



SRRT NEWSLETTER

SRRT Newsletter (ISSN 0749-1670) is published quarterly by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is sent to members of SRRT as part of their membership and is available to others by subscription for \$15.00 per year. Subscription is open to both members and non-members of ALA.

Issue 137

LIBRARIANS SPEAK OUT AGAINST WAR

September's terrorist attack on New York and Washington, D.C., and the ensuing bombing campaign the US has been waging against Afghanistan has had repercussions in every professional sector, librarianship not excluded.

Very shortly after the bombing campaign was first announced, an online petition went out over the SRRT listserv: "Emergency Declaration for a Halt to Preparations for Bombing Afghanistan: Libraries Speak Out!" Pointing out that the "war that is about to be unleashed will likely have unmanageable 'collateral damage', human and moral", the petition called for the "lawful ... humane and peaceful resolution of conflicts" and urged cultural workers, teachers, librarians, and artists to "unite against vengeance for vengeance's sake, unite against terror bombing as an answer to terrorism."

Signatures were taken until the day the attacks commenced (9/23) and 280 library workers signed. Signers hailed from across the globe, including Canada, Australia, Venezuela, Mexico, Hong Kong, Denmark, Argentina, Belgium, and the UK, as well as spanning the United States, from Puerto Rico to Hawaii.

Mark Rosenzweig, the main writer of the petition, says, "we are obviously poised at the beginning of a new and very all-defining experience and that petition is one of the first manifestations, within the profession, of concern, (pre-'war' at that) about the implications of what's going on and is *going to be* going on."

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Africana Library librarian, Al Kagan, was a

co-writer of the petition and the second signer. He points to three main concerns that sparked and drove the petition: a repression of civil liberties, recent discriminatory actions and hate crimes against Muslims, Arabs, and others who merely look like Arabs or Muslims, and, more controversially, the feeling that the US is attempting to solve a political problem by military means.

"We need," says Kagan, "to speak out, as professionals who understand the world situation, against killing innocent people and making more enemies."

Kagan points to times in the past when the library profession took a stand in political events: during the Vietnamese war era, for instance, ALA came out against the war (albeit at a late stage). Likewise, letters to President Clinton protesting the bombings of Iraq and Sudan and the "Peace Telegram" sent to President Roosevelt (1940) by the Progressive Librarians Council can be viewed on Rory Litwin's "Librarians Against War" web page (www.libr.org/peace). Stressing that there is no contradiction between taking a stand on a political issue and providing free and equal access to information to patrons, Kagan points out that if librarians claim to be neutral we are "just abandoning our responsibilities. Our role is to educate the American public that [war] is not an appropriate response."

To view the petition, visit http://libr.org/peace/emergency_declaration.html.

Terren Ilana Wein
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(Career and Placement Services Library, University of Chicago)

Inside this issue:

<i>Midwinter Proposals</i>	2
<i>Scarves Across America</i>	8
<i>Post 9/11 Resources</i>	9
<i>IFLA Report</i>	10
<i>Progressive Librarians around the World</i>	11
<i>Midwinter Information</i>	12
<i>Editorial</i>	13
<i>New Members</i>	14
<i>Upcoming Awards</i>	15

Proposed SRRT Resolutions (as of 12/3/2001)

RESOLUTION 1: On Inappropriate Placement of Flags in Libraries: a proposed SRRT and/or ALA resolution

Whereas acceding to the insistence on the obligatory placement of American flags and/or other patriotic regalia, including allowance of placement of stickers with slogans, in libraries, in response to the terrorist actions of 9/11/01 and in support of the subsequent bombing and invasion of Afghanistan is a violation of freedom of opinion, creates an atmosphere inconducive to debate about the possible responses to the events, makes the library appear to be a government propaganda operation rather than a free forum for debate, and is a form, when enforced this way, of government intimidation which is specifically opposed by ALA policy

Be it therefore resolved that SRRT/ALA opposes the obligatory placement of US flags, flag decals, patriotic symbols, etc., in libraries in the interest of maintaining the library as a zone of free thought, where the appearance of the flag in a place where or manner in which it traditionally had not been exhibited would appear to patrons, librarians and staff as an act attempting to impose support for specific government actions, or any and all government actions.

Submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig
SRRT Action Council member ALA Councilor at large
11/28/01

RESOLUTION 2: Against the war in Afghanistan - proposed SRRT and/or ALA resolution

Whereas the acts of terror of 9/11 against US targets were not the acts of a sovereign nation, nor carried out in official pursuit of the policy of such a nation

and

Whereas the nation of Afghanistan, nor any other nation, has been shown to have committed an act of war against the US, but rather such act has been attributed to the actions of a criminal conspiracy headed by one Osama Ben Laden

and

Whereas in pursuit of the guilty parties in a criminal act it is impermissible to initiate war against an entire nation and a people, when doing so constitutes 'collective punishment' specifically prohibited by international covenant

and

Whereas the American Library Association is committed in its policy to the encouragement of the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the study of and attention to the underlying causes of international conflicts in the interests of the most rational, least violent solution

Be it resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association (ALA)

(1) opposes the war against Afghanistan and its possible extension to other nations as a just and appropriate response to the heinous terrorism of 9/11/01;

(2) deplores the declaration, as a response to the terrorist acts of a criminal conspiracy, of an indeterminate 'national state of emergency' under which laws are suspended, practices instituted, and precedents set which are destructive of the liberties and rights of the people of the USA (ALA policy 53.4);

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(3) deplors the censorship of the mass media which the military is enforcing in coverage of the war, depriving citizens of the right to know (ALA policy 50.3); and

(4) denounces the threat of the use of tactical nuclear weapons by the US led forces in pursuit of its goals (ALA policy 50.11)

submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig, 11/28/01

RESOLUTION 3: On Intellectual freedom & the use of torture in war or peace: proposed resolution

Whereas ALA is among the preeminent defenders of intellectual freedom and government openness in the US.

