

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Policy Revolution! / Information Policy

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

Summary of activities

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**

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**DRAFT OF MOTION:** None

**DATE:** December 29, 2015

**BACKGROUND:** Summary of activities since the 2015 Annual Conference and plans for the forthcoming months.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

## **FROM THE NATIONAL POLICY AGENDA TO OUTREACH**

At the 2015 Annual Conference, the National Policy Agenda for Libraries was released. The completion of this document signaled a fundamental shift in the work of the Policy Revolution! initiative, from research and library community-focused work to more active outreach to the outside world. Thus, we began to engage external parties on elements of the agenda.

As the agenda is wide-ranging, we identified several areas for initial focus—and in particular ones that would likely have some traction in the new Administration and Congress in 2017. One of the selected areas is military families (both veterans and currently serving). Through proactive engagement, we connected with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and are launching a military-specific financial education pilot project with them to commence this month.

Youth and technology is another priority area, and we are launching a new effort in collaboration with and support from the Tides Foundation and Google. This project focuses on how libraries serve to encourage and support young people in computational thinking (and especially those underrepresented in tech), increasing the availability and visibility of available resources for libraries to adopt. A future phase involves developing new materials for libraries (and in principle for other community anchor institutions) in consultation with national experts.

Rural America and entrepreneurship are other areas receiving focus. We've begun outreach inside the Beltway, and solicited ideas for the rural proposal at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in October. A white paper focused on how libraries support entrepreneurship is currently in development.

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), which is a national partner for the Policy Revolution! initiative, is engaged in policy agenda implementation, which was the focus of a 90-minute plenary session at the COSLA annual meeting in October at which OITP participated. In addition to supporting national efforts, COSLA members are also interested in translating the National Policy Agenda for use at the state level.

## **THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY**

In addition to the outreach to the library community discussed above, we also just concluded an information policy workshop for ALA leaders. Nearly 100 ALA member-leaders and staff participated in sessions and breakout groups focused on education and awareness of information policy to provide a more robust foundation for future ALA action.

The launch of the Libraries Transform campaign this fall augments our work on information policy and the Policy Revolution! initiative. From the policy perspective, the campaign provides a framework for effective communication to a wide range of stakeholders. For the campaign, the Policy Revolution! initiative represents a resource of content that may be used for

messaging. One example of this symbiosis is a program on Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. featuring Harvard University’s Jonathan Zittrain, ALA President Sari Feldman, ALA President-elect Julie Todaro, and OITP Director Alan S. Inouye

## **WASHINGTON ENGAGEMENT**

During the past months, we have developed plans for heightened visibility within the national policy community. Planning is underway for a national policy convening in D.C. during National Library Week that will feature ALA President Sari Feldman. The organization of a Public Policy Advisory Council is also underway and will be launched prior to the Annual Conference. The Council will be made up of leaders and innovators from a broad range of non-library sectors and provide strategic advice to and boost library national public policy engagement.

We’ve also had some success with placement of op-eds and articles featuring library engagement and vision on national policy priorities ranging from student learning to the future of the Library of Congress—in *Roll Call*, *The Hill*, and *Digital Beat* (a major blog for information policy news and articles)—in the past six months.

## **SPECIFIC INFORMATION POLICY ISSUES**

We shall be delighted to discuss any of the policy issues within the rubric of the Office for Information Technology Policy.