CENSORSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the American Library Association tracked the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago; 2,571 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 1,858 in 2021. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?

- 30% Parents
- 28% Patrons
- 17% Political/religious groups
- 15% Board/administration
- 3% Librarians/teachers
- 3% Elected officials
- 4% Other (includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?

- 48% Public libraries
- 41% School libraries
- 10% Schools
- 1% Higher education libraries and other institutions

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 1,269 challenges in 2022. Here’s the breakdown:

- 82% Books, graphic novels, and textbooks
- 6% Displays and exhibits
- 4% Programs and meeting rooms
- 1% Films
- 7% Other (includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, artwork, social media, music, pamphlets, student publications, and reading lists)

CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR

- 2,571 in 2022
- 1,858 in 2021
- 305 in 2003
- 339 in 2012
- 223 in 2020

CENSORSHIP STATISTICS COMPILED BY: OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM