Self-Censorship Checklist

Has your library ever...	yes	no
1. Not purchased material because a review or publisher's catalog indicated that it was for "mature readers," had explicit language or illustrations, or might be controversial?		
2. Not purchased a popular book because it might be unpopular with parents or pressure groups in the community?		
3. Not purchased material because of the origin, background or views of the author?		
4. Not purchased sex instruction materials from a conservative religious point of view because a staff member found them to be personally offensive?		
5. Not purchased magazines, videos, rock or rap music, or books because "they are so popular they might be stolen?"		
6. Not purchased material concerning minorities because "no one in our community is like that?"		
7. Not purchased a popular recording because of controversial lyrics or cover art?		
8. Purchased a potentially controversial book, but put it in the Adult collection rather than the Young Adult collection for which it was intended?		
9. Reviewed a potentially controversial item and recommended that it not be purchased because of lack of literary merit, even though other non-controversial materials in the collection also lacked literary merit?		
10. Checked a magazine for potentially controversial content, language, or illustrations, and then restricted access or removed it from the collection?		
11. Labeled controversial materials in order to "warn" or prejudice possible users?		
12. Restricted children's use of certain sections of the library (e.g., adult reading room), types of materials (e.g., videos), or services (e.g., interlibrary loan)?		
13. Placed potentially controversial materials in restricted areas so that patrons are required to request them?		
14. Denied library use to someone because of his or her age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, political, or religious views?		
15. Set policies based on video or music producers' ratings to restrict access even though local ordinances don't prohibit use by minors?		
16. Responded to a challenge and removed objectionable material without going through a formal reconsideration of materials process?		
17. Cooperated in violating the right to privacy of your users by providing unauthorized access to their library records?		
18. Prohibited use of your meeting room or bulletin board to groups whose views you disagreed with?		

If you answered *yes* to any of these questions, it's time to review your intellectual freedom practices!