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The Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association

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Intellectual Freedom News 4/11/2025

April 11, 2025 (<https://www.oif.ala.org/intellectual-freedom-news-4-11-2025/>) Eric Stroshane (<https://www.oif.ala.org/author/eric-stroshane/>)
 Intellectual Freedom News (<https://www.oif.ala.org/category/intellectual-freedom-news/>)

Highlights

- American Library Association kicks off National Library Week with the Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2024 and the State of America's Libraries Report (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/american-library-association-kicks-national-library-week-top-10-most-challenged-books>) | ALA
- American Library Association, AFSCME Challenge Trump Administration Gutting of Institute of Museum and Library Services (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/american-library-association-afscme-challenge-trump-administration-gutting-institute>) | ALA
- Multi-state Coalition Suing to Stop Dismantling of Federal Agencies That Support Libraries, Museums, Minority-Owned Businesses, and Workers (<https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/attorney-general-rayfield-sues-trump-administration-to-protect-libraries-and-museums/>) | Oregon Dept. of Justice
- ALA Releases *State of America's Libraries 2025* Report (<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ala-releases-state-of-americas-libraries-2025-report/>) | American Libraries
- Book Rating Websites as Tools for Censorship (<https://www.oif.ala.org/book-rating-websites-as-tools-for-censorship/>) | ALA-OIF
- Four of the Big Five Publishers Sign Letter Urging Congress to Restore IMLS (<https://www.wordsandmoney.com/four-of-the-big-five-publishers-sign-letter-urging-congress-to-restore-impls/>) | Words & Money
- George M. Johnson's 'All Boys Aren't Blue' tops 2024 list of most 'challenged' US library books (<https://apnews.com/article/american-library-association-challenged-books-bans-67b0384fc61b644d95fc94abcc188d18>) | AP
- United for Libraries and Penguin Random House announce recipients of grants to U.S. rural and small libraries (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/united-libraries-and-penguin-random-house-announce-recipients-grants-us-rural-and>) | ALA

Censorship

- Maya Angelou memoir, Holocaust book among DEI purge at Naval Academy library (<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/national-international/maya-angelou-memoir-holocaust-book-among-dei-purge-at-naval-academy-library/4152421/>) | NBC Philadelphia (MD)
 - List of Books Removed from USNA Library (<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/4146516/list-of-books-removed-from-usna-library/>) | U.S. Navy (MD)
 - Book ban at military service academies draws flak from Congress (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/07/book-ban-military-academies-congress-letter/82967634007/>) | USA Today (MD)
 - PEN America on 381 Banned Books at the U.S. Naval Academy: "Books are not the enemy; ignorance is the enemy." (<https://pen.org/press-release/pen-america-on-381-banned-books-at-the-u-s-naval-academy-books-are-not-the-enemy-ignorance-is-the-enemy/>) | PEN America (MD)
 - Naval Academy names new commandant amid controversy over book ban (<https://www.capitalgazette.com/2025/04/07/naval-academy-names-new-commandant-amid-controversy-over-book-ban/>) | Capital Gazette (MD)
 - The Navy can't fight for freedom while banning books (<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/5228318-the-navy-cant-fight-for-freedom-while-banning-books/>) | Hill
- The White House Frames the Past by Erasing Parts of It (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/05/technology/trump-history-websites.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- Debate on library books heard in Michigan Court of Appeals (<https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/debate-on-library-books-heard-in-court-of-appeals/69-ba242baa-4897-4f11-b1cb-34425bd00c12>) | WZZM (MI)
- Military spouses living with censorship, fear (<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2025/apr/05/military-spouses-living-with-censorship-fear/>) | Las Vegas Sun
- Author's School Visit Postponed "Until Better Times" (<https://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/story/Authors-School-visit-Postponed-Until-Better-times>) | School Library Journal (MO)

