

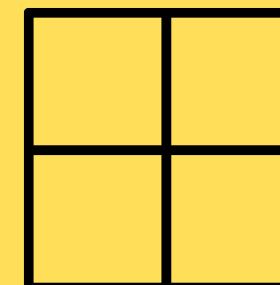
# POP-UP LIBRARIES

AS OUTREACH & INSTRUCTION

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# WHAT WE'LL DISCUSS

POP-UP LIBRARIES AT OUTREACH & INSTRUCTION



Credit & Inspiration

Brainstorming & Planning

Interactives & Info Lit

Results

Other Events & Next Steps

Q&A

# CREDIT & INSPIRATION

POP-UP & TINY LIBRARIES



We'd like to thank **Anu Vedantham, Ash Lierman, and Marryam Naqvi** from Rowan University for inspiring this idea with their work on "*Tiny Library, Popping Up Everywhere.*"



We learned of their initiative at the 2025 NJAL Summer Workshop and decided to host a targeted Pop-Up library of our own on the Middlesex College campus because of their work.

# BRAINSTORMING & PLANNING

## Worked Alongside Liaison Area (English) Faculty

We started conversations with faculty members from the English Department the semester prior to the Get Lit(erature) event during Banned Books Week to discuss how we could support the event. We planned throughout the summer, communicating primarily through email.

English faculty members sent the topics of talks, as well as lists of specific titles they wanted students to have access to at the event.

We worked with our Technical Services Librarian for software training and use of equipment.



# THE POP-UP: DISTINCT, ACADEMIC, CURATED

- **Visually Distinct:** With our banner and other visual cues (decor, library cart, browsable face-out books on display), we created a space that was different than our outreach tables at other college events
- **Academic-Focused:** Our main focus is to help educate and support an academic event or initiative. (While we still do have promotional and informative materials about library services, distributing them was not the primary goal).
- **Curated:** All materials & activities are tied to the event's theme or subject matter



