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ABSTRACT

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) has developed this handbook to assist schools in strengthening their philosophy and curriculum, encourage the purchase of the best and most appropriate educational media, and provide support to the administrator, teacher, and media specialist in potentially controversial areas. A position statement on intellectual freedom and guidelines for developing an educational media selection policy are given. Appendices include: (1) a checklist for survival against censorship, (2) a sample policy statement, (3) an evaluation guide for instructional materials, (4) a sample form to request the reconsideration of instructional materials, (5) checklists for school media advisory committee reconsideration of instructional materials, (6) a directory of contacts for intellectual freedom matters, (7) a selected list of crganizations with intellectual freedom manuals, and (8) a bibliography on issues of intellectual freedom. (MER)



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Media, the Learner, and Intellectual Freedom

A HANDBOOK

"FERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

AECT

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Intellectual Freedom Committee
Association for Educational Communications and Technology
Washington, D.C. 1979



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Constitution of the United States

Amendment I Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press; Rights of Assembly and Petition

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting free exercise therof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment XIV Civil Rights

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction therof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.



Preface

Citizens in a free society must have full access to information upon which to base decisions. They must have that access not only as adults, when they are called on to make decisions which affect their_community, state, and nation, but also while they are in school, forming habits and attitudes essential to adult citizenship. The increased use of technology in schools, the use of multi-resources instead of a single textbook, the multiplicity of viewpoints on any single subject—these place a special burden on those who produce, evaluate, select, and organize educational media for classroom use.

It must be remembered that within the K-12 setting, students are minors. Parents have not only a responsibility for their children's education, but also, most courts have held, a legal responsibility for their children's actions. Parents have a right to affect their own children's education and the materials used in their classroom.

Balancing the parent's right to control the experiences of his or her own child are the child's right to have access to information, and the teacher's right to help students search out information from a variety of sources, so they may develop skills for effective decision-making. These competing rights create many of the problems in dealing with intellectual freedom at the K-12 level.

In this publication, AECT as an association expresses its concern about instruction and the media used in learning. The Intellectual Freedom Committee has developed this statement for use by instructional designers, producers, teachers, media specialists, and administrators in developing formal educational programs. We recognize that there are broader concerns of intellectual freedom, but here we address the specific needs of those who work with media, and suggest a process by which responsible actions can be taken by all parties concerned with the education of our children.

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Richard Gilkey Past President, AECT



Definitions

Educational Media. The media born of the communications revolution which can be used for instructional purposes along-side the teacher, textbook, and blackboard. (Educational Technology: A Glossary of Terms. Association for Educational Communications and Technology, 1979)

Governing Body. Refers to the chief policy-making body of the school district or local educational agency.

Media Specialist. A person with appropriate certification and broad professional preparation both in education and media with competencies to carry out a media program. The media specialist is the basic media professional in the school program. (Educational Technology: A Glossary of Terms. Association for Educational Communications and Technology, 1979)





Introduction

Although many national professional associations such as the American Library Association, National Council of Teachers of English, and National Association of Secondary School Principals have developed statements on intellectual freedom, the documents do not speak directly to the evaluation and selection of educational media as a vital part of student learning in elementary and secondary classrooms.

Those who would create better educational opportunities must strive to develop comprehensive systems that meet the needs of students of differing abilities, backgrounds and interests, enabling them both to adjust to and to influence the changing society in which they live. Media programs which reflect applications of educational technology, communication theory, and library and information science contribute at every level offering essential processes, functions, and resources to accomplish the purpose of the school. [ALA, AECT, Media Programs: District and School, 1975, p. 1]

Through the evaluation and selection process we are able to acquire educational media to accomplish these purposes, which are strengthened by the application of the principles of intellectual freedom.

Intellectual freedom may be defined by some as complete freedom of access to information. However, intellectual freedom in the public schools must be defined within the constraints of social and national law. These constraints should not serve as an excuse to blanch the learning process with mediocre educational media. On the contrary, it is through recognition of logical constraints that we are able to protect the rights of children and others, while qualitatively improving educational offerings. Additional purposes for developing a policy statement, evaluation criteria, and procedures for re-evaluating educational media exist. Three of these purposes are:

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- 1. To assist the local schools in strengthening their philosophy and curriculum.
- To encourage the purchase of the best and most appropriate educational media.
- 3. To provide support to the administrator, teacher, and media specialist in potentially controversial areas.

Media, the Learner, and Intellectual Freedom: A Handbook has been developed by the AECT Intellectual Freedom Committee to assist media specialists in fulfilling their professional responsibility to provide quality educational media to all students in elementary and secondary schools. The handbook contains the AECT Intellectual Freedom Statement, some basic assumptions for interpreting the statement, a section on development of policy for educational media selection, suggested procedures for re-evaluation of materials, and general appendices which include sample forms, additional information contacts, and a bibliography.

In closing this introductory section we reaffirm the philosophy stated in the introduction to *Media Programs: District and School*, that

The human worth that democratic societies seek to protect and develop rests upon commitment to educational programs which meet the individual purposes and developmental needs of students and prepare them to resolve the problems that continually confront them. Social, economic, and political issues, national and international, as well as the changing expectations of individuals and groups, represent the human concerns to which education must respond if it is to perpetuate and improve the society that supports it. (p. 1)

Susannah G. Dunn 1976-78 Chairperson Intellectual Freedom Committee



Statement on Intellectual Freedom

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is a cornerstone of our liberty, supporting our rights and responsibilities regarding free speech both written and oral.

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology believes this same protection applies also to the use of sound and image in our society.

Therefore, we affirm that:

Freedom of inquiry and access to information—regardless of the format or viewpoints of the presentation—are fundamental to the development of our society. These rights must not be denied or abridged because of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, or social or political views.

Children have the right to freedom of inquiry and access to information; responsibility for abridgement of that right is solely between an individual child and the parent(s) of that child.

The need for information and the interests, growth, and enlightenment of the user should govern the selection and development of educational media, not the age, sex, race, nationality, politics, or religious doctrine of the author, producer, or publisher.

Attempts to restrict or deprive a learner's access to information representing a variety of viewpoints must be resisted as a threat to learning in a free and democratic society. Recognizing that within a pluralistic society efforts to censor may exist, such challenges should be met calmiy with proper respect for the beliefs of the challengers. Further, since attempts to censor sound and image material frequently arise out of misunderstanding of the rationale for using these formats, we shall attempt to help both user and censor to recognize the



purpose and dynamics of communication in modern times regardless of the format.

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology is ready to cooperate with other persons or groups committed to resisting censorship or abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas and information.

Adopted by:

AECT Board of Directors Kansas City April 21, 1978







Basic Assumptions for Interpreting the Statement

- With every freedom or right comes a responsibility. Responsible, intelligent study must be based on a wide range of ideas and opinions to be examined and developed through reading, listening, viewing, experiencing, and discussing.
- The local school administration must affirm each student's right to study controversial areas having political, economic, and social significance.
- Educational media on all subjects must be selected on the basis of need and ability of the user.
- All educational media must be evaluated and selected according to locally acceptable criteria based on the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the school district and the subject area.
- The governing body must recognize the right of any parent to request that certain learning materials not be made available to their children. Alternative assignments and/or materials must be provided in these instances.
- Selectors of educational media must recognize that no material is value free, but rather, reflects the values of the culture of the time and place when and where created.



The Educational Media Selection Policy

A school's curriculum should be implemented through the use of educational media that have been thoughtfully selected, using a written policy that has been formally approved by the governing body. This policy must include selection objectives; a description of the types of media to which the policy applies, including student- and teacher-produced materials; evaluation and selection criteria; selection procedures; and re-evaluation procedures.

Components of an Educational Media Selection Policy

A comprehensive educational media selection policy includes statements that . . .

- 1. Designate the school's governing body as ultimately responsible for the selection of all educational media.
- 2. Delegate the responsibility for the evaluation and selection of educational media to professional school media specialists.
- 3. State the educational philosophy and goals upon which the educational media selection policy is formulated.
- 4. Identify the types of media covered by the policy, including those purchased, rented, acquired free, and produced in the school.
- -5. Define the role of faculty, staff, students, and parents in the evaluation and selection of educational media.
 - 6. Describe the role of previewing and reviewing tools in the evaluation and selection of educational media.
 - 7. List criteria for the evaluation and selection of all educational media, purchased or acquired free.
 - 8. Outline approved procedures for re-evaluation of educational media that is challenged.







Specify any special criteria for the evaluation, selection, and re-evaluation of educational media in potentially controversial areas of human experience.

Selection Objectives

The basic objective of media selection is to provide students with learning resources that are intrinsic to the implementation of curriculum and that have value for the diversified interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the student population. Media should stimulate thinking, provide facts, and contribute to student growth in literary and aesthetic appreciation. Students must have access to media that enable them to make judgments and decisions relating to their daily lives.

Educational media must present a diversity of viewpoints on controversial issues, and should include the thinking and contribution of the many cultural, ethnic, and religious groups which constitute society in the United States.

Finally, educational media must be representative of the variety of communication formats so that individual learning styles may be provided for, and so that students might develop the ability to analyze critically various media formats.

Types of Educational Media to Which This Policy Applies

The term "educational media" includes (but is not limited to) print and nonprint items such as audiotapes and cassettes, books, pamphlets, computer programs, dioramas, disc recordings, electronic displays, films (movies), filmstrips, games, graphic works, learning kits, manuscripts, maps and globes, microforms, models, multimedia programs, newspapers, overhead projectuals, artistic performances, periodicals, programed texts and workbooks, radio programs, realia, reference materials, simulation, slides, sophisticated instructional systems, television programs, textbooks, videocassettes, videodiscs, videotapes, visual displays, workbooks, and various combinations of these.

Selection criteria must also be applied when selecting resource speakers for school functions such as classroom presentations, assemblies, and other school-sponsored meetings.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Every selection policy must include a set of specific criteria for the evaluation and selection of educational media. The following criteria can be used as a model for local criteria. Educational media must be selected to . . .





