

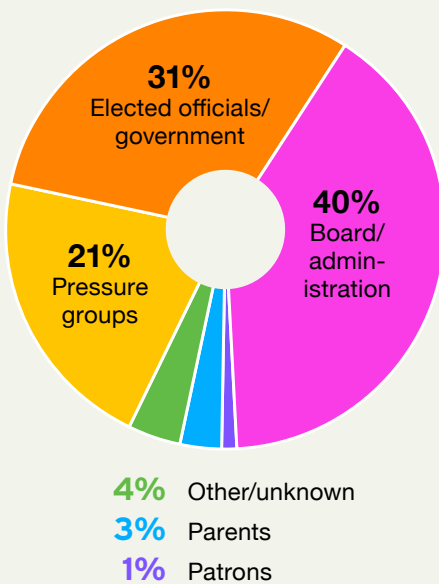
# CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025, the American Library Association documented the second highest level of book censorship attempts ever and the continuation of an organized effort to systematically suppress voices and ideas that began in 2021. Last year, **4,235 unique titles** were challenged, only five titles short of the highest number ever documented by ALA and significantly exceeding the annual average of 273 unique titles over the period from 2001–2020.

*LEARN MORE AT [ALA.ORG/BBOOKS](https://www.ala.org/bbooks)*

## WHO CHALLENGES BOOKS

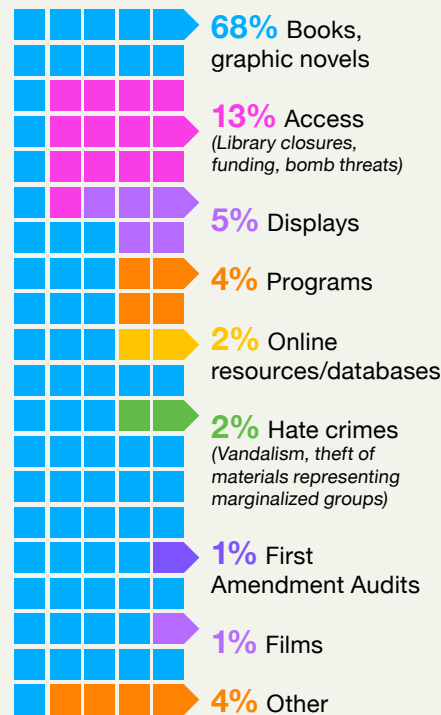
Nearly **92% of censorship attempts** in 2025 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers swayed by them. This marks a 20-point increase over 2024.



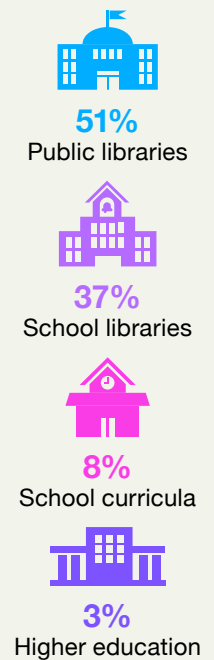
Statistics based on 8,596 total titles targeted for censorship.

## BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **713 distinct censorship incidents** in 2025. Here's the breakdown:



