



CENSORSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

Banning books silences stories and discussions. Censorship succeeds when no one talks about it. Raise your megaphone and speak out for banned books! Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.

DEFINITIONS

CHALLENGE

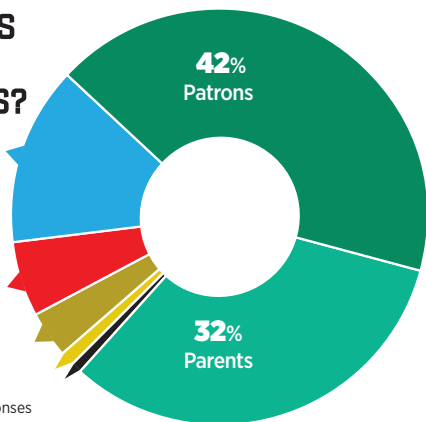
attempt to remove or restrict materials, based on objections from a person/group

BAN

removal of materials based on content

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES TO MATERIALS?

- 14% Board/administration
- 6% Librarians/teachers
- 3% Political and religious groups
- 2% Elected officials
- 1% Students



Statistics based on 318 responses

WHY ARE MATERIALS CHALLENGED?



WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



56% Public libraries



25% School (curriculum and classrooms)



16% School libraries



2% Academic libraries



1% Special libraries/other

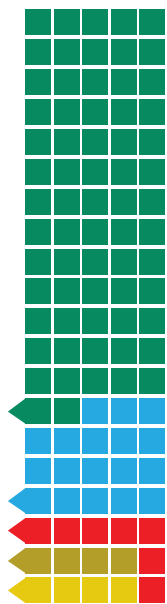
BEYOND BOOKS

Books aren't the only items threatened with censorship.

The American Library Association tracks challenges to materials and services in libraries, schools, and universities. In some cases, community members want an author's speaking engagement canceled or an LGBT display taken down. Other times, patrons would like certain DVDs or magazines removed from shelves. In 2017, 491 materials were challenged or censored.

Breakdown of 354 challenges tracked in 2017:

- 67% Books
- 18% Databases, magazines, films, games
- 7% Programs
- 4% Displays
- 4% Other



Statistics on censorship are compiled by:



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association