



HBCU
Library Alliance

'Saviors' and Silences:

The Potentialities of Library Publishing in Resisting Racialized Censorship

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Why Only 6% of Authors Are Black And Why Black Voices Matter in Publishing

The publishing stats reveal a troubling truth. Here's how Rise2Write is rewriting the narrative and amplifying Black voices worldwide.



DEE EVANS

SEP 09, 2025

 Listen





**“The word is the making
of the world.”**

-- Wallace Stevens



EDUCATION

Texas Schools Making Libraries Detention Centers In Black District

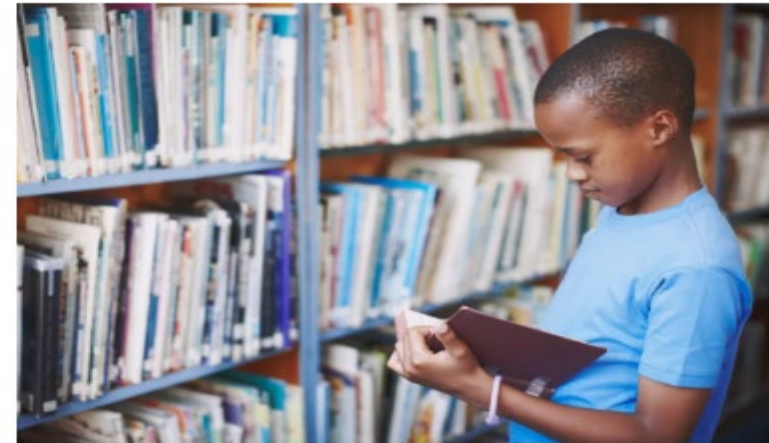
Texas Plans To Turn Dozens Of Libraries In Black And Brown School District Into Detention Centers

The Houston Independent School District's so-called "Team Centers" will be for students with behavioral issues.

Written by
Zack Linly

Published on
July 28, 2023

Comments

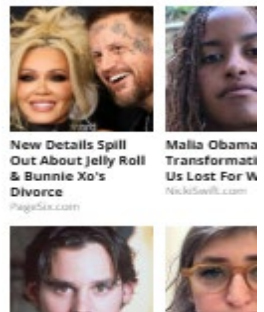


Source: STEEX / Getty

At this point, it's safe to say that Texas is the Florida of the Southwest. Both states stand out, even among red states, as states that are the most hellbent on banishing critical race theory into the depths of Woke Hades. Both states are looking to water down American slavery and make it sound more like an unpaid internship than an institution of racism, bondage, cruel and merciless brutality, forced labor and human trafficking. Both states appear to be involved in an endless Confederate-friendly war against Black history in general. And both states are so addicted to book bans that no amount of rehab could curb their need for their daily fix of laws that make their citizens dumber.



You May Like



Educational Censorship and Epistemic Silence (These two images represent a cause and effect)

By setting themselves up as “saviors” of children, schools, and ultimately, the nation -- groups like Moms for Liberty not only laid the foundation for restricting reading about race, racism, gender, and history in schools and higher education, but for merely discussing these ideas. By demanding sanctions that ultimately criminalized these ideas, they also criminalized the readers, authors, and stewards, and succeeded in spreading the perception of scholarship as suspect and devoid of value.

We are Living in an Era When Even Individual Words Are Outlawed

These Words Are Now Discouraged at Federal Agencies

Agencies have issued guidance to employees on hundreds of terms. An analysis of government websites shows many of the same words being removed from their pages.

3 MIN READ

activism	diversity	people + uterus
affirming care	equitableness	pregnant people
anti-racism	feminism	prejudice
assigned at birth	gender ideology	pronouns
at risk	Gulf of Mexico	racial inequality
biases	hate speech	sexuality
biologically male	implicit bias	social justice
BIPOC	inclusiveness	socioeconomic
black and latinx	inequalities	stereotypes
clean energy	injustice	systemic
climate crisis	intersectionality	they/them
confirmation bias	LGBTQ	transgender
cultural heritage	marginalized	traumatic
DEI	most risk	unconscious bias
disability	multicultural	underprivileged
discriminatory	Mx	victims
disparity	nonbinary	
diverse groups		

Books as Backdrop and Signifier in "Birth of a Nation" (1915), an Anti-Reconstruction Film and Template for What Some are Calling a New Anti-Reconstruction Era.



