

West Side Informer

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Banned Books

What do books like *Brave New World*, *The Color Purple*, and *Catcher in the Rye* have in common? Besides being famous works of literature they are a few of the most challenged and banned books in America. Every year for a week in September the American Library Association (ALA) sponsors "Banned Books Week" in an effort to bring attention to the causes of censorship and intellectual freedom in libraries across the United States.

Books are banned or challenged for social issues like sex, violence, racism, or other topics which parents, religious and civil rights organizations believe are inappropriate for any age group to read, or books which promote values that are against their own beliefs. Every year the ALA compiles a list of the top 10 most challenged books in America. Authors such as Toni Morrison, Judy Blume, J.K. Rowling, Dav Pilkey, and John Steinbeck have had their books challenged and removed from bookshelves.

For more information on the ALA and Banned Books Week visit their website www.ala.org.

American Library Association. (2011). ALA Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read.

American Library Association. (2011). Frequently Challenged Books.

SCALES, P. (2009) What makes a Good Banned Book?. *Horn Book Magazine*. 85(5). 533-536.

CSR Part 2: CSR Initiatives

The types of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and mechanisms used vary across countries and businesses. Griffin and Prakash suggest "that the 'demand for' as well as the 'supply' of CR is significantly conditioned by the institutional and stakeholder environment in which firms operate." (Griffin & Prakash, 2010)

Griffin and Prakash divide CSR initiatives into the following categories:

Functional

- Human resources – improve opportunities for employees (benefits, working conditions, diversity, etc.)
- Marketing – product features (environmental improvements, improved functionality, etc.)
- Supply chain – improve access of company to resources (sustainable materials, socially responsible funding, human rights issues, etc.)

Cross-functional/corporate

- Development – provide resources for events, transfer skills, etc.
 - Enhance human capital
 - Improve physical infrastructure for underprivileged
 - Enhance social capital of community
- Environment – improve environment impact (increase things that do good and reduce the things that do harm)
- Corporate governance – improve how corporations are run, create new rules about generating/distributing profits (investor protection, disclosure requirements, etc.)

Griffin, J.J., & Prakash, A. (2010). Corporate responsibility: initiatives and mechanisms. *Business & Society*, 49(1), 179-184. Retrieved from Sage Journals Online.



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