

ALA Annual Conference 2009
Chicago, IL
Notes from Council Activities

ALA Annual 2009 attendance: 28,941.

Incoming President Camila Alire's Initiatives:

- Young Turks: Incoming President, Camila Alire, has an advisory group with young librarians to identify how ALA might be more responsive to the needs of ALA young members and future leaders, to identify what could be done within ALA that would better engage young librarians in the association, and to identify how seasons ALA members could work together with young member librarians. (<http://connect.ala.org/node/73093>)
- Family Literacy Focus: encourages Ethnic Affiliates of ALA to develop family literacy service models that are innovative, cost effective, reflective of community need, easily replicable, and sustainable. Whatever program/product they produce will be available to all members of their service community.
- Additionally, the incoming President will have an initiative focused on frontline advocacy. More information on this effort will be available in October 2009.

ALA's Executive Director Reports (Keith Michael Fiels)

- ALA received a renewal on the Gates Connective Grant, which is very significant to the Office of Research, that has been working on that and will continue to go through 2012. It will allow us to continue to collect financial data from libraries in order to be able to get a clear picture of public library funding and progress made in the area of connectivity. See <http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding> for more information.
- ALA is working on advocacy efforts that take the library message beyond those who are already fans. It is designed to be an exciting & interesting outreach to the public to talk about ways you can go to the library for a sort of "staycation". ALA has had support from Carnegie on this project. More information at ilovelibraries.org
- Broadband: we have an opportunity, as broadband is deployed, include libraries as a core part of that infrastructure for providing access for the public. ALA Washington Office has been providing information about efforts through their Stimulus website and through bi-weekly phone calls with state chapters and state libraries.
- ALA Executive Board approved a list of socially responsible companies with which ALA or member libraries might choose to do business.

Transparency of ALA Council

- Previously, ALA Council asked the ALA staff to investigate methods to make Council activities and business more transparent to the membership of ALA, particularly as Council sessions occur late in the conference and as many of the 65000+ members are unable to attend conference events at which Council meets. The staff explored 4 options for consideration:
 - Option 1: Posting the Transcript of Council Proceedings. Costs range from \$1,500 (using captionist) to \$6,000-\$10,000 (using court reporter) per year.
 - Option 2: Posting an Audio Recording of Council Proceedings. Additional costs would be approximately \$1,500 per year to prepare and post audio files.
 - Option 3: Real time streaming audio web cast. Additional costs for live audio web streaming would be approximately \$11,000 per year.
 - Option 4: Real time audio/video Webcast. Additional costs would be approximately \$55,500 per year.
- Much discussion took place about the options and financial limitations. No action was taken at this point. The report was accepted.

Policy Monitoring Committee

- 9 actions items were passed that were general housekeeping of ALA policies to keep them in line with changes that were passed in other areas of the ALA policy previously.
- Another action item proposed to remove a policy that allowed ALA to censure a library that provides services or materials to racist institutions conceived for the purpose of circumventing desegregation of public schools. The policy was put into place in 1970, but had not been used in that time. The Sturgis guidelines under which ALA operates allows censure. Because the activity is covered in Sturgis, it does not prevent censure if Council chooses to eliminate the current ALA censure policy (Policy 9.6).
 - A great deal of discussion took place regarding the principle of keeping a policy that allows ALA to censure an organization that supports racist activities.
 - It was noted that the policy directly preceding 9.6 addresses the issue but in a broader manner
 - Council voted to remove Policy 9.6
- Policy regarding Virtual Members. Previously, ALA appointed “virtual members” to committees. Virtual members were active members of committees, but had no voting privileges with the committee. During MidWinter Meeting 2009, ALA Council voted to get rid of the Virtual member category and charged the Policy Monitoring Committee to rewrite the policy (6.16) that created the virtual members. The committee proposed deleting the policy versus rewriting.
 - Council voted to delete the Policy 6.16 entirely to remove all mention of virtual members.
- Current Reference File. The reference file is maintained by ALA staff; it contains the whole text of all ALA policies, implementation guidelines, and all policy-related documents that simply cannot fit into a convenient print publication. The file has existed in paper for at the ALA offices for years, and recently staff completed scanning all the documents in the reference file. The Policy Monitoring Committee moves that the Current Reference File be renamed to the “Policy Reference File” and that it be made available online.
 - ALA Council approved this action

