



Everyone's Problem:

Cross-sectoral responses to content challenges and bans

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Today's topics

- Current landscape
- Danger zones
- Navigating challenges and bans
- Shifting the course
- Q&A



Current landscape

- Not a new source of tension in the US
- Restricting access and tracking user data are often intertwined pressures
 - Ex. Connecticut Four
- Libraries might be the most visible entities, but publishers, vendors, and researchers are impacted, too



Current landscape

Challenges

- Attempt to remove or restrict access
- Based on objections (group or indiv.)
- Can temporarily disrupt access during evaluation process

Bans

- Content is removed
- Decisions made by administrators
- YA/Children's books are major target
- Impacts print and e-access

Soft Censorship

- Content is acquired but access is limited
- Effort to avoid a challenge or ban
- Primarily print



Danger zones

- Limited access to books/resources
- Monitoring access activity
- Restricting library collections and assigned texts
- Undermining libraries' abilities to fulfill mission and vision
- Disrupting knowledge ecosystem
- Self-censorship?

Navigating challenges and bans

Libraries are....

Updating collection policies



Integrating new wayfinding guidance for print collections

Engaging in advocacy to resist challenges and bans

What's missing?

Shifting the course



Publishers	Establish their own policies on challenge/ban responses; be transparent around how these activities are impacting their output
Vendors	Establish their own policies on challenge/ban responses; maximize access to content via granular access controls; openly discuss library needs and authentication, aggregator, discovery layer, and e-resource configuration options
Researchers	Share how challenges and bans impact their work; incorporate the researcher's voice is essential for more holistic advocacy

Shifting the course

Minimal collection of user data

Clear, posted policies about how challenges are evaluated



System configuration options that support temporary and granular adjustments (title-level vs. whole database)

Incorporate researcher impact into advocacy efforts

Thank you!

Any questions?

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Resources

Topic	Link
Digital collections aren't immune to challenges	https://www.oif.ala.org/digital-collections-are-not-immune-to-book-challenges/
Book Ban Data (US)	https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/book-ban-data
Book Ban FAQ	https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/banned-books-qa
Connecticut Four	https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2008/09/americas-most-dangerous-librarians/





Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)