	14
4	11	3	6	5	17	9
5	4	1	3	3	7	4
6	2	<1	3	3	5	3
7	1	<1	3	3	4	2
8			5	4	5	3
9			4	3	4	2
10-19	1	<1	7	6	8	4
20-29			3	3	3	2
30-39					0	0
40-49			1	<1	1	<1
National	439	100%	116	100%	555	100%

F58. T-Test of Direct Challenges, by Service Outlets, 1985-1987

Direct Challenges	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Yes (n=80)	13.1	13.2			
No (n=38)	5.2	5.1			
T-test			4.70	112.40	.000

F59. T-Test of Direct Challenges, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Direct Challenges	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n=192)	71,000	117,938			
No (n=364)	15,921	63,862			
T-test			6.02	251.48	.000
Borrowers					
Yes (n=190)	30,093	58,954			
No (n=358)	4,900	13,581			
T-test			5.81	199.71	.000
Circulation					
Yes (n=192)	594,787	1,206,081			
No (n=357)	83,082	246,067			
T-test			5.81	199.59	.000

*all t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates
(p<.01)

F60. Correlation of Direct Challenges, with Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Challenges (1985-1987)	Population per Library	Borrowers per Library	Circulation per Library	Libraries
0	15,921	4,900	83,082	367
1	33,481	11,045	213,449	72
2	58,535	21,461	487,447	36
3	65,921	24,141	551,904	26
4	46,492	22,160	342,206	17
5	57,664	21,663	376,806	7
6	94,738	35,641	704,585	5
7	157,529	108,283	1,369,643	4
8	287,034	148,403	2,731,510	5
9	164,177	94,390	1,377,745	4
10-19	196,043	82,137	1,897,628	8
20-29	289,770	131,591	3,599,047	3
30-39				0
40-49	383,569	189,650	3,496,762	1
				555

Challenges and	Pearson Correlation	Prob*	Variance Explained
- population (n=551)	.471	.000	22%
- borrowers (n=543)	.541	.000	29%
- circulation (n=544)	.570	.000	33%

*all correlations significant (p<.01)

F61. Chi-Square Test of Direct Challenges, by Language of Survey Response, 1985-1987

Direct Challenges	Respondent Language				Total	
	French		English		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	23	34%	170	35%	193	35%
No	45	66	322	65	367	65
National	68	100%	492	100%	560	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson) DF			Prob*			
0.0	1		.906			

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F62. Analysis of Variance in Direct Challenges, by Access Policy Coverage, 1985-1987

Extent of Policy Coverage*	Challenges		
	Mean	SD	
All (n=148)	2.7	4.7	
Some (n=242)	.9	3.3	
None (n=165)	.4	1.1	
National (n=555)	1.2	3.5	
	DF (Between, Within) (2,552)	F Ratio 19.9	F Prob*** .000

*selection, objections, donations, support of the CIA Statement, and form for objections

**all, some, or none of the policies

***F-test significant (p<.01)

F63. T-Test of Direct Challenges, by Individual Access Policy, 1985-1987

Policy	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Selection					
Yes (n=290)	2.0	4.6			
No (n=250)	.4	1.1			
T-test			5.67	329.07	.000
Objections					
Yes (n=275)	1.9	4.6			
No (n=271)	.6	1.6			
T-test			4.68	340.91	.000
CIA Statement					
Yes (n=255)	2.2	4.8			
No (n= 36)	.8	1.6			
T-test			3.45	153.88	.001
Objections form					
Yes (n=230)	2.2	5.0			
No (n=313)	.5	1.3			
T-test			5.11	253.28	.000
Donations					
Yes (n=307)	1.7	3.7			
No (n=236)	.7	3.2			
T-test			3.58	534.19	.000

*all t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F64. T-Test of Direct Challenges, by Checklist Ownership, 1985-1987

Direct Challenges	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Yes (n=192)	16.3	7.2			
No (n=364)	10.4	5.9			
T-test			9.66	327.49	.000

*t-test significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

Correlation of Direct Challenges, with Checklist Ownership, 1985-1987

Number of challenges and Number of titles owned (n=551)	Pearson Correlation	Prob*	Variance Explained
	.426	.000	18%

*correlation significant (p<.01)

F65. T-Test of Direct Challenges, by Age-Based Access Restrictions and Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Materials, 1985-1987

Variable	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Restricted Borrowing					
Yes (n=163)	1.4	3.2			
No (n=387)	1.2	3.6			
T-test			0.74	334.90	.457
Consent Requirement					
Yes (n=123)	1.8	3.7			
No (n=427)	1.1	3.4			
T-test			2.05	185.60	.041
Differential Treatment					
Yes (n=113)	1.9	3.9			
No (n=420)	1.1	3.4			
T-test			1.86	159.59	.065

F66. Multiple Regression Analysis of Direct Challenge Rate,
with Selected Variables, 1985-1987

Multiple R	.61	Analysis of Variance		
Adjusted R Sq	.36		DF	Sum of Squares
Standard Error	2.82	Regression	3	2435.17
		Residual	536	4175.54
		F = 104.20		Sig F = .000
				Mean Square
				811.72
				7.79

