ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee
Report to Council
2012 Midwinter Meeting
Dallas, TX
Tuesday, January 24, 2012

The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) is pleased to present this update of its activities.

INFORMATION

OIF Webcasts/Webinars

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is pleased to announce the availability of eight recorded webcasts on vital topics in intellectual freedom today.

"Intellectual Freedom Summer School" offered a series of five online learning programs for public, academic and school librarians in August 2011. Each hour-long session was recorded and is now available for purchase and viewing. In November 2011, OIF and the IFLA Committee for Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) co-sponsored "Intellectual Freedom across the Globe," a series of three webinars on international issues related to free speech, censorship and access to information. These hour-long sessions are also now available as recorded webcasts. Recorded webcasts may be downloaded and viewed at any time, making them a flexible and convenient option for professional development.

To register, visit http://bit.ly/wHVlGP and click on the "Register" link to the right of the webcast you wish to purchase. For more information on these and other OIF online learning offerings, please visit ala.org/onlinelearning/unit/oif.

Challenge Database

Since 1990, OIF has maintained a confidential database on challenged materials, which documents formal requests for library materials to be removed or restricted. OIF collects entries from both media reports and reports submitted by individuals, which are then manually entered into the database. Numerous other organizations, including the ACLU and state library associations, also make efforts to capture challenges to library materials, but OIF's database is unique and widely recognized as the most comprehensive source of such information.

In more than 20 years since its inception, the challenge database has remained in a simple Microsoft Access format. The Access database has served OIF's limited purposes but a more sophisticated database product would free staff time and resources, enabling more advanced applications and presentation of information about banned and challenged books – one of the

cornerstones of OIF's services to members and the public alike. OIF therefore sought and received ALA capital funds to upgrade its challenge database and support innovative uses of challenge data.

OIF is now finalizing contract and confidentiality agreements with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Graduate School of Library and Information Science (UIUC-GSLIS) to consult on software selection, category development and refinement, and user interface development. Our goal is to work with UIUC-GSLIS to have an upgraded challenge database in place by fall 2012.

Challenge Reporting Campaign

OIF collaborated with librarian and library activist Andy Woodworth to create a new awareness campaign to encourage the reporting of challenges to library materials. The campaign—"Defend the Freedom to Read: It's Everybody's Job"— is inspired by the artwork and public safety notices of World War II. The artwork is freely available for digital download as a poster, web banner, and more at www.ala.org/challengereporting. OIF encourages librarians to use the images as computer wallpaper, hang them in a staff lounge, print them out as bookmarks, post them as a blog, or even use one as your icon on your favorite social media website.

Challenges reported to ALA by individuals are kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes. Challenges or removals can be reported either online or by paper form. For more information, please visit our "Reporting a Challenge" page online at www.ala.org/challengereporting.

Updated Libraries & the Internet Toolkit Now Available

The Intellectual Freedom Committee approved the final draft of the revised and updated "Libraries and Internet Toolkit: Tips and Guidance for Managing and Communicating about the Internet." The toolkit is now available online as a downloadable publication at www.ifmanual.org/toolkit.

The new toolkit is intended to be a practical guide to managing Internet services in libraries of all types. It includes up-to-date information on filtering, the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act, the use of and access to social media in libraries, guidelines on developing Internet policies, and practical advice on handling messaging and communications concerning library Internet services.

Our deepest thanks are due to 2010 ALA Emerging Leaders Eileen Bosch, Toni Dean, Amanda Robillard, Mara Degnan-Rojeski, and Yen Tran, who worked for over a year to write the new toolkit. Thanks, too, to immediate past IFC membe

Updated Privacy Q & A Supplements Privacy Policy Documents

The Intellectual Freedom Committee also approved revisions to its document, "Questions and Answers on Privacy and Confidentiality," which supplements "Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" and other ALA policies addressing user privacy in libraries.

The revised Q & A retains its review of basic privacy concepts, and adds or expands on several new topics, including minors' privacy rights, new technologies and privacy, surveillance cameras in libraries, and the use of patrons' registration information for purposes other than the provision of library services. The document will be available online at www.ifmanual.org/privacyqa.

Thanks are due to Doug Archer and the members of the IFC Privacy Subcommittee for their hard work revising the document.

PROJECTS

Choose Privacy Week

As part of this year's Choose Privacy Week efforts, librarians and library workers are invited to participate in a survey that will measure librarians' attitudes about privacy rights and protecting library users' privacy. The survey is available online, and takes only 15 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential: http://tinyurl.com/ALAprivacysurvey.

The survey, which builds on an earlier 2008 survey assessing librarians' attitudes about privacy both within and outside of the library, will provide important data that will help ALA assess the state of privacy in the United States and help guide OIF's planning for "Privacy for All," ALA's ongoing campaign to engage librarians in public education and advocacy to advance privacy rights. The survey will be available until March 1, 2012.

The study is funded by a generous grant from the Open Society Institute and is managed by Dr. Michael Zimmer, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Information Studies and co-director of its Center for Information Policy Research.

