

# IFRT REPORT

Intellectual Freedom Roundtable of the American Library Association

## Libraries, Librarians, and America's War on Sex.

Dr. Marty Klein

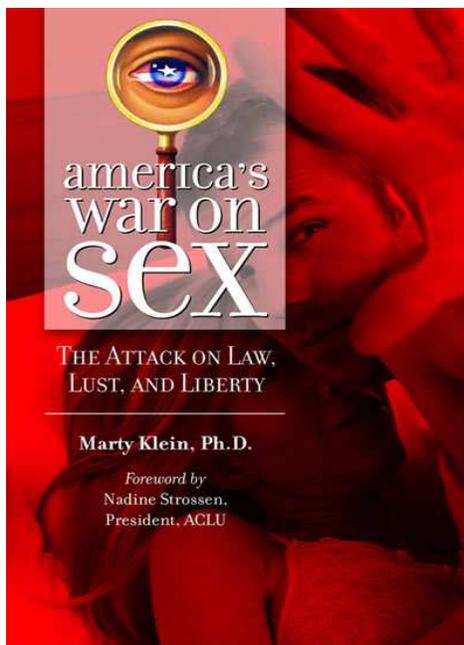
Saturday, July 11, 1:30 3:30 pm, Room W178, McCormick Convention Center

By Robert P. Holley

Access to sexual information is a fundamental human right.

So why does the subject—and the very concept of access—attract so much vicious opposition? Dr. Klein will describe the highly effective nationwide attack on sexual information and expression—and why it's an attack on pluralism and secular democracy. He will also discuss the moral panic around adult pornography and minors' access to sexually-oriented material.

Librarians have a special role in responding to—and protecting communities from—this moral panic. Come hear how to respond to the



"protecting the children" arguments in favor of limiting everyone's access to sexuality-

related material.

Dr. Marty Klein is a Sociologist, Certified Sex Therapist, & Policy Analyst in California. The author of five books, he has been an expert witness, invited defendant, or consultant on many important state and federal censorship cases. From the ACLU and Planned Parenthood to Pure Romance and ABC's *20/20*, audiences agree that Marty's talks are consistently thought-provoking and entertaining.

Join us for what promises to be one of the most provocative programs at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference.

## Privacy: Who Do You Trust? (\$25 Preconference!)

Join IFRT and the Fostering Civic Engagement Member Interest Group (MIG) for an afternoon conversation on privacy Thursday, July 9th, from 1:30 to 4:30 at ALA Headquarters.

The conversation will be struc-

tured with an Issue Map and will introduce the methods of deliberation so that participants will become more comfortable in fostering civic engagement as we explore privacy values and concerns.

The preconference costs \$25 to attend. Please contact Jen Hammond ([jhammond@ala.org](mailto:jhammond@ala.org)) for reservations and with any questions or concerns.

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### Social Networking

- Comment on these articles on the IFRT blog: <http://ifrt.blogspot.com>
- Follow the Privacy Revolution on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/privacyala>
- Get the latest news from the Office of Intellectual Freedom at <http://twitter.com/oif>

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## How to Participate in ALA; Let Me Count the Ways - a message from IFRT Chair Robert P. Holley

I find it hard to believe that my one year term as Chair of IFRT is almost over. My experiences during the year have convinced me that members are participating in ALA in fundamentally different ways from when I first joined ALA in 1973. The IFRT Executive Committee will discuss two issues related to participation at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference so that this message can serve as an introduction. My two conclusions are that ALA members have much less time and energy to participate in ALA affairs and that members are more interested in information sharing than in governance activities.

### Underlying Causes

I agree with the almost universal perception that our lives have become more hectic than they used to be. I remember with nostalgia when I could leave work on Friday afternoon with no work related responsibilities until Monday except perhaps catching up on my professional reading. I now feel obligated to check my emails throughout the weekend and respond to many of them. Each day, discussion lists, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and other Web tools complicate my life with information overload.

The other factor is that libraries are making do with fewer resources in a time of increasing complexity so that librarians are being asked to do more in the same amount of time. Staffs are smaller. Secretarial support is as uncommon as dial phones except for high level administrators. Quiet time at on the job for professional concerns is a rare treat. The pressures are likely to get even worse in the current economic slowdown. Finally, many libraries are reducing funding for professional travel. Some are requiring that librarians take vacation time to attend ALA conferences. While some librarians make this personal sacrifice to attend ALA meetings, many won't. Nonetheless, conference attendance helps librarians develop a professional network and to volunteer for career building activities.

### Increase in Internet Participation

The new ways to communicate virtually are opening up opportunities for participation in ALA. ACRL's recent national conference had a virtual option. IFRT appoints anyone who volunteers to one of its committees because committee members are not required to attend meetings. Members can share their viewpoints on ALA discussion lists, post comments on documents on wikis, and keep up with issues on the ALA Web site. The Internet has provided today's librarians with many more opportunities than in the days of phone calls and snail mail.

### Online Publications

I don't have to worry how long this article will be because the email newsletter is not limited in the same way as the print version to a certain number of words to fill a certain number of pages. I can embed pictures and provide links to other resources. As an ALA member, I am, however, more likely to look at the print publications that arrive in the mail, sometimes click on embedded links in email announcements, and very rarely go looking for items that are not pushed to me.

### Decline of the Standing Committee

Many ALA organizational units are restructuring to reduce the number of standing committees with appointed members, fixed terms, and requirements to meet at the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conferences. The new model is to have groups with a convener whose membership consists of those with enough interest in the topic to attend. The issue has come before the IFRT Executive Committee because one of the divisions has disbanded its standing committee on intellectual freedom in favor of a less formal group. When asked to comment, the executive director replied that the new organization would allow for greater participation since membership would be unlimited. On the other hand, one IFRT member commented that changing to a similar less formal body at

the state level lead to its decreased participation in the broader IF community. I worry that this division will be much less likely to fulfill its liaison functions to other groups such as the ALA IF Committee and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

### Dangers of Virtual

I have brought a second issue before the IFRT Executive Committee to codify the operation of virtual committees. While virtual committees make participation easier, I believe that they create additional responsibilities, especially for the chair, to make sure that the committee fulfills its charge without the prod of preparing for a physical meeting twice each year. I am suggesting that each chair be required to get in touch with committee members and set an agenda for the year. The policy also makes it clear that committee members are expected to participate in any virtual activities and that duties go beyond adding the committee to their resumes. The policy also gives some rules to make sure that they comply with the ALA Open Access policy because virtual meetings bring back the risk of secrecy and lack of transparency that open physical meetings avoid. Finally, I'm suggesting that each committee chair prepare a short annual report of committee activities. For the longer view, perhaps IFRT should examine more closely its committee structure to eliminate any committees without specific, regular duties and substitute temporary task forces for ad hoc tasks. The head of the task force could recruit members who are interested in the topic and also work within a fixed deadline.

### Email

The IFRT Executive Committee has taken several votes by email. While I'm not saying that the Committee made bad decisions, my perception is that email discussion leads to a quicker consensus than would be the case in a physical committee meeting. A physical meeting provides

*Continued next page.*

## Message From The Chair, Cont.

more opportunity for fluid group interaction and for clearer communication by reading tone and body language. In any case, needing to type an email hinders extensive discussions.

### Conclusion

I see many benefits of a new emerging ALA structure. It favors active member participation and increased information sharing beyond a small number of committee

members. I am concerned, however, that these more informal groups may deal less well with governance issues where standing committees often excelled. For example, IFRT as a formal committee will review changes to intellectual freedom documents at the annual meeting because the Committee has been charged to do so, the documents have been distributed ahead of time, and the members can bounce ideas around in real time. I am concerned that

the new less formal units will not find it as easy to complete such tasks. Perhaps less attention to governance and more focus on information sharing will make ALA more attractive to members without overly hampering its internal operations. Time and membership numbers will tell.

*Robert P. Holley is Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University. He currently serves as Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.*

## IFLA/ FAIFE Activities - Update

By Loida Garcia-Febo

For the past several years I have worked with IFLA's Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) to promote free and equal access to information.