Variables in the Equation	Reg Coeff	T	Sig T
Checklist titles owned	.11	5.35	.000
Population/100	-.010	-3.46	.001
Circulation/1000	.003	9.03	.000
Constant	-.556	-2.13	.034

The resulting regression model is: Number of challenges
= -.6 + .11(title) - .01(pop/1000) + .003(circ/1000)

F67. Direct Challenges, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1985-1987

Province/Territory	Total Challenges	Public Libraries Number	Prov Per	Population (000s)	Prov Per
British Columbia	152	28	58%	2,389	89%
Alberta	108	37	30%	1,692	85%
Saskatchewan	97	9	100%	981	100%
Manitoba	17	6	27%	683	89%
Ontario	202	66	25%	4,917	64%
Quebec	54	26	39%	1,230	41%
New Brunswick	18	4	80%	570	82%
Nova Scotia	14	7	64%	534	61%
Prince Edward Island	5	1	100%	125	100%
Newfoundland	14	7	100%	432	100%
Yukon	4	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	2	1	100%	52	100%
National	687	193	35%	13,632	70%

F68. Direct Challenges, by Month, 1985-1987

Month	Challenges	
	Number	Percent
January	34	7%
February	42	9
March	32	7
April	40	9
May	46	10
June	35	7
July	37	8
August	34	7
September	26	6
October	42	9
November	40	9
December	56	12
Total	464	100%

F69. Direct Challenges, by Year of Initiation, 1985-1987

Year	Challenges	
	Number	Percent
1978	1	<1%
1983	1	<1
1984	8	1
1985	155	27
1986	160	28
1987	254	44
Total	579	100%

F70. Chi-Square Test of Age Level of Challenged Titles, by Fiction/Nonfiction Status, 1985-1987

Age Level	Fiction		Nonfiction		Total Titles	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Preschool	36	9%	4	3%	40	7%
Elementary	102	27	26	19	128	25
High School	111	29	19	14	130	25
Adult	136	35	86	64	222	43
Total	385	100%	135	100%	520	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 35.0 3 .000

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F71. Direct Challenges per Title, 1985-1987

Challenges per Title	Challenged Titles		Total Challenges	
	Number	Percent	Number	Cumulative
1	434	87%	434	434
2	44	9	88	522
3	13	3	39	561
4	2	<1	8	569
5	0			
6	3	<1	18	587
7	0			
8	1	<1	8	595
9	0			
10	0			
11	1	<1	11	606
Subtotal	498	100%		
Unidentified			22	628
Multiple titles			21	649

F72. Statistical Tests of Requested Complainant Action, by
Selected Variables, 1985-1987

Age Level of Material	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Preschool	33	8%	42	5%	40	7%
Elementary	95	22	37	28	132	24
High School	91	22	45	34	136	25
Adult	200	48	43	33	243	44
Total	419	100%	132	100%	551	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
13.6 3 .004

Most Common Grounds for Complaints	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sexually explicit	86	26%	42	32%	128	28%
Violence	59	18	23	18	82	18
Unsuitable for age	35	11	32	24	67	15
Negative moral values	56	17	6	5	62	13
Coarse language	33	10	14	11	47	10
Scary to child	30	9	13	10	43	9
Pornographic	30	9	1	<1	31	7
Total	329	100%	131	100%	460	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
34.0 6 .000

Medium of Communication	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Verbal	203	43%	86	58%	289	47%
Written	268	57	62	42	330	53
Total	471	100%	148	100%	619	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 10.2 1 .001

Format of Material	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Print	425	98%	135	100%	560	98%
Nonprint	9	2	0		9	2
Total	434	100%	148	100%	569	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 2.8 1 .092

Fiction Status	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Fiction	308	72%	111	78%	419	73%
Nonfiction	121	28	32	22	153	27
Total	429	100%	148	100%	572	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 1.9 1 .173

Governance Structure	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Single	181	38%	62	41%	243	38%
System	299	62	91	59	390	62
Total	480	100%	153	100%	633	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 0.4 1 .533

Respondent Language	Withdraw		Restrict		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
French	31	6%	14	21%	45	7%
English	449	94	139	79	588	93
Total	480	100%	153	100%	633	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 1.3 1 .259

T-Test of Complainant Action Requested, by Publication Date of Challenged Material, 1985-1987

Action Requested	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Move (n=383)	1,979	8.9			
Restrict (n=153)	1,980	4.9			
T-test			-1.20	409.37	.231

T-Test of Complainant Action Requested, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Action Requested	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Move (n=479)	143,456	173,020			
Restrict (n=153)	123,723	159,045			
T-test			1.31	276.09	.192
Borrowers					
Move (n=475)	66,875	89,514			
Restrict (n=153)	54,257	78,963			
T-test			1.66	288.05	.098
Circulation					
Move (n=479)	1,389,683	1,948,500			
Restrict (n=153)	1,241,366	1,930,662			
T-test			0.83	258.30	.410

