

The Attitudes of Israeli High School Librarians towards Library Collection Censorship/

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to examine the attitudes of Israeli high school librarians towards library collection censorship. The study was based on a mail questionnaire which was distributed among Israeli high schools. The sample comprised 187 high schools from both the 'religious' (Mamlachti-Dati, Torani-Leumi) and 'non-religious' (Mamlachti) sectors, which had a library at the time of the study. Significant statistical correlation was found between school sectorial affiliation and the librarians' attitudes towards library collection censorship, Librarians in the Mamlachti sector tended to disagree with censorship practices compared to their colleagues in the Mamlachti-Dati and Torani-Leumi sectors. Teachers challenged school library materials more than schools principals and parents. In most cases, the librarians did not reject challenges to the library collection, being more willing to comply with them when coming from the principal. The topics which were usually challenged by school principals, teachers or parents were: violence, pornography, racism and drugs. Books dealing with political ideology were much less challenged. Only partial correlations were found between tendency to favor censorship and demographic factors such as age, sex, academic qualifications and experience.

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