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Re: The new TPL Board inherits a censorship scandal from the previous Board

The previous Board concealed from the public a briefing note that proved the library censored not a book but *an entire author's work* from its collection.

In Fall 2014, I submitted blue suggestion forms for three books about men and manhood by Jack Donovan. They were rejected as "out of scope," a reason that does not appear on the obverse of the suggestion form. I challenged the issue in correspondence to the Board, which it merely received.

But behind the scenes, a document I obtained via access to information reveals, the all-female Collections Development Department had banned "fringe" writer Jack Donovan because his "books are intensely misogynistic" – citing Wikipedia, of all things. The previous Board had that document in its possession but kept it secret. The out-of-scope reasoning was, as I suspected, simply made up.

The library's Materials Selection Policy falls all over itself to emphasize nondiscrimination and a commitment to the inclusion of the widest possible range of views. By censoring an author's entire body of work, the library proved its policy a farce and its commitment to freedom a sham. There is no justification for banning an author because staff disagree with what *they themselves* deem his political stance. Censorship is still wrong when women do it, and if a library doesn't include items you hate, your library stinks.

Enjoy your (so-called) Freedom to Read Week, and welcome to your Board's first scandal.

Sincerely,