- Elizabeth school district ordered to return banned books to library shelves – again (<https://www.cpr.org/2025/04/04/judge-orders-elizabeth-school-district-return-banned-books/>) | CPR (CO)
- NCAC Defends Fairhope Library's Freedom to Read (<https://ncac.org/news/ncac-defends-fairhope-librarys-freedom-to-read/>) | NCAC (AL)
- Fullerton city council to define allowed publications in city facilities (https://dailytitan.com/news/fullerton-city-council-to-define-allowed-publications-in-city-facilities/article_6e50310d-050b-43bf-bd7e-2b1e80422799.html) | Daily Titan (CA)
- Ohio GOP leader says staffer sent unauthorized email threatening library funding over 'specific ideologies' (<https://www.cleveland.com/news/2025/04/ohio-gop-leader-says-staffer-sent-unauthorized-email-threatening-library-funding-over-specific-ideologies.html>) | Cleveland.com (OH)
- Mississippi libraries ordered to delete academic research in response to state laws (<https://mississippitoday.org/2025/04/08/mississippi-libraries-ordered-to-delete-academic-research-in-response-to-state-laws/>) | Mississippi Today (MS)
- Parents demand action on 'inappropriate books' in Catoosa County Schools (<https://newschannel9.com/news/local/parents-demand-action-on-inappropriate-books-in-catoosa-county-schools>) | NewsChannel9 (GA)
 - Catoosa County GOP among those who spoke to school board about 'inappropriate' books (<https://newschannel9.com/news/local/parents-clash-with-catoosa-county-school-board-over-inappropriate-books-in-libraries>) | NewsChannel9 (GA)
- Suffield library commission considers removing some LGBTQ+ material from children's section (<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/local/hartford-county/new-details-emerge-in-suffield-kent-memorial-library-book-ban-proposal-controversy/520-26b673c1-0671-4c4a-8281-b05d3f1f6879>) | FOX61 (CT)
 - Hundreds join meeting of CT library commission seeking to censor LGBTQ books (<https://www.courant.com/2025/04/09/hundreds-join-meeting-of-ct-library-commission-seeking-to-censor-lgbtq-books/>) | Hartford Courant (CT)
- Radnor school board could return banned books to the high school library (<https://www.inquirer.com/education/radnor-book-ban-policy-school-board-library-20250409.html>) | Philadelphia Inquirer (PA)
- Rutherford County School Board votes to remove 16 books, retain 5 (<https://www.wsmv.com/2025/04/10/rutherford-county-school-board-votes-remove-16-books-retain-5/>) | WSMV (TN)
- Penfield schools begin evaluating challenged books (<https://www.wxixnews.org/local-news/2025-04-09/penfield-schools-begin-evaluating-challenged-books>) | WXXI (NY)

Privacy & Cybersecurity

- 'Catch and Revoke' Program Takes Off: State Department AI-Driven Visa Crackdown (<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/catch-and-revoke-program-takes-off-5348791/>) | JDSupra
- The Shocking Far-Right Agenda Behind the Facial Recognition Tech Used by ICE and the FBI (<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/04/clearview-ai-immigration-ice-fbi-surveillance-facial-recognition-hoan-ton-that-hal-lambert-trump/>) | Mother Jones
- Top I.R.S. Officials Said to Resign After Deal to Give ICE Migrants' Data (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/08/us/politics/irs-ice-tax-data-deal.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- Department of Education Issues Guidance on Student Privacy and Parental Rights, Imposes Reporting Requirements for State Educational Agencies (<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/department-of-education-issues-guidance-2571632/>) | JDSupra
- Trump Weakens U.S. Cyberdefenses at a Moment of Rising Danger (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/05/us/politics/trump-loomer-haugh-cyberattacks-elections.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- Google tools required for classwork are allegedly being used to build data profiles of each student (<https://www.tomshardware.com/software/google-chrome/google-tools-for-required-for-classwork-are-allegedly-being-used-to-build-data-profiles-of-each-student>) | Tom's Hardware

