

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – September 2024

Banned Books Week

From Multnomah County Library: [Celebrating 'banned books' as censorship looms near and far](#) (Portland Tribune, 2 min).

Recent censorship and limits on access under parental rights policy happening in Oregon:

- [Hundreds push back on removal of 'How the García Girls Lost Their Accents' novel from Tillamook High School curriculum](#) (OPB, 9 min).
- [New proposed Grants Pass School District 7 policies indicate board's shift to the right](#) (5 min).

[Censorship reports show a mixed picture on U.S. book challenges](#) (NBC News, 5 min). The Knight Foundation released a new report examining impressions of current book challenges: [Americans' Views on Book Restrictions in U.S. Public Schools 2024](#) (6 min).

American Libraries Magazine provides a look back: [Censorship Throughout the Centuries](#) (13 min).

[Outrage grows as school textbook writers asked to censor their books: 'These ill-considered actions are going to cheat Florida students'](#) (The Cool Down, 3 min).

[Dave Eggers fights back against book banning in new documentary](#) (People, 6 min). Watch the documentary: [To Be Destroyed](#) (MSNBC News on YouTube, 32 min).

The University of Washington provides a profile of Tracie Hall, who recently joined their iSchool faculty: [Tracie D. Hall, the librarian speaking out against censorship and book bans that threaten learning and access to information](#) (12 min).

Amanda Jones writes from the perspective of being targeted as librarian: [This election will determine the fate of libraries](#) (Time, 6 min). Read more about her work challenging book bans in this [the Los Angeles Times](#) (11 min) and th [The New York Times](#) (10 min). Check out her book: [That Librarian: The fight against book banning in America](#).

LGBTQ+

GLAAD reports: [Expanding freedom: Little Free Libraries join Banned Books Week](#) (6 min) and [Deeply unpopular book bans are a losing ticket in the 2024 election](#) (6 min).

[Censorship through centuries: Rebecca L. Davis on the long fight for queer liberation](#) (Lit Hub, 21 min). Check out her book: [Fierce Desires: A new history of sex and sexuality in America](#).

[High school shuts down its library because of book-banning state law](#) (LGBTQ Nation, 6 min).

Legal Cases and Legislation

New York Times reports: [New state laws are fueling a surge in book bans](#) (3 min). Read the reports mentioned in the article: PEN America's [School book bans](#) (8 min) and ALA's [Book Ban Data](#) (4 min).

[ACLU fights government censorship of books in Texas public libraries](#) (5 min). NAACP's Legal Defense Fund also steps up: [LDF files amicus brief supporting access to public library books about race and gender](#). More on the First Amendment and the court case in Texas: [On Appeal, Llano County seeks book ban ruling that would upend public libraries](#) (9 min).

By [claiming library collections as government speech](#), a school in Alabama may be able to set limits on the policing of librarians (Alabama Political Reporter, 4 min).

[Book publishers file lawsuit, say Florida book ban law is unconstitutional](#) (The 74, 4 min). NPR reports a First Amendment lawsuit in Florida: [Banned books are returning to shelves in one Florida school district](#) (3 min).

California [passes Freedom to Read Act, targeting book bans at public libraries](#) (2 min). More on the legislation: [How a proposed California law could end book bans in public libraries](#) (CAP Radio, 11 min).

Book Bans and Censorship Resources:

- [Unite Against Book Bans](#), toolkits and other resources for fighting against censorship:
- [National Center Against Censorship](#)
- Scary Mommy's: [Your 101 Guide To Fighting A Local Book Ban](#)
- [For the People: A leftist library project](#) -offers classes and guides on being an advocate and getting involved on school or library boards:
- Penguin Random House's [Banned Books Resources](#), see also [Random House Teachers and Librarians: SUPPORT AND READ BANNED & CHALLENGED BOOKS!](#)
- PEN America's Book Bans - reports on book bans in school and public libraries
- Every Library's [Legislation of Concern in 2024](#) tracks legislation impacting libraries
- Learn more about censorship in prisons at [Prison Banned Books Week](#)

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.