Whereas intellectual freedom, our primary value as librarians, cannot be more seriously violated than by forcing speech through systematic violence by government against detained individuals.

Whereas the US government has announced its readiness to use torture in the interrogation of suspected terrorists or their suspected accomplices

Whereas the use or possible use of torture is the ultimate deterrent to the cultivation of a democratic atmosphere of free speech, free thought, free assembly, free belief to which we, as an Association and as a profession, are committed.

Whereas the secrecy which will undoubtedly attend the use of torture will also violate our commitment, entailed by our intellectual freedom principles to open government and the necessity of true and accurate information of our government's actions

and

Whereas the threat of torture of the use of torture and similar practices of coercing testimony, confessions, information is, universally condemned under international law [e.g. the Geneva Convention, Articles 3 and 31 and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, Article 5] and (a) the Fourth Amendment's right to be free of unreasonable search or seizure (which encompasses the right not be abused by the police) (b) the Fifth Amendment's right against self-incrimination (which encompasses the right to remain silent during interrogations), (c) the Fifth and the Fourteenth Amendments' guarantees of due process (ensuring fundamental fairness in criminal justice system), and (d) the Eighth Amendment's right to be free of cruel or unusual punishment],

Be it resolved that the SRRT/ALA condemns the use or threat of torture by the US government as a barbarous violation of human rights, intellectual freedom, and the rule of law. The ALA , decries --along with condemnation of the practice of torture anywhere-- the suggestion by the US government that under a 'state of emergency' in this country torture is an acceptable tool in pursuit of its goals.

submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig

SRRT Action Council member & ALA Councilor at large 11/28/01

RESOLUTION 4: Libraries in a Time of War & Emergency : a proposed SRRT resolution

Whereas the current policies of the US Government, invoking a 'national state of emergency' in its 'war against terrorism' has invoked an over-broad definition of terrorism and terrorist which involves issues of violation of intellectual freedom, and since its conduct encourages the use of unconstitutionally obtained evidence, practices the unconstitutional refusal to inform

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'suspects' of what crimes they are being accused of, employs the use of racial 'profiling' in the determination of suspects, justifies the denial of due process to suspects, illegal detention, the mistreatment and unequal treatment of prisoners who are suspects and claims the right to the use of torture to obtain information

and

Whereas, more specifically, libraries have been enlisted to assist in and enable the use of racial/ethnic profiling in identification of 'suspects'; the surveillance of individuals based on arbitrary criteria, the turning over of confidential library records on the presentation of a mere search warrant (in violation of our Library Bill of Rights, our Code of Ethics and policy manual's specific and detailed elaboration of this issue (52.4)); the practice of allowing individual librarians/library workers, on the basis of own personal judgment and without even informing library management, of informing on individuals to police agencies for any practices deemed on an ad hoc basis to be 'suspicious' (in effect turning librarians and library workers into an information para-police), and public libraries are being suggested as local interrogation centers for mass round-ups of foreign nationals for questioning, all thereby implicating libraries in the commission of these government violations rights and norms of legality

and

Whereas security measures are being widely proposed for institutions which would, as applied in libraries, encourage the abuse of authority, arbitrary and unequal treatment of patrons, loss of users' privacy rights, regimens of invasive surveillance, and the use as evidence of material read or accessed by individuals, a development which would destroy libraries as centers of free inquiry

and

Whereas the practice of the Abridgment of the Rights of Foreign Nationals is specifically invoked in our policy manual (58.3) as unacceptable to the Association, even allowing that ALA will "address grievances of foreign nationals when the infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which all free people should show concern." calling for resolutions or other documents attesting to such grievances [to be] brought to the attention of the Executive Board and Council and the ALA International Relations Committee"

and

Whereas the conduct of the government in this declared domestic state of emergency is also in violation of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights in general and so-called Article 19 in particular in violation of our policy (58.4) which states along with the Declaration the "everyone has the right to freedom of expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas regardless of frontiers, and violates the intent of our resolution on Human Rights and Freedom of Expression (58.4.1)

and

Whereas ALA specifically opposes Governmental Intimidation (53,4), going so far as to state that "ALA encourages resistance to such abuse of government power, and supports those against whom such government power has been employed"

and

Whereas we urge ALA to condemn the establishment of 'secret military tribunals, here and abroad with the power to try or sentence or execute civilians or military personnel as an odiously undemocratic practice which undermines the rule of law on which democracy is based

Be it then resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association (ALA) on the basis of its own commitments and those of the Association as a whole, oppose and encourages ALA to formally by resolution of Council oppose the conduct under any circumstances of enforcement of "homeland security" through abridgements of fundamental rights (including the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty); government intimidation; illegal obtaining of evidence, illegal search and seizure, racial profiling; denial of due process; mistreatment of suspects and

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prisoners, the curtailment of free speech, the exercise of free expression and punishment for legal advocacy or expression of beliefs.

