From Serving to Saving

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Agenda

• Report from the Front Lines
  • The United States and Book Banning

• Be Ready
  • Solving the LocHal Dilemma
    • The Taylor Swift Question
  • Solving the Rijksmuseum Dilemma
    • The Knowledge Business

• The Power of Stories to Shape the Future
  • Artificial Intelligence vs Augmented Intelligence
  • Deaths of Despair
Oh What Five Years Can Do

Shush

Groomer
Book Banning

- National Coordinated Effort
- The Krause list, Moms for Liberty
- Built on legitimate concerns
  - Parents rights, Materials appropriateness,
    However, ultimately about imposing one view on many
- Voice of Minority
  - Llano County Population 22,540
  - Banners ~250, 10-15 Core

90% of all challenged books were part of attempts to ban multiple titles
Librarians Under Attack
School librarians face a new penalty in the banned-book wars: prison

By Hannah Natanson
Washington Post

Librarians could face years of imprisonment and tens of thousands of dollars in fines for providing sexually explicit, obscene or “harmful” books to children under new state laws that permit criminal prosecution of school and library personnel.

At least seven states have passed such laws in the last two years, according to a Washington Post analysis, six of them in the past two months – although governors of Idaho and North Dakota vetoed the legislation. Another dozen states considered more than 20 similar bills this year, half of which are likely to come up again in 2024, the Post found.

Some of the laws impose severe penalties on librarians, who until now were exempted in almost every state from prosecution over obscene material – a carve-out meant to permit accurate lessons in topics such as sex education. All but one of the new laws target schools, while some also target the staff of public libraries and one affects book vendors.

One example is an Arkansas measure that says school and public librarians, as well as teachers, can be imprisoned for up to six years or fined $10,000 if they distribute obscene or harmful texts. It takes effect Aug. 1.
Texas' anti-abortion legislation lets private citizens sue those they believe have violated the state's ban. Axios reported on Thursday that the Austin attorney who helped design the historic law, Jonathan Mitchell, has drafted city ordinances that could potentially allow people to “[sue] librarians and others for their decisions about which books to put on shelves — or for expressing LGBTQ+ support.”

Similar to the abortion law, the book-related ordinances would apparently mean that violators could be sued for at least $10,000, plus attorney fees and legal expenses. The report also states that civil action could be brought against the library if workers don't scrub contested titles from shelves.

Librarians certainly aren't happy with the idea.
Response - Social
Response - Legal
Response - Understanding

The “Out Loud Part”
- Parents rights
- Religious liberty
- Curriculum
- Not banning - Just not in the library
- Grooming/Indoctrination

The “Quiet Part”
- Racism
- Anti-LGBTQ+
- Social disconnection
- Limiting democratic voices
The End of the Beginning

Role local public libraries play in communities
- ALL VOTERS: 89% very important, 25% fairly important
- PARENTS: 64% very important, 70% fairly important

Role local school libraries play in elementary, middle, and high schools
- ALL VOTERS: 92% very important, 21% fairly important
- PARENTS: 72% very important, 71% fairly important

Favorability of local public and school librarians
- 90% among voters
- 92% among parents

Poll results:
- Oppose: 71%
- Support: 29%

Democrats: 75% oppose, 25% support
Independents: 58% oppose, 42% support
Republicans: 70% oppose, 30% support
Be Ready
The LocHal Dilemma

Someone who holds the mission, means, and values of librarianship
Definition of a Librarian

The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating \textit{knowledge} creation in their communities.

Access, Knowledge, Environment, Motivation

Learning, Openness, Diversity, Intellectual Honesty (not Unbiased), Intellectual Freedom and Safety
The Taylor Swift Question

• “It’s me, hi. I’m the problem it’s me”

• The role of library certification in innovation?
  • Core skills?
  • Core values?
  • Building a sense of legitimacy
The Rijksmuseum
Dilemma

a mandated facilitated space maintained
by the community, stewarded by librarians,
and dedicated to knowledge
The Power of Stories to Shape the Future
AI

The hydra, Augmented Intelligence (a new narrative for libraries), Flattening the concept of the library
ScienceNews