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Censorship in Libraries: A Retrospective Study of Banned and Challenged Books

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INTRODUCTION

According to the Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) (2019), a branch of the American Library Association (ALA), 607 library materials were targets of censorship in public, school, and university libraries in 2019, a 14% increase from the previous year. The OIF collects records on banned book challenges from libraries, schools, and media sources from across the country. These records were then used to assemble lists of the most challenged books by year and decade to inform the public about censorship issues in libraries and schools (ALA, 2016). This study surveyed the ALA's Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books lists from the past 30 years to see if there was a change in the themes and age groups that are being challenged or banned.

Problem Statement

The purpose of this study is to examine the American Library Association's Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books lists from the years 1990-2019 to see if there has been a shift in the themes and age categories that are most likely to be banned or challenged.

Research Questions

R1. From the books listed on the American Library Association's Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books list from 1990-2019, what themes were most frequently banned or challenged in libraries?

R2. What were the numbers per audience category (adult, juvenile, or teen) of the materials banned or challenged in libraries within this timeframe?

R3. How have these themes/audience categories shifted over time?

Definitions:

All definitions were retrieved from the Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (Reitz, 2017).

Banned Book: "A book, the publication and/or sale of which has been prohibited or suppressed by ecclesiastical or secular authority because its content is considered objectionable or dangerous, usually for political and/or social reasons."

Bibliometrics: "The use of mathematical and statistical methods to study and identify patterns in the usage of materials and services within a library or to analyze the historical development of a specific body of literature, especially its authorship, publication, and use."

Censorship: "A book, the publication and/or sale of which has been prohibited or suppressed by ecclesiastical or secular authority because its content is considered objectionable or dangerous, usually for political and/or social reasons."

Challenge: "A complaint lodged by a library user acting as an individual or representing a group, concerning the inclusion of a specific item (or items) in a library collection, usually followed by a demand that the material be removed."

Content Analysis: "Close analysis of a work or body of communicated information to determine its meaning and account for the effect it has on its audience."

Library Bill of Rights: "A formal statement adopted by the American Library Association in 1948 and amended in 1961, 1990, and 1996, affirming the right of libraries in the United States to provide, to all members of the communities they serve, materials expressing diverse points of view and to remain free of censorship."

Delimitations

This study focused solely on the banned or challenged books listed on the ALA's Top 100 banned or challenged books lists for the years 1990-2019. Additionally, the study only used the articles *Number*

of challenges by reasons, initiator, & institution for the years 1990-1999 and 2000-2009 to create the list of reasons why books are challenged. Only information from Amazon, Goodreads, Novelist Plus, and The StoryGraph were used to compare themes and audience groups. Books that appear on more than one list were logged in the study's notes as being on multiple lists. However, for the sake of clarity, only one record for each book or series was made in the notes.

Assumptions

This study assumed that the banned or challenged book lists used from the ALA are portrayed accurately and completely. The graphs from the ALA showing banned/challenged statistics were assumed to be accurate and up to date. The information from Amazon, Goodreads, Novelist Plus, and The StoryGraph were assumed to be accurate.

Importance of Study

Researching the books that have been reported to ALA as challenged in libraries can help give librarians insight into what themes and age groups are at risk for censorship. Knowing this information may empower librarians to fight for the right to intellectual freedom. Additionally, noticing how these targeted trends and age groups have changed over time can help librarians predict future book challenges. These predictions can also be used to prepare a strong case for materials with themes that will potentially be censored. Overall, the importance of this study is to see if there has been a shift in the themes and age groups that are most likely to be banned or challenged in libraries over the last 30 years.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Censorship Studies

As with this study, many studies focusing on censorship have used the ALA resources to lead their methodologies. A study by Akers (2012) compared the number of challenges on classical versus contemporary literature. Akers's research approach included using the ALA's banned resources guide cross-referenced with ALA's classic books list to discover that contemporary books were challenged more. Anderson also used the guide to identify classifications and subject headings of frequently banned and challenged books (2014). Anderson's methodology included cross-referencing these

headings with records of large public library catalogs and concluded that Young Adult books were the most challenged. Additionally, Sheffield utilized the guide in her study to search for challenged LGBTQ+ materials in Alabama public library catalogs. She uncovered that 38% of the systems owned less than 50% of the sampled books (Sheffield, 2017).

Although this study focused on content analysis, other methodologies in censorship studies that are important to note used surveys, focus groups, and interviews. Burke examined a survey that asked participants if certain racist materials should be removed from the library (2010, p. 1). Through statistical tests of significance, he discovered that most participants were in favor of keeping the racist materials as they felt it agreed with their first amendment rights (Burke, 2010). Additionally, a study by Isajlovic-Terry and McKechnie (2012), used a focus group of children ages nine to twelve to uncover their thoughts on censorship. The researchers learned that the group thought censorship was mostly negative except in some extreme cases. Another study conducted by Steele examined a case at the Wichita Falls Public Library where a church opposed two children's books for their themes of homosexuality. Steele was able to conduct qualitative interviews with a library administrator and an active library patron who were related to the case. The city council ultimately decided to move the books into the adult collection (Steele, 2021, p. 121).

Additionally, there have been numerous evaluations in the literature regarding self-censorship. Believing self-censorship was in play, a study by Owen (2007) analyzed the collections of New Jersey school libraries to see if they included banned and challenged Young Adult books. Owens noted a lack of these books in the collections overall. In a questionnaire, Rickman (2010) focused on asking K-12 school librarians if they participated in self-censorship practices. She learned that although the practice was uncommon, self-censorship did occur in some instances. Following this pattern, a study by Garry (2015) used a mixed methods methodology to determine if school librarians across Ohio were participating in self-censorship. The results showed that the librarians mainly selected their collection materials based on the community's values. Also using a mixed-methods approach, Dawkins (2018)

conducted a survey asking school librarians if they engaged in self-censorship. The study concluded that the greatest external influences for self-censorship were school administration support and community reaction.

Studies with Similar Methodologies

Although these studies do not focus on censorship, studies that use content analysis in their methodologies have helped lead the research for this censorship study. Simmons (2015) focused her study on the perception of females in popular graphic novels over a six-year period. Her research asked questions such as what percent of graphic novels have one or more female characters, what races/ethnicities and disabilities are represented by female characters, and how these categories shifted over time. She used the Young Adult Library Services Association's *Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens* from 2007 to 2013 as the study's sample group, analyzing 70 titles in total. After identifying female characters, Simmons used a coding form to mark the character's race/ethnicity and disabilities as well as a tally form to count the totals for the year. The data collected was then entered into an excel spreadsheet for examination (Simmons, 2015). A later study by Wirth (2017) used a similar methodology in her analysis of librarian stereotypes in books for young readers from 2001-2015. Some of these stereotypes included librarian's gender, race, and behaviors. To create her list of sample books, Wirth searched for the terms "librarian" or "library" in the database *Novelist* as well as two public library catalogs. She limited these results to study's chosen timespan and the age categories zero to eight and nine to twelve years as set by *Novelist.* Wirth also entered her data into spreadsheets to present her results.