First Amendment & Civil Rights

- Cultural groups across U.S. told that federal humanities grants are terminated (<https://www.npr.org/2025/04/03/nx-s1-5350994/neh-grants-cut-humanities-doge-trump>) | NPR
 - California State Library Receives Notice of Termination of Federal Grant by IMLS (<https://www.library.ca.gov/uploads/2025/04/California-State-Library-Notice-of-IMLS-Grant-Termination-Press-Release.pdf>) | California State Library (CA)
 - WA libraries sound alarm after feds cancel \$4M grant: 'Downright cruel' (<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/politics-government/article303754751.html>) | News Tribune (WA)
- An attack on the Constitution? Why Trump's moves to punish law firms are causing alarm (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/05/trump-executive-orders-law-firms-legal-system/82660074007/>) | USA Today
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- They had left their DEI roles. Trump still fired them (<https://www.sdpb.org/2025-04-07/they-had-left-their-dei-roles-trump-still-fired-them>) | NPR
- Manipulated video of Coppell ISD 'political fodder' in 'school choice' fight, filing says (<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2025/04/07/manipulated-video-of-coppell-isd-political-fodder-in-school-choice-fight-filing-says/>) | Dallas Morning News (TX)
- Trump Signs Orders Punishing Those Who Opposed His 2020 Election Lies (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/09/us/politics/trump-executive-orders-law-firm-krebs.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- PEN America and Maryland ACLU Argue in Legal Filing that U.S. Education Department Policies Will Turbocharge Book Bans and Expand Censorship (<https://pen.org/press-release/pen-america-and-maryland-aclu-argue-in-legal-filing-that-u-s-education-department-policies-will-turbocharge-book-bans-and-expand-censorship/>) | PEN America
- 'Citizenship won't save you': Free speech advocates say student arrests should worry all (<https://www.aspenpublicradio.org/2025-04-08/citizenship-wont-save-you-free-speech-advocates-say-student-arrests-should-worry-all>) | NPR
- ACLU files suit to block Alien Enemies Act deportations (<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5238787-acu-sues-trump-administration/>) | Hill
- ACLU Condemns House Passage of Anti-Voter SAVE Act, Calls on Senate to Reject It (<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-condemns-house-passage-of-anti-voter-save-act-calls-on-senate-to-reject-it>) | ACLU
- ACLU Files Lawsuit in Texas to Block Removals Under Alien Enemies Act (<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-files-lawsuit-in-texas-to-block-removals-under-alien-enemies-act>) | ACLU

Academic Freedom & Student Speech

- Trump Administration Freezes \$1 Billion for Cornell and \$790 Million for Northwestern, Officials Say (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/08/us/politics/cornell-northwestern-university-funds-trump.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- Academic freedom in the US is under threat – universities of the world, unite! (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/apr/09/universities-lies-truth-columbia-harvard-princeton>) | Guardian
- Senate Panel Demands Information About Gaza Protest Group at Columbia (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/09/nyregion/columbia-northwestern-gaza-congress.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- Statement on the Academic Freedom and Independence of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education (<https://politicalsciencenow.com/statement-on-the-academic-freedom-and-independence-of-u-s-institutions-of-higher-education/>) | Political Science Now
- Trump Administration Cuts Research Funding, Claiming It Creates 'Climate Anxiety' (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/09/climate/trump-noaa-princeton-climate-research.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
- Encouraging Harvard to Resist (<https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2025/04/encouraging-harvard-to-resist>) | Harvard Magazine

Legislation

- Nevada legislative committees advance education-related bills (<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2025/apr/05/nevada-legislative-committees-advance-education-re/>) | Las Vegas Sun (NV)
- Bill bans book banning (<https://www.kolotv.com/2025/04/08/bill-bans-book-banning/>) | KOLO (NV)
- Texas lawmaker, librarians discuss Senate Bill 13, which would guard against inappropriate books in public schools (<https://www.kwtv.com/2025/04/07/special-report-lawmakers-librarians-discuss-senate-bill-13-seeking-guard-against-inappropriate-books-public-schools/>) | KWTX (TX)
- The Florida Legislature could change the rules for how schools can evaluate challenged books (<https://www.wlrn.org/government-politics/2025-04-08/the-florida-legislature-could-change-the-rules-for-how-schools-can-evaluate-challenged-books>) | WLRN (FL)
 - Here's why Florida's book challenge law keeps changing every year (https://www.suncoastnews.com/news/here-s-why-florida-s-book-challenge-law-keeps-changing-every-year/article_06cfa46e-7165-4185-a124-dc82514f9cbc.html) | Suncoast News (FL)
- N.C. Senate bill to challenge state Supreme Court ruling on release of student disciplinary records (<https://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2025/04/university-sb-195>) | Daily Tar Heel (NC)
- Bill banning diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives goes to full House of Delegates (<https://wvmetronews.com/2025/04/08/bill-banning-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-initiatives-goes-to-full-house-of-delegates/>) | WV Metro News (WV)
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- Online protections advance despite First Amendment concerns (<https://nebraskapublicmedia.org/en/news/news-articles/online-protections-advance-despite-first-amendment-concerns/>) | Nebraska Public Media (NE)
- Florida lawmaker Randy Fine's attempt to ban pride flags falls flat (<https://www.queerty.com/florida-lawmaker-randy-fines-attempt-to-ban-pride-flags-falls-flat-20250409/>) | Queerty (FL)

