

Oregon Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee
Tuesday Topic, September 2019

Welcome to Tuesday Topics, a monthly series covering topics with intellectual freedom implications for libraries of all types. Each message is prepared by a member of OLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee or a guest writer. Questions can be directed to the author of the topic or to the [IFC committee](#).



**Intellectual
Freedom
Committee**

Oregon Library Association

Banned Books Week is September 22-28, 2019

The theme for Banned Books Week this year is: **Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark: Keep the Light On**. That's what reading and access to information do, they turn the light on!

Inhibiting access by banning books leaves people out. Currently, one group that is being pushed into the dark are the LGBTQ community. More than half of the challenges on [ALA's list of most challenged books of 2018](#) were for LGBTQ content. Here are a few pertinent articles to that point: [Banned Books Week 2019](#)

[ALA](#) - Intellectual Freedom Blog: Defend Pride at Your Library

[National Coalition Against Censorship](#) - LGBTQ Book Bans and Challenges

Diminishing the stories of LGBTQ people has serious consequences. Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people overall but is [especially high among LGBTQ youth](#). LGBTQ people still face violence for being themselves and [Trans people are especially vulnerable](#). Will having a variety of items by, about, and for LGBTQ people solve all these problems? Maybe not entirely. But they can ([and do!](#)) go a long way in providing people with representation, acceptance, and with depictions of the human beings that they are.

Continue to shine your light by providing access to all kinds of books and materials for all kinds of people and by educating patrons about why that is so important. That's what banned books week is all about!

Remember, Oregon libraries can report intellectual freedom issues and get support: [The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse](#) (OIFC) [collects](#) and [compiles](#) information about intellectual freedom issues at libraries in Oregon. The OIFC also provides information to libraries to help them [prepare](#) for and [address](#) intellectual freedom issues. Find additional resources to deal with challenges and develop robust policies at the [Intellectual Freedom Committee's toolkit page](#).