*only first three chi-square tests significant ($p < .01$)
 **all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates ($p > .01$)

F73. Resolution of Direct Challenges, in Months, 1985-1987

Months to Resolve	Challenges	
	Number	Percent
One or less	210	47%
Two	127	28
Three	55	12
Four	23	5
Five	13	3
Six	4	1
Seven or more	18	4
Total	450	100%

F74. Statistical Tests of Challenge Outcome, by Selected Variables, 1985-1987: Significant Relationships

Outcome	Fiction		Fiction Status Nonfiction		Total Titles	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	368	88%	119	79%	487	86%
Removed	49	12	31	21	80	14
Total	417	100%	150	100%	567	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
7.2 1 .007

Age Level of Material	Retained		Outcome Removed		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Preschool	35	7%	4	5%	39	7%
Elementary	124	27	10	12	134	25
High School	116	25	20	24	136	25
Adult	189	41	49	59	238	44
Total	464	100%	83	100%	547	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
12.4 3 .006

Most Common Grounds for Complaints	Retained		Removed		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sexually explicit	107	28%	20	30%	127	28%
Violence	70	18	13	19	83	18
Unsuitable for age	61	16	6	9	67	15
Negative moral values	51	13	8	12	59	13
Coarse language	42	11	3	4	45	10
Scary to child	37	9	5	7	42	9
Pornographic	18	5	13	19	31	7
Total	386	100%	68	100%	454	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
22.5 6 .001

Outcome	Library Policy Followed							
	Yes		No		Partially		Total	
	Num	Per	Num	Per	Num	Per	Num	Per
Retained	434	89%	9	75%	19	49%	462	86%
Removed	57	11	3	25	20	51	77	14
National	488	100%	12	100%	39	100%	539	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*						
48.9	2	.000						

Outcome	Media Coverage					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	12	57%	499	85%	511	84%
Removed	9	43	89	15	98	16
Total	21	100%	588	100%	609	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
11.5	1	.001				

T-Test of Outcome, by Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

Outcome	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Retained (n=526)	8.9	9.1	2.65	1	.009
Removed (n= 98)	6.6	7.4			

T-Test of Outcome, by Checklist Ownership, 1985-1987

Outcome	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Retained (n=524)	21.0	7.0	4.69	122.83	.000
Removed (n= 98)	16.7	8.5			
T-test					

Outcome	Objections Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	409	88%	112	73%	521	84%
Removed	55	12	42	27	97	16
Total	464	100%	154	100%	618	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
20.8	1	.000				

Outcome	Form for Challenges					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	391	87%	129	78%	520	84%
Removed	60	13	37	22	97	16
Total	451	100%	166	100%	617	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
7.4	1	.001				

Outcome	Donations Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	428	86%	89	74%	517	84%
Removed	67	14	31	26	98	16
Total	495	100%	120	100%	615	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
10.9	1	.001				

Outcome	Consent Requirement for Minors					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	143	73%	382	90%	525	84%
Removed	53	27	44	10	57	16
Total	196	100%	426	100%	622	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
28.5	1	.000				

Outcome	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	183	77%	343	89%	526	84%
Removed	54	23	44	11	98	16
Total	237	100%	387	100%	624	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
14.5	1	.000				

Outcome	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	24	53%	502	87%	526	84%
Removed	21	47	77	13	98	16
Total	45	100%	579	100%	624	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
35.1	1	.000				

T-Test of Outcome, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Outcome	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Population					
Retained (n=526)	151,847	179,359			
Removed (n= 97)	86,304	124,031			
T-test			4.42	179.44	.000
Borrowers					
Retained (n=524)	70,145	92,314			
Removed (n= 95)	37,945	58,685			
T-test			4.44	190.37	.000
Circulation					
Retained (n=526)	1,510,808	2,075,759			
Removed (n= 97)	753,938	1,250,908			
T-test			4.85	208.42	.000

*all chi-square tests significant (p<.01)

**all t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F75. Statistical Tests of Challenge Outcome, by Selected Variables, 1985-1987: Non-Significant Relationships

Outcome	Medium of Communication					
	Verbal		Written		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	235	82%	276	86%	511	84%
Removed	52	18	45	14	97	16
Total	287	100%	321	100%	608	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
1.9	1	.168				

Outcome	Format of Material					
	Print		Nonprint		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	465	85%	11	79%	476	84%
Removed	85	15	3	21	88	16
Total	550	100%	14	100%	564	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
.4	1	.543				

T-Test of Outcome, by Publication Date of Challenged Material, 1985-1987

Outcome	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Retained (n=433)	1979	7.4			
Removed (n= 71)	1978	11.2			
			.87	1	.385

Outcome	Complainant Represented					
	Child		Other		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	56	88%	457	84%	513	84%
Removed	8	12	89	16	97	16
Total	64	100%	546	100%	610	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
.6	1	.432				