Organizational Dues Rate Proposal

- The Committee is proposing a two-year phased in process to begin on September 1, 2009; and that ALA Council requests the Policy Monitoring Committee to revise Policy 12, Section 1, to reflect the new rates.
 - Two changes are recommended:
 - That the levels for organizational members be changed from one that is based on the library’s budget to one that is based on the size of the library. This change would help to clear up confusion over what should be included in determining the library’s budget
 - That the dues rates for organizational members be adjusted over a two-year phased in period
 - The changes include differences based on type of library that take into account the differences between school libraries, public, special, and academics. The proposal recognizes that libraries range from very small to very large in each category type, and that there are differences in very small schools and very small academics in terms of size, budget, etc.
 - It is worth noting that some of the organizational dues are lower than individual dues. Smaller organizations might consider organizational membership where individual may not be financial possible.
 - Dues Changes passed by Council

Enforcement of the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association

- At the 70th anniversary of ALA’s Code of Ethics, it was determined that more education needs to be done on the topic, particularly in the area of ethics in the digital world. The 2010 ALA Annual program will include a series of programs on Ethics in the Digital World.
- An FAQ was created on the basics about the Code of Ethics and how other organizations use them, how they are enforced, etc.
- The Committee put forth a resolution with 3 clauses that address professional ethics

- Clause 1 - Resolved that the ALA acknowledge the ethics education for its members is a critical need and a training priority of the Association
 - Clause 1 passed by Council
- Clause 2 – Resolved that the ALA accept the recommendation of the ALA Council Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) that the Ethical Fitness Seminar developed by the Institute for Global Ethics best meets the criteria of providing research-based, instructionally sound, sustainable, affordable, and practical ethics education.
 - Discussion noted that identifying a vendor/product in a resolution puts contracting with that organization or support of a particular item in policy.
 - Substitute motion, resolved that ALA staff design and distribute an RFP for an organization that can provide research-based, instructionally sound, sustainable, affordable and practical ethics education.
 - The substitution motion failed.
 - Clause 2 failed to pass.

Freedom to Read Foundation Report

- Founding executive director of the FTRF, Judith Krug, passed away earlier this year. In the aftermath of her death, there has been an outpouring of countless tribute from her friends and colleagues. Her life and legacy have been memorialized by a number of national media sources.
- The FTRF celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sunday, July 12th.
- Victory for Civil Liberties: The Obama Administration’s decision not to appeal a ruling by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals that places limits on the government’s ability to impose a gag order when it uses National Security Letters (NSLs) has rendered the Second Circuit ruling final.

Treasurer’s Report

- Likely not to see a recovery in economy for 12-18 months. We should remember that much of ALA’s revenue depends upon the fiscal health of the libraries that make up its membership.
- FY2009 Budget Projects indicate a \$1.6 shortfall. That revenue gap is being made up for by reduced spending in all areas, a 1-week furlough for all ALA staff, the elimination of 9.6 FTE, and use of Board reserves.
- In the past year, ALA membership renewals were down a bit (2.6%). It was expected given dues changes, but it’s noted that maintaining membership levels will continue to be a challenge given the state of the economy.
- Council voted to establish a budgetary ceiling of \$64,432,034 based on the projected budget information presented by the Treasurer.

Resolution on Civil Marriage Equality Regardless of Sexual Orientation

- Be it resolved that the ALA
 - Affirms that civil marriage and other civil rights protections are essential to making all families safer and more secure,
 - Opposes civil marriage discrimination in the federal or in state constitutions, and
 - Supports the right of every person to marry, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples, wherever they reside.
- Noted that the Whereas clauses support the relation of this action to libraries, ALA’s values, and the support of GBLT library workers.
- Also noted in discussion that if/when the resolution is sent to political leaders, that some who disagree with the idea may have a negative idea about libraries that could be reflected in budgetary decisions.
- Also noted that library values of intellectual freedom and access to information should not be thrown to the side using the excuse of the fiscal situation.
- Resolution Passes

Resolution on Libraries and the Continuing Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

- Resolved that the ALA
 - Reiterates its call for the ending of the occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of all US troops,
 - Calls for the withdrawal from Afghanistan of all US military forces, and the return of full sovereignty to the people of Afghanistan,
 - Urges the United States government to shift its budgetary priorities from both wars to an improvement in support for vital domestic programs, including United States libraries,
 - Calls upon the United States government to provide materials assistance through the United Nations for the reconstruction of both Iraq and Afghanistan, including its museums, libraries, schools, and other cultural resources, and
 - Sends this resolution to all members of Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the President of the United States, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and the press.
- Discussion included whether or not an action on this topic is within the ALA scope based on how the whereas clauses are worded.
- Resolution Failed

