CENSORSHIP
BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023, the American Library Association documented the highest number of titles targeted for censorship since ALA began compiling data more than 20 years ago. 4,240 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 2,571 targeted in 2022. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks

WHO INITIATES ATTEMPTS TO CENSOR BOOKS?
- 28% Patrons
- 24% Parents
- 21% Pressure groups
- 13% Board/administration
- 3% Librarians/teachers/staff
- 2% Elected officials/government
- 9% Other/unknown

WHERE DO CENSORSHIP ATTEMPTS TAKE PLACE?
- 54% Public libraries
- 39% School libraries
- 5% Schools
- 2% Higher education/other

BOOKS AND BEYOND
ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 1,247 censorship attempts in 2023. Here’s the breakdown:
- 76% Books, graphic novels
- 5% Displays
- 4% Access (Library closures, funding, bomb threats)
- 4% Hate crimes (Vandalism, theft of materials representing marginalized groups)
- 3% Programs
- 2% Films
- 6% Other

CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE
The unparalleled number of unique titles targeted in 2023 marked a 65% increase over 2022. During the two decades prior to 2021, the average number of unique titles targeted per year was 273.

NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>4,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics based on 954 cases.

Statistics based on 1,247 cases with known locations.
The American Library Association documented 1,247 attempts to censor materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2023. Of the 4,240 unique titles that were challenged or banned in 2023, here are the top 10 most frequently challenged.

**TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2023**

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 PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER**
   - by Stephen Chbosky
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit

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

5. **ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL**
   - by Jesse Andrews
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs, rape, LGBTQIA+ content

6. **SOLD**
   - by Patricia McCormick
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, rape

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

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

9. **TRICKS**
   - by Ellen Hopkins
   - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs, rape, LGBTQIA+ content

10. **LET’S TALK ABOUT IT**
    - by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan
    - REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, sex education, LGBTQIA+ content