

Soviet propaganda poster

Soviet propaganda poster by V. Deni of the "Rot Front" or Red Front, an extremist wing of the German Communist Party, showing a worker with raised fist towering over bank buildings, lithograph, 1932. Private collection. (Photo by VCG Wilson/Corbis via Getty Images)



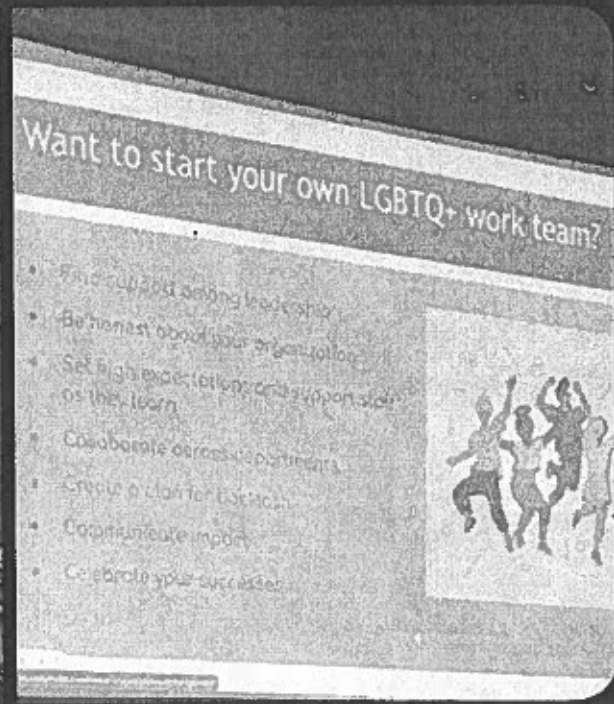
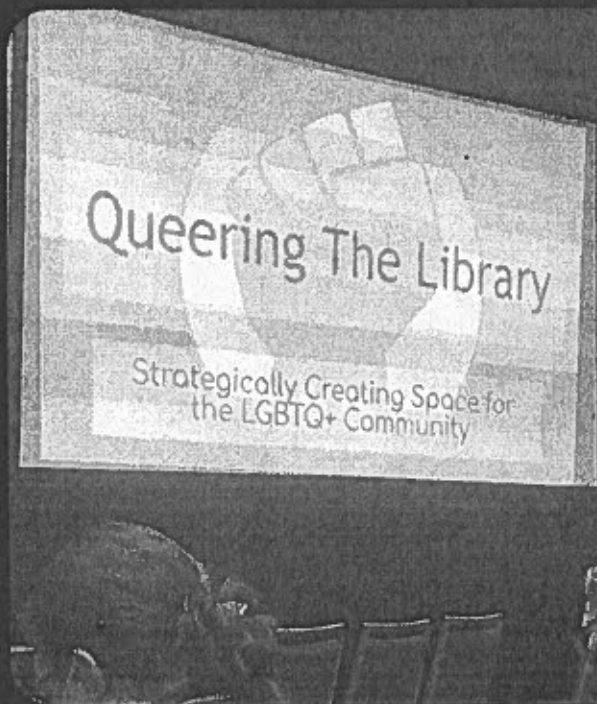


Edit



Libs of Tik Tok
@libsoftiktok

THREAD: Today in Portland, Oregon- thousands of librarians from around the country gathered for a Public Library Association conference. They got training on “Queering The Library” and how to deal with backlash





mily Drabinski (Twitter)

ANALYSIS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS POLITICS

Marxist American Library Association chief: 'Libraries need to be sites of socialist organizing'

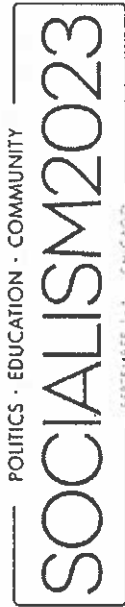
DAVE HUBER - ASSOCIATE EDITOR · SEPTEMBER 5, 2023



Remember Emily Drabinski, the self-proclaimed Marxist lesbian CUNY librarian who was elected president of the American Library Association?

