CENSORSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the American Library Association tracked the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago; 2,571 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 1,858 in 2021. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?

- **30%** Parents
- **28%** Patrons
- **17%** Political/religious groups
- **15%** Board/administration
- **3%** Librarians/teachers
- **3%** Elected officials
- **4%** Other
  (Includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

Statistics based on 1,207 cases with known initiators.

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?

- **48%** Public libraries
- **41%** School libraries
- **10%** Schools
- **1%** Higher education libraries and other institutions

Statistics based on 1,264 cases with known locations.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 1,269 challenges in 2022. Here’s the breakdown:

- **82%** Books, graphic novels, and textbooks
- **6%** Displays and exhibits
- **4%** Programs and meeting rooms
- **1%** Films
- **7%** Other
  (Includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, artwork, social media, music, pamphlets, student publications, and reading lists)

CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR

- **2,571** 2022
- **1,858** 2021
- **305** 2003
- **339** 2012
- **223** 2020

CENSORSHIP STATISTICS

COMPiled BY:

OFFICE FOR

Intellectual Freedom

American Library Association
The American Library Association tracked 1,269 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2022. Of the 2,571 unique titles that were challenged or banned in 2022, here are the top 13 most challenged.

1. **GENDER QUEER** by Maia Kobabe
   - REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

2. **ALL BOYS AREN’T BLUE** by George M. Johnson
   - REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

3. **THE BLUEST EYE** by Toni Morrison
   - REASONS: rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content

4. **FLAMER** by Mike Curato
   - REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

5. **LOOKING FOR ALASKA** by John Green
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content

6. **THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER** by Stephen Chbosky
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity

7. **LAWN BOY** by Jonathan Evison
   - REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

8. **THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN** by Sherman Alexie
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity

9. **OUT OF DARKNESS** by Ashley Hope Perez
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit

10. **A COURT OF MIST AND FURY** by Sarah J. Maas
    - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit

11. **CRANK** by Ellen Hopkins
    - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs

12. **ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL** by Jesse Andrews
    - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity

13. **THIS BOOK IS GAY** by Juno Dawson
    - REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit