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Monday, July 13, 2009

In Most Area Libraries, these are Young Adult Books

Ginny Maziarka & Co insist that numerous books in West Bend Library's young adult section are "sexually explicit" and should be labeled as such and moved to the adult section, purportedly to reflect "community standards".

I decided to take three of the books Ginny highlights and see how other area libraries catalog them. Here are the results:

	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	The Geography Club	Deal With It!
.Beaver Dam			Non-fiction
.Big Bend	Fiction	Young Adult	
.Brookfield	Fiction		
.Brownsville	Young Adult		
.Cudahy	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.Delafield	Teen Fiction	Teen Fiction	
.Eagle	Young Adult		
.Elkhorn	Young Adult		
.Fontana	Young Adult		
.Fort Atkinson		Young Adult	
.Franklin	Young Adult	Young Adult	Young Adult
.Germantown	Young Adult		
.Greenfield	Young Adult	Young Adult	Young Adult
.Hartford	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.Hartland	Young Adult		Non-fiction
.Horicon	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.Hustisford			Non-fiction
.Jefferson			Non-fiction
.Kenosha	Young Adult	Young Adult	Adult
.Kewaskum	Young Adult		
.Lake Geneva	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.Lake Mills		Young Adult	
.Lomira	Young Adult		
.Merton	Young Adult		
.MPL Atkinson	Young Adult		
.MPL Bay View	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.MPL Brown Deer	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.MPL Capitol		Young Adult	Young Adult
.MPL Center		Young Adult	
.MPL Central	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.MPL East	Young Adult		
.MPL Forest Home	Young Adult		
.MPL Hales Corners	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.MPL Villard		Young Adult	

MPL Washington Park			Young Adult
.Mukwonago	Young Adult	Young Adult	Young Adult
.Muskego		Young Adult	
.Northshore		Young Adult	
.Oak Creek		Young Adult	Adult (call no indicates "YA")
.Oconomowoc	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.Pewaukee	Young Adult	Young Adult	
.Racine	Fiction	Fiction	
.Shorewood		Young Adult	Young Adult
.Sussex	Young Adult	Young Adult	Young Adult
.Theresa	Juvenile		
.Twin Lakes		Young Adult	Young Adult
.Waterford	Young Adult		Non-fiction
.Watertown		Young Adult	
.Waukesha	Fiction	Young Adult	
.Wauwatosa		Adult	
.West Bend	Young Adult	Young Adult	Young Adult
.Whitefish Bay			Young Adult
.Whitewater	Young Adult		

As you can see, *nearly every area library that holds these books places them in the young adult section*, reflecting what appears to be standard classification practices for southeast Wisconsin libraries.

(Acknowledging that *Deal With It!* seems to be the one text that is also frequently placed in the regular non-fiction sections)

Are West Bend's "community standards" really that different than nearly every other southeastern Wisconsin community? Or, perhaps, must we realize that Ginny's opinions [don't necessarily reflect the entire community?](#)