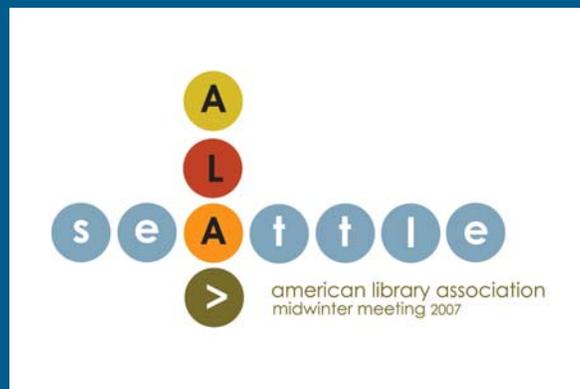


No. 64, Special Issue,  
IFRT  
Conference Report  
Midwinter 2007



Publication of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table

Seattle, Washington

January 2007

Welcome to our first  
IFRT Conference  
Report (Midwinter).

I hope this report sheds  
some light on the  
discussions, planning, and  
accomplishments of the  
IFRT at Midwinter.

While not a complete  
encapsulation of IFRT  
activities at Midwinter,  
this report attempts to  
convey a sense of what  
IFRT does in the hopes  
that by sharing this  
information with our  
members, they may be  
inspired to attend our  
meetings and participate  
in our functions. We are  
passionately committed in  
all our endeavors  
promoting intellectual  
freedom. I included the  
Freedom to Read Report  
to Council for its  
informative content.

Look for our next issue of  
the IFRT Report due out  
early June. There will be  
Annual conference  
happenings as well as the  
typically stimulating reads  
regularly found in our  
report.

Thank you!

Lauren Christos,  
Editor

# IFRT Conference Report

ALA Conference — January 2007 — Seattle, Washington

January 2007

## From the Chair's Chair, Rosanne Cordell

IFRT has several exciting projects ongoing. Our program at Annual will feature speaker Susan F. Wood, PhD, who resigned as Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on August 31, 2005, in protest of the decision to once again delay over-the-counter status to Plan B emergency contraception, which recently received partial approval by the FDA. She will discuss the value of sound science in health care policy decision-making, the growing politicization of science, and the importance of scientific freedom in safeguarding the public interest.

Annual conference activities will actually start with the IFRT preconference, "Celebrating the Library Bill of Rights", a half-day conference devoted to the LBOR and its interpretations. At only \$25, it is a great bargain!

Our Emerging Leaders, Janice Tsai and Felicia Smith, will be working on a project for the national discussion on privacy.

Two major issues were discussed at Midwinter. The first, the closing of EPA libraries, was reported on by IFRT member Aimee Fifarek. The EPA has begun closing regional libraries before their digitization of collections is complete, and questions remain about access to documents for which the EPA does not hold the copyrights and how researchers can obtain assistance from librarians.

The second issued which elicited lively discussion was the reorganization of some ALA units in which there is consideration of making their intellectual freedom committees (IFC's) interest groups, or making the IFC's into subcommittees of larger committees. The IFRT Board is concerned these reorganizations may hinder a unit's performance of its policy-making and review responsibilities. ALA IFC depends on units' providing guidance and expertise on IF issues in their areas.

Two matters will be brought to IFRT members to vote on this year: changing the name of the Publications Committee to the Publications & Communications Committee, and making the Merritt Fund Committee a standing committee. These changes will allow our committee structure to keep up with the changes in the IF environment in which we all work and live. We look forward to another productive and lively conference in Washington, D.C.!

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## The Round Table Coordinating Assembly in Seattle

*By J. Douglas Archer*

The Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) is just what the name implies, a collection of representatives from the various ALA Round Tables. It meets once at the beginning of each annual and midwinter meeting to address any issues of particular concern to Round Tables as vital memberships driven parts of ALA. The IFRT was represented in Seattle by Sylvia Turchyn, IFRT Councilor and by me as IFRT Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

Besides spending an inordinate amount of time discussing the best time to meet, we received reports from Michael Gorman representing the ALA Executive Board and Mary Ghikas from ALA Headquarters, discussed fees associated with endowments (which several Round Tables have), reviewed RTCA representation on the ALA Conference Planning Committee and heard a presentation by John Chrastka of Membership Services.

