

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – April 2025

ALA released their annual report on [top 10 challenged books](#) (United Against Book Bans, 4 min). Access the [full ALA report](#). For a deeper dive, see PEN America's report: [From Cover to Cover: An Analysis of Titles Banned in 23-24](#) (23 min) or a summary, see [School Library Journal's take](#) (5 min). (**censorship**)

Related, United Against Books highlights an [upcoming case on censorship](#) to be decided by the Supreme Court (3 min) -see also, this [article](#) in the New York Times (7 min) and the [amicus brief from Penguin Random House](#) and USA Today's take on the [initial oral arguments](#) (5 min). In contrast, read a [community rallying behind an author](#) who was banned at a school (Contraband Camp, 6 min). Also, check out this thought piece on why [book challenges are not going away](#) (Daily Motivation News, 17 min). (**censorship**)

In response to the [termination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (ALA, 9 min) by an executive order, several states, [including Oregon](#) are suing the government (OR Department of Justice, 2 min). (**legislation**)

Legislation happening across the country: [Oregon Senate Advances Bill to Increase Difficulty of Banning Books in Schools](#) (Willamette Week, 3 min), see also the [Skanner's report](#) on the bill (2 min) and a [reader's support](#) in the Oregonian (2 min). Popverse calls out a potential bill that allows for [banning of graphic novels](#) (3 min). A new state bill in Texas may change how schools select library books and potentially lead to more bans (Houston Public Media, 6 min). (**legislation, censorship**)

The New York Time covers book censorship at the federal level: [A.C.L.U. Sues Defense Department Schools Over Book Bans](#) (3 min) and [Who's In and Who's Out at the Naval Academy's Library?](#) (9 min). Read about the [responses from staff, academics and filmmakers](#) to the removal of books at the Naval Academy (10 min). (**censorship**)

Technical.ly provides a look at [broadband as a utility](#) and key to fighting digital inequity(, 10 min). Related, an explainer of what would happen [if Section 230, the law underpinning the internet, went away](#) (Conversation, 5 min).(**equity, access**)

New report from PEN America on their initiative to fight disinformation at the local level: [Exploring How to Build Community-Level Resilience Against Disinformation](#) -includes a range of resources (48 min). (**disinformation**)

The Conversation reports on how the bankruptcy and selling of [23andMe is a privacy problem](#) and not just a genetic data issue (7 min). (**privacy**)

Privacy tips for the workplace and travel: [What U.S. Federal Employees Should Know About Workplace Surveillance](#) (Just Security, 15 min) and [How to Enter the US With Your Digital Privacy Intact](#) (Wired, 14 min). (**privacy**)

Read about [efforts to save government data](#) that is being purged by the current administration in [NPR](#) (11 min). IEEE Spectrum reports on the [efforts of digital archivists](#) to save public data (4 min). Related, [The White House frames the past by erasing parts of It](#) (New York Times, 9 min). (**access**)

Electronic Frontier Foundation covers a proposed legislation that has broader implications in terms of [internet censorship](#) (6 min). (**access, censorship**)

A new research paper published in Nature demonstrates how [misinformation can lead to the spread of disease](#) (31 min). PHYS.org looks at the [impacts of disinformation](#) on democracy (8 min). The closure of the federal Office on Foreign Disinformation is likely to allow for [more disinformation to spread](#) (New York Times, 5 min). Axios provides visuals and data on the disappearance of [fact-checking](#) in the news and on social media platforms(3 min). (**disinformation**)

The U.S. Copyright office released the [Copyright Registration Toolkit](#), which provides an overview of copyright, what is copyrightable and the registration process. (**copyright**)

Ars Technica released the first in a series on the [history of the Internet](#) (19 min). (**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.

AI Spotlight

As generative AI improves, it becomes harder to [distinguish the real from the deepfake](#) (Conversation, 5 min). The Conversation offers an explainer of the appeal of [AI-generated images](#) –and how to spot them (6 min) and insights on how AI is [enabling fraud](#) (5 min). The Press Gazette looks into the misleading [content generated from “experts”](#) (10 min). (**disinformation**)

The Brookings Institute provides an overview of how [AI can enable surveillance](#) (6 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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