Administrative Level of Resolution	Retained		Outcome Removed		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
CEO	156	31%	33	35%	191	32%
Branch Head	110	22	17	18	127	21
Other Sr Management	74	14	9	10	83	14
Head Children's Serv	47	9	5	5	52	9
Library Board	44	9	10	11	54	9
Other Supervisor	21	6	5	5	26	4
Head Public Relations	18	4	1	1	19	3
Review Committee	17	3		0	17	3
Municipal Council	2	<1	12	13	14	2
Head Youth Services	8	1			1	1
Head Adult Services	6	1		0	6	1
School Official	2	<1	2	2	4	1
Total	507	100%	94	100%	601	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
67.3	1	.000				

T-Test of Outcome, by Months to Resolution, 1985-1987

Outcome	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Retained (n=388)	2.1	2.2			
Removed (n= 59)	3.3	3.5			
T-test			-2.50	64.86	.015

Outcome	Selection Policy				Combined	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	440	86%	81	76%	521	84%
Removed	72	14	25	24	106	16
Total	512	100%	106	100%	618	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
6.1	1	.014				

Outcome	Support of CLA Statement					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	442	88%	23	82%	465	88%
Removed	61	12	5	18	66	12
Total	503	100%	288	100%	531	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
.8	1	.371				

Outcome	Restricted Borrowing					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	191	84%	333	85%	524	85%
Removed	36	16	60	15	96	15
Total	227	100%	393	100%	620	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
.04	1	.844				

Outcome	Differential Treatment of Material					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	175	82%	340	86%	515	84%
Removed	39	18	57	14	96	16
Total	214	100%	397	100%	611	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
1.6	1	.210				

Outcome	Acquisition Pressure					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Retained	266	84%	248	85%	514	85%
Removed	49	16	44	15	93	15
Total	315	100%	292	100%	607	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
.03	1	.868				

*all chi-square tests non-significant (p>.01)

**all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F76. Chi-Square Test of Change in Approach to Handling Direct Challenges, by Governance, 1985-1987

Change in Approach	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	16	15%	5	7%	21	12%
No	90	85	67	93	157	88
Total	106	100%	72	100%	178	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
2.7 1 .098

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F77. T-Test of Change in Approach to Handling Direct Challenges, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Change in Approach	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n= 21)	43,875	73,433			
No (n=156)	77,237	126,978			
T-test			-1.76	38.53	.087
Borrowers					
Yes (n= 20)	13,658	24,298			
No (n=155)	33,763	64,028			
T-test			-2.69	62.15	.009
Circulation					
Yes (n= 21)	315,526	609,391			
No (n=156)	666,534	1,308,688			
T-test			-2.07	50.05	.043

*only second t-test significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F78. Chi-Square Test of Change in Approach to Handling Direct Challenges, by Language of Survey Response, 1985-1987

Change in Approach	Respondent Language				Total	
	French		English		Number	Percent
Yes	3	15%	18	11%	21	12%
No	17	85	140	89	157	88
Total	20	100%	158	100%	178	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
0.2 1 .637

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F79. Statistical Tests of Change in Approach to Handling Direct Challenges, by Selected Variables, 1985-1987

Change in Approach	Library Policy Followed						Total	
	Yes		No		Partially		Num	Per
Yes	34	7%	6	43%	17	43%	57	11%
No	447	93	8	57	23	57	478	89
National	481	100%	14	100%	40	100%	535	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
64.4 2 .000

Change in Approach	Selection Policy				Combined	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
Yes	13	10%	8	17%	21	12%
No	116	90	38	83	154	88
Total	129	100%	46	100%	175	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
1.7 1 .190

Change in Approach	Objections Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	12	10%	9	16%	21	12%
No	105	90	49	84	154	88
Total	117	100%	58	100%	175	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 1.0 1 .313

Change in Approach	Support of CIA Statement					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	9	8%	5	36%	14	11%
No	107	92	9	64	116	88
Total	116	100%	14	100%	130	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 10.2 1 .001

Change in Approach	Form for Challenges					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	10	8%	11	16%	21	12%
No	95	92	59	84	154	88
Total	105	100%	70	100%	175	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 1.5 1 .217

Change in Approach	Donations Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	15	12%	5	11%	20	12%
No	115	88	39	89	154	88
Total	130	100%	44	100%	174	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 0.0 1 .975

Change in Approach	Consent Requirement for Minors					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	10	18%	11	9%	21	12%
No	45	82	111	91	156	88
Total	55	100%	122	100%	177	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
3.0 1 .081

Change in Approach	Restricted Borrowing by Age					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	8	13%	13	11%	21	12%
No	54	87	101	89	155	88
Total	62	100%	114	100%	176	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
0.1 1 .769

Change in Approach	Acquisition Pressure					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	11	15%	9	9%	20	12%
No	63	85	86	91	149	88
Total	74	100%	95	100%	169	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
1.2 1 .282

Change in Approach	Outcome of Challenge					
	Retained		Withdrawn		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	47	9%	15	16%	62	10%
No	464	91	79	84	543	90
Total	511	100%	94	100%	605	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
3.9 1 .047

T-Test of Change in Approach to Handling Direct Challenges, by Selected Variables, 1985-1987