Be it further resolved that libraries will remain centers of free inquiry and debate, in which dissent to government policy is not a suspicious activity and where free access to information is assured (53.1 - 53.8 -Library Bill of Rights; 50.3) under conditions of legally protected confidentiality. (52.4) , and places where information of a critical nature relative to government policy will be pro-actively provided, where information about rights relevant to violations of one's civil liberties under the state of emergency will be readily available in as many languages as possible and where policy debate is encouraged without prejudice.

And be it further resolved that SRRT opposes and urges ALA to oppose the practice of government and military censorship with regard to information about the state of emergency, the war in Afghanistan, and the actions taken in pursuit of its changing goals in the region; encourages the major media to exercise its mandate and forgo self-censorship; and defend the use of Shield Laws (53.5) to ensure a free press always threatened in time of war and emergency, as well as restrictions being arbitrarily placed on government materials ordinarily made public in the interest of 'national security'

And be it further resolved that SRRT opposes and urges ALA to formally oppose as policy the establishment of any and all secret military tribunals, domestically and abroad, where free speech, due process and equal treatment before the law, (including the 'law of war' and other internationally recognized protocols) will be denied, and opposes as well all other measures which, even in so-called states of emergency, suspend the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other legal protections of the rights of peoples, such as guaranteed in our Bill of Rights.

submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig
member of SRRT Action Council and ALA Councilor at large
11/28/01

RESOLUTION 5: Proposed SRRT resolution "Against the Use of Secret Tribunals in War or Peace"

Whereas the use of secret tribunals, military or otherwise, against civilians, both domestically and abroad, is being declared a valid and necessary tool of the government of the USA by the administration of President George W. Bush,

and whereas secret tribunals violate the Bill of Rights, the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other national and international covenants to which the US (as well as its individual states) is party

and whereas secret tribunals violate the spirit and letter of the Constitution which specifically prohibits practices which abridge the right to a fair trial based on important elaborations of Common Law practice going back to the beginning of English jurisprudence, and involve the statutory basis from which we also derive the rights to freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom from illegal search and seizure which are fundamental to the practice of democratic library and information work

and whereas they violate the US public's "right to know" and are associated, moreover, with dictatorial, anti-democratic regimes in a way which undermines the cultivation of democracy to which our profession, in this as in other countries, is committed

be it resolved that SRRT/ALA opposes the use or threat of use of secret tribunals by the government as destructive of democratic societies, an abuse of the rights of both the accused and the people (the latter on whose behalf the government is juridicially

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acting), a violation of the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution and countless other protocols to which the USA is party, and, for the librarians in whose name SRRT/ALA speaks, a violation of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know, both of which are derived from elements of the Constitution which are compromised by this practice.

submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig
SRRT Action Council member and ALA Councilor at large
11/30/01

RESOLUTION 6: Intellectual freedom & the use of torture in war or peace: a proposed SRRT ALA resolution

Whereas ALA is among the preeminent defenders of intellectual freedom and government openness in the US.

Whereas intellectual freedom, our primary value as librarians, cannot be more seriously violated than by forcing speech through systematic violence by government against detained individuals.

Whereas the US government has announced its readiness to use torture in the interrogation of suspected terrorists or their suspected accomplices

Whereas the use or possible use of torture is the ultimate deterrent to the cultivation of a democratic atmosphere of free speech, free thought, free assembly, free belief to which we, as an Association and as a profession, are committed.

Whereas the secrecy which will undoubtedly attend the use of torture will also violate our commitment, entailed by our intellectual freedom principles to open government and the necessity of true and accurate information of our government's actions

and

Whereas the threat of torture of the use of torture and similar practices of coercing testimony, confessions, information is, universally condemned under international law [e.g the Geneva Convention, Articles 3 and 31 and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, Article 5] and (a)the Fourth Amendment's right to be free of unreasonable search or seizure (which encompasses the right not be abused by the police) (b)the Fifth Amendment's right against self-incrimination (which encompasses the right to remain silent during interrogations), (c)the Fifth and the Fourteenth Amendments' guarantees of due process (ensuring fundamental fairness in criminal justice system), and (d)the Eighth Amendment's right to be free of cruel or unusual punishment],

Be it resolved that the SRRT/ALA condemns the use or threat of torture by the US government as a barbarous violation of human rights, intellectual freedom, and the rule of law. The ALA , decries --along with condemnation of the practice of torture anywhere-- the suggestion by the US government that under a 'state of emergency' in this country torture is an acceptable tool in pursuit of its goals.

submitted by Mark C. Rosenzweig
SRRT Action Council member & ALA Councilor at large
11/30/01

RESOLUTION 7: On Police, Intelligence or other Government Surveillance in the Library: a proposed SRRT/ALA resolution

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(Continued from page 6)

Whereas the systematic covert enlistment of library employees by US police and intelligence services is once again being entertained as a useful tool by the government

and

Whereas, library administrations are being encouraged to actively participate in the allowance of covert surveillance of patrons including the installation of security devices which violate patron privacy

and

Whereas librarians have voluntarily or on demand -- though without proper procedure or authorization-- turned over patron records without reprimand

