



**Fake Library
Statistics**

*You aren't a real
librarian until you've
been shushed by a
patron*

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Off the Shelf

On July 24, 2017, the following question was posted to the Facebook Page, ALA Think Tank.

Anonymous asks:

I work in a small, rural library. Recently we've had a patron asking about books regarding serial killers and looking up the same info on our public computers. He also made extensive notes on this subject as well as on schizophrenia. He left these notes in one of the books he was looking at. He was also seen and heard walking around the library talking to himself.

There were no patron complaints about this man. However, a staff member felt uncomfortable and mentioned it to management. Management then turned the camera pictures of this person over to the police. He was then identified and banned from the library.

My question is this: if he wasn't harming anyone and there were no patron complaints, do you all feel he should be allowed to use the library as he needs?

I was very interested in how the people around me thought that this situation should be handled, so I posed it to the staff. I received four responses. They are as follows:

#1

If he is not a harm to himself or others, I think he should have been able to use the library like everyone else.

#2

It sets a dangerous precedent in the library that anyone who looks suspicious or makes someone else uncomfortable could be banned. And in this tumultuous atmosphere, things can quickly snowball out of control. We also don't know the specifics of the circumstances. Maybe he was a method actor, or a writer researching a character. Management should have followed up with the patron before overstepping their role and going to the police. If he made no direct threats to anyone's safety, there was no immediate need to have him banned.

#3

Right off the bat I felt like this scenario was a set up. My first thought was, the author led with 'I work in a small rural library' did anyone on staff know the patron? I worked in a high school library and I was never surprised by what a student might ask for when working on a school project or just for general curiosity. Why this person was looking for information on these subject isn't the point, and that's what the



librarian who complained was trying to get at.

Patrons come to me for subjects so varied I couldn't possibly keep track of them, nor would I want to. My job is to help them get the information they need. My responsibility to the patron ends there.

I'm not sure if the situation was as simple as it was presented, (things rarely are) but with this limited information I would say, yes they overacted. If patron was not causing a problem for the staff or other patrons and he was minding his own business, then it should have ended there.

As a librarian you are always faced with how close you get to your patrons while maintaining your professional distance. Being friendly, courteous, and helpful is within your job purview; being nosy is not. If a patron volunteers information to me to engage me in their reason for searching, that's different.

Continued on page 2...

Meet the Staff...



This month we introduce you to our Young Adult Librarian, Catherine Cloutier.

Catherine is the youngest of four children. Her parents worked in the public school system and always valued education. That's why Catherine loves school and spent so many years getting degrees in Psychology, Education, and an MLS in Library Science. She continues to be a life-long learner and takes courses as they interest her.

Catherine's first exposure to a public library was during her formative years, attending story times.

She then frequented the library during the summer months as an older child. As an adult, she is always engaging in reading and using the Gale databases offered through the library for research.

Catherine has been a Young Adult Librarian for 16 years. She is currently reading *Dumplin': Go Big or Go Home* by Julie Murphy. Her favorite Young Adult authors are John Green, Robert Cormier, and Chris Crutcher. Catherine's

favorite children's book authors include Marty Kelley and Dr. Seuss.

Outside of the library, you can find Catherine reading, hiking, kayaking, and going to the beach, festivals and craft fairs.

Here in the library, you can find Catherine on the second floor in either the Reference or Young Adult areas on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Stop by and say hello. She would love to meet you.

From the Director's Desk... Continued

#4

The library management committed a great injustice to this patron. The library is a place where any person can gather information of any kind, and they denied that to a member of their community. This member of the community hurt no one, was not hurting himself, and committed no crime.

When people leave notes in books, it is our responsibility to remove and discard them, not to read them and then judge the person who may have left them there. The staff and management in this case was entirely in the wrong. If we used the kind of logic these people did, every person who read a thriller or murder mystery would have cause to be banned from their library.

The patron is entitled to read what they want, and act the way that they want to, even if it seems strange to others. No one has to enjoy it, but that person is allowed to do it. If I were concerned for an individual's well-being, I would possibly have a conversation with them at the desk while they were checking books out. Even a "Hey, I love that book!" can often get a usually-quiet patron talking. I would also try and pool information across my staff to see if there were any friends or family in the area who could help.

Sometimes a person who has a mental illness may not be a threat to a single soul, but need reminding to take their medication every day. It sounds like if this person was looking up information on schizophrenia, and talked to themselves,

they may have been concerned that they were showing early signs of the illness.

My hope is that this situation could be the standard against which other patron issues can be held, and one would say "JUST DON'T DO THIS."

I have to say, that I was very happy with the responses that I received. As people who work in a public library, we follow the ALA (American Library Association)'s Bill of Rights, which includes (among other things) the following statements:

- Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

- A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

I'm very interested in knowing what you think about this situation. If you have a response, please email me at nhill@dracutlibrary.org.

