



ILF Board Statement in Response to Censorship in Indiana Libraries

Indiana Library Federation (ILF) is alarmed to learn of public library boards approving policies and procedures restricting access to materials in Indiana libraries, which is in direct opposition to the core tenets of our professional values and ethics. Censorship is not solely limited to book banning but occurs when any barrier is created that tries to limit or restrict access to library materials. ILF passionately denounces censorship in all its forms, including:

- Relocating materials from collections with intended audiences to other collections.
- Creating areas of restricted access for materials deemed inappropriate or dangerous, thereby preventing patrons from exploring topics some might find uncomfortable or challenging.
- Labeling materials to identify content or viewpoints considered controversial.
- Rewriting or ignoring existing library collection development policies with the goal of restricting access to certain types of materials.

A keystone of democracy is free and equitable access to information. Censorship is a direct threat to that access. In response to the recent surge in book challenges and removals in Indiana and throughout the country, ILF reaffirms that the freedom to read and access information is an inalienable right. Any effort to ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to library materials represents a threat to democracy. The Indiana Library Federation Board of Directors, representing academic, public, and school libraries, stand united against all manifestations of censorship.

More information regarding ILF's stand against censorship can be found in its [Freedom to Read in Defense of Democracy Statement](#).

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