May 2024 Roundup

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2023 Book Challenge Data: Graphics and Interactives to Use and Share

The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) has released new data documenting book challenges throughout the United States, finding that challenges of unique titles surged 65% in 2023 compared to 2022 numbers, reaching the highest level ever documented by ALA. Read the full announcement.

OIF documented 4,240 unique book titles targeted for censorship, as well as 1,247 demands to censor library books, materials, and resources in 2023. Four key trends emerged from the data gathered from 2023 censorship reports:

- Pressure groups in 2023 focused on public libraries in addition to targeting school libraries. The number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year, accounting for about 46% of all book challenges in 2023; school libraries saw an 11% increase over 2022 numbers.
- Groups and individuals demanding the censorship of multiple titles, often dozens or hundreds at a time, drove this surge.
• Titles representing the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals made up 47% of those targeted in censorship attempts.

We encourage you to take and share this information and the downloadable artifacts available:

• Book Ban Data graphics
• Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023
• Censorship by the Numbers

ITEM (Information & Technology Educators of Minnesota) May Town Hall Postponed

The previously scheduled ITEM Town Hall for May 16 has been postponed to a later date this summer until there is more information from the School Library Census. Please watch your emails in early June for an updated date/time for the ITEM Town Hall.

Public Library Division Seeking Input

Calling ALL Public Library Staff! You are the Public Library Division (PLD)! The PLD Board seeks your input for professional development, connection, and strengthening your division.

Please fill out this survey with your input to help PLD support you! The survey will be open through June 21.

Register for the May 29 Library Leadership Forum

Join us for the Library Leadership Forum on Wednesday, May 29 at 3:00 pm. Library Leadership Forum is a professional book club/discussion group open to all library professionals presented by Metronet. Register for the May session at this link!

May's topic is Book Bans. Let's talk about the state of book challenges, what's happening in your libraries, and what we can do to get ahead of future challenges? Bring your stories and let's share resources.
A few readings to kick off the discussion:

- **Book Bans and the Librarians Who Won't Be Hushed** by Elaine McArdle, Harvard Graduate School of Education (11/6/23)
- **How to Prepare for Pride Month in Libraries 2024** by Kelly Jensen, BookRiot (5/10/24)

And for something a little lighter but very affirming: 
- **Libraries: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver** (5/9/24)

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**Register for the June 6 Early Literacy Development Panel Discussion**

Are you a librarian looking for new strategies to engage families to support early literacy development?

On **June 6**, join a panel of experts to discuss parent engagement as a strategy for supporting #earlyliteracy development. You'll hear about initiatives currently in progress and how communities play a critical role.

Learn more and register at [this link](#)

Panelists include:

- Constance Beecher, Associate Professor at Iowa State University with expertise in the areas of early intervention and literacy, community-based research, intervention development using human-centered design, and rapid cycle testing
- Gevonee Ford, Founder and Executive Director of Network for the Development of Children of African Descent who works with hundreds of children and their families each year to increase reading proficiency and learning confidence amongst students through parental and community involvement in the education of children
- Andrea Walsh, president and chief executive officer for HealthPartners who leads a team of more than 26,000 people focused on the mission of improving health and well-being in partnership with patients, members, and the community
Save the Date: July 25 ITEM Summer Professional Development Unconference

The ITEM Membership Summer Professional Development (formerly Summer Leadership Meeting) is nearly upon us and we have an exciting "unconference" in the works to help support our membership in areas where needed, and can ask questions or provide guidance where we are experts. This meeting is not just for executive board positions - it is for ALL MEMBERS!

The meeting this year will likely only be in-person due to the nature of an unconference, but if there is a strong pull for virtual options ITEM may try to make a portion of it live via Google Meet.

We will have a general welcome session with introductions, state of ITEM for the past year, and a look ahead to priorities for 2024-2025. Then breakout sessions around key topics suggested by those attending.

Please take this form to let us know if you plan to attend and/or what topic areas might be of interest to you.
Save the Date!

When: Thursday, July 25
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thank You for an Amazing ARLD Day 2024!

ARLD Day took place on May 3 at the MN Landscape Arboretum. We wanted to extend a final thank you to everyone who came and made the day such a success! We hope that you were able to fully enjoy our first conference back in-person. If any attendees would still like to give any feedback, they can do so through the feedback forms linked in Sched.

Welcome New Members!

Thank You Renewing Members!

MLA is strong because of you. Thank you for being a member.