

SEE LIVE HUMANS READ

# BANNED -AND- CHALLENGED BOOKS

CELEBRATING  
THE FIRST  
AMENDMENT

RIGHT  
TO READ

Coralville  
Public Library  
Annual Report  
April 23, 2024

SHOCKING LITERACY!

## 2 Library Bill of Rights

The **Library Bill of Rights** was written in 1938 by Forrest Spaulding, Director of the Des Moines Public Library. It was a bold and straightforward document designed to speak out against the “growing intolerance, suppression of free speech, and censorship, affecting the rights of minorities and individuals.” It was adopted by the American Library Association the next year, and is regularly reviewed and revised to address contemporary cultural contexts. The current version featured below is included as an integral part of policy in thousands of libraries, including CPL.

The original bill is to the right, with an asterisk added in 1944: “Further, books believed to be factually correct should not be banned or removed from the library simply because they are disapproved by some persons.”

### THE LIBRARY'S BILL OF RIGHTS

TODAY indications in many parts of the world point to growing intolerance, suppression of free speech, and censorship, affecting the rights of minorities and individuals. Mindful of this, the Council of the American Library Association publicly affirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of free public libraries:

1. Books and other reading matter selected for purchase from the public funds should be chosen because of value and interest to people of the community, and in no case should the selection be influenced by the race or nationality or the political or religious views of the writers.

2. As far as available material permits, all sides of questions on which differences of opinion exist should be represented fairly and adequately in the books and other reading matter purchased for public use.

3. The library as an institution to educate for democratic living should especially welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and the discussion of current public questions. Library meeting rooms should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of their beliefs or affiliations.

THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ADOPTED THIS STATEMENT IN JUNE 1939, AND RECOMMENDED ITS ADOPTION BY GOVERNING BOARDS OF INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES

\*Further, books believed to be factually correct should not be banned or removed from the library simply because they are disapproved by some persons. — Added by vote of Council, Oct. 14, 1944.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION • CHICAGO, 1939

**I.** Books and other library resources should be provided for the *interest, information, and enlightenment of all people* of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

**II.** Libraries should provide materials and information *presenting all points of view* on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

**III.** Libraries should *challenge censorship* in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

**IV.** Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with *resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas*.

**V.** A *person's right to use a library should not be denied* or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

**VI.** Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such *facilities available on an equitable basis*, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

**VII.** All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a *right to privacy and confidentiality* in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of “age” reaffirmed January 23, 1996.



# Collection Development 3

**From our Collection Development Policy:** “A primary goal of the Coralville Public Library is to provide collections that are responsive to the varied needs of the community. Generally, collections are broad, current, and popular, and are not archival or comprehensive. The Library strives to offer the widest possible range of subjects and views in a variety of formats, treatments, and levels of difficulty, within the limits of cost and space and considering current holdings and demand. **Including materials in the collection does not constitute endorsement of their contents.”**



Criteria for selection of materials is clearly outlined in the policy, and it states that “The basic principles set forth in the American Library Association's publications, the Freedom to Read Statement, the Freedom to View Statement, and the Library Bill of Rights, shall be maintained.”



Every item in the Library has been carefully chosen by one of our six expert selector librarians. We strive to provide a wide range of viewpoints and ideas, representing diverse voices and perspectives, while ensuring that our collection remains engaging. To achieve this, we rely on reviews, collection databases, patron suggestions, current trends, and our knowledge of the publication industry and our readership. Additionally, we conduct regular evaluations of the collection to ensure its diversity and relevance, weeding outdated materials or items which no longer meet the criteria for inclusion in the collection.

DETAIL	ADD'T'L CONTENT	ALT FORMATS	REVIEWS	EXCERPT	DEMAND
<a href="#">Booklist Reviews 2024 February #1</a> <a href="#">LJ Reviews 2024 January</a> <a href="#">LJ Reviews 2023 September</a> <a href="#">PW Annex Reviews</a> <a href="#">Kirkus Reviews 2024 January #2</a>					
<b>Booklist Reviews 2024 February #1</b> "Starred Review" Lincoln scholar Holzer's latest book again demonstrates his deftness in blending a detailed focus on part of Lincoln's career, an explanation of how it fits into Lincoln's life, and a political and historical backdrop. This highly readable narrative chronicles Lincoln's journey from ignorance regarding immigrants to a frustratingly long dalliance with nativists to finally using presidential powers to welcome immigrants and help them achieve success. Lincoln appealed to idealism and pragmatism, mixing calls to extend the promise of the Declaration of Independence to new arrivals with reminders of how essential immigrants were to sustain the Union Army and wartime industry.					

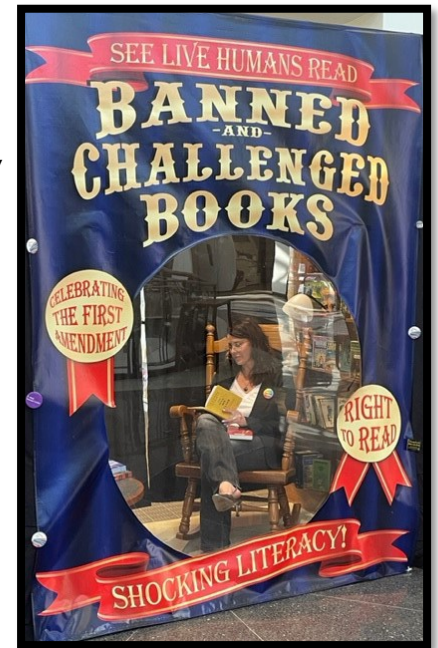


# 4 Intellectual Freedom & Censorship

Top 10 Banned Books of 2023



**Intellectual Freedom** (*Free People Read Freely*) is a basic tenet of Public Libraries. We embrace and promote first amendment protections of access to information and freedom to speak, freedom to read, and freedom to publish. Selectors work hard to insure our collections represent a wide variety of perspectives. Unfettered access to information, the exchange of ideas, and individuals' rights to draw their own informed conclusions are essential

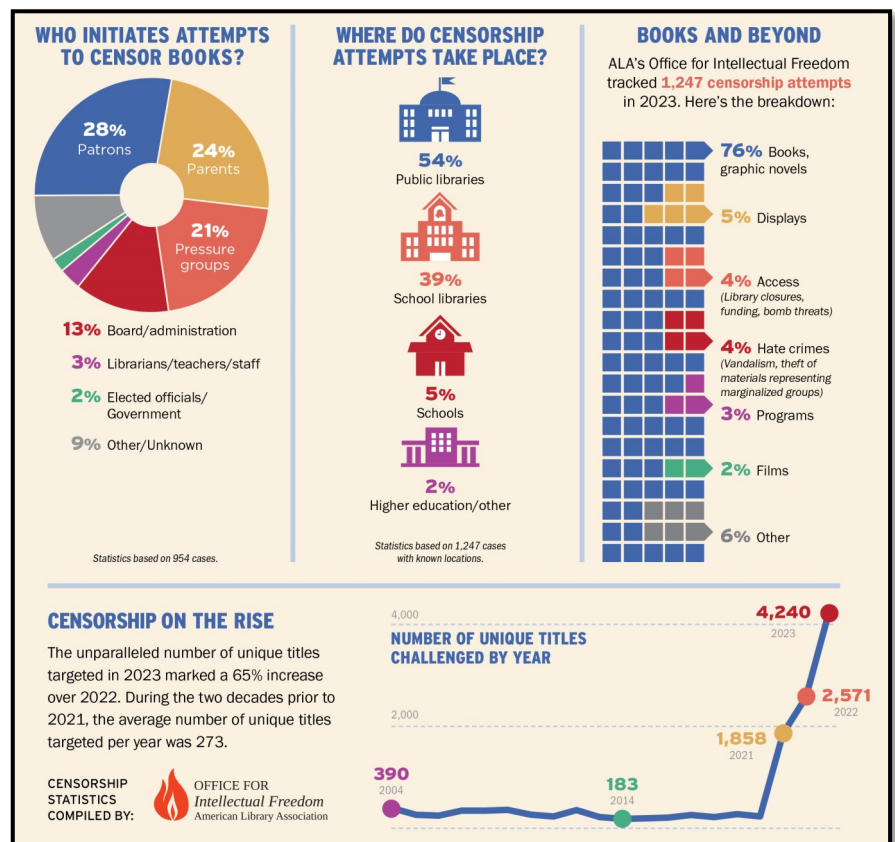


to the preservation of a free and democratic society.

