

ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee
ALA Annual Conference 2019 in Washington, D.C.

IFC Meeting I

June 21, 2019 from 8-10 a.m.

IFC members

Julia Warga, chair
Cecelia Parks
Emily Clasper
Helen Adams
John Spears
Peter Coyl
Ray James
Sarah Thornbery
Shenise McGhee
Paul Flagg, committee associate

Liaisons

Andy Harant, COPE
Betsy Brainerd, ALSC
Brooke Sheets, PLA
Erin Berman, Privacy Subcommittee
Floyd Pentlin, Public Awareness
Justin Azevedo, ALSC
Matt Beckstrom, LITA
Wanda Mae Huffaker, IFRT

Guests

Jim DelRosso, incoming member
Tayla Cardillo
Mike Wright
Amanda Vazquez
Pam Klipsch
Martin Garnar
Trina Magi
Carolyn Caywood
Beatris Sayes
Jason Blanchard
Cassandra Arnold
DeeDee Whitman
Catherine Bloom
Jack Hall
Stephen Walker
Kim Collic
Taras Zvir
Hope O'Keefe
Grace Haynes
Shannon Oltman

OIF Staff

Ellie Diaz
Kristin Pekoll
Deborah Caldwell-Stone

Call to order, introductions, quorum

Warga called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves. A quorum was established.

Review and approval of agenda

“Challenged Resources: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” will need to update the excerpt taken from “Diverse Collection: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights,” which was revised and will be proposed to Council at Council Session II. Berman will also be speaking with LinkedIn about Lydia and privacy intrusion, and will give an update at another meeting.

Coyl made a motion to approve the agenda. Adams seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“IFC Virtual Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2019”

These minutes were from the pre-Annual Conference Zoom meeting. James made a motion to approve the minutes. Clasper seconded the motion. There was no discussion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Reconfirm virtual meeting vote of “IFC 2019 Midwinter Meeting Minutes,” “IFC 2019 Spring Meeting Minutes,” and “IFC May 2019 Virtual Meeting Minutes”

There were no corrections to these meeting minutes, which were approved in principle at virtual meetings. Thornbery made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and reconfirm the votes. Adams seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Reconfirm virtual meeting vote of “Labeling and Rating Systems Q&A” and “Meeting Rooms Q&A”

Parks made a motion to approve the two Q&As and reconfirm the virtual vote. Spears seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Coyl said that “Responding to and Preparing for Controversial Programs and Speakers Q&A” needs to be updated.

The committee decided that the following documents should go to Council Forum, in preparation for Council Session II: Privacy, Minors and Online Activity, Library-Initiated Programs and

Displays as a Resource, Joint IFC & COPE statement, Diverse Collections. James will attend Council Forum with Warga.

“Library-Initiatives Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

Caywood suggested adding “program registration systems” to the paragraph about people with disabilities, to ensure registration platforms can be used by everyone. Coyl recommended adding that phrase to “Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” instead, rather than adding it to the programs interpretation. James reiterated that the programs interpretation already has a statement about how library services and resources need to comply with applicable laws concerning accessibility, which would include registration systems.

Huffaker described a comment she received about the interpretation — that it does not incorporate programs that are not initiated by the library, such as partner programs that are supported by the library. Caldwell-Stone said that the proposed language for the interpretation doesn’t make a distinction between a library program and a Friends group meeting. The committee agreed to keep the title and focus on library-initiated programs.

In this interpretation, Magi and Garnar suggested changing “materials” to “resources” to include objects that are not physical. The committee agreed. There was a discussion on whether “equal” should be changed to “equitable.” There were differing opinions on what the adjective “equal” refers to: programs or physical materials. The committee also made minor edits, such as removing “scare quotes” and changing “i.g.” to “e.g.”

Parks made a motion to take the interpretation to Council as amended. James seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

The committee made minor edits, such as changing “materials” to “resources.” The committee also changed the second bullet-point to “considering resources from independent, small, and local producers, as well as those that are self-published.” In the last sentence, the committee changed “Library workers must not permit their personal biases, opinions, or preferences to unduly influence collection-development decisions” to “library workers should not permit ...”

Coyl made a motion to take the interpretation to Council as amended. James seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Minors and Online Activity: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

Magi explained that the way the phrase “Parents and guardians are only responsible for what their own children ...” is worded, it seems like parents do not have other responsibilities, such as feeding or housing. Thornbery said that the statement was originally added in because of parents requesting that materials be removed for everyone, not just their own children. Caywood added that the parents/guardians sentence brings to light the issues of what parents are legally responsible for: How can parents be responsible for what their children do at school? Adams agreed that this sentence is needed but it is difficult to revise. Caywood suggested that the sentence should be replaced with the sentence from “Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors.” Klipsch said that if a parent is not comfortable with a child using a particular resource, the parent should talk to the teacher about alternative resources.

Adams made a motion to take the interpretation to Council as amended. Clasper seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

The committee reformatted footnote 6. Garnar and Magi will change it again if needed, which would be considered a scrivener’s change. Other minor changes were made, including changing “which” to “whom.” COPE voted in principle to endorse the interpretation.

Adams made a motion to take this interpretation to Council as amended. James seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education” IFC-COPE Joint Statement

This is a new statement created by both IFC and COPE. If adopted, the statement would be included in the policy manual. Magi said this statement may be incorporated into the *Intellectual Freedom Manual* as an advocacy statement. COPE will vote on it on Monday afternoon. The only change the committee made during this meeting was adding “American Library Association” after “Code of Ethics.”

The committee discussed if the footnote to the “Universal Right to Free Expression” should refer to the policy, as written, or if the footnote should cite the interpretation. Pekoll explained that the working group believed that a policy statement should refer to another policy statement. Garnar said that in the *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, they may decide to add a page number of the interpretation to this footnote of the policy.

Thornbery made a motion to take the interpretation to Council as amended. James seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Education and Information Literacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

The committee discussed whether to use “materials” or “resources” in this interpretation. “Resources” is what is usually written, but “materials” is the wording that is used in Article II of the Library Bill of Rights, which is what the interpretation references. Coyl recommended “resources” because the *Library Bill of Rights* states “materials and information,” which is represented in the overall term “resources.” “Between users” was changed to “among users.”

Clasper made a motion to approve the interpretation as amended. Parks seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

Garnar and Magi recommended replacing the citation referring to “Extending Our Reach: Reducing Homelessness Through Library Engagement” with policy B.8.10, since the only text on the webpage was the policy statement. The committee agreed.

The committee discussed whether the words “equal” and “equitable” should both be included, as they have different meanings. In the second to the last paragraph, Berman believed that “equal access” makes sense in the first sentence, but in the last sentence of the paragraph, “equitable access” makes sense. Klipsch said if a homebound patron was provided access to library materials and services, that would be equitable access. Both “equitable” and “equal” was omitted from the last sentence in the second to last paragraph. In the first sentence, “equal or equitable” was used, with the word “or” because there are conditions that may limit one.

In the last paragraph, it was proposed that “full and equal” be omitted. Klipsch said that “equitable and equal access” has been used for a long time and many people know what it is; changing it may cause confusion. “Full and equal access” was replaced with “equal and equitable.”

James made a motion to take the interpretation to Council as amended. Spears seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“User-Initiated Exhibits, Displays, and Bulletin Boards: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

Coyl suggested adding “to the beliefs or affiliations of the sponsors” in the last sentence of the interpretation to reflect the content of the interpretation. Caldwell-Stone suggested adding “identity” to the phrase Coyl suggested, since there have been many challenges to LGBTQ content. This was also added to the list in the third paragraph about policy and being content neutral. Pekoll thanked everyone for their work with this interpretation. She will send this document to those who are facing display challenges.

Thornbery made a motion to take this interpretation to Council as amended. Coyl seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy

Editor Oltman passed around business cards and discussed the content for the *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*. The journal is seeking submissions such as book reviews and commentaries about intellectual freedom and privacy. Both topics are interpreted broadly; if there is a *Library Bill of Rights* interpretation about the topic, then it is within scope. First-time writers are invited to submit to get experience and guidance.

Subscriptions to the journal is \$50 per year for individuals. Caldwell-Stone is working on a deal for IFRT members to get a free or reduced subscription.

The committee recessed at 10:03 a.m.

IFC Meeting II

June 21, 2019 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

IFC members

Cecelia Parks
Emily Glasper
Helen Adams
John Spears
Peter Coyl
Ray James
Sarah Thornbery
Shenise McGhee
Paul Flagg, committee associate

Liaisons

Andy Harant, COPE
Betsy Brainerd, ALSC
Brooke Sheets, PLA
Erin Berman, Privacy Subcommittee
Floyd Pentlin, Public Awareness
Hilda Weisburg, AASL
Justin Azevedo, ALSC

Matt Beckstrom, LITA
Wanda Mae Huffaker, IFRT

Guests

Jim DelRosso, incoming members
Mike Wright
Amanda Vazquez
Pam Klipsch
Martin Garnar
Trina Magi
Carolyn Caywood
Jason Blanchard
Martha-Lynn Corner
Lynora Williams

OIF Staff

Deborah Caldwell-Stone
Ellie Diaz

The IFC meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m.

“Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

Since “internet” is capitalized in the 16th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, which is the resource ALA Editions uses, the interpretations will also include capital “internet.” Instead of “libraries ... must support access to information on all subjects,” the committee changed “must” to “should.” The committee discussed whether requests to unblock information should be retained. Instead of retained, the committee changed the wording to “records of these requests should not contain personally identifiable information.” AAPC submitted a comment that the interpretation could be more concise. The committee agreed that this could be correct, but would need concise feedback to make revisions.

Parks made a motion to take this interpretation to Council as amended. Clasper seconded. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Evaluating Library Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

There was one change to pluralize nouns. Coyl made a motion to take the interpretation to Council as amended. Spears seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“User-Generated Content in Library Discovery Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

The committee discussed the sentence “To avoid appearance of library endorsement or disapproval, libraries should make every effort to differentiate between user-generated content and library-generated content within discovery systems.” Some thought that this is vendor relationship issue. The sentence was changed to “ ... libraries should make efforts ... ” to include flexibility and small changes that libraries could make.

Caywood suggested that the functionality of the retrieval system be its own paragraph. Berman said that user-generated content would not affect the retrieval system. Coyl asked if this is a different system from staff recommending “staff picks.” DelRosso said that staff recommendations falls under labeling. Caywood mentioned that this type of process is used by Amazon in its algorithm systems. The committee decided on this sentence: “When user-generated content has the potential to influence the retrieval function (e.g., content with more stars could appear higher in search results), such features should not be applied by default but presented as a clearly labeled choice for users.”

Spears made a motion to take this interpretation to Council as amended. Thornbery seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

IFC Meeting III

June 23, 2019 from 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Members

Julia Warga, chair
Cecelia Parks
Emily Clasper
Helen Adams
Johana Orellana Cabrera
John Spears
Peter Coyl
Ray James
Sarah Thornbery
Shenise McGhee

Floyd Pentlin, Public Awareness
Hilda Weisburg, AASL
Justin Azevedo, ALSC
Vanessa Ames, PLA
Wanda Mae Huffaker, IFRT
Patty Wong, Executive Board

Guests

Jim DelRosso, incoming member
Holly Melissa Eberle, incoming member
Miguel Moya
Sukrit Goswami

Liaisons

Andy Harant, COPE
Betsy Brainerd, ALSC
Brooke Sheets, PLA
Erin Berman, Privacy Subcommittee

OIF Staff

Deborah Caldwell-Stone
Ellie Diaz

Introductions, quorum

The meeting began at 1:18 p.m. and everyone introduced themselves. There was a quorum.

“Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

The committee discussed the term “chronological age” as it was a conversation at Midwinter Meeting, said Brainerd. This could be a “loophole” for adults to attend children’s programs and vice versa. If there are concerns about attendees being disruptive at programs, that would be a behavior issue, says Coyl. Berman said that the word “safety” is broad; for example, if a child can’t use scissors at the program, they’re not kicked out of the program but may have to have someone at the program with them. The phrasing “applies to minors” was changed to “includes minors.” The committee will continue the discussion about “chronological age” when reviewing the programs interpretation.

Adams made a motion to take this interpretation to Council as amended. Coyl seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Executive Board Report

Wong reported on updates from the Executive Board, which can be found in the document titled “Leadership Talking Points: 2019 ALA Annual Conference – Washington, DC.” The updates include:

- Courtney L. Young is chairing the search committee for the new executive director. The board plans to name a new executive director after its fall board meeting in October 2019.
- The building investment for the new ALA Chicago Headquarters is moving forward. COL had asked why the office wouldn’t be in Washington DC, and Wong replied that the association already has an office in DC doing advocacy, and the association has a strong relationship with the 200+ members in Chicago.
- SCOE is interested in how people are meeting at conferences. This will factor into the conference redesign. In 2021, the new Midwinter format will be piloted, with 2022 being the planned formal implementation.

Wong thanked the committee for their work.

Council Forum updates

There was a comment from forum on whether to remove “race” from the Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education joint statement. Warga suggested “race” remain in the document and the committee agreed. Clasper suggested including the statement’s origins in the report to Council or in Warga’s speech to Council.

Councilor at Large Mike Marlin had feedback about including “dis/ability” within the Privacy Interpretation. The committee added “ability” in the “Rights of User” section about libraries never enacting policies or practices that abridge users’ right to privacy. Warga asked is there was a consensus about the change. There were no objections, and the change was accepted.

“Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

Minor changes were made that were proposed by Magi. James made a motion to accept the amended interpretation as recommended by Magi. Adams seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

In regards to the feedback received about “chronological age” (see “Access to Library Resources and Services for Minor” discussion), Spears suggested adding the following phrase to the interpretation: “significantly impedes on the attendees’ enjoyment or the purpose of the program.” Because “enjoyment” is subjective, the committee changed the phrase to “ ... restrictions on participation based solely on the gender, chronological age, or educational level of users violate this right and should be enforced only when not doing so would adversely impact the safety of the participants or interfere with the intended purpose of the program.” Azevedo said that librarians need to protect these programs without promoting ageism. Spears added that his library has requirements for different levels of education courses. Adding the phrase about “safety” and “intended purpose” allows librarians to do their job.

Parks made a motion to approve this document as amended. Spears seconded the motion. There being no opposed and on abstentions, the motion passed.

Liaison reports

ALSC Report - Brainerd (written report)

The committee is excited about its newest project. Recognizing that terms like “intellectual freedom” and “information literacy” might not mean much to a parent, a child, or even some library workers, we think it unlikely that a program involving these terms would have broad appeal. Further recognizing that these concepts are integral to the mission of libraries and foundational to the librarian profession, the committee is preparing to offer a series of easy-to-implement programming ideas that will fold in these concepts. Specifically, look for eight (8) blog posts (ALSC Blog) starting in July that offer concrete ways to incorporate intellectual freedom and information literacy ideas into storytimes, book clubs, outreach, and stem/steam programs. The ALSC IFC hopes to compile the blog posts and have them serve as the basis for a webinar and/or other training opportunity in the future.

The co-chairs for the year 2019-2020 are Justin Azevedo and Liz Hartnett. Justin is the Youth Materials Selector for the Sacramento Public Library. Liz is the Program Coordinator at the South Carolina Center for Community Literacy.

COPE Report - Harant

The committee will be voting on Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education joint statement at its meeting. COPE also plans to submit a program for the PLA conference.

Privacy Subcommittee

The Privacy Subcommittee recommended that the committee withdraw the current RFID policy statement and replace it with “RFID in Libraries: Privacy and Confidentiality Guidelines.” This would make it easier to make updates because guidelines changes do not go through Council. Warga will pass this idea along at Council Forum. The guidelines are already revised and need to be approved by the committee.

Report from the Membership Meeting

The Melvil Dewey Award resolution passed at the Membership Meeting. The “Resolution in Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights” passed and was referred to IFC, COL, and IRC for review. The committees will create a joint working group.

The committee recessed at 2:15 p.m. and will resume at 12:30 tomorrow.

IFC Meeting IV

June 24, 2019 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Members

Julia Warga, chair
Cecelia Parks
Emily Clasper
Helen Adams
Johana Orellana Cabrera
John Spears
Peter Coyl
Ray James
Sarah Thornbery
Paul Flagg, committee associate

Liaisons

Anthony Davis, Jr., GLBTRT
Betsy Brainerd, ALSC
Brooke Sheets, PLA
Erin Berman, Privacy Subcommittee
Hilda Weisburg, AASL
Justin Azevedo, ALSC
Vanessa Ames, PLA
Wanda Mae Huffaker, IFRT

Guests

Holly Melissa Eberle, incoming member
Trina Magi
Sukrit Goswami
Stephanie Barnaby

Introductions and updates

The meeting began at 12:30 p.m. There was a quorum. The five interpretations presented at Council II passed unanimously.

“Resolution on Library Service for Children in Detention at the Border”

Clasper helped write the resolution and is asking for feedback. The resolution is in response to current issues about children in family detention center at the border and the provision of library services. Committee members made several suggestions, including making resolve #5 stronger, adding executive director action, adding a statement about detention centers reaching out to schools for support, combining resolves #2 and #5, and adding the word “toxic stress.” The word “concentration camps” is included in the footnotes and in the “whereases.” Spears said most whereases focus on the present.

Adams made a motion that the IFC endorse the resolution in principle. Thornbery seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

“Challenged Resources: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights”

The quote from the diverse collections interpretation was updated to reflect the proposed language. Coyl made the motion to approve the challenged resources interpretation with the appropriate language from the diverse collections interpretation. James seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed. This does not need to go to Council, as it is a scrivener’s update.

