

As more **graphic novels** appear in **US** libraries, so do **challenges**

US libraries are increasingly facing complaints from parents who are concerned that graphic novels with adult content could be read by children attracted to the comic book-like drawings. The American Library Association knows of at least 14 challenges to graphic novels in US libraries over the past two or three years.

Read more about American library challenges and graphic novels on the net: American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org>; National Coalition Against Censorship: <http://www.ncac.org>; Comic Book Legal Defense Fund: <http://www.cbldf.org>; Marshall Public Library: <http://www.mars>.

For an Australian perspective on graphic novels, see the links collected at Camilla Elliot's comprehensive site Linking for Learning, which is found at <http://www>.

linkingforlearning.com/lets_read/index.html. Scroll down to the 20 or so links on the subject covering everything I could think of. Among the links is one to Sealight, <http://www.sealight.com.au/>, a specialised Australian graphic novel advice and acquisitions service run by an ex-librarian.

In the blogosphere, Real Public Librarian had at least one post in 2006 about graphic novels (see <http://paradigmlibrary.blogspot.com/2006/05/graphic-novels-made-easy.html>). I find it really reassuring that in Australia there doesn't appear to be a local equivalent of the endless US stories about adults who want to remove Harry Potter books from the shelves because they are exposing children to paganism. (I hope I'm not wrong here.)

However, if you do find yourself facing complaints, a useful form to help manage challenges to library materials is available from Links for Learning at http://www.linkingforlearning.com/lets_read/. (Click on the link called 'Challenged library materials appeal - sample form'.)

(Based on an Associated Press report, November 2006, with additional reporting by editorial staff.)



UK **review** of **intellectual property**

In early December 2006, the *Gowers Review of Intellectual Property* was released by the British government. The Report's author, Andrew Gowers, was appointed in December 2005 to lead an independent review of the UK's intellectual property regime. CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and LACA: the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance welcomed the Report - but with some reservations.

CILIP agreed with the Report's contention that "Copyright can be viewed as a 'contract' between rights owners and society for the purpose of incentivising creativity" (Para 4.26). The use of information and its protection are important, benefiting both information users and copyright holders, as well as society in general - a balanced regime encourages respect for copyright.

Barbara Stratton, Secretary to LACA and CILIP's Senior Copyright Adviser commented "The Review recognises that libraries and archives need exceptions to copyright which are fit for the digital age in order to fulfill their mission to preserve human knowledge and deliver access to it. Yet we think it could have gone further in some areas. We are very concerned that contracts can override exceptions to copyright. Our work is often thwarted by Digital Rights Management Systems (DRMS) and we would have liked

to have seen more done to iron out various anomalies in the UK's copyright legislation affecting libraries, archives and museums."

The Review recommends that libraries be allowed to copy and format shift master copies of all classes of works in whatever format for archival purposes (Recommendations 10a and 10b). CILIP and LACA hope that this sensible reform can be extended to allow libraries and archives to copy artistic works or from multimedia products on behalf of users. The Review has recognised the need for more wide-ranging exceptions in education, especially for the benefit of distance learners, many of whom are disabled.

Orphan works, contracts and licenses, term of protection and DRMs are also discussed. The Review firmly recommends that the UK and the European Commission should not extend the copyright term in sound recordings. The Review acknowledged that there are problems with DRMS, but regrettably is silent on how these might be ameliorated for libraries and archives.

Information on the report and links to the full text are available at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/gowers_review_intellectual_property/gowersreview_index.cfm.



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