

Book Challenges: Resources & Readings

Background:

- Privacy Matters: <https://privacyinternational.org/learning-resources/privacy-matters>

How To Deal:

- Book Riot: *How To Fight Book Bans And Challenges: An Anti-Censorship Tool Kit*
<https://bookriot.com/how-to-fight-book-bans-and-challenges/>
- ALA OIF: *Auditing the First Amendment at Your Public Library* -
<https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/auditing-the-first-amendment-at-your-public-library/>

In the News:

- Washington Post: *'Blue' suburban moms are mobilizing to counter conservatives in fights over masks, book bans and diversity education*
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/02/09/suburban-women-voters-organize/>
- PW: School librarians have started a social media campaign advocating for #FReadom, prompted by recent book banning efforts in Texas.
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-industry-news/article/88487-texas-book-ban-prompts-school-librarians-to-launch-freadom-fighters.html>
- The Advocate: Lafayette Library Board Cuts Input From Librarians
https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/news/article_6514af02-93f3-11ec-9657-2f3253348c72.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR0-iCw2u5b6x91L2xHPPnja3K0gjSEjcz5Giuk2zEv1p7wgsBOtvl0lt34
- Patch: Yorktown Considering Removing 9 Books From School Libraries
<https://patch.com/new-york/yorktown-somers/yorktown-considering-removing-9-books-school-libraries>
- Newsday Opinion: "Masks Off, but School Wars Rage On" ([un-paywalled here](#))
<https://www.newsday.com/opinion/columnists/randi-f-marshall/covid-masks-school-boards-1.50525398>

ALA and Association Links/Resources

- Freedom to Read Foundation: For up-to-date news on censorship
<https://www.ftfr.org>
- ALA: [Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries](#)
- ALA: How to respond to challenges: <https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/respond>
- ALA: Sample Letter of response to reconsideration request
<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/complainant>

- ALA's Library Bill of Rights <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>
- The United for Libraries (ALA's division for Library Trustees, Advocates and Foundations) Intellectual Freedom Task Force has compiled two new resources to support Trustees and libraries to prepare for program, material, and access challenges:
 - Terms and Definitions Related to Intellectual Freedom & Censorship
https://www.ala.org/united/sites/ala.org.united/files/content/IF/if_censorship_terms_definitions_united_for_libraries.pdf
 - Materials Challenges: Key Library Policies to Review and Revise
https://www.ala.org/united/sites/ala.org.united/files/content/IF/materials_challenges_key_library_policies_to_review_and_revise_united_for_libraries.pdf
 - Trustee Resources for Program & Material Challenges
<https://www.ala.org/united/advocacy/challenges>

From NYLA Intellectual Freedom News:

- Yahoo: [Local Libraries Are Being Targeted by '1st Amendment Auditors', Book Challenges](#)
- NYT: [Your Librarian Wants to Challenge, Not Ban](#)
- Route Fifty: [The New Restrictions Conservative State Lawmakers are Pushing on Transgender Kids](#)
- Washington Post: [These Students Helped Overturn A Book Ban. Now They're Pushing For A More Inclusive Education](#)
- Salon: [First, the Book-Banners Came for CRT and LGBTQ. Now They're Censoring Women's History](#)
- Mid-Hudson News: [School Board Votes for Censorship](#)

In Professional Literature:

- David Lankes: The Battle for the Soul of the Library - A Response
<https://davidlankes.org/the-battle-for-the-soul-of-the-library-a-response/?fbclid=IwAR1vAoxtLCQof52Men5k6mXeq1Q88yGgeJEkvKlvaY2IOB1Reyv-cqCSJUJ>
- SLJ: What's It Like to Be the Target of A Book Banning Effort? School Librarian Martha Hickson Tells Her Story
<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=from-the-breaking-point-to-fighting-anew-school-libraria>

[n-martha-hickson-shares-her-story-of-battling-book-banning-censorship](#)

- SLJ: Censorship Stories From SLJ's Tips Hotline
<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=censorship-stories-from-SLJs-tips-hotline>
- University of Cincinnati infographics):
<https://guides.libraries.uc.edu/c.php?g=1084786&p=7908399>

Videos and Podcasts:

- WNYC:
<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/otm/episodes/on-the-media-read-the-room>
- Amanpour & Company: Kiese Laymon and Jason Reynolds on the Danger of Banning Books
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=VBEw9YWtELE&fbclid=IwAR3rKJSr4fkD1mMflpKeNWSI6BL0UI7IQP3yITzVwadNRBsjDpNETnHRcSc>

Sample Local Policies and Procedures:

- Hicksville <https://hicksvillelibrary.org/node/68559>
- Peninsula <https://www.peninsulapublic.org/SelectionAcquisitionPolicy.pdf>
- Great Neck
<https://greatnecklibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/COMPLETE-BOARD-POLICY-MANUAL.pdf>
- Baldwin: <https://www.baldwinpl.org/materials-selection-policy/>

Lawn Boy and Gender Queer/ALA Intellectual Freedom Blog Article

- ALA OIF:
<https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/lawn-boy-and-gender-queer-the-trend-toward-book-challenge>
- Infographic of a Book Challenge
<https://www.librarygirl.net/post/a-proactive-approach-to-book-challenges>
- NCAC'S Book Censorship Action Toolkit (mostly for educators)
<https://ncac.org/resource/book-censorship-toolkit>
- PRH has developed a Banned Book Resources Hub
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/articles/banned-books-resources/>

Links from the Webinar: How to Fight Book Bans: Student Strategies (NCAC) 2/28/22

- The Free Expression Educators Handbook - National Coalition Against Censorship
<https://ncac.org/resource/educator-handbook>
- Considerations & Guidelines for School Officials - National Coalition Against Censorship
<https://ncac.org/news/blog/guidelines-school-officials>
- Read With Love | PFLAG
<https://pflag.org/ReadWithLove>
- Freedom to READ
<https://padlet.com/skowalski2/freadomtoread>
- The Students' Right to Read - NCTE
<https://ncte.org/statement/righttoreadguideline/>
- Freedom of Expression Rights and the School Library - Freedom to Read
<https://www.freedomtoread.ca/articles/freedom-of-expression-rights-and-the-school-library/>