The studies mentioned above have helped shape the methodology of this study. Both Simmons and Wirth focused on content analysis in their research although in different areas than this study. Like Simmons, this study used a tallying method to calculate the results and put them into Excel. Also, just as Wirth used *Novelist* as a resource to determine book titles in a certain age group, this study also used the upgraded version *Novelist Plus* to determine book themes and audience recommendations. In addition, both studies looked at a sample of books over a set time and how their subjects shifted. Simmons (2015) asked with each research question "How has this

percentage/representation changed over time?" while Wirth (2017) portrays her results in showing how librarian behaviors have shifted over time by checking their behaviors against the publication year of each book. This study asked similar research question to Simmons by asking "How have these themes/audience categories shifted over time?" Additionally, similarly to Wirth's study, this research also focused on the importance of a book's time period. However, while Wirth's study focused on publication years in accordance with a librarian's behaviors in books, this study focused on the decade that a book was challenged to see if different themes/audience categories were being challenged over time. Finally, both Simmons and Wirth used Excel to present their findings. This study also utilized Excel as well to present the discovered research in column tables and bar charts.

Summary

As seen in the above literature, there is no shortage of scholarly studies on the topic of censorship. Most articles found during the research have focused on specific instances, types of censorship, or certain collections. The ALA's resources have helped guide many studies examining library collections with their invaluable research. In addition, studies focused on people's opinions and direct experiences with censorship gave direct insight into the issue at hand. Self-censorship studies also helped librarians be aware of their actions when maintaining their collections. With the guidance of similar content analysis studies, this research took a more all-encompassing viewpoint than previous censorship studies to bring together these individual cases into a bigger picture, which will add to the ever-growing body of scholarly literature on censorship. This bigger picture can help trends and larger issues be seen. Knowing the issues presented in these studies before they become a problem may assist librarians in their plans to prevent censorship.

METHODOLOGY
Information Sources

This content analysis focused on examining the themes and audience categories of the collection of banned and challenged books listed on the ALA's Top 100 banned and challenged books list for the past 30 years found by searching the OIF's website under the banned books week and frequently challenged books tab. The themes and audience categories were

collected by searching the resources Amazon, Goodreads, Novelist Plus, and The StoryGraph for the book's title. These resources, except for Novelist Plus, are available for free online and were accessed through the proper websites accordingly. Novelist Plus is available through the Jefferson Parish Public Library. It was accessed through the library's website by using a Jefferson Parish Library card. A more detailed description of the resources used are listed below.

Amazon: One of the world's largest online retailers that sells a large collection of books. It gives book details, publisher information, and reader reviews (Amazon, 2020).

The American Library Association's Number of Challenges by Reason, Initiator, and Institution (for years 1990-1999, and 2000-2009): two webpages with three infographics each listing the number of challenges reported to the ALA by reason, initiator, and institution. These statistics were collected by the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom (ALA, 2013a; ALA, 2013b).

The American Library Association's Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books (for years 1990-1999, 2000-2009, and 2010-2019): three lists of 100 books listing the top banned and challenged books in libraries for each decade. These lists were compiled by the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom (ALA, 2013c; ALA, 2013d; ALA, 2013e).

Goodreads: a website that allows users to record books, write reviews, receive book recommendations, and interact with other readers. It also lists information about books such as publication year, genres, and more (Goodreads, n.d.)

Novelist Plus: a database by EBSCOhost aimed to help librarians and readers with reader's advisory services. It also lists information on book titles such as themes, age recommendations, reading levels, and more (EBSCO Information Services, n.d.).

The StoryGraph: a website that allows users to record books they have read and select new books to read based on their topic and theme preferences. It also allows users to contribute content warnings in their reviews to help others identify potential triggers (The StoryGraph, 2021).

Procedures
Before the research began, an excel spreadsheet, called "Collection Sheet" was created to gather the results. The following categories were listed in row 1 of the spreadsheet: Book Title, Author, Publication Year, Challenge Decade, Age Recommendation, and each reason/theme a book was challenged or banned. The list of challenge reasons from the ALA's *Number of challenges by reason, initiator, and institution* for years 1990-1999 and 2000-2009 were used as the basis for the themes analyzed in this study. The listed reasons were as follows: Anti-Ethnic, Cultural Sensitivity, Racism, Sexism, Anti-Family, Nudity, Offensive Language, Other Offensive Item, Abortion, Drugs/Alcohol/Smoking, Gambling, Gangs, Violence, Suicide, Homosexuality, Sex Education, Sexually Explicit, Political Viewpoint, Religious Viewpoint, Occult/Satanism, Unsuited for Age Group, Inaccurate, Technical Errors, and Other Objections. These categories were left unchanged except for "Homosexuality" being replaced by "LGBTQ+" for inclusiveness and combining the categories "Other Offensive Item" and "Other Objections" for the sake of clarity.

The book titles and authors were collected from the ALA Top 100 banned and challenged lists and entered into the collection spreadsheet before the research began. Duplicate titles were listed as being on multiple challenge lists, but their themes and audience recommendations were only marked once in the results. Although the ALA's lists give the decade the books were banned/challenged, the resources used to search the titles do not specify the year each theme or age recommendation was banned/challenged. Additionally, assuming the information from the used resources are current and accurate, all banned/ challenged themes and audience recommendations should be included regardless of the year the dispute took place.

At the start of the research, a search for the book's title was conducted in Amazon, Goodreads, Novelist Plus, and the StoryGraph. If the book was located, the publication year, challenge decade, and audience recommendations (juvenile, teen, adult) were taken from the record. If two or more age recommendations

were marked for a single book, both recommendations were recorded in a mixed category (juvenile/teen or teen/adult). Themes were analyzed by genre labels, theme tags, content warnings, and user reviews. If a theme corresponded to one of the listed reasons, a "1" was put in the proper book's row and theme's column. If a book had multiple challenge themes, each theme was given a "1."

At the end of the research, the results for the themes overall were tallied by using the sum function in excel. The results were recorded under the themes in a row named "Theme Totals." The age recommendations overall were sorted into alphabetical order and tallied by counting. The results were recorded in a separate spreadsheet called "Audience Recommendations." To see if there was a shift of themes and age recommendations over time, the results for each individual decade were also collected in separate sheets, called "Results 1990-1999," "Results 2000-2009," and "Results 2010-2019." The results for themes and audience recommendations for each decade were tallied in the same way as the overall results. The results of the collected data were presented in column tables and bar charts. The selection of books from the ALA top 100 banned and challenged list was chosen as the study's sample because the ALA is a reputable source in the library community as the OIF receives reports of these books from schools, libraries, and media resources from across the country (OIF, 2013, para. 1). Since this study only focuses on the top 100 banned and challenged books from the ALA over the last 30 years, it is not generalizable.