Barbara Jones, director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, encourages all librarians and library workers to take the survey. "After three successful years working on Choose Privacy Week and related educational programs, it is essential that we test our assumptions for the remaining years of the grant," she said. "We want 'Privacy for All' to create models for programming and services that librarians can use for various constituencies and community groups. We can't do that without your opinions."

The "Privacy for All" initiative features Choose Privacy Week, an annual event that encourages libraries and librarians to engage library users in a conversation about privacy; and a website, privacyrevolution.org, that provides access to privacy-related news, information and programming resources. In 2011 – 2012, "Privacy for All" and Choose Privacy Week will be focused on the topic of government surveillance, with an emphasis on immigrant and refugee communities' use of libraries and youth attitudes about privacy.

The third Choose Privacy Week will take place May 1-7, 2012. Choose Privacy Week posters, bookmarks, buttons, and other resources are available for sale at the ALA Store. To stay abreast of Choose Privacy Week announcements, follow @privacyala on Twitter or become a Facebook fan. The theme for this year is "Freedom from Surveillance."

Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week 2012 will take place September 30 – October 6, 2012 and marks the 30th anniversary of this annual celebration of the freedom to read. The ALA along with its cosponsors will continue to host a virtual Banned Books Week Read-Out. The Read-Out will feature YouTube videos of authors reading from their favorite banned/challenged books or talking about the importance of the freedom to read. We strongly encourage libraries across the country to participate in this event.

BBW merchandise, including posters, bookmarks, t-shirts, and tote bags, are sold and marketed through ALA Store (www.alastore.ala.org/). More information on Banned Books Week can be found at www.ala.org/bbooks. You also can become a fan at www.facebook.com/bannedbooksweek or follow @OIF on Twitter—the hashtag is #BannedBooksWeek.

ACTION

Resolution Opposing Restriction to Materials and Open Inquiry in Arizona Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs

The IFC believes it necessary that ALA respond with a unified voice to recent news reports highlighting the removal of educational materials in connection with the elimination of Mexican American Studies classes in the Tucson (AZ) Unified School District. REFORMA and other ethnic caucuses approached the IFC to draft a resolution address the threats to intellectual freedom that this restriction of access to educational materials represents. The IFC worked closely with numerous ALA committees, divisions, and round tables to develop a resolution in response. As a result, the IFC submits to Council a resolution reflecting the input of numerous ALA constituencies, affirming current ALA policy, emphasizing the value of school libraries, and reiterating our professional commitment to intellectual freedom. The IFC therefore moves the adoption of CD #19.1.

In closing, the Intellectual Freedom Committee thanks the division and chapter intellectual freedom committees, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, the unit liaisons, and the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Pat Scales (Chair)	Jim Kuhn
Gladys Smiley Bell	Robin Shader
Ann Crewdson	Mary K. Somers
Barbara Fiehn	Mary (Ma'Lis) Elizabeth Wendt
Julius Jefferson, Jr.	Kathleen Condon-Boettcher (intern)
	Cynthia Mari Orozco (intern)

Resolution Opposing Restriction to Materials and Open Inquiry in Arizona Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs

Whereas, The policy of the American Library Association supports "equal access to information for all persons and recognizes the ongoing need to increase awareness of and responsiveness to the diversity of the communities we serve" (ALA Policy Manual, Section 60); and

Whereas, "The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries." (Freedom to Read Statement, adopted June 25, 1953; last revised June 30, 2004); and

Whereas, "No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say" (Freedom to Read Statement, adopted June 25, 1953; last revised June 30, 2004); and

Whereas, The Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), in compliance with The State of Arizona Revised Statutes Sections 15-111 and 15-112, had to eliminate its Mexican American Studies (MAS) Program, resulting in the subsequent removal of textbooks and books on the MAS Program Reading List; and

Whereas, Textbooks and reading list titles written by nationally and internationally renowned authors and scholars that reflect this country's rich diverse heritage can no longer be taught or assigned by teachers in the suspended MAS Program; and

Whereas, Students in the TUSD MAS Program develop critical thinking skills through the study of literature written by ALA award winning authors; and students have demonstrated proven academic success, graduating from high school at the rate of 90% and entering college at a rate of 80%; and

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Resolution Opposing Restriction to Materials and Open Inquiry in Arizona Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs/2

Whereas, Educators rely on the collection development expertise of school librarians and access to a diverse collection to respond effectively to the individual learning needs of their students; and

Whereas, HB 2654 has been introduced in The State of Arizona House of Representatives, "An Act Repealing Sections 15-111 and 15-112, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to School Curriculum;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Condemns the suppression of open inquiry and free expression caused by closure of ethnic and cultural studies programs on the basis of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

2. Condemns the restriction of access to educational materials associated with ethnic and cultural studies programs.

3. Urges the Arizona legislature to pass HB 2654, "An Act Repealing Sections 15-111 and 15-112, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to School Curriculum."

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association

Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, January 24, 2012
In Dallas, Texas