February 21, 2017

Mr. Tim Collins
EBSCO Information Services
5724 Highway 280 East
Birmingham, AL  35242

RE: 2017 Dirty Dozen List Notification

Dear Mr. Collins:

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the pornographic and explicit content distributed through EBSCO products sold to K-12 schools. Our research has demonstrated that many of your K-12 products are unequivocally filled with softcore pornography, links to hardcore pornography websites, sexually explicit written descriptions, and advice and tutorials normalizing and glamorizing risky sexual behaviors. Themes of BDSM or torture sex seem to flood all of the products. We have also found articles glamorizing sexual relationships between students and teachers; eroticizing sexual violence and rape; and encouraging children to view pornography in order to learn more about sex.

We ask that you implement aggressive measures to stop the distribution of such material to your users. We ask you to do this as a matter of conscience, to avoid the normalization and perpetuation of sexual exploitation.

On February 22nd, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) will publicly announce its annual “Dirty Dozen List” which catalogs top promoters of sexual exploitation and pornography in America. After careful consideration, we have decided to include EBSCO Information Services on the 2017 Dirty Dozen List.

The culture of sexual violence, as characterized by sex trafficking and prostitution, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse and exploitation in the United States and around the world, remains an intractable problem. Therefore, we must begin addressing issues of sexual exploitation at these young ages, not promote it, or entice children into behaviors fraught with risk through materials made available at our public schools.

We hope EBSCO will do the right thing by changing course and becoming a corporate leader in the fight for a world free from sexual exploitation. NCOSE invites EBSCO to open dialogue around these issues and to meet with us in the near future.
While many know EBSCO as an innovator in education and online research technologies, EBSCO has routinely misled parents, schools, and libraries regarding the services it provides to users in grades K-12. EBSCO markets its elementary, middle school, and high school online library products as age-appropriate and as having content cultivated for these age groups, yet the technology relies on Lexile scales to determine how to filter content. Given that pornography is full of low Lexile words and that EBSCO does not provide any other way to evaluate the material for themes and content, its K-12 products are filled with reams of sexually explicit material. The most simple, innocent searches (for example, we tried “7th grade biology” and “6th grade respiration”) are yielding dozens of explicit, even unrelated articles as the most relevant and first suggestions.

Included below is a sampling of screenshots providing concrete illustrations of how EBSCO has consistently failed to provide age-appropriate content to its youngest users.

**EBSCO Product: Middle Search Plus**

When looking up “prostitution” search term in Middle Search Plus, dozens of articles advocating and glamorizing prostitution-type activity were displayed. The one pictured below has the following abstract:

*The article discusses the phenomenon of sugar dating, in which an older participant provides financial support to a young participant in return for companionship and/or sex. Topics include a discussion of whether sugar dating should be considered prostitution or a relationship much like traditional marriage for money; and the documentary “Daddies Date Babies” by Parinda Wanutwat about five female sugar babies and their sugar daddies.*
When going through the EBSCO “Middle Search Plus” catalog and the Explora product and then typing in “sex education,” we clicked on the third recommendation. The article below called “Watch and Learn” advises middle schoolers to watch pornography to learn about sex and even gives them the links to BDSM pornography websites do it.

One of the websites linked to in two articles in Middle Search Plus included tutorials on BDSM, oral sex, group sex, and articles to celebrate so-called “International Fisting Day.”
“Unlike using a strap-on or dildo toy, my hand can feel every motion. It’s incredibly intimate and really sexy. If the chemistry and connection with my partner is strong, can literally seem from penetrating someone with my hands” — Ji Lee on International Fisting Day: What comes to mind when you think of a fist? [...]
5,000 men reveal: the other hot spots.

