

Challenged Materials in Colorado Public Libraries, 2018

Recent statistics from Library Research Service Fast Facts ED3/110.10/No.354

Every year, the Library Research Service surveys Colorado public libraries about challenges to their materials or services. The libraries that report receiving one or more challenges are then asked to provide additional information. This Fast Facts addresses the number, nature, and outcome of the challenges reported in 2018.

Number of Challenges

Year	Count	Year	Count
2008	74	2014	28
2009	48	2015	29
2010	66	2016	22
2011	60	2017	41
2012	39	2018	43
2013	29		

What is a Challenge

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group (<http://www.ala.org/tools/challengessupport>).

Challenges are down 42% from 2008.

Format of Challenged Items

(Among challenges that indicated a format. There were no reported challenges to music, periodicals, or audiobooks in 2018.)

- Book – 50%
- Video – 38%
- Computer – 8%
- Activity – 4%

Video challenges increased 50% from 2017, and book challenges decreased 20% from 2017.

Who was the intended audience for the challenged items?

(Items could be classified in more than one category.)

- For children – 21%
- For YA – 21%
- For adults – 67%

How was the challenge resolved?

(Among challenges that indicated a resolution.)

- No change – 54%
- Challenge dropped – 17%
- Other – 17%
- Moved – 6%
- Gone – 4%

Top Reasons for the Challenges

(Among items that indicated a reason for the challenge. Items could be challenged form more than one reason.)

Reason	Percentage
Unsuited to Age Group	38%
Other	33%
Sexually explicit	29%
Violence	21%
Insensitivity	8%
Homosexuality	8%

Author: Miranda Doran-Myers, Research Assistant | www.lrs.org LRS@LRS.org

Fast Facts ED/3/110.10/No. 354

2019

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).