Other Intellectual Freedom News

Read about the impact of libraries on communities: [Sullivan City's first-ever public library transforming community](#) (MyRGV, 6 min), [First Indianapolis library to serve Black community reopens at school](#) (Chalkbeat, 7 min) and [Pages of hope: How book donations make a difference in prisoners' lives](#) (WLRN) . (**access, diversity**)

The [Black List](#), which has primarily focused on screenplays, announced an expansion into the world of fiction: [The Black List Helped Reshape Hollywood. Can It Change Publishing?](#) (New York Times, 4 min). (**diversity**)

A brief news article on [How misinformation, disinformation can sway voters](#) (WIFR, 2 min), which references a new resource from the News Literacy Project: [Misinformation Dashboard: Election 2024](#) - a tool tracking the topics and tactics of 2024 election misinformation. Nature examines the creation of disinformation: [How influencers and algorithms mobilize propaganda — and distort reality](#) (9 min). [TikTok Expands its Election Resources Ahead of November](#) (New York Times, 3 min). For a more in-depth look at social media and disinformation, see [Steven Brill's The Death of Truth](#), which is [summarized along with some resources by CBS News](#) (5 min). (**disinformation, information literacy**)

[The Internet Archive loses its appeal of a major copyright case](#) (Wired, 6 min). Read more about the impact on libraries: [Why a ruling against the Internet Archive threatens the future of America's libraries](#) (MIT Technology Review, 6 min) and [Internet Archive's court loss leaves higher ed in gray area](#) (Higher Ed, 10 min) (**copyright, access**)

The Internet Archive is hosting a free book talk with Barbara McQuade, scholar focused on disinformation: [Book Talk: Attack from Within](#) (Eventbrite). (**disinformation**)

Library Journal reports that [direct access to the Wayback Machine is now available via Google Search results pages](#) (Library Journal, 2 min). (**information literacy**)

Slate provides commentary on the impact of [expanded police surveillance](#) (7 min). The article references the [Community Violence Intervention](#) program developed by the Bloomberg School of Public Health at John Hopkins. (**privacy, equity**)

[DAIR](#) released a new interactive map for tracking surveillance companies: [Surveillance Watch](#). (**privacy**)

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Consumer Reports released a new report on [people-search site removal services](#) (2 min).
Read the full report: [Data Defense: Evaluating People-Search Site Removal Services](#) (**privacy**)

Oregon ArtsWatch is doing a 3-part series on copyright, read Part 1: [Warhol and the Supreme Court: Nothing comes from nothing](#) (10 min) and Part 2: [Warhol and the Supreme Court: The new problem](#) (9 min) . (**copyright**)

[Libraries are essential for internet access, even as national broadband projects ramp up](#) (Marketplace, 5 min). Prospect offers a look at libraries in England as the heart of public knowledge: [Our libraries are on borrowed time](#) (18 min). (**access**)

AI Spotlight

[Verifying facts in the age of AI – librarians offer 5 strategies](#) (The 74, 5 min). Related, [A.I. can now create lifelike videos. Can you tell what's real?](#) (New York Times, 5min) and [When A.I.'s output is a threat to A.I. itself](#) (New York Time, 13 min). (**information literacy**)

An overview of AI-driven apps for smartphones: [How to turn your old iPhone into an A.I. phone \(and skip the upgrade\)](#) (New York Times, 5 min).

[ChatGPT maker says its new AI model can reason and think 'much like a person'](#) (CNN Business, 2 min). Forbes offers tips for interacting with the new version of ChatGPT: [How to prompt the new ChatGPT: Advice from OpenAI](#) (4 min). Related, the Washington Post provides visual overview of the cost of AI chats: [A bottle of water per email: the hidden environmental costs of using AI chatbots](#) (6 min).

Tech Policy offers a deep dive into the misconceptions surrounding generative AI: [Challenging the myths of generative AI](#) (18 min).

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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