Remember, too, how the editor-in-chief of a Montana newspaper chided Drabinski's critics, saying they assume her political beliefs will "guide her every action"?

Well, last week an intrepid independent journalist attended "Socialism 2023," the "largest socialist conference in the country," and discovered that's just what Drabinski wishes to do.



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NOVEMBER 9, 2023

2

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She said so herself.

According to Karlyn Borysenko at Actively Unwoke, Drabinski was scheduled to give a talk at the conference (*pictured*), but due to apparent ongoing controversies over her Marxist leanings it was “quietly canceled.”

Nevertheless, Drabinski did speak briefly at a September 2 session titled “Freedom To Learn: Black and Asian American Solidarity Against Attacks on Antiracist Education.”

Borysenko notes that following the presenters’ talk (two gents associated with the “social justice teaching magazine” *Rethinking Schools* who discussed “fugitive pedagogy,” or “how to smuggle socialist ideas like critical race theory into the classroom even when the law outlaws it”) Drabinski got in line to offer a comment.

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Addressed as “comrade” as she was about to speak, Drabinski said (emphasis in the original)

I’m Emily and I’m a librarian.

(There’s a large round of applause – the crowd knew who Emily was)

I just want to say thank you for bringing up libraries, and classroom libraries, but also school libraries of all kind, public libraries and higher education library who have been under attack in similar ways

I think your point that public education needs to be a site of socialist organizing, I think libraries really do too.

I haven't seen that, working in libraries, but I think there's a real opportunity here to both connect with what's happening in public education, what's happening in libraries, but also we need some help with libraries.

We need to be on the agenda of socialist organizing.

Three states — Montana, Texas and Missouri — thus far have left the American Library Association, with nine more considering it based on GOP lawmakers' actions, the Associated Press reports. Montana and Texas exited specifically due to Drabinski.

Drabinski's comments at the socialism pow wow notwithstanding, the ALA claims it does not have a "political agenda" and has "always been nonpartisan."

While the AP report focuses on conservatives' alleged efforts at "book banning," early last year an allegedly anti-racist group at the University of Minnesota Duluth — which included at least one professor — was active in removing library books it had deemed "racist."

Since the ALA professes opposition to book bans, *The College Fix* had asked Drabinski about this group's activities ... but she did not respond.

MORE: UChicago coed threatened with violence for saying socialism more dangerous than coronavirus

The American Library Association (ALA) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that is guided by a single mission: ‘to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.’ ALA remains committed to providing essential support for every library and library worker in every state and territory to help them better serve their communities.

Garcia also commented on Drabinski and her political beliefs.

“While we respect the rights of individuals to exercise their freedom of thought and expression, ALA does not align with, endorse, or promote the political beliefs, values, or ideologies of any one individual—including its elected leaders and members,” the communications specialist said.

While Garcia said the group supports freedom of thought and expression, its liberal political activism led to at least one member leaving.

“[My] office cannot continue to support an organization that does not protect the First Amendment rights of Missourians and refuses to follow its own governing documents,” Missouri Secretary of State John Ashcroft previously wrote in a statement to the organization. “My hope is that you (ALA) reconsider this blatantly political stance, abide by your own principles and protect the rights of Missourians.”

The announcement came after ALA staff were caught on video instructing members on how to stop Christian story hours organized by actor Kirk Cameron of “Growing Pains” fame.



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1/ BREAKING: We have obtained exclusive evidence that the taxpayer-funded American Library Association @ALALibrary is circulating guidance to sabotage conservative or Christian parent groups from gathering in public libraries on August 5th. One ALA director gave suggestions on... Show more



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Other former members include the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Montana State Library, and the South Carolina State Library.

The ALA's advice on how to keep out Christians from hosting pro-family story hours in the

libraries also contributed to South Carolina's decision to cut ties

“ALA has become a distractor from the core mission of serving all people and has failed to develop an understanding of differences in geographic areas,” the agency director also wrote.

Several Florida counties have cut ties, including Collier, Hernando, and Citrus, according to *Florida’s Voice*.

