

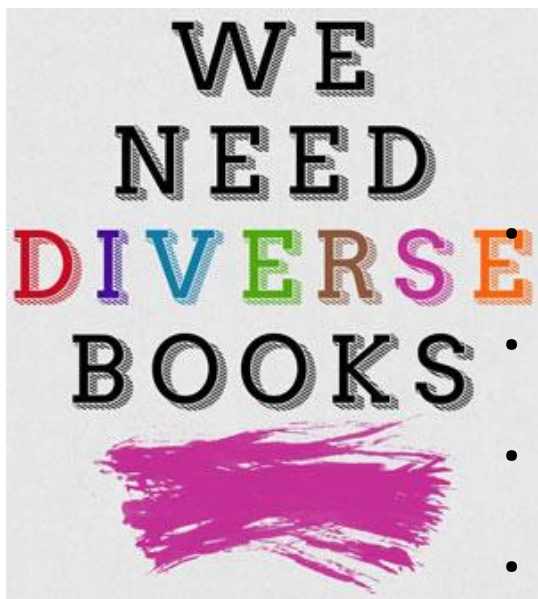
# Rights, Responsibilities, and Reactions: Intellectual Freedom News, June 2015

[banned books](#)   [censorship](#)   [Intellectual Freedom](#)   [Privacy](#)

Compiled by the Multnomah County Library Intellectual Freedom Committee in cooperation with the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee



2014 Challenge Report: [The Islamic Antichrist](#) was challenged because the “cover suggests that Islam’s savior, the Mahdi, is the antichrist.” The title was retained.

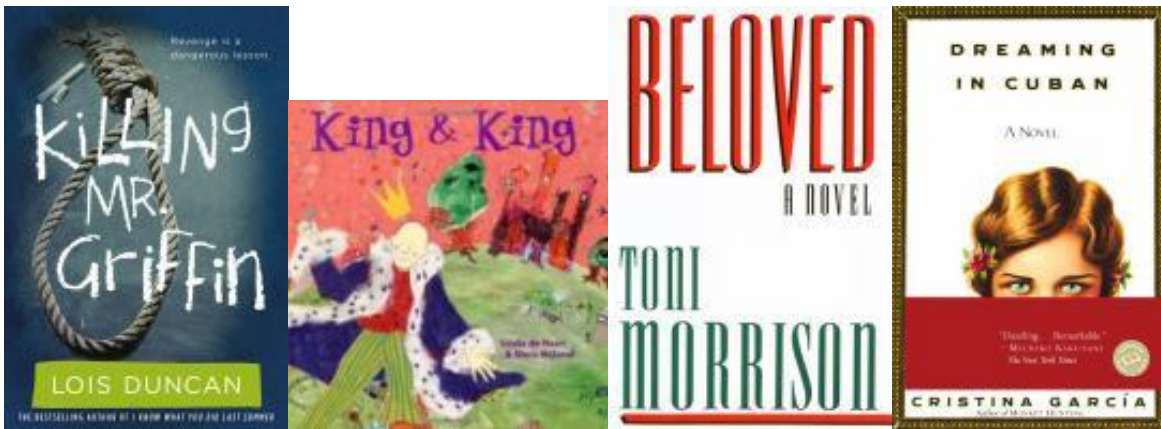


## Diversity

- [Are transgender children’s books the last taboo in publishing?](#)
  - The [We Need Diverse Books spring 2015 booktalking kit](#) is out now.
  - Author [Roxane Gay](#) [talks about the worst kind of Groundhog Day: diversity in publishing.](#)
  - Sherman Alexie says while he and other diverse panelists [guilt trip white liberal publishers, readers need to demand books from bookstores and libraries.](#)
- [There is still much work to do a year after the launch of #WeNeedDiverseBooks...](#)
  - Here are [8 reasons why diverse books are more powerful than ever.](#)
  - What is [“white, white, and read all over?”](#)

## Banned Books/Censorship

- Citing a lack of support from administrators, a teacher and assistant principal in North Carolina resigned after parents complained about the teacher reading King & King to his 3rd grade class.
- A California college student wants to ban four graphic novels because she “expected Batman and Robin, not pornography.”
- Italian-Americans want to ban books about Al Capone from children’s reading lists in NYC schools because they perpetuate negative stereotypes.
- Last year the South Carolina legislature punished two colleges for assigning Fun Home and other “gay-themed” books. This year the musical version won five Tony Awards.
- A nonprofit organization called Parents ROCK wants to remove The Bluest Eye, Beloved: A Novel, Killing Mr. Griffin, and Dreaming In Cuban from school libraries.
- A NC high school parent will appeal school system’s decision to retain The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.
- As the statistics site FiveThirtyEight found, asking what is the most banned book in America can very difficult to answer.
- Vermont’s statewide reading program, Vermont Reads, sparks discussion, events, and displays, on censorship and LGBTQ content.



“Extremist” ebooks on Imam's computer basis for terrorism claim. Register for a free Orlando Sentinel account to access this article, or here’s a synopsis:

*The FBI collected 10,000 e-books from Imam Marcus Robertson’s computer, including e-books that appear to promote terrorism. The government can use First-Amendment protected activities, such as books one possess or Twitter posts one makes, to show a*

*person is predisposed to committing terrorism....*

## **Update:**

### FLORIDA MAN, ACCUSED OF TERRORISM BASED ON BOOK COLLECTION, SET FREE

This is an update on the above story about the Islamic scholar accused of terrorism because he had a few writings from Islamic extremists among his extensive collection of e-books, roughly 20 titles out of 10,000. “Judge Gregory A. Presnell strongly repudiated the government’s argument that Robertson’s book collection proved a connection to terrorism. “[T]here was no evidence produced that Robertson ever accessed these particular documents, much less that he took their extremism to heart,” Presnell wrote, noting that even had Robertson read the books in question, it would not have constituted evidence of terrorism.

## **Privacy**

- BIG NEWS: USA Freedom Act passes in the Senate, signed by the President. “The bill officially ends 14 years of unprecedented bulk collection of domestic phone records by the NSA, replacing it with a program that requires the government to make specific requests to the phone companies.”
- The Patriot Act expired... what happens now?
- Patriot Act Revision--does it really effectively limit government surveillance?
- Google modifies dashboard to simplify privacy and security settings...
- Just as Google separates photos from Google+, now with free unlimited storage - so is this a ploy to get more of your data?
- Check out these presentations on library patron privacy in vendor systems.
- Did you know about the collaboration between the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Tor Project to help make your browsing more secure?
- “The FBI uses a fleet of planes registered under fictitious companies in order to conduct warrantless surveillance during federal, state and local investigations.”
- Building privacy in the library...

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Source URL (retrieved on *Jun 30 2015 - 9:57am*): <https://commons.multcolib.org/we-share/blog/rights-responsibilities-and-reactions-intellectual-freedom-news-june-2015>