

Intellectual Freedom Committee
Annual Report – Oct.2005 to Oct.2006
Michael Greenlee, Chair

The Intellectual Freedom Committee achieved several goals listed under Goal 3 in the ILA Strategic Plan for 2004/05-2006/07.

Objective 1: Continue to advocate for open access to information for all Idaho residents

Continue to monitor regional and national intellectual freedom issues and inform the Idaho library community.

We continue to update the Idaho library community on intellectual freedom issues by postings on LibIdaho.

The American Library Association held a special Law for Librarians seminar in Chicago, IL, in April 2006. Intellectual Freedom Committee chairs and representatives from all 50 states attended. Law for Librarians provided information about the legal fundamentals underpinning the First Amendment, intellectual freedom, and privacy in order to help ensure that library policies and practices across the country are consistent with the First Amendment, legal precedent, and the Library Bill of Rights. In return, IFC chairs and representatives committed to offering two similar training opportunities in their respective states/regions over the next two years. The program on Dealing with Material Challenges at the ILA annual conference will include materials obtained at Law for Librarians. Other material will be made available on the ILA website. A more detailed report on the Law for Librarians seminar was submitted for the April 2006 Exec. Board meeting.

Recommend a program/speaker/roundtable for the ILA annual conference.

An intellectual freedom related presentation will be held at the ILA Annual Conference in Moscow. Deborah Babbitt and Michael Greenlee will present a workshop on Dealing with Material Challenges.

Objective 2: Support Idaho libraries and library staff on intellectual freedom issues

Host at the annual conference at least one fundraiser for intellectual freedom.

The IF Auction will be held on Oct. 5th at the annual conference in Moscow. In addition to the regular Silent Auction and Live Auction activities, Camille Wood and Deborah Babbitt from Nampa Public Library will give a short presentation before the auction concerning a book challenge at their library. Larry Almeida has also graciously agreed to act again as Auctioneer.

Provide upon request counsel to libraries and library staff facing intellectual freedom challenges.

Nampa Public Library faced a difficult challenge in Spring 2006 involving the book *The Joy of Gay Sex*. Deborah Babbitt from NPL called me on the day the NPL board was hearing the complaint, and I mostly provided support and confirmed that NPL had followed proper procedures in handling the complaint. I also submitted electronically a letter of support for the NPL in my own name (attached) and posted a message on the LibIdaho list.

Develop and distribute electronically information packets on "Banned Books Week."

Using LibIdaho, information concerning Banned Books Week was distributed to Idaho libraries.

Develop guidelines for the appropriate use of monies in the Intellectual Freedom Fund (IFF).

I have begun drafting guidelines for the use of monies in the IFF. Attached is a rough draft of what I have developed so far. I welcome any suggestions from the Executive Board on these guidelines.