

3-30-2009

Latest News

Maria Hanrahan

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.uwm.edu/west_bend_library_challenge



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hanrahan, Maria, "Latest News" (2009). *West Bend Community Memorial Library (Wisconsin), 2009*. 303.
https://dc.uwm.edu/west_bend_library_challenge/303

This Blog Post is brought to you for free and open access by UWM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in West Bend Community Memorial Library (Wisconsin), 2009 by an authorized administrator of UWM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact open-access@uwm.edu.

Latest News



 [comments \(1\)](#)

Posted by [Maria Hanrahan](#) at 10:12 PM on March 30, 2009

I hope everyone has been following the news about the library issue. According to recent blog posts by Ginny Maziarka, it seems that she is not moving forward with her complaint by completing a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form for each book she objects to. Instead, she is circulating a petition to request:

- 1) re-classification of books in the Young Adult section she objects to (move them to adult section) that have
- 2) "visual identification of explicit material" (labels/stickers on books)
- 3) Restricted access to website material she feels promotes or recommends the books she objects to
- 4) balanced literature on controversial issues (homosexuality)
- 5) children's Internet protection (filters)

You can read her complete blog at : <http://www.wissup.blogspot.com/>

Here are my thoughts on these requests:

- 1) Don't move these books. They belong in the YA section because they are books for young adults.
- 2) If book publishers don't use warning labels, our community library shouldn't be expected to start such a program. And what criteria would be used to determine what gets a label and what doesn't? Everyone has different opinions about what is explicit or inappropriate.
- 3) I've gone around and around with Ginny on this one. This refers to the "Out of the Closet" category of the Booklists. These booklists are merely that; lists of book titles and summaries of the plots. They are a tool used by libraries and book stores to help people find similarly themed material. They are not recommendations. And how would you restrict users home access?

4) Ginny wants books about "ex-gays" and books that affirm heterosexual values. Obviously, books about the latter bit are in abundance. She calls for balance in the YA section, but from what I understand, all but one of the books she's suggested be added to the collection are adult books, meant for parents. They wouldn't even be in the YA section.

5) The library has a safe Internet usage policy in place. They require that a parent be present with the child and sign a form each time a minor uses the Internet.

According to her blog, she has about 120 signatures on a petition. I would assume the plan would be to present this petition to the library board at a future meeting.

If you are against the requests that Ginny Maziarka has made, I would suggest that you write a letter stating your viewpoints on this issue and send it to the library (West Bend Community Memorial Library, 630 Poplar Street, West Bend, WI 53095, Attn: Michael Tyree, Library Director) or to members of the library board. The more citizens that speak out about this issue, the better. Let's not let the viewpoints of Ginny and her supporters be the only viewpoints that are publicly discussed.