



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms and definitions
relate to materials, library resources,
programs, and/or displays.

Before revealing the American Library
Association (ALA) definition, consider
your personal definition for each term.

BAN

BAN

- A removal of materials from a library based on the objections of a person or group.
- Sometimes the ban is a decision made by a committee, and other times an administrator or staff member removes books without following a library's policy.

CENSORSHIP

CENSORSHIP

- A decision made by a governing authority or its representative(s) to suppress, exclude, expurgate, remove, or restrict public access to a library resource based on a person or group's disapproval of its content or its author/creator.
- See also [challenge](#).

CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE

- An attempt to have a library resource or program removed or access to it restricted, based on the objections of a person or group.
- Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others.
- Challenges sometimes lead to [censorship](#).

COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT

- When a patron expresses concern about the appropriateness of a library program, service, or material.
- Some complaints are resolved with a simple conversation with library staff or an administrator.
- A complaint does not necessarily trigger the [Reconsideration Procedure](#).

DISINFORMATION

DISINFORMATION

- Deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda.
- *You will learn more when earning the Mis- and Dis-Information Badge.*

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

- The right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view, without restriction.
- It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.

MISINFORMATION

MISINFORMATION

- False information that is spread, regardless of whether there is intent to mislead.
- *You will learn more when earning the Mis- and Dis-Information Badge.*

NEUTRALITY

NEUTRALITY

- The idea that libraries should remain ideologically neutral spaces to ensure all patrons' access to any information they please, regardless of their identity, status, background, or beliefs.
- *You will learn more when earning the Neutrality Badge.*

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

- A formal, written request that the library remove or restrict access to particular resources or programs, submitted on a form and invoking a formal, standardized review process by the library and/or its governing body.
- *You will learn more when earning the How to Receive a Challenge Badge.*

SELECTION/COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

SELECTION/COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- A policy guiding all selection and purchase decisions about library acquisitions: review source requirements, community standards, etc.
- These policies are generally approved by a school district, public library board, or other managing oversight body.

BROWSE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

① [United for Libraries' Terms and Definitions Related to Intellectual Freedom & Censorship](#)

