

From:
Subject: Gale Responds to Content Challenges in Virginia
Date: January 31, 2019 at 9:52 AM
To:

How to address parent and administrator inquiries



Dear Library Partner,

We understand some of you are receiving inquiries from parents and administrators seeking information about how Gale, together with its partner libraries and educators, ensures students have access to age-appropriate materials through their state and local libraries. These inquiries are likely the result of an issue raised by a Smithfield High School parent who recently voiced concerns regarding content in a Gale database which was accessed through the Library of Virginia.

To help you address any questions or concerns you may receive about this incident, we have created [an FAQ document](#). The FAQ provides an overview of the content that was challenged, how Gale responded, our approach to ensuring age-appropriate content within library resources and suggestions for your library as you consider which resources are best-suited for the K-12 students in your community.

Gale has a long history of providing students, educators and libraries with authoritative digital content. We take our role as a publisher and aggregator very seriously and are proud to help libraries deliver essential information to diverse communities of learners through resources designed to serve researchers of all ages, for all purposes.

Libraries are epicenters of information access and literacy, and we respect your rights in selecting the materials you feel best meet the needs of your communities. Gale offers flexible curation options down to the title-level, as well as administrative tools to help you tailor your collections and content to specific audiences as you see fit.

We also embrace the core values of the American Library Association (ALA) and its members in relation to providing equitable access to information for all. Additionally, Gale is committed to helping librarians balance their mission of fostering the freedom of information with the collection development policies of their communities and schools.

Recognizing that questions regarding what content is or is not age-appropriate impacts all libraries and publishers from time-to-time, we've also compiled [a list of vetted](#)

[industry resources](#) to help you engage with individuals who are concerned with information access, filtering of internet resources for minors or censorship of library resources. These materials were prepared by organizations like the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and are promoted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Virginia Library Association.

We hope you find these resources useful and if you have any other questions or comments, please do not hesitate to [contact your team at Gale directly](#).

Regards,

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