Limitations
This study only scratched a small surface of books that were banned or challenged because many challenges go unreported. Despite this fact, the ALA's banned and challenged book lists are some of the most accurate and complete records available. Additionally, since this study only used the resources Amazon, Goodreads, Novelist Plus, and The StoryGraph as well as the ALA resources on banned and challenged books, there was a chance to miss banned/challenged reasons from other resources. Finally, utilizing user reviews has the potential for user errors but also gives a myriad of unique perspectives from those who have read the book.

RESULTS
R1. From the books listed on the American Library Association's Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books list from 1990- 2019, what themes were most frequently banned or challenged in libraries?

The original sample of books included 81 duplicate book titles. With the removal of duplicate book titles, 219 banned and challenged books were analyzed in this study, which can be seen in Table 1 in Appendix A. As seen in Infographic 1 (following page), Violence (43%), Sexually Explicit Content (36%), and Offensive Language (23%) were the most commonly banned or challenged themes of the twenty-three themes analyzed. The themes of violence and sexually explicit content are significantly more common than other themes. The least common themes included Gambling (0%), Anti-Family (0.5%), and Technical Errors (0.5%).

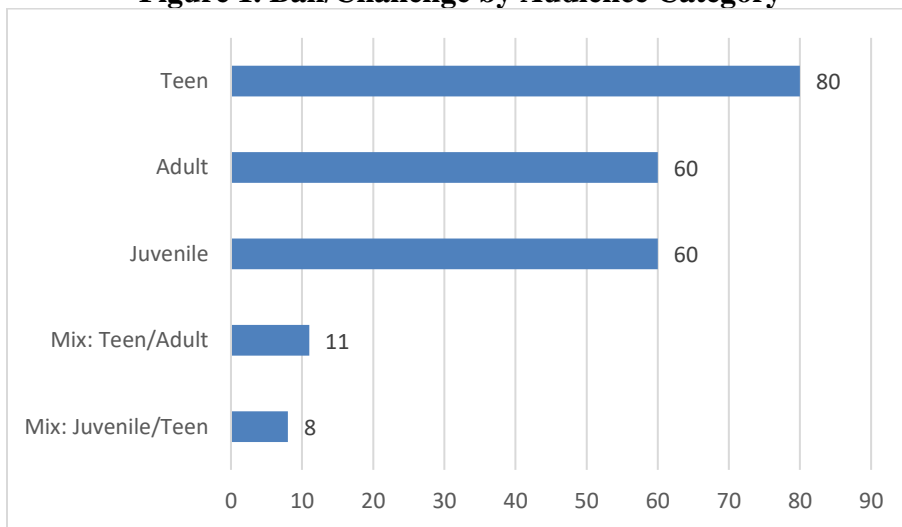**Infographic 1. Most Frequently Banned/Challenged Themes**
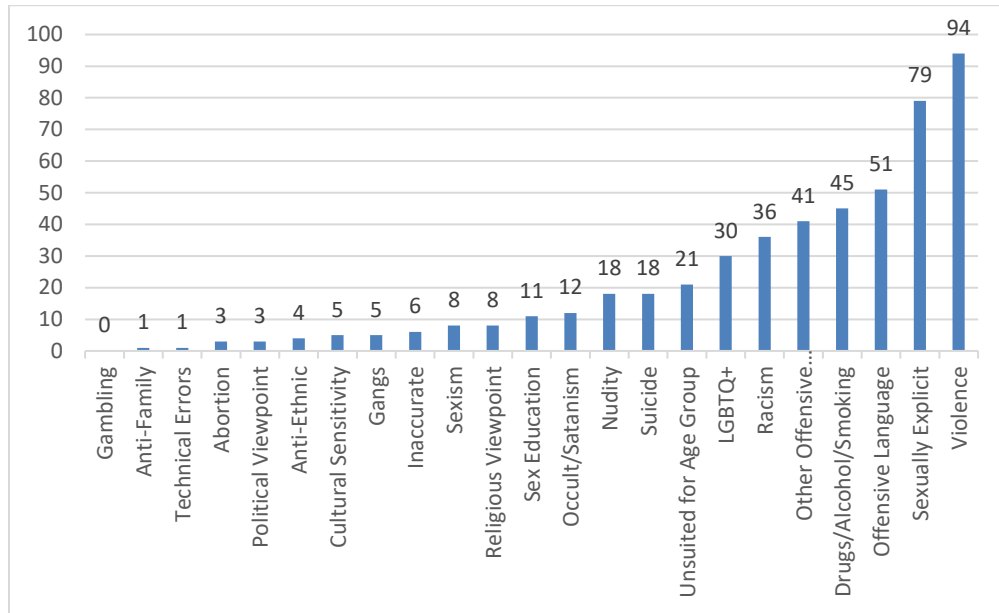
R2. What were the numbers per audience category (adult, juvenile, or teen) of the materials banned or challenged in libraries within this timeframe?
As seen in Figure 1 (below), teens were the most challenged audience category of the materials banned or challenged in libraries within this timeframe with eighty books (37%) being banned/challenged. Additionally, the teen audience category was regularly listed with both the juvenile and adult age groups.

Considering the teen books that were mixed with other audience categories, ninety-nine teen books (45%) were banned or challenged. The adult and juvenile categories were tied at sixty books (27%) each. However, considering these groups mixed with other audience categories, the adult category was challenged more with seventy-one books (32%) challenged compared to juvenile's sixty-eight books (31%).