Campbell County in Wyoming also cut ties with the American Library Association, just a few months after Drabinski’s election though before she had taken office.

Wyoming lawmakers have tried unsuccessfully to convince Republican Governor Mark Gordon to withdraw the state library from the ALA.



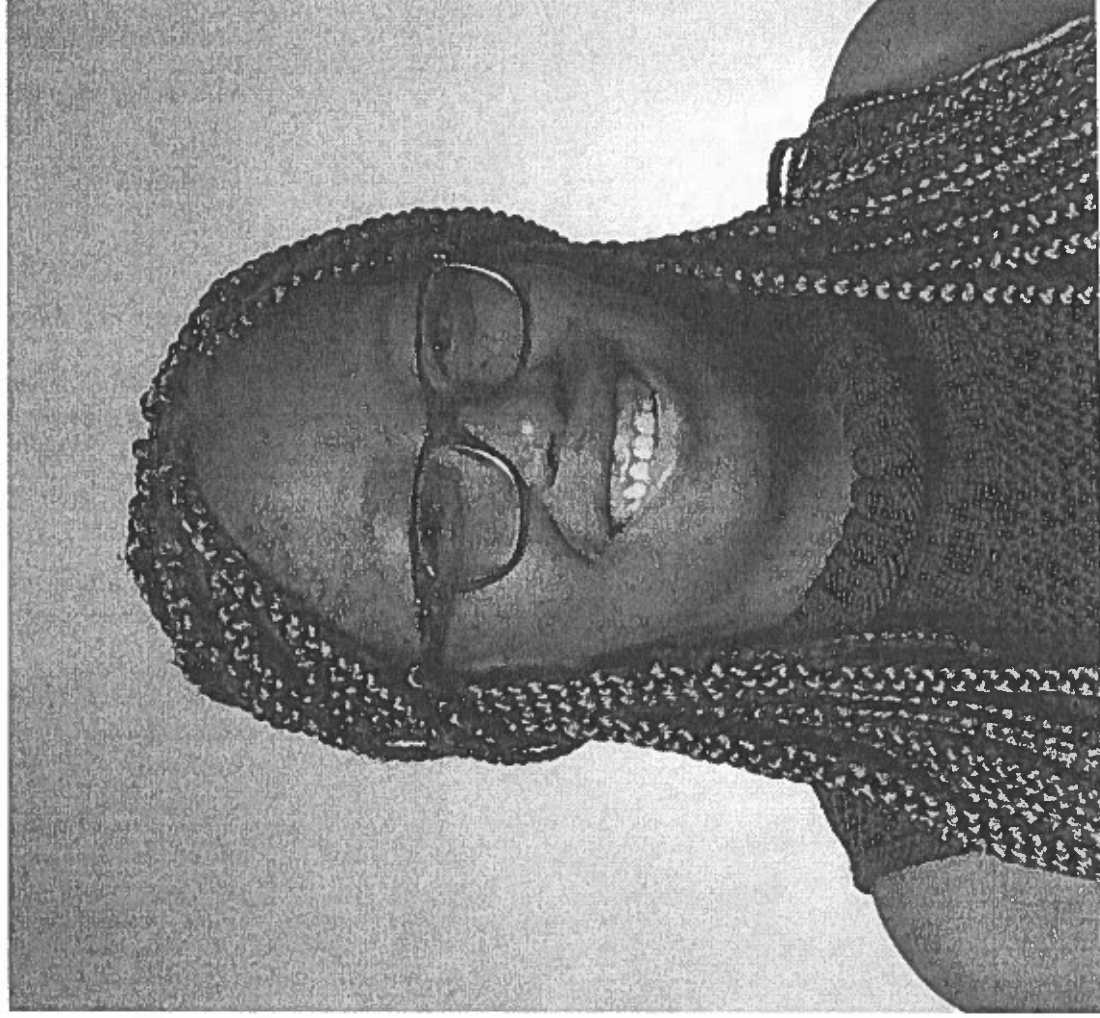
Self-described "Marxist lesbian" Emily Drabinski was appointed head of the American Library Association (ALA) this year. Critics say the ALA is behind the movement to make the country's libraries centers of wokeness.