ALA's **Freedom to Read Statement** is also included in the policies of public libraries across the nation, including CPL. It begins: "The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label 'controversial' views, to distribute lists of 'objectionable' books or authors, and to purge libraries."

## Censorship & Book Banning trends

The number of titles targeted for censorship in public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year, accounting for about 54% of all book challenges in 2023; school libraries saw an 11% increase over 2022 numbers. In Iowa, there were attempts to censor more than 100 titles. In addition to direct challenges and censorship attempts in libraries, Iowa had the second most library-adverse bills in the nation in 2023.





# Library Funding 5

Public Libraries in Iowa are largely supported by local property taxes, and funded through municipal General Funds. Until recent legislation did away with a number of special levies, cities had the option to utilize a “Library Levy” (max assessment of \$.27/\$1000 valuation) specifically to raise additional tax funds for public library service. These levies were subject to voter approval. Half of the public libraries in Johnson County had *voter-approved* library levies in place, and face losing significant funding due to this legislation.



Between 91-95% of Coralville Public Library’s budget is funded from the Gen Fund, with another 5-9% coming from a combination of county support, contract services, and fees. The Library also receives some money from the State for providing “open access” services to citizens of other Iowa cities which have public libraries.

Input Your Quantity of Use	Library Services	Retail Value	Value of Services
65069	Adult Books Borrowed	\$25.00	\$1,626,725
108712	Children's Books Borrowed	\$17.00	\$1,848,104
6037	Audiobooks Borrowed	\$30.00	\$181,110
817	Interlibrary Loan Request	\$25.00	\$20,425
86963	eBook/Audiobook Downloaded	\$16.00	\$1,391,408
2608	Magazine Borrowed	\$8.00	\$20,864
31779	DVD Borrowed	\$12.00	\$381,348
3888	CD Borrowed	\$15.00	\$58,320
298	Laptop Borrowed	\$70.00	\$20,860
1577	Hotspot Borrowed	\$30.00	\$47,310
47	Art Borrowed	\$70.00	\$3,290
67	Museum Passes Borrowed	\$20.00	\$1,340
97	Flip Kit or Storytime Borrowed	\$22.00	\$2,134
900	Newspaper Use in Library	\$8.00	\$7,200
739	Meeting Room Use per Group	\$100.00	\$73,900
4532	Study Room Use	\$20.00	\$90,640
6314	Adult Programs Attended	\$18.00	\$113,652
10208	Children's Programs Attended	\$12.00	\$122,496
2010	Craft Kits given out	\$3.00	\$6,030
24676	Electronic Information Downloaded	\$15.00	\$370,140
70384	Computer and Internet Use	\$12.00	\$844,608
30000	Free pages printed	\$0.10	\$3,000
1480	Served Chai	\$4.00	\$5,920
4,552	Imagination Library Books mailed	\$6.00	\$27,312
16518	Reference Questions Asked	\$25.00	\$412,950
	<b>Total Value</b>		<b>\$7,681,086</b>
	Divided by local operating income		\$2,309,325
			\$3.33

**Return on Investment:** Libraries allow users to save money by borrowing items and receiving services that they would otherwise have to rent or purchase.

This ROI calculator shows the monetary value of our public library in a simple and understandable fashion, but it is a very conservative estimate and leaves out the unquantifiable benefits.

Even so, this would mean that for every \$1.00 of budgeted library funds, the community receives \$3.33 in direct benefits from using library materials and services. The Library thus enhances the purchasing power of users by enabling them to spend their money in other ways, helping the City.

