

Challenge Reporting



ALA, established in 1876, has a longstanding commitment (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/ala-and-intellectual-freedom>) to defend intellectual freedom in libraries. Even before the formal adoption of the Library Bill of Rights in 1939, ALA has provided support, guidance, and resources to librarians faced with censorship. Since 1990, the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) (</offices/oif>) has maintained a database on challenged materials. ALA gathers information from media reports and individual reports submitted from the form below.



Reporting censorship and challenges to materials, resources, and services is vital to developing the best resources to defend library resources and to protect against challenges before they happen. The information gathered from these reports helps OIF:

1. stay aware of developments in the profession
2. supply library workers with crucial tools, resources, workshops, and programs
3. compile the Top 10 Most Challenged Books (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>) list and trend reports for public awareness

OIF staff will be in contact to offer assistance and support. Even if support is not needed, please report challenges. Your report is confidential unless you tell us otherwise. Visit the ALA Fight Censorship (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/fight-censorship>) clearinghouse of resources, statements, partners, and graphics for more information and additional ways you can defend the freedom to read and support others facing censorship.

1. What are you reporting? *

- Materials Challenge (books, movies, music, magazines, digital content)
- Internet-related Challenge (filtering issues, access to computers, use policies)
- Library Service (meeting rooms, programs, author visits, exhibits, displays, hold shelf practices)
- Patron Privacy or Confidentiality Issue (personally identifiable information, circulation records)
- Hate Crime (defacement of library property to target a specific group; use of swastikas or other symbols of intimidation, harassment or assault on library property)
- Other (student publications or performances, access to libraries or library cards, social media, artwork, "First Amendment Audit")

In order to gather useful information for statistical purposes we need to know what you are reporting.

If the previous response is "Materials Challenge"

Title

Author or Performer

Type of Item

To report multiple titles in the same challenge, add them in the description or email the full list to oif@ala.org (mailto:oif@ala.org). Please complete additional forms for separate challenges.

2. Please describe the incident. *

In your own words please tell us more about what happened. Resolutions are appreciated.

3. When did this happen? *

When did the challenge occur? That is, did it happen some time ago, or recently? Exact dates are helpful, but we'll take more casual information.

4. Who initiated the challenge or raised the issue? *

What can you tell us about who actually made the challenge? Was this someone complaining about something on his or her own behalf (a "patron" in our terms), a parent (concerning something that affects his or her child), a teacher, a librarian, a school or library administrator, an elected official, a member of the clergy, or someone else? Was it, do you believe, an individual complaint, or part of a larger and organized group effort?

5. Why did the initiator say this was of concern? *

What language did the initiators use to express what bothered them? What we're after here is the issue: it could be a concern about the language, about sexual references (explicitness, LGBTQIA issues, etc.), about political or religious viewpoint.

Where did this happen?

6. State *

- Select - ▼

6a. Zip Code

7. Where did the issue or challenge occur? *

- Public Library
- Academic Library
- School Library
- School Curriculum
- Other

8. Name of Institution where the issue/challenge took place

We attempt to analyze our data in a variety of ways. Ideally, we know the name of the specific institution where the incident occurred, the type of library (public library, school library, academic library), or other institution (a school curriculum issue, a bookstore, a movie house, museum etc.), and the state where it occurred.

9. May ALA have your permission to disclose additional information in our public reports? *

Yes

No

Additional information may include when the challenge or issue took place, the type of institution, or the resolution of the issue. We will always protect the confidentiality of the person and institution that is reported to us.

10. How can we help you?

The Office for Intellectual Freedom provides various kinds of support for people dealing with these challenges. That might just be talking with you on the phone to help you sort through the options. We often research federal, state, and local laws and regulations. We can help coach you on working with media or public events. We provide policy and procedure analysis and recommendations. We can write letters and make public statements. Please tell us how we can best serve your needs. If the challenge is resolved please let us know. If possible, what the outcome was and the status of the resource.

You are under no obligation to give us this information. But sometimes we need a little more information to understand what happened. Again, we will not reveal your name or information unless you give us express permission. But if you would like us to contact you for more support, or if you are willing to speak confidentially to us further to acquire more details, please provide the following information.

How can we reach you?

Name

E-mail *


Phone

Yes, please contact me for challenge support as soon as possible.

Supporting Documents

Please upload any documents or images for our confidential database. Include email complaints, social media posts, reconsideration forms, pictures of vandalism or property defacement, or newspaper articles and letters to the editor. If the

upload feature doesn't work, email any supporting documents to oif@ala.org.

 More information

Choose File

No file chosen

 Upload



Download PDF Version (</tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/challengereport.pdf>)

If you would like to report multiple challenges, have questions or would like to report the challenge over the phone, don't hesitate to call 1-800-545-2433 x4226 or email oif@ala.org (<mailto:oif@ala.org>).

Submit