AH
AMERICAN
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C-SPAN3

"The Birth of a Nation" - 1915

REEL
AMERICA



Censorship is at an all-time high in the United States:

46 of the 50 states in the US have introduced censorship legislation – either challenges, restrictions, or bans

Even though most Americans, regardless of political party, believe that book censorship is against the law

'Eating away at democracy': book bans in US public schools rise by a third in a year

According to a new study by Pen America, there were 3,362 instances of book bans in school classrooms and libraries - with more than 40% of all cases occurring in Florida



The authors whose books were targeted were 'most frequently female, people of colour and LGBTQ+ individuals' ... a display of banned books in a Barnes & Noble bookshop in Pittsford, New York State. Photograph: Ted Shaffrey/AP

Censorship's Macro and Micro Level Impacts

Has become normalized and is expected to have a long-term impact on academic curricula and scholarly publishing.

 Education Week

Book Bans Hit an All-Time High Last Year

In the last six months of 2022, districts across the country banned or temporarily removed more books from classroom or library shelves than...

Apr 20, 2023



 Axios

Book ban attempts reach "unparalleled" 20-year high in 2022

Attempted book bans in 2022 nearly doubled from 2021, hitting an "unparalleled" 20-year record, according to new data from the American...

Mar 23, 2023



 Center for American Progress

Book Banning, Curriculum Restrictions, and the Politicization of U.S. Schools

State and local officials' efforts to undermine public education by playing politics with school curricula run against the interest of most...

Sep 19, 2022



 Dallas Morning News

Book bans in Texas hurt youth and our democracy

By now, you've probably heard about sweeping efforts to ban library books in our public schools from coast to coast. Officials and activists...

Mar 7, 2023



 NAACP

Book Bans: An Act of Policy Violence Promoting Anti-Blackness

Book bans represent acts of policy violence that further codify anti-blackness in the DNA of America, says NAACP Fellow Dr. Phelton Moss.

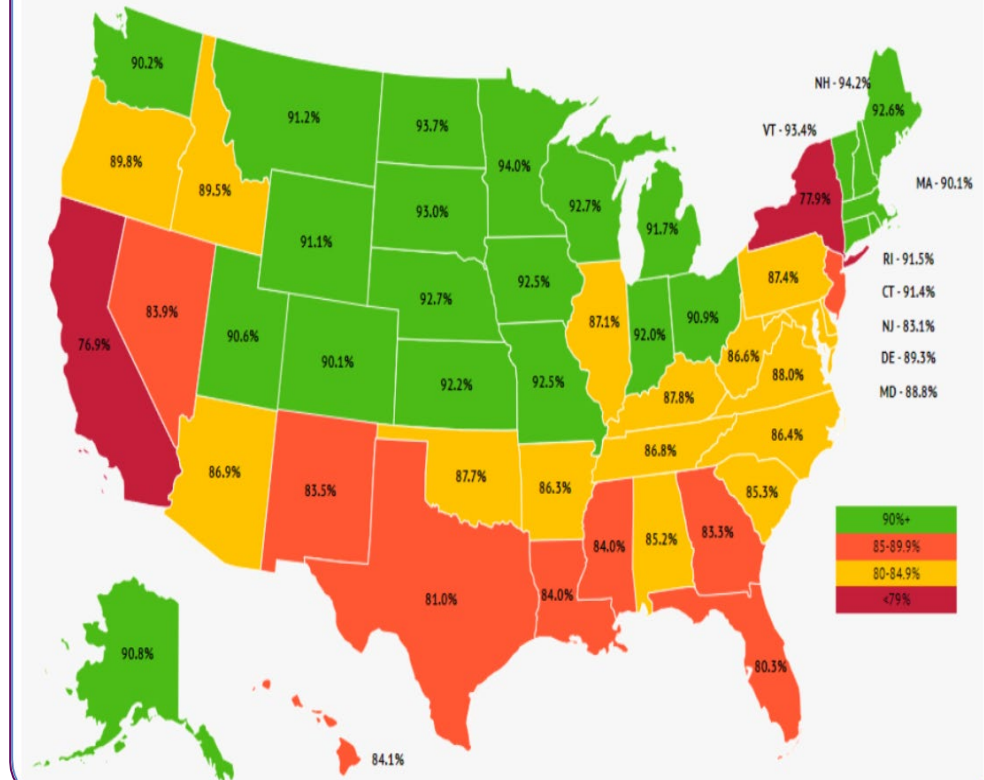
May 15, 2023





By Jack Flynn | Aug. 2, 2023

Literacy Rate By State



There is a correlation between low literacy and high censorship regions.

