



IFRT Report is the newsletter of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association. Editor, B.B. Rile, Lilly Library, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Co-editor, JC Swan, Crossett Library, Bennington College, Bennington, VT 05201.



NEWS FROM OIF

Patrice McDermott is the new Assistant Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, starting November 3, 1986. She is also the liaison to the IFRT. Ms. McDermott is a 1972 Phi Beta Kappa from Florida State University, earned her M.A. from Brown in 1974, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Arizona in 1982 before receiving her MLS from Emory in 1986. She has worked with issues surrounding intellectual freedom in her academic and her professional career and will be attending IFRT Executive Board Meetings in Chicago, where all can become acquainted.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF IFRT

Greetings from Cedar Falls! I was dying to tell you all at the summer conference, but the job offer wasn't official until July 17. Anyway, this is a great professional and personal opportunity to be Director of Library Services at the University of Northern Iowa. I've been spending lots of time getting to know my "environment", which, of course, includes state IF activities. Thus my first day on the job I accepted the invitation to serve on the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee. This group held its annual planning conference in November.

1986 programs included two very successful IF workshops by Dennis Day.

We are making progress on the San Francisco program on AIDS and the public's "right to know." The response to my call for ideas has been incredibly gratifying. Thank you, one and all, for your support of this program. We should have the final program in place by Midwinter. It will include speakers to address the information needs of children and young adults.

My last report from Larry Miller showed an overwhelming demand for our bookmarks. Irene Stoller sent in the requested by-laws revisions, and Judy Krug reported that, as of 8/31/86, we have 1,312 members, only 20 behind GODORT! You've all been working hard and I really appreciate it.

I will send out the Executive Board Agenda in early December.

Barbara Jones









COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS, CONT.

Organizations and Bylaws Committee.

Chair: Irene Stoller, Paramus Public Library, Paramus, NJ

James Nelson, Ramapo-Catskill Public Library System, Middletown, NY  
Donna Pittman, Undergraduate Library Building, Urbana, Ill.

Nominating Committee

Chair: John Swan, Bennington College, Bennington, VT.

Membership Promotion Committee

Chair: Laurence Miller, Florida International University, Miami

Scott B. Kass, North Miami, Florida

John J. Riemer, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, GA

Christopher F. Bowen, Downers Grove Public Library, Downers Grove IL

Russell Shank, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Program Committee

Chair: Barbara Jones, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Carol Liu, Queens Borough Public, Jamaica NY

Richard Buck, Performing Arts Center, New York, NY

Local Arrangements: VOLUNTEERS OR NOMINATIONS ARE WELCOME

IFRT Coalition Task Force Committee

Chair: Fran McDonald, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN

David Cohen, Bayside NY

Duane Meyers, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, OK

Marsha Foster, Kaskaskia Library System, Smithton, IL

Susan B. Madden, King Co. Library System, Seattle WA

Publications Committee

Chair: B.B. Rile, Wabash College Library, Crawfordsville, IN

John Swan, Bennington College, Crosset Library, Bennington VT

Immroth Memorial Award Committee

Chair: Bill Davis, State Library of Iowa, Des Moines IA

Martha Merrill, Jacksonville State University Library, Jacksonville AL

Lee Brawner, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, OK

Donna Pittman, Undergraduate Library, Urbana, IL

Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award Committee

Chair: Joe Harzbecker, West Roxbury, Mass.

Anne Martel, Champaign, IL

Dennis Day, Salt Lake City Public Library, Salt Lake City UT

State Intellectual Freedom Committee Programming Award Committee

Chair: Doug Archer, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Karen Tallman, Univ. of Arizona Library, Tucson, AZ

Ginny Moore Kruse, Cooperative Children's Book Center, Madison WI

Larry Miller, Florida International University, Miami F:

Enid Ezrin, Chicago Public Library, Archer Branch, Chicago, IL

IFRT Liaisons and Representatives

To the Intellectual Freedom Committee: Pamela Bonnell, Plano Public Library System, Plano, TX

To the Freedom to Read Foundation: Richard Buck, Performing Arts Center, New York, NY

To the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund: Susan Brant, Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI

To the RTSD Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access: B.B. Rile, Wabash College Library, Crawfordsville, IN

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Excerpts from "Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. Adopted July 2, 1986 by the ALA Council.

The school library media program plays a unique role in promoting intellectual freedom. It serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and a learning laboratory for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem solving skills needed in a pluralistic society. Although the educational level and program of the school necessarily shape the resources and services of a school library media program, the principles of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS apply equally to all libraries, including school library media programs.

School library media professionals assume a leadership role in promoting the principles of intellectual freedom within the school by providing resources and services that create and sustain an atmosphere of free inquiry ... Through resources, programming, and educational processes, students and teachers experience the free and robust debate characteristic of a democratic society.

...Students and educators served by the school library media program have access to resources and services free of constraints resulting from personal, partisan, or doctrinal disapproval. School library media professionals resist efforts by individuals to define what is appropriate for all students or teachers to read, view, or hear.

Major barriers between students and resources include: imposing age or grade level restrictions on the use of resources, limiting the use of interlibrary loan and access to electronic information, charging fees for information in specific formats, requiring permissions from parents or teachers, establishing restricted shelves or closed collections, and labeling. Policies, procedures and rules related to the use of resources and services support free and open access to information.

The school board adopts policies that guarantee student access to a broad range of ideas ... Such policies, developed by persons



in the school community, provide for a timely and fair hearing and assure that procedures are applied equitably to all expressions of concern. School library media professionals implement district policies and procedures in the school.

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Excerpt from an editorial in the Hammond (Indiana) Times, 11 Nov. 1986.

The Hammond Library Board deserves to be commended for its decision to allow parents and children access to all kinds of information.

At issue before the board has been a publication called "A Kid's First Book About Sex." ... The library board wisely decided to continue its policy of making sensitive instructional material available to all readers, and has urged parents to share their children's library experiences to make sure the kids understand what they read and see.

...A library is a place for learning and exploration--two things that parents and child can undertake successfully together. It is not meant to be a babysitting service at which parents can safely drop the kids off for a few hours...

Book banning is a dangerous, ill-advised idea that, in the end, promotes ignorance and encourages more censorship.

It was tough for the Hammond Library Board members to stand up to the emotional arguments put forth by critics of "A Kid's First Book About Sex."

We thank them.

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HOW NICE! A CHRISTMAS CARRELL!