Intellectual Freedom News 9/28/2018

September 28, 2018 – Collated by OIF Staff and News Editors

Intellectual Freedom Highlights

- Dear Banned Author (http://www.al.org/advocacy/bbooks/dear-banned-author) | What would you say to your favorite banned and challenged author? This Banned Books Week (September 23-29), we’re hosting a Dear Banned Author letter-writing campaign, and we hope you'll join us! Visit the website to find author addresses, programming tools and printable postcards.

- Dear Banned Author: A collection of 29 powerful letters (https://www.oif.al.org/oif/?p=15769) | OIF Blog

Censorship


Banned Books Week

Privacy

- US privacy law is on the horizon. Here's how tech companies want to shape it (https://www.cnet.com/news/us-privacy-law-is-on-the-horizon-heres-how-tech-companies-want-to-shape-it/) | CNet
- Legislators pushing a Patriot Act, but for human trafficking in the wake of FOSTA (https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20180925/08083040707/legislators-pushing-patriot-act-human-trafficking-wake-fosta.shtml) | TechDirt; "Specifically, H.R. 6729 would allow financial institutions, federal regulatory bodies, nonprofit organizations, and law enforcement to share customer bank records between them without running afoul of rules regarding consumer privacy and without opening themselves up to lawsuits."
- EFF opposes industry efforts to have Congress roll back state privacy protections (https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/09/eff-opposes-federal-preemption-state-privacy-laws) | EFF
- Just don't call it privacy (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/22/sunday-review/privacy-hearing-amazon-
Net Neutrality and Broadband Access

- Cities are teaming up to offer broadband, and the FCC is mad (https://www.wired.com/story/fcc-southern-california-broadband-collective/?mbid=n1_092718_daily_list1_p1&CNDID=46196079) | Wired

Access

- Prisons are switching to ebooks – but that's not a good thing (https://qz.com/1399330/prison-inmates-will-soon-be-reading-ebooks-but-thats-not-a-good-thing/) | Quartz
- National Screening Room of free motion pictures now online (https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-18-125/) | Library of Congress; "The Library of Congress announced today that it has digitized hundreds of hours of motion pictures that will be freely available on the newly launched National Screening Room website. Most of the content in the National Screening Room is in the public domain."
- Accessibility on campus (https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=ljx180902Lipkin) | Library Journal; "Legal requirements, the growth of dedicated positions, and enhanced technology are helping academic libraries make content accessible for all."

Copyright

- Miracle in Marrakesh makes it to US (https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/marrakesh-treaty-passes-house/) | American Libraries

Free Press, Social Media, and Fake News

- Inside the private Justice Department meeting that could lead to new investigations of Facebook, Google and other tech giants (https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2018/09/25/inside-big-meeting-
Academic Freedom & Campus Speech


First Amendment and Free Speech


Around the Web


International Issues

- After a Portuguese museum director stepped down to protest censorship, artists such as Wolfgang Tillmans and Tania Bruguera offered support (https://www.artsy.net/news/artsy-editorial-portuguese-museum-director-stepped-protest-censorship-artists-wolfgang-tillmans-tania-bruguera-offered-support) | Artsy
- A new age of censorship is dawning on us (https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-new-age-of-censorship-is-dawning-on-us-hxmh376ln) | The Times (United Kingdom)
- Google CEO Sundar Pichai is headed to Washington this week to discuss censorship and China (https://www.theverge.com/2018/9/24/17898930/google-ceo-sundar-pichai-meet-with-washington-gop-china) | The Verge
ALA News


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- how to get involved and make the most of what ALA offers

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One thought on “Intellectual Freedom News 9/28/2018”

Sara E. Cook says:

September 29, 2018 at 9:25 am

In reflection of banned books week, I would like to raise concerns about the dangers of censorship in our modern world. As all things evolve, so do our concepts. Today, books are still banned for covering topics of sex, LGBT+ rights, transgender rights, and violence. But another type of censorship is prevalent and rooted in our daily lives; every day, our social media pages, even our search results, are censored and weighed in our to maximize our time spent on a website and appeal to our preferences. These created "echo chambers" are essentially censorship of ideals outside of our own, and because of the lack of exposure to opposing ideals, our society becomes increasingly warped one way or another. Therefore, I believe it is in our best interest, in order to preserve the integrity of information, to create online spaces that share unbiased representation of different viewpoints. A wonderful example is the Points of View Reference Center. If there are any other useful tools promoting this activity, please share them.

Leave a Reply

Comment

Name *
The Intellectual Freedom Blog's purpose (http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?page_id=5647) is to educate and encourage discussions about intellectual freedom principles and promote the value of libraries, librarians, and professional membership in the American Library Association (ALA). The blog is managed and edited by staff of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif) (OIF) to raise awareness of time-sensitive news, issues in the field, upcoming events, helpful resources, and the work of members.

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