**Figure 1. Ban/Challenge by Audience Category**

### R3. How have these themes/age categories shifted over time?

Infographics 2, 3, and 4 (next page) show the most frequently banned/challenged book themes over the years 1990-1990, 2000-2009, and 2010-2019 respectively. Following suit with the first research question, violence (21% from 1990s list, 23% from 2000s list, 21% from 2010s list) and sexually explicit content (15% from 1990s list, 16% from 2000s list, 18% from 2010s list) have remained the top two most banned/challenged themes over the past 30 years. However, while offensive language (14%) was consistent with the overall research as being the third most challenged theme from 2000-2009, other offensive items/themes (10%) was the most challenged from 1990-1999 while drugs/alcohol/smoking (11%) was the most challenged from 2010-2019. The least common themes for 1990-1999 were anti-ethnic, anti-family, gambling, and political viewpoint (0%). For 2000-2009, gambling, political viewpoint, and technical errors were the least common themes (0%). The years 2010-2019 had the largest group of least common themes and included anti-family, abortion, gambling, gangs, and technical errors (0%). A side-by-side comparison of each decade's banned and challenged themes were listed in Infographic 5 (next page).
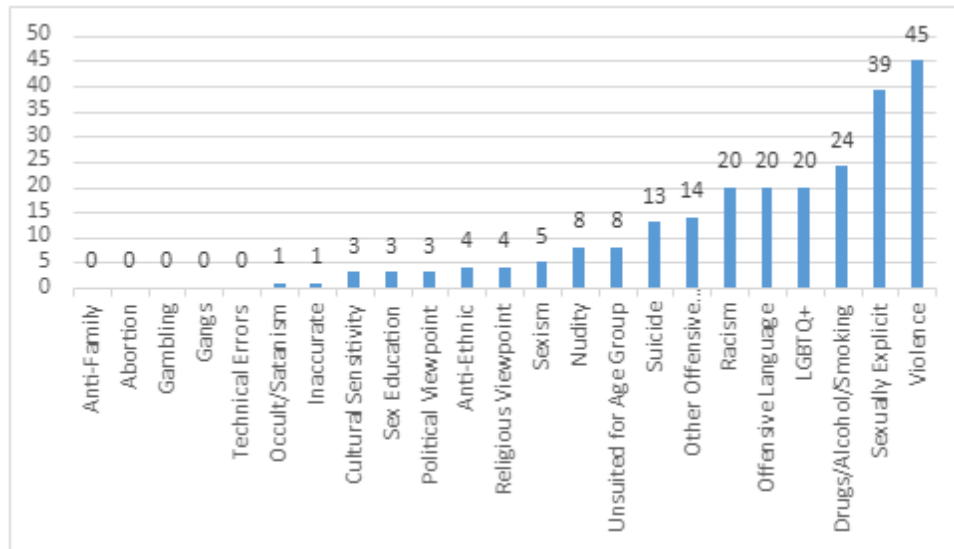
Infographic 2. Most Frequently Banned/Challenged Themes 1990-1999
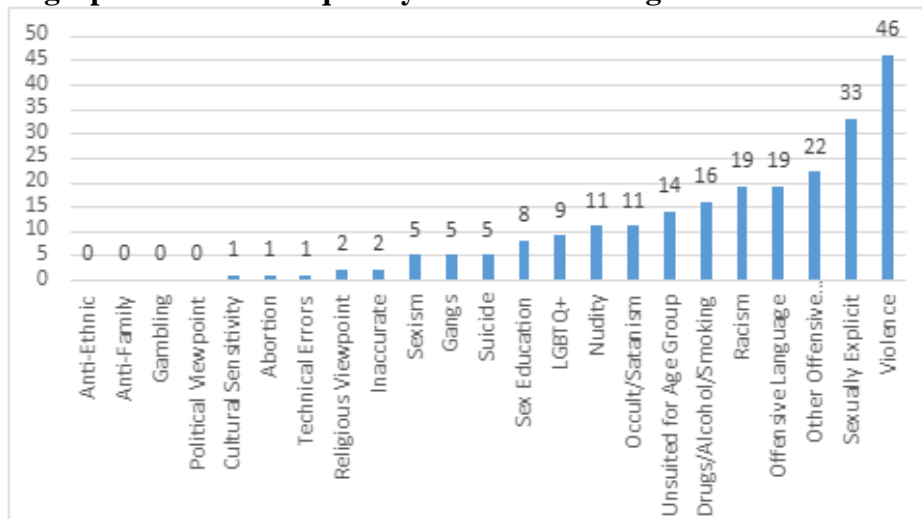
Infographic 3. Most Frequently Banned/Challenged Themes 2000-2009
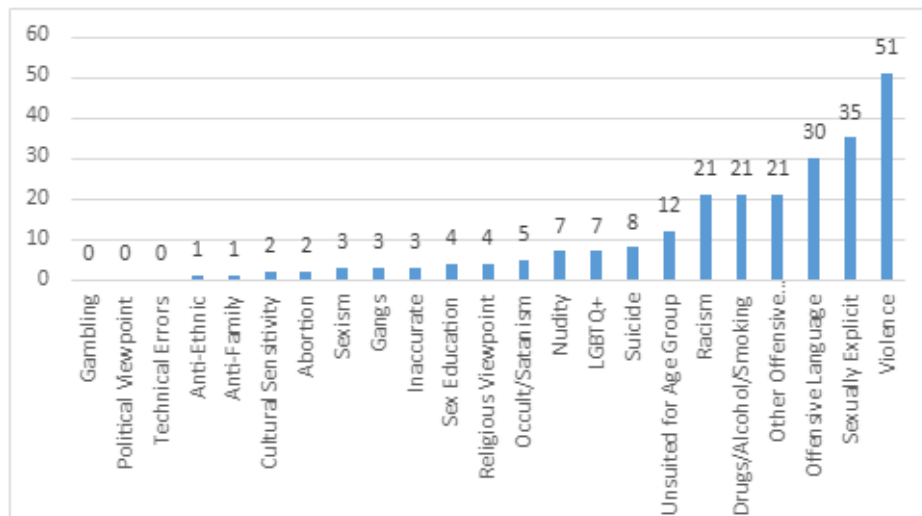
Infographic 4. Most Frequently Banned/Challenged Themes 2010-2019