Change in Approach	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Checklist Titles					
Yes (n= 21)	13.7	7.0			
No (n=156)	16.7	7.2			
T-test			-1.85	25.99	.076
Direct Challenges					
Yes (n= 21)	3.2	3.2			
No (n=155)	3.9	5.6			
T-test			-0.96	51.62	.340
Months to Resolve					
Yes (n= 41)	3.0	3.9			
No (n=394)	2.2	2.3			
T-test			1.38	42.95	.175

*all chi-square tests non-significant except first and fourth (p<.01)

**all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F80. Change in Approach to Handling Direct Challenges, by Jurisdiction, 1985-1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries	
	Number	Provincial Percent
British Columbia	4	15%
Alberta	5	17%
Saskatchewan	2	29%
Manitoba	0	
Ontario	6	10%
Quebec	4	20%
New Brunswick	0	
Nova Scotia	0	
Prince Edward Island	0	
Newfoundland	0	
Yukon	0	
Northwest Territories	*	
Total	21	12%
		(n=178)

*no response

F81. Chi-Square Test of Effect of Direct Challenges on Access Policies and Practices, by Governance, 1985-1987

Effect on Library	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	28	27%	17	24%	45	26%
No	77	73	54	76	131	74
Total	105	100%	71	100%	176	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
0.2	1	.685				

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F82. T-Test of Effect of Direct Challenges on Access Policies and Practices, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Effect on Library	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n= 45)	58,790	104,102			
No (n=130)	79,027	128,536			
T-test			-1.06	93.78	.294
Borrowers					
Yes (n= 44)	23,051	49,937			
No (n=129)	34,681	64,766			
T-test			-1.23	95.89	.221
Circulation					
Yes (n= 45)	520,398	1,266,582			
No (n=130)	667,793	1,255,698			
T-test			-0.67	76.03	.502

*all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F83. Chi-Square Test of Effect of Direct Challenges on Access Policies and Practices, by Language of Survey Response, 1985-1987

Effect on Library	Respondent Language					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	8	40%	37	24%	45	26%
No	12	60	119	76	131	74
Total	20	100%	156	100%	176	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
2.5	1	.116				

F84. Statistical Tests of Effect of Direct Challenges on Access Policies and Practices, by Selected Variables, 1985-1987

Effect on Library	Library Policy Followed							
	Yes		No		Partially		Total	
	Num	Per	Num	Per	Num	Per	Num	Per
Yes	111	23%	7	50%	19	48%	137	26%
No	365	77	7	50	21	52	393	74
National	476	100%	14	100%	40	100%	530	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*						
15.6	2	.000						

Effect on Library	Selection Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	29	22%	16	36%	45	26%
No	100	78	29	64	129	74
Total	129	100%	45	100%	174	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
3.0	1	.085				

Effect on Library	Objections Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	23	20%	22	38%	45	26%
No	93	80	36	62	129	74
Total	116	100%	58	100%	174	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
6.6	1	.010				

Effect on Library	Support of CIA Statement					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	24	21%	1	7%	25	19%
No	91	79	13	93	104	81
Total	115	100%	14	100%	129	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 1.5 1 .220

Effect on Library	Form for Challenges					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	23	22%	22	31%	45	26%
No	81	78	48	69	129	74
Total	104	100%	70	100%	174	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 1.9 1 .169

Effect on Library	Donations Policy					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	27	21%	16	37%	43	25%
No	102	79	27	63	129	75
Total	129	100%	43	100%	172	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 4.6 1 .033

Effect on Library	Consent Requirement for Minors					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	19	35%	26	21%	45	26%
No	35	65	95	79	130	74
Total	54	100%	121	100%	175	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
 3.7 1 .055

Effect on Library	Restricted Borrowing by Age					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	21	34%	23	20%	44	25%
No	40	66	90	80	130	75
Total	61	100%	113	100%	174	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
4.2	1	.042				

Effect on Library	Acquisition Pressure					
	Yes		No		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	21	29%	21	22%	42	25%
No	52	71	73	78	125	75
Total	73	100%	94	100%	167	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
0.9	1	.342				

Effect on Library	Outcome of Challenge					
	Retained		Withdrawn		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	124	25%	38	40%	162	27%
No	381	75	56	60	437	73
Total	505	100%	94	100%	599	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
10.1	1	.002				

T-Test of Effect of Direct Challenges on Access Policies and Practices, by Selected Variables, 1985-1987

Effect on Library	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob**
Checklist Titles					
Yes (n= 45)	16.0	7.2			
No (n=130)	16.5	7.2			
T-test			-0.42	76.41	.672
Direct Challenges					
Yes (n= 44)	3.7	4.7			
No (n=155)	3.8	5.5			
T-test			-0.16	66.20	.877
Months to Resolve					
Yes (n=106)	2.5	2.7			
No (n=324)	2.2	2.4			
T-test			1.22	165.16	.222

*all chi-square tests non-significant except first and last (p>.01)

