Banned or Challenged Books

Use this research guide to find books about challenged or banned books, intellectual freedom and censorship. The online version of this guide is under "Research Guides" on the library’s home page.

What is the difference between a challenged book and a banned book?

“A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. The positive message of Banned Books Week: Free People Read Freely is that due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.”

Source: American Library Association
http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/challengedbanned/challengedbanned.htm#wdcb

Books in the library on banned or challenged books:

To browse the collection, go to the following call number ranges in both the reference and circulating collections: Z 657 – Z659

Recommended books:

**Reference Collection – 1st floor:**


- Literature suppressed on religious grounds -- **REF Z 658 .U5 B35 2006**
- Literature suppressed on political grounds -- **REF Z 658 .U5 K37 2006**
- Literature suppressed on sexual grounds -- **REF Z 658 .U5 S68 2006**
- Literature suppressed on social grounds -- **REF Z 658 .U5 S69 2006**

- The encyclopedia of censorship -- **REF Z 657 .G73 2005**

**Circulating Collection – 2nd Floor:**

- 100 banned books : censorship histories of world literature -- **Z 658.U5 K35 1999**
To search the online book catalog:

Go to:  http://www.stchas.edu/library
       Click on “Find a Book”
       choose the type of search you want
       (Keyword is the broadest and most commonly used)

• Type one of the recommended subject headings below into a Subject search.
• To locate a challenged or banned book, type the book’s title into a Title search.
• If you need to expand your search to libraries outside of SCC, search MOBIUS. Ask at the reference desk if you need help.

• MOBIUS allows you to search for and request books from other Missouri colleges and universities. To search MOBIUS, click on the MOBIUS link from the library’s home page, or go to http://mobius.missouri.edu/search/.

Recommended Subject Headings:

Banned Books
Censorship                        Libraries - Censorship
Censorship - History             Prohibited books
Censorship - United States - History Prohibited books - Bibliography
Freedom of Speech                 Prohibited books - History
Freedom of Speech – United States Prohibited books - United States

Finding Articles with SCC Library Indexes

The following databases are available from the library web site. These can be accessed off campus by students, faculty, and staff of SCC with a valid student ID number. Search the databases for articles from magazines, journals, and/or newspapers.

To access these databases from home:
   http://www.stchas.edu/library
   click on “Find an Article”
   enter your last name and your seven-digit student ID number (including the zero), followed by “sc,” for example, 0123456sc

Academic Search Elite/MasterFile (EBSCOhost) or LexisNexis
Both of these databases provide access to full articles from nationwide and international newspapers, magazines, news wires and journals. Use keywords from the subject headings above to search these databases if you’re having trouble finding articles about a specific book. You may not find many articles on the banning of a specific book, but there are articles about book banning and censorship.

Opposing Viewpoints
The “Censorship” issue links to essays, articles and websites on banned or challenged books.
Internet Sites of Interest

American Library Association’s Banned Book Week site:
http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/

Office for Intellectual Freedom – American Civil Liberties Union
http://www.aclu.org/freespeech/index.html

Banned Books Online – Online Books Page (U. Penn)
http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/banned-books.html

The Forbidden Library
http://title.forbiddenlibrary.com/

If you need help, please ask the reference librarians at the Reference Desk. You can also call or e-mail us if you are working at home:

Reference Desk: 636-922-8620 - refdrop@stchas.edu

Yahoo! Messenger ID  sccreference
MSN Messenger ID :  sccreference@hotmail.com
AOL IM Buddy Name  sccreference

Fall and Spring Semester Hours
Mon. – Thurs:  7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday:  7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Summer, intersession, and holiday hours vary.