As always, I am available to meet and talk with you. This is *your* library and we want to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Nanci Milone Hill,
Library Director

New Acquisitions

NEW FICTION - AUGUST 2017

Christian

- Brunstetter, Wanda. *Blessing* [Amish cooking club novels, #2]
- Snelling, Lauraine. *The Promise of Dawn*

Fantasy

- Armstrong, Kelley. *Rituals*
- Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *Thunderlord*
- Chance, Karen. *Ride the Storm* [Cassandra Palmer, #8].
- Feehan, Christine. *Dark Carousel* [Carpathians, #30]
- Novik, Naomi. *Golden Age and Other Stories* [Temeraire, #9].

General

- Henry, Veronica. *How to Find Love in a Bookshop*
- Perrotta, Tom. *Mrs. Fletcher*
- Shamsie, Kamila. *Home Fire*

Historical

- Bowen, Rhys. *On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service*
- Buckley, Fiona. *A Deadly Betrothal*
- Davis, Fiona. *The Address*
- Davis, Lindsey. *The Third Nero* [Flavia Albia, #5]
- Dunmore, Helen. *Birdcage Walk*

- Montefiore, Santa. *The Daughters of Ireland* [Deverill Chronicles, #2]
- Gregory, Philippa. *The Last Tudor* [Cousin's War, #12].
- Harrison, Cora. *Beyond Absolution: a mystery set in 1920s Ireland.*
- Lynn-Davis, Barbara. *Casanova's Secret Wife*
- MacNeal, Susan Elia. *The Paris Spy* [Maggie Hope, #7] [see also: Mystery]
- Masterson, Meghan. *Wardrobe Mistress: a novel of Marie Antoinette*
- Montefiore, Santa. *The Daughters of Ireland* [Deverill Chronicles, #2]
- Novik, Naomi. *Golden Age and Other Stories* [Temeraire, #9].
- Sexton, Margaret Wilkerson. *A Kind of Freedom*
- Snelling, Lauraine. *The Promise of Dawn*
- Sykes, S.D. *City of Masks* [Somershill Manor, #3].

Literary

- Godwin, Gail. *Grief Cottage*
- Kufkfa, Danya. *Girl in Snow*
- Lynn-Davis, Barbara. *Casanova's Secret Wife*
- Messud, Claire. *The Burning Girl*
- Pamuk, Orhan. *The Red-Haired Woman*
- Tallent, Gabriel. *My Absolute Darling.*
- Zevin, Gabrielle. *Young Jane Young*

Mystery

- Andrews, Donna. *Gone Gull*
- Bowen, Rhys. *On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service*
- Buckley, Fiona. *A Deadly Betrothal*
- Camilleri, Andrea. *A Nest of Vipers* [Salvo Montibiano, #21]
- Clark, Marcia. *Snap Judgment* [Samantha Brinkman, #3]
- Cleave, Paul. *A Killer Harvest*
- Cleeves, Ann. *Telling Tales* [Vera Stanhope, #2]
- Coco, Nancy. *Oh, Fudge!* [Candy-coated Mysteries, #4]
- Crawford, Isis. *A Catered Costume Party* [Mystery with Recipes, #13]
- Crawford, Isis. *A Catered Tea Party* [Mystery with Recipes, #12]
- Crider, Bill. *Dead to Begin With* [Dan Rhodes, #24]
- Davis, Fiona. *The Address*
- Davis, Lindsey. *The Third Nero* [Flavia Albia, #5]
- Flowers, Amanda. *Assaulted Caramel* [Amish Candy Shop Mysteries, #1]
- Flower, Jean. *Addressed to Kill* [Postmistress Mysteries, #3]
- Goldenbaum, Sally. *Murder Wears Mittens* [Seaside Knitters, #12]
- Goldman, Matthew. *Gone to Dust*
- Hamilton, Victoria. *Muffin to Fear*
- Hechtman, Betty. *A Tangled Yarn*
- [Yarn Retreat Mysteries, #5]
- Kasasian, M R C. *The Secrets of Gaslight Lane* [Gower Street Detectives, #4]
- Kellerman, Jonathan. *Crime Scene*
- Krueger, William Kent. *Sulfer Springs* [Cork O'Connor, #16].
- MacNeal, Susan Elia. *The Paris Spy* [Maggie Hope #7]
- Meier, Leslie. *British Manor Murder* [Lucy Stone, #23]
- Mrazek, Robert J. *Dead Man's Bridge* [Jake Cantrell, #1]
- Murphy, Shirley R. *Cat Shining Bright* [Joe Grey, #20]
- Pamuk, Orhan. *The Red-Haired Woman*
- Penzler, Otto. *Bibliomysteries: Stories of Crime in the World of Books and Bookstores*
- Perry, Carol A. *Grave Errors* [Witch City, #5]
- Scottoline, Lisa. *Exposed* [Rosato & Associates, #16].
- Slaughter, Karin. *The Good Daughter*
- Sykes, S.D. *City of Masks* [Somershill Manor, #3]
- Tanenbaum, Robert K. *Without Fear or Favor* [Butch Karp and Marlene Ciampi, #29]
- Thurlo, David. *Kill the Heroes* [Charlie Henry, #4]
- Tracy, C.J. *Nothing Stays Buried* [Monkeewrench, #8]