# OUR POP-UP CHECKLIST

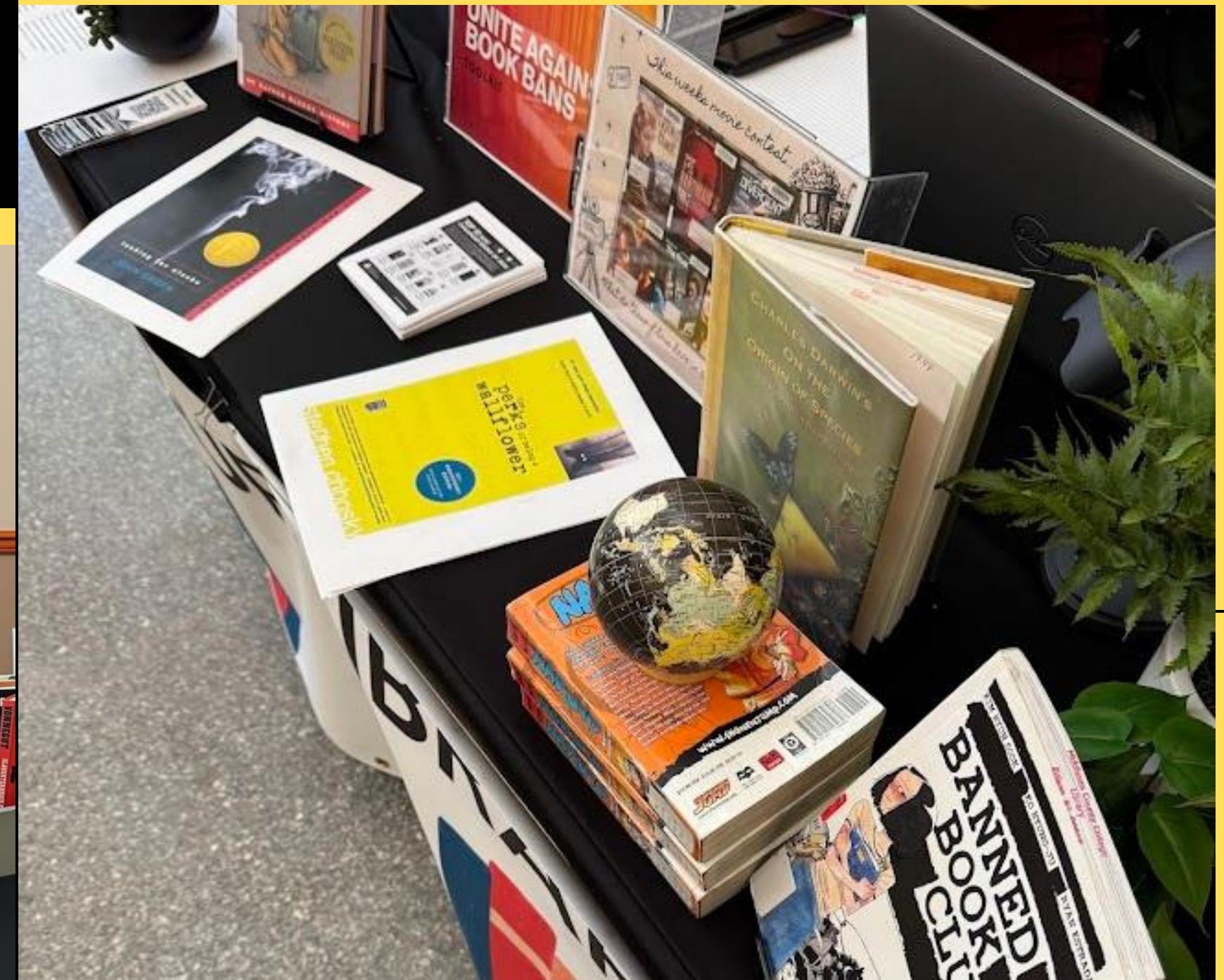
- 30+ books, DVDs, and printouts of poems mentioned in or that were aligned with the faculty talks, as well as opportunities to request titles we did not have on hand through our local consortium and ILL
- Laptops and scanners to facilitate on-site checkouts, card registration, and holds
- Literacy-focused interactives and takeaways: flipbooks that discussed book challenges and QR-coded toolkits to combat censorship, on-theme movie contest related to the event
- Colorful decor and signage, as well as bookmarks and other small giveaways like stickers
- Tape, scissors, twine, binder clips, pens, and other office supplies



GET LIT  
ENGLISH DEPT



THE  
SETUP



# INTERACTIVES

We designed quick activities to get passerby interested in our Pop-Up Library and build knowledge of censorship and book banning:

- On-theme “What Do These Movies Have In Common?” guessing contest (with stickers as prizes)
- Flipbooks where students could guess the reasons behind different book challenges
- A browsable list of the top 100 banned books from the last decade and other book ban data compiled by ALA from 2024 on different clipboards (“Book Ban Data” and “Censorship by the Numbers”)
- QR-coded ALA Unite Against Book Bans toolkits to combat censorship which included talking points and actionable items that anyone could engage in



# MORE INTERACTIVES

Other interactives we've utilized at other Pop-Ups and tabling include:

- Voting on Whiteboards or With Marbles "Which Was Better: The Book vs. The Movie [for Specific Title]?"
- Book Recommendation Sheets
- "What Stuck With You?" Reflections on the Event with Sticky Notes



# INFORMATION LITERACY AS A CONVERSATION

- Interactives were designed to spark conversation and encourage dialogue among participants
  - Allowed time for both students and faculty to suggest books and materials, and encourage active library users
  - Graphic prompts and open-ended questions were intentionally selected to elicit multiple responses and differing perspectives, as well as to educate about book banning, censorship, and civil rights
  - The data, QR-coded toolkits, and flyers created or inspired by the ALA book challenge data helped support and continue these discussions

OCTOBER 2025



IN  
ACTION

# RESULTS

## BY THE NUMBERS

65

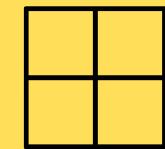
### Instances of Engagement

We tallied each time an attendee came to ask about a resource, have a conversation about book challenges, check out or request a title, and more! What an interactive pilot event!

