

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – March 2025

[Elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services would be felt all over Oregon](#) (Oregon Arts Watch, 10 min) -see also the [Oregon State Library's page](#). ALA provided a [statement](#), created an [FAQ](#), and is [promoting advocacy](#) in response to the executive order cutting funds for IMLS. The New York Times reports on [library advocates rallying against federal cuts](#) (5 min). American Libraries provides a broader look at what is happening at the federal level: [Tracking the Trump Administration's attacks on libraries](#) (9 min). More on the [importance of IMLS funding](#) and how it is linked to federal law (Publishers Weekly, 7 min).

[Pro Publica](#) (14 min) and the [Washington Post](#) (9 min) dive into the implications of the flagging of information by the government. See also, this [list of words](#) being purged (New York Times, 5 min). Related, [In His Second Term, Trump Fuels a 'Machinery' of Misinformation](#) (New York Times, 11 min) (**information literacy, disinformation**)

[6 strategies to stay informed without getting overwhelmed – or misled by misinformation](#) (Conversation, 7 min). Related, a look at how [Current Affairs supports access to information](#) and calls out issues with paywalls (Internet Archive Blog, 5 min). (**information literacy**)

Book banning [continues at the federal and state levels](#), the Guardian looks at the issue in light of recent [reports from PEN America](#) (5 min). The Southern Poverty Law Center released a report on [censorship and libraries in the Deep South](#). A library uses ['de-escalation and myth busting'](#) to address book bans (Worcester Magazine, 8 min). A librarian's reacts: ['Feels like you're betraying your student.'](#) (13 min). Related, [a new study](#) shows the impact of book bans on readership (Marketing Science, 78 min). (**censorship**)

Legislation against and for censorship continues to be debated. In Oregon, [Oregon Republican lawmaker reads sexually explicit passage to call out bill that would ban book bans](#) (Oregonian, 3 min). In Iowa, a [US federal judge stops enforcement of Iowa school book ban again](#) (Jurist News, 4 min). Perspectives from Minnesota librarians on recent laws aimed at removal of library books (KARE, 5 min). In Colorado, an [injunction from the federal level](#) (Denver Post, 4 min). (**censorship, legislation**)

On a positive side: [Authors Against Book Bans helped defeat library censorship in Florida](#) (Literary Hub, 6 min) and [Moms For Liberty Is shutting down BookLooks–But why?](#) (Book Riot, 7 min). (**censorship**)

In light of ongoing book bans, a few opinion pieces about the impact and cost of censorship: [Thoughts Are Free. Banning Them Is Costly](#) (Forbes, 5 min), [Censorship harms those we should be trying to protect](#) (Boston Globe, 5 min), [The rise in book bans raises fears of suppressed voices for educators](#) (Blue Banner, 5 min) and from The Good Men Project: [The Power of Uncensored Stories: Why Diverse Voices Matter Now More Than Ever](#) (8 min). USA Today visualizes data to show that [most banned books feature people of color and LGBTQ+ characters](#) (3 min). (**censorship, access, diversity**)

In privacy news: Ars Technica reports that [Amazon is making big changes](#) that impact the privacy of Echo users (4 min). The Washington Post provides an [explainer of the changes and some tips](#) (5 min). Privacy concerns are emerging as [23andMe files for bankruptcy and seeks to find a buyer](#) (CBS News, 4 min). The Washington Post covers the issue and guides users on how to [delete their DNA data right now](#) (7 min). (**privacy**)

JD Supra reports on the issues and unconstitutional aspects of [state laws on minor's online access](#) (7 min). See also, this summary of the [latest FTC changes to COPPA](#) in the new era of children's privacy (JD Supra) 6 min). (**access, first amendment, privacy**)

The Internet Archive shares their response and related articles relating to a recent lawsuit from record labels: [Stop Playing "Hide-The-Ball"](#) (5 min). (**access, copyright**)

The New Yorker covers the librarians and archivists that are working to save government data: [The volunteer data hoarders resisting Trump's purge](#) (13 min). (**access**)

[Censorship is a Drag](#), is a new book on the current wave of censorship and its impact on diversity and access –read the [forward](#) by Emily Dabrinski (5 min). Library Punk's latest [podcast](#) highlights the work of the [Queer Liberation Library](#) (61 min). Charlatan interviews a librarian at a [queer library in Ottawa](#), which highlights the importance of access and privacy (8 min). Related, [Texas A&M drag show ban blocked by federal judge](#) (Houston Public Media, 2 min). For more on the ban and lawsuit, see this Reason article (4 min). (**diversity, access**).

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.

A look at the library as a form of economy: [▶ What If We Ran The Economy?](#) (24 minutes). [Library access to minors](#) at one library in Idaho has bigger implications for a library consortium (Coeur d'Alene Press, 7 min). Related, access to a library on the US-Canadian border is being limited: [A beloved library that united the US and Canada faces new border restrictions](#) (AP News, 8 min) -for more see this [update from CBC](#) (5 min). (**access**)

AI Spotlight

Authors Alliance covers [Thomson Reuters v. Ross: The First AI Fair Use Ruling Fails to Persuade](#) (11 min). Tech Policy provides [another look at the ruling](#) (7 min). Related, The Atlantic delves into the use of copyrighted works to train AI: [The unbelievable scale of AI's pirated-books problem](#) (13 min). (**copyright**)

AI-generated art continues to raise concerns: 404 Media reports on the [issue of generating AI images in the style of artists](#), which often goes against the artist's ethics (4 min). This New Socialist thought piece builds on that issue and links [AI art to fascism](#) (warning: contains explicit language, 20 min). (**copyright**)

From the Conversation: [AI doesn't really 'learn' – and knowing why will help you use it more responsibly](#) (x min) and [How AI can \(and can't\) help lighten your load at work](#) (x min). 404 Media reports on the implications of how AI is flooding social media: [AI slop is a brute force attack](#) (404 Media, 18 min). (**information literacy**)

A [new report from News Guard](#) (18 min) highlights how AI chatbots are being manipulated to spread propaganda -Yahoo provides a summary: [Russian disinformation 'infects' AI chatbots](#) (4 min). Related, MIT Technology Review highlights [issues and limitations with US AI content moderation models](#), including cultural context (7 min). (**disinformation**)

Tech Policy takes on the implications of AI: [The AI State is a Surveillance State](#) (11 min). (**privacy**)

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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