SCENARIOS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM TRAINING: Questions for Trustees

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The library director has reported a concern with the current filtering policy. Librarians have been trying to help a class of 9th graders writing reports on white supremacist groups, but every website they try to access is blocked. The current policy doesn't allow the filter to be turned off for any reason. Should the policy be reconsidered?

A parent asks to see a list of all the books that his child has checked out from the library. When you refer this to the director, a librarian reports that she helped the child find a book on alcoholic parents. What should they do?

Your library is setting up a new web browser reservation system and it has the option to record the date & time that each user logs in. Should this be turned on in case the library needs to track suspicious activity? Should the library also enable the option that records all the sites visited by a user?

A woman comes to a board meeting and complains about an R rated movie that her 16-year-old daughter checked out. She wants to know why the policy allows children to check out all movies. How should ratings be used to regulate access to movies and other library resources?

A parent has complained about Gender Queer for promoting the gay agenda and grooming. The director, who hasn't read the book, ignores the stated policy for challenges and moves the book to her office. What do you do?

A detective from the city police department contacts the board president and says she's investigating the recent rash of burglaries in the area. She'd like a list of anyone who checked out books on locksmithing or otherwise asked for help researching this topic. What do you do?

A local church group asks to reserve the community room for a program on the Biblical path to prosperity. Is this allowed? What limits should be placed on religious groups?

Your library director wants to put up signs saying that the library is a safe space open to all and that offensive language or actions won't be tolerated. What concerns do you have in having this policy enforced?