Authors: Lister, Pamela
Source: Redbook, Dec 2009, Vol. 195 Issue 8, p12, 4p
Document Type: Article
Subject: HUMAN sexuality
EROTICA
Abstract: Provides information on several strange zones where men wanted them to be touched by a sexual partner.
Level: 1216
Full Text Word Count: 3201
ISSN: 1524-2792
Accession Number: 2098258

10. IES TESTICLES
Imagine if your husband slipped a silk scarf between your legs with such a light touch you weren't quite sure you actually felt something, except that you most definitely knew you wanted him more. That's the kind of subtly exquisite feeling you can elicited from a man by handling his prized possessions with tender loving care. Come to think of it, he might love the scarf too. It's amazing how often you hear guys say that their wives ignore their testicles during sex. Most likely, you're marveling at their stamina and the testicles are indeed delicate—and as long as you don't pinch, squeeze, or dig in your nails, all you need worry about is how much pleasure your man can bear. Pull on it if you lightly scratch his testicles and gently pull or rub his scrotum. If you want to turn up the sexual volume, try caressing him wearing both gloves or using your own hands. Make sure to get the idea of the idea interests him.

11. IES PERNICIOUS AND ANUS
As your fingers travel past the testicles toward the anus, you'll arrive at a richly endowed little pocket of skin called the perineum that's capable of producing something near bliss when lightly stroked. Because a man's prostate gland sits directly above it, massaging the perineum in a light circular motion sends major shivers inside. Do this at the point of orgasm, and he'll be shaking for air.

Now, your husband may not admit it, but he might give up his flagstones if your fingers would continue along their merry way to his anus. It's not only sensitive to touch, but the tactile factor makes it instantly erotic. However, if your husband doesn't feel comfortable, the little side trip is not one you'd want to just spring on him. "A lot of guys associate anything anal with homosexuality and are repulsed," says psychologist Bernie Zberzgeld, Ph.D., author of Male Sexuality. "It's a psychological thing, not physical." Also, some guys can't get the image of a doctor snapping a latex glove off their mind. If you're unsure about your husband's reaction, discuss it with him first to see if the idea interests him.

12. IES SUIT
A man's balls are pretty darn sexy when clothed, but get them raised and you're talking about the ultimate sex toy. And you've got plenty of opportunity to tease them softly, especially out in public where he can't do a thing about it. Cup a feel of your husband is heading out the door, or rub up against him with a playful bump and grind, or give him a good squeeze and smack. The thing about the butt is you get dual play like you mean it—it's built for rough handling, so go ahead and grab, pinch, dig into your butt, and yes, spank him in what you think he's secretly hankering for. It's the kind of pain some men would practically beg for, and you may enjoy enticing him, if all you know.

So why not try it? After all, the long awaits.
WE POLLED 5,000 MEN ONLINE: WHAT OTHER SEX SPOT TURNS YOU MOST?
Okay, we cheated at all when we asked this question, because we didn't include any body part remotely connected to the penis. But we knew that would skew the results, and our goal was to identify his other hot spots.
NIPPLES 34%
NECK 29%

ETICAL PORNOGRAPHY.

Authors: Varela, Tina
Document Type: Article
Subjects: PORNOGRAPHY FEMINISM EROTICism LOST word Films HOUSTON, Shire Louise HEWITT, Lussane
Abstract: The article focuses on feminist and LGBTQ pornography that has been stated as inclusive and ethical as it includes LGBTQ sexuality and real sex. It reported that in ethical pornography, everything is safe and consensual in the narrative that enables viewers to watch whatever plays out without guilt. Comments of Louise Houston, creative director of Feminist Porn Awards and Shire Louise Houston, owner of the porn production company Pink and White Productions are also included.
Hardcore pornography websites linked to from articles in EBSCO:
EBSCO Product: EXPLORA

After selecting “Explora” and typing in “sex education,” we quickly and easily located “The Golden Age of Sex” encouraging readers to engage in risky sexual behaviors such as public, anal, and group sex and explaining that these behaviors are trending up. The normalization of these activities is magnified to the K-12 audience as the article contains cartoons depicting group sex and hooking up.
EBSCO Product: Science Reference Center
Screenshots of articles appearing with search term “respiration”
Choosing the category “Romance” or “Adult” yielded many pornographic books. We randomly selected, *Between the Sheets: Erotic Romance*, which glamorizes and teaches readers about more extreme content in the erotica category and then makes recommendations for what to read in the BDSM and “sugar daddy” categories.