*FAIFE is an initiative within IFLA to defend and promote the basic human rights defined in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. FAIFE furthers free access to information and freedom of expression in all aspects, directly or indirectly, related to libraries and librarianship. It also monitors the state of intellectual freedom within the library community world-wide, and supports IFLA policy development and cooperation with other international human rights organizations.*

FAIFE members were very busy during 2008 and are already actively working on 2009 projects. During 2008, they presented Internet access workshops to give librarians guidance for freedom of access to information through libraries in Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, Philippines, Jamaica, and Zambia. Workshops about equal access to information for all about HIV/AIDS were presented in South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria and Mexico. Awareness of the role of libraries in helping fight corruption, censorship, and poverty was discussed at workshops in Brazil

and Moldova. Information barriers, the impact of technology, and cultural diversity in developing countries was addressed at conferences in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and Egypt including cities such as Alexandria, Cairo and Dubyat.



country, receive training, return to their countries and train local colleagues. These colleagues would return to their cities or villages and train other librarians.

FAIFE goals for 2009 include year-long Internet workshop programs in Peru, Philippines, and Russia to train librarians on Internet access. These workshops include three phases. The first phase covered the training of librarians from various regions within those countries (March-May 2009). During the forthcoming second phase, those librarians go back to their local areas and train their colleagues to present workshops. Finally, during the third phase, FAIFE trainers and original trainees will

A number of the Internet and HIV/AIDS workshops followed a 'train the trainers' format that allowed training of librarians from a global to a local perspective. Librarians from a particular region of the world would meet in a coun-

try to discuss workshops and their outcomes. A fourth phase to be developed by local organizers and IFLA staff, would comprise reports from each country including impact of the workshops and recommendations for the future.

Also on 2009, HIV/AIDS and public health access workshops will be presented in Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda. Materials about Public Access to Health Materials are being developed and will be tested in these countries. Lastly, FAIFE World Report 2009 Data Collection process is underway and all indicates that the 2009 would be a most useful resource.

For more information about FAIFE, visit <http://www.ifla.org/en/about-faife>

Materials used on FAIFE workshops are available at <http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/30>

FAIFE World Report series available at <http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/world-report-series>

*Loida Garcia-Febo, Assistant Coordinator of New Americans Program and Special Services, Queens Library. She is a member of IFLA/FAIFE, ALA/IFC and will be the Vice Chair/ Chair Elect of IFRT in July 2009.*

## Intellectual Freedom Events at Annual!

Compiled by Doug Archer. Be sure to confirm time and place in the final conference program.

Thursday, July 9th, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### **Privacy: Who Do You Trust?**

This \$25 preconference at ALA Headquarters will introduce the methods of deliberation so that participants will become more comfortable in fostering civic engagement as we explore privacy values and concerns.

Friday, July 10, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

### **IFRT Awards Reception**

This light luncheon will honor the recipients of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award and the IFRT SIRS/ProQuest State and Regional Achievement Award.

Friday, July 10, 5:00 pm-6:00 pm

### **Intellectual Freedom 101**

Part of ALA's "Conference 101" series of programs—this session will discuss the history and ongoing work of OIF, IFC, IFRT, FTRF, the Merritt Fund, and more!

Saturday, July 11, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

### **The Library, the First Amendment, and You: Understanding, Valuing, and Protecting First Amendment Freedoms**

with Shawn Healy of the McCormick Freedom Museum

Saturday, July 11, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

### **Academic and Intellectual Freedom Climate on Campus: Are Our Freedoms Secure in the Next Generation?**

Sponsored by the ACRL IFC

Saturday, July 11, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

### **Libraries, Librarians, and America's War On Sex**

Dr. Marty Klein, author of America's War on Sex, will discuss sexual expression as a fundamental human right. Sponsored by IFRT

Saturday, July 11, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

### **Diversity Currents: Freedom of Expression, The Danish Experience**

with Michel Steen-Hansen, Executive Director, Danish Library Association and Vagn Ytte Larsen, President, Danish Library Association

Sunday, July 12, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm 81c

### **What Makes Tango So Scary? Serving Your Whole Library Population, Intellectual Freedom, and Censorship of LGBT Children's Books.**

Sponsored by GLBTRT



## Intellectual Freedom Events at Annual!

Sunday, July 12, 6:30 pm-10:30 pm

### **Freedom to Read Foundation 40th Anniversary Gala**

A Celebration of the Freedom to Read Foundation 40 years of history including a gala dinner and awards event at the new Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Monday, July 13, 8:00 am-10:00 am

### **IFC/FTRF Issues Briefing**

The Intellectual Freedom Committee and Freedom to Read Foundation present this public meeting to update members on the status of IFC and FTRF activities, including updates on litigation in which the Freedom to Read Foundation is involved.

