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**Illinois Library
Association**

Press Release

Emily Knox, assistant professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is the 2015 recipient of the Illinois Library Association Intellectual Freedom Award. The award, presented by the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee, recognizes an individual or group for outstanding contributions in defending intellectual freedom or the advancement of these principles. The award is sponsored by Quality Books Inc. (QBI).

With research interests in intellectual freedom and censorship, print culture and reading practices, and information ethics and policy Emily Knox is a prolific author of articles & book chapters. Ms. Knox recently published her second book in January 2015, *Book Banning in 21st Century America*, the first monograph in the Beta Phi Mu Scholars' Series. She is also a popular speaker, presenting at conferences both in the United States and abroad.

This fall, Ms. Knox enters her fourth year teaching courses like *Information Organization and Access* and *Intellectual Freedom and Censorship*. *Intellectual Freedom and Censorship* allows students to examine these issues throughout the U.S. and worldwide and to develop the skills needed to navigate censorship controversies in the workplace. Additionally, through a partnership with the Freedom to Read Foundation, FTRF staff and volunteers will lend their expertise as guest speakers, and FTRF and ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom archival materials will be made available to students.

Emily Knox holds a Ph.D. in Communication, Information & Library Studies from Rutgers University (2012); M.S. in Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2003); M.A. in Religion, The University of Chicago Divinity School (2000), B.A. with high departmental honors in Religion, Smith College (1998).

The Intellectual Freedom Award will be presented the Awards Gala held on Friday evening, October 23rd, during the 2015 Illinois Library Conference in Peoria.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release