**all t-tests non-significant based on separate variance estimates (p>.01)

F85. Effect of Direct Challenges on Access Policies and Practices, by Jurisdiction, 1985-1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries	
	Number	Provincial Percent
British Columbia	5	23%
Alberta	9	26%
Saskatchewan	2	22%
Manitoba	1	20%
Ontario	14	23%
Quebec	10	20%
New Brunswick	0	
Nova Scotia	1	<1%
Prince Edward Island	0	
Newfoundland	3	75%
Yukon	0	
Northwest Territories	*	
Total	45	26%
		(n=176)

*no response

F86. Chi-Square Test of Covert Censorship, by Governance, 1985-1987

Covert Censorship	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	30	7%	27	24%	57	10%
Hard to say	99	23	42	38	141	26
No	302	70	43	38	345	64
National	431	100%	112	100%	543	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
46.2	2	.000				

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F87. T-Test of Covert Censorship, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Covert Censorship	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n= 57)	94,508	144,845			
No (n=343)	15,033	48,985			
T-test			4.10	58.15	.000
Borrowers					
Yes (n= 56)	45,281	81,158			
No (n=335)	4,944	15,466			
T-test			3.71	55.67	.000
Circulation					
Yes (n= 57)	861,706	1,560,317			
No (n=367)	89,158	296,422			
T-test			3.73	56.69	.000

*all t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F88. Chi-Square Test of Covert Censorship, by Language of Survey Response, 1985-1987

Covert Censorship	Public Libraries					
	French		English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	4	6%	53	11%	57	10%
Hard to say	21	34	120	25	141	26
No	38	60	307	64	480	64
National	63	100%	480	100%	543	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
2.8	2	.250				

*chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F89. Covert Censorship, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1985-1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Provincial Percent	Number (000s)	Provincial Percent
British Columbia	9	19%	905	34%
Alberta	8	7%	692	35%
Saskatchewan	5	56%	573	58%
Manitoba	2	10%	63	8%
Ontario	25	10%	2,753	36%
Quebec	4	6%	66	2%
New Brunswick	1	25%	185	27%
Nova Scotia	1	9%	35	4%
Prince Edward Island				
Newfoundland	2	29%	115	27%
Yukon				
Northwest Territories				
National	57	10% (n=543)	5,387 (n=18 million)	30%

F90. Chi-Square Test of Acquisition Pressure, by Governance, 1985-1987

Acquisition Pressure	Governance Structure					
	Single		System		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	67	16%	54	47%	121	22%
No	358	84	62	53	420	78
National	425	100%	116	100%	541	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
49.7	1	.000				

*chi-square test significant (p<.01)

F91. T-Test of Acquisition Pressure, by Population, Borrowers, and Circulation, 1985-1987

Acquisition Pressure	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Population					
Yes (n=121)	81,367	130,582			
No (n=416)	19,991	53,579			
T-test			5.05	131.95	.000
Borrowers					
Yes (n=120)	35,042	65,716			
No (n=411)	7,397	22,016			
T-test			4.53	126.89	.000
Circulation					
Yes (n=121)	680,183	1,287,063			
No (n=410)	138,872	487,004			
T-test			4.53	130.29	.000

*all t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F92. Chi-Square Test of Acquisition Pressure, by Language of Survey Response, 1985-1987

Acquisition Pressure	French		Public Libraries English		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	18	28%	103	22%	121	22%
No	47	72	373	78	420	78
National	65	100%	476	100%	541	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
1.2 1 .272

*chi-square test non-significant ($p > .01$)

F93. Chi-Square Test of Acquisition Pressure, by Access Policy Coverage, 1985-1987

Acquisition Pressure	All		Access Policies				Total	
	Num	Per	Num	Per	Num	Per	Num	Per
Yes	54	37%	51	22%	16	10%	121	22%
No	93	67	182	78	145	90	420	78
National	147	100%	233	100%	161	100%	541	100%

Chi-Square (Pearson) DF Prob*
31.8 2 .000

*chi-square test significant ($p < .01$)

F94. Chi-Square Test of Acquisition Pressure, by Age-Based Access Restrictions and Differential Treatment of Potentially Controversial Material, 1985-1987

Acquisition Pressure	Restricted Borrowing					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	46	28%	75	20%	121	23%
No	116	72	299	80	415	77
National	162	100%	374	100%	536	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
4.5	1	.034				

Acquisition Pressure	Consent Requirement					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	42	35%	78	19%	120	22%
No	77	65	339	81	416	78
National	119	100%	417	100%	536	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
14.7	1	.000				

Acquisition Pressure	Differential Treatment					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	39	35%	79	19%	118	22%
No	72	65	337	81	409	78
National	111	100%	416	100%	527	100%
Chi-Square (Pearson)	DF	Prob*				
13.1	1	.000				

*only first chi-square test non-significant (p>.01)

F95. T-Test of Acquisition Pressure, by Checklist Ownership and Direct Challenges, 1985-1987

