

Dealing with censorship challenges at your library or need to get prepared for them? Visit our [Fight Censorship page](#) for easy-to-access resources.

Fight Censorship

With the severe uptick in local and statewide book challenges, ALA offers this clearinghouse of resources to assist library workers and library advocates in responding to and supporting others facing those challenges. Remember to report challenges to the Office for Intellectual Freedom, and let ALA know if you need assistance.



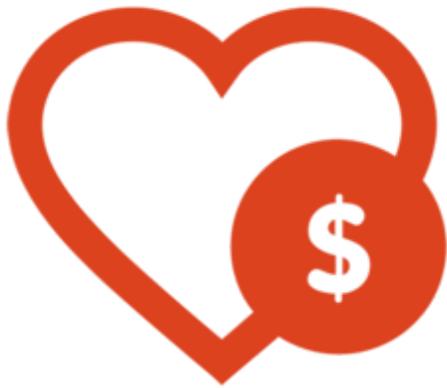
Challenge Support



Legal Support

Confidential challenge support from ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom for libraries and library workers undergoing censorship attempts, including one-on-one guidance, letters of support, and more.

The Freedom to Read Foundation, a non-profit legal and educational organization affiliated with ALA, protects and defends libraries' right to collect – and individuals' right to access – information.



Financial Support

Library workers whose employment is threatened or are facing termination due to their defense of intellectual freedom can apply for financial support through the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund.



Library Safety

The past year has seen threats directed to public and school libraries and library workers, including the forced temporary closure of public library systems due to bomb and shooting threats. With the safety of our members being our utmost priority, PLA and ALA have compiled a range of resources and knowledge to help library workers and patrons **[stay safe and prepared](#)**.

To prepare for the possibility of a threat, we recommend that libraries **[review their procedures](#)**. This may include a review of emergency procedures and preparations, as well as plans for communicating with internal (e.g. staff) and external (e.g. media) audiences.

If your library faces a threat to safety, we recommend first notifying local law enforcement and library security, if applicable. After any immediate steps are taken, we suggest you **[file a report with the FBI](#)** and notify ALA at **notify@ala.org**.

[Learn more](#)

Be Prepared

CHALLENGE
PREPAREDNESS

TIPS FROM
PRACTITIONERS

WORKING WITH THE
PUBLIC



Resources from ALA, its various offices and divisions, and outside organizations and publications to help library workers prepare for and respond to challenges to library books, materials, and services.

[Defending Intellectual Freedom: LGBTQ+ Materials in School Libraries \(PDF\)](#)

[How to respond to challenges and concerns about library resources](#)

[Resources for Trustees](#)

[Schools and Minors' rights](#)

[Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit](#)

[Preparing For and Addressing Challenges to Comics in the Library](#)

State and Local Resources

- [Alabama](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Arkansas](#)
- [California](#)
- [Colorado](#)
- [Connecticut \(PDF\)](#)

- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Iowa \(PDF\)](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
- [Louisiana](#)
- [Michigan \(PDF\)](#)
- [Missouri](#)

- [New Jersey \(PDF\)](#)
- [New York](#)
- [South Carolina](#)

- [Tennessee](#)
- [Texas](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Vermont](#)
- [Virginia \(PDF\)](#)

State-based resources from school library partners:

- California School Library Association: [Intellectual Freedom Resources](#)
- Illinois - Association of Illinois School Library Educators: [Statement on Attempts to Censor or Remove Materials from School Libraries \(PDF\)](#)
- Missouri Association of School Librarians: [MASL Challenge Statement](#)
- New Jersey Association of School Librarians: [Position Statement on Censorship in our School Libraries](#)
- Pennsylvania School Librarians Association: [Challenge Resources page](#)
- South Carolina Association of School Librarians: [Statement on censorship, the Freedom to Read, and in support of School Librarians](#)
- Virginia Association of School Librarians: [Position Statement on Censorship of Books in Virginia School Libraries \(PDF\)](#)

ALA works with state associations to support state legislative efforts and to address adverse legislation. Visit ALA's [state legislative toolkit](#) and sign up for [advocacy alerts from ALA](#) and your state's library association(s).

Getting the Word Out



[Tips on working with traditional media from ALA's Public Policy & Advocacy Office](#)

[Contacting Media: Unite Against Book Bans Toolkit](#)

[Intellectual freedom traditional and social media tips](#)

[Social media tips from ALA's Public Policy & Advocacy Office](#)

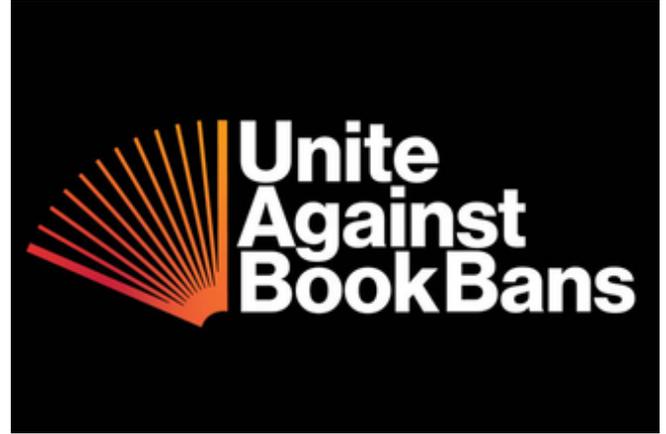
Download social media graphics from the [Banned Books Week Toolkit](#) and the [Unite Against Book Bans Action Toolkit](#).