Included are examples of books recommended from this article. The first book that we clicked on and read a preview for depicts a violent rape where a barrel of a gun is inserted into a young girl’s anus.
At its heart, erotic romance is romance fiction in which sex is more explicit and varied than in more traditional examples of the genre. Other core elements — the central role of the relationship between the protagonists, and an optimistic, emotionally satisfying conclusion — remain the same. Popular subgenres of erotic romance include BDSM, menage (three or more participants), historical, and paranormal.

Thus, it is important to understand what kinds of erotic romance are out there, and why these may appeal to readers.

For readers who like billionaires

The wealthy hero who finds true love with a woman of lower status, whether financial or social, is a staple of both traditional and erotic romance. From dashing dukes to billionaire boyfriends, this character type can be found throughout the literature.

The hard-luck fans of the Fifty Shades of Grey Trilogy will appreciate Sylvia Day’s Crossfire Novelties, starting with Bad to You. Uniting over multiple novels, Crossfire’s moody, dramatic story arc follows the turbulent, often obsessive, relationship between Eva Trammell, a young assistant at an advertising agency, and Gideon Cross, the charismatic businessman with whom she becomes involved. Both characters’ past traumas threaten to destroy their future happiness unless they can find ways to come to terms with their experiences and find healing and redemption.

Maya Banks’ Breathless trilogy (beginning with Rush) follows the wealthy businessman whose credo is “play hard and live free” — and whose lifelong friendship is tested as each falls in love. Lovers’ tensions and their relationship with the main characters in the series provide tender resolutions to conflicts and traditional happily-ever-afters for its heroes and heroines.

Cecilia Tan’s Struck by Lightning series, beginning with Slow Surrender, introduces Kanze, a graduate student who supports herself by working tables at a New York diner. One night, she encounters mystery man James, an attractive, confidant, and obviously wealthy young man. James also has a penchant for flirtatious games that — despite the book’s title — quickly escalate into an intense, sexily charged affair. Readers who enjoy boundary-pushing sexual encounters without tears or self-flagellating interior monologues will want to read this series, which concludes with Slow Seduction and Slow Satisfaction.

For readers interested specifically in BDSM

Beginning with The Siren, Tiffany Reisz’s The Original Sinners series follows protagonist Nora Sutherlin as she navigates two overlapping careers: one as a professional Dominatrix, the other as a bestselling author of erotic fiction. As Nora draws on her life experiences to create her fiction, the novels themselves explore Nora’s past, particularly with regard to her relationships with the men in her life: her editor, Zach, her estranged 18-year-old stern; Wesley, her boss; Kingsley, and her once and future lover Soren, a Roman Catholic priest and sexual sadist.

Shakir Rashid’s Chronicles of the Nubian Underworld, set in Atlanta’s African-American BDSM community, stars Lord Ramesses and Lady Nefertari, self-described “literate” and partners in both life and business. Taking readers inside the House of Kemet-Ka, the alternating narratives introduce...
EBSCO Product: Consumer Health Report

Logging in through a middle school, we clicked on category “Sexual Health” and then “Attraction” which yielded dozens of explicit articles. Many of the articles we randomly clicked on contained live links to hardcore pornography websites.
When clicking on the article *Tired of Dinner & a Movie*, middle schoolers are bombarded with BDSM images and language, as well as other instruction on sexual positions and fantasies. The article promotes anal sex as no longer being a big deal between partners, instructs on how to hit your partner so as not to leave a bruise, and promotes masturbating to friends’ Facebook photos.
Tired of Dinner and a Movie?