15+

### Book Checkouts

- And even more holds placed!
- 5 student cards were activated as new library users
- 12 students participated in our on-theme movie contest



# RESULTS: OUR REFLECTIONS

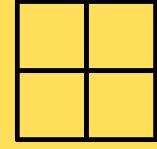


## **Cross-Campus Partnerships and Connections**

Strengthened connection with English Faculty in new ways, who wanted us to continue to partner with them for these and other events. One adjunct discussed with us opportunities for further IL for a spring semester course.

## **Meeting Students Beyond the Library Doors**

Met students who are not regular library users and encouraged them to not only utilize our services, but also think about information and media literacy and book challenge topics in new and thoughtful ways.



# OTHER EVENTS & NEXT STEPS

## In December 2025: Honors Student Research Spotlight

Since submitting this presentation proposal, we've hosted another Pop-Up Library at an Honors Student Spotlight, an event where students gave presentations on their original research. For this event, we curated 20-25 books, as well as links to Opposing Viewpoints topic guides that supported the students' research, with presentations ranging from mental health, celebrity and internet culture, climate change, and the stock market. This was a different audience and a smaller-scale event, but also quite successful, with thoughtful student interactions and book checkouts.

**WHERE TO NEXT?**

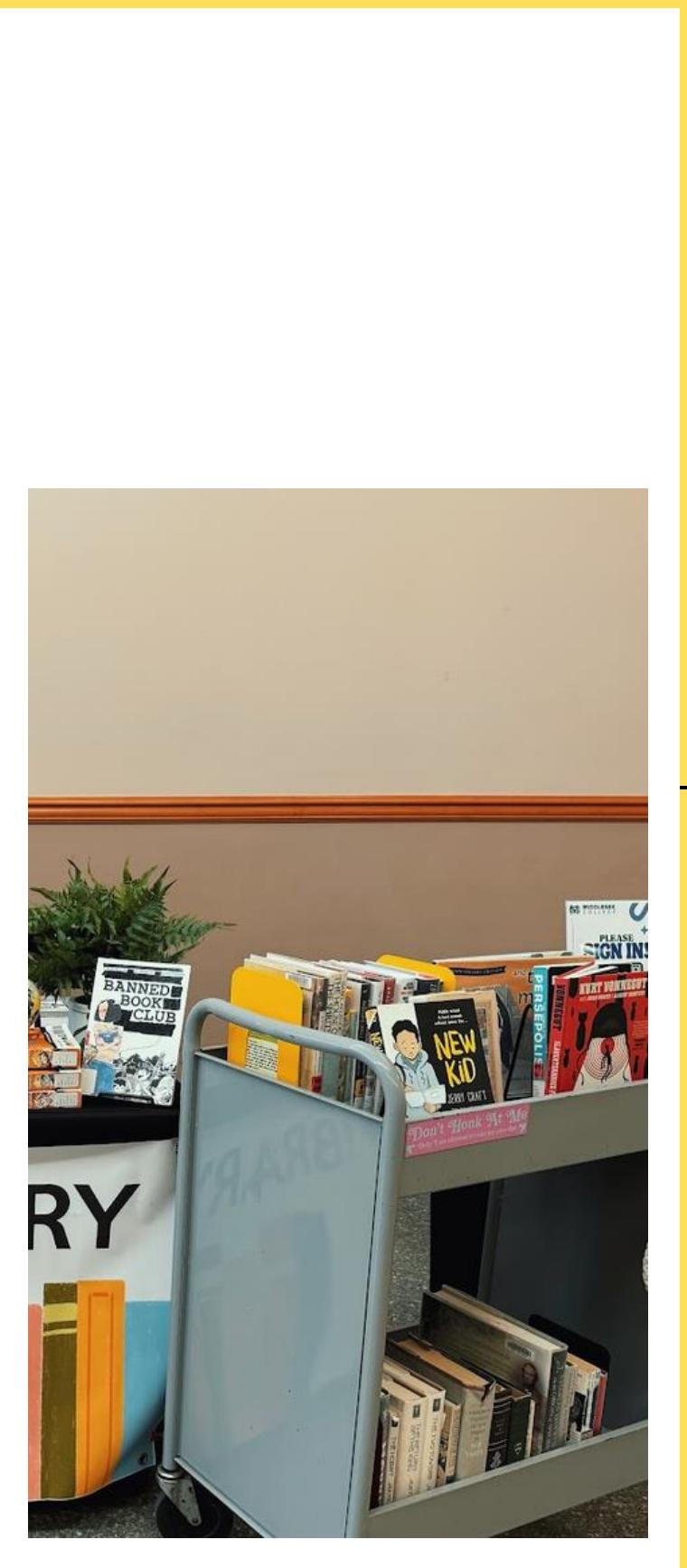
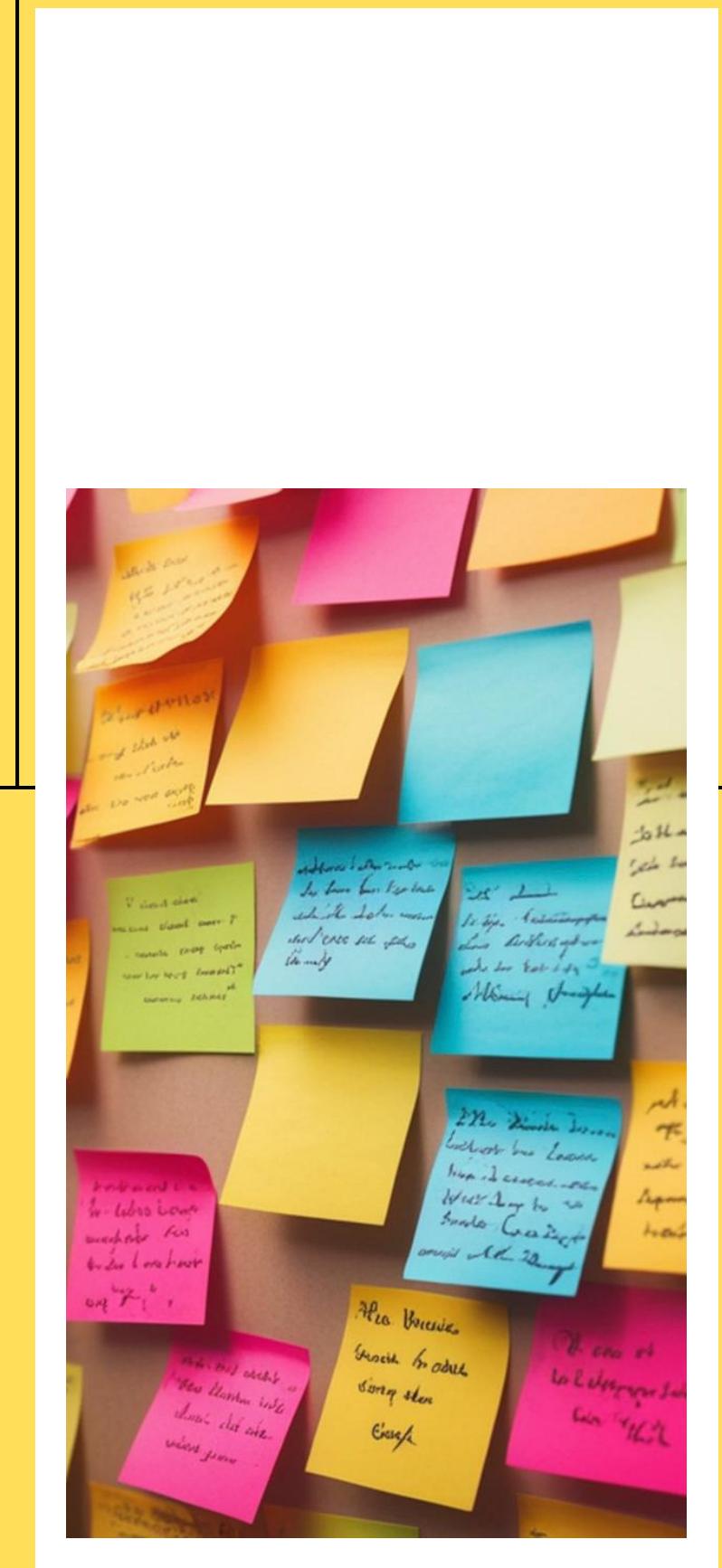
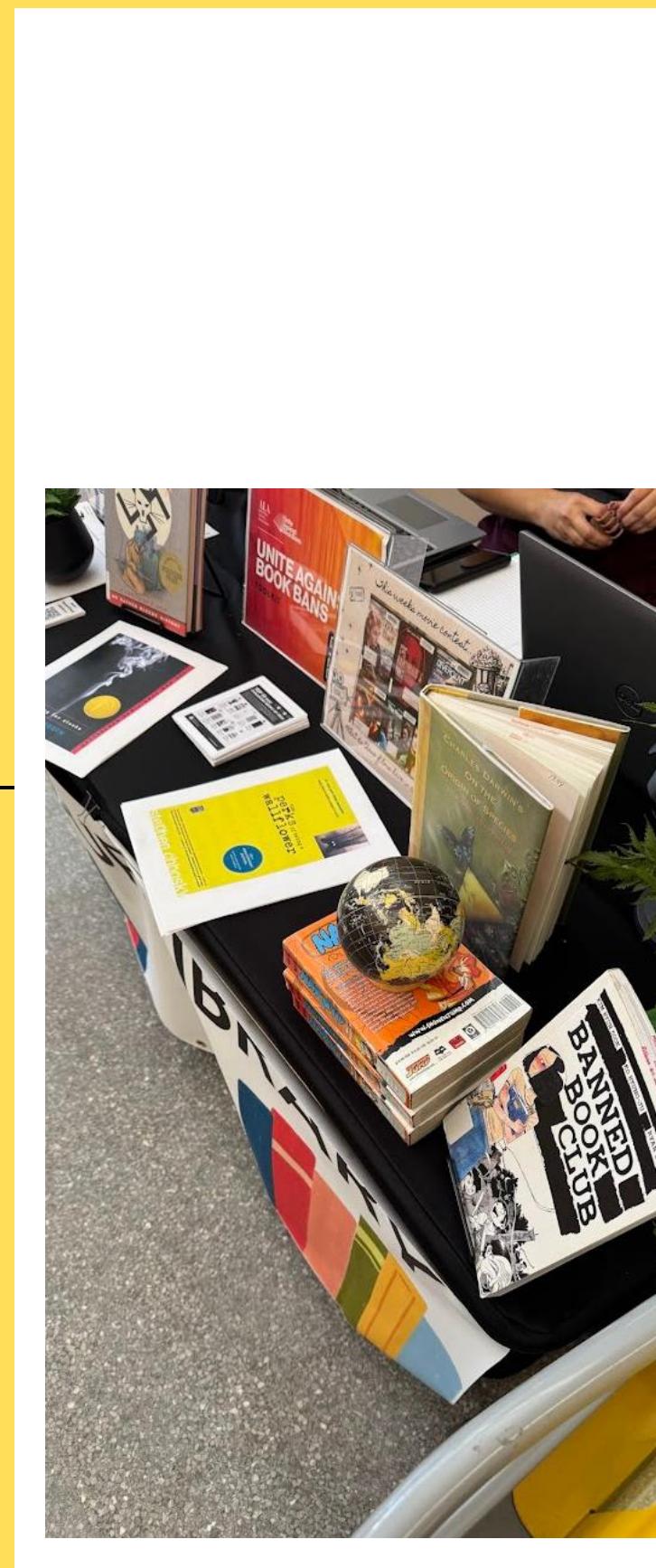
**Potentially** Disability Awareness Day; VPMA Art Exhibit  
Opening; On-Campus Guest Lectures; Faculty Professional Days

# Q&A

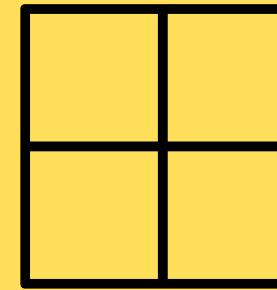
Any questions? Ask away!

And we'd love to hear your thoughts on event tabling, Pop-Up Libraries, and similar initiatives you've found successful!

**POP-UP LIBRARIES**



# POP-UP LIBRARIES AS OUTREACH & INSTRUCTION



# THANK YOU

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