Monday July 13, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

### **Walk the Line: The Fine Line Between Selection & Censorship**

Sponsored by YALSA

Monday, July 13, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

### **Ban those @\$\*%! Comic Books, Graphic Novels, and Censorship**

Co-sponsored by the ALA IFC , the Association of American Publishers and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

Monday, July 13, 5:30-7:00 pm

### **Merritt Fund Reception**

A social and fund raiser for the LeRoy C. Merritt Fund that assists librarians in financial need because of discrimination or defense of intellectual freedom

In addition to these programs and events, ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Board of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table and other related groups will be meeting several times during Conference. You are most welcome to sit in on any of these sessions. Drop in for a few minutes or a few hours and learn more about the inner workings of ALA's intellectual freedom community. Locations will be in the final conference program.

IFC I – Friday, July 10, 8:00 am -12:30 pm

IFRT I – Friday, July 10, 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

IFC II – Saturday, July 11. 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

IFC/Committee on Legislation Joint Meeting –Sunday, July 12, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

IFC, IFRT and Division IFCs Joint Meeting – Sunday, July 12, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

IFRT II – Monday, July 13, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

IFC III – Tuesday, July 14, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

## IFRT Councilor's Report: Midwinter Meeting 2009

By Sylvia Jayne Turchyn

Under the gaze of Denver's big blue bear, who perpetually peers through the glass entryway of the convention center, the ALA Council was busy with many governance issues on the docket for the Midwinter Meeting. Here is a review of Council actions, with resolutions and final motions included, when appropriate. I have included my vote, followed by the collective vote of Council.

### ALA COUNCIL

#### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

To move Article I, Section 7(a) to Article IX as a new Section 1, to move Article I, Section 7(b) to Article II as new Section 1 and to revise and replace the language of ALA Bylaws Article I, regarding membership categories and dues. Voted in favor; adopted.

#### Presidential Task Force on Library Education

To adopt the ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship, as amended, as a policy of ALA and as an important component of the revision of the Association's accreditation standards. Voted in favor; adopted. The amendments included: adding the phrase "freedom of expression" to 1G, which describes the legal framework within which libraries and information agencies operate; adding the phrase "numerical literacy, and statistical theory" to 5D, which lists literacy competence techniques and methods for Reference and User Services; adding a new 8E "The concepts behind, issues relating to, and methods for, principled, transformational leadership" to Administration and Management.

#### Task Force on E-Member Participation (TFOEMP)

Council received a very dense, thorough and complex report from TFOEMP, with 16 recommendations requiring Council action. The first four action items covered the topics of broad active experimentation with non-governance activities, a new in-

terpretation of the Policy on Open Meetings (7.4.4), a policy on open activities between official meetings, the elimination of Policy 6.16 (Virtual Members), as amended, and e-committee participation (revised Policy 4.5). Voted in favor for all; adopted all. The remaining eleven recommendations were bundled together and referred to the ALA Executive Board "to investigate general options for Council's consideration soliciting input from the ALA Executive Director, the Budget Analysis and Review Committee, and other bodies as the Executive Board deems necessary." Voted in favor; approved. For the complete report (Council Document #35), see: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councilcommittees/tfoemp.cfm>

#### Intellectual Freedom Committee

To adopt the revisions to two Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights:

Challenged Materials (ALA CD #19.1)

Restricted Access to Library Materials (ALA CD #19.3)

Voted in favor; approved.

To adopt "Services to Persons with Disabilities," a new Interpretation to the LBOR. Voted in favor; approved

#### Committee on Legislation

Commending President Barack Obama on his Commitment to Openness and Transparency in Government – "That the American Library Association commends President Barack Obama for recognizing the importance of openness, transparency, and accountability in government by signing an executive order on Presidential Records and presidential memoranda on the Freedom of Information Act and Transparency and Open Government on his first day in office and looks forward to continuing to work with the Administration to advance public access and the public's right to know." Voted in favor; adopted.

