Rights, Responsibilities & Reactions
Intellectual Freedom Newsletter – February 2026

IFC Book Recommendation:

The Internet Archive and Authors Alliance hosted [a book talk](#) with the author of *AI Tools, Not Gods*. Caroline De Cock provides a practical and critical look at AI, centering it as a tool and identifying the need for regulations, especially given the technology has global implications and effects work.

Access a copy of the book on the author's website: [Caroline De Cock](#)

Intellectual Freedom News

A new report from PEN America on book bans has been released: [Report warns of 'disturbing' normalization of book bans in US schools](#) (ABC News, 6 min). Access the full report: [The Normalization of Book Banning](#) (31 min). Related, a new wave of [state legislation promotes book bans in schools](#) (She Knows, 8 min). Well Sourced provides an overview of [2026 legislation impacting libraries](#) (23 min). Good news: Idaho schools [block state's 'Harm to Minors' book ban](#) (Bloomberg Law, 2 min) and New Mexico is proposing a [law prohibiting book bans](#) (Tri-City Record, 6 min). **legislation**, **censorship**, **access**

👾👾👾Library Futures created a game for navigating the tenets and chaos of intellectual freedom: [Imagine IF](#).

🍿🍿The documentary [The Librarians](#) is now available for viewing on PBS. And in honor of the recent passing of documentarian Fredrick Wiseman, check out [Ex Libris](#). **censorship**, **access**

Verge reports that Ring cancelled its partnership with Flock Safety [after surveillance backlash](#) (Verge, 6 min). Related, [Power Station](#), unpacks the [role of tech in surveillance](#) and creating the deportation machine impacting communities (39 min). **privacy**

The New York Times exposes the [loss of Indigenous health data](#) due to federal funding being cut. (3 min). **access**

Here are some [information literacy](#) tips from The Conversation which highlight how critical thinking is a key skill to resisting misinformation. (5 min). **disinformation**, **information literacy**

The U.S. Copyright office provides tips on [spotting copyright scams](#) and what to do (5 min). **copyright**, **information literacy**

Wirecutter provides an [overview of scams](#), including practical tips (13 min). The Washington post covers [AI-driven taxpayer scams](#) focused (4 min). **information literacy**, **privacy**

This [scenario at the Smithsonian](#) demonstrates how censorship and free speech can get entangled (Washington Post, 10 min). **censorship**, **first amendment**

A different type of **information literacy:** a look at the [history of environmental cues](#) and how that impacts safety in the workplace (Protocolized, 17 min).

[Fair use week](#) comes to a close, but the practice lives on! Check out an array of [articles on fair use](#) and this [helpful infographic](#). **copyright**

AI Spotlight

For AI skeptics, Library Freedom Project has a new explainer: [What's the deal with AI?](#)**.** While Time profiles [people opposing AI](#) and the various reasons why (21 min). **information literacy**

Data & Society highlights a [new report on AI literacy in the workplace](#) from the viewpoint of Black workers and community organizers in Atlanta (2 min). Related, humans are not horses or the [problem with AI doing homework](#) for students (404 Media, 7 min). The Conversation argues that the greatest impact of AI in schools is the [erosion of learning](#) (9 min). **information literacy**

AI feels [inescapable](#) on the internet (New York Times, 8 min). Learn more about turning off and opting out of AI-generative services from [Consumer Reports](#) and [Wired](#). **information literacy**

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.

The Conversation provides insight and data on the accuracy of [AI chatbots as a news source](#) (7 min). **information literacy**, **disinformation**

Mozilla is working to [combat AI issues](#), like creating trustworthy tools, advocating for governance and regulations as well as limits on datamining of copyrighted materials. (CNBC, 13 min). **legislation**

The New York Times highlights a recent study showing [health advice from AI chatbots is frequently wrong](#) (New York Times, 6 min). Related,the Center for Democracy and Technology calls out the [privacy risks with AI health tools](#) (3 min). **information literacy**, **privacy**

This New York Time video covers the [prevalence and impact of AI slop](#) in YouTube recommendations for kids (3 min). An online journal shares how they [almost got slopped by AI](#) (Coyote, 7 min). Meanwhile, Pinterest is being [flooded with AI slop](#) (404 media, 7 min). **information literacy**

Odds and ends about AI: the [moltbook hype](#) (4 min), ethical issues with [AI simulating the dead](#) (404 media, 5 min), fake images are [not new](#) (New York Times, 6 min), using AI makes folks [feel crumm](#)y (Conversation, 5 min).

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.