

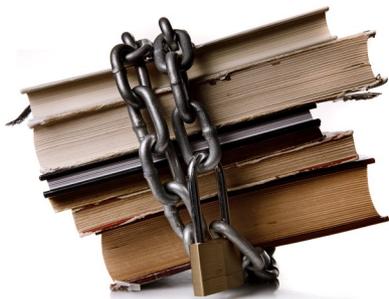
CONTINUING EDUCATION ROUNDUP

For Ohio Library Staff

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Introduction

Book Challenges and Intellectual Freedom: Can We Be Ready?

Book challenges and censorship of library and/or classroom materials is unfortunately not a new phenomenon in librarianship. There is an American Library Association supported Banned Books Week every September where we recognize and celebrate the books that are challenged. Recently there has been an uptick in book challenges and collections as anti-critical race theory (CRT) groups are turning their focus toward access to materials on social-emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, and access to books by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA+ authors. Headlines have been made in Texas, Philadelphia, Florida, Ohio, and many other states.

All of the recent media attention can induce panic. A coordinated effort to censor books that are important to creating a more diverse and accepting world is cause for concern. But, there are ways to make sure library administration and staff are prepared. The American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom has a wealth of resources including a weekly newsletter, updated Intellectual Freedom Manual, and support and guidance if a book challenge happens in your library or community. Gaining knowledge and preparing library policies and procedures can help staff and administration feel prepared and confident in the intellectual freedom process.

[Check out issues #1-#8](#) of the Continuing Education Roundup. Thanks for reading!

Email me at ekelsey@library.ohio.gov if you have ideas, articles, or topics for future issues.

Stay Safe and Stay Well,
Erin Kelsey

Roundup of Helpful Resources

- [Managing and Addressing Book Challenges in Your Community: Law, Policy, Advocacy Webinar on December 9](#) sponsored by the Freedom to Read Foundation and ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom. In this webinar panelists will discuss current campaigns to censor diverse books addressing racism and the experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQIA persons, share information about the legal precedents addressing book censorship in public schools and libraries, and discuss how people facing challenges can advocate for themselves and their staff, as well as ways to protect their collections and curriculum. A recording will be sent to those registered. Registration is \$35 for individual and \$100 for an institution. Both fees also cover an annual membership to the Freedom to Read Foundation.
- [Confidentiality and Intellectual Freedom in the Library Webinar by Webjunction](#). Hooray for Freedom! will help you assess your professional practice, give you the legal and ethical context to support democracy in your library, and help you identify practical ways to implement improvements. [Part two](#) focuses on Developing Policies in Support of Ethical Practice.
- [When the Anti-CRT Movement Comes for Collections](#) (2021) *School Library Journal*
- [Efforts to Remove Books](#) (2021) *School Library Journal*
- [Up to the Challenge: Books to Navigate Threats to Intellectual Freedom](#) (2021) *American Libraries Magazine*
- [Librarians, Educators Warn of 'Organized' Book Banning Efforts](#) (2021) *Publisher Weekly*
- A [beautiful and stirring speech](#) by Melinda Lo as she accepts the National Book Award for Young People's Literature for *Last Night* at the Telegraph Club. "I urge every one of you watching to educate yourselves about your school boards and vote in your local elections. 2022 is coming, and we need your support to keep our stories on the shelves. Don't let them erase us. Thank you." (2021) YouTube

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