

ALA reports record number of demands to censor library books and materials in 2022.

The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) has released new data documenting book challenges throughout the United States, finding that challenges were nearly double that of 2021, reaching the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. [Read the full announcement.](#)

OIF documented **1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022**, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubles the 729 book challenges reported in 2021.

A record 2,571 unique titles were targeted for censorship, a 38% increase over the 1,858 unique titles targeted for censorship in 2021. 58% of the reported book challenges targeted books and materials in school libraries, classroom libraries or school curricula; 41% of book challenges targeted materials in public libraries.

The prevalent use of lists of books compiled by organized censorship groups contributed significantly to the skyrocketing number of challenges and the frequency with which each title was challenged. **Of the overall number of books challenged, 90% were part of attempts to censor multiple titles.**

- **12%** were in cases involving **2 - 9 books**
- **38%** were in cases involving **10 - 99 books**
- **40%** were in cases involving **100 or more books**

Prior to 2021, the vast majority of challenges to library resources only sought to remove or restrict access to a single book.