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- The report and recommendations from the Task Force on Electronic Member Participation presented in January 2009 had 2 recommendations that affected Constitution and Bylaws. Those items were forwarded to the Committee to address.
 - Resolved that ALA Bylaws Article 8, Section 8 be revised to read “Votes in the Executive Board, Council, committees, and task forces may be taken by mail, electronic system, or conference call, provided that all members are canvassed simultaneously. A majority vote, provided a quorum has participated, shall be required for passage of any measure voted on by these means. Each of these bodies shall have the authority to set a time limit within which the votes of its members shall be recorded, but, if no such time limit is set, no vote shall be counted unless received within 30 days from the day the text of the matter voted upon was properly mailed or distributed to those entitled to vote on the matter involved.”
 - Change passed by Council
 - Adjustment of Articles X, XI, XII. Which address notices by mail and votes by mail.
 - Changes passed by Council

Committee on Legislation

- Resolution on Government Printing Office Appropriation: Resolved that the ALA urges Congress to reaffirm FPO’s mission to providing no-fee public access to government information by fully funding the US Government Printing Office appropriation at the level requested by the US Public Printer for FY 2010.
 - Passed
- Resolution Supporting Federal Research Public Access Act: Urges Congress to ensure public access to research conducted by federal agency employees or through funds administered by federal agencies through passage of the Federal Research Public access bill S.1373, and urges Congress to amend the bill to calculate the combined research expenditures from both intramural and extramural research activities to reach the \$100 million.
 - Passed
- Resolution Supporting GPO’s Digitization of Historical Federal Publications: Urges Congress to support and fund the GPO in digitization efforts of historical federal publications, urges that digitization efforts will adhere to statutory requirements of Title 44 US Code and GPO guidance, and that GPO become a trusted repository for preservation and access to electronic files and that partner depository libraries also serve in that capacity.
 - Passed

- Resolution Supporting Preserving the American Historical Records Act. Urges Congress to protect and preserve the essential records of government through the passage of the Preserving the American Historical Records bill HR 2256.
 - Passed
- Action regarding the Google Book Search Settlement. The Committee on Legislation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee request an ALA-wide representative group be convened to assess the proposed Google Book Search Settlement and its ongoing impact on ALA members and member institutions and to make recommendations for action by the Association and its members
 - Passed

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Full report online:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/ifgroups/ifcommittee/ifcination/ifcreports/ifcreportac2009.pdf>

- Resolution on the Reauthorization of Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT ACT
 - Resolved
 - that the American Library Association urges Congress to allow section 215 of the USA PATRIOT ACT to sunset.
 - that the American Library Association communicate this resolution to the U.S. Congress, the President of the United States and others as appropriate.
 - Passed
- “Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks”; the IFC moves the adoption of its revisions to this policy
 - Passed
- “Importance of Education to Intellectual Freedom”; the IFC moves the adoption of this policy,
 - Passed
- “Labeling and Rating Systems”; the IFC moves the adoption of its revisions to this policy,
 - Passed
- “Minors and Internet Interactivity”; the IFC moves the adoption of this policy
 - Passed

International Relations Committee Report

- Over 400 international librarians from 85 countries participated in the 2009 ALA Annual Conference
- The International Relations Roundtable is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and continues its work to provide support and programmatic opportunities for international librarians.
- IFLA (International Association of Library Associations) announced that its 2010 conference will be moved from Brisbane, Australia, to Goteborg, Sweden, due to the effects the global financial crisis has had in Australia.
- 9 ALA members will be participating in the Hong Kong Book Fair Free Pass Program.

Committee on Organization

- Action item: Change the name of the Continuing Library Education and Network Exchange Round Table (CLENE RT) to the Learning Round Table (Learn). This is a request by the Round Table after the surveyed their members.
 - Passed
- Action item: Moves the composition of the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) be expanded to include the immediate past president, the current treasurer/fiscal officer/budget chair of each RT, and individuals currently serving on ALA committees as a result of the collective appointment by the RTs.
 - The RTCA feels that these additional members will help the work of the RTCA in sharing information among round tables and in making recommendations for collective appointments to committees.
 - Passed

Resolution promoting Sunday, October 4, 2009, as Intergeneration Day Means Libraries.