Privacy Subcommittee updates

The subcommittee will retire Choose Privacy Week. The week is scheduled during exam week, and it makes it seem like privacy is practiced only once a year. The subcommittee will instead develop year-round content.

If the subcommittee receives a grant to create privacy field guides, creation and maintenance of the guides may become part of a written charge of the Privacy Subcommittee.

The Glass Room experience is in the exhibit hall, produced by Tech Tactical. The subcommittee had two programs at ALA Annual Conference: “Are You Going to Tell My Parents?” and “Privacy by Design.”

The subcommittee finished a Privacy and Confidentiality Q&A and will distribute it to the committee. The Privacy Subcommittee consulted with Governance and made a scrivener’s change to the first sentence of the “Resolution on Retention of Library Collections,” to refer to Article VII.

Because technology is changing, the subcommittee recommends rescinding Policy Manual B.2.11 “Radio Frequency Identification Technology and Privacy Principles,” and replacing them with the RFID in Libraries in Guidelines that the subcommittee rewrote. Coyl feels comfortable rewriting the policy so it doesn’t include technology and also having the guidelines, because removing the policy statement makes it seem like it’s not important anymore. Caldwell-Stone said the points made in the policy aren’t invalid, but they are already incorporated in interpretations and guidelines. Caldwell-Stone suggests rescinding the policy and writing a new policy about privacy and technology, such as using facial recognition technology to check out materials.

Spears made a motion to recommend to ALA Council that the policy statement be removed from the policy manual. Adams seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Coyl made a motion to approve “RFID in Libraries Privacy and Confidentiality Guidelines” as written. Spears seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

Berman met with LinkedIn, who said the reason for requiring library users to create a public profile with personally identifiable information on LinkedIn to use LinkedIn Learning was due to security concerns; according to LinkedIn, some people are creating bots with library cards, downloading materials, and selling it. The LinkedIn proposal would require new users to create an account with name and email, two-step verification, then verifying the library card number and pin. The profile will include the first name, first initial of the last name, and location. It won't be available through a Google search but can be searched through LinkedIn.

LinkedIn said libraries are not a revenue stream, said Berman. Caldwell-Stone that this morning, she found LinkedIn changed privacy settings without permission. Library directors have requested professional guidance. LinkedIn will not allow any users younger than 16, complying with GDPR but denying access to young library users. Spears said that if large libraries take a stance, then ALA should take a stance; sometimes it makes sense for a change to come from libraries first. Spears said that his institution would be willing to sign onto this in reviewing their contract. The committee discussed solutions including finding alternative courses, doing a webinar with IFRT, connecting with Urban Libraries Council, and writing a statement.

Resolutions

Resolutions about the CIA and Julian Assange did not pass. The Melville Dewey resolution passed. James volunteered to work on the “Resolution in Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights,” with a deadline of Midwinter Meeting.

Program submissions for ALA Annual Conference

The deadline for submissions is August 31.

OIF updates

Caldwell-Stone discussed Banned Books Week, the last Choose Privacy Week with the theme “Closing the Gap,” Pekoll's new book *Beyond Banned Books*, and public challenges (142 unique

cases). OIF also signed onto the Freedom to Learn Initiative to restore books to the Danville Correctional Center. The OIF director search will be opened until the end of August; the revised description does not require an MLS degree.

State and federal legislation report

Trends in the report include legislation regulating colleges' and universities' policies on speech and harassment on campus; legislation challenging schools' and libraries' decisions to collect, teach, or retain constitutionally protected materials; data privacy legislation; and internet filtering legislation.

“Guidelines for Library Policies”

The committee made minor grammatical edits. Coyl made a motion to designate Magi to make edits and grammar changes to the guidelines, and endorse the document in principle. Clasper seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed. Magi will track the changes made.

Coyl made a motion to extend the IFC meeting. Adams seconded the motion. There was a consensus on extending the meeting time.

Other business that may properly come before the committee

Santa Cruz County's Civil Grand Jury investigated the public library's use of Gale Analytics on Demand, said Berman. The jury didn't find any criminal problems, but stated that it did not appear to align with library ethics and values.

Farewell, thank you to outgoing IFC members, adjournment

Warga thanked outgoing members and liaisons for all of their work. Warga thanked OIF staff for their assistance.

Coyl made a motion to adjourn the last meeting of ALA Annual Conference 2019. Flagg seconded the motion. There being no opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Diaz