

Selected images and citations from the May 2024
Grit City Think & Drink:

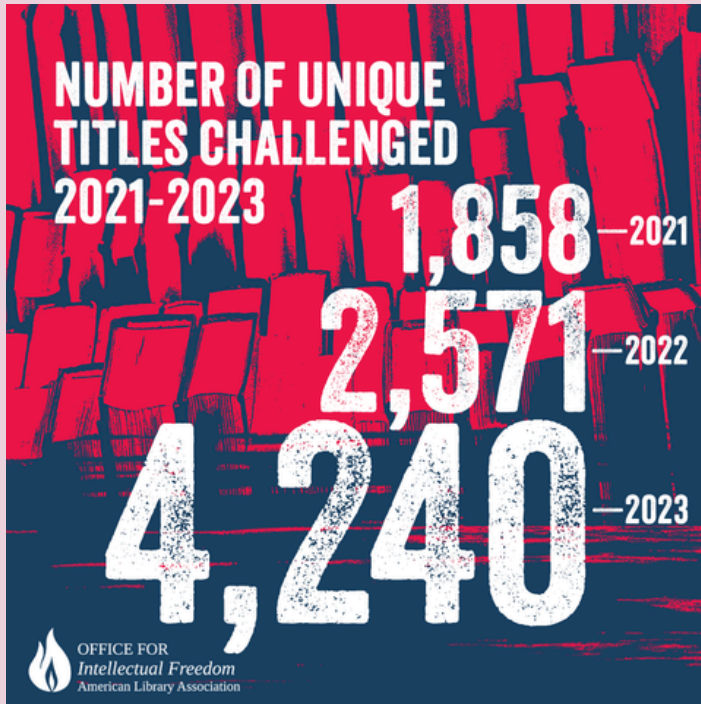
QUEER IN THE STACKS

**Resisting the Rise of LGBTQ Book Bans
and Attacks on Libraries**

Presenters: Johanna Jacobsen Kiciman, Annie Downey, Alaina Bull, and Emily Thuma

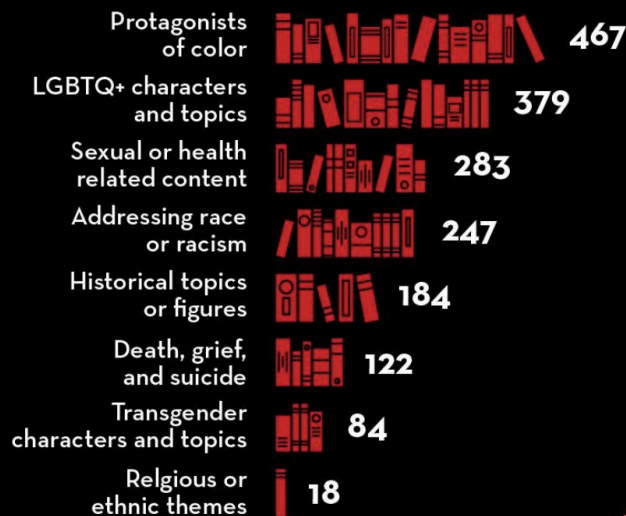


National Landscape



Which stories have been banned?

*Many of these categories overlap



Based on PEN America's Index of Book Bans, which documents decisions to ban books in school libraries and classrooms in the United States from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

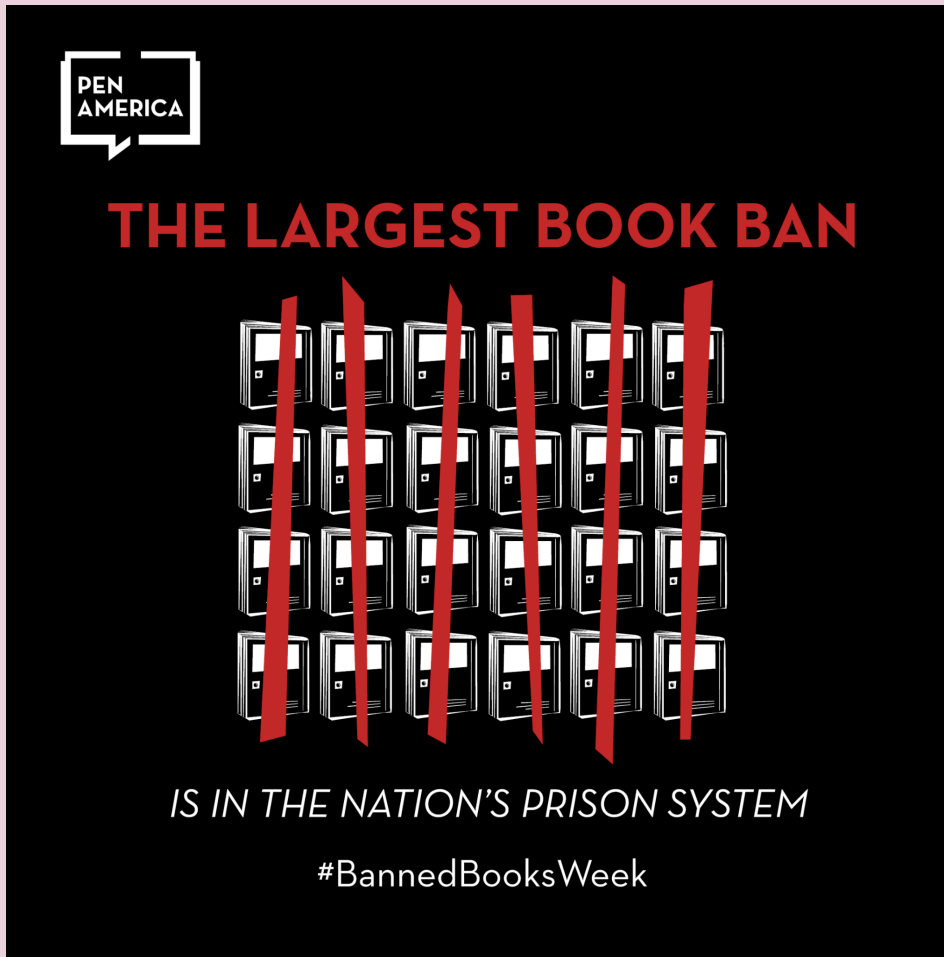


<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/book-ban-data>

<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/censorship-numbers>

“A **challenge** is an attempt to remove or restrict access to materials or services based upon the objections of a person or group.”

“A book is **banned** when it is entirely removed from a collection in response to a formal or informal challenge.”

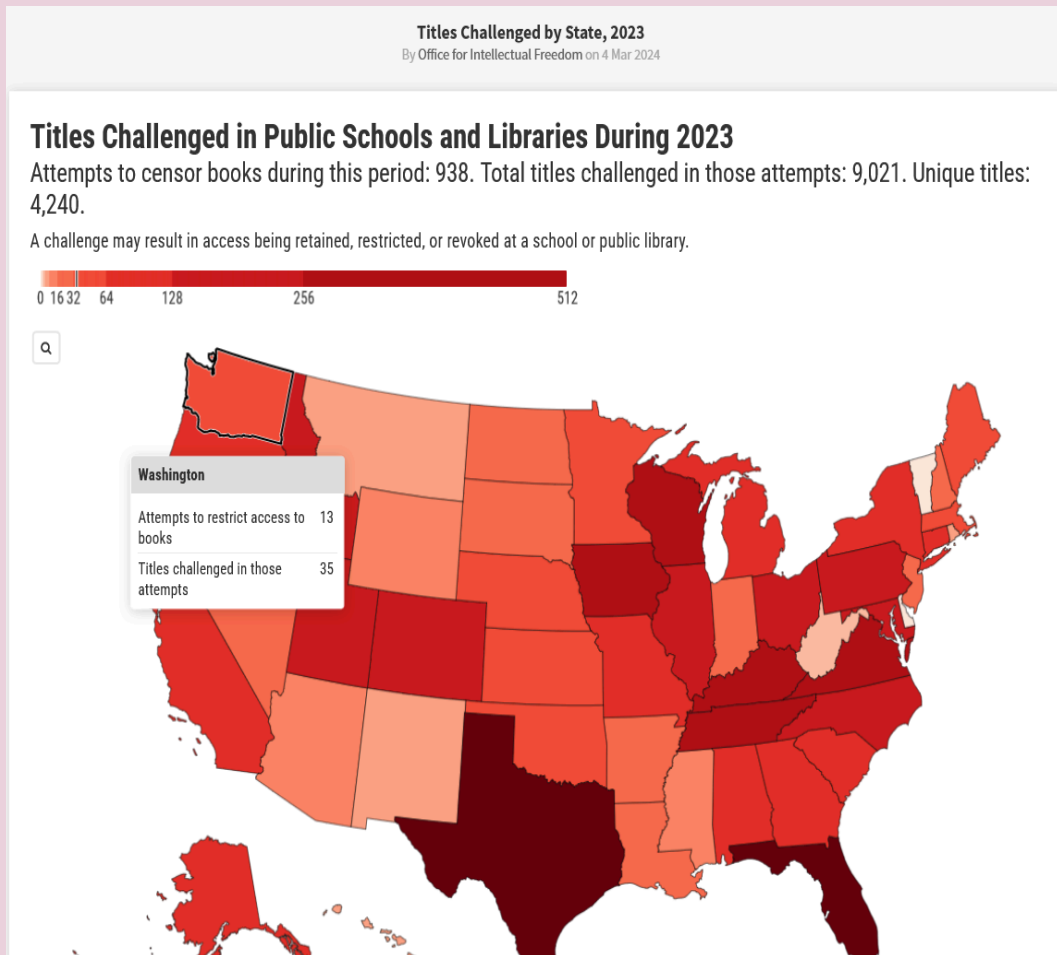


[PEN America, *Reading Between the Bars*. Report published October 2023](#)



Washington State Landscape

[“Kent school librarian rallies against rising book censorship based on race, sexuality.” KOMO News. July 12, 2023.](#)



WA HB 2331 – effective 6/6/2024:

12 (1)(a) Except as provided otherwise by this section, a school
13 district board of directors may not refuse to approve, or prohibit
14 the use of, any textbook, instructional material, supplemental
15 instructional material, or other curriculum for student instruction
16 on the basis that it relates to or includes the study of the role and
17 contributions of any individual or group who is part of a protected
18 class as established in RCW 28A.642.010 and 28A.640.010.

On Library Workers

2018
10
JAN

Fobazi Ettarh

52 Comments

VOCATIONAL AWE AND LIBRARIANSHIP: THE LIES WE TELL OURSELVES

In Brief

“*Vocational awe describes the set of ideas, values, and assumptions librarians have about themselves and the profession that result in notions that libraries as institutions are inherently good, sacred notions, and therefore beyond critique. I argue that the concept of vocational awe directly correlates to problems within librarianship like burnout and low salary. This article aims to describe the phenomenon and its effects on library philosophies and practices so that they may be recognized and deconstructed.*”

Read the full article here: <https://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2018/vocational-awe/>

“If you’re a member of a marginalized group that’s being targeted on top of also being a library worker ... it can be just absolutely crushing.”

—Mary Grahame Hunter, youth services coordinator at Ferndale (Mich.) Area District

Library

Read the article: [Christina Sterbenz, “How We Fight Back: Library workers and advocates are turning to new policies, lawsuits, and legislation to stem the tide of book bans.” *American Libraries*. September 1, 2023](#)



TEN WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



01

GET (AND USE!) YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Actively using your library card to borrow books, ebooks, graphic novels, media, and other resources is critical to helping libraries maintain and expand their annual public funding sources.



02

VOTE IN YOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Find out what elected body oversees your library - is it a city council, a library board, or some other group? Support, vote for, and advocate for elected officials who will support public libraries.



03

SPEAK UP AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Once you know who the decision makers are, attend public meetings and make public comments on the record. Not sure what your library needs? Get to know your director and staff, and ask them.



04

REQUEST MATERIALS YOU WANT TO SEE

Most libraries accept - and indeed welcome! - patron requests for books or other media, and will buy those materials for the community. If you want to see a more diverse collection, submit a request!



05

JOIN A LIBRARY SUPPORT GROUP

Most libraries have a Friends of the Library group or a foundation that helps support the library. Join other library lovers to help volunteer, fundraise, and get the word out to your neighbors!



06

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT LIBRARIES

Libraries work tirelessly to get the word out about programs and services - and you can help! Tell your friends and neighbors about what's happening at your local library and all it has to offer.



07

SHOW UP TO PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Actively attend programs that your library is putting on, and bring a friend (or five). Branch out and try new options - many libraries depend on meeting attendance goals to maintain diverse programming.



08

FIGHT CENSORSHIP AND BOOK BANS

Speak up locally for the freedom to access and read diverse materials - fight back against book bans and censorship. For more, visit UniteAgainstBookBans.org to learn about ongoing efforts you can join.



09

DONATE TO SUPPORT GROUPS OR EFFORTS

Public funding rarely meets all the needs of a library - if you are able to give money, donate to support programs and services that matter to you.



10

RUN FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICE

Become a decision maker! Run for your local library board, town council, or city government to pass policies and budgets that support and protect libraries.

At the UWT Library:



**Real Lit[erature]
Book Club**

Reading
for Social Justice

W
LIBRARY

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