- Resolved that the ALA, through the adoption of this resolution
 - Urges its member libraries to support the goals of *Intergeneration Day Means Libraries* by considering to offer multi-generational activities during the week of October 4, 2009, and
 - Urges its divisions and roundtables to support and promote *Intergeneration Day means Libraries* by adding a link, if possible, from their website to the Intergeneration Foundation website at <http://www.intergenerationday.org>
- Passed

Resolution on Accessibility for Library Websites

- Resolved, that the American Library Association
 - Urges all libraries to comply with Section 508 regulations, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, or other criteria that become widely accepted as standards of accessibility evolve, so that people with disabilities can effectively use library websites to access information with easy, and
 - Urges the federal government and state and local governments to provide adequate funding to allow libraries to comply with accepted standards and laws on accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Passed

Resolution on Purchasing of Accessible Electronic Resources

- Resolved that the ALA strongly recommends
 - That all libraries purchasing, procuring, and contracting for electronic resources and services require vendors to guarantee that they comply with the Section 508 regulations, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, or other applicable accessibility standards and guidelines,
 - That all libraries purchasing, procuring, and contracting for electronic resources and services ensure, through their own testing protocols or by requiring vendor guarantees, that electronic products and services have been fully tested and found to be in compliance with applicable accessibility regulations, guidelines and criteria,
 - That funding authorities, including private institutions, the federal government and state and local governments, provide adequate funding to allow all libraries purchasing, procuring, and contracting for electronic resources and services the ability to comply with accepted standards and laws of accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Passed

Resolution Endorsing Legislative Proposals for Single-payer, universal health care

- Resolved that the ALA
 - Reaffirms its support for affordable, universal health care including the option of a single-payer health care program, and
 - Send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all Senators and Representatives.
- Noted that the costs of health care are having a negative impact on the budgets of libraries.
- Resolution Passed

Resolution on an Action Plan to remedy current library budget crisis

- Resolved that
 - the ALA Council immediately address the severe national erosion of budgetary support to all libraries with deliberate, concerted and unyielding effort by developing and institution a critical crisis management approach to remedy library budgetary losses through the creation of an action plan to alert legislators, stake holders, and constituents to action through all media and interpersonal channels available, and
 - ALA Communicate to the President of the U.S., all members of Congress and all state governors that during tough economic times when people more than ever need the resources available in

American libraries that those libraries more than ever need continued and increased government support.

- Noted that ALA's involvement in the Save Ohio Libraries campaign was unprecedented and that staff are always revising their processes as they identify how they can be more effective in these efforts.
- Passed

Resolution to Expand Electronic Participation

- Resolved that the ALA Council directs the Executive Director
 - To implement the most cost-effective solution to provide transparency and access to Council activities for the benefit of ALA members,
 - To continue to monitor methods of improving council transparency, and
 - Begin providing electronic member access to Council meetings for Midwinter 2010.
- Passed

Memorial Resolutions:

- Jane Belon Shaw, Director fo the Lisle Illinois Library District for 28 years
- Kate McClelland, from Greenwich, CT, where she worked with children's literacy programs at the public library
- Kathleen Krasniewicz, from Greenwich, CT, where she worked with children's literacy programs at the public library
- James Joseph Michael, a pioneer of Z39.50 library automation
- Dr. Judith Krug, the first Director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation
- Margaret Taylor Lane, a pioneer in the establishment and administration of state documents depository systems
- Minnie-Lou Chittick Lynch, a pioneer and leader for the cause of libraries and librarianship from Louisiana
- Coleen Cole Salley, storyteller, professor of children's literature, and accredited proponent of libraries and librarianship
- Dr. E. J. Josey, former President of the American Library Association and founder of ALA's Black Caucus founded in 1970
- Marjorie Gray Wynne, co-founder of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and research Libraries
- Evan Farber, former President of the Association of College and Research Libraries
- Connie Costantino, lifelong champion of information literacy, accessibility to knowledge and global exchange of knowledge, and international and multicultural library services
- Virginia Saunders, who spend 64 years in federal service, beginning as a clerk typist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and then spending 63 years at the Government Printing Office (GPO)

Tributes

- Arts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association (ALA), on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Arts
- 100th Anniversary of the National Library of China
- Commendation on the 40th Anniversary of the Freedom to Read Foundation

ALA-APA Action

Resolution on Support for Overtime Pay Protection.