Of particular interest to IFRT members was Michael's description of the current status of EPA libraries (closing to the public) and ALA's response (vigorous). The Committee on Legislation, the Government Documents Round Table, the Washington Office, ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee and Council have all spoken up.

The RTCA has two representatives on the Annual Conference Program Committee. Though there is no formal rotation among the Round Tables, IFRT's turn will be coming around soon.

As for Membership Services, John mentioned several things they are more than willing to do for Round Tables. These included design work for membership materials and campaigns, access to mailing lists, analysis of membership dues, and help in framing data and trend lines. He is looking for Round Tables with whom to partner. Several Round Table representatives volunteered including myself and Sylvia for IFRT.

The Assembly will next meet on Friday, June 22 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at our Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

## American Library Association ~ Intellectual Freedom Round Table Midwinter Meeting 2007 ~ IFRT Councilor's Report

by Sylvia Turchyn

Seattle proved to be a gracious host city, offering pleasant and unexpected weather, great vistas and lots of good meeting space, lodging and restaurants. Here is a summary of highlights from the various meetings and events I attended on your behalf.

ALA Council – The good news from BARC (Budget Analysis and Review Comm.) Included an announcement that total revenue as of mid October was almost \$1 million over budget projections. The Presidential Task Force on the Graduated Dues Study of BARC received an extended deadline by Council vote to provide a report on study planning and options for further exploration regarding a graduated dues structure, from 2007 ALA Annual Conference to 2008 Midwinter Meeting. More positive reporting came from the Endowment Fund with value increased by circa \$3.6 million during 2006 to a market value of \$29,028,000. Likewise, Treasurer Teri Switzer reported that net assets grew by 8% with revenue from annual dues increasing by almost \$3 million since 2005, though she cautioned that this is not enough for ALA to fulfill its goals. Round Table revenues increased by \$31,000 from the previous year. ALA has experienced a 45% increase in membership since 1980, with a total of 64,689 members in 2006.

Several resolutions came before Council, many with implications for free speech and access to information. I have included only the substantive resolve clauses in my synopsis.

- To Advocate Ending the Funding for the Iraq War – “Resolved, that ALA support efforts in the US Congress to stop the Iraq War by withholding funds for military actions in Iraq, except for funds necessary for a safe, quick and orderly withdrawal.” The IFRT Executive Board voted to formally endorse this resolution and directed the Councilor to vote in favor. IFRT Councilor voted in favor; defeated.
- On Impeachment of President George W. Bush – “Resolved, that the American Library Association considers that George W. Bush, by such conduct, warrants impeachment.” The IFRT Executive Board voted to direct its Councilor to oppose this resolution. IFRT Councilor voted to oppose; defeated.
- On the Boy Scouts of America – “Resolved that the American Library Association call upon all its units to follow ALA Policies and to suspend all affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America National Council until such time as the Boy Scouts of America ends its exclusionary policy on the basis of a person’s religious beliefs or sexual orientation; and be it further resolved that the ALA once again strongly urge, as was done in Midwinter 1999 (1998-99 CD#51-A), the Boy Scouts of America National Council to rescind its decision to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and/or religion beliefs so that it demonstrates a commitment to human rights, inclusiveness and mutual respect, before prior relations with ALA can be restored.” This resolution was referred to ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) for additional information and clarification.
- In Support of Immigrant Rights – “Resolved, that ALA strongly supports the protection of each person’s civil liberties, regardless of that individual’s nationality, residency, or status; and be it further resolved, that ALA opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the U.S.A. (citizens or otherwise) to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels.” The IFRT Executive Board voted to direct its Councilor to support this resolution. IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.

- Resolution in Support of “Orphan Works” Legislation – “Resolved, that the American Library Association urges Members of the US Senate and the US House of Representatives to introduce legislation to amend the Copyright Act to facilitate the use of “orphan works” if the user has made a reasonably diligent good faith search to locate the owner of the work but was unable to find the owner.” IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.
- Resolution Affirming the Role of Libraries in Providing E-Government and Emergency Services – “Resolved, that the American Library Association urge governments at all levels to acknowledge and support the essential role local libraries play in providing e-government and emergency response/recovery services; as well as include libraries in relevant legislative or other policy actions; and, be it further resolved, that the American Library Association encourage continued research documenting library needs and capacity to provide effective e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and help libraries develop best practices and train staff to deliver these essential services.” IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.
- Accessible Digitization Projects – “Resolved, that the ALA strongly encourages all libraries engaging in digitization projects to create versions of all materials that are accessible to persons using screen-reader or other assistive technologies, based on Section 508.” While I strongly supported this resolution Council voted on a motion to refer it to ASCLA (Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies). IFRT Councilor voted to oppose; adopted.
- On the Appointment of an ALA Representative to the Board of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield (USCBS) – The USCBS was established in January 2006 with the mission of protection of cultural property during armed conflict. IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.
- To Give Editing Privileges to the Executive Director on Council Approved Resolutions – IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.

