



Don't



Roll the Dice:



Evaluating Research Library Readiness
for Book & Resource Challenges

Our Team

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Study design
- Findings & takeaways
- Recommendations for policy development
- Audience discussion

Introduction

- Resource challenges are at record numbers
- Public and school libraries are the main targets
- ALA recommends reconsideration policies for **all** libraries, including academic

Why Reconsideration Policies?

“Long Arm of the Law” session at 2022 Charleston Conference

Rise of “divisive concepts” laws across the U.S.

Will academic libraries see more challenges? How prepared are we to face them?

Methodology

- 104 ARL-member libraries in the U.S.
- Collected publicly available collection policies
 - Contacted institutions directly when necessary
- Categories of analysis based on ALA toolkit and *Intellectual Freedom Manual* recommendations
- Close reading of 20 reconsideration statements

Themes



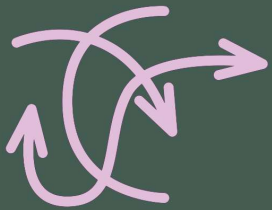
Policy Framing

- Censorship
- Issue with the information



- Soft “No”
- Non-endorsements
- Confusing preambles

Mixed
Messages



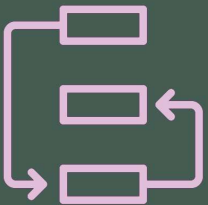
Reliance on Justifications


- Purpose of academic library
- External statements



- Takes a village
- Get it in writing
- Form difficulty levels

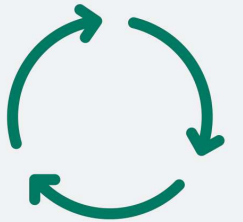
Varying Procedures



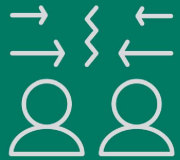


Borrowed Language

- From each other
- Repeating phrases



Takeaways



Conflict
Management
Styles

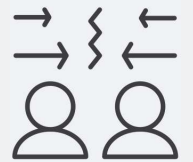
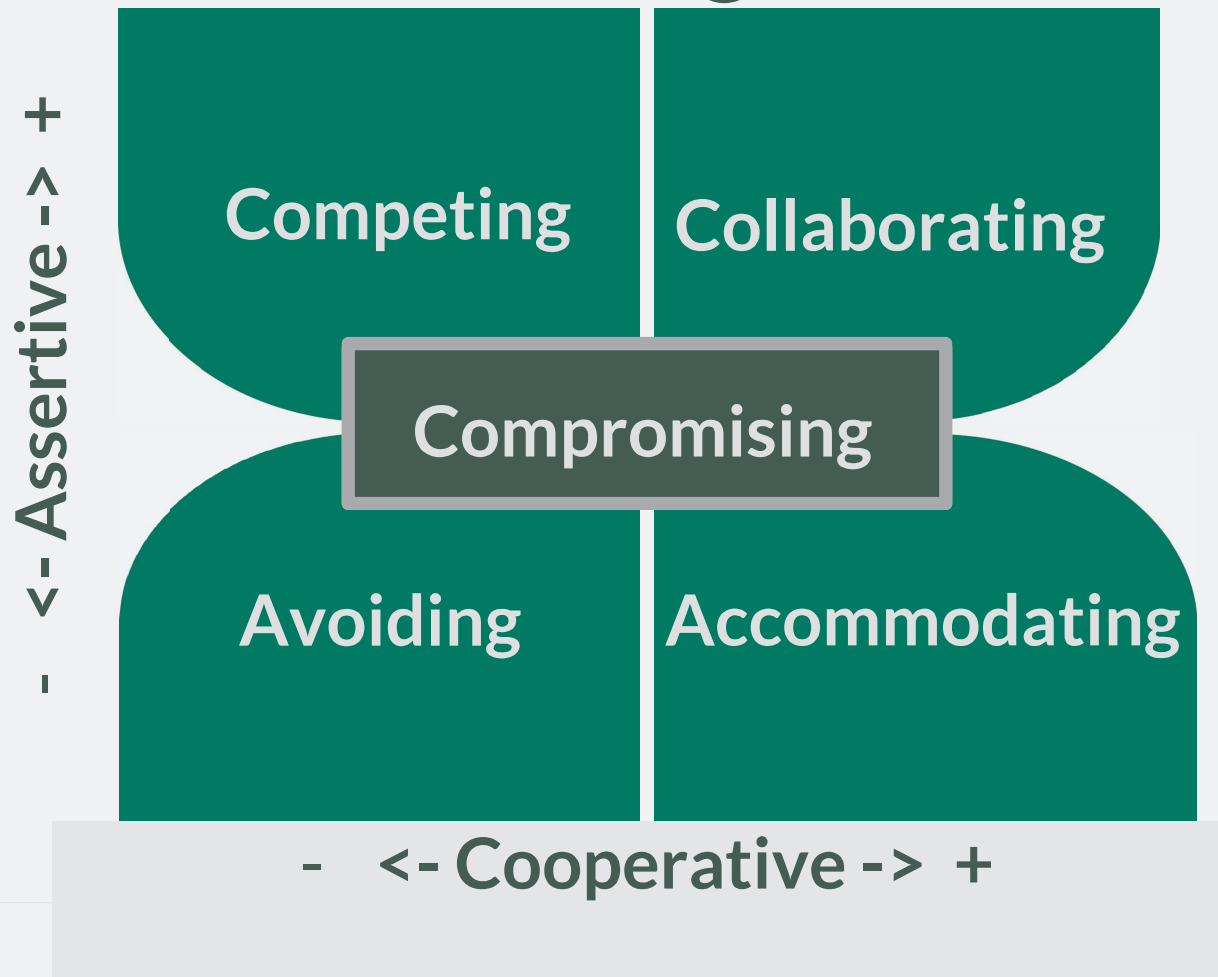


Missing
Pieces



Recommendations

Conflict Management Style



Based on Kilmann



Community

Definitions

Who can
participate?

Missing pieces

A successful
challenge

What's the
procedure then?



Checklist

From the *ALA Intellectual Freedom Manual* (p. 39)

- Allow reconsiderations
- Explain procedure
- Use a reconsideration request form asking 1) why they don't like it and 2) what they want to happen to it
- Explain the work will stay in place during reconsideration
- Be aware of your state's open meetings/public record laws
- Make a plan for reporting to ALA
- Provide decision letter

Recommendations



Allow requests.

Be clear & to the point. Don't hedge.

Opt for an easier form.

Embed with other collection policies.



Should there be notes placed in the record or the item?



Should we keep a publicly available list of challenges?



Is your state threatened with divisive concept laws? How do we protect our collections from top down threats?



These statements presuppose that people can figure out misinformation, but in this climate, is that outdated?

Some questions. . .

OR do we want to workshop a draft policy?

- Who is able to challenge?
- What conflict style appeals to your library?
- What would you do with a successful challenge?
- How does this align with your instructional values?
- Do you already have a collection development policy
- Who would handle challenges?

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