- Resolved that the American Library Association :
 - Urges the President of the United States and DOL to revise wage and hour regulations so they do not exclude workers from overtime pay protections, and also to support revisions to the adopted regulations to the extent that they expand the categories of protected workers;

- Urges the U.S. Congress to continue to protect the integrity of the FLSA, and thus wages, hours and living standards for U. S. workers.
- Encourages other professional associations and societies representing library workers in the United States to speak out in favor of 1) the U.S. government expanding overtime pay protections for low-wage workers, and 2) actively enforcing existing regulations; and
- Sends copies of this policy statement to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Labor, and the U.S. Congress and broadly publicizes this statement through print, online and other media of the Association.
- Resolution Passed

Other Notes of Interest – Not specifically Council related

Emily Sheketoff, ALA Washington Office

2010, ALA is suspending Nat'l Lib Leg Day, instead having a Library Advocacy Day.

- SAVE THE DATE
- June 28th, 1:00pm – Rally on Capitol Hill (Taking place during Annual)
- Will have banners/placards for each state. Each state should think about what information they'd like their banner to say.
- Going to have celebrities, lots of media attention.
- ALA busses will provide the transportation to
- Day will include visits with state's legislators as would national lib day.

ARRA/Stimulus

- All information pertaining to libraries is available on <http://www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus>
- ALA Washington Office will be just as aggressive in sharing information with future rounds of funding as they have been with round 1 of the broadband funding.
- The application for the first round of broadband is not yet available, but the information that is expected to be needed to complete the application, when it is released, is available online. Don't spend time filling out that sample application, but do begin gathering the data.
- A high-level overview of the stimulus program was added to the stimulus site.

Lead in Books & the Consumer Products Safety Commission

- ALA continues to request of the Commission that libraries be exempt from the requirement for testing books for lead content. ALA continues to monitor it, but has not yet received a response to their request. If there continues to be no response, ALA will amp up the effort with the help of the library community.
- There was something found about a 1958 Robin Hood book. Emily will be forwarding that through channels so we can inform the local libraries about how to deal with the book if it is in their collection.

Open Access

- Federal research act has been reintroduced. It encourages all public agencies to offer access to publicly funded research in similar manner as the NIA does so. ALA is very encouraged that this will move forward.

Visually Impaired

- ALA's OITP is going to focus some energy on why libraries have been unable to do more in helping the visually impaired to read.
- Good time since the Obama administration is interested in the topic. There's also some
- Kindle controversy. Amazon's Kindle has a text-to-speech feature where the computer reads the book to someone. It's not an actor-read or narrated, just computer reading. Publishers caught on to it and asked that Amazon remove the feature as it was an infringement of their copyrights.
- Arizona students filed suit as some text books were made available only on a Kindle, which doesn't have very friendly controls for the visually impaired.
- As a result of all this, ALA OITP has determined they need to take a more active role in improving library service to people with visual impairments.
- Will have ALA READ posters that have blind people reading

Emerging Leaders Millennial Survey

[http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Project_L_\(2009\)](http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Project_L_(2009))

- Asked Millennials (born after 1979) what their wants/needs are from their professional organization.
- Why did they join?
 - Professor told them to
 - Took adv of student rate
 - Once they were about to graduate or had graduated, they wanted it on their resume
 - Other comments
 - Support the profession
 - Felt like it's required as a librarian
 - Wanted the job assistance you can get when you join (e.g. resume review svc by NMRT)
 - Wanted opportunities to network w/ others
- What keeps you in the org?
 - They understood what ALA and state chaps do for the profession, but didn't know what an individual really gets out of it.
 - They are interested in mentoring
 - Preferred programs w/ a national focus (not just state focused)
- Why did you not renew?
 - Did not receive expected value in relation to dues
 - 194 responses (relocation, \$\$, etc)
 - Suggested dues take into consider salary levels and whether or not an individual is a member of relation associations (related to ala umbrella)
 - Push for joint memberships state & ala
- What do they want from assoc membership?
 - Increased virtual options (beyond facebook presence & chatting). More options to attend professional development seminars, more virtual conference attendance, and service options. 76% of the ala members did NOT participate in the past year.
 - Make things available outside f2f participation at conference
 - Job placement assistance. Virtually.. like the Get a Job website, but more

- Mentoring. Mentors, serious mentors. Right now they don't see their getting a lot from the mentor programs in place now. Someone who helps them navigate the ala structure and tell how you can really take advantage of ala... beyond the conference.
- Outreach to student chapters.

Missouri Tax Increment Financing Study – Kimberlee Ried

- Missouri looking at doing a tax increment study
- How many other states are impacted by tax increment financing?
- What the heck IS tax increment financing?
- They are going to study this to see how much funding is being lost in the process, how are libraries being impacted. Wondering if/how other states are being impacted. They'll be sending something to the mailing list to get some idea of what states are seeing an impact from this.