

Strategies for Advancing Hidden Collections Webinar 5

Overcoming project hurdles: Approaches to identifying and managing collection red flags

Speakers: Jessica Bitely and Yvonne Ng

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See also: [Scenarios](#)

Notes and Chat History, Access to Offensive Materials

Notes

Scenario:

Your library has received a Request for Reconsideration of Library Material from a patron regarding a well-known children's book published decades ago. The book portrays a class of people in a way that most contemporary audiences, including your library's review panel, would agree is clearly offensive.

The panel must decide what to do with the book -- keep it on the shelf, restrict access to it somehow, remove it from circulation entirely, or something else.

- What ethical questions arise in this decision-making process?
- What strategies can be employed to deal with this challenged book?

Chat History

Yvonne Ng: What ethical questions arise in this decision-making process? What strategies can be employed to deal with this challenged book?

Katharine Rapkin: open a discussion with the community about context and shifting mores, norms...

Cherry: Remove it.

Allison Young: Maybe the book can be kept somehow as a means of discussion on the issue?

Robin Grunwald: Is this an outlier or does a significant group have the same sentiment

MonaLisa Whitaker: although the content may be offensive, the history is important, particularly for present and future generations; we have some objects within our collection similar to this issue

Michelle Schabowski: The ALA does say that everyone has the right to any book, even if they are personally distasteful.

Naomi Steinberger: Depends on the type of library. An academic library should keep it and make it available.

Melissa Anderson: it depends on the role of the institution in the community... is it a elementary school or a historical society

Sachiko Iwabuchi: I personally agree with Allison.

Rhodes College: The book might be used as a point for discussion. Erasing history does not hold us accountable for our actions

Dee Gallo:I agree with Monica. The history is important. I think I'd campaign to leave it.
Brooklyn Historical Society:Insert a disclaimer to explain why this book is in your collection, context, etc.

Rhodes College:maybe host a community forum

Ricki Moskowitz:keep for historical purposes but it should not be a circulating volume