

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – November 2024

The editors of Scientific American call out the impacts of book bans in this opinion piece: [Book bans harm kids](#) (6 min). Teens in North Carolina highlight the merits of reading and concerns about book bans: [Book bans and you: How censorship will influence our future](#) (A&T Register, 3 min). A succinct summary of book bans and why access matters: [Tucson librarian talks book censorship](#) (Arizona Daily Star, 3 min). (**copyright, access**)

Challenges and restrictions on access continue in various degrees: In California, a [review board deemed potty training books inappropriate for children](#) (KTVZ, 3 min). Confusion arises with the creation of a new section for young adult books in the adult collection: [Gillette Library's 'Books Of Shame' headed to adult section](#) (Cowboy State Daily, 4 min). Also happening in Wyoming: [Library staff explain juvenile card restrictions](#) (Gillette News Record, 2 min). (**copyright, access**)

LGBTQ+ books, authors and groups continue to be targeted: [Secret library prompts investigations in Palmyra School District](#) (WGAL, 5 min) and [Houston father upset over removal of children's book featuring same-sex parents](#) (Fox26 Houston, 1 min). Related, [Is 'pornography' available at public school libraries in SLO County? Here's a reality check](#) (San Luis Obispo Tribune, 10 min). Concern about a flier in a library: [LGBTQ youth group's Nampa library flyer irks far-right legislator, who helps stir up issue](#) (Idaho Statesman, 5 min). Related, a queer school librarian offers their perspective on challenges to LGBTQ+ titles: [I'm a queer school librarian, and book bans enrage me](#) (YourTango, 14 min). (**diversity**)

States continue to leverage legislation to protect access to library materials, see New Jersey's effort to [end the book ban culture war](#) (nj.com, 5 min) and [Freedom to Read advocates notch a legal victory in Alaska](#) (Publishers Weekly, 4min). The Tallahassee Democrat covers the impact of recent legislation in Florida: [It's famous and among the most-removed books in Florida school districts. What is it?](#) (9 min). (**legislation**)

Read the PEN America school library report: [Banned in the USA: Beyond the Shelves - PEN America](#) Related, [Florida again tops the nation in school book removals, according to a report](#) (WUSF, 3 min). (**copyright**)

In a letter to the editor, a New Jersey resident provides a pointed review of Booklooks: [“BookLooks” is for Book Haters](#) (Phillipsburg, NJ News, 2 min). (**information literacy**)

Around the world: Pulitzer Prize winner: [Is ‘The Vegetarian’ inappropriate for minors? School bans spark debate](#) (Chosun Daily, 3 min) and censorship in Canada: [The right to read](#) (This, 15 min). (**access**)

The New York Times looks at how pop culture addresses moral panics and conspiracy theories: [‘Hysteria,’ ‘Stranger Things’ and the satanic panic that never goes away](#) (11 min).

Concerns about rewriting of history have emerged at the National Archives: [It’s going to take a constant fight to preserve the historical record](#) (Current Affairs, 10 min). For more context see [Longtime National Archives employees alarmed about censorship, new reporting finds](#) (WBUR, 5 min). (**copyright**)

Other types of restrictions and censorship have greater implications: [The censorship of LGBTQ+ content online corresponds with declines in Freedom for Everyone](#) (Tech Policy, 10 min). Online games: [Roblox is the latest target of NY state kids online safety bills](#) (Verge, 8 min). In Florida: [social media restriction and age verification law accused of speech violations](#) (Tallahassee Democrat, 3 min). And in Texas: [This major Texas university is allegedly banning the use of LGBTQ+ language](#) (INTO, 3 min). See also, [‘Censorship by another name’](#) (National Education Association, 8 min). (**first amendment, inclusion, diversity, access**)

The 19th provides insight on how disinformation is an ongoing concern: [Voting may be over, but this election worker is still debunking disinformation](#) (8 min). Related, Pew Research released insights and data on the online news landscape: [America’s News Influencers](#). (**disinformation, information literacy**)

AI Spotlight

Tech Policy emphasizes the importance of media literacy as AI infiltrates the online landscape: [We can’t wait for media literacy education in the age of AI](#) (5 min). The AI School Librarians Newsletter unpacks how AI can be used to spread disinformation, especially through [pink slime publications](#), and also can be used to track and identify false claims: [Battling misinformation in the age of AI](#) (7 min) -also includes lots of AI tools and other

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resources. A related issue with AI is bias: [Synthetic sycophants: Why 'yes-bots' are a problem for education](#) (Leon Furze, 5 min). Also, check out this broad look at the many aspects of AI literacy, which includes some tips: [AI literacy is a soft skill](#) (Mike Kentz, 11 min). **(information literacy)**

A thought piece from Tech Policy on the relevance of fair use and open internet to regulating AI: [To support AI, Defend the open internet and fair use](#) (11 min). **(access, copyright)**

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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