Get Involved



Report Censorship

Don't let censorship go unchecked in your community. Defend the public's freedoms and [report challenges](#) and bans of books and other materials or services to ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.



Join Unite Against Book Bans

[Unite Against Book Bans](#) is a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship. Share resources from the UABB Action Toolkit with your community and help defend the right to read for all Americans.



Freedom to Read Foundation

Join the [Freedom to Read Foundation](#), a non-profit legal and educational organization affiliated with ALA, protects and defends libraries' right to collect – and individuals' right to access – information. LIS students receive a free on-year membership!

Support Library Workers

Here are some things that you can do now to support library workers and protect the freedom to read:

- 1) Follow** news and social media in your community and state to keep apprised of organizations working to censor library or school materials, programs, or curriculum.
- 2) Show up** for librarians and educators at school or library board meetings and speak as a library advocate and community stakeholder who supports a parent's right to restrict reading materials for their own child but not for ALL readers.
- 3) Oppose** legislation in your state that would censor materials, programs, or curriculum. Engage respectfully with your elected officials via phone, email, and social media.
- 4) Educate** friends, neighbors, and family members about [censorship](#) and how it harms communities. Share information from [Banned Books Week](#).
- 5) Write** an op-Ed or letter to the editor for your local newspaper or community newsletter. Find tips for writing your letter in the [Unite Against Book Bans toolkit](#).
- 6) Join** the [Freedom to Read Foundation](#), an organization that protects and defends the First Amendment to the Constitution and supports the right of libraries

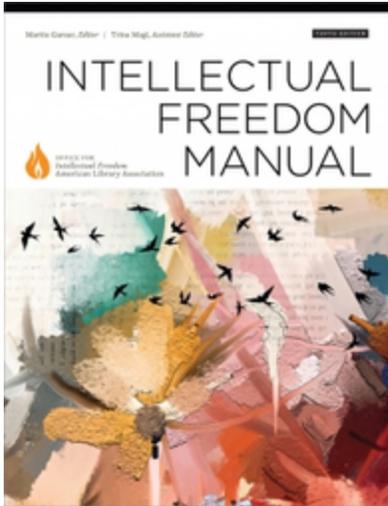
to collect – and individuals to access – information.



The **LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund** supports library workers whose employment is threatened due to their defense of intellectual freedom. [Learn more about the fund.](#) Donate if you can, or submit a request for assistance if you need it.

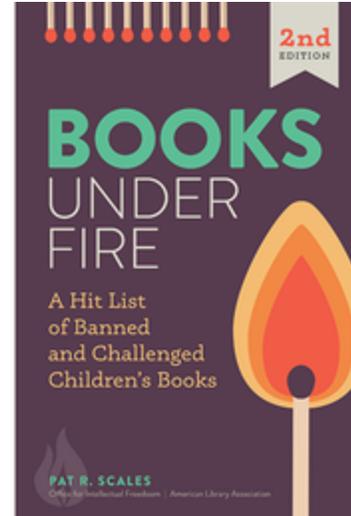
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BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM ALA >



Intellectual Freedom Manual, Tenth Edition

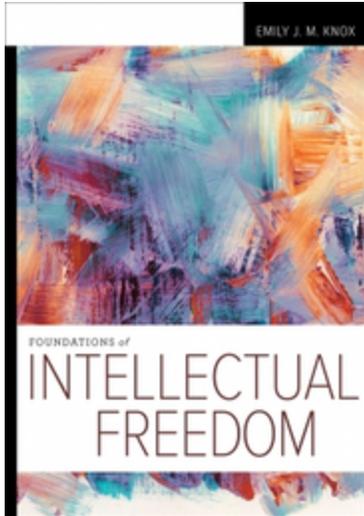
Office for Intellectual Freedom
(OIF); Martin Garnar, Editor;
Trina Magi, Assistant Editor



Books Under Fire

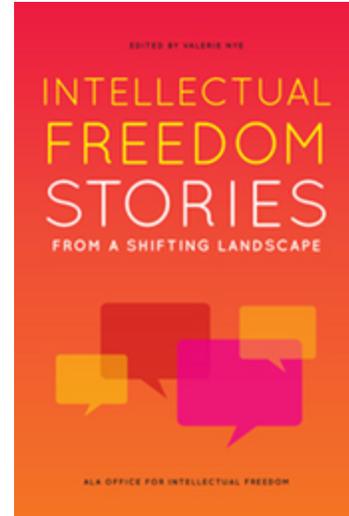
Pat R. Scales





Foundations of Intellectual Freedom

Emily J. M. Knox



Intellectual Freedom Stories from a Shifting Landscape

Valerie Nye and Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)



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