

# Intellectual Freedom Policies Community Conversation

## Session Description

- **Presenters:** *Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Standing Group, represented by Lizzie Aubrey (Southern Oregon University), Janet Calderon (Reed College), Justyne Triest (Pacific University), & Jazper Windsor (University of Washington)*
- **Description:** The DUX Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Standing Group has been working to compile resources to help support Alliance libraries experiencing intellectual freedom challenges. This community conversation is an opportunity for member staff to share their thoughts, concerns, and questions about challenges to libraries, including collection development and reconsideration policies, library spaces and exhibits, and codes of conduct. We'll incorporate your feedback to help us develop and design a resource that can best prepare member libraries to defend intellectual freedom at their institutions. Participants can expect any feedback gathered to be kept anonymous. Available methods of interaction will include chat, whiteboards, anonymous Q & A, polls, and conversation.
- **Skill Level:** Any and all
- **Alliance Program Area:** Diversity & User Experience
- **Recording:** This session **will not** be recorded.

## Definitions

- Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.
- A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others.

## Privacy Support

- All Zoom polls will be anonymous. (No collection of identifying information.)
- All Zoom whiteboards will use privacy mode to anonymize sticky note content.
  - During privacy mode, sticky notes are only visible to authors (hidden to others).
  - When privacy mode ends, sticky note content will be visible to all, but authors will not be identified.

- Privacy mode ends in two ways: (1) when the whiteboard manager ends privacy mode and (2) when the Zoom session ends.
- If participants add sticky notes after privacy mode ends, that content will **not** be anonymous.
- Privacy mode **only** affects sticky notes. Any other objects added to the whiteboard will not be anonymized.

## Zoom Poll & Whiteboard Questions

- **First poll question** (single choice):

Has your library had intellectual freedom challenges in the last year?

- yes
- no
- other (add to Chat or use Q&A)

- **First whiteboard questions:**

Answer either question that's most applicable for you.

- How do you think book bans and other forms of censorship in higher education have impacted research, scholarship, and learning at your institution?
- What concerns do you have for the future of academic freedom in your libraries?

- **Second poll question** (multiple selection):

What support as member staff would you like to see for your library if you are experiencing challenges?

- Matrix organized by state, library size, public/private institution
- List of resources by state and institution
- Peer Support/Community of Practice
- Anonymous reporting system for challenges
- Other (add to Chat or use Q&A)

- **Second whiteboard question:**

- What are some displays or exhibits that you've done or would like to do to show support or create an inclusive environment for patrons?
  - This board has a second page if folks would like to upload pictures of their displays!