- 1. Meet the needs of the school, district, or other local education agency.
- 2. Develop aesthetic appreciation, creative thinking, and objective evaluation. Media also must match the abilities, interests, and learning levels and styles of students.
- 3. Reflect characteristics of the world's societies and foster understanding for the various ethnic, racial, and minority groups within our society.
- 4. Strengthen the student's positive self-image and personal code of ethics.
- 5. Allow students to examine controversial economic, political, and social issues. Students must be able to assess conflicting viewpoints from examples of propaganda and extremist views. The use of controversial material does not imply endorsement of the ideas by the professional staff or the local education agency.
- 6. Foster respect for women and men as human beings and avoid pointless and destructive stereotyping, whether sexrole, religious, ethnic, cultural, or socioeconomic. The valuable contributions made by people of all ages must be recognized.
- 7. Present factual information which has been evaluated for accuracy and clarity, since these materials allow students to make informed and intelligent judgments which affect their daily lives.
- 8. Reflect the variety of aspirations, attitudes, ideals, and problems of society.
- 9. Provide for students with varying degrees of mental, physical, and emotional ability, since all students must be encouraged to develop to their fullest potential.
- Avoid exclusion because of the origin, nationality, race, or
 political or religious views of the author or producer, or
 other persons participating in the preparation and presentation of these materials.



- 11. Present factual information about major religions.
- 12. Include materials for their overall merit, social value, and aesthetic contribution even though they may contain dehumanizing, demeaning, or profane language; sexual incidents; violence; or potentially offensive behavior. These materials must not be routinely disqualified, but evaluated for their usefulness in presenting life in its true proportions in realistic circumstances or as creative representations of literary value.

These guidelines should also be applied when selecting resource speakers for school functions such as classroom presentations, assemblies, and other school-sponsored meetings.

Procedures for Developing an Educational Media Selection Policy

Local educational policies and procedures may require considerations other than those presented here, but the following procedures have been used successfully by many local education agencies in the development of policies.

- 1. The governing body resolves to establish and adopt a written educational media selection policy. (In many instances, this resolution may come about only if the media specialist assumes the professional responsibility for alerting the governing body to the need for a selection policy.)
- 2. The governing body or its designee appoints an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from various sectors of the educational community, including (but not necessarily limited to) parents, students, faculty, media specialists, and administrators. The governing body charges the committee with the responsibility for developing an educational media selection policy. The charge specifies a final deadline for delivery of the committee's report and draft policy to the governing body. General guidelines to facilitate the work of the ad hoc committee may be established.
- 3. The ad hoc committee submits its recommendations to the governing body, which may discuss the proposed policy with the committee.
- 4. The governing body may ask interested groups, such as the



various curriculum committees, the PTA, department heads or chairpersons, teachers' association, and members of the community to comment on the recommended policy and offer suggestions to the superintendent or equivalent chief educational officer.

- 5. The governing body conducts a closing review of the committee's recommended policy, with due consideration given to the opinions expressed by all sectors of the educational community.
- 6. The governing body acts on the committee report and adopts a formal written statement as the approved educational media selection policy of the local school district or other local education agency.
- 7. The governing body provides for the implementation of the new written policy. The implementation plan must provide for wide dissemination of the policy to all staff members involved in the evaluation, selection, and use of educational media.
- 8. An open dialogue between the school and the community should be maintained as the policy is applied. School staff should be able to respond to questions about the policy from interested groups.
- 9. Periodic evaluation should be made of the educational media selection policy to determine its continuing appropriateness and effectiveness.

Re-evaluation of Challenged Materials

Regardless of the care taken in evaluating and selecting educational media, objections to specific materials will occur. When materials are challenged, it is imperative that appropriate policies and procedures be followed. It is also imperative that requests for re-evaluation be handled with courtesy and a high degree of professionalism. The complainant should be assured that the request will be treated fairly and expeditiously.

When a complaint about educational material is received, the following procedure is suggested.

1. The complainant should request in writing the re-evaluation of the material. (See Appendix D for sample request form.)





- 2. The challenged material remains in circulation until a final decision has been made.
- 3. A re-evaluation committee is selected in accordance with the policy established by the district's governing body. The committee may consist of educational personnel, students, and community representatives. The complainant should have the opportunity to meet with the committee.
- 4. The committee re-evaluates the material objectively and in its full context, in terms of the needs and interests of the students, the school and its curriculum, and the community as outlined in the official school policies and procedures for evaluation and selection of educational media.
- 5. The committee reports its decision to the appropriate administrator, who will see that the decision is implemented.
- 6. An appeal procedure may be advisable. If established, the procedure should permit the appointment of another committee at a higher governing level, again representing the broad spectrum of the educational community. This committee reviews the work of the prior committee, applies the process outlined above, and reports its decision to the chief school officer. All interested parties are notified in writing of the final decision.

APPENDICES



Appendix A Checklist for Survival Against Censorship

1.	Do you have a written instructional materials selection policy? Has it been formally adopted by your governing agency? Is it revised and updated periodically?
2.	Does your policy include a written procedure for handling complaints?
3.	Are instructional and non-instructional personnel in your system, from Board members and central administrators to custodians, aware of the contents of your materials selection policy?
4.	Do you have open communication lines with civic, religious, educational, and political bodies in your community?
5.	Do you encourage your district to maintain a vigorous public relations program on behalf of intellectual freedom?
6.	Have you prepared written rationale for using specific classroom materials, especially for those that students are required to use to meet educational objectives?
7.	Are you aware of groups in your community who are likely to initiate complaints about instructional materials?
8.	Are you aware of groups in your community who are advocates of intellectual freedom and who might have resources they would enlist in your support?
9.	Are you aware of state and national organizations who are advocates of intellectual freedom?