Romance

- Aiken, G.A. *Bring the Heat*

**M.G. PARKER
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TRUSTEES

Eric Jackson, *Chair*
Dr. Linda Trouville,
Assistant Chair
Monique Verville, *Secretary*
John Dyer
Jim Nolan

- Alexandra, Tamara. *To Wager Her Heart*
 - Andrews, Ilona. *Wildfire*
 - Chance, Karen. *Ride the Storm* [Cassandra Palmer, #8].
 - Dailey, Janet. *Texas Fierce* [Tylers of Texas, #4]
 - Feehan, Christine. *Dark Carousel* [Carpathians, #30]
 - Garwood, Julie. *Wired*. [Buchanan, #13]
 - Graham, Heather. *Dark Rites* [Krew of Hunters, #22]
 - Ivy, Alexandra. *Pretend You're Safe*
 - Kenyon, Sherrilyn. *Dragonsworn* [Dark Hunter, #27]. Long, Julie Anne. *Dirty Dancing at Devil's Leap* [Hellcat Canyon, #3]
 - Macomber, Debbie. *Any Dream will Do*
 - Mallery, Susan. *You Say It First* [Happily, Inc. #1]
 - Martin, Holly. *Christmas at Lilac Cottage*
 - Masterson, Meghan. *Wardrobe Mistress: a novel of Marie Antoinette*
 - Michaels, Fern. *Need to Know* [Sisterhood, #28].
 - Muller, Marcia. *The Color of Fear* [Sharon McCone, #33]
 - Neggers, Carla. *Thief's Mark* [Sharpe & Donovan, #7].
 - Palmer, Diana. *Tangled Destinies*
 - Parker, T. Jefferson. *The Room of White Fire*
 - Penny, Louise. *Glass Houses* [Inspector Gamache, #13]
 - Shalvis, Jill. *Lost and Found Sisters*
 - Showalter, Gena. *Can't Hardly Breathe* [Original Heartbreakers, #4]
 - Sparks, Kerrelyn. *So I Married a Sorcerer* [The Embraced, #2]
 - Steel, Danielle. *The Right Time*
 - Stewart, Mariah. *Chesapeake Bride* [Chesapeake Diaries, #11]
 - Ward, J.R. *Devil's Cut* [Bourbon Kings, #3]
 - Wiggs, Susan. *Map of the Heart*
- Short Stories**
- Penzler, Otto. *Bibliomysteries: Stories of Crime in the World of Books and Bookstores*
- Suspense/Thriller**
- Abramowitz, Adam. *The Bosstown*
 - Armstrong, Kelley. *Rituals*
 - Brennan, Allison. *Shattered*
 - Brown, Sandra. *Seeing Red*
 - Cleave, Paul. *A Killer Harvest*
 - Cook, Robin. *Charlatans*
 - Deutermann, P.T. *Red Swan*
 - Gerritsen, Tess. *I Know a Secret* [Rizzoli & Isles, #13]
 - Graham, Heather. *Dark Rites*. [Krew of Hunters, #22].
 - Gross, Andrew. *The Saboteur*
 - Ivy, Alexandra. *Pretend You're Safe*
 - Kellerman, Jonathan. *CrimeScene*
 - Kreuger, William Scott. *Sulfer Springs* [Cork O'Connor, #16]
 - Kufkafka, Danya. *Girl in Snow*
 - Michaels, Fern. *Need to Know* [Sisterhood, #28].
 - Muller, Marcia. *The Color of Fear* [Sharon McCone, #33].
 - Neggers, Carla. *Thief's Mark* [Sharpe & Donovan, #7].
 - Parker, T. Jefferson. *The Room of White Fire*
 - Patterson, James. *The Store*
 - Scottoline, Lisa. *Exposed* [Rosato & Associates, #16].
 - Slaughter, Karin. *The Good Daughter*
 - Walker, Wendy. *Emma in the Night*
 - Woods, Stuart. *Barely Legal*

**BY THE NUMBERS
FY2017**Circulation

- 104,433 Books
- 4,430 Print Periodicals,
- 12,474 Books on CD
- 42,764 DVDs
- 5,318 e-Books
- Audios
- Video
- 1,628 Materials in Electronic Format
- 1,805 Miscellaneous items

175,197 items circulated in
FY2017, as of 6/30/2017.