We can expect to see many adopted resolutions announced in press releases following this conference.

At many venues during Midwinter there was much discussion of the recent, swift and unprecedented closure of several EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) libraries. The topic was addressed in the ALA Washington Office Six-Month Report, as well as reports to Council from President Leslie Burger and Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels. As a result of repeated pressure from ALA leadership, EPA officials agreed to attend ALA’s Midwinter Meeting where they met with ALA’s Committee on Legislation, Legislative Assembly, Special Library Association members, Government Documents Round Table, Government Information Subcommittee, and Federal Librarians Subcommittee. In mid December EPA officials had agreed to halt closing any additional EPA libraries, pending public comment.

The ALA Office for Research and Statistics and Office for Diversity released “Diversity Counts,” a detailed analysis of ethnicity, gender, disability status and age among credentialed and non-credentialed library employees. The study showed that librarianship is not attracting minorities but is maintaining potential retirees in the workforce. For the full report go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/diversitycounts/divcounts.htm>.

In other Council business, the 2007 ALA Nominating Committee reported that for every one person who agreed to run for Council, approximately four people declined. ALA voting will occur from March 15 to April 24. Councilors elected Larry Romans and Charles E. Kratz, Jr. to serve on the ALA Executive Board.

ALA-APA Council – All ALA Councilors and the Executive Board also serve in the same capacity for APA (Allied Professional Association), which is “the organization for the advancement of library workers” and a companion organization to ALA. Among other products and services, APA offers a Certified Public Library Administrator Program (CPLA) and performs salary surveys. Originally funded with a \$250,000 loan from ALA, the APA is showing a net revenue for the first three months into the current fiscal year of \$21,757 in the black, which is a marked improvement over FY 2006. One resolution was put to a vote:

- Endorsement of a Nonbinding Minimum Salary for Professional Librarians – “Resolved, that the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association endorses a minimum salary for professional librarians of not less than \$40,000 per year.” IFRT Councilor voted in favor; approved.

For more information about the ALA-APA I refer you to: <http://www.ala-apa.org>

Prepared by Sylvia Turchyn  
IFRT Councilor  
turchyn@indiana.edu

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## Celebrating the Library Bill of Rights ALA-IFRT Pre Conference

Thursday, June 21, 2007, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Spend an afternoon with library intellectual freedom activists from around the United States as we celebrate one of our profession's most important documents: The Library Bill of Rights. A panel of speakers who have faced challenges will talk about what the LBOR means to them. Then, there will be an opportunity to participate in facilitated table discussions of the many LBOR interpretations that have been passed by ALA Council over the years. This program is guaranteed to engage and enthuse participants. Tickets: \$25

Below is the registration information for those who have already registered for conference. You can also register online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2007a/registration.htm>.

If you would like to register for the pre-conference but have already registered for Annual, all you need to do is fill out the attached form with your name, membership number, and then fill out section III (other events). The event code is IF1.

# Freedom to Read Foundation

## Report to Council

### 2007 Midwinter Meeting—Seattle, Washington

*By John W. Berry*

As President of the Freedom to Read Foundation, I am pleased to report on the Foundation's activities since the 2006 Annual Conference:

You may recall that last year in San Antonio, author Sandra Cisneros generously agreed to appear at a fundraiser for the Freedom to Read Foundation. Her appearance drew an enthusiastic audience and generated much-needed funds and new members for the Foundation. We knew it was a tradition we had to continue.

On Sunday night, January 21, author Chris Crutcher served as the guest of honor at the Foundation's second annual Midwinter Meeting fundraiser. Chris is a remarkable individual who writes with compassion about the lives of young adults. An advocate for the freedom to read, he has stood with and supported teachers and librarians working to keep books—his, as well as others'—on library shelves.

In his time with us, Chris described his experiences as one of the most challenged authors of the past decade, describing the young adults who have come to him to tell him how they have seen their lives in his powerful works of realistic fiction. His stories about a troubled young father and his fond memories of librarian Michael Printz touched us all. Chris then signed books, generously agreeing to stay until he met everyone in the long line of his admirers.

The Freedom to Read Foundation thanks Chris, a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation, for supporting the Foundation's work. We also thank Greenwillow Press, Chris' publisher, who generously donated the books for the event; and thank the Seattle Public Library and its Director, Deborah Jacobs, a Trustee of the Foundation, for donating the space for the event at the extraordinary Main Library. As a result of their generosity, the Foundation now has new members and new funds to sustain its work.

### *Safeguarding Our Right To Privacy*

Last summer's report described the Freedom to Read Foundation's work in support of the Connecticut librarians who courageously stood up to the FBI by challenging the constitutionality of the National Security Letter (NSL) provision of the USA PATRIOT Act. Ultimately, the government withdrew the NSL served on The Library Connection, resulting in a great victory for The Library Connection and the library patrons it serves. It is very important to note, however, that by withdrawing the NSL, the government prevented actual review of the NSL statute.

Now, the government has similarly evaded judicial review of the National Security Letter statute by withdrawing the NSL served on the original “John Doe,” the anonymous plaintiff who filed the first lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the NSL statute in Doe v. Gonzales.

As I reported earlier, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals returned “John Doe’s” lawsuit to Judge Marrero of the Southern District of New York, instructing the judge to reconsider his original opinion that found the use of NSLs unconstitutional in light of the changes to the law following the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act in March 2006. With the assistance of the ACLU and the support of FTRF, “John Doe” refiled his complaint, asking the court to strike down the reauthorized NSL statute on constitutional grounds. Rather than re-litigate the case, the government withdrew the NSL on November 22, 2006. Because the FBI refused to lift the gag order that prevents “John Doe” from disclosing its identity or discussing the NSL, the ACLU continues to challenge the gag order. Briefing is proceeding before the court.

Since the reauthorized PATRIOT Act imposes significant burdens on those who wish to challenge an NSL, it is unlikely we will see an open adjudication of the NSL statute on its own merits in the near future.

Similarly, the lawsuit challenging Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, Muslim Community Association of Ann Arbor v. Gonzales, concluded without any substantive review of the law. After three years of inaction, Judge Denise Page Hood finally ruled the plaintiffs could proceed with their lawsuit, and instructed the plaintiffs to file an amended complaint that addressed the law as reauthorized by Congress in March 2006. On October 27, citing the changes to the USA PATRIOT Act, the ACLU withdrew the lawsuit but vowed to continue monitoring the government’s use of Section 215 for possible civil liberties violations.

We are also involved in a legal battle to preserve the right to read anonymously. Forensic Advisors, Inc. v. Matrixx Initiatives, Inc. seeks to quash a subpoena served on a financial advisor’s newsletter. The plaintiff, Matrixx Initiatives, is demanding the names of the newsletter’s subscribers on the grounds that one or more of the subscribers may be responsible for anonymous Internet posts Matrixx says are defamatory. In September, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals refused to quash the subpoena but held that Timothy Mulligan, the newsletter’s editor and publisher, could assert the news media privilege. Mr. Mulligan, hoping to vindicate both his rights and the rights of his subscribers, petitioned the Maryland Court of Appeals, the highest court in Maryland, and that court has taken up the case. FTRF anticipates joining an *amicus* brief in support of Mr. Mulligan’s effort to protect the privacy of his readers.

Despite these setbacks in the privacy arena, the sea change wrought by the November elections has brought new hope that the deleterious effects on our privacy and our civil liberties resulting from this administration’s use of the USA PATRIOT Act and similar initiatives will be moderated by Congress. Representatives have introduced legislation to assure the right to *habeas corpus*, to regulate and prevent data mining, and to amend and reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in order to prevent warrantless wiretapping conducted by the National Security Agency. It is refreshing to speak about how members of Congress are working to preserve our rights, rather than anticipating future battles against laws that undermine our right to be free from unwarranted government surveillance.

