

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – September 2025

Prepare for Banned Books Week: This year, Banned Books Week will take place from October 5 - October 11. The theme for 2025 is [Censorship is So 1984: Read for Your Rights](#). Banned Books Week will culminate with "Let Freedom Read" day on October 11, and the Banned Book Coalition has curated this list of [action items](#) for folks looking to stand up to censorship.

Check out these recent articles on **censorship** and **access** to information:

- [An un-American story on book bans](#) (Index on Censorship, 18 min)
- [Books to prisoners](#) (Book Riot, 18 min)
- [Part of Florida's book ban law overturned](#), based on nearly 100 years of precedent protecting First Amendment access to ideas (Conversation, 6 min)
- [The Bigger Threat to Books Than Bans](#) (Columbia Journalism Review, 6 min)
- [Kimmel suspension free speech](#) (NPR, 4 min) and Time's [opinion piece](#) (6 min)
- [Parental control expands beyond the library to the internet](#) (Electronic Frontier Foundation, 9 min).
- [Little Free Library Interactive Book Ban Map](#) (Publishers Weekly, 3 min)
- [All That Is Lost](#) - a comprehensive report from PEN America about the impact of Israeli military attacks on the Palestinian cultural landscape, including the destruction of books, libraries, universities, and cultural sites. (2 hours).

Michigan and other states are proposing bills to [require age verification to access online pornography](#) (Detroit Free Press, 5 min). More on the [issues with age verification](#) from Electronic Frontier Foundation (7 min). **access, privacy**

A look at how personal data is shared throughout the day across different devices - from the folks behind Proton [Everything You Do in a Day That Leaks Data \(And How To Fix It\)](#) (17 min). Related, an explainer from the New York Times on how the New York Police Department [tracks people throughout the day](#) (10 min). **privacy**

AI Spotlight

The iSchool at Illinois University Urbana-Champaign has dedicated the latest issue of [Library Trends](#) to exploring AI -find articles on literacy instruction, environmental issues and critical takes. Also, check out the [previous issue](#) for more articles on AI and libraries.

The Conversation explores how [older Americans are using AI](#) (5 min), the [hidden water cost of AI](#) (and how to calculate it) (10 min), and [AI-powered scams](#) (5 min) as well as how it makes [archival materials more accessible](#) (9 min). **information literacy, access**

The Atlantic looks at the economic impact of the AI hype as a prospective [AI Bubble](#) that would be worse than the Dotcom Bubble (16 min). While the New York Times provides an explainer of [what AI companies are trying to build](#) (11 min).

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists looks at how [AI misinformation is quickly distributed](#) in emergencies and offers tips to address it (9 min). Related, most states have created [laws to address deepfakes](#) (5 min). **disinformation, legislation**

OpenAI is release a [new version of Sora, a video generator](#), which will provide users access to copyrighted materials -they are forcing copyright holders to opt out of their content being included, going against the basic tenets of copyright law (Business Insider, 8 min). 404 Media highlights the [negative impacts of AI services](#) being employed to enforce DMCA Takedowns (7 min). **copyright**

News of self-harm and suicide linked to AI highlight issues with the technology. A new study confirms the trend: [ChatGPT Gives Harmful Advice to Vulnerable Teens](#) (1 min, download the [full report](#)). The LA Times looks at how [teens are drawn to AI](#) for friendship (7 min). The Jed Foundation looks at the need for policies and action to address [AI, teens and mental health](#) (10 min). Related, Tech Policy dives into the [design of chatbots](#) to be emotionally deceptive (5 min). **Information literacy**

Futurism reports on [privacy issues with OpenAI](#) -these changes are in response to users of ChatGPT causing harm to themselves and others, including suicide and murder (5 min). **privacy**

And from McSweeney's Internet Tendency a clever new tool for the digital age: [Introducing ChatPerson](#) **satire**

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.

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](#) page. A range of tools and resources relating to IF challenges and policies created by the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

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