Reprinted from Selection Policies: A Guide to Updating and Writing, with permission of the Michigan Association for Media in Education. (See Appendix G.)





Appendix B Sample Policy Statement

board of Education		Board	of	Education
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Principles and Policies for Basic Selection and Procedures for Re-evaluation of School Library Materials

A wide variety of appropriate educational media are needed to support the philosophy, goals, and instructional programs of schools. These materials include, but are not limited to, print and nonprint items such as audio recordings, books, films, filmstrips, learning kits, models, transparencies, and other forms of educational media for teaching, learning, and interest fulfillment.

A. Objectives

The primary objectives in the selection of school educational media are as follows:

- 1. To support and enrich all areas of the curriculum.
- 2. To meet the needs, abilities, interests, and maturity levels of students.
- 3. To stimulate thinking, provide facts, and contribute to student growth in library and aesthetic appreciation.

In order to achieve these objectives, ______ Schools endorses the following tenets as set forth in the Statement on Intellectual Freedom approved by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology Board of Directors, Kansas City, 1978:

"The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is a cornerstone of our liberty, supporting our rights and responsibilities regarding free speech both written and oral.

"The Association for Educational Communications and Technology believes this same protection applies also to the use of sound and image in our society.

"Therefore, we affirm that:

"Freedom of inquiry and access to information—regardless of the format or viewpoints of the presentation—are fundamental



to the development of our society. These rights must not be denied or abridged because of sex, age, race, religion, national origin, or social or political views.

"Children have the right to freedom of inquiry and access to information; responsibility for abridgement of that right is solely between an individual child and the parent(s) of that child.

"The need for information and the interests, growth and enlightenment of the user should govern the selection and development of educational media, not the age, sex, race, nationality, politics, or religious doctrine of the author, producer, or publisher.

"Attempts to restrict or deprive a learner's access to information representing a variety of viewpoints must be resisted as a threat to learning in a free and democratic society. Recognizing that within a pluralistic society efforts to censor may exist, such challenges should be met calmly with proper respect for the beliefs of the challengers. Further, since attempts to censor sound and image material frequently arise out of misunderstanding of the rationale for using these formats, we shall attempt to help both user and censor to recognize the purpose and dynamics of communication in modern times regardless of the format.

"The Association for Educational Communications and Technology is ready to cooperate with other persons or groups committed to resisting censorship or abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas and information."

B. Policy for Legal Responsibility

The Board of Education serves the ______ Schools and is legally responsible for all media resources. The Board delegates authority and responsibility to each school for establishing selection and acquisition procedures that will take into consideration the students' cultural backgrounds, curricular, and individual needs as well as the budgetary factors of the school.

C. Personnel for Selection of Educational Media

Materials selection is an ongoing process in which the principal, teachers, media personnel, parents, and students should participate. It is recommended that the principal involve various personnel in the selection of the resources for the media center by appointing a school media advisory committee. The size of the student body and the curriculum will determine the number of persons to serve on this committee. The committee should include the media personnel, at least one teacher representative from each area of the curriculum (subject areas, grade levels, or



teacher teams), one or more parents and one or more students whose parents have given consent in writing to their serving on this committee.

D. Functions of the School Media Advisory Committee

- 1. Become familiar with "Basic Selection Principles for Educational Media." (See Section E.)
- 2. Develop written guidelines for the selection of the individual school's media materials based on "Basic Selection Principles for School Educational Media." (See Section E.)
- Recommend media materials needed in specific curricular areas.
- 4. Determine priorities of requests for school media material.
- Maintain an up-to-date school media collection by continuous examination of the existing collection in order to replace worn materials and to withdraw out-of-date and inappropriate materials.
- 6. Evaluate new media materials before they are used by the students.

E. Basic Selection Principles for Educational Media

The process of examining and evaluating materials being considered for purchase is continuous and systematic. It is preferable to preview materials which are being considered for purchase; however, selection may be made from bibliographic tools, selected lists, and reviews which appear in library and educational journals.

Gifts, free and inexpensive materials, sponsored materials, and resource speakers should be judged and accepted by the same standards observed in the selection of materials to be purchased. Educational media must be selected to:

- 1. Meet the local needs of the school, district, or other local education agency.
- 2. Develop aesthetic appreciation, creative thinking, and objective evaluation. Media also must match the abilities, interests, and learning levels and styles of students.