## Safeguarding The Right To Read Freely

This fall, the Freedom to Read Foundation joined in three new lawsuits aimed at protecting our rights under the First Amendment:

The first lawsuit, The Local Church v. Harvest House Publishers sought to address the chilling effect of libel litigation on authors and publishers. A religious group called the Local Church filed a libel action against authors John Ankerberg and John Weldon and their publisher, Harvest House, after the Local Church was included in the authors' work, *The Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*. The Texas Court of Appeals dismissed the lawsuit after holding that the Local Church's inclusion neither defamed the plaintiff nor provided grounds for a suit, as the determination that a group is a cult depends on an individual's religious beliefs. The Local Church subsequently asked the Texas Supreme Court for review.

FTRF joined the American Association of Publishers (AAP), the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE), and the American Association of University Presses (AAUP) to file an *amicus curiae* brief to urge the Texas Supreme Court to uphold the Court of Appeals' decision to dismiss the lawsuit. In December, we were pleased to learn that the Texas Supreme Court denied the Local Church's petition for review, effectively dismissing their lawsuit. The plaintiffs have petitioned for a rehearing, however, and we are waiting for the court's decision on that motion.

The second lawsuit, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida v. Miami-Dade School Board addresses the decision of the Miami-Dade School Board to remove the books *A Visit to Cuba* and *Vamos a Cuba* and all the books in the "A Visit To" series on the grounds the books are educationally unsuitable and offensive to members of Miami's Cuban community. When the district court ruled the removal was unconstitutionally motivated and entered a preliminary injunction ordering the school district to immediately replace the entire series on library shelves, the Miami-Dade School Board appealed the decision to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. FTRF has joined ABFFE, the Association of Booksellers for Children (ABC), REFORMA, Peacefire, and the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) to file an *amicus* brief urging the Eleventh Circuit to uphold the district court's findings. We are now waiting for the court's decision.

The third lawsuit, Entertainment Software Association et al. v. Hatch, seeks to overturn Minnesota's Restricted Video Games Act, which imposes civil penalties on minors who rent video games rated "AO" or "M" by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). The statute also requires retailers to post signs warning minors about the prohibition.

The District Court of Minnesota ruled the law unconstitutional in July 2006. It held that there was no showing that a statute restricting minors' access to violent video games alone would protect children. It also held the statute unconstitutionally delegated the state's authority by using the ESRB's ratings and unconstitutionally compelled speech by requiring retailers to post signs about the law. When the state appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Foundation joined ABFFE, AAP, International Periodical Distributors Association (IPDA), Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA), Publishers Marketing Association (PMA), and Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to file an *amicus* brief urging the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the district court's decision. We are waiting for the court to schedule oral arguments.

In regard to litigation addressing restrictions on minors' right to access video games, I am pleased to report a successful result in Entertainment Software Association v. Blagojevich. The original lawsuit asked the court to enjoin enforcement of two Illinois statutes limiting the sale and rental of violent and sexually explicit computer and video games to minors. After the federal district court ruled the laws unconstitutional, the Illinois attorney general appealed the decision concerning the Sexually Explicit Video Game Law to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. FTRF filed an *amicus* brief with several of its partners to argue that the law's provisions violate the First Amendment. On November 27, 2006, the Seventh Circuit upheld the lower court's determination that the statute is unconstitutional.

The Foundation is also participating in the following First Amendment actions: Gonzales v. American Civil Liberties Union (formerly Ashcroft v. ACLU): In June 2004, the Supreme Court issued an opinion upholding the injunction barring enforcement of the Child Online Protection Act (COPA) and returned the lawsuit to the federal district court in Philadelphia for a trial to determine whether COPA's "harmful to minors" restrictions are the least restrictive means of achieving the government's goal of protecting children from seeing sexually explicit materials online, given the ability of parents to purchase and use Internet filtering software. Trial began in October 2006, and the parties presented their evidence regarding the effectiveness of filtering programs for four weeks. We are now waiting for a decision from the court.

Regretfully, the Supreme Court recently upheld a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections policy restricting long-term prisoners' access to newspapers, magazines, and books. In Beard v. Banks, FTRF argued that the prison's policy impermissibly infringed on the First Amendment right of the prisoners to obtain information and the First Amendment right of publishers and writers to freely disseminate their works. By a 6-2 decision issued on June 28, 2006, the Supreme Court held that prison officials had demonstrated adequate support for their policy and that the policy was rationally related to the legitimate penological objectives of prison safety and rehabilitation.