More kinks in the bedroom can make it cool to go a little crazy—once you agree on what that means. BY CAROLYN KYLSTRA

YOU DON'T NEED HELP FROM CHRISTIAN GREY TO LIFT YOUR sex life to kooky new heights. "It's no longer fringe to talk openly about things like handcuffs or blindfolds," says Kristen Mark, Ph.D., director of the Sexual Health Promotion Lab at the University of Kentucky. The stigmas has vanished—along with the ball gags. This is more creativity and spontaneity. "The more couples inject excitement into their relationships," Mark says, "the more their satisfaction level rises." Think you're ready? Answer true or false to the following statements, and find out just how much adventure lies ahead.
We went through a middle school portal and typed “boy’s stories” in the search, thinking that it might be an innocent search term used by male students looking for relevant items to their interests. Almost all of the articles that were suggested were highly sexualized. We randomly clicked on one story called “Derrick Mickelson’s Cuddle Bed for Wayward Boys.”
Here are screenshots from another random article we selected called, “Jeff Kendall’s Boys Come of Age”
to the door and burst through on his horse. The priest looked up in surprise. His cassock was up around his waist exposing his hairy legs and long thin cock. He was standing over Nancy who was naked on all fours giving him head while Billy did her ass.

"Madre Dios!" the priest screamed and pulled down his cassock.

"You done already?" Nancy growled.

Billy whirled around reaching for his gun, but Sheriff Clapp drilled a hole in his chest.

"Now why'd you do that?" Nancy screamed. "You coulda had some if you .

"That's sweet," she said and gave him a hug.

Clapp felt another hard-on coming on, but it would have to wait. His cock was feeling sore now, it burned when he peed and a milky substance was leaking out from the tip. He dropped Nancy off at McMurry's. Miss Felicia gave her a good whipping and let him watch. It made his heart feel good. When he got home, he poured himself a tall glass of whiskey and soaked his cock in it. Later, he drained the glass and was ready to meet the world again.
Our society is struggling to cope with the impacts of multiple forms of sexual abuse and violence. Child sexual abuse (which is 167 times more common than autism),\textsuperscript{13} adult sexual exploitation,\textsuperscript{14} racially-motivated sexual violence,\textsuperscript{15} sexual assault on college and university campuses,\textsuperscript{16} sexual trafficking of women and children,\textsuperscript{17} and incest\textsuperscript{18}—these problems have not emerged from a vacuum, but flourish within the context of unprecedented access to hardcore pornographic material. Adult, hardcore pornography—with its raw, brutal, debasing, violent and hate-filled themes—exacerbates the deeply entrenched social ills mentioned above, and unleashes devastating impacts at the individual and societal level.


The harms of pornography are well documented. For instance, a growing body of neuroscience reveals that adults are developing addictions to pornography as pornography hijacks the brain’s reward center in a way similar to drug addiction.\textsuperscript{19} A nationally representative online survey of 3,000 people reveals that nearly half of young people (ages 13-24) actively seek out pornography weekly or more often.\textsuperscript{20} This is especially troubling given that research shows that adolescents are more susceptible to forming addictions than adults because the dopamine neurons in their nucleus accumbens (i.e. the brain’s pleasure center) are much more active and have an exaggerated plasticity in response to addictive stimulus.\textsuperscript{21} Thus, it can be said that a propensity for addiction is more strongly “hardwired” into the adolescent brain.\textsuperscript{22}

A recent survey found that 27% of young adults report first viewing pornography before puberty.\textsuperscript{23} This is alarming given that Internet pornography consumption by adolescents is associated with risky sexual behavior (that can have profoundly adverse effects), such as anal and group sex, hookups, multiple sexual partners, and substance use during sex.\textsuperscript{24}

Such outcomes are not surprising in light of how the human brain develops. Research shows that adolescents are not as readily able as adults to access their frontal lobes—the portion of the brain that controls impulses and allows for rapid, smart decision making.\textsuperscript{25} Moreover, multiple neurological studies contribute to the view that pornography use interferes with “working memory” performance, thus inhibiting the judgment and decision making functions of the prefrontal cortex.\textsuperscript{26}

Moreover, pornography is linked to sexual violence among adolescents and adults. A nationally representative survey of pornography use among youth aged 9–17 found that those with increased exposure to Internet pornography were significantly more likely to report physical and sexual


\textsuperscript{21} Frances E. Jensen with Amy Ellis Nutt, \textit{The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist’s Survival Guild to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults}, (New York: Harper Collins, 2015).\textsuperscript{22} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{24} Debra Braun-Courville and Mary Rojas, “Exposure to Sexually Explicit Web Site and Adolescent Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors 45 (2009): 156-162.

