

Banned Books!

Investigating Objections to Published Content

Master Thesis

Motivation

Books contain a wealth of knowledge from factual information, history, and powerful stories. They are critical learning tools for people around the world. Recently, there has been a sharp rise in the attempt to ban books in schools in the United States. But such books serve important roles, by helping people struggling with difficult issues, raising awareness of the health of society, and informing people so everyone can be equipped to play their own part in shaping a society in which they want to live. It is essential to understand the reasons behind and conversations around these bans so that we can take steps to preserve intellectual freedom and education.

Difficulty

Analysis



Programming



Literature



Task Description



This project will investigate the arguments people use to advocate that a book should be banned. This data may come from multiple sources, including social media, and data collected by other researchers. We will look to understand how these

complaints relate to or reflect the actual content of books. Optionally, we could examine a broader context of banned books outside the USA. The interested student should have some experience with machine learning or natural language processing.

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References

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