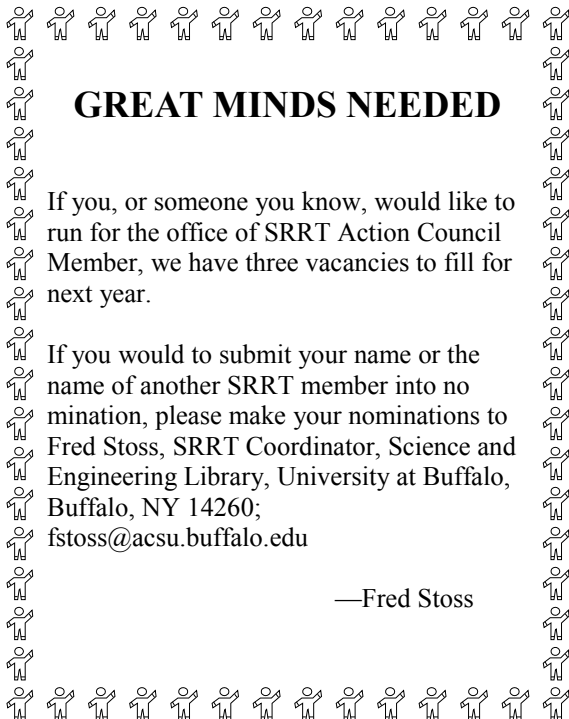
and

Whereas patrons' legitimate expectation of confidentiality has been or may be compromised in enabling the police monitoring of personally identifiable Internet use in the library by the employment of various techniques, devices or practices which make patrons on-line the unknowing subjects of investigation

Be it therefore resolved that SRRT [and/or ALA] calls for American libraries to post clear and unavoidably noticed warnings at relevant service points that patrons are or may be under FBI surveillance, that they are being filmed, that their Internet use is or may be monitored and that the confidentiality of their personal library records cannot be assured.

and be it further resolved that such warnings indicate that this is being done in violation of the Library Bill of Rights (53.1); the ALA Professional Code of Ethics(policy 54.16,1-3,5-7) and the policy statement "Libraries, an American Value" (53.8. item 6), the policy against "Governmental Intimidation" (53.4) and the policy on "Confidentiality of Patron Records" (52.4). These ALA policies should be made readily available.

Submitted by Mark Rosenzweig, SRRTAC & ALA Councilor at large
12/02/01

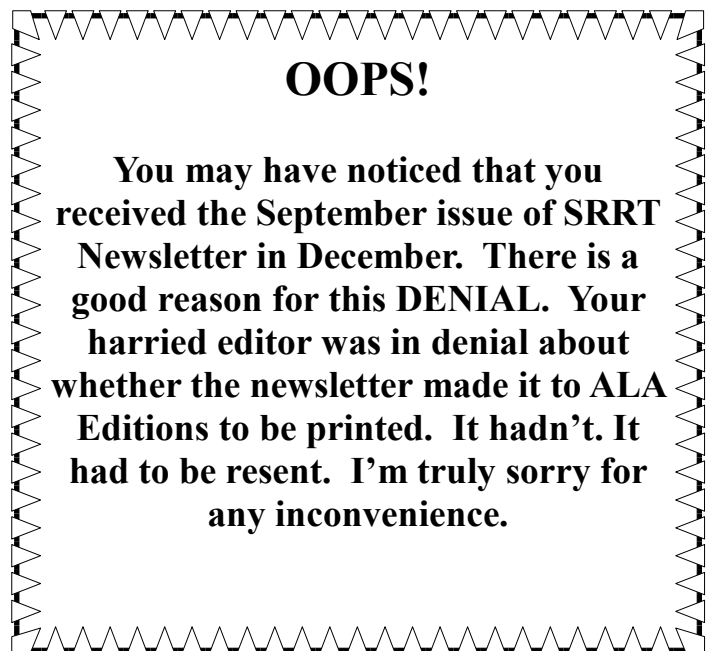


GREAT MINDS NEEDED

If you, or someone you know, would like to run for the office of SRRT Action Council Member, we have three vacancies to fill for next year.

If you would to submit your name or the name of another SRRT member into nomination, please make your nominations to Fred Stoss, SRRT Coordinator, Science and Engineering Library, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260;
fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu

—Fred Stoss



OOPS!

You may have noticed that you received the September issue of SRRT Newsletter in December. There is a good reason for this DENIAL. Your harried editor was in denial about whether the newsletter made it to ALA Editions to be printed. It hadn't. It had to be resent. I'm truly sorry for any inconvenience.



Scarves Across America: A Participant Describes her Experience

Since the World Trade Towers were attacked, I have been in a state of emotional shock not so much shock that it happened (I ponder that it hadn't occurred sooner quite frankly), but shock by our nation's seeming inability to "connect the dots". Why are so few asking "why" and why are so few asking for evidence and proper procedure by international law (see Francis Boyle, UIUC GSLIS bulletin boards ;also <http://www.themodernreligion.com/terrorism.tm#list>). And why does no one question the logic of a "War on Terrorism" (an empty rhetorical statement) and the very real consequences of our war on the already decimated peoples of Afghanistan.