- MISINFORMATION
- DISINFORMATION
- INFORMATION POVERTY
- INFORMATION DISPARITY
- INFORMATION SEGREGATION/REDLINING
- INFORMATION EXCLUSION
- INFORMATION WITHDRAWAL /CENSORSHIP
- INFORMATION WARFARE

Scale of Information Disorders

T.D. Hall



Censorship operates not only through removal but through anticipatory silence—faculty, students, and institutions avoiding topics because of perceived risk.



Censorship has a chilling effect on emerging writers and scholars



- Reduced invitations to educational and public speaking engagements.
- Reduced readership.
- Reputational harm.
- Future publishing opportunities.
- Self-censorship.
- Employment/Livelihood impacted.
- Critical and timely ideas left unsurfaced.
- Unsafe and unsound theories/practices left unchecked.

“Nearly every public university system now mandates syllabus reviews screening for prohibited content, including references to gender identity or sexual orientation.”

What will be the long-term impact on teaching and learning?

April 20, 2026 · Prof. Evelyn Thorpe [Research News →](#) [Careers News →](#) [World News →](#) [Higher Ed Jobs News →](#) [HR Recruitment News →](#)

Texas Faculty Exodus: Professors Flee Public Universities Over Book Censorship

The Rising Tide of Restrictions Driving Faculty Away

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[professors-leaving-texas](#)

1,104 views

A cascade of legislative and administrative actions has reshaped Texas higher education. Senate Bill 17, enacted in 2023, banned diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at public universities, leading to the dissolution of related offices and programs. This was followed by a 2025 law expanding regents' oversight of curricula, empowering boards—appointed by Governor Greg Abbott—to enforce compliance with state priorities focused on 'workforce readiness' over contested social topics.

University systems responded swiftly. The Texas Tech University System, under Chancellor Brandon Creighton, issued memos in late 2025 prohibiting graduate research on gender and sexuality and closing all related programs. Texas A&M shuttered its women's and gender studies department in January 2026. The University of Texas System approved a policy in February 2026 directing faculty to exclude 'unnecessarily controversial or contested matters' from core courses unless directly relevant. Nearly every public university system now mandates syllabus reviews screening for prohibited content, including references to gender identity or sexual orientation.

These measures extend beyond modern topics to classical texts. Professors report being instructed to omit passages from ancient works that touch on fluid gender roles or same-sex relationships, blurring the line between policy enforcement and outright book censorship in higher education settings.

A Study Five Years Ago Forecast Today's Reality

“These bills are based on a misrepresentation of how intellectual frameworks are taught and threaten to constrain educators’ ability to teach [and publish across] a wide range of subjects.”

Educational Gag Orders

Legislative Restrictions on the Freedom to Read, Learn, and Teach

Educational Gag Orders

📅 November 8, 2021

Status of Educational Gag Orders as of October 1, 2021

Targets	Introduced	Passed	Failed	Pending/Pre-filed
Public schools	48	9	17	22
Colleges and universities	21	3	6	12
State agencies, institutions, and/or contractors	19	6	5	8
Total	54	11	19	24

Note: Because many bills apply to more than one setting, the columns do not add up to the totals shown. This count represents a facial reading of these bills and does not account for interpretations that may widen the scope of certain provisions.

Censorship Targets Marginalized Narratives

Research consistently shows that challenged and banned materials disproportionately feature:

A 2024 analysis by the University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School for Communication found that **authors of color wrote 39% of banned books**, despite representing a much smaller share of published authors. **Women of color alone wrote nearly one-quarter of all banned books** in the study.

The same study concluded that **authors of color were approximately 4.5 times more likely to have books banned than white authors**, with women of color facing particularly high rates of censorship.

