

Harmful to Minors?

Presenter: Dr. Carrie Gardner, Assistant Professor Coordinator, School Library Media Program,
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CEUs: 4 hours of continuing education units (.4 CEUs)

Date: Monday, October 1, 2007

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: West County Branch, AACPL

Address: 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD

Directions: www.aacpl.net

Registration: \$50 MLA members, \$75 nonMLA-members, \$42.50 library school students

Please register through MLA by September 24, 2007 at
https://library.carr.org/forms/mla/mla_happening.asp

- School libraries carry “Harry Potter,” Judy Blume, and a book with the word “scrotum” on the first page.
- Public libraries display magazines with nudity right on the cover.
- Unfiltered access to the Internet leads to kids printing out pornographic images.
- Rap albums in the music collection contain violent and misogynistic lyrics.

Many adults object strongly and sincerely to various materials they believe are inappropriate for children and teens to see, hear, or read. In the name of protecting minors, they urge libraries to filter, remove, or otherwise restrict access to certain kinds of material. Is this ever appropriate or justified? Or does it constitute censorship and violate the rights of minors? How can a library provide access to all materials to its users in the face of community pressure, threats of withholding funding, and restrictive legislation? To what extent do any of these kinds of materials cause actual harm to minors? Dr. Gardner will explain how and why libraries should uphold the rights of youth to access library materials. If you work with children or teens in a library setting (public or school), or if you make policy for your library system, you will want to hear what Dr. Gardner has to say.

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