

Trustee Report
Manske Library Board
March 12, 2026
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Library of Congress:

Launching a year-long "America 250" celebration, featuring new exhibits, concerts, and the 2026 National Book Festival on Aug. 22.

The link below outlines a focus on 250 years of library significance in American History. The link is to a blog that will be updated as the celebrations begin this coming summer. Libraries are joining in to plan events honoring the birthday of the United States.

[2026 National Book Festival Date Announced! Plus: Learn About Exhibiting at the Festival This Year | Bookmarked](#)

Tech & AI Impact: Libraries are bracing for an increase in "AI slop" (fake, AI-generated content and citations) in their collections. Conversely, AI is being adopted to handle simple queries and improve cataloging, per the London School of Economics and Political Science.

According to the article in the link, chatbots are inserting false or inaccurate information into sources in library collections around the world. The fast moving technology is creating a whole new landscape for librarians to be vigilant about authenticity of information in their libraries.

[**LISNews – News For Librarians – Since 1999**](#)

Awards: Winners of the 2026 Andrew Carnegie Medals for excellence in fiction and nonfiction were announced.

- **2026:** *A Guardian and a Thief* by Megha Majumdar
- **2025:** *James* by Percival Everett
- **2024:** *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters
- **2023:** *The Swimmers* by Julie Otsuka
- **2022:** *The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu* by Tom Lin
- **2021:** *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride
- **2020:** *Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli
- **2019:** *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai

[2026 Winners | Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence](#)

Top Books on Hold: *Cross & Sampson* by James Patterson & Brian Sitts is leading nationwide library hold lists, according to [Library Journal](#).

The Library Journal link above somewhat contradicts the headline above. Curious readers can also look at the link below from Book Pulse.

[‘And Now, Back to You’ by B. K. Borison Tops Holds Lists | Book Pulse | Library Journal](#)

ALA denounces federal book banning bill: H.R. 7661 was introduced February in Congress. ALA President Sam Helmick responded with a statement, which included the following:

1. “Parents, not politicians, should guide their children’s reading.”
2. “H.R. 7661 isn’t fundamentally about protecting kids. It’s about giving politicians broad authority to restrict whose stories are allowed on our shelves.”
3. “Rather than targeting librarians and teachers, Congress should invest in them. The *Right to Read Act* offers a better path, supporting well-staffed and well-resourced school libraries, strengthening evidence-based literacy instruction, and protecting the dedicated professionals who help young people discover books that open doors and expand horizons.”

H.R. 7661 (*Stop the Sexualization of Children Act*) would prohibit the use of funds “to develop, implement, facilitate, host, or promote any program or activity for children under 18 that includes sexually oriented material.

<https://www.ala.org/news/2026/02/ala-denounces-HR-7661>