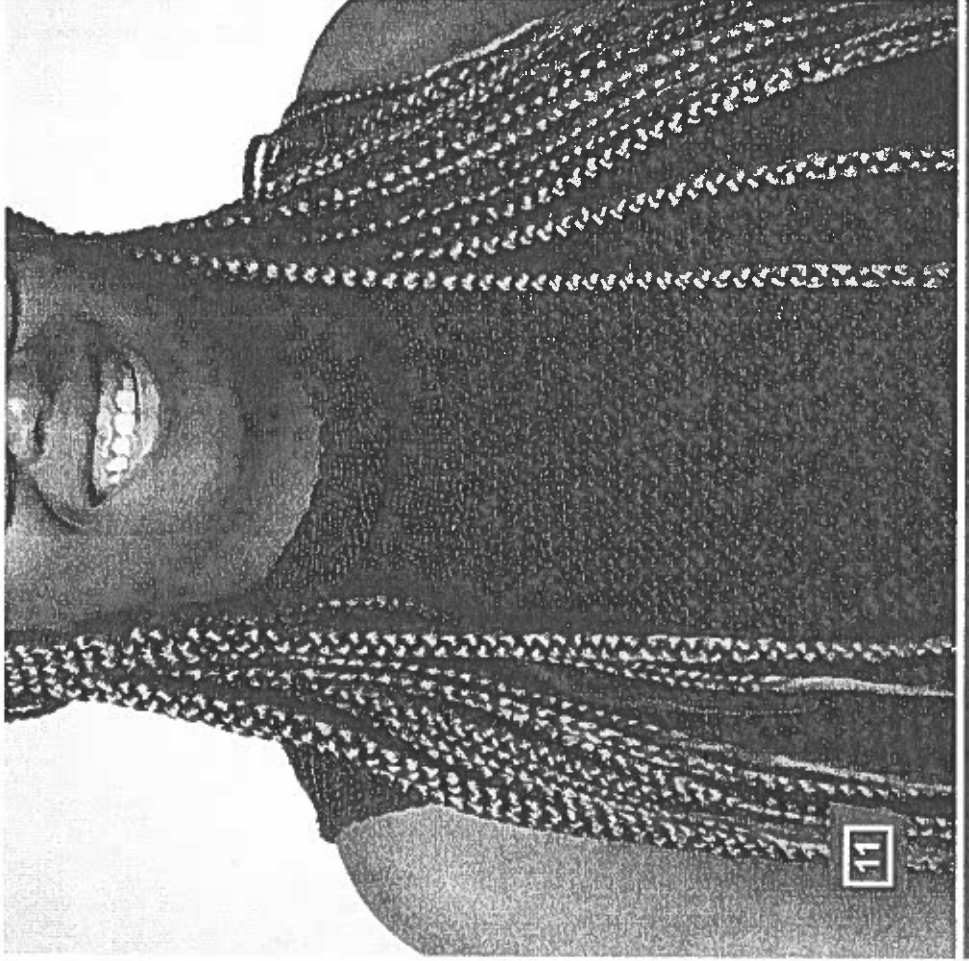
The newly-elected head of the ALA — a self-described “Marxist lesbian” named Emily Drabinski — said she rose through the ranks the old-school way, from “looseleaf legal filer to library director.” But her mission is deadly serious.

So many of us find ourselves at the ends of our worlds,” Drabinski said during her campaign to become ALA president. “The consequences of decades of unchecked climate change, class war, white supremacy, and imperialism have led us here. If we want a world that includes public goods like the library, we must organize our collective power and wield it. The American Library Association offers us a set of tools that can harness our energies and build those capacities.”

After Drabinski won, she posted on Twitter: "I just cannot believe that a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for a better world is the president-elect of @ALALibrary. I am so excited for what we will do together. Solidarity!"

The influential Chicago-based Fobazi Ettarh, 32, who was most recently a librarian at Rutgers, is another example of what many call a modern "radical librarian." Ettarh, who is also an educator and writer, says she represents "librarianship, education, activism, and all the intersections in between."





