

Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions

Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – October 2025

Banned Books Week and **censorship** articles:

- For the People captures insights on [how and why it matters to advocate for libraries](#) and offers [history of public libraries](#) is available as a zine
- [By the Numbers: Banned Books Week 2025](#) (American Libraries, 6 min)
- Judging books [by their covers](#) results in book bans (Conversation, 6 min)
- Banned Books Week displays gets [banned in Hawaii](#) (Civil Beat, 7 min)
- Forbes highlights the controversy behind [21 Banned Books](#) (22 min)
- A look at the [psychology behind book bans and censorship](#) (Psychology Today, 9 min)
- After a librarian in Wyoming who fought against censorship and lost her job was [awarded a settlement](#) (New York Times, 5 min)

ALA looks at the case that upheld [parental rights and the impacts on libraries](#) (5 min). **access**

New legislation in California is focused on protecting online [privacy with one click](#) (Washington Post, 5 min). Related, [Amazon's Ring plans to scan faces](#) (Washington Post, 5 min). Go deeper with this [think piece](#) on gender based violence, privacy, encryption, minors and feminist rights (Medium, 18 min). **privacy**

Google has added [new features](#) that protect user privacy and keep scams away (3 min). Wired looks at the [password managers in browsers](#) and offers tips (10 min). **privacy**

In this recent [episode of Future Knowledge](#), The Internet Archive delves into how they preserve government information (36 min). **access**

JSTOR provides a look at [why libraries persist](#) and how they transform (7 min). **access**

The Conversation looks at how [misinformation gets endorsed and accepted](#) (5 min). **disinformation**

AI Spotlight

Libraries and AI: In partnership with the New York Public Library, Data & Society has created a four-part series that looks at the social impact of AI: [Understanding AI](#). 404 Media reports on requests at libraries for [AI-hallucinated books](#) (404 Media, 5 min). **information literacy, disinformation**

Authors continue to fight against the use of their work by AI companies: A thriller writer [won against a tech giant](#). (New York Times, 7 min) and OpenAI is [faced with class action lawsuit](#) from authors (Publishers Weekly, 3 min). **copyright**

Concerns continue to grow about the ethical use of AI, especially by minors and with regards to mental health (warning: articles mention suicide): [ChatGPT's new parental controls leave kids at risk](#) (Washington Post, 8 min), [kids playing with AI](#) think it is real (Guardian, 18 min), and a historian on how [ethical use of AI](#) is not up to the user (7 min). For a deeper dive, listen to this podcast from the NY Times: [Trapped in a ChatGPT Spiral](#) (44 min). Also, N+1 makes the case for eschewing AI: [Large Language Muddle](#) (15 min) and Blood in the Machine argues for [not readily embracing AI](#) (8 min). **ethics, information literacy**

A look at productivity and AI: [AI-Generated "Workslop"](#) (Harvard Business Review, 11 min) and companies are [not able to explain positives](#) of AI (Financial Times, 5 min).. Another perspective from Conversation [Generative AI may be worthless](#) and that is fine (6 min). Plus a look at the [need for soft skills](#) and what that means for education (Conversation, 6 min). **information literacy**

A new study from BBC demonstrates that [AI assistants misrepresent news content](#) (4 min). **information literacy, disinformation**

Authors Alliance explores an [unexpected consequence of AI](#) on open access publishing. (5 min). **access**

Data centers supporting AI present a variety of issues, see [Futurism's report](#) (5 min). Related Business Insider offers an [interactive map](#) of data centers.

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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