

## Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

### Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – August 2024

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**Banned Books Week library event:** [Censor \(THIS\): A Banned Books Week presentation](#) with Hand2Mouth Theatre’s Youth Devising Ensemble is happening September 21st, from 2-3:30pm at Holgate Library. Check out the [booklist that goes with the event](#).

A little library in Oregon won national recognition: [Wendy Shih brings Little Free Diverse Library to Rock Creek community](#) (Willamette Week, 3 min). (**access**)

The U.S. Department of Education weighs in on legislation promoting censorship of library materials: [Book bans are not just bad policy: They can raise civil rights issues](#) (4 min). Read more about recent legislation: [More states are passing book banning rules. Here’s what they say](#) (New York Times, 5 min) and [Local no longer: 4 new laws and policies bring book banning to the state level](#) (PEN America, 4 min). (**copyright, legislation**)

In Utah, legislation targets specific titles, see [Popular and critically acclaimed book titles banned statewide in Utah schools](#) (PEN America, 3 min), [Republicans officially enact their most extreme school book ban](#) (New Republic, 3 min) and [discussed on NPR](#) (3 min). The Guardian reports on how [advocates react to Utah ban](#) (6 min). See also, how [Iowa schools are responding to a new law](#) banning books (IPR, 15 min). (**copyright, legislation**)

Emily Dabrinski contextualizes the impact of new legislation in Idaho: [Idaho law criminalizes librarians who Allow LGBTQ books to stay on their shelves](#) (Truthout, 5 min). Related, [New lawsuit seeks to stop enforcement of Idaho library materials bill](#) (Idaho Capital Sun, 7 min). Also, the Boise Public Library [rejected the first challenge](#) under the new law (Boise State Public Radio, 1 min). (**copyright, legislation**)

In contrast, California aims to support freedom to read for all: [As LGBTQ library material comes under fire, California may ban book bans](#) (Cal Matters, 17 min). New York Public Library continues to highlight and provide access to banned books: [No censorship zone: New York Public Library celebrates books targeted by bans](#) (ABC 7, 2 min). (**copyright**)

Closer to home, a city councilor in Seaside, Oregon proposed patron age restrictions at the Seaside Public Library. He now faces removal from office after a 63-37 recall vote, expected

to be certified by the end of August. [Recall holds against Seaside city councilor over potential age restrictions at library](#) (The Astorian, 3 min). (**access, legislation**)

NPR's Code Switch looks at the impact of book bans on Indigenous literature: ['Not a badge of honor'](#) (34 min). Authors and publishers at San Diego Comic Con discussed [the terrorism of book bans in dividing communities](#) (Comics Beat, 8 min). (**ensorship, diversity**)

A new [short documentary explores Drag Story Hour](#) through the eyes of kids (NBC News, 5 min) - watch the ['It's Okay' trailer](#) (YouTube, 2 min). Related, after the Reno Library cancelled drag queen storytime, a partner organization found other venues to host the popular program: [Drag queen story hour is back on — but not through Washoe County libraries](#) (Reno Gazette Journal, 2 min). (**diversity**)

Advocacy against censorship continues, see: [Students join educators and advocates in effort to reverse book bans](#) (19th, 5 min) and [Author Jodi Picoult signs letter urging Ron DeSantis to end 'Dark Night of Censorship' in Florida Schools](#) (People, 5 min). (**ensorship**)

A reminder of how libraries strive to connect people with information and resources: [The library is a commons](#) (In These Times, 10 min). (**access**)

Publishing continues to struggle to diversify its workforce: ['A Lot of Us Are Gone': How the Push to Diversify Publishing Fell Short](#) (New York Times, 12 min). (**diversity**)

This article on a removal of an essay highlights the complexities of freedom of speech and censorship and the power dynamics underlying access to platforms: [The cofounder of Guernica on free speech and the retraction of the Israel-Gaza essay](#) (LitHub, 9 min). Related, [The State Library of Victoria controversy shows what can happen when institutions cling to 'neutrality'](#) (Conversation, 6 min). (**first amendment, censorship, neutrality**)

[Bill aimed at protecting children online sparks debate over censorship and privacy](#) (PBS News, 8 min). The Washington Post highlights [privacy issues with AI tech aimed at protecting kids](#) online (13 min). More on [legislation focused on privacy protections for minors](#) (Covington, 5 min). For a deeper look at privacy concerns, check out [Candy Crushed: Harvard Law expert on children's data safety](#) (Harvard Law Today, 14 min). (**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).

A [new report looks at how disinformation targets Black communities](#) (WABE, 2 min). Read the full report: [Landscape - Onyx Impact](#). (**disinformation**)

Tech Policy unpacks [common disinformation issues with election information](#) in light of tech and AI, including tips for the general public (7 min). Related: [Russia is relying on Americans to spread election disinformation, officials say](#) (AP News, 6 min). The National Education Association offers insights on [responding to disinformation](#) (5 min). (**disinformation**)

This look back at [how a movie exploited limited access to information](#), sheds some light on the current climate of uncertainty about information. (New York Times, 11 min). (**disinformation, information literacy**)

[Senators expose car companies' terrible data privacy practices](#) (Electronic Frontier Foundation, 6 min). This long read from The Conversation unpacks [gift card scams and lack of consumer protections](#) (33 min). ( **privacy, information literacy**)

## AI Spotlight

Explainer of the ubiquitous CAPTCHA and impact of AI on them: [CAPTCHAs: The struggle to tell real humans from fake](#) (Conversation, 5 min). (**information literacy, cybersecurity**)

AI needs data to learn and be more dynamic and publishers are being tapped as resources for that data: [Academic authors 'shocked' after Taylor & Francis sells access to their research to Microsoft AI](#) (Bookseller, 7 min). (**copyright**)

There are concerns about AI proliferating disinformation, but it also has the [potential to dispel conspiracies](#). (Tech Policy, 35 min). (**disinformation**)

[X is training Grok AI on your data—here's how to stop it](#) (Ars Technica, 3 min). (**privacy**)

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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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