

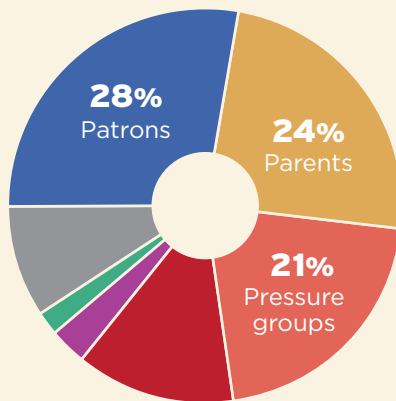
# CENSORSHIP

## BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023, the American Library Association documented the highest number of titles targeted for censorship since ALA began compiling data more than 20 years ago. 4,240 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 2,571 targeted in 2022. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks](https://ala.org/bbooks)



### WHO INITIATES ATTEMPTS TO CENSOR BOOKS?



13% Board/administration

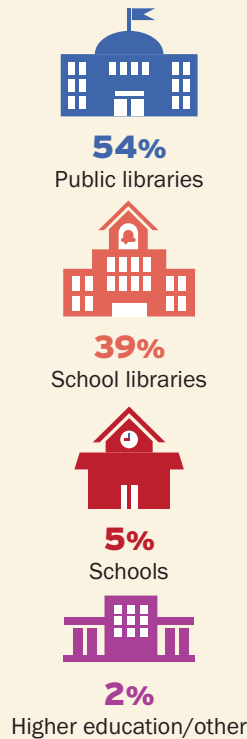
3% Librarians/teachers/staff

2% Elected officials/government

9% Other/unknown

Statistics based on 954 cases.

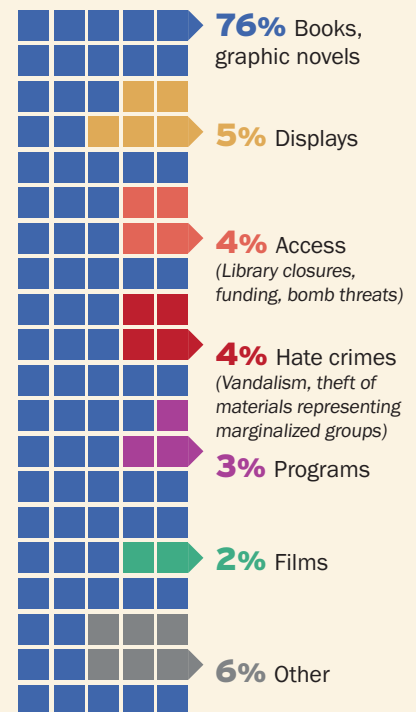
### WHERE DO CENSORSHIP ATTEMPTS TAKE PLACE?



Statistics based on 1,247 cases with known locations.

### BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **1,247 censorship attempts** in 2023. Here's the breakdown:



### CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of unique titles targeted in 2023 marked a 65% increase over 2022. During the two decades prior to 2021, the average number of unique titles targeted per year was 273.

CENSORSHIP  
STATISTICS  
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR  
*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association

4,000

### NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR

2,000

390  
2004

183  
2014

1,858  
2021

2,571  
2022

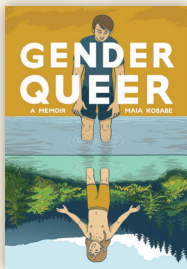
4,240  
2023

# TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2023

The American Library Association documented **1,247 attempts to censor** materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2023. Of the **4,240 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2023, here are the top 10 most frequently challenged.



1



## GENDER QUEER

by Maia Kobabe

**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

2

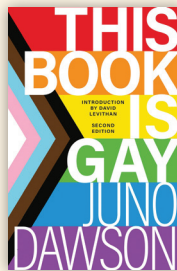


## ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE

by George M. Johnson

**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

3



## THIS BOOK IS GAY

by Juno Dawson

**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit

4

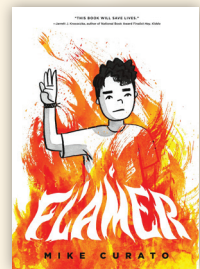


## THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

by Stephen Chbosky

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity

5

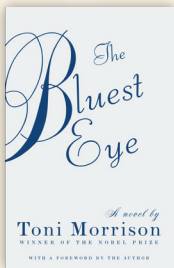


## FLAMER

by Mike Curato

**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

6

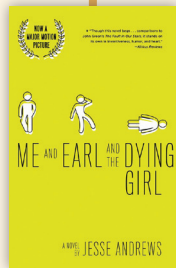


## THE BLUEST EYE

by Toni Morrison

**REASONS:** rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content

7/8



## ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL

by Jesse Andrews

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity

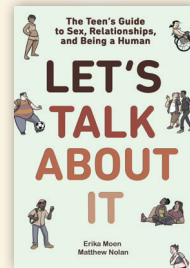


## TRICKS

by Ellen Hopkins

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs, rape, LGBTQIA+ content

9



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, sex education, LGBTQIA+ content

10



## SOLD

by Patricia McCormick

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, rape



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*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association