For years I have been listening to my feminist sisters crying in pain at the treatment of women under the Taliban. And again and again I have seen the same petition circulating around the internet, pleading for the U.S. to do something to stop the slow torturous debilitation of a nation's women under the hands of a regime which shows no regard for the female sex. No only has our plea not been heard, but now our Muslim sisters must suffer the compounded insult of having their homeland bombed by the very nation that might have had a hand in alleviating their suffering. Not only must our Afghan sisters suffer more, but now the suffering has been extended to our Muslim sisters within U.S. borders. As one who spent her college years immersed in activism whenever my passions ran high, I have been at a loss as to what to do this time. My life is so hectic and the peace rallies on our campus have always been held at times when my responsibilities left me tethered to the Reference Desk or doing workshops for undergraduates on how to research at our institution. So, when a sister librarian told me about Scarves Across America (<http://www.farhorizons.net/women/>) , I realized I'd finally found a way to

participate in nurturing peace from my own little corner of the universe. On Wednesday October 11th an action was held nation wide whereby women displayed solidarity with our (their) Muslim sisters by wearing a hijab (scarf) (<http://www.farhorizons.net/women/hijab.htm>).

On the day I wore my scarf, I hoped some of my colleagues would ask why I was wearing the scarf, but alas, though many commented on my beautiful scarf (a gift from a friend who'd visited Bulgaria) the questions of why did not come. I persisted in my silent and subtle action of sisterly solidarity when a very young, wearing a real Muslim hijab approached the reference desk. She was very small and timid. She asked, oh so quietly, if she could get some assistance. I detected in her demeanor a certain trepidation that seemed to go beyond a shy personality. I smiled at her and said of course, that's what I'm here for. When this shy young woman finally looked up to see more distinctly whom she was talking to, her gaze almost immediately fell on my scarf. Her face began to light with a puzzled smile and I smiled directly but gently upon her and no words of explanation were necessary. Almost immediately this young woman began to relax and her body language spoke volumes as she sensed safety under my gaze. What constant stress, yes, what constant terror was this young woman living under since September 11, suddenly the potential target of irrational hatred in the country that, for all I knew, is her birth country. And it occurred to me, that in the centuries' old tradition of mothers, and sisters, and daughters everywhere -- the subtle actions of women reaching across the borders of military might and touching each other's hearts, may be the most powerful action of all as we strive to recognize each others' humanity in everyday actions.

Pamela M. Salela is Assistant Professor and reference librarian at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota.

POST 9/11 RESOURCES

ALA Policies, Statements, and Web Resources on Privacy and Confidentiality

Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/electacc.html
Questions and Answers: Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/oif_q&a.html
Code of Ethics	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ethics.html
Freedom to Read Statement	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/freeread.html
Freedom to View Statement	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/freedomtoview.html
Library Bill of Rights	http://www.ala.org/work/freedom/lbr.html
Policy concerning Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information about Library Users	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/pol_user.html
Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/pol_conf.html
Privacy and Confidentiality	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/privacy.html
Privacy Resources for Librarians, Library Users, and Families	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/privacyresources.html
Suggested Procedures for Implementing Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/sugpolcn.html
USA Patriot Act	http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/alertusapatriotact.html
Library Community Statement on Freedom of Speech and Access to Information	http://www.ala.org/washoff/FreedomofSpeech9.pdf

OTHER TIMELY WEB SOURCES

Alternative Resources on the U.S. "War Against Terrorism"
<http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/Alternative.html>

Encouraging Dialogue through Cultural Programming
<http://www.ala.org/publicprograms/dialogue/>

Library's Responsibility to Provide Information on the Current Crisis
<http://www.inglewoodlibrary.org/newsref.html>

ACLU's Know Your Rights Pamphlet
http://www.aclu.org/library/know_your_rights.pdf

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL

This is my second annual report to SRRT on the annual IFLA conferences. The recent meeting took place in Boston in August 2001. This was the largest IFLA meeting on record with 5330 attendees from 150 countries. And this was the first IFLA meeting to be held in the United States since the 1985 Chicago meeting. (The Chicago meeting passed the historic resolution excluding apartheid institutions from membership. Unfortunately, and in disregard to significant efforts, the IFLA Executive refused to act on that resolution. But that is a story for another time.)

IFLA is in transition, and its new governing structure was implemented just after the conclusion of the meeting. Part of the new structure is a mail ballot provision for officers. It is significant that the IFLA members elected an African President-elect, Kay Raseroka, University Librarian at the University of Botswana. She is the first president not from Europe or North America. Of course, representatives from the rich countries will still dominate the Governing Board.

The only two resolutions that came before the IFLA Council were both on Cuba. One was developed jointly by the ALA International Relations Committee and the Cuban Library Association (ASCUBI), and the other one was introduced by IFLA's Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee (FAIFE). The joint ALA and ASCUBI resolution would never have been developed without the work of the SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force. Special congratulations should go to Ann Sparanese, Rhonda Neugebauer, and Larry Oberg for their excellent work. That resolution opposed the U.S. boycott of Cuba and called upon the U.S. Government to share books and technology to strengthen Cuban libraries. The FAIFE resolution also condemned the US boycott, but also criticized the Cuban Government, asked for IFLA involvement in helping ASCUBI develop a code of ethics, and urged the Cuban Government to adopt the new IFLA Public Library Guidelines. In the end and at the urging of two American librarians, the Council combined the two resolutions and approved them by an overwhelming margin. Considering FAIFE's previous Cold War-like position on Cuba, this was a great advancement, and again I think SRRT's success in ALA played the decisive role. However ASCUBI and ALA had to vote against the combined resolution because of its patronizing tone and critical stance towards the information policies of the Cuban Government.