Infographic 5. Most Frequently Banned/Challenged Themes 1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
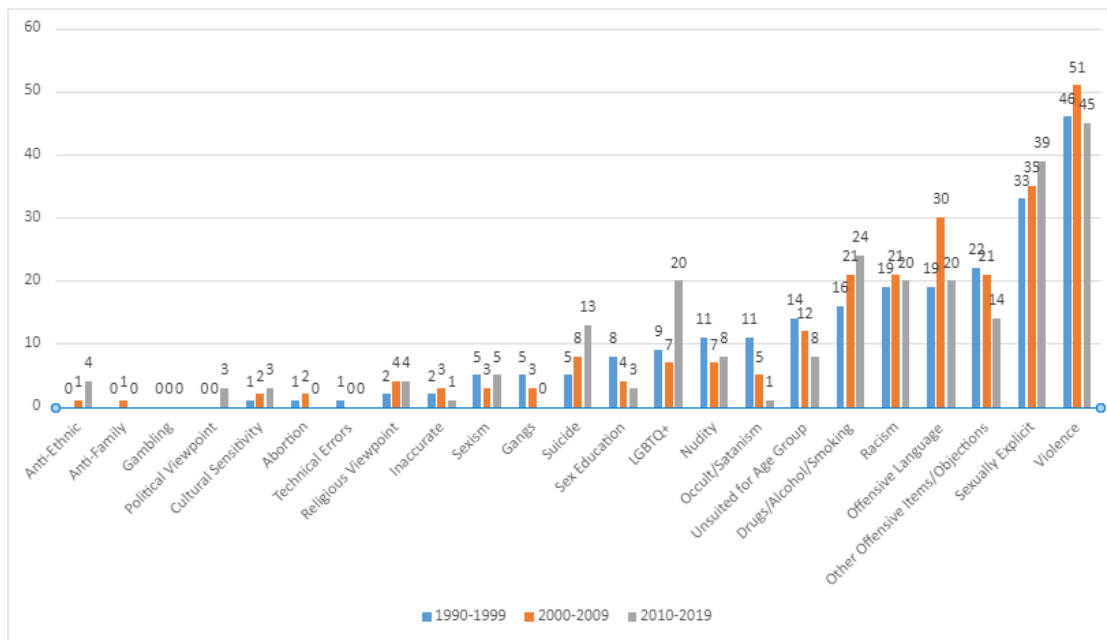
Figures 2, 3, and 4 on the following page show the numbers per audience category (adult, juvenile, or teen) of the materials banned or challenged in libraries from 1990-1990, 2000-2009, and 2010-2019 respectively. The adult category had the most books banned/challenged on the 1990s list (15%) while the teen audience category seized the top audience category to be banned/challenged on the 2000s list (18%) and the 2010s list (15%). However, when considering the titles that had multiple audience categories, the teen category had the most challenges for all three decades (19% on 1990s list, 24% on 2000s list, 18% on 2010s list). Juvenile was the least challenged category when comparing unmixed themes (13% on 1990s list, 11% on 2000s list, 14% on 2010s list). The juvenile audience category was also considered the lowest when comparing titles with multiple audience categories (16% on 1990s list, 14% on 2000s list, 15% on 2010s list). A side-by-side comparison of each decade's banned and challenged audience categories were listed in Figure 5 on the following page.

Figure 2. Ban/Challenge by Audience Category 1990-1999

Figure 3. Ban/Challenge by Audience Category 2000-2009

Figure 4. Ban/Challenge by Audience Category 2010-2019
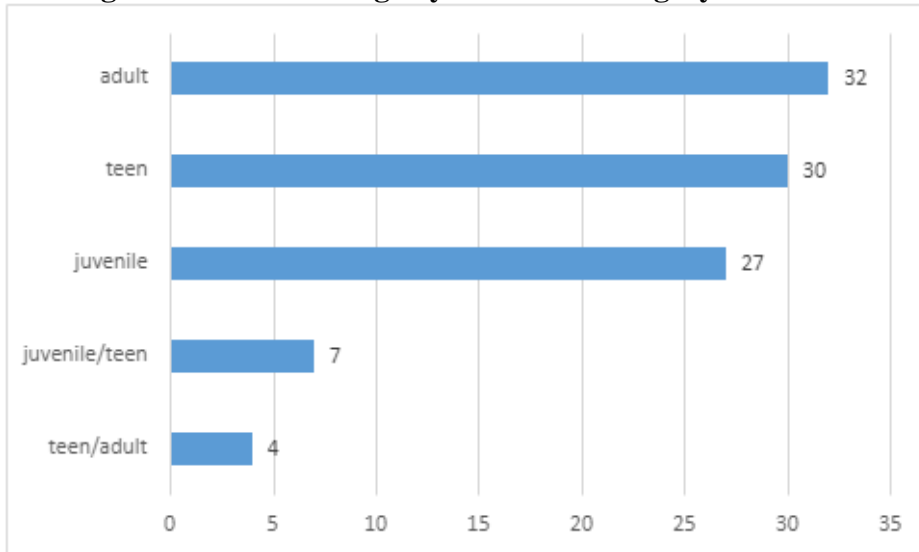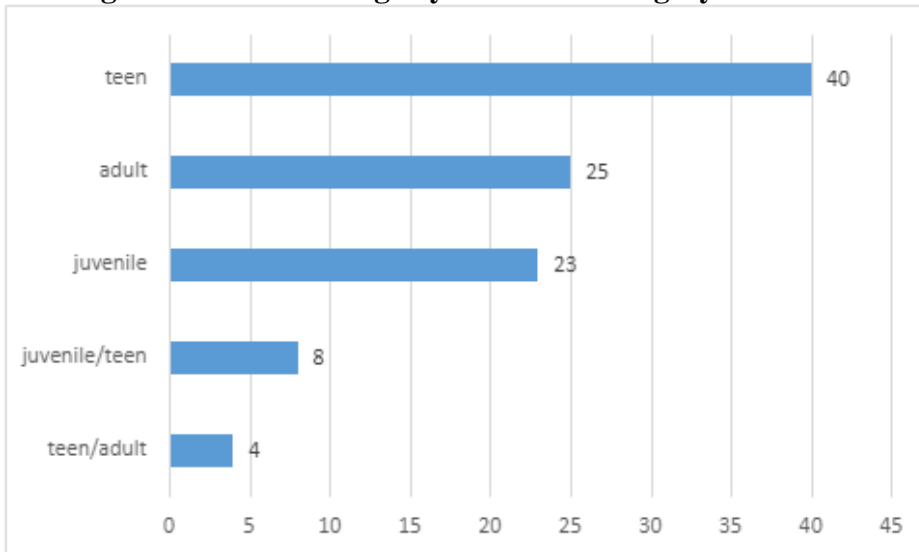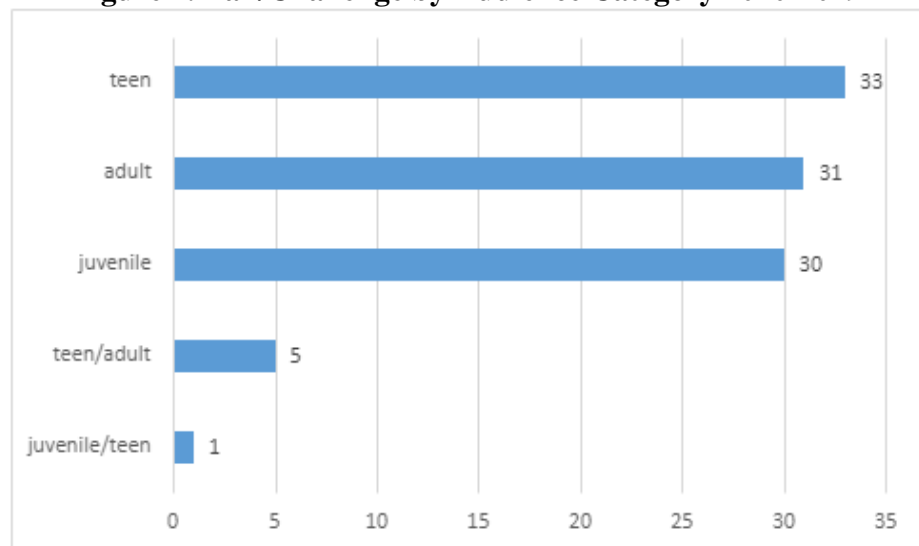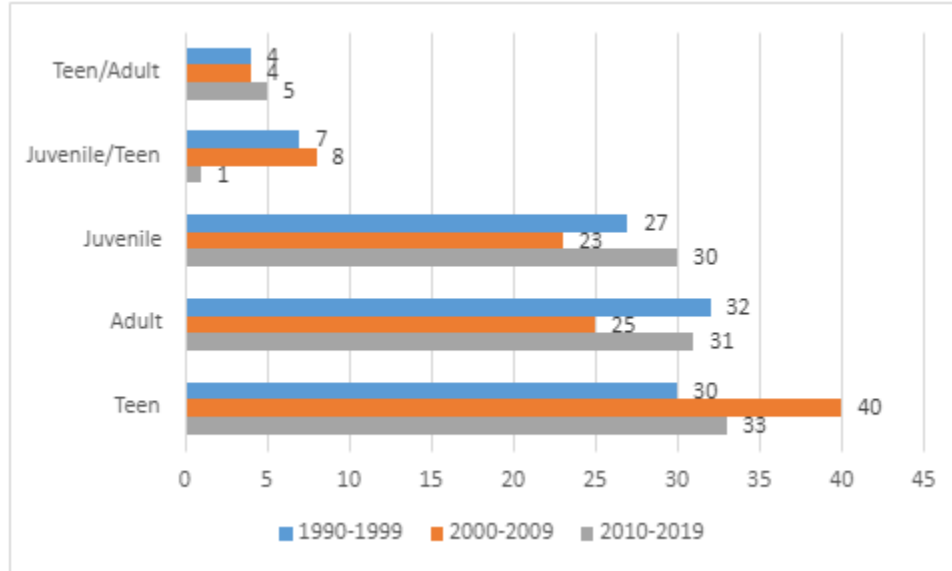
Figure 5. Ban/Challenge by Audience Category 1990-2019

DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicated both old and new information regarding banned and challenged books. As shown in the results to the first research question "From the books listed on the American Library Association's Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books list from 1990-2019, what themes were most frequently banned or challenged in libraries?," violence and sexually explicit content remained the top two banned/challenged themes across the thirty years. However, looking at both of ALA's lists for *Number of challenges by reasons, initiator, & institution* (1990s and 2000s), sexually explicit content came in first while offensive language came in second (ALA, 2013a; ALA, 2013b). Although the themes from this study and the ALA's data were somewhat similar, there were also some significant differences in the numbers of each theme when compared. The difference in themes over these studies possibly comes down to the number of books used for each study as ALA's data included all reported books within a decade while this study only looked at the top 100 books of each decade. Additionally, the ALA's data only covers 1990-2009 while this study adds 2010-2019. This study also did not count duplicate copies of books over multiple lists, where the ALA's study may have counted every challenge for one book over their study. According to the ALA (2020, para. 2), around 82%-97% of challenged books go unreported. This study's sample group focused solely on the banned or challenged books listed on the

ALA's Top 100 banned or challenged books for the past 30 years. Hence, it can be assumed that a majority of banned/challenged books from these periods are not covered in this study. A future study of banned and challenged books for the most recent decade could be beneficial in seeing current challenge trends.

Regarding the second research question, "What were the numbers per audience category (adult, juvenile, or teen) of the materials banned or challenged in libraries within this timeframe?," it was concluded that teens were the most banned/challenged audience category over the 30-year timespan. This conclusion seems to line up with previous studies. As seen in the literature review, Anderson (2014) concluded that the Young Adult category was most challenged in public libraries while Owen (2007) deduced a need for more banned/challenged Young Adult books when examining Young Adult collections in New Jersey school libraries. These results, along with the previous studies from the literature review, indicate that librarians should consider treating the teen audience category with care when it comes to managing their collections and maintaining collection development policies.

Regarding the first half of the third research question, "How have these themes shifted over time?," it does not seem like most of the themes/audience categories observed have shifted significantly, with most staying

within ten points of each other over the observed timeframe. However, there was a significant increase in bans/challenges of LGBTQ+ material was seen during this study. Bans and challenges on LGBTQ+ themes more than doubled from the 1990s and 2000s list to the 2010s list. This shift could be due to the rising popularity and publication of LGBTQ+ themed books. Sheffield's (2017) and Steele's (2021) recent studies on LGBTQ+ materials suggest that this theme is gaining popularity. From this study, it is suggested that these themes be taken into careful consideration to not only avoid censorship but tailor the collection to patrons' specific needs.

Regarding the second half of the third research question, "How have these age categories shifted over time?," it also does not seem like there were any significant shifts over the studied timeframe. Although the statistics could be seen as sporadic with their fluctuations over the years, the numbers stayed fairly consistent over time. The most significant jump in age categories was from the teen audience category in the 1990s list (14%) to the 2000s list (18%). This number did end up decreasing from the 2000s list to the 2010s list (15%) though. Even with the jumps, as stated above, teens remained the top category challenged over time when considering it mixed with other audience categories. Again, it is recommended to take special care of this audience category when managing this collection.

Considering that both themes and audience categories did not shift significantly over time, it could be inferred that the lists had many similar themes and audience categories because of the large number of duplicate books. As stated above, of the 219 books used in this study, 81 of these books were extra copies. Additionally, the number of titles from the 1990's list that carried over to the 2000's list was 48, meaning almost half of the previously challenged books were carried over into the next decade. Additionally, from 1990-2009, 32 books were carried over to the 2010s list. Although the number of duplicate books did decrease over the years, this observation could indicate that similar banned/challenged themes and audience categories will continue to be the targets of censorship well into the future.

CONCLUSION
Although this study was just one of many studies focusing on censorship and intellectual freedom, there is room for further research into this topic. There was a lack of current information on banned and challenged books. A noteworthy example of this was ALA's statistics for the *Number of challenges by reasons, initiator, & institution* only goes through 2009 (ALA, 2013b). A more recent study of banned and challenged books at the national level could be beneficial for librarians to see current trends that are being challenged. Additionally, there could be more studies on banned and challenged books at the regional, state, and community levels. Even though knowing the most challenged trends at the national level can be valuable, having more refined studies on banned and challenged books can help librarians discover the needs and values of their communities. Overall, although censorship and challenged books already have valuable studies, there is always room for continuing research on this ever-changing topic.

