

**2009 – 2010 ALA CD#25
2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

**Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Report to Council
19 January 2010**

1) The Constitution & Bylaws Committee was asked to review the documents accompanying an application for affiliate status from the Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. Affiliate status is covered by the ALA Constitution, Article X, Section 1, which authorizes affiliation with organizations whose purposes are similar to ALA's. Affiliate status is also covered by Policy 9.2, which provides guidance for Council in making decisions concerning affiliation. That policy specifies the following criteria:

- Be not for profit
- Have interests consistent with those of ALA
- Have sufficiently large membership and length of existence to ensure continued support under constitutions and bylaws not in conflict with ALA and its policies
- Do not discriminate in membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities or national origin.

The Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. meets the first three of these criteria, but in a statement accompanying its application for affiliate status it states the following:

AJL has a strict policy of non-discrimination. The Association welcomes members of all races, creeds, colors, sex, age, physical handicaps, and national origin. The current membership is very diverse with people from all backgrounds who work with or have an interest in Judaica.

In the absence of an explicit inclusion of "sexual orientation" from its non-discrimination policy statement, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee feels it cannot at this time recommend approval of affiliate status. The committee therefore identified three possible courses of action: 1) a motion to disapprove affiliate status; 2) a motion to approve affiliate status contingent upon the ALA Executive Board's receipt of the Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc.'s affirmation of the inclusion of sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy; 3) a motion to defer consideration of affiliate status until such time as such affirmation is received.

(Over)

In the interest of time, the committee decided on the second of these and therefore moves:

THAT the ALA Council approve affiliate status for the Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. contingent upon the receipt by the Executive Board of an affirmation by the Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc. that sexual orientation is explicitly included in its non-discrimination policy.

2) In discussing the affiliate application, the committee questioned how affiliate members are monitored to ensure the continued similarity with ALA purposes and continued conformance with the criteria as stated in Policy 9.2. We were unsure what to do with this question but decided to pose the question for the Executive Board's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Steven Bowers
Kathleen Degyansky
Sue Kamm
Robbie Nickel
Carlen Ruschoff
Tom Wilding, chair