

ALA Council report to DLA
ALA Annual 2019, Washington, DC
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General Updates

- Council 1 was dedicated to EDI training, response to incident of racialized aggression that occurred during Council Forum (informal discussion outside of voting sessions) at Midwinter
 - Discussion-based, focused on ways to bring equity to participation in the work of Council (Ideas included being welcoming to new Councilors, being transparent about how Council works, building in new communication structures and developing better methods for communicating outside of meetings at Annual and Midwinter)
 - Espoused values vs. values in practice - how can we close the gap?
- ALA Reorganization
 - New executive director should be in place by Jan 2020
 - Over the past couple of years, there has been ongoing discussion and investigation into a reorganization of ALA. SCOE (Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness) is working with a consulting firm to make decisions about governance, how to best serve members, relationships with different groups within ALA
 - Ideas for changes to organizational structure
 - Considering getting rid of Council and having smaller groups organized by division, roundtable, state chapters, with committees to address key aspects like elections, finance, policy. Executive board would be combination of elected and appointed representatives. There is some criticism that this will perpetuate silos and lack of communication between different groups. [Graphic](#)
 - Timeline: Final recommendations from SCOE to exec board in September, after that they will begin looking into financials. Council will vote (financials, legal considerations, constitution and bylaws) in June 2020 and January 2021. Membership will vote Spring 2021
- Resolutions
 - Resolution on Renaming the Melvil Dewey Medal - Highest award in librarianship, passed with no debate
 - Resolution on library services for children in detention at migrant detention centers - passed
 - Denounces the existence of migrant detention centers, conditions, and removal of educational and recreational programming. Encourages libraries to work with local authorities and schools to offer outreach services
 - Resolution on eBook Pricing for Libraries - in response to high cost of ebooks and restrictive licensing models. Creating a working group (ALA, ULC, ASGCLA,

COSLA, PLA, LITA, ALCTS, RUSA) to address library concerns with publishers including:

- Explore all fair options for delivering digital content in libraries, urge Congress to consider digital content pricing and licensing models to ensure democratic access to info, develop an advocacy campaign to communicate with publishers about the value of libraries purchasing books
 - Resolution in Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights
 - Addresses two pieces of legislation - Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019, passed in Senate in Feb 2019, and its companion bill H.R.336 in the House include the Combating BDS Act - ACLU has made a statement that this legislation condones state laws penalizing businesses and individuals who participate in boycott, divestment, or sanctions ('BDS') activities and other politically motivated boycotts against Israel and Israeli controlled territories. Issue is a limitation of free speech.
 - Also an education component - Anti Semitism Awareness Act of 2019 - includes a definition of anti-semitism that the ACLU has criticized as overbroad, "risking incorrectly equating constitutionally protected criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism, making it likely that free speech will be chilled on campuses"
 - Referred to Comm on Leg, Intellectual Freedom, and International Relations Committee, will hear back from them at Midwinter 2020
 - Update on resolution passed at Midwinter: Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity - one part of resolution was creation of a task force, they are developing an FAQ, getting examples of libraries that have gone fine-free, consulted membership and identified trends in responses, will be making a report in August 2019
- Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights
 - "Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" - revised from 2014 version to include specifics about encryption of personal data; procedures and policies for access to sensitive data and training for those with access; and documented procedures for breach reporting, incident response.
 - Also includes reference to emerging biometric data collection capabilities - not in line with library values
 - "Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the LBOR" - Versions in 1996, 2005, 2009. Includes statement on responsibility of libraries to provide access to digital resources and services. Revised to include statement about libraries being responsible for holding third party vendors accountable for protecting user privacy. Also includes new section about promoting equity in access, and being cognizant of digital divide in developing services

- “Education and Information Literacy: An Interpretation of the LBOR” - Frames information literacy instruction as a way of supporting users’ intellectual freedom. The library’s educational role is directly supported by collections that represent diverse voices/perspectives, includes a specific focus on evaluating information
- “Evaluating Library Collections: An Interpretation of the LBOR” - Statement on collection development and weeding, including that neither of these should function to censor controversial materials. Versions in 1973, 1981, 2008 - current version includes a revision about the need to educate users about the context of materials, including how views, opinions, and concepts have changed over time