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APPENDIX A

List of Banned/Challenged Book by Titles, Author, Publication Year, and Challenge Decade

Book Title	Author	Publication Year	Challenge Decade
1984	George Orwell	1949	2010-2019
A Bad Boy Can Be Good For a Girl	Tanya Lee Stone	2006	2010-2019
A Child Called "It"	Dave Pelzer	1995	2010-2019
A Clockwork Orange	Anthony Burgess	1962	2010-2019
A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo	Jill Twiss	2018	2010-2019
A Day No Pigs Would Die	Robert Newton Peck	1972	1990-1999, 2000-2009
A Light in the Attic	Shel Silverstein	1981	1990-1999
A Prayer for Owen Meany	John Irving	1989	2000-2009
A Time to Kill	John Grisham	1989	2000-2009
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle	1962	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Alice (series)	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	1985	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Almost Perfect	Brian Katcher	2009	2010-2019
Always Running	Luis Rodriguez	1993	1990-1999, 2000-2009
America	E.R. Frank	2002	2000-2009
American Psycho	Bret Easton Ellis	1991	1990-1999
Anastasia Krupnick (series)	Lois Lowry	1978	1990-1999, 2000-2009
And Tango Makes Three	Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell	2005	2000-2009, 2010-2019
Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging	Louise Rennison	1999	2000-2009
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank	1947	2010-2019
Annie on My Mind	Nancy Garden	1982	1990-1999
Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret	Judy Blume	1970	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Arizona Kid	Ron Koertge	1988	1990-1999
Arming America	Michael Bellasiles	2000	2000-2009
Asking About Sex and Growing Up	Joanna Cole	1988	1990-1999
Athletic Shorts	Chris Crutcher	1991	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Awakening	Kate Chopin	1899	2010-2019
Bad Kitty (series)	Nick Bruel	2005	2010-2019

Beloved	Toni Morrison	1987	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out	Susan Kuklin	2014	2010-2019
Black Boy	Richard Wright	1945	2000-2009
Bless Me, Ultima	Rudolfo A. Anaya	1972	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Blood and Chocolate	Annette Curtis Klause	1997	2000-2009
Blubber	Judy Blume	1974	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Bone (series)	Jeff Smith	1991	2010-2019
Boys and Sex	Wardell Pomeroy	1981	1990-1999
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	1932	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson	1977	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Bumps in the Night	Harry Allard	1979	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Burned	Ellen Hopkins	2006	2010-2019
Captain Underpants (series)	Dav Pilkey	1997	2000-2009, 2010-2019
Carrie	Stephen King	1974	1990-1999
Christine	Stephen King	1983	1990-1999
Crank	Ellen Hopkins	2004	2010-2019
Crazy	Benjamin Lebert	2000	2000-2009
Crazy Lady	Jane Conly	1993	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Cross Your Fingers, Spit in Your Hat	Alvin Schwartz	1974	1990-1999
Cujo	Stephen King	1981	1990-1999
Curses, Hexes and Spells	Daniel Cohen	1974	1990-1999
Cut	Patricia McCormick	2000	2000-2009
Daddy's Roommate	Michael Willhoite	1990	1990-1999
Daughters of Eve	Lois Duncan	1979	2000-2009
Deal with It!	Esther Drill	1999	2000-2009
Deenie	Judy Blume	1973	1990-1999
Detour for Emmy	Marilyn Reynolds	1993	2000-2009
Drama	Raina Telgemeier	2012	2010-2019
Draw Me a Star	Eric Carle	1992	2000-2009, 2010-2019
Dreaming in Cuban	Cristina Garcia	1992	2010-2019
Earth's Children (series)	Jean M. Auel	1980	1990-1999
Eleanor & Park	Rainbow Rowell	2012	2010-2019
Ender's Game	Orson Scott Card	1985	2010-2019
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close	Jonathan Safran Foer	2005	2010-2019
Fade	Robert Cormier	1988	1990-1999
Fade	Lisa McMann	2009	2010-2019
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	1953	2000-2009

Fallen Angels	Walter Dean Myers	1988	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Family Secrets	Norma Klein	1985	1990-1999
Fat Kid Rules the World	K.L. Going	2003	2000-2009
Feed	M.T. Anderson	2002	2010-2019
Fifty Shades of Grey	E.L. James	2012	2010-2019
Final Exit	Derek Humphry	1991	1990-1999
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes	1966	1990-1999
Forever	Judy Blume	1975	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Friday Night Lights	H.G. Bissenger	1988	2000-2009
Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic	Alison Bechdel	2006	2010-2019
Girls and Sex	Wardell Pomeroy	1970	1990-1999
Glass	Ellen Hopkins	2007	2010-2019
Go Ask Alice	Anyonymous	1971	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Go the Fuck to Sleep	Adam Mansbach	2001	2010-2019
Goosebumps (series)	R.L. Stine	1992	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Gossip Girl (series)	Cecily con Ziegesar	2002	2000-2009, 2010-2019
Grendel	John Gardner	1971	2000-2009
Guess What?	Mem Fox	1988	1990-1999
Habibi	Craig Thompson	2011	2010-2019
Halloween ABC	Eve Merriam	1987	1990-1999
Harris and Me	Gary Paulsen	1993	2000-2009
Harry Potter (Series)	J.K. Rowling	1997	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Heather Has Two Mommies	Leslea Newman	1989	1990-1999, 2010-2019
His Dark Materials (series)	Philip Pullman	1995	2000-2009
House of Night (series)	P.C. Cast and Kristen Cast	2007	2010-2019
I am Jazz	Jazz Jennings and Jessica Herthel	2014	2010-2019
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	1970	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
I Saw Esau	Iona Opte	1947	2000-2009
In Our Mothers' House	Patricia Polacco	2009	2010-2019
In the Night Kitchen	Maurice Sendak	1970	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Internet Girls (series)	Lauren Myracle	2004	2000-2009, 2010-2019
It's a Book	Lane Smith	2010	2010-2019
It's Perfectly Normal	Robie Harris	1994	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
It's So Amazing	Robie Harris	1999	2000-2009

