Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions
Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – December 2024

Digital Public Library of America's The Banned Book Club is soliciting reviews of your favorite banned book: Submit your "Banned Book of the Week"!

In Oregon: Does a book challenge constitute discrimination? A bill in the Oregon Legislature offers an answer (Oregon Arts, x min -this article is the last in a 3 part series on Freedom to Read in Oregon, see Part 1 and Part 2). Popular Information reports on an Ohio teacher suspended for books with LGBTQ characters in her classroom library (5 min). While in Arkansas, the parts of a new law that targets librarians and booksellers are dismissed: Judge strikes down portions of Arkansas law (New York Times, 4 min). (**censorship**, **legislation**)

In Florida, efforts against censorship: Groups urge school officials to keep health-related books in schools (Florida Phoenix, 4 min) and Citing tax dollars spent, judge urges Florida school district to settle book ban lawsuit (Tallahassee Democrat, 4 min). (**censorship**)

Looking forward: Censorship Trends For 2025, Part I and Part II (BookRiot, x min). Noted: 'Nothing's going to stop me': Florida's No. 1 book banner on 'The Daily Show' (Tallahassee Democrat, 3 min). From a teen's perspective: Freedom of expression: The journey of navigating the political landscape of banned books (HS Insider, 6 min). (**censorship**)

LGBTQ community concerned about an event at Seattle Public Library (South Seattle Emerald, 4 min). Meanwhile in Florida, Anti-LGBTQ+ lawmaker files bill to ban Pride flags from government buildings (LGBTQ Nation, 5 min). (**diversity**, **first amendment**)

John Chrastka of EveryLibrary examines the intersection of libraries and the First, Tenth, and Fourteenth Amendments (Katina Magazine, 8 min). (**first amendment**, **legislation**)

The Washington Post unpacks how a conspiracy theory becomes news: When online rumors and institutional distrust collide, you get drones (6 min). While Splinter dissects the presentation of information in news articles: Here's how the New York Times produces fake news (7 min). From The Atlantic, a look at the entanglement of media literacy and political

perspectives: [Trump's fans are suffering from Tony Soprano syndrome](#) (10 min). Mother Jones covers how [a podcast focused on dispelling conspiracies ends up embracing disinformation](#) (13 min). (**information literacy**)

More threats to curbing disinformation may surface in the coming years, see [This company rates news sites' credibility. The right wants it stopped.](#) (Washington Post, 12 min) and [Trump says he'd ban government from labeling speech as misinformation](#) (The Hill, 4 min). A new study published by the American Psychological Association identifies the need to research and define disinformation due to its societal impact: [Why misinformation must not be ignored](#) (1 hr 20 min). The Japanese government is [considering taking steps to regulate disinformation](#) (NHK World, 1 min). (**information literacy**)

On the horizon: The University of Victoria in British Columbia received a grant to [digitize rare 'hidden' trans archives](#). In the meantime, you can explore the collections in the [Transgender Archives](#). (**diversity**, **access**)

The Internet Archives' Vanishing Culture blog taps into the importance of preserving the past and providing access to that information for journalists and others doing research: [Vanishing Culture: Q&A with Philip Bump from The Washington Post](#) (10 min). On the international level, online access to print content reflects current information seeking patterns, but brings up copyright concerns: [Library Genesis: An in-depth examination of the biggest free online library in the world](#) (Oneindia News, 5 min). (**access**)

Electronic Frontier Foundation offers an array of privacy tips: [Top Ten EFF Digital Security Resources](#) (7 min). Related, MIT Technology Review provides a deep dive into biometrics: [Inside Clear's ambitions to manage your identity beyond the airport](#) (30 min) and [Apple, Android users on notice from FBI, CISA about texts amid 'massive espionage campaign'](#) (USA Today, 5 min). (**privacy**)

Also, [Google will begin tracking users' "digital fingerprints" again](#), creating identifiable profiles of users based on aggregate data across devices to benefit advertisers (Mashable, 5 min). While Google claims that privacy-enhancing technologies protect individual users, [Britain's data regulator, the Information Commissioner's Office, has criticized the move as irresponsible](#) (Guardian, 3 min). (**privacy**)

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An overview of the [impact of age verification measures](#) to protect kids online is provided by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (9 min). (**privacy**)

The Washington Post reports that the [words one uses matter to scam victims](#) and may factor into whether they report the crime (5 min). (**digital literacy**)

The new year brings new entries into the public domain. Learn more about the additions from Duke Law's [Center for the Study of the Public Domain](#) (41min) and [Public Domain Review](#) (interactive + resources). (**copyright**)

AI Spotlight

[Most Likely Machine](#) is a prototype developed by Artefact as a guide for educators, librarians and students to better understand the output, algorithms and biases behind AI.

Wired published a [visual guide](#) of ongoing copyright cases involving AI. (4 min). (**copyright**)

News coverage continues to highlight the positive and negative aspects of AI:
The New York Times dives into how scientists are leveraging one of the major concerns with AI: [How hallucinatory A.I. helps science dream up big breakthroughs](#) (11 min). In contrast, Tech Policy identifies key issues with applying AI to solve complex issues: [AI can't solve government waste – and may hurt vulnerable Americans](#) (Tech Policy, 5 min). Tech Policy also explains AI washing while calling for regulations and more consumer awareness: [Consumer protection officials should learn From OnlyFans](#) (7 min). The Conversation likens AI to junk food: [AI search answers are the fast food of your information diet – convenient and tasty, but no substitute for good nutrition](#) (6 min). (**information literacy**, **diversity**)

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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