

TRAVELING EXHIBIT AT
USI LIBRARY
EXPLORES CENSORSHIP
IN THE UNITED STATES



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A traveling exhibit, "Bonfires of Liberty", is on display in the Library at the University of Southern Indiana. The exhibit focuses on efforts to suppress the humanities, from Plato to the present. Individual panels look at censorship of philosophy, religious studies, drama, literature, children's literature, general history, American history, biography and the works of minorities. Created by the Texas Humanities Resource Center, the exhibit comes to USI under the auspices of the Indiana Humanities Council.

Kenneth L. Gladish, executive director of the Indiana Humanities Council, explains the exhibit explores "how censorship has been used, especially by government, to suppress ideas. The display shows that common documents, part of our tradition--like the Bible and Huckleberry Finn--have come under censorship. The display suggests we should be open to exploring ideas not common to everyday experiences."

Robert L. Reid, USI Vice-President for Academic Affairs, points to President Eisenhower's remarks, featured in the display, "As it is an ancient truth that freedom cannot be legislated into existence, so it is no less obvious that freedom cannot be censored into existence." Dr. Reid adds that the display reaffirms the essential first amendment rights of freedom of speech.

The Congressional Act that brought the National Endowments for the Humanities and the Arts best describes the display's purpose. "The Congress hereby finds and declares

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that a high civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone but must give full value and support to the other great branches of man's scholarly and cultural activities in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future."

USI senior Audra Hoffman viewed the exhibit and comments that "it really opened by eyes about how far censorship has gone. I would encourage all students to view the exhibit."

Bonfires of Liberty will be available for viewing during regular library hours, 7:45 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 2 - 9 p.m. on Sunday through September 17. USI is the first library in Indiana to host this exhibit.