

## Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – July 2024

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The American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom Released a [statement regarding Midwest Tape/Hoopla age and content ratings system](#) (3 min). The Oregon Library Association, the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Committee and Parents Defending Schools and Libraries also released a [statement raising concerns about the proposed rating systems](#) (8 min). Book Riot provides an [overview of the proposed rating systems](#) and follow up [clarification from MidWest Tape/Hoopla](#) (5 min and 2 min). **(censorship)**

Portland artists put a spotlight on book bans: [Booklover's Burlesque: Banned Books edition fights censorship of people and ideas](#) (Willamette Week, 4 min). **(censorship)**

Laws restricting what can go on library shelves are going into effect in [Idaho](#) (Bonner County Daily Bee, 14 min), [South Carolina](#) (WCSC, 4 min) and [Tennessee](#) (Fox 17, 4 min). Libraries in Idaho respond: ['We are not getting rid of books'](#) (Idaho Capital Sun, 15 min), [restrictions on who can challenge books](#) (Idaho Ed News, 5 min) and [one library declines to change policy](#) (KXYL, 3 min). A lawsuit in Florida may have national implications: [Florida legislation leaning on government speech to limit access to books](#) in schools (Tallahassee Democrat, 6 min). In Colorado, [policy changes are being made at libraries](#) to limit challenges and reinforce recent anti-censorship legislation (Durango Herald, 6 min). **(legislation, first amendment)**

Library Journal provides an insightful overview of [legislation impacting libraries](#) –both for and against censorship, who is funding the organizations and why some fail (15 min). Related, book bans in the courts: [Fifth Circuit to take another swing at its messy library book removal decision](#) (Tech Dirt, 10 min). **(legislation, first amendment)**

NBC reports on [the two-year fight to bring charges against school librarians in Texas](#) (13 min). **(censorship)**

Annalee Newitz, author of a [new book on disinformation](#), highlights [the why behind the current attack on libraries](#) in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (5 min). Related, protests against censorship are having a positive impact: [Project Censored dispatch: Free people read freely](#) (Sacramento News & Review, 9 min). Katherine Applegate talks about her

book being pulled: ['Wishtree' Author Responds To Virginia Community's Cancellation Of 'One Book' Program](#) (WVPB, 8 min). CNN reports on the [banning of Ban This Book in Florida](#) and the author's response (4 min). (**copyright**)

A [new study](#) was released on book bans that [finds the bans target diverse authors and characters in children's books](#) (KUNC, 2 min). In Canada, a study shows that book bans are resulting in [an increased interest in the titles](#) (Publishing Perspectives, 5 min). (**copyright**)

Human Rights Watch issued an in-depth report on the fight against censorship in Florida: [How They Defend the Freedom to Learn](#) (25 min). Read about proactive steps being taken to counter protests and bans: [Library employed barriers, bans as protests at drag queen story hours heated up](#) (Reno Gazette Journal, 4 min) and ['The power of fiction': San Francisco store sends LGBTQ+ books to states that ban them](#) (Guardian, 5 min). (**inclusion, diversity**)

The New Republic reports on how drag queens, trans people, and LGBTQ+ books are the [targets in Project 2025](#) (8 min). [Authors Against Book Bans](#) call out the [impact of Project 2025 on the freedom to read and queer communities](#) (LitHub, 5 min). While GLAD highlights the [history of drag and LGBTQ+ activism](#) (6 min). (**copyright, inclusion, diversity**)

Publishers Weekly calls out the costs and constraints of digital content that are impacting the budgets of libraries: [Libraries must draw the line on e-books](#) (8 min). Axios highlights the key issues underlying libraries having to limit access to e-books: [E-book demand stretches Indianapolis Public Library budget](#) (3 min). See also, [libraries struggle to afford the demand for e-books and seek new state laws in fight with publishers](#) (AP News, 7 min). (**access**)

The Washington Post offers a guide on [How to avoid falling for misinformation and conspiracy theories](#) (9 min). While the BBC provides an analysis on how misleading information relating to elections is easily spread on social media: [This wasn't the social media election everyone expected](#) (9 min). Related, [Feds shut down Russian AI 'bot farm' that spread disinformation for Putin](#) (USA Today, 4 min). (**disinformation, information literacy**)

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) recently launched the [BBB Scam Survival Kit](#), an interactive guide to identifying immediate steps to take and resources for dealing with scams. (**disinformation, privacy**)

**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](mailto:lib.ifc@multco.us).

Research on disinformation is being threatened: [Trump allies crush misinformation research ahead of election](#) (Washington Post, 9 min). (**disinformation**)

[Library Freedom Project](#) recently published a [guide on data brokers](#). (**privacy**)

Forbes highlights why [data privacy laws fail to protect consumers](#) (6 min), while Tech Policy posits the idea that consumers [need more agency in managing online](#) information to make better decisions about connections and engaging with information (9 min). (**privacy**)

Tech Policy looks at legislation [protecting kids' privacy through the lens of post-Chevron deference](#), including implications for privacy of teens (8 min). The Verge's Decoder podcast dives into the [impact of the Chevron decision on net neutrality](#) (37 min). (**privacy, access**).

An explainer of the copyright issues underlying the lawsuit against the Internet Archive by publishers: [Deep Dive: The Internet Archive Lawsuit And Its Impact on Digital Libraries](#) (Medianama, 10 min). (**copyright**)

[Romance Bookstores Are Booming, Dishing 'All the Hot Stuff You Can Imagine'](#) (New York Times, 9 min). (**access**)

## AI Spotlight

Forbes reminds readers that AI chatbots are not reliable: [Warning: AI Chatbots Can Spread Disinformation](#) (4 min). (**disinformation**)

The Conversation provides insights on AI from a disability-centered perspective: [Disability community has long wrestled with 'helpful' technologies – lessons for everyone in dealing with AI](#) (8 min). (**accessibility**)

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## 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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