

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – June 2024

On the local front: [Oregon library shot at with pellet gun after displaying pride flag](#). (NBC News, 7 min). **(diversity)**

The New York Times looks at how New York's [first Black librarians changed the way we read](#) (New York Times, 4 min). The New Yorker dives into how libraries have changed: [Not Your Childhood Library](#) (30 min). CNN highlights the [rich drag history in the US and why the art form will likely outlast attempts to restrict it](#) (10 min). The Washington Post covers how [used paperbacks change lives behind bars, despite prison book bans](#) (8 min). **(access, diversity)**

[Free speech groups say Florida misrepresents book objection law, causing mass removals](#) (Tallahassee Democrat, 7 min). Related, [Under Ron DeSantis, Florida teacher trainings included Christian Nationalist propaganda](#) (Them, 7 min). **(legislation, censorship)**

Popular Information reports on how one state is taking steps to limit access to classics in public schools: [South Carolina poised to impose draconian censorship regime on school libraries](#) (8 min). In Iowa, an investigation by a local newspaper identified [3,400 banned books, including Captain Underpants, under the new Iowa law](#) (USA Today, 14 min). This opinion piece highlights similar legislation in Ohio: [Jailing librarians? Bill latest attempt to control Ohio students, censor truth](#) (Columbus Dispatch, 6 min). **(legislation, censorship)**

In contrast, the Library Journal reports on a new [bill in Minnesota protecting access to public library books](#) (10 min). In Washington, to protect student's right to privacy the [state's top superintendent instructs school districts to ignore new Parents' Rights initiative](#) (Lynwood Times, 7 min). This interview of James LaRue highlights different actions states, libraries and patrons are taking against censorship: [Book bans have become a powerful censorship tool in Colorado. Libraries and patrons hold the line](#) (15 min). See also: [States begin to push back on book bans – by banning them](#) (CNN, 4 min) **(legislation, access, privacy)**

The Digital Public Library of America continues to fight censorship by creating awareness of and access to banned books. Recently, they launched [the 'Banned Book of the Week'](#) (7 min). **(censorship, access)**

The New York Times provides insight on legal cases before the Supreme Court that touch on intellectual freedom: [The Internet and the First Amendment](#) (10 min). One of which was dismissed: [a challenge](#) to the Biden administration's request to social media companies to limit misinformation. (New York Times, 8 min). (**first amendment**)

The Conversation looks at scams targeting older adults: [Elder fraud has reached epidemic proportions – what older Americans need to know](#) (9 min) and [Are older adults more vulnerable to scams? What psychologists have learned](#) (8 min). (**information literacy**)

The Markup reports on how [librarians Are Waging a Quiet War Against International “Data Cartels”](#) (8 min). (**privacy**)

[K-12 Schools in New Jersey are becoming a battlefield over Palestine advocacy](#) (Truthout, 14 min). Uproot provides perspectives from librarians and archivists on [disinformation, censorship and intellectual freedom as it relates to Palenstine](#). (**information literacy, censorship**)

A Free Press study highlights the prevalence and awareness of disinformation: [Nearly 80% of Americans are concerned about the spread of 'disinformation' — with Black people among the most targeted](#) (Philadelphia Inquirer, 5 min). An NPR affiliate station provides resources for [evaluating media in the age of misinformation and disinformation](#) (KSJD, 5 min). Southern Poverty Law Center provides an indepth look at the [rise of conspiracies as a tool of extreme hate groups](#) (23 min)(**disinformation, information literacy**)

AI Spotlight

[How AI tools both help and hinder equity in higher ed](#) (Inside Higher Ed, 12 min). Related, a thought piece on AI and friction in education: [Friction v. “Magic”](#) (Pandora's Bot, 12 min) (**information literacy**)

This article provides insight on disinformation and AI: [Five myths about how AI will affect 2024 elections](#) (Tech Policy, 8 min). Some social media companies are taking action to limit disinformation from AI: [Social media beware: Fake comments fueled by AI target public opinion](#) (Spiceworks, 4 min). (**information literacy, misinformation**)

This quiz from the New York Times offers clues on identifying AI-generated images: [A.I. Is Getting Better Fast. Can You Tell What's Real Now?](#) (7 mins). (**information literacy**)

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions is a monthly roundup of Intellectual Freedom News compiled by the Multnomah County Library Intellectual Freedom Committee. We welcome suggestions at lib.ifc@multco.us.

Additional Resources

ALA Intellectual Freedom Blog: <https://www.oif.ala.org> A blog dedicated to intellectual freedom issues, and includes the [Intellectual Freedom News](#) –a weekly roundup of IF related articles

Oregon Library Association's [Intellectual Freedom Toolkit](#) (published February 8, 2022). A range of tools and resources relating to IF challenges and policies created by the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

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