American Library Association Resolutions Committee
Report to Council
Annual Conference 2017—Chicago, Illinois

The ALA Resolutions Committee met on 24 June 2017 during the 2017 Annual Conference.

Shared Goals

A year from now the ALA Resolutions Committee will proudly point to the following achievements:

- An online guidance program for writing and submitting resolutions to Council.
- An effective online program for training Resolutions committee members.

Discussion:

- Eventual goal might be a comprehensive web-based system carrying resolution from idea to submission, surrounded by Resolutions Committee’s guidance.
- In the meantime, the process will work with existing tools and webpages.
- We can consider distilling items into a brief video or similar tool to orient Councilors and membership to the resolutions process.
- Sustainability of our actions is paramount: we need to ensure that the process can continue.

Completed Action Items

- Committee now posting meeting reports to ALA membership