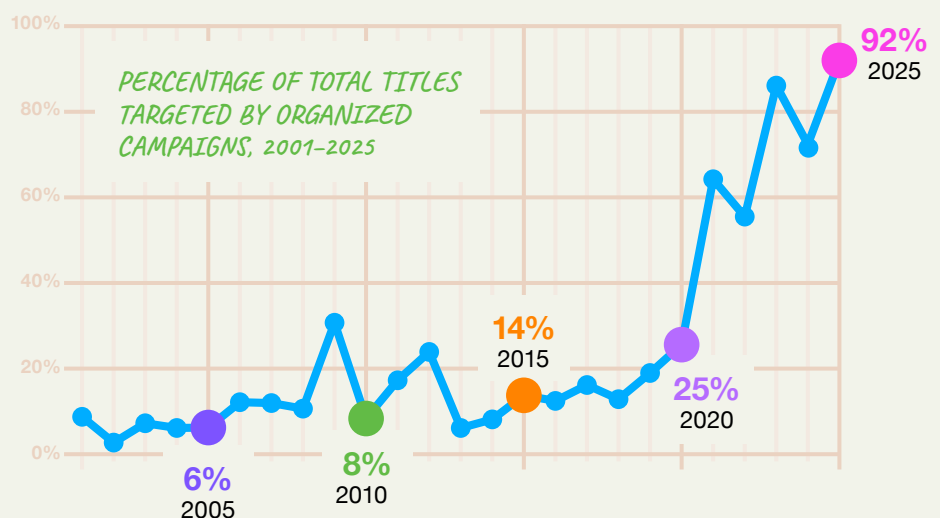
## WHERE CHALLENGES HAPPEN



Statistics based on 696 incidents with known locations and include challenges to all materials and services. About 1% of censorship attempts took place in other locations.

## CENSORSHIP TRENDS

The majority of library censorship remains tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the decision makers they influenced targeted **7,884 total titles** in 2025. From 2001–2020, this constituency tried to remove an average of 46 titles per year. From 2021–2025, they targeted an average of 5,238 total titles annually.



CENSORSHIP  
STATISTICS  
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR  
Intellectual Freedom  
American Library Association

# TOP 11 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2025

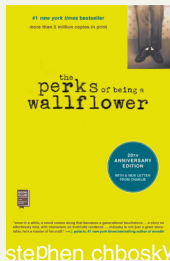
The American Library Association documented **487 attempts to censor** books at libraries, schools, and universities in 2025. The reasons most commonly cited for censorship were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA+ representation; covering topics of race, racism, social justice, and diversity; and presenting political or religious views with which the challengers disagreed. Of the **4,235 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2025, here are the top 11 most frequently targeted.

1



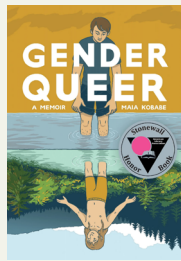
**SOLD**  
by Patricia McCormick  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/soldBR](https://bit.ly/soldBR)

2



**THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER**  
by Stephen Chbosky  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/wallflowerBR](https://bit.ly/wallflowerBR)

3



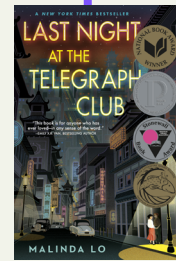
**GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR**  
by Maia Kobabe  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/genderBR](https://bit.ly/genderBR)

4

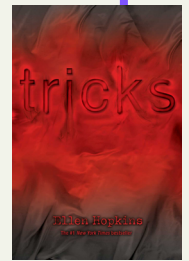


**EMPIRE OF STORMS**  
by Sarah J. Maas  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/empireofstormsBR](https://bit.ly/empireofstormsBR)

5  
(TIE)

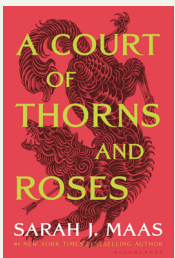


**LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB**  
by Malinda Lo  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/telegraphclubBR](https://bit.ly/telegraphclubBR)



**TRICKS**  
by Ellen Hopkins  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/tricksBR](https://bit.ly/tricksBR)

7

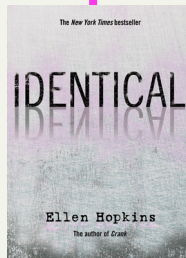


**A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES**  
by Sarah J. Maas  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/thornsBR](https://bit.ly/thornsBR)

8  
(TIE)



**A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**  
by Anthony Burgess  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/clockworkorangeBR](https://bit.ly/clockworkorangeBR)



**IDENTICAL**  
by Ellen Hopkins  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/identicalBR](https://bit.ly/identicalBR)



**LOOKING FOR ALASKA**  
by John Green  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/alaskaBR](https://bit.ly/alaskaBR)



**STORM AND FURY**  
by Jennifer L. Armentrout  
Why this book matters:  
[bit.ly/stormBR](https://bit.ly/stormBR)



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*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association

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