There are two additional lawsuits the Foundation is monitoring due to their importance to the library community. The first, Sarah Bradburn, et al. v. North Central Regional Library District, is the first legal challenge to a library's Internet filtering policies filed since the Supreme Court upheld the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The complaint, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington State in November 2006, not only alleges that the library filters Internet content too broadly, but also that the library refuses to unblock its filters when requested to do so by adult patrons. The library has denied the allegations, and the case is now proceeding before the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Washington.

The second lawsuit, Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries v. Glover, was filed in July 2004 after a local religious group was barred from using the Contra Costa County (CA) Public Library's meeting room because the group wanted to hold religious services. After the district court ruled the group was likely to succeed on its First Amendment claims and entered a preliminary injunction ordering enjoining the library not to enforce its meeting room policy, the county appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. That court reversed the district court's finding of unconstitutionality on the grounds that the library's policy was reasonable in light of the library's intended use of its public forum. The plaintiffs asked the Court of Appeals for a rehearing on October 3, and their motion is pending before that court. At this time, FTRF is not a participant in either lawsuit.

## Safeguarding Internet Access: State Internet Content Laws

In the states, the legislatures continue to pass laws criminalizing the publication of Internet content deemed “harmful to minors.” The Freedom to Read Foundation actively pursues opportunities to challenge these laws in order to assure the right of individuals to decide for themselves what they read and see on the Internet.

The most pressing lawsuit is filed in Utah, where FTRF is part of a challenge to a Utah statute that extends the state’s “harmful to minors” prohibitions to the Internet. In 2005, FTRF joined with ABFFE, AAP, CBLDF, the ACLU of Utah, and several Utah bookstores, Internet providers, and residents to bring the lawsuit, The King’s English v. Shurtleff.

On August 25, 2006, the district court enjoined enforcement of the law and gave the state government until November to propose amendments to it that would cure its defects. After examining the state’s proposed changes, the plaintiffs concluded the amendments would not cure the law’s constitutional defects and sent a letter to the state government demanding that the state comply with outstanding discovery requests. The case is pending before the court.

## State Legislation

Although we are only a few weeks into the new legislative season, we are seeing several state-level initiatives aimed at restricting the right of library users to access information. Among these is a Virginia bill proposing legislation to implement its own mini-CIPA, requiring libraries to install filters to receive state funding.

State legislatures in three states—Kentucky, Montana, and Missouri—are considering adopting an “Academic Bill of Rights” or “intellectual diversity” provisions that would restrict academic freedom on campus. Utah is considering a new “harmful to minors” statute that would prohibit the distribution of “inappropriate violence” as “harmful to minors.” Both New York and Virginia are considering new restrictions on violent video games and video games that contain racial or religious stereotypes. And South Carolina’s legislature is considering a bill that would make it a crime to disseminate profanity to a minor or to use profanity in a public forum.

## Fundraising

I am pleased to report that the Freedom to Read Foundation has new membership brochures reflecting the breadth and depth of its efforts to advance the First Amendment and protect intellectual freedom and privacy in our society. One brochure is for individual members; the second brochure includes information on the Foundation’s new “organizational member” category that allows libraries and other institutions to support the FTRF’s work at a more substantial level. Increasing organizational membership is a priority this year. Please urge your library, Friends group, business, and other organizations you are affiliated with to join FTRF.

We encourage all our colleagues and friends to become personal members of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Please send a check to:

Freedom to Read Foundation  
50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

You also can use a credit card to join the Foundation. Call (800) 545-2433, ext. 4226, or visit us online at <http://www.ftrf.org> to use our online donation form.

## Networking 101 *by Doug Archer*

At each ALA Midwinter Meeting the Intellectual Freedom Round Table sponsors a Friday noon luncheon for all of the intellectual freedom liaisons throughout ALA. Representatives from the various IF groups, organizations, and committees along with Office for Intellectual Freedom staff get a chance to describe their portion of the IF picture. Liaisons have an chance to meet them and each other – to do a bit of networking across organizational boundaries.