Jack	A.M. Homes	1989	1990-1999
Jacob's New Dress	Sarah Hoffman	2014	2010-2019
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl	1961	1990-1999
Julie of the Wolves	Jean Craighead George	1972	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Jump Ship to Freedom	James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier	1981	1990-1999
Jumper	Steven Gould	1992	1990-1999
Junie B. Jones (series)	Barbara Park	1992	2000-2009
Kaffir Boy	Mark Mathabane	1986	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Killing Mr. Griffin	Lois Duncan	1978	1990-1999, 2000-2009
King and King	Linda de Haan	2000	2000-2009
Life is Funny	E.R. Frank	2000	2000-2009
Little Black Sambo	Helen Bannerman	1899	1990-1999
Lolita	Vladimir Nabokov	1955	2010-2019
Looking for Alaska	John Green	2005	2010-2019
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	1954	1990-1999
Lush	Natasha Friend	2006	2010-2019
Madeline and the Gypsies	Ludwig Bemelmans	1959	2010-2019
Melissa's Story (George)	Alex Gino	2015	2010-2019
Mick Harte Was Here	Barbara Park	1995	2000-2009
Mommy Laid an Egg	Babette Cole	1990	1990-1999
Monster	Walter Dean Myers	1999	2010-2019
My Brother Sam is Dead	James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier	1974	1990-1999, 2000-2009
My Mom's Having a Baby	Dori Hillestad Butler	2005	2010-2019
My Princess Boy	Cheryl Kilodavis	2010	2010-2019
Nasreen's Secret School	Jeanette Winter	2009	2010-2019
Native Son	Richard Wright	1940	1990-1999
Neonomicon	Alan Moore	2010	2010-2019
Nickel and Dimed	Barbara Ehrenreich	2001	2010-2019
Nineteen Minutes	Jodi Picoult	2007	2010-2019
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	1937	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Olive's Ocean	Kevin Henkes	2003	2000-2009
On My Honor	Marion Sane Bauer	1986	1990-1999
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Ken Kesey	1932	2000-2009
Ordinary People	Judith Guest	1976	1990-1999
Persepolis	Marjane Satrapi	2003	2010-2019
Pillars of the Earth	Ken Follett	1989	1990-1999
Prince and Knight	Daniel Haack	2018	2010-2019
Private Parts	Howard Stern	1993	1990-1999
Rainbow Boys	Alex Sanchez	2001	2000-2009

Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology	Amy Sonnie	2000	2010-2019
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred Taylor	1976	2000-2009
Running Loose	Chris Crutcher	1983	1990-1999
Saga	Brian K. Vaughan	2012	2010-2019
Scary Stories (series)	Alvin Schwartz	1981	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Sex	Madonna	1992	1990-1999
Sex Education	Jenny Davis	1988	1990-1999
Sex is a Funny Word	Cory Silverberg	2015	2010-2019
Shade's Children	Gath Nix	1997	2000-2009
Skippyjon Jones (series)	Judith Schachner	2003	2010-2019
Slaughterhouse-Five	Kurt Vonnegut	1994	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Sleeping Beauty Trilogy	A.N. Roquelaure (Anne Rice)	1983	1990-1999
Snow Falling on Ceders	David Guterson	1994	2000-2009
So Far From the Bamboo Grove	Yoko Watkins	1986	2000-2009, 2010-2019
Song of Solomon	Toni Morrison	1977	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Speak	Laurie Halse Anderson	1999	2000-2009, 2010-2019
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes	Chris Crutcher	1993	2000-2009
Stuck in the Middle	Ariel Schrag	2007	2010-2019
Summer of My German Soldier	Bette Greene	1973	1990-1999, 2000-2009
That Was Then, This is Now	S.E. Hinton	1971	1990-1999
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Sherman Alexie	2007	2010-2019
The Adventures of Huckelberry Finn	Mark Twain	1884	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby	Dav Pilkey	2002	2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	1876	1990-1999
The Anarchist Cookbook	William Powell	1971	1990-1999
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison	1970	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Boy Who Lost His Face	Louis Sachar	1989	1990-1999, 2000-2009
The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger	1951	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	1974	1990-1999, 2000-2009
The Color of Earth (series)	Tong-hwa Kim	2003	2010-2019
The Color Purple	Alice Walker	1982	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon	2003	2010-2019
The Dead Zone	Stephen King	1979	1990-1999
The Dirty Cowboy	Amy Timberlake	2003	2010-2019
The Drowning of Stephen Jones	Bette Greene	1997	1990-1999
The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things	Carolyn Mackler	2003	2000-2009
The Face on the Milk Carton	Caroline Cooney	1990	1990-1999, 2000-2009
The Facts Speak for Themselves	Brock Cole	1997	2000-2009
The Family Book	Todd Parr	2003	2010-2019
The Fighting Ground	Avi	1984	2000-2009
The Giver	Lois Lowry	1993	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Glass Castle	Jeannette Walls	2005	2010-2019
The Goats	Brock Cole	1987	1990-1999
The Great Gilly Hopkins	Katherine Paterson	1978	1990-1999, 2000-2009
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	1986	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	2017	2010-2019
The Holy Bible	n/a	1611	2010-2019
The House of the Spirits	Isabel Allende	1982	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Joy of Gay Sex	Charles Silverstein	1977	1990-1999, 2000-2009
The Kingdom of Little Wounds	Susann Cokal	2013	2010-2019
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	2003	2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Librarian of Basra	Jeanette Winter	2005	2010-2019
The Lovely Bones	Alice Sebold	2002	2000-2009
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	1967	1990-1999
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen Chbosky	1999	2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Pigman	Paul Zindel	1968	1990-1999
The Stupid's (series-The Stupids Step Out)	Harry Allard	1977	1990-1999, 2000-2009
The Terrorist	Caroline B. Cooney	1997	2000-2009
The Things They Carried	Tim O'Brien	1990	2000-2009, 2010-2019
The Upstairs Room	Johanna Reiss	1972	2000-2009
The Walking Dead (series)	Robert Kirkman	2004	2010-2019
The Wish Giver	Bill Brittain	1983	1990-1999
The Witches	Roald Dahl	1983	1990-1999
Thirteen Reasons Why	Jay Asher	2007	2010-2019
This Book is Gay	Juno Dawson	2014	2010-2019

This Day in June	Gayle E. Pitman	2013	2010-2019
This One Summer	Mariko Tamaki	2014	2010-2019
Tiger Eyes	Judy Blume	1981	1990-1999, 2000-2009
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	1960	1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019
Tricks	Ellen Hopkins	2009	2010-2019
Two Boys Kissing	David Levithan	2013	2010-2019
Uncle Bobby's Wedding	Sarah S. Brannen	2008	2010-2019
We All Fall Down	Robert Cormier	1991	1990-1999, 2000-2009
Whale Talk	Chris Crutcher	2001	2000-2009
What my Mother Doesn't Know	Sonya Sones	2001	2000-2009, 2010-2019
What's Happening to my Body? Book for Girls: a Growing-Up Guide for Parents & Daughters	Lynda Madaras	1983	1990-1999, 2000-2009
When Dad Killed Mom	Julius Lester	2001	2000-2009
Where Did I Come From?	Peter Mayle	1977	1990-1999
Where's Waldo?	Martin Hanford	1987	1990-1999
Women on Top: How Real Life Has Changed Women's Fantasies	Nancy Friday	1991	1990-1999
Year of Wonders	Geraldine Brooks	2001	2010-2019
You Hear Me?	Betsy Franco	2001	2000-2009

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