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Sex in the Library: Internet Access Issues in Oregon

The steamy issues in librarianship today swirl around access to the wide open world of the Internet. From Constitutional issues to copyright, from child pornography to parents’ rights, from dirty pictures to unfiltered access to materials on breast cancer, we are finding sex a hot topic in libraryland. Oregon libraries are grappling with questions concerning filtering, rights of minors, and outraged parents.

This issue of the OLA Quarterly examines the constitutional issues libraries face, what sorts of intellectual freedom challenges the Oregon State Library Clearinghouse has been receiving, and how public, school, and academic libraries are dealing with the latest challenges of the Information Age. We have also interviewed Oregon librarian David Burt who has gone on-line with his non-profit organization, Filtering Facts, which encourages libraries to voluntarily adopt filtering software on public access Internet terminals.

I hope these articles will provide you with an overview of the policies and practices being put in place by your colleagues across the state, and the sometimes wide divergence of opinion even among the members of our profession.

Carolyn Peake, Guest Editor
Lake Oswego Public Library

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