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- 3. Reflect characteristics of the world's societies and to foster understanding for ethnic, racial, and minority groups within our society.
- 4. Strengthen the student's positive self-image and personal code of ethics.
- 5. Allow students to examine controversial economic, political, and/or social issues. Students must be able to assess conflicing viewpoints from examples of propaganda and extremist views. The use of controversial material does not imply endorsement of the ideas by the professional staff or the local education agency.
- 6. Foster respect for men and women as human beings and should avoid pointless and destructive sex-role, religious, ethnic, cultural, or socioeconomic stereotyping. The valuable contributions made by people of all ages must be recognized.
- 7. Present factual information which has been evaluated for accuracy and clarity, since these materials allow students to make informed and intelligent judgments which affect their daily lives.
- 8. Reflect the variety of aspirations, attitudes, ideals, and problems of society.
- 9. Provide for students with varying degrees of mental, physical, and emotional ability as all students must be encouraged to develop their fullest potential.
- 10. Avoid exclusion because of the origin, nationality, race, political, or religious views of the author or producer or other persons participating in the preparation and presentation of these materials.
- 11. Present factual information about major religions.
- 12. Include materials for their overall merit, social value, and aesthetic contribution even though they may contain dehumanizing, demeaning sexual incidents, profane language, violence, or potentially offensive behavior. These materials must not be routinely disqualified, but be evaluated for



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....

their usefulness in presenting life in its true proportions in realistic circumstances, or creative representations of literary value.

F. Procedures for Re-evaluation of Educational Media

Despite both the care taken to select appropriate materials for student and teacher use, and the qualifications of persons who select materials, there may be objections to a selection. When parents or pardians request permission to review materials in the media center, they should in no way disrupt the normal operations of a school. The parent or guardian must have a child in the school where the complaint is filed. If a complaint is made, the following steps should be taken.

- 1. School personnel will be courteous to the complainant, make no commitment, and notify the principal.
- 2. The complainant arranges a conference with the principal.
- 3. The principal invites the complainant to file his objections in writing on the form "Parent's or Guardian's Request for Re-evaluation of Educational Media." (See Appendix D.)
- 4. The challenged material remains in circulation until a final decision has been reached.
- 5. The complainant will complete one "Parent's or Guardian's Request for Re-evaluation of Educational Media" form per title.
- 6. A complainant who does not complete and return the form together-with the challenged material to the principal will receive no further consideration.
- 7. Upon receipt of the completed form from the complainant, the principal will request review of the challenged material by the School Media Advisory Committee.
- 8. The School Media Advisory Committee will take the following steps after receiving the challenged material.
 - a) Read the entire book, view, and/or listen to the material in its entirety.
 - b) Check general acceptance of the material by reading re-



- views and consulting recommended lists.
- c) Judge the material for its strength and value as a whole and not in part—the impact of the entire work being more important than the words, phrases, or incidents out of which it is made.
- d) Complete a checklist for the material, using the "Checklist for School Media Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material" (fiction or non-fiction form).
- 9. If there is a need for further review, the principal shall . . .
 - a) Notify the Division of Curriculum and Instruction (or appropriate division).
 - b) Forward letter, "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials," "Checklist for School Media Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material," and the re-evaluated material to the Division of Curriculum and Instruction.
- The Division of Curriculum and Instruction will notify and forward necessary materials to the Superintendent's administrative staff.
- 11. If there is a need for further review after the Superintendent's administrative staff has studied the materials, they will request the school district Curriculum Advisory Council to review all materials.
- 12. The school district Curriculum Advisory Council will take the following steps after receiving the challenged materials.
 - a) Read the entire book, view, and/or listen to the material in its entirety.
 - b) Check general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists.
 - c) Judge the material for its strength and value as a whole and not in part—the impact of the entire work being more important than the words, phrases or incidents out of which it is made.
 - d) Complete a checklist for the material, using the "Checklist for School Media Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material."



- (1) Submit the completed checklist to the Superintendent of Schools.
- (2) File a copy with the Superintendent's administrative staff.
- (3) File a copy with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.
- 13. The Superintendent will review the recommendations of the Advisory Council and request a conference with school personnel.
- 14. The Superintendent will notify the complainant of the recommendation for the challenged material.



Appendix C Evaluation Guide for Instructional Materials*

Type of Media	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Subject Area		
Title		
Producer		
Technical Character	ristics	
Size	Speed	Length
		Date
Cost		
Purchase \$	Renta	1 \$
Review the	materials in detail bef	fore proceeding.
Suggested Use Level	ls	
Early Childhood Sr. High Sr	PrimaryColle	Intermediate ge Adult

*This evaluation form appeared in Audiovisual Instruction, November 1978 (vol. 23, no. 8) in "A Form for All Reasons," by Fred A. Teague. The form can be used in conjunction with the checklists in Appendix E for more specific evaluation of fiction.



		-		
Evaluate the materials on the basis of acteristics which apply. Where one not apply, leave all spaces blank.				
	Exc.	Good	Fair	Poor
Consistency with the local curriculum				
Consistency with the objectives of the instruction in which their use is anticipated				***
Inclusion of appropriate amount of content				
Development of a logical sequence				
Currentness of content				
Accuracy of the content				
Potential for stimulating student interest				
Consistency with the intended learners' ability levels				
Adaptability to various learning situations				
Freedom from bias and prejudiced attitudes and concepts	-1			
Appropriateness of time or length to content				



Durability of materials			
Sound quality (narration, speed, tone, music, etc.)			
Visual quality (photography, color, size, graphics, etc.)			
		Yes	No
Are teachers' guides and supplemental is available with the materials?	information		
Do the materials make distinct and imp contributions not currently available in the collection?	ortant		
Is the cost of the materials justified by instructional values they exhibit?	the		
Do you recommend purchase of the ma	terials?		
Evaluated by	Date		<u> </u>



Appendix D

Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials (Sample)*

School		
Please check type of	material:	
—— Book —— Periodical —— Pamphlet	Film Sassette	——Record ——Kit ——Other
Title		
Author	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	er	
Request initiated by	parent or guardian	
Telephone		·
Address	·	

The following questions are to be answered after the complainant has read, viewed, or listened to the educational media in its entirety. If sufficient space is not provided, attach additional sheets. (Please sign your name to each additional attachment.)

