



FUTURE LIBRARIANS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Who We Are

Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom, or FLIF, is a student organization at the University of Alberta. As graduate students pursuing Master's degrees in Library and Information Studies, the group's mission is to encourage freedom of expression and social responsibility, while rejecting censorship, within the library and information studies field and beyond.

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Update on Book Donations:

Since our last newsletter, FLIF has donated an additional 173 books to the Edmonton General Hospital, and 389 books to the University of Alberta Hospital! FLIF has now donated **1513** books since September 2025!

Thank You for Supporting our Freedom to Read Week Book Sale!

On February 24th and 26th, we hosted a Freedom to Read Week Book Sale in the Rutherford Library at the University of Alberta, which resulted in **435** books sold and **\$1,775** raised and donated to United for Literacy! Thank you again to all of those who supported this cause, and stay tuned for FLIF's next big events!

Local News

Alberta school boards remove dozens of library books as provincial ban in effect

By: Jack Farell

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This article discusses the impact of the Alberta provincial school ban, including a by-the-numbers look at how many books different school boards have removed to comply with the ministerial order. It also provides information about how the book bans are intended to work, and who ultimately has the final say on what books are removed.

By the book: Alberta schools pull at least 160 titles from shelves to meet provincial order

By: Janet French

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By providing a list of the books that have been removed from school libraries to comply with the ministerial order, this article shows the impact the removal of books has had on both schools and authors. This article provides a range of viewpoints by discussing the feelings of authors, students, and parent organizations. It also identifies how the books impacted by the bans are disproportionately written by marginalized communities. Finally, this article forces the reader to ask themselves what they define as censorship.

Edmonton City Council opposing UCP library book vetting for youth

By: Eric Bowling

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This article discusses the recent bill that was proposed to legislature which will restrict the material available to youth at public libraries in Alberta. It discusses how this bill will impact the autonomy of libraries and the resources that will need to be used. This article also touches on the issues with the wording of the proposed bill and how this could impact BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities.

National News

Book banning in Canada is quiet, systemic, and more effective than ever

By: Ira Wells

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This article introduces the history of book banning in Canada while discussing some contemporary examples. It also identifies the intersection between the calls from liberals and conservatives to ban books, and how both arguments hinge on child safety. Finally, it describes the nuance between book banning, self-censorship, and weeding.

29 books that were challenged in Canada

By: CBC Books

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This 2025 article lists 29 books that have been challenged in Canada, with information about each title and the reasons why they were challenged.

The rising demands for censorship: Final report on challenges faced by Canadian libraries in 2025

By: James L. Turk

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This report provides a more in-depth look at book challenges in 2025, as it is a consolidation of all records of challenges reported by Canadian libraries. In brief, there were 116 challenges in public libraries, 384 in school libraries, and 2 in academic libraries in 2025. The report concludes with a list of the 10 most challenged titles in Canadian libraries in 2025.

International News

Censorship by the numbers: Banned books data

By: American Library Association

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The American Library Association (ALA) tracks American book bans and recently released new data regarding challenges and bans for 2025. In addition to providing historical trend data back to 2016, the ALA also breaks down who challenges books, where challenges happen, and how you can take action to prevent book banning and censorship.

The Kremlin banned these books. You can find them in a New York library

By: Sarah Chatta

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This article discusses the Tamizdat Project, which is a collection of contraband Russian literature that was originally banned in the Soviet Union and is still banned in Russia today. Despite being banned, these books continue to be smuggled in and out of Russia, and thousands are now held at Hunter College. This collection demonstrates that, banned or not, books can still be acquired by eager readers.

Bannings and burnings in history

By: Freedom to Read

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Banning books is not a new phenomenon; beginning as early as 259 B.C.E., there is a long history of banning, and sometimes even burning, books which are deemed by some as “controversial”. From Homer and Shakespeare to Walt Whitman and Beatrix Potter, this is a quick read that examines book banning with a global lens.

An international archive of censored literature

By: Banned Books

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This website is a globally-scoped, public catalogue that tracks book banning by governments, schools, and libraries worldwide. Each ban or challenge is citation-backed, and the data can be filtered by country and type of ban. The project’s mission is to “make censorship visible” by creating a free, centralized resource for all book bans, both current and historical.

Scholarly Spotlight

Yeon, J., & Dudak, L. T. (2025). Potential for trauma in public libraries experiencing book banning and material challenges. *Public Library Quarterly*, 44(5), 539–563.

[Read Here](#)

“Material challenges in public libraries are at an all time high while also possessing a huge political and emotional weight. As such, library workers are defending against book banning in larger numbers, and their very work is coming into public scrutiny and questioning. In such stressful times, the potential for trauma from the library workplace is higher and more charged. This paper lays the groundwork for how trauma and materials challenges have the potential to interact in the library workplace, especially for those from marginalized communities. It also proposes a trauma cycle for deeper understanding of trauma during material challenges, and highlights the need for future work, study, and support in these areas.”

Abstract from publisher



FLIF

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