
ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, Syracuse, N.Y.

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Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Information Analyses - ERIC Information Analysis Products (071)

*Academic Freedom; Annotated Bibliographies; *Censorship; Court Litigation; Elementary Secondary Education; Instructional Materials; *Library Material Selection; Organizations (Groups); Reading Material Selection; *School Libraries

Moral Majority; PF Project; Pico v Island Trus Union Free School District

Ten books and articles published between 1981 and 1982 and cited in "Resources in Education" or "Current Index to Journals in Education" are listed in this bibliography for educators and the general public. Emphasis is on libraries and the censorship issue and the major portion of the bibliography is devoted to publications about censorship concerns, including views of influential groups such as the Moral Majority, religious groups, and teacher organizations; court reactions to the censorship issue; guidelines for forming policies on materials selection and preventing censorship battles in schools; and the basic issue of censorship versus intellectual freedom. In addition to bibliographical information and the annotation, ERIC accession numbers are provided. (LH)
LIBRARIES AND THE CENSORSHIP ISSUE
A Selected ERIC Bibliography

Citations in this bibliography were selected from the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) indexes Resources in Education and the Current Index to Journals in Education, and were found using the descriptor Censorship.

Cutright, M. Censorship--The debate over students' right to read. PTA Today, October 1982, 8(1), 12-15. (EJ 270 463)

Censorship in school libraries and classroom reading materials is discussed, views of influential groups and individuals on the reasons for censorship are outlined, and suggestions for preventing censorship battles in schools are given.


Describes increasing attempts to censor school libraries, how teachers' groups and the courts have reacted to this censorship, and what schools can do.


Argues that students should have the same guarantees to freedom as adults in having access to media. A checklist for survival against censorship is included, as well as guidelines for writing a materials selection policy.


This full report of a nationwide survey provides data on the range of procedures and policies currently followed in selecting textbooks and other instructional materials, the extent to which these materials have been challenged, and the resolution of such challenges.
A survey designed to investigate how challenges to school library materials relate to the overall selection process found that the number of challenges increased steadily with increasing grade level, local challenges were more restrictive than state challenges, and active challenges affect administrators' selection, making them more conservative in their choices.

Censorship of books and learning materials is a growing trend nationwide, according to responses from a 1980 survey of 1,891 public elementary and secondary school administrators and library personnel from across the country and of state administrators overseeing evaluation and adoption of textbooks in 21 states. A summary and interpretation of the survey findings, which includes recommendations.

Censorship pressure has increased dramatically since 1980. Challenges to complaints about books in public libraries have resulted in widely divergent court decisions. The Supreme Court's agreement to review "Pico vs. Island Trees Union Free School District" could have a profound impact on the governance of public schools.

Censorship has become a significant problem for public school libraries and has been addressed in several court cases. From a review of the major earlier cases it would appear that the most equitable and efficient approach to the book removal controversy involves balancing the student's right to receive information with the school board's right to select curricular materials free from judicial intervention.

Discuss events in a legal dispute sparked by an order of the Board of Education in the Island Trees School District (NY) to remove certain books from high school and junior high school libraries. Opinions of Justices of the Supreme Court are noted.

Citations with ED accession numbers are documents from RIE, which can be read at an ERIC microfiche collection or ordered through EDRS, P.O. Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210, in microfiche and/or paper copy form. Citations with EJ accession numbers are journal articles from CIJE, which can be obtained from a library; borrowed through interlibrary loan; or ordered through UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 ($12.00 per article).