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^{*}Appendix A in AASL's publication.

	2.	What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material?
	3	What do you feel might be the result of a student using this
		material?
	4.	For what age group would you recommend this material?
	5.	Is there anything good in this material? Please comment
	6.	Would you care to recommend other school library material of the same subject and format?
N.		
t service.	Sig	gnature of complainant Date



Appendix E

Checklist for School Media Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material—Fiction and Other Literary Forms (Sample)*

Title		
Author		
Purpose What is the purpose, theme, or message of the mate does the author/producer/composer accomplish the	erial? Ho his purpo	w well ose?
If the story is fantasy, is it the type that has imaged and is suitable for children?yesno; For would you recommend?	r young a	dults?
and is suitable for children?yesno; For we see no. If both are marked no, for we	r young a	dults?
and is suitable for children?yesno; For we see no. If both are marked no, for we	ryoung a /hat age	dults? group

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^{*}Appendix C in AASL's publication.

Are any questionable elements of the story an integral part of a worthwhile theme or message?		
Content	Yes	No
Does a story about modern times give a realistic picture of life as it is now?		
Does the story avoid an oversimplified view of life, one which leaves the reader with the general in that life is sweet and rosy or ugle and meaningless?		-
When factual information is part of the story, is it presented accurately?		
Is prejudicial appeal readily identifiable by the potential reader?		·.
Are concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential readers?		
Do characters speak in a language true to the period and section of the country in which they live?		
Does the material offend in some special way the sensibilities of women or a minority group by the way it presents either the chief character or any of the minor characters?		
Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, and aberrant behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children? For young adults?	·	•
If there is use of offensive language, is it appropriate to the purpose of the text for children? For young adults?		
Is the material free from derisive names and epithets that would offend minority groups? Children? Young adults?		
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Does the story give a broader understanding	
of human behavior without stressing differences of class, race, color, sex, education, religion, or philosophy in any adverse way?	
Does the material make a significant contribution to the history of literature or ideas?	
Are the illustrations appropriate and in good taste?	
Are the illustrations realistic in relation to the story?	•
Additional Comments	
Recommendation by School Media Advisory Committee treatment of challenged materials:	
Date	
Date	
Date	



Checklist for School Media Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material—Nonfiction (Sample)*

Title				
Author				
Purpose What is the overall purpose of the material?				
Is the purpose accomplished? yes n				
Authenticity Is the author competent and qualified in the fiel yes no	d?			
What is the reputation and significance of the a lisher/producer in the field?		_		
	Yes	No		
Is the material up-to-date?				
Are information sources well documented?				
Are translations and retellings faithful to the original?		<u> </u>		
*Annendix R in AASI 's nublication 37				



Does the material promote the educational goals and objectives of the curriculum ofSchools? Is it appropriate to the level of instruction intended? Are the illustrations appropriate to the subject and age levels? Content Is the content of this material well presented by providing adequate scope, range, depth, and continuity?	Yes	
intended? Are the illustrations appropriate to the subject and age levels? Content Is the content of this material well presented by providing adequate scope, range, depth,	Yes	No
subject and age levels? Content Is the content of this material well presented by providing adequate scope, range, depth,	Yes	No
Is the content of this material well presented by providing adequate scope, range, depth,	Yes	No
by providing adequate scope, range, depth,		
and continuity?		
Does this material present information not otherwise available?		
Does this material give a new dimension or direction to its subject?		
Reviews Source of review Unfavorably reviewe		
Does this title appear in one or more reputable selec yes no If answer is yes, please list titles ids	tion ai of sele	ds? ection
Additional Comments		
38		



	Date
Signatures of Med	lia Advisory Review Committee

Appendix F Contacts for Intellectual Freedom Matters

American Association of School Administrators (AASA) 1801 N. Moore Street

Arlington, VA 22209
Paul B. Salmon, Executive Director

American Civil Liberties Union

22 East 40th Street
New York, NY 10016
Trudi Shutz, Public Information Director

ACLU provides assistance in the legislation and litigation of matters concerning the protection of freedom of expression and due process of law. Assistance from ACLU includes policy statements on the various aspects of intellectual freedom, an Academic Freedom Committee, and legal assistance for approved cases and background briefs to assist local representatives. For specific information contact the national office or state and local chapters.

American Library Association

50 East Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 312-944-6780

The goal of the American Library Association is the promotion of libraries and librarianship to assure the delivery of user-oriented library information service to all. One of the objectives supporting this goal is the support of intellectual freedom as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement and support of librarians, trustees, or libraries whose defense of these principles is challenged. Several ALA divisions and the Office for Intellectual Freedom provide services and assistance in matters concerning intellectual freedom.