Chicago librarian Fobazi Ettarh, 32, says the field is “riddled with white supremacy.”

“People that say what librarians do in their own time, out of the library, is their own business. As if white supremacy is something you only do on weekends,” she wrote on her “WTF Is a Radical Librarian Anyway?” website.

“It is time to stop being shocked. [People of color] have been telling you this forever. Trans people have been telling you this forever. The disabled. The queer. Librarianship is not the last bastion of democracy. It is not inherently good and sacred. It is an institution. And like other institutions it is riddled with white supremacy, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and so on, and on, and on... *This is who we are.*”

Bear said the differences are both political and philosophical.

“(The ALA) are definitely for freedom of speech no matter what. I’m all for freedom of speech for adults, but I think we need to protect our children,” said Bear.

She referenced the ALA’s legal challenge of 20 years ago against the Child Internet Protection Act, which required libraries to install computer filters restricting access to child pornography, obscenity and material harmful to minors as a condition for receiving federal money.

The case ascended to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the majority declared the Child Internet Protection Act constitutional, especially since individual library patrons could ask librarians to remove filters for the duration of their computer use.

“A library’s need to exercise judgment in making collection decisions depends on its traditional role in identifying suitable and worthwhile material,” reads the majority opinion. “It is no less entitled to play that role when it collects material from the Internet than when it collects material from any other source.”

Bear said this and other ALA maneuvers contributed to her board’s decision, not just the “Marxist” tweet. She encouraged community members to lean into, not away from, their local libraries, however.

“The average person has no idea of this but librarians have been targeting children in recent years and trying to turn them into political activists,” said Dan Kleinman, a self-described “library watchdog” from Chatham, NJ, who has run a website called “Safe Libraries” for more than 10 years. He said he has documented the alarming radicalization of the nation’s libraries, including what he says is readily available porn in library computers.

Teaching the Radical Catalog

Emily Drabinski

During a recent information literacy session for a group of first-year students enrolled in an African-American women's history course at Sarah Lawrence College, I discussed the changing Library of Congress (LC) subject headings for this field: NEGRO WOMEN; BLACK WOMEN; AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN; etc. A student raised her hand and asked whether students specifically interested in the history of White women needed to search the catalog using the term WHITE. My colleague, a reference and instruction librarian with five years of experience, answered yes. While we might wish that LC acknowledged White as a racial category and marker for domination, it does not. LC is rooted in historical structures of White supremacy; as such, the catalog presumes White to be the normative term. The librarian got it wrong.

We must get it right. Currently at stake is, first off, the problem of giving students wrong information. A class busily searching for works about WHITE WOMEN will come up empty, when a search for WOMEN would serve them quite well. A second stake, less obvious but more insidious, is the risk that by teaching a catalog uncritically, we hide and extend the universalizing, hegemonic tendencies of our classifications into our teaching.

This chapter takes up the moment where critical classification theory intersects with critical pedagogy. Considering critical interruptions of classification as a social and political project, I argue that classification schemes are socially produced and embedded structures; they are products of human labor that carry traces of all the intentional and unintentional racism, sexism, and classism of the workers who create them. Political efforts to change terminology or localize classification schemes are inevitably limited by the nature of classification itself. We cannot do a classification scheme objectively; it is the nature of subject analysis to be subjective. Teaching, done critically and done well, offers a potential way out of this dilemma. This will require a challenge to our standards-based information literacy discourse, and a turn toward radical pedagogical theory.

Classification in the Library

Classification is at the heart of the work of a library. A library is arguably nothing more - or less - than a set of materials classified according to some set of standard prin

The ALA and “Censorship”

From ALA’s “Library Bill of Rights” (January 2019; “Inclusion of ‘age’ reaffirmed January 23, 1996”)

“V. A person’s right to use a library should not be denied because of origin, *age* [emphasis added], background, or views.”

From “ALA Statements and Policies on Censorship”

“A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials.”

From ALA’s “First Amendment and Censorship”

“a few narrow categories of speech . . . not protected by the First Amendment. The categories of unprotected speech include obscenity, child pornography, defamatory speech, false advertising, true threats, and fighting words.”

“Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” (1972; rev. June 2019)

“The American Library Association supports equal and equitable access to all library resources and services by users *of all ages* [emphasis added]. Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users is in violation of the American Library Association’s *Library Bill of Rights*. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities *based on the age of library users* [emphasis added].

“Article V of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, ‘A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.’ The right to use a library includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, ***based solely on the chronological age*** [emphasis added], apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, emancipatory or other legal status of users violates Article V. ***This includes minors*** [emphasis added] who do not have a parent or guardian available to sign a library card application or permission slip. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness should be able to obtain a library card regardless of library policies related to chronological age.”

“Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children’s—and only their children’s—access to library resources.... Libraries and library governing bodies should not use rating systems to inhibit ***a minor’s*** [emphasis added] access to materials.”

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THE UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO U.S. FEDERAL LAW ON OBSCENITY

- 18 U.S.C. § 1460- Possession with intent to sell, and sale, of obscene matter on Federal property
- 18 U.S.C. § 1461- Mailing obscene or crime-inciting matter
- 18 U.S.C. § 1462- Importation or transportation of obscene matters
- 18 U.S.C. § 1463- Mailing indecent matter on wrappers or envelopes
- 18 U.S.C. § 1464- Broadcasting obscene language
- 18 U.S.C. § 1465- Transportation of obscene matters for sale or distribution
- 18 U.S.C. § 1466- Engaging in the business of selling or transferring obscene matter
- 18 U.S.C. § 1466A- Obscene visual representations of the sexual abuse of children
- 18 U.S.C. § 1467- Criminal forfeiture
- 18 U.S.C. § 1468- Distributing obscene material by cable or subscription television
- 18 U.S.C. § 1469- Presumptions
- 18 U.S.C. § 1470- Transfer of obscene material to minors
- 18 U.S.C. § 2252B Misleading domain names on the Internet
- 18 U.S.C. § 2252C Misleading words or digital images on the Internet

The U.S. Supreme Court established the test that judges and juries use to determine whether matter is obscene in three major cases: *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15, 24-25 (1973); *Smith v. United States*, 431 U.S. 291, 300-02, 309 (1977); and *Pope v. Illinois*, 481 U.S. 497, 500-01 (1987). The three-pronged *Miller* test is as follows:

1. Whether the average person, applying contemporary adult community standards, finds that the matter, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests (*i.e.*, an erotic, lascivious, abnormal, unhealthy, degrading, shameful, or morbid interest in nudity, sex, or excretion);
2. Whether the average person, applying contemporary adult community standards, finds that the matter depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way (*i.e.*, ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, masturbation, excretory functions, lewd exhibition of the genitals, or sado-masochistic sexual abuse); and
3. Whether a reasonable person finds that the matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Any material that satisfies this three-pronged test may be found obscene.

Federal law prohibits the possession with intent to sell or distribute obscenity, to send, ship, or receive obscenity, to import obscenity, and to transport obscenity across state borders for purposes of distribution. Although the law does not criminalize the private possession of obscene matter, the act of receiving such matter could violate the statutes prohibiting the use of the U.S. Mails, common carriers, or interactive computer services for the purpose of transportation (See 18 U.S.C. § 1460; 18 U.S.C. § 1461; 18 U.S.C. § 1462; 18 U.S.C. § 1463). Convicted offenders face fines and imprisonment. It is also illegal to aid or abet in the commission of these crimes, and individuals who commit such acts are also punishable under federal obscenity laws.

In addition, federal law prohibits both the production of obscene matter with intent to sell or distribute, and engaging in a business of selling or transferring obscene matter using or affecting means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce, including the use of interactive computer services. (See 18 U.S.C. § 1465; 18 U.S.C. § 1466). For example, it is illegal to sell and distribute obscene material on the Internet. Convicted offenders face fines and up to 5 years in prison.

Moreover, Sections 1464 and 1468 of Title 18, United States Code, specifically prohibit the broadcast or distribution of obscene matter by radio communication or by cable or subscription television respectively. Convicted

offenders under these statutes face s and up to 2 years in prison.

Obscenity Involving Minors

Federal statutes specifically prohibit obscenity involving minors, and convicted offenders generally face harsher statutory penalties than if the offense involved only adults.

Section 1470 of Title 18, United States Code, prohibits any individual from knowingly transferring or attempting to transfer obscene matter using the U.S. mail or any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce to a minor under 16 years of age. Convicted offenders face fines and imprisonment for up to 10 years.

In addition, Section 1466A of Title 18, United State Code, makes it illegal for any person to knowingly produce, distribute, receive, or possess with intent to transfer or distribute visual representations, such as drawings, cartoons, or paintings that appear to depict minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and are deemed obscene. This statute offers an alternative 2-pronged test for obscenity with a lower threshold than the *Miller* test. The matter involving minors can be deemed obscene if it (i) depicts an image that is, or appears to be a minor engaged in graphic bestiality, sadistic or masochistic abuse, or sexual intercourse and (ii) if the image lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. A first time offender convicted under this statute faces fines and at least 5 years to a maximum of 20 years in prison.

There are also laws to protect children from obscene or harmful material on the Internet. For one, federal law prohibits the use of misleading domain names, words, or digital images on the Internet with intent to deceive a minor into viewing harmful or obscene material (See 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252B, 2252C). It is illegal for an individual to knowingly use interactive computer services to display obscenity in a manner that makes it available to a minor less than 18 years of age (See 47 U.S.C. § 223(d) –Communications Decency Act of 1996, as amended by the PROTECT Act of 2003). It is also illegal to knowingly make a commercial communication via the Internet that includes obscenity and is available to any minor less than 17 years of age (See 47 U.S.C. § 231 –Child Online Protection Act of 1998).

The standard of what is harmful to minors may differ from the standard applied to adults. Harmful materials for minors include any communication consisting of nudity, sex or excretion that (i) appeals to the prurient interest of minors, (ii) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable material for minors, (iii) and lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

In addition to facing imprisonment and fines, convicted offenders of federal obscenity laws involving minors may also be required to register as sex offenders. Furthermore, in some circumstances, obscenity violations involving minors may also be subject to prosecution under federal child pornography laws, which yield severe statutory penalties (For more information, see [Citizen's Guide to U.S. Federal Child Pornography Laws](#)).

Updated November 9, 2021

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First Amendment and Censorship

First Amendment Resources | Statements & Core Documents | Publications & Guidelines

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

One of the ten amendments of the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment gives everyone residing in the United States the right to hear all sides of every issue and to make their own judgments about those issues without government interference or limitations. The First Amendment allows individuals to speak, publish, read and view what they wish, worship (or not worship) as they wish, associate with whomever they choose, and gather together to ask the government to make changes in the law or to correct the wrongs in society.

The right to speak and the right to publish under the First Amendment has been interpreted widely to protect individuals and society from government attempts to suppress ideas and information, and to forbid government censorship of books, magazines, and newspapers as well as art, film, music and materials on the internet. The Supreme Court and other courts have held conclusively that there is a First Amendment right to receive information as a corollary to the right to speak. Justice William Brennan elaborated on this point in 1965:

"The protection of the Bill of Rights goes beyond the specific guarantees to protect from Congressional abridgment those equally fundamental personal rights necessary to make the express guarantees fully meaningful. I think the right to receive publications is such a fundamental right. The dissemination of ideas can accomplish nothing if otherwise willing addressees are not free to receive and consider them. It would be a barren marketplace of ideas that had only sellers and no buyers." *Lamont v. Postmaster General*, 381 U.S. 301 (1965).

The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the right to receive information is a fundamental right protected under the U.S. Constitution when it considered whether a local school board violated the Constitution by removing books from a school library. In that decision, the Supreme Court held that "the right to receive ideas is a necessary predicate to the recipient's meaningful exercise of his own rights of speech, press, and political freedom." *Board of Education v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)

Public schools and public libraries, as public institutions, have been the setting for legal battles about student access to books, the removal or retention of "offensive" material, regulation of patron behavior, and limitations on public access to the internet. Restrictions and censorship of materials in public institutions are most commonly prompted by public complaints about those materials and implemented by government officials mindful of the importance some of their constituents may place on religious values, moral sensibilities, and the desire to protect children from materials they deem to be offensive or inappropriate. Directly or indirectly, ordinary individuals are the driving force behind the challenges to the freedom to access information and ideas in the library.

The First Amendment prevents public institutions from compromising individuals' First Amendment freedoms by establishing a framework that defines critical rights and responsibilities regarding free expression and the freedom of belief. The First Amendment protects the right to exercise those freedoms, and it advocates respect for the right of others to do the same. Rather than engaging in censorship and repression to advance one's values and beliefs, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis counsels persons living in the United States to resolve their differences in values and belief by resort to "more speech, not enforced silence."

By virtue of the Fourteenth Amendment, the First Amendment's constitutional right of free speech and intellectual freedom also applies to state and local governments. Government agencies and government officials are forbidden from regulating or restricting speech or other expression based on its content or viewpoint. Criticism of the government, political dissatisfaction, and advocacy of unpopular ideas that people may find distasteful or against public policy are nearly always protected by the First Amendment. Only that expression that is shown to belong to a few narrow categories of speech is not protected by the First Amendment. The categories of unprotected speech include obscenity, child pornography, defamatory speech, false advertising, true threats, and fighting words. Deciding what is and is not protected speech is reserved to courts of law.

The First Amendment only prevents government restrictions on speech. It does not prevent restrictions on speech imposed by private individuals or businesses. Facebook and other social media can regulate or restrict speech hosted on their platforms because they are private entities.

First Amendment Resources

Clauses of the First Amendment (<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendments/amendment-i>) | The National Constitution Center

First Amendment FAQ (<https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/first-amendment-center/first-amendment-faq/>) | Freedom Forum

Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition: Common Interpretations and Matters for Debate (<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-i>) | National Constitution Center

First Amendment - Religion and Expression (<http://constitution.findlaw.com/amendment1.html>) | FindLaw

What is Censorship?

Censorship is the suppression of ideas and information that some individuals, groups, or government officials find objectionable or dangerous. Would-be censors try to use the power of the state to impose their view of what is truthful and appropriate, or offensive and objectionable, on everyone else. Censors pressure public institutions, like libraries, to suppress and remove information they judge inappropriate or dangerous from public access, so that no one else has the chance to read or view the material and make up their own minds about it. The censor wants to prejudge materials for everyone. It is no more complicated than someone saying, "Don't let anyone read this book, or buy that magazine, or view that film, because I object to it!"

"Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment." — Article 3, Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>)

Snapshot of ALA Actions and Statements

From ALA president Emily Dabrinski, following her April 2022 election: “ I just cannot believe that a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for a better world.... Solidarity!”

Subsequent posts from her (and other librarians) have had the Marxist “clenched fist” in the background.

Among her publications:

“Queering the Catalog: Queer Theory and the Politics of Collection”

“Teaching the Radical Catalog”

When popular Christian actor, producer, and author Kirk Cameron’s children’s book, *As You Grow*, was published late last year, Cameron and his publisher reached out to a number of public libraries offering to pay rent for rooms for story-hour presentations. Many libraries never responded; some outright refused him access. These same libraries, which had hosted Drag Queen presentations and “LGBTQ+” story hours, didn’t want to allow Cameron—and many interested parents and kids—access. By the way, *As You Grow* emphasizes the virtues of kindness and patience. Here are some very revealing “explanations” for the refusals of access:

“Allowing a Christian author to use a meeting room opposes our ‘queering the library initiative.” (close paraphrase of a longer statement from a library in the Northwest, maybe Seattle)

“Well, we are focusing on racial equity.”

“Our transformed library will be known for its welcoming culture of possibility and accessibility.” (Apparently this librarian has no sense of irony, much less self-awareness.)

