

## Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

### Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – August 2025

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News from around Oregon:

- The Oregon Library Association released [a statement](#) addressing the updated instructional materials policy at Grants Pass School District (15 min). **first amendment**
- Penguin Random House and ACLU are celebrating the new [Freedom to Read Law](#) at Powell's Books on September 10 - rsvp required, more info [here](#)
- Oregon ArtsWatch reports on [community members speaking up](#) to keep the library open through creation of a library district (13 min). **access**

Author Mary Beard [spoke at the Bodleian Libraries](#) about the wonders and risks of libraries and as inclusive and exclusive spaces -direct access to the [lecture](#) on YouTube (50 min). While writer Rebecca Solnit tackles the [recent waves of disinformation](#) and the need to stick with the facts (Meditations in an Emergency, 12 min). **access, disinformation**

A look at [archives and memory work](#) with an interview of Zakiya Collier, director of [Archiving the Black Web](#) (Fine Books & Collections, 9 min). Prism Reports covers how [museums use Wikipedia to archive marginalized art](#) (10 min). Related, the Future Knowledge Podcast discusses [digital rights for memory institutes](#)(59 min) and this dive into [preserving Flash](#) by the Internet Archive (7 min). **access, diversity**

Some news from the latest battles against censorship at state levels: Literary groups [oppose an Iowa law](#) enabling the removal of books from school libraries (Publishers Weekly, 7 min) and a judge [strikes down key parts of Florida law](#) that led to the removal of books from school libraries (AP News, 4 min). Federal laws are leading to the prospective [removal of books at park gift shops](#) (Washington Post, 4 min). A recent [survey of Michiganders](#) shows trust in libraries and library workers despite the current wave of book banning (8 min). **censorship, legislation**

The Week unpacks the cost of e-books and impact on libraries, plus recent legislation to address the issue (5 min). The Conversation covers the [loss of government data](#), plus includes action items and resources (8 min). **access**

Surveillance has become a feature of social media and woven into daily experiences, see the [new Instagram map](#) (endgadget, 5 min), [friends tracking friends](#) (SFGATE, 15 min) and [pushback against smart glasses](#) (Washington Post, 6 min). The Washington Post examines the [issue of accountability](#) and user safety with data breaches (6 min). **privacy**

This new site [Kashi 貸し](#) gathers resources and articles about the appropriation of Japanese culture in the gaming and publishing industry under the guise of Ghibli-inspired or Orientalism. **information literacy, diversity**

From Library Journal, a look at how libraries and journalists are working together to fight disinformation (12 min). **disinformation**

## AI Spotlight

AI is often billed as an accessibility tool, but often fails to include those with disabilities in the development process. Read more about ableism and AI:

- An interview with [Ashley Shew](#) on [technoablism and AI](#) (DisLis, 41 min)
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network argues [against the use of AI](#) to create plain language (10 min).
- Conversation provides insights on [bias and impacts of AI](#) on marginalized groups, including transgender, nonbinary and disabled people (5 min)

For more perspectives on AI through the lens of social justice, check out this series of talks from the ALA's Social Responsibilities Round table: [SRRT Day of Social Justice](#) - link to the [recordings of talks](#) on YouTube. **accessibility, diversity**

The latest legal battle with copyright and AI favored the authors: ["historic" settlement coming soon in Anthropic class action](#) (Ars Technica, 3 min). Related, The Verge reports that Reddit will [block the Internet Archive](#) (4 min), while NPR shares that Boston Public Library aims to make available [a historic archive using AI](#) (4 min). **copyright, 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](mailto:lib.ifc@multco.us).

Durham County Library recently hosted [Dr. Damien Williams](#) who talked about [AI and disinformation](#) (1 hour 27 min). **disinformation**

Privacy, security and other issues with AI, especially for kids, have been the subject of several news articles:

- [Why A.I. Should Make Parents Rethink Posting Photos of Their Children Online](#) (New York Times, 9 min)
- [The New York Times wants your private ChatGPT history — even the parts you've deleted](#) (The Hill, 6 min)
- [Meta's AI rules have let bots hold 'sensual' chats with children](#) (Reuters, 8 min)

Related, Tech Policy highlights how [OpenAI is addressing safety](#) with use of AI (7 min). **privacy, security**

This interview with Alison Mudditt of Public Library of Science reveals [how AI impacts publishing](#) and research (24 min). Related, The New York Times reports on the rise of [fraudulent scientific papers](#) (8 min). **access, disinformation**

The Conversation offers insights on [making better prompts](#), ways to [better leverage AI](#) and the [challenge of spotting AI content](#). A blogger puts out the call to seek consent before sharing AI-generated info: [It's rude to show AI output to people](#) (4 min). **information literacy**

Tech Policy highlights the various ways that [AI impacts the environment](#) (7 min).

A couple of longer opinion pieces that ponder the use of and are critical of AI: [Is it worth it to use AI? Some things you should know](#) (Foundation Web DV, 29 min), [AI as technological bribery](#) (LibrarianShipwreck, 22 min) and [Questioning A.I.: What we lose when we ask tech questions instead of humans](#) (American Magazine, 25 min). One more opinion piece from the New York Times: [A.I. Is Shedding Enlightenment Values](#) (7 min). Related, The Conversation highlights how [AI impacts reading and education](#) (7 min).

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## 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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