## A Few Unquantifiable Library Benefits

- ◆ Food distribution
- ◆ Community meals
- ◆ Help with job searching and applications, citizenship paperwork, and housing needs
- ◆ Test proctoring
- ◆ Interview space
- ◆ Free health and social services
- ◆ Vaccine clinics
- ◆ A politically neutral, non-commercial and safe community space to be warm or to cool off or to just be
- ◆ Contribution to the development of literacies and knowledge
- ◆ Employment of 36 community members

This is an understatement of the true value provided by our library to our community. The intangible value includes opportunities for residents to improve their literacy skills, enhance their educational



and employment opportunities, and improve quality of life for themselves and their families through library collections, services and programs.

# 6 Library Governance & Local Control

Most libraries in Iowa are governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Council or Mayor. Under Iowa Law (and Coralville Ordinance) the Board of Trustees has oversight of the Library building and operations, responsibility for hiring and firing the Library Director, and responsibility for all expenditures of the Library budget. Changes to the Library Ordinance, including terms and makeup of the Board of Trustees is subject to voter approval. This structural framework for library governance within the standard municipal government setup serves a crucial purpose: safeguarding the public library from undue political influence. It establishes an additional layer of protection, ensuring the Library's independence and integrity remain intact.



The current CPL Board of Trustees





# CPL and the Community 7



Soul Food Dinner



Global Meal



Teen Advisory Board



Outreach to Coral Ridge Head Start



Our Community Resources Navigator helping a patron try on a hijab at World Hijab Day



World Hijab Day



Book Bike at Asian Fest



A Summer Reading event



A family working together on Puzzle Day



Teen Hang Out



At Servolution, giving out books



Librarians at Pride Fest



MLK Day Readers



Find your Story Adult Program



A young patron enjoying the Children's Room



# 8 2023 By the Numbers

**298** laptops borrowed  
**1577** hotspot circs



**301,692** people  
came into  
the Library



**24,676** retrievals of  
electronic information  
from our databases  
**86,963** eMaterials  
downloaded



**69** physical items  
checked out  
per hour,  
on  
average



**3008** attendees  
at the  
Chat 'n Chai



**131** English  
language classes  
with an average of  
**11** attendees  
per class



**166** Blind Dates  
with a Cookbook,  
**20** video submissions



**54,012** website  
sessions  
by **24,952**  
unique users



**1800** Summer  
Reading participants  
with **14,552**  
books read



**327** children's  
and teen's programs with  
**10,208**  
attendees



**336** fed at the Soul  
Food Dinner,  
**321** at the  
Global  
Community Meal



**23** movies for  
adults with  
**485** attendees



**16,518** total reference  
questions  
answered at  
reference, children's,  
& circulation desks



**2186** unique views  
of our social media  
reel "Most Checked-Out  
Books of 2022"



**12,642** uses of  
public internet  
computers,  
**57,742**  
wireless sessions



**705** kids' crafts kits  
**400** teen craft kits  
**905** adult crafts to go



**348** people visited  
the Book Bike  
last summer



**462** children enrolled  
in the Imagination  
Library with **4552**  
books mailed  
last year



**3961** new patron cards  
+ **2902** new  
AIM cards  
for ICCSD  
students



**4532** people  
used study  
rooms



## Freedom to Read

Most challenged  
book in Iowa --  
**291** circs  
at CPL



**83** check-outs at CPL  
of the most  
challenged  
book in  
the US



**118** patrons  
signed up for  
our Banned Books  
Reading Challenge,  
logging **279** books

**771** people reached  
by the post of Alison  
reading in the  
Banned Books  
Display



**54%** of  
book challenges  
in the US  
occured in  
public libraries



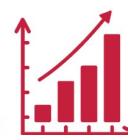
**1247** demands  
nationwide to ban or  
restrict library  
materials  
and services



Iowa -- **7th**  
among states  
for  
book  
banning



**223** different titles  
challenged in the US  
in 2020  
**1858** in 2021  
**2571** in 2022  
**4240** in 2023



**47%** of targeted  
materials  
represent  
LGBTQIA+ or  
BIPOC individuals