State & Local Governance

- In face of Trump's order to ban DEI in public schools, divides form in New England (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/04/09/metro/mass-nh-dei-trump-schools/>) | Boston Globe
- Pennsylvania Says Schools Already Comply with Civil Rights Laws and Are Not Ordered to Scrap DEI (<https://buckscountybeacon.com/2025/04/pennsylvania-says-schools-already-comply-with-civil-rights-laws-and-are-not-ordered-to-scrap-dei/>) | Bucks County Beacon (PA)

Net Neutrality & Broadband Access

- Let your voice be heard: Help shape FCC regulations (<https://www.wtnh.com/news/let-your-voice-be-heard-help-shape-fcc-regulations/>) | WTNH
- How the FCC could change under more White House control (<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2025/04/how-the-fcc-could-change-under-more-white-house-control/>) | Federal News Network
- FCC seeks input on 'Delete, Delete, Delete' initiative (<https://www.wpri.com/on-air/fcc-seeks-input-on-delete-delete-delete-initiative/>) | WPRI

Social Media & AI

- U.S. says it is now monitoring immigrants' social media for antisemitism (<https://www.npr.org/2025/04/09/g-s1-59149/immigrants-social-media-antisemitism-dhs>) | NPR
- The worries about AI in Trump's social media surveillance (<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/digital-future-daily/2025/04/08/the-worries-about-ai-in-trumps-social-media-surveillance-00279255>) | Politico
- Meta whistleblower to testify before Senate panel that Facebook worked "hand in glove" with Chinese government to censor posts (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/meta-whistleblower-testimony-senate-judiciary-subcommittee/>) | CBS News
 - Meta whistleblower alleges company worked with China on censorship (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4grrwvnl1yo>) | BBC

Journalism & Media

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Disinformation & Media Literacy

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- Why academics must speak out against Trump and disinformation (<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/april-2025/trump-disinformation/>) | Policy Options
- Kennedy Offers Qualified Support for Measles Vaccination (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/09/health/kennedy-offers-qualified-support-for-measles-vaccination.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>) | New York Times
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- U.S. now world's leading disinformation factory (https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/u-s-now-worlds-leading-disinformation-factory/article_98a95dc8-3f9a-52bf-961a-4e2b716f08a0.html) | Waterloo Region Record

International

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- Taiwan says China using generative AI to ramp up disinformation and 'divide' the island (<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taiwan-says-china-using-generative-ai-ramp-up-disinformation-divide-island-2025-04-08/>) | Reuters (Taiwan)
- China censors some tariff-related content on social media (<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-censors-some-tariff-related-content-social-media-2025-04-09/>) | Reuters (China)
- The 10 most-challenged books in U.S. libraries have faced complaints in Canada, too (<https://www.cbc.ca/lite/story/1.7504578>) | CBC (Canada)
- Govt bans 2 books 'potentially detrimental to public order' (<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2025/04/10/govt-bans-2-books-potentially-detrimental-to-public-order/>) | FMT (Malaysia)