Acquisition Pressure	Mean	SD	T Value	DF	Prob*
Checklist Ownership					
Yes (n=121)	17.0	7.3			
No (n=417)	11.2	6.4			
T-test			7.97	176.12	.000
Direct Challenges					
Yes (n=120)	2.9	4.1			
No (n=411)	.8	3.2			
T-test			5.25	161.73	.000

*both t-tests significant based on separate variance estimates (p<.01)

F96. Acquisition Pressure, by Population and Jurisdiction, 1985-1987

Province/Territory	Public Libraries		Population	
	Number	Provincial Percent	(000s)	Provincial Percent
British Columbia	18	40%	1,842	69%
Alberta	20	17%	963	48%
Saskatchewan	6	67%	675	69%
Manitoba	6	32%	636	83%
Ontario	45	18%	4,356	57%
Quebec	20	32%	980	33%
New Brunswick				
Nova Scotia	2	20%	179	21%
Prince Edward Island				
Newfoundland	2	29%	135	31%
Yukon	1	100%	27	100%
Northwest Territories	1	100%	52	100%
National	121	22%	9,845	54%
		(n=541)		(n=18.2 million)

Appendix G

Brief Calendar History of the Study Project

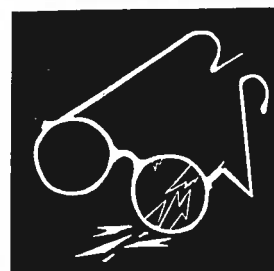
June 1986	Grant proposal submitted to the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts.
July 1986	Notification of award.
Sept 1986	Grant proposal submitted to the Small Faculties Endowment Fund, University of Alberta.
Oct 1986	Notification of award.
Nov 1986- Nov 1987	Questionnaire and covering letter developed and pretested and translated into French.
Feb 16, 1988	Questionnaire mailed (returns requested by Mar 11).
Apr-May 1988	Follow-up by mail and telephone.
June 1988- Nov 1988	Survey data analyzed, coded, and entered into machine-readable files.
Oct 1989- May 1991	Data analysis and report writing.
May 1991	Presentation at the Alberta Libraries Conference, Jasper, Alberta.
June 1991	Presentation at the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association, Montreal, Quebec. Article submitted to <i>Canadian Library Journal</i> .
July 1991	Summary of findings distributed to survey respondents and other interested parties.
Nov 1991	Summary published in <i>Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom</i> .
Feb 1992	Article published in <i>Canadian Library Journal</i> .
Aug 1992- Sept 1992	Completed draft of research monograph reviewed by colleagues.
Jan 1993	Revised monograph sent to publisher.

Appendix H

Book and Periodical Council: Suggested Reading List for Research

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK
MARCH 1-8, 1993

Book and Periodical Council • 35 Spadina Road Toronto Ontario M5R 2S9
TEL (416) 975-9366 FAX (416) 975-1839



READING LIST

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Appendix I

Association Statements on Intellectual Freedom

CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

All persons in Canada have 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. This 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.

(Ratified by the Board of Directors and Council at the
29th Annual Conference in Winnipeg, June 1974
and amended Nov. 17, 1983 and Nov. 18, 1985)

CHARTRE DES DROITS DU LECTEUR

Toute personne a le droit à la liberté intellectuelle, c'est-à-dire le droit fondamental d'accéder à toutes les formes d'expression du savoir et d'exprimer ses pensées en public.

Le droit à la liberté intellectuelle est essentiel et vital à une saine démocratie et au développement de la société québécoise.

En vertu de cette déclaration, les administrateurs et le personnel des bibliothèques ont, envers le lecteur, l'obligation:

- d'assurer et de maintenir ce droit fondamental à la liberté intellectuelle;
- de garantir et de faciliter l'accès à toute forme et à tout moyen d'expression du savoir;
- de garantir ce droit d'expression en offrant les services usuels, physiques et intellectuels, de la bibliothèque;
- de s'opposer à toute tentative visant à limiter ce droit à l'information et à la libre expression de la pensée tout en reconnaissant aux individus ou aux groupes le droit à la critique.

Les bibliothécaires doivent promouvoir et défendre les principes de cette déclaration.

Adoptée par le Conseil d'administration de l'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Québec Library Association, lors de sa réunion, le 31 mars 1976.

Adoptée par le Bureau de l'ASTED (Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation), lors de sa 21e réunion, le 27 octobre 1976.

Adoptée par le Bureau de la Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec, lors de sa 76e réunion, le 13 mai 1976.

OLA Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual

In affirming its support of the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and the freedom of the press, as embodied in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following propositions: -

(i) That the provision of library service to the Canadian public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion, and morality.

(ii) That it is the responsibility of librarians to maintain this right and to implement it in their selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, and other materials.

(iii) That intellectual freedom requires freedom to examine other ideas and other interpretations of life than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general, including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional or unpopular.

(iv) That freedom of the press requires freedom of the writer to depict what is ugly, shocking, and unedifying in life when such depiction is made with serious intent.

