

# West Side Informer

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## Celebrate Your Rights

This year, from September 30th through October 6th, we celebrate Banned Books Week. Since 1982 about 11,300 books have been challenged including religious books like the Bible and the Koran, classics like *To Kill a Mockingbird* and 1984, and more recent popular fiction like *The Hunger Games* and the *Harry Potter* series. A challenge is the attempt to remove or restrict access to a book; a ban is the removal of the book. Banned Books week raises awareness of challenges and bans of books and celebrates the freedom of speech guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

ALA compiled statistics from their Challenge Database on books challenged between 1990 and 2010. In that time, 10,676 books were challenged. The most common reasons given for challenges were that the book contained sexually explicit material, that they contained offensive language, or that they were unsuited to a particular age group. The majority of challenges come from parents. Between 1990 and 2010, 6103 challenges came from parents, at least four times more often than any other group. It is therefore unsurprising that the largest number of challenges by institution are schools and public libraries.

For more information about Banned Books Week, check out <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned>

*Number of Challenges by Year, Reason, Initiator & Institution (1990 - 2010)*. (May 29, 2007). Retrieved from:

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/stats>

## Why a Library Card?

September is Library Card Sign Up month! While this might not mean anything to most people, to the libraries it is an important time. In the past decade the role of the library has changed as they integrate with technology to provide services to people in person and online. Over the past 5-7 years the library has become a tremendous resource for those who are unemployed, who want to start a business, and those in small business.

In 2006, the American Library Association conducted a survey that showed that 61% of business owners found the library to be a great resource in helping them start their business. Libraries have information on demographics, market and industry information, articles from trade publications and association journals. Many city libraries hold small seminars on starting businesses and finding employment.

WCL has many databases to help you in market, industry, and company research; we have books on starting businesses and on how to find jobs. Also, our librarians are here to help with more in depth research for class projects and research papers.

References:

Perman, S. (2006). *The Library: Next Best Thing to an MBA*. *Businessweek Online*, 20.

Collins, B. (2012). *How Public Libraries Are a Boon to Small Business*. *American Libraries*, 43(7/8), 28-31.



## WEST CAMPUS LIBRARY

*Library Main Number:*  
**979.845.2111**

*Study Room Reservations*  
[reservations.library.tamu.edu](http://reservations.library.tamu.edu)

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