The Fairhope Public Library created a fun book display to celebrate Banned Books Week, Sept. 23-29.

Books chosen for the display were commonly banned or challenged throughout the country. Concealed in plain brown paper with only the barcode visible, the books instead feature a checklist detailing the reasons why the book is considered challenged.

“Any patron brave enough to check out one of these books receives an ‘I read banned books’ button,” said Fairhope Teen Librarian Allyson Russell.

Banned Books Week, held during the last week of September since 1982, celebrates the freedom to read and highlights the importance of providing access to all expressions of ideas and viewpoints to any who wish to read them.

Staff at the Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library in Brundidge celebrated Banned Books Week by “catching” patrons reading books that are either banned or challenged. Patrons checking out banned books are “booked” by getting their mugshot holding their selection. Far left, library patron Keba Reed checked out *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. This book has been banned for featuring police brutality, profanity, racism, drug use, and violence. Left, library patron Kristy McDade checked out *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L’Engle. This juvenile selection is ranked #22 in the American Library Association’s 100 Most Banned Books for 1990-2000, and is frequently challenged for undermining religious beliefs and promoting witchcraft.
Snapshot Day 2018 is officially in the books. The statewide initiative aims to show the importance of Alabama public libraries by capturing a still frame from a typical day in the communities they represent.

With the event occurring on Sept. 20 this year, we’re still receiving submissions from several libraries throughout the state, but here are some photos and comments we’ve already received. Thanks to all the participating libraries. If you have yet to submit your snapshots, statistics, or comments, please send them to rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us no later than Oct. 20.
Generous donations bring sensory story time to Albert L. Scott Library

The children of Alabaster will soon be enjoying fun and learning during a new program at the Albert L. Scott Library thanks to two community service donations from two state representatives.

State Rep. April Weaver (R-Brierfield) and State Rep. Matt Fridy (R-Montevallo) each presented a $1,000 check to library director Nan Abbott on Oct. 3. The $2,000 total will fund a bi-monthly sensory story time for individuals with special needs and multiple disabilities — and their siblings.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer Sensory Story Time to families,” said Abbott. “And we are very appreciative of these two donations to fund it.”

Bessemer holds kids’ drum circle

The Bessemer Public Library Youth department welcomed Walker Wright to perform a fun, interactive drum circle with kids from the community. Children were told that drum circle participants get to choose their own rhythm.

Wright discussed different types of drums, drum origins, demonstrated different types of drum tones, and taught kids how to make a few basic rhythms. Each child was offered their own drum to play and few wanted to share with friends. Wright had more than enough drums for each child to find their own rhythm.
Abbeville holds pizza party for summer readers

The Abbeville Memorial Library recently held a pizza party to honor their top summer readers. Both children and parents were thanked for their participation in the program, and everyone who took part in the program received a prize. Congratulations to all!

Abbeville Memorial Library holds a pizza party for top summer program readers

Children explore ‘Terrific Talents’

The Albert L. Scott Library held the inaugural session of the Wonder kids’ Book on Sept. 11 in Alabaster. The program is funded by a $1,000 Virginia Hamilton and Arnold Adoff Creative Outreach Grant to the library. The first meeting showcased books by Hamilton and Adoff, and each member received a book and balloon creation to keep.

Woodville Mayor declares September Library Card Sign-up Month

Woodville Mayor Steve Helms signed a proclamation in support of the public library by declaring September as Library Card Sign-up month for the Jackson County town. Helms also presented Woodville Public Library Director Karen Chambers with a plaque and pin for 25 years of service to the town. Chambers joined the library on Sept. 3, 1993, and the small rural library has grown over the years with help of faithful volunteers, the library board, the mayor, and the city council.

Woodville Library Director Karen Chambers (back left) and library board members pose for a photo with Woodville Mayor Steve Helms upon his signing of a city proclamation to support their local public library