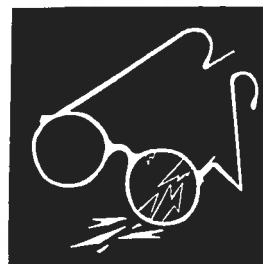
(v) That free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen and view is fundamental to such free traffic.

(vi) That it is therefore part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate or curtail the freedom to read, view, and listen by demanding the removal of any book, periodical, film, recording, or other material from the library.

(vii) That it is equally part of the library's responsibility to its public to ensure that its selection of materials is not unduly influenced by the personal opinions of the selectors, but determined by the application of generally accepted standards of accuracy, style, and presentation.

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK MARCH 1-8, 1993

Book and Periodical Council • 35 Spadina Road Toronto Ontario M5R 2S9
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THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE FREEDOM TO READ

A statement of the basic tenets of the Committee for Freedom of Expression of the Book and Periodical Council.

The freedom to read is essential to the democratic way of life. It is essential to the democratic process. Today the freedom to read is under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of our country are working to remove both books and periodicals from sale, to exclude certain books from our public schools, to censor and silence magazines and newspapers, to label "controversial" books and periodicals, to distribute lists of "objectional" books and authors, to limit the granting powers of arts councils in relation to certain authors and publishers and to purge libraries. These actions apparently arise from a view that censorship and suppression are needed to protect society. We, as Canadian citizens devoted to the use of books and periodicals, and as writers, publishers, distributors and librarians responsible for the creation and dissemination of books and periodicals, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

The suppression of reading materials is suppression of creative thought. Further, without creative thought democracy will become extinct and people will fall prey to the dictatorship of the few. Those who dictate what we may not read are in fact dictating what we shall read.

Books and periodicals are not alone in being subjected to suppression. We are aware that these efforts are related to a larger pattern of pressures, both political and social, being brought against the educational system, against films, radio and television and against the graphic and theatre arts. These pressures are at work in the world of communications and in the administration of justice. We are best equipped to counter these pressures by exercising our expertise in the areas of our professional concerns. We oppose suppression of the written word. To that end, we have struck this Committee for Freedom of Expression. Without such freedom of expression, no responsible debate of controversial issues can take place.

Books, newspapers and magazines are the instruments of freedom. We abhor the expurgation and barring of literature on the false grounds of obscenity. We are particularly concerned with the threat to Canadian literature which is a unique voice of our culture. There is no obscenity in truth. What is obscene is the suppression of truth and the suppression of any part of literature that seeks to create a compassionate understanding of the human condition.

Free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. Current pressure to impose uniformity limits the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our nation and culture depend. Every Canadian community must jealously safeguard the freedom to publish, to circulate, and to sell in order to protect freedom itself. We believe that writers, publishers, distributors and librarians have a profound responsibility to maintain the freedom by making it possible for readers to choose freely.

Freedom to read is a precious heritage. It is a part of a much larger heritage common to the human spirit which we call freedom of expression. As professional organizations and associations already congregated under the auspices of the Book and Periodical Council, we seek through this statement to express our absolute commitment to combating, in whatever form it takes, the suppression of books and periodicals because we believe that the written word is the ultimate mode of free expression.

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.

Amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980,
by the ALA Council.

Appendix J

Main Questionnaire: Item Responses

	Yes —	No —	Valid Responses <u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1. Does your library have a written selection policy?	54%	46%	545	97%
2. Does your library have a written procedure or policy for handling objections to materials?	51%	49%	551	98%
If yes, does the policy endorse the CIA's Statement on Intellectual Freedom?	88%	12%	294	53%
3. Does your library have a written form for registering objections to or requesting reconsideration of materials?	43%	57%	548	98%
4. Does your library restrict borrowing privileges by age/grade level?	30%	70%	555	99%
5. Does your library require minors to have written parental/guardian consent to consult in-house or to borrow certain individual titles or certain types of materials?	23%	77%	555	99%
6. Other than by age/grade level, does your library restrict in-house access or borrowing privileges to certain individual titles or to certain types of materials?	6%	94%	551	98%
7. During 1985, 1986 or 1987, was your library requested to remove from its collection, or otherwise to restrict access to any book, magazine, or other material?	34%	66%	560	100%
8. Looking back on the objection(s) received, and your experience in handling them, would you have changed your approach generally or in any particular circumstances?	12%	88%	178	94%

Appendix J - Continued

	Yes —	No —	Valid Responses <u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
9. Would you say that the objection(s) received have had any effect on your library's selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation?	26%	74%	176	93%
10. During 1985, 1986 or 1987, did your library experience loss, theft, defacement, alteration, mutilation, or destruction of any book, magazine, or other material which you suspected was an attempt to prevent or restrict access by others?	11%	64%	543*	97%
11. Has your library been pressured to accept or acquire certain individual titles or certain types of materials, during 1985, 1986 or 1987?	22%	78%	541	97%
12. Does your library have a written policy on donation of materials for the collection?	57%	43%	548	98%
13. Does your library treat potentially controversial or questionable materials differently from other materials in selection, classification, shelving, access, or circulation?	21%	79%	538	96%

*"hard to say"=26%

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