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 - Majority of attempts to ban books in US come from organised groups, not parents (<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/apr/08/majority-of-attempts-to-ban-books-in-us-come-from-organised-groups-not-parents>) | Guardian
 - New report shows it's largely officials and organizations demanding books be banned – not parents (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/book-bans-parents-library-report-b2729102.html>) | Independent
 - Here's the book that topped the 2024 list of most 'challenged' US library books (<https://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory/george-johnsons-boys-blue-tops-2024-list-challenged-120552207>) | ABC News
 - 'All Boys Aren't Blue' tops the ALA's list of most challenged books (<https://www.npr.org/2025/04/07/nx-s1-5354808/banned-books-library-most-challenged>) | NPR
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 - The ALA Sues Over the Scuppering of the IMLS (<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/97502-the-american-library-association-sues-over-scuppering-of-the-insitute-of-museum-and-library-services.html>) | Publishers Weekly
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- The First Amendment is under attack – and silence is not neutrality (<https://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2025/04/the-first-amendment-is-under-attack-and-silence-is-not-neutrality>) | UB Spectrum
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- Celebrating National Library Week at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (<https://www.wcnc.com/article/entertainment/television/charlotte-today/celebrating-national-library-week-at-charlotte-mecklenburg-library/275-c3655d4a-09b2-4586-ae67-7cbb1a173c0b>) | WCNC
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- NYCLU Statement on Hands Off! Rallies Across New York (<https://www.nyclu.org/press-release/nyclu-statement-on-hands-off-rallies-across-new-york>) | NYCLU
- The right's 60-year war on higher education (<https://www.salon.com/2025/04/06/the-rights-60-year-on-higher-education/>) | Salon
- The War on "Woke" and the Attack on Critical Race Theory (<https://africanarguments.org/2025/04/the-war-on-woke-and-the-attack-on-critical-race-theory/>) | African Arguments
- Lack of racial knowledge predicts opposition to critical race theory, new research finds (<https://www.psypost.org/lack-of-racial-knowledge-predicts-opposition-to-critical-race-theory-new-research-finds/>) | PsyPost
- As Trump Tramples Freedoms, ACLU Teaches how to Stand up for Your Rights (<https://www.aclunc.org/blog/trump-tramples-freedoms-aclu-teaches-how-stand-your-rights>) | ACLU
- When Trump Is Done, What Will Remain of Public Education? (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/08/opinion/trump-k-12-education.html>) | New York Times
- Trump Admin. Funding Cuts Could Hit Efforts to Restore School Libraries (<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/trump-admin-funding-cuts-could-hit-efforts-to-restore-school-libraries/2025/04>) | EducationWeek
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- Key Considerations as K-12 Leaders Navigate Minefield Involving DEI, Federal Funding, and Potential Investigations (<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/key-considerations-as-k-12-leaders-5577768/>) | JD Supra
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- The Education Department Asked for Reports of DEI. It Might Get Something Else (<https://www.the74million.org/article/the-education-department-asked-for-reports-of-dei-it-might-get-something-else/>) | 74

ALA News (<https://www.ala.org/news>)

- IMLS Cuts Put America's Public Libraries at Risk (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/imls-cuts-put-americas-public-libraries-risk>)
- 2024 Preservation Week® Webinar: Historical Newspapers in Public Libraries (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/2024-preservation-weekr-webinar-historical-newspapers-public-libraries>)
- Teresa Anderson named executive director of the Association of College and Research Libraries (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/teresa-anderson-named-executive-director-association-college-and-research-libraries>)
- AASL Opens Distinguished Service Award Nominations (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/aasl-opens-distinguished-service-award-nominations>)
- Core Webinar – Best of Core Forum: Looking Beyond Your Digital Repository; Metadata for Storytelling (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/core-webinar-best-core-forum-looking-beyond-your-digital-repository-metadata>)
- Core Announces 2025 Ballot Measure Outcomes (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/core-announces-2025-ballot-measure-outcomes>)
- Alexia Hudson-Ward elected ACRL vice-president/president-elect (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/alexia-hudson-ward-elected-acrl-vice-presidentpresident-elect>)
- AASL Announces Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) Collection Development Grants (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/aasl-announces-jewish-american-heritage-month-jahm-collection-development-grants>)
- Announcing the 2025 Core Election Results (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/announcing-2025-core-election-results>)
- Dawkins elected as 2026-2027 AASL President (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/dawkins-elected-2026-2027-aasl-president>)
- Jamar Rahming Named PLA 2026-2027 President (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/jamar-rahming-named-pla-2026-2027-president>)
- A library manager's handbook for well-being (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/library-managers-handbook-well-being>)
- Neal elected 2025-2028 ALA treasurer (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/neal-elected-2025-2028-ala-treasurer>)
- McCauley wins 2026-2027 ALA presidency (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/mccauley-wins-2026-2027-ala-presidency>)
- Sara Turner awarded the 2025 Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/sara-turner-awarded-2025-lemony-snicket-prize-noble-librarians-faced-adversity>)
- Deadline Extended to April 30: Application open for ALA Endowment Trustee position (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/deadline-extended-april-30-application-open-ala-endowment-trustee-position>)
- Core Webinar – Best of Core Forum: Mapping Your Skill Sets: Understanding and Using the Core Competencies for Cataloging & Metadata Professionals (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/core-webinar-best-core-forum-mapping-your-skill-sets-understanding-and-using-core>)
- Public Libraries magazine announces 2024 Feature Article Contest winners (<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/04/public-libraries-magazine-announces-2024-feature-article-contest-winners>)

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