- **Black authors and characters**
- **Indigenous histories**
- **LGBTQ+ communities**
- **Women's experiences and histories**
- **Discussions of racism and social justice**



With Freedom of Speech
and the Press in Jeopardy,
Library Publishing is both
Scholarly Advocacy and
Due Diligence.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS! (Founding Convening 2002)

The HBCU Library Alliance works to transform and strengthen its 100+ member libraries by developing leaders, preserving collections, and planning for the future.

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Race and Measurement of Publication Productivity Using Sociology as a Case

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[Joseph C. Hermanowicz](#)  & [Man-Kit Lei](#)

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Abstract

Despite a long-standing interest in the sociology of science for how “particularistic” factors condition careers, work on the measurement of publication productivity in higher education has neglected the subject of race. We take initial steps to address this void. Using the field of sociology as a case, we analyze data from 528 academic vitas to examine how race may be configured in differences in publication productivity. Whereas prior work on publication productivity has adopted a natural science model that focuses on articles as the genre of output, we incorporate measures that account for both articles and books, which are institutionalized in fields throughout the humanities and social sciences. The focus on a field allows a view of intricate productivity dynamics in which race inheres: variation in publication productivity by race is nested in the methodological orientation—linked to publication genre—in which academics produce their work. We suggest two mechanisms, personnel decision-making and socialization, as possible ways to mitigate these differences. Using the concept of field consensus, we discuss how findings generated from this study may apply to other fields. The article represents an advance in how to account for between- and within-field variation in publication productivity in science and scholarship.

Research Access and Orientation Impacts Research Productivity

“The present research indicates that racial disparities in academic productivity are not solely a matter of individual effort or academic aptitude. **Instead, disparities are intricately tied to external factors such as the availability of research funding, the quality of publication outlets, and most especially the methodological orientation of scholars.** White sociologists had significantly more external research grants and were more likely to publish **quantitative as well as qualitative work, which, as the results suggest, played a pivotal role in diminishing racial differences in productivity...** Methodological orientation accounts most prominently for variation in publication productivity by race.”

HBCU Faculty Pay a “Publishing Tax”

*“By tracking the affiliation changes of 139 professors and their research outcomes (consisting of 4,269 publications) and comparing them with a matched control group with similar backgrounds, **we revealed a moving penalty for professors moving from Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) to HBCUs, who experienced declines in research productivity and citation impact. In contrast, professors transitioning from HBCUs to PWIs benefited from the moving premium of increasing high-impact publications.**”*

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Faculty mobility and research dynamics at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Xiang Zheng, Erjia Yan, Chaoqun Ni

Check for updates

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Article Contents

Abstract

PEER REVIEW

- INTRODUCTION
- LITERATURE REVIEW
- DATA AND METHODS
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS
- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Abstract

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play a foundational role in promoting equality in U.S. higher education and society. Studying faculty transitions and research dynamics at HBCUs is crucial to understanding and addressing these institutions' challenges, such as the brain drain and its relationships with faculty research practices. By tracking the affiliation changes of 139 professors and their research outcomes (consisting of 4,269 publications) and comparing them with a matched control group with similar backgrounds, we revealed a moving penalty for professors moving from Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) to HBCUs, who experienced declines in research productivity and citation impact. In contrast, professors transitioning from HBCUs to PWIs benefited from the moving premium of increasing high-impact publications. Professors at HBCUs tend to increase their collaborations with PWIs before transitioning, while those moving to PWIs reduce their collaborations with HBCUs. Our findings highlight the ongoing challenges HBCUs face and underscore the need for comprehensive strategies to strengthen these institutions' research functionality and ultimately their overall academic standing.

The Possibilities of Library Publishing

Academic libraries can continue to expand the canon through:

- **Proactive teaching and learning programming for faculty that center what can be taught and how multi-modal approaches can help maximize academic freedom.**
- **Library publishing initiatives that cultivate and disseminate original and timely scholarship by faculty, students, and community members and capture important convening proceedings that may otherwise go undocumented.**
- **Establishing community partnerships that support organizations in creating their own publishing vehicles.**

YARI YARI: BLACK WOMEN WRITERS AND THE FUTURE

An International Conference on Literature by Women of African Descent
October 15-18, 1997

BLACK WOMEN WRITERS from around the globe convened at New York University for "Yari Yari: Black Women Writers and the Future" An International Conference on Literature by Women of African Descent. The meeting was the first major international literary conference focusing on women of African descent. *Yari Yari* means "the future" in the Kuranko language of Sierra Leone. Over 2,000 black women attended conference events with interest and enthusiasm.

