

→ **Fast Facts**



Book challenges

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked "729 (book) challenges—affecting nearly 1,600 books—at public schools and libraries in 2021, more than double 2020's figures and the highest since the ALA began compiling challenges more than 20 years ago." The two most challenged books for the year were *Gender Queer*, by Maia Kobabe, and *Lawn Boy*, by Jonathan Evison. Hillel Italie, "Library Study Finds 'Challenged' Books Soared in 2021," AP News, April 4, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/most-challenged-books-2021-1d5c3a131e951299d02ce2a4152098cb> (retrieved April 6, 2022).



Declining reading scores

"In 2019, the average reading score for twelfth-grade students was 2 points lower (285) compared to 2015, the previous assessment year, and 7 points lower than 1992, the first reading assessment year. Average scores are reported on the NAEP reading scale that ranges from 0 to 500." A score of 302 is considered "proficient."

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, "NAEP Reading: National Average Scores," <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading/nation/scores/?grade=12> (retrieved April 6, 2022).



AI biographies of marginalized groups

"Only about 20 percent of biographies on the English (Wikipedia) site are about women. Research scientist Angela Fan is using AI (artificial intelligence) to create more inclusive Wikipedia-style biographies about marginalized groups. (The open-source AI model) automatically creates high-quality biographical articles about important real-world public figures, (which can then be) used as a starting point for people writing Wikipedia content and fact checkers to publish more biographies of underrepresented groups on the site." Meta, "Generating Biographies of Marginalized Groups," March 30, 2022, <https://about.fb.com/news/2022/03/generating-biographies-of-marginalized-groups> (retrieved April 6, 2022).



"Smart" devices

A "majority (75 percent) of adults in the U.S. say they or someone in their family interacts with a voice-activated assistant. Most say they interact with a voice-activated assistant on either a smartphone (61 percent), smart speaker

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(35 percent), in a car (29 percent), on a computer (14 percent) or another device (7 percent). Similarly, 58 percent say they have at least one ‘smart home’ device in their home: 37 percent own one or two smart home devices, while 21 percent own three or more. Four in 10 (41 percent) say they don’t currently have any ‘smart home’ devices in their home.”

Brianna Richardson, “Axios|Momentive Poll: What’s Next 2022,” Momentive, April 5, 2022, <https://www.momentive.ai/en/blog/axios-whats-next-2022> (retrieved April 6, 2022).



Hispanic-serving institutions

“The number of colleges with Latino enrollment of at least 25 percent has declined during the pandemic, reversing a 20-year trend in higher education. Despite Hispanic population growth, the number of HSIs (Hispanic-serving institutions) has dropped for the first time in 20 years. Fewer colleges meet the federal standard to be considered Hispanic-serving institutions, in part due to pandemic enrollment decline. Data from the 2020-2021 academic year shows that 42 colleges previously designated as HSIs dipped below the threshold that qualifies them. At the same time, 32 new HSIs were added, leaving the list of schools with this designation 10 shorter than it was the year before.”

Olivia Sanchez, “Despite Hispanic Population Growth, but the Number of HSIs Has Dropped for the First Time in 20 Years,” The Hechinger Report, April 1, 2022, <http://hechingerreport.org/despite-hispanic-population-growth-but-the-number-of-hsis-has-dropped-for-the-first-time-in-20-years> (retrieved April 6, 2022).