This year in Seattle we had an excellent turn out of 27 people. The speakers were: Rosanne Cordell, IFRT Chair; Carolyn Caywood and Sylvia Turchyn (immediate past IFRT Councilor and current Council respectively); John Berry, President of the Freedom to Read Foundation; Kent Oliver, Chair of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee; and Judith Krug, Director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. I had the privilege, as IFRT Vice Chair/Chair Elect, of serving as master of ceremonies.

If you should ever have the opportunity to serve as a liaison to or from one of ALA's intellectual freedom groups, be sure to take advantage of this event. Join us for a good meal, good company and the chance to smooze with other intellectual freedom advocates.

Lastly, no account of this event would be complete without our expressing many, many thanks to Nanette Perez of the Office for Intellectual Freedom for arranging all of the details from invitations to agenda to food. It's hard to imagine how they could have been better handled.

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## National Conversation on Privacy IFRT

*Task force meeting Friday, Jan. 19, 2007, 3-5pm By Carolyn Caywood*

**Attending:** Doug Archer, Rachel Bridgewater, Carolyn Caywood, Lauren Christos, Martin Garnar, Pam Klipsch, Jim Kuhn, Peg Oettinger, Margaret Rohdy, Jim Ruwaldt, Felicia Smith, Jim Teliha, Ben Trapskin, Janice Tsai, Caleb Tucker-Raymond, Sylvia Turchyn

### **Framing an issue for deliberation:**

1. Environmental scan – ask public all concerns, no weighting by the number that report the same concern. Purpose is not statistical, rather to collect all aspects of issue.
2. Ask open questions, interview & probe feelings, values, beliefs.
3. At Annual, group in clusters to frame issue that engages public interest.
4. Explore different generations' views; include concerns about government, business and snooply neighbors (also criminals); tradeoffs with security and transparency; etc.
5. Outcome will be a tool for librarians to engage their community in deliberation.

### **Five Emerging Leaders working on this project:**

Deliverable deadline before ALA annual, poster session, develop framework for environmental scan

How will other participants work with EL?

Wiki, other tools

**IFC** pursuing national conference of experts, not an overlap, would not be at an ALA conference

Might include report from EL

Focus on government

Grant funding?

## ALA Council III passed a Resolution in Support of Immigrants Rights

The resolution was originated by REFORMA, The Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking and it was supported by the IFC, IFRT, SRRT, BCALA, and GLBT, among others.

REFORMA Legislative Committee and ALA Councilors who are REFORMA members helped move it forward.

The document can be viewed at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governance/council/councildocuments/ResolinSupportofImmigrantRights.doc>

2006-2007 ALA CD#20.2  
2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting

### Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights

- WHEREAS, America's immigrants are a strong and valuable part of the social fabric of this nation; and
- WHEREAS, The *ALA Library Bill of Rights* states that the person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views; and
- WHEREAS, The library community opposes all attempts at the local, state and federal level to restrict access to information by immigrants; and
- WHEREAS, Restriction of access is a direct violation of the *ALA Library Bill of Rights* and Policy #60, Diversity, which states that "The American Library Association (ALA) promotes 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"; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That ALA strongly supports the protection of each person's civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That ALA opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA or its territories, citizens or otherwise, to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels."

Adopted by the American Library Association Council  
Wednesday, January 22, 2007  
Seattle, Washington



If you would like to contribute to the IFRT Report, please send your piece to:

lauren.christos@fiu.edu

Thought essays, opinions, book reviews, articles, and reports are all invited.

Thank you!

### Publications Committee

- ♣ Diane M. Fulkerson
- ♣ Cindy A. Lombardo
- ♣ Camille McCutcheon
- ♣ Michael B. Wessells
- ♣ Lauren Christos, Chair

*Founded in 1973, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table is the grass roots intellectual freedom organization within the American Library Association.*

### **Mission Statement**

*The Intellectual Freedom Round Table provides a forum for the discussion of activities, programs and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians; serves as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; promotes a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; promotes a greater feeling of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom.*

### **The IFRT**

*Provides broad opportunities for ALA members to become involved in the support of freedom of access and freedom of expression in libraries*

*Supports librarians involved in censorship controversies*

*Monitors intellectual freedom developments affecting library and information services*

*Provides a forum where ALA members involved in intellectual freedom activities on the state and local level can discuss programs, activities and problems*