The conference was co-sponsored by New York University's Africana Studies Program and the Institute of Afro-American Affairs, in conjunction with the Organization of Women Writers of Africa (OWWA), and UNESCO. The conference featured notable novelists, scholars, poets, playwrights, journalists, and artists, oral story-

said Tricia Rose, Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies at NYU.

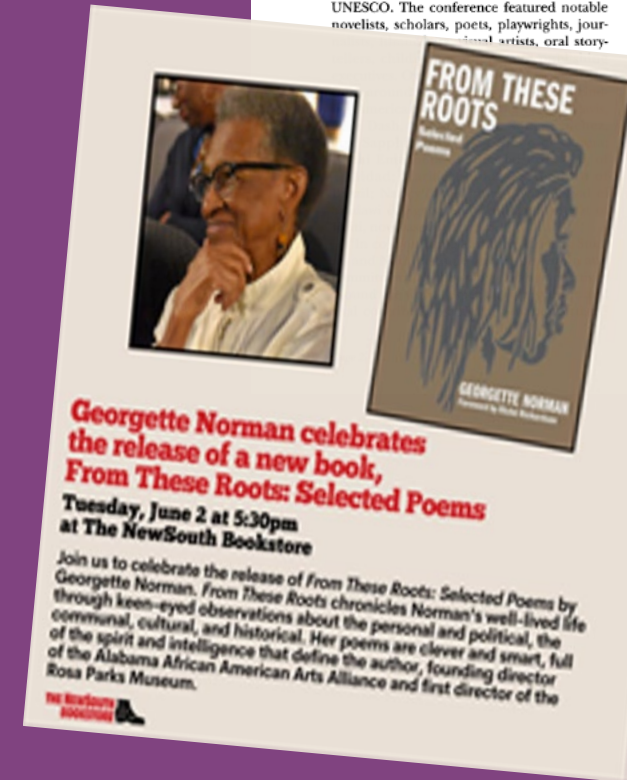
"It is important to note that black women writers have affected the populations on all five continents," explained poet Jayne Cortez, president and co-founder of OWWA. "We hope this conference will improve understanding and relationships in the world community through a variety of cultures."

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS included literary panels and workshops, performances, a Black Women's Film Series, poetry readings, art exhibitions, networking receptions, and author book signings.

On Friday, October 17, "Yari Yari: Black Women Writers and the Future" held an awards dinner gala at NYU's Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, located at 70 Washington Square South, at 6:00 pm. The awards dinner was chaired by Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief of *Essence*; awardees were Octavia Butler, Margaret Walker, Edwidge Danticat, Yvonne Yande Diop, Her Excellency Yvonne Mabuza, and Nawal el Saadawi. The event benefited OWWA's Literary Literacy Fund.

OWWA is a non-profit organization created for the purpose of establishing links between professional women writers from Africa and its diaspora. The Literary Literacy Fund will establish a network of community-based reading and writing centers to encourage young people in the study of world literature, creative writing, and utilization of technology.

THE BLACK SCHOLAR VOLUME 29, NO. 2/3



Library Publishing As Advocacy – A Future Frontier for the HBCU Library Alliance.

Digital publishing holds particular promise.

Member-only story

On the Purity of Black Digital Communities

The Internet provides a medium for Black personhood to unapologetically center its liberation. A tale on the perils and paradise of online connection.



Hal H. Harris

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15 min read · Jan 24, 2022

630

4



An image of two Black people on a Macbook. Source: [Nappy](#)

Within the first five minutes of our meeting, a white man came into our community and dropped the n-word with the hard R until I booted him out.

The racist came in during the Writers and Editors of Color (WEOC) weekly Twitter Space we host to study Nikole Hannah-Jones' "The 1619 Project." As we mingled and allowed speakers up, he immediately began yelling the epithet. A quick look at his profile showed an obsession with basketball and anti-CRT. I clicked the button that both kicked him out of our Space and reported him to Twitter. Afterward, the Space fell silent. We eventually got back to talking, but the incident showed the menace that surrounds the community we seek to build.

community we seek to build



Thank You!

Contact Me: Tracie D. Hall, tdhall@hbculibraries.org



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