In Support of the Library Services and Technology Act Reauthorization – That the

American Library Association urges the United States Congress to reauthorize the Library Services and Technology Act in a timely manner." Voted in favor; adopted.

#### International Relations Committee

On the Connection Between the Recent Gaza Conflict and Libraries – "Calls for the protection of libraries and archives in Gaza and Israel, and urges the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and calls on the U.S. government to continue working for a permanent peace in the region." Voted in favor; adopted.

#### Committee on Organization

To change the name of the ALA Library Advocacy Committee (LAC) to ALA Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA). Voted in favor; adopted.

To change the Orientation, Training, and Leadership Development Committee (OTLD) to Training, Orientation and Leadership Development Committee (TOLD). Voted in favor; adopted.

To revise the charge to TOLD to reflect the new name, and to revise the charge to the Membership Committee to remove coordination of the ALA committee internship program. Voted in favor; adopted.

To establish a new division, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF), which combines the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) with the Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA). Voted in favor; adopted.

To expand the composition of the Committee on Legislation from 10 to 15 members. Voted in favor; adopted.

#### Resolutions Committee

To adopt the revised Guidelines for Preparation of Resolutions for Membership Meetings. Voted in favor; adopted.

## Councilor's Report, Cont.

### **ALA Website Advisory Committee**

To support in principle the recommendations to Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) on applying high priority funding levels for an accessibility review and web code data cleanup projects to the public web presence of ALA. Voted in favor; adopted.

### **Policy Monitoring Committee**

To delete the formatted list under Corporate Members in the ALA Policy Manual and replace it with two dues levels for \$500 and \$2,000. Voted in favor; adopted.

To delete and replace text in policy 4.5 regarding Requirements for Committee Service, in conjunction with TFOEMP's recommendation. Voted in favor; adopted.

To delete and replace text in policy 52.2.1 with the text that appears at the end of the end of the committee's report, regarding definitions of digital preservation. Voted in favor; adopted.

### **Other Resolutions**

On Understanding Gaza – One Conference, One Book, One Read – “That the American Library Association, in the spirit of fostering historical and cultural understanding of the situation in Gaza amongst its members, request the Membership

Meeting Committee to establish an ALA Reads working group..., direct the working group to select for the Chicago 2009 annual conference a book highly regarded for its fair, respectful and accurate portrayal of the Palestinian people and their history for ALA members to read..., set aside part of one ALA membership meeting at annual 2009 for a conversation on how libraries might best foster within our communities a more accurate understanding of the Palestinian people, their history and culture.” Voted against; defeated.

On Access for Physical Mobility Impaired Conference Attendees – “That ALA adds the following paragraph to the end of policy 7.1.3... ‘Assistive devices for attendees with physical mobility impairments shall be made available by reservation. Devices not reserved in advance shall be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Using whatever means necessary, these devices shall be located adjacent to the conference center's main entrance or to the primary registration area...” Voted in favor; adopted.

On Accessible Computer Workstations at ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meetings – “That accessible workstations shall always be identified by raised flags extending from the monitors of those work-

stations, that accessible workstations shall always be placed in the first seat in the first row of the computer clusters made available to event attendees.” Voted in favor; adopted.

High Speed Internet Wireless Access at Conference Hotels – “That the American Library Association Council directs the ALA Executive Director to negotiate for wireless Internet connection at no additional charge for all hotels in the ALA Hotel block.” Voted in favor; defeated.

### **Other Action Items**

To approve the FY2010 programmatic priorities: Diversity, Equitable Access to Information and Library Services; Education and Lifelong Learning, Intellectual Freedom, Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession, Literacy and Organizational Excellence. Voted in favor; adopted.

### **ALA-APA COUNCIL**

#### **Resolutions Committee**

Presented significantly revised content for ALA-APA Guidelines for Preparation of Resolutions to ALA-APA Council, with a sample resolution and new ALA-APA resolution form. Voted in favor; adopted. (Note: Your councilor also serves on this Council committee.)

## Congratulations to the New IFRT Slate!

Congratulations to the newly elected slate of IFRT officers!

#### **VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT:**

LOIDA GARCIA-FEBO

#### **TREASURER:**

PAUL BEAVERS

#### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:**

ROSEANNE M. CORDELL

SHARON MCCASLIN

#### **COUNCILOR:**

JOHN A. MOORMAN

