Banning books silences stories and discussions. Censorship succeeds when no one talks about it. Raise your megaphone and speak out for banned books! Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.

**CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS**

**DEFINITIONS**

**CHALLENGE**
attempt to remove or restrict materials, based on objections from a person/group

**BAN**
removal of materials based on content

**WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES TO MATERIALS?**

- 42% Patrons
- 32% Parents
- 14% Board/administration
- 6% Librarians/teachers
- 3% Political and religious groups
- 2% Elected officials
- 1% Students

Statistics based on 318 responses

**WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?**

- 56% Public libraries
- 25% School (curriculum and classrooms)
- 16% School libraries
- 2% Academic libraries
- 1% Special libraries/other

**BEYOND BOOKS**

Books aren’t the only items threatened with censorship.

The American Library Association tracks challenges to materials and services in libraries, schools, and universities. In some cases, community members want an author’s speaking engagement canceled or an LGBT display taken down. Other times, patrons would like certain DVDs or magazines removed from shelves. In 2017, 491 materials were challenged or censored.

Breakdown of 354 challenges tracked in 2017:

- 67% Books
- 18% Databases, magazines, films, games
- 17% Programs
- 7% Displays
- 4% Other

**WHY ARE MATERIALS CHALLENGED?**

- Violence
- Sexually explicit
- Religious viewpoint
- LGBT
- Misdemeanor
- Mental illness
- N-word
- Sex education
- Profanity
- Perpetuating stereotypes
- Propaganda
- Politically biased

Statistics on censorship are compiled by:

Office for Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association