\textsuperscript{25} Frances E. Jensen with Amy Ellis Nutt, \textit{The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist’s Survival Guild to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults}, (New York: Harper Collins, 2015).

victimization. A separate study of 14- to 19-year-olds found that females who watched pornographic videos were at significantly greater likelihood of being victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault. A study of 804 Italian males and females aged 14 to 19, found that males who viewed pornography were significantly more likely to report having sexually harassed a peer or forcing someone to have sex.

Building on the link between pornography use and sexual violence, a recent meta-analysis of 22 studies from seven countries provides clear evidence confirming that pornography exposure is significantly associated with sexual aggression. As the authors state, “the accumulated data leave little doubt that, on the average, individuals who consume pornography more frequently are more likely to hold attitudes conducive to sexual aggression and engage in actual acts of sexual aggression than individuals who do not consume pornography or who consume pornography less frequently.”

Further, older adolescents who use pornography are more likely to be attracted to 13- or 14-year-olds, and the earlier college men were exposed to pornography the more likely they are to have engaged in nonconsensual sex. Fraternity men who consumed mainstream pornography expressed a greater intent to commit rape if they knew they would not be caught than those who did not consume pornography. Those who consumed sadomasochistic pornography expressed significantly less willingness to intervene in situations of sexual violence, greater beliefs in rape myths, and greater intent to commit rape. In addition, among those who consumed rape-themed pornography, the researchers described “serious effects” including less bystander willingness to intervene, greater belief in rape myth, and greater intent to commit rape. In other words, there was no type of pornography that did not result in a greater intent to commit rape by a user if they knew they would not be caught.

Today, pornography is pervasive and it is damaging countless lives. Its role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors that fuel the crisis of sexual assault on college campuses, sexting scandals, revenge pornography, sex trafficking, child sexual abuse, compulsive pornography consumption, and more is clear. As a result, our nation is now suffering from a public health crisis fueled by the widespread distribution of adult, hardcore pornography. The term “public health crisis” is used to broadly define both physical and social problems—from cigarette smoking to bullying—and it

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31 Ibid.
33 Mary Anne Layden, unpublished data, 2015.
unequivocally applies to pornography because pornography is a serious, harmful problem that affects individuals and groups beyond their capacity to correct alone.

The same could be said of cigarettes and the tobacco industry in the 1950s. But as we learned through experience, a public health model that unites government officials, public education efforts, health professionals, and a concerned public, can greatly reduce the impact of a toxic industry. The porn industry of today is simply the big tobacco of the past.

EBSCO Information Services is now faced with a decision concerning its role in this crisis. Will it play the part of Big Tobacco and continue allowing unfettered access to materials that poison human lives, or will it accept its social responsibility to respond to this problem?

Major corporations such as Omni Hotels, Marriott International, Hilton Worldwide, Walmart, Facebook, and others have eliminated or are eliminating pornography from their business models. The Department of Defense, Verizon, and Google have also instituted major policy changes away from accepting profits from pornography.

This is EBSCO’s invitation to do likewise, and in so doing assume a leadership position within the movement to end exploitation.

All girls, boys, women, and men have a natural human dignity and thus a right to live lives free from sexual exploitation. Pornography and prostitution are degrading, dehumanizing, exploitive, and a violation of this right. Pornography and prostitution are serial attacks on human dignity, identity, and worth. NCOS exists to make society aware of these and other forms of sexual exploitation, to equip individuals and families to overcome and protect against those harms, and to advocate that all laws defending the right to be free from pornography are vigorously enforced. The world is now suffering from the effects of widespread sexual exploitation and EBSCO has an historic opportunity to play an important role in stopping it.

We hope EBSCO will rise to this challenge and meet with us to discuss ways by which it can become a corporate leader in the fight for a world free from sexual exploitation.

Sincerely,

Patrick Trueman
President & CEO

Dawn Hawkins
Senior Vice President & Executive Director