ALA/American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

50 East Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 312-944-6780 Alice E. Fite, Executive Secretary

The American Association of School Librarians is interested in the general improvement and extension of library media services for children and young people. AASL has specific responsibility for planning of programs of study and service for the improvement and extension of library media services in elementary and secondary schools as a means of strengthening the educational program; evaluation, selection, interpretaetion, and obligation of media as it is used in the context of *the school program; and stimulation of continuous study and research in the library field and to establish criteria of evaluation. Responsibilities in the area of intellectual freedom are to prepare and gather materials which will advise the school library media specialist of available services and support both in formulating policies of intellectual freedom and for resisting local pressure and community action designed to impair the rights of users.

ALA/Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) (formerly Children's Services Division)

50 East Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 312-944-6780 Mary Jane Anderson, Executive Secretary

The Association for Library Service to Children is interested in the improvement and extension of library service to children in all types of libraries. It is responsible for the evaluation and selection of book and nonbook library materials for and the improvement of techniques of library service to children from preschool through the eighth grade or junior high school age, when such materials and techniques are intended for use in more than one type of library. In relation to intellectual freedom the purpose is to serve as a liaison between the division and the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and all other groups within the association concerned with intellectual freedom; to advise the division on matters before the Office of Intellectual Freedom and their implications for library service to children and to make recommendations to

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the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee for changes in policy or issues involving library service to children; to promote in-service and continuing education programs in the area of intellectual freedom for those who select library materials for children.

ALA/Young Adult Services Division (YASD)
Young Adult Services Division
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312-944-6780
Evelyn Shaevel, Executive Secretary

The Young Adult Services Division is interested in the improvement and extension of services to young people in all types of libraries. YASD has specific responsibility for the evaluation and selection of books and nonbook materials and the interpretation and use of materials are designated for only one type of library. In addition to serving as a liaison between ALA divisions and the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, YASD will prepare and gather materials which will advise the librarian working with young adults of available services and support for resisting local pressure and community action designed to impair the rights of young adult users.

ALA/Office for Intellectual Freedom 50 East Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 312-944-6780 Judith F. Krug, Director

The Office for Intellectual Freedom is charged with implementing ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights, the association's basic policy on free access to libraries and library materials. The goal of the office is to educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries. To effect this goal, the office undertakes information, support, and coordination activities. These include distributing materials and information, preparing regular and special publications, maintaining the OIF exhibit, supervising liaison with the Freedom to Read Foundation and the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, serving as liaison to the Intellectual Freedom Committee, coordinating ac-



tivities of state intellectual freedom committees and cooperating with other organizations whose purposes are similar to ALA's regarding intellectual freedom.

Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT)

1126 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 202-833-4180 Howard Hitchens, Executive Director

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology is charged with exploring the issue of freedom of access to learning materials as it relates to the field of educational media and technology; and to monitor developments, advise and make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning the general issue of infringements of freedom of access to information in our society. The AECT Board of Directors has issued an Intellectual Freedom Statement supporting the protection of sound and image in our society. Available from the association is a publication, Media, the Learner, and Intellectual Freedom: A Handbook, which discusses the development and use of educational media selection policies to support intellectual freedom in elementary and secondary schools. A visual presentation is currently being produced to further support the concept of intellectual freedom, selection and evaluation, and the K-12 setting.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

-1701 K Street **Suite 1100** Washington, DC 20036 202-467-6484 Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director

The Association of American Publishers (AAP)

1 Park Avenue New York, NY 10016 1920 L Street, NW

Suite 750

212-689-8920

Washington, DC 20036

202-293-2585

AAP issued jointly with ALA the Freedom to Read Statement. One of the primary activities of AAP is support of the Free-

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dom to Read Committee, which analyzes individual cases of attempted censorship by Congress or state legislatures, municipal governments, and local school boards. Its action may take the form of a legal brief in support of a position against censorship, testimony before appropriate legislative committees, public statements, and telegrams or letters protesting any attempt to limit freedom of communication.

Freedom of Information Center

Box 858 Columbia, MO 65201 or 328 Pennsylvania Ave., SW Washington, DC 20003

Media Coalition, Inc. 342 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10017 212-687-2288

Media Coalition, Inc. represents a group of national trade associations who have allied themselves in an effort to alert and inform their members of censorship activities. It performs three broad functions:

Informational. To serve as a nationwide clearinghouse of information on obscenity legislation at the state level. A data bank includes all relevant bills, laws, and judicial rulings.

Legislative. To initiate citizens' lobbying efforts in state legislatures establishing statewide networks of member organizations.

Educational. To encourage educational process by bringing the dangers of censorship to the public's attention through greater use of the media and through direct contact with politicians and other civic leaders.

National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts Fort Valley College Fort Valley, GA 31030

National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) 22 East 40th Street New York, NY 10016

A coalition of a variety of national organizations with branches who may be of assistance with intellectual freedom problems.





National Council for the Social Studies 1515 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA 22209

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
Committee on Censorship
1111 Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801
217-328-3870

The National Council of Teachers of English offers resources, aid, and support whenever possible. Their publication *The Student's Right to Read* is a practical guide to the issue of censorship. Copies may be purchased from NCTE.

National Education Association
Commission on Professional Rights and Responsibilities
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

National School Boards Association Educational Policies Services 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street Washington, DC 20007



Appendix G A Selected List of Organizations with Intellectual Freedom Manuals

American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom 50 East Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 Intellectual Freedom Manual

Arizona State Library Association ASLA Intellectual Freedom Manual

Association for Educational Communications and Technology 1126 Sixteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 Media, The Learner, and Intellectual Freedom: A Handbook \$7.95

Florida Department of Education
School Library Media Services Section
506 Knott Building
Tallahassee, FL 32304
Suggested Principles, Policies and Procedures for Selection and Reconsideration of School Library Media Center Materials in Florida

State of Iowa
Department of Public Instruction
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Selection of Instructional Materials: A Model Policy and Rules

Michigan Association for Media in Education Bureau of School Services University of Michigan 401 South-Fourth-Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 Selection Policies: A Guide to Updating and Writing \$3.00







New Hampshire Educational Media Association
Marcia Taft
Crosbie House
63 Court Street
Exeter, NH 03833
The Plain Rapper: A Discussion of the Processes and Procedures
in Selecting Learning Resources for Children
\$1.50

New Jersey School Media Association
(now the Educational Media Association of New Jersey)
Robert Ruezinsky
Montclair State College
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
Guidelines for Development of Library/Media Selection Policy

The University of the State of New York
State Education Department
Albany, NY 12234
Selection Guidelines: School Library Resources, Textbooks and
Instructional Materials

Ohio Association of School Librarians
(now the Ohio Educational Library Media Association)
Ohio Educational Association
225 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Materials Selection Policies for School Media Centers: Aids for Writing, Monograph Series Number 1

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Bureau of School Library Media Programs
126 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53702
Suggestions for Dealing with Censorship of Media Center
Materials in Schools: A Wisconsin Plan



Appendix H Selected Media on Issues of Intellectual Freedom

- Abramson, Jane. "Still Playing It Safe: Restricted Realism in Teen Novels." School Library Journal 22(May 1976):38-9.
- Allington, Richard L. "Book Banning: No Easy Answers." Journal of Reading 19(December 1975):201-4.
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- Arizona English Bulletin, February 1975. (Entire issue devoted to censorship and teaching of English.)
- "Around the World (Censorship)." Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom (May 1978):76-77.
- Association for Educational Communications and Technology. Media, the Learner, and Intellectual Freedom: A Handbook. Washington: Association for Educational Communications and Technology, 1979.
- Berninghausen, David K. The Flight From Reason: Essays on Intellectual Freedom in the Academy, the Press, and the Library. Chicago: American Library Association, 1975.
- The Bill of Rights in Action: Freedom of Speech. Santa Monica, Calif.: BFA Educational Media, n.d. (Film; 21 min.)
- The Bill of Rights in Action: Freedom of the Press. Bernard Wilets, director. Santa Monica, Calif.: BFA Educational Media, 1973. (Film; 21 min.)



- Blacklist: A Failure in Political Imagination. N. Hollywood, Calif.: The Center for Cassette Studies, 1975. (Audiocassette; 29 min.)
- Blackmun, Harry Andrew. "High Court: Community Standards Cannot Be Defined." Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom 26(July 1977):93.
- "Book Banning Makes a Comeback in Schools." American School Board Journal 160(May 1973):25-38.
- "Boston Radio Program Leads to Book Banning." School Library Journal 22(1 April 1976):19.
- Boyle, Deirdre. "An Interview With Don Roberts: Media Censorship and 'Printist' Librarians." *American Libraries* 8(November 1977):542-5.
- Broadcasting and the First Amendment. N. Hollywood, Calif.: The Center for Cassette Studies, 1975. (Audiocassette; 24 min.)
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- Burger, Robert H. "Kanawha County Textbook Controversy: A Study of Communication and Power." *Library Quarterly* 48 (April 1978):143-62.
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- Candor, Catherine Ann. "A History of the Kanawha County Textbook Controversy, April 1974 - April 1975." Ph.D. dissertation, 1976. Washington: Educational Resources Information Center, 1976 [ED 130 283]
- Censorship and the Schools. West Haven, Conn.: National Edu-

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- cation Association, n.d. (Series of three audiotapes and a transcript/discussion booklet; total: 83 min.)
- "Censorship Care Package." (Available from Diane P. Shugert, N.E.A.T.E. Committee on the Profession, English Department, Central Connecticut State College, New Britain, CT 06050. \$1.)
- "Censorship Conference Panelists Discuss First Amendment Issues." School Library Journal 23(April 1977):11-12.
- "Censorship Info Center." Library Journal 103(1 June 1978): 1112.
- "Censorship: The Challenge to Freedom in the Schools." Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, April 1975. (Educational Resources Information Center: ED 115 520)
- "Chelsea Censorship Trial Concluded." School Media Quarterly 6(Spring 1978):168-70.
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- "Constitutionality of Book Ban Challenged by New York Civil Liberties Union." *Library Journal* 102(1 March 1977):530.
- "Coping with Censorship: What Can You Do: It Starts in the Classroom." Newsletter of the National School Public Relations Association, December 1974.
- Coughlan, M. N. "Guardians of the Young: Why There Has Never Been-and Probably Never Will Be-Intellectual Freedom for Children." Top of the News 33(Winter 1977):137-48.
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- "Island Trees, N.Y. Book Panel to Determine Fate of Banned Books." School Library Journal 22(May 1976):11-12.
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