The tentative title I came up with for the semester project was: Banned or Challenged books: Are they gaining popularity?: A look at why books are being banned/challenged in today’s libraries and how to create diverse collections despite challenges. When thinking about the project I wanted to research for this semester I kept coming back to banned or challenged books. The reason for this is because it is everywhere in the media it seems. There are many aspects to challenged books in libraries but, there are two avenue I want to explore. First, I want to see why the materials are being challenged, specifically what is the reason behind each challenge and who/what group is protesting the material. Second, I want to look at how libraries can create diverse collections and in doing so, is it completely impossible to be inclusive without resulting in challenged material. The American Library Association (ALA) has guidelines on how to deal with challenged material, what material has been banned and also tips for creating an inclusive collection. I want to study specifically, the banned materials section of their site because, they list the reasoning for the challenges/bans. I will focus on the United States and look at if there are trends, events happening that prompt these disputes and media. It is important to look at challenged/banned materials because, this is something that many library professionals will face in their careers. We need to know how to handle them, preemptively spot possible problem material and also just know that diversity is necessary in libraries.

The second aspect of the project I want to look at is creating diverse library collection. A lot of library collections try to create diverse collections but, they seem to fall short. One of the reasons is because they are not using resources available to them to find those diverse materials and they are not consulting diverse individuals for their opinions. I will look at these resources and actions plans to come up with some ideas to create diversity in all types of libraries. With this I also want to see how to decrease challenges to material. I hypothesize that through educating about diversity, court cases and intellectual freedom will help decrease these challenges. Having tools to create diverse libraries is important because, we do not want to exclude any culture, ability, etc. in the library collections. It is also important to be prepared to educate individuals who may protest a material being in a library collection. Without education, the libraries will continually run into challenges of their material with no chance for learning and growth. Using the questions: why are materials being challenged and how can libraries create diverse collections, I hope to find a solution to decrease banned/challenged materials in libraries in order for more inclusivity in libraries.

Annotated Bibliography

ALA American Library Association. American Library Association, 2022. https://www.ala.org/.

The ALA website has an abundance of information but, I am going to focus on what books have been banned and for what reason so I can see if I can discover trends.

“Banned Books Week: Court Cases.” Research Guides, September 27, 2021. https://guides.libraries.uc.edu/c.php?g=1084786&p=7908524.

This is a good resource because, it shows some of the major court cases regarding book banning in the United States. Many decisions about what books can be removed from libraries will be based on the decisions of these court cases.

Burke, Susan K. 2008. “Removal of Gay-Themed Materials from Public Libraries: Public Opinion Trends.” *Public Library Quarterly* 27 (3): 247-264. Doi: 10.1080/0161684082229552.

It is not just books about race that are being challenged, books about the LGBTQ communities are also being challenged in libraries across the county. This book looks at the public opinion about books about the LGBTQ topic and will be a great resource to try to educate those who are against these types of materials in a library.

Burke, Susan K. 2010. “Social Tolerence and Racist Materials in Public Libraries.” *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 49 (4): 369-79. Doi:10.5860/rusq.49n4.396.

This resource looks at the support of diverse material in public libraries and shows quite a few visuals through graphs with one in particular being of great interest; materials by a certain race being supported versus other races.

Clarke, Rachel Ivy and Schoonmaker, Sayward, "Metadata for Diversity: Identification and Implications of Potential Access Points for Diverse Library Resources" (2019). School of Information Studies - Faculty Scholarship. 191. https://surface.syr.edu/istpub/191.

There is a constant struggle and debate to incorporate more diverse material and programs in libraries, this article looks at access points to introduce those types of materials which is useful to see where there is a potential to challenge.

CT State Library. “Libguides Home: Children's and YA Services: Inclusive Collections.” Inclusive Collections - Children's and YA Services - LibGuides Home at Connecticut State Library, Division of Library Development, February 10, 2022. https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/children/inclusivecollections.

This website is a great resource to identifying diversity in a collection. There are many link and videos with tips and tool but, what I found helpful was the pie charts of diversity in the industry overall.

Garnar, Martin, and Trina J. Magi. *Intellectual Freedom Manual*. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2021.

This source has an entire chapter about censorship and challenged materials and the idea of content filtering which will help identify which is which while accessing banned materials in libraries that I will study.

Gohr, Michelle. “Ethnic and Racial Diversity in Libraries.” *Journal of Radical Librarianship* 3 (August 2, 2017): 42–58. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.5860/llm.v28i1.7019.

We are confronted more and more with communities digging their heels in about diversity and change and this article lists some good tips for allies to diversity and change in libraries.

Kumar S, Vijay, and Kn Sheshadri. “The First International Conference on ‘Digital Entrepreneurship: Prospects, Perils, Dividends, and Challenges.’” In *Digital Entrepreneurship*, 116–21. Bangalore: Presidency University, 2018. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332876734\_Role\_of\_Libraries\_in\_Entrepreneurship\_and\_Social\_Change\_Review\_of\_selected\_case\_studies.

This paper was presented at a conference and is a really good snapshot of what the role library professionals play in social change and how we can be a great resource for educating about diversity.

Jimenez, Laura M, and Betsy Beckhert “Where is the Diversity in Publishing? The 2019 Diversity Baseline Survey Results.” *The Open Book Blog* (blog). Lee & Low Books, January 28, 2020. https://blog.leeandlow.com/2020/01/28/2019diversitybaselinesurvey/.

This is a write up of the results found in a diversity baseline survey which was a look at publishing companies and if what they published was diverse which will be useful in suggesting material to libraries to create diverse collections.

Malone, Cheryl Knott. “Toward a Multicultural American Public Library History.” *Libraries & Culture* 35, no. 1 (2000): 77–87. http://www.jstor.org/stable/25548800.

Getting the background on diversity in library collections is always a good start in any research so this article is a good background on the history of diverse libraries.

“Module 24a: Transforming Library Collections Part 1.” Project READY: Reimagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Accessed February 12, 2022. https://ready.web.unc.edu/section-2-transforming-practice/module-24-transforming-library-collections/.

How does one go about changing their library collection to be more inclusive? This online curriculum offers great tips and also links to go about transforming the library collection.

Pierce Garry, Candi. 2015. “Selections or Censorship? School Librarians and LGBTQ Resources.” *School Libraries Worldwide* 21 (1): 73-90. Doi:10.14265.21.1.005.

This article looks at whether libraries self-censor the materials they purchase for the collection and how that impacts what is available to individuals, especially those that identify in the minority, to check out and use for research.

Schadt, Erin M. “Racial Equity in the Library, Part Two: Diverse Collections, Programming, Resources.” WebJunction. WebJunction, May 15, 2017. https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/racial-equity-parttwo.html.

This is a great resource because it shows why we need diverse collections in the library and starts with a true interaction with library patrons looking for books with covers like them.

Shachaf, Pnina. 2005. “A global perspective on library association codes of ethics.” Library & Information Science Research, 27(4), 513-533.

As library professionals we need to not only focus on serving the communities in which we work but, also follow the code of ethics set forth by associations and organizations; this paper looks at the code of ethics in the profession and shows how these are laid out per country.