It is important to tell the world about the historic cooperation agreement signed by ALA and ASCUBI just after a debate on the Cuban library situation and just before the Council meeting where the resolution was passed. As far as we know, this is a unique agreement between US and Cuban bodies to advance each other's work. It reminds me a bit of the Ping-Pong diplomacy when the US and China finally began to talk with each other. Perhaps our work can serve a similar function.

Since the conference was in the United States, we were able to have an informal meeting of SRRT and PLG members along with several of our progressive colleagues from other countries. This was a chance to get to talk with the National Librarian of Cuba, Eliades Acosta, and to consider strategy questions for the Council. Thank you to our host, Theresa Tobin, and to the organizer, Elaine Harger. We might think about doing something similar in Glasgow next year, and our German friends are already talking about meeting in 2003 when the conference will be in Berlin.

The IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group (SRDG) is alive and well. As I have previously reported, the IFLA Professional Board approved the 13 recommendations in principle last December, and 13 working groups were established for implementation. As a result of the Boston discussion, it was decided to consolidate the working groups to maximize our energy. That will happen over the next few months. As a result of IFLA's reorganization, each Discussion Group and Round Table must indicate where it wants to fall within the new structure. The SRDG decided that it wants to become an IFLA Section. This would provide some financial help and the ability to propose resolutions without approval from a parent body. It would also give us a program slot as well as a business meeting time. This proposal will go forward to the new Professional Committee of the Governing Board. Finally, the SRDG is excited that its composite policy paper will be published in an IFLA book to be titled, *Libraries in the Information Society*.

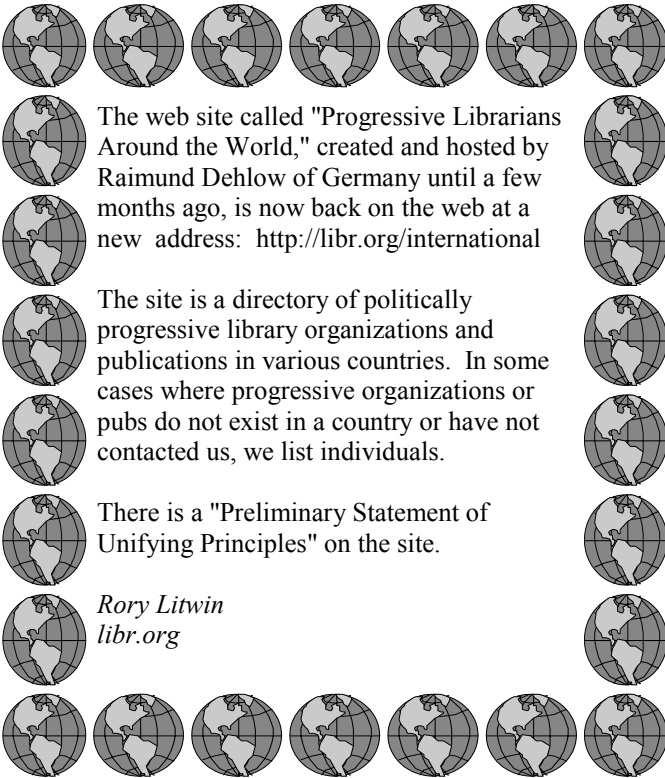
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I should say a few more words about FAIFE since it is becoming quite influential within the IFLA structure (similar to the role of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee). Although I think most members would deny it, FAIFE's work is profoundly political. Their World Report was issued during the meeting, and FAIFE hopes it will become the standard report on freedom of expression just as Amnesty International's annual report has become a standard reference point. FAIFE hopes to create small centers throughout the world, and several countries have already offered to take this on. FAIFE wants to work on an Internet manifesto, and has established a special Ph.D. Program in Copenhagen in connection with the national library school there. Just as SRRT interacts with ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee and International Relations Committee, we need to do the same with FAIFE. It will continue to be a key forum for policy-making and action.

Boston was a congenial place for an IFLA meeting. I attended a wonderfully warm reception and dinner for the librarians of Africa and the diaspora at the Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library. I also got to go on my first whale watch just after the meeting. Let me encourage those of you who can apply for funding to think about coming to Scotland next year. We have progressive friends from around the world, and we need to make our presence felt more strongly and in more venues during the meeting.

Al Kagan



The web site called "Progressive Librarians Around the World," created and hosted by Raimund Dehlow of Germany until a few months ago, is now back on the web at a new address: <http://libr.org/international>

The site is a directory of politically progressive library organizations and publications in various countries. In some cases where progressive organizations or pubs do not exist in a country or have not contacted us, we list individuals.

There is a "Preliminary Statement of Unifying Principles" on the site.

Rory Litwin
libr.org

- The American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Round Table is working with the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund to help promote the existence of this trust fund. We want to be sure that it remains a known, and viable, resource for librarians who are facing discrimination and/or censorship challenges and who may benefit from applying to the Merritt Fund for personal financial assistance under extreme circumstances.
- We are engaging in promotional efforts aimed at increasing the Web presence of the Merritt Fund. To that end, we are contacting individuals with relevant home pages, and webmasters of organizations that deal directly with librarians, with a request that a link be provided to the Fund's site. Will you consider linking from your Web site to the Merritt Fund site?
- The Merritt Humanitarian Fund icon, designed by Gwendolyn Prellwitz of the ALA Diversity Office (<http://www.ala.org/diversity/>), along with instructions on how to include it on your page, is available at <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrtmerritt.html>.

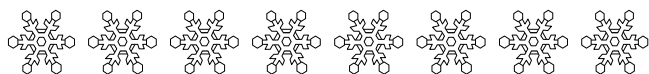
Coming up in the **BIG** Easy (and a note on Atlanta)

REMINDERS from Satia Orange

The OLOS desk at ALA Midwinter can be used for sharing information. Each roundtable chair has a folder in the mailbox file at the OLOS desk in the ALA Office area. You can use this as a message area for your chairs.

If they need to contact OLOS staff, leave a message in their folders and we will respond when they return to the office area, at least once each day. Satia's schedule will be posted so you will know where to find her (most of the time).

Please remember to reserve AV before midwinter because you will be charged much more if AV is contracted on site. The key to correctly charged AV is whether it was ordered by your unit initially. Conference Services says even if AV is in your room, don't use it if you didn't order it. Also, make sure that only the program chair orders AV needed. Therefore there will be no questions about it, because it will be on the original form. Satia's recommendation would be to make sure that all AV is scheduled through OLOS, her or preferably Tanga...before midwinter. That way it will be documented.

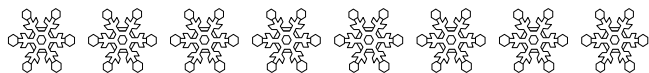


Don't miss these Midwinter Events

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration
Monday, January 21st, 6:30-7:30AM.

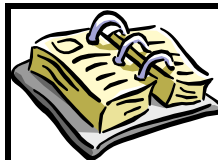
ALA President Candidates Forum
Monday, January 21, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

ALA Membership Meeting Quorum
Saturday, January 19, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Feminist Task Force Midwinter Schedule

General Membership Meeting
Saturday, January 19, 9:30 - 11:00 pm
Amelia Bloomer Project Meeting
Saturday, January 19, 2:00 - 5:30 pm
General Membership Meeting
Monday, January 21, 8:00 - 9:00 am
Amelia Bloomer Project Meeting



Mark Your Calendar!

Plan to participate in YOUR Action Council Meetings

The following Action Council meetings are scheduled for the Midwinter Meeting:

- ⇒ Action Council I Saturday 9:30 AM immediately following the All Task Force Event
- ⇒ Action Council II Monday 2-4 PM

ALA Poster Session Applications for 2002 Annual Conference



Applications for presenting poster sessions at the 2002 American Library Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia are now being accepted. An application form is available on the poster session website at <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/ala>.

The website also provides rules and guidelines for presenting poster sessions, helpful hints in applying, frequently asked questions, and photos of sample poster sessions.

If you don't have Internet access, you can apply via e-mail. Send the following information to: klawson@gwgate.lib.iastate.edu.

Title, author's name, institutional address, e-mail address, and 200 word abstract. If you don't have Internet access or to e-mail, please contact:

Karen Lawson
Chair, ALA Poster Session Review Panel
34 Parks Library
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011
515-294-4037

The deadline for submitting an application is January 31, 2002. Applicants will be notified by March 31, 2002 whether their poster sessions have been accepted for presentation at the conference. Poster sessions will be presented on June 15, 16, and 17 at the Atlanta conference.

GUEST EDITORIAL
by **Margaret Guttshall Vitale**

Do anti-war activists deserve a "punch in the nose"?

A library science student recently posted a statement on the library science program's listserve urging people who encounter anti-war activists to listen to them and then suddenly and repeatedly punch one of them in the nose. "Repeat steps 2-5 (punching the anti-war activist in the nose) until the desired results are obtained and the idiot realizes how stupid of an argument he/she is making," says the author.

Many students were shocked that another student seemed to be encouraging violence against people speaking out against Bush's bombing of Afghanistan. But, when one thinks about it, it's not surprising.

Millions in the U.S. and throughout the world were sad to see so many hurt September 11; they tried to do everything they could to help in some way. Unfortunately, instead of focusing on trying to help those hurt by the suicide bombings, George Bush, the U.S. Senate, and the Congress chose to begin a war on Osama Bin Laden and terrorism and to bomb property and people in Afghanistan. In the U.S., there are almost daily notices and warnings of more terrorist attacks, people dying of anthrax, bomb threats, etc. In Afghanistan, already a disaster area after 20 years of war promoted by the U.S. and others, thousands are trying to flee U.S. bombs and gathering at the borders of neighboring countries that will not allow them in. UN officials say if the U.S. does not stop bombing before snow begins to fall and allow the UN to bring food to Afghans, 7 million may die of starvation.

Many are questioning Bush's policies, including well-known and respected scholars like Noam Chomsky. Yet Bush made the incredible statement: "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." When Bush made this statement, he was not referring to people in the U.S.; he was referring to people in other nations. Nevertheless, it has had an effect. Some people who support Bush's policies obviously regard those who don't as sub-human, as possible terrorists or terrorist sympathizers, and feel free to threaten violence against them. Many who disagree with Bush's policies are afraid to say so; they fear being ostracized or punished in some way.

This atmosphere inevitably infects and undermines libraries and their goals: to bring together and make accessible all the knowledge and beauty – including the many different points of view – that women and men have worked so hard to acquire and develop for so many centuries.

It reminds me of an attitude toward anti-war protestors in the 1960s and 70s, an attitude that encouraged National Guardsmen to shoot and kill young students at Kent State and Jackson State, one of whom was guilty of the terrible crime of having tried to hand a flower to a Guardsman.

I hope librarians will speak out against this war. We need to stop bombing and killing people in other countries (Vietnam, Nicaragua, Panama, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosova, Serbia, now Afghanistan). We need to get our armed forces out of foreign countries, stop supporting isolated, anti-popular regimes, and devote our resources to the quest for domestic and global economic and social justice. If we, as a people, were doing this, why would anyone want to hurt one of us? Is it possible that wealth, indifference toward others, persecution of others, has made us objects of attacks?

At a minimum, I hope librarians will respect the rights of others to express different views on this issue without being threatened with violence.

*Margaret Guttshall Vitale
Library Science Student
Member of the American Library Association and the National Writers Union*

JOIN US IN WELCOMING THESE NEW MEMBERS

It is always good news when we have the opportunity to add to our ranks. Please welcome these new SRRT Members. If you work or live near by them, drop them a line and welcome them to SRRT. If their areas of interest are related to yours, again thank them for joining SRRT and ask if they need any assistance.

Task Force Chairs, please note the Task Force(s) in which they have indicated an interest. If you live or work nearby, drop them a line to give a friendly, "Hello! and Welcome to SRRT." Be sure to add them to your Task Force eMail discussion lists.

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Task Force interests: IRTF

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Task Force interests: HHP

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Task Force Interest: AIP, TFOE, HHP

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417-623-7953 wk
shoff@ipa.net
Task Force interests: CSK, IRTF, TFOE

ATTENTION NEW SRRT MEMBERS

Will you be attending your first ALA Annual Meeting next June in Atlanta?

The SRRT Newsletter would like to include an article detailing YOUR impressions and experiences in the Summer 2002 issue.

Please contact me if you would like to volunteer.

Thanks, Jane

The Women's Studies Section of ACRL is seeking nominations for two awards that honor major contributions to women's studies librarianship. One recognizes a significant project or achievement in the past calendar year and the other recognizes career achievement. Each involves a prize of \$1000. The sponsors are Greenwood Publishing Group and Routledge.

I'm sure many of you know librarians whose accomplishments and service to women's studies librarianship deserve to be recognized. I'd like to encourage you to submit nominations. This award is vital to the visibility of WSS and its standing within ACRL, the general academic community, and with publishers. We need your active assistance in developing a significant pool of nominations to demonstrate our vitality, accomplishments, and the continuing importance of Women's Studies librarianship.

Submission forms, as well as details on criteria and eligibility, are available at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/wss/awardtop.html>.
Submission Deadline: January 10, 2002 postmarked

If you have any questions or need help with the forms, don't hesitate to contact me.

Theresa A. Tobin
Chair, WSS Awards Committee

A W A R D S

The nomination process for the 2002 Eubanks Award will begin with the AIP Business meeting at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Following that meeting, all business regarding nominees or procedures will be carried on by email or other means as necessary.

Nominations must be received by the Jury Chair by February 15th.

Nominating letters should state the nominee's specific contributions and may be accompanied by further documentation (e.g., publications, press notices). Any current ALA member may submit a nomination. Task Force officers and jury members are not eligible for consideration. Submit

nominations to:
Byron Anderson
University Libraries
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
Email: banderson@niu.edu.

The John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award honors intellectual freedom fighters in and outside the library profession who have demonstrated remarkable personal courage in resisting censorship. The award consists of \$500 and a citation. Individuals, a group of individuals or an organization are eligible for the award.

Sponsor and Deadline

The John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award is sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) of the American Library Association (ALA). The deadline for nominations is December 1 of each year.

Nominations

Nominations and supporting evidence should be sent to:

Don Wood, IFRT Staff Liaison, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 312-280-4225 or 800-545-2433, ext. 4225. Fax: 312-280-4227. E-mail: dwood@ala.org.

The SIRS State and Regional Intellectual Freedom Achievement Award is given to the most innovative and effective intellectual freedom project covering a state or region. Programs may be one-time, one-year or ongoing/multi-year efforts. The award consists of a citation and \$1,000 donated by SIRS Mandarin, Inc.

Examples might include a statewide public relations initiative to promote awareness of intellectual freedom, programmatic assistance to meet a broad-based censorship challenge, coalition building or education outreach efforts, or effective reorganization or management of an intellectual freedom committee.

State libraries or library associations, educational media associations or programs, legal defense funds, intellectual freedom committees or coalitions and related parties are eligible for nomination by themselves or others.

Sponsor and Deadline

The SIRS State and Regional Intellectual Freedom Achievement Award is sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Social Issues Resources Series (SIRS). The deadline for nominations is December 1 of each year.

Nominations

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Don Wood, IFRT Staff Liaison, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 312-280-4225 or 800-545-2433, ext. 4225. Fax: 312-280-4227. E-mail: dwood@ala.org.

Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to the editor at:

Jane Ingold, Editor

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
Library
Station Road
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Phone: 814-898-7278
Fax: 814-898-6350
Email: jli4@psu.edu

Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes.
Next deadline: 02/15/02

SRRTAC-L

The SRRT discussion group SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a relatively low-traffic [less than five messages a day unless there's a hot topic brewing] way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future directions and join in some lively debates. If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message to listproc@ala.org:
subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]

*You've got mail!
Well, you will if you join
the scintillating discussions
on SRRTAC-L*



SRRT'S WEB SITE

Want more information on SRRT? Want to find contact information for the many SRRT Task Forces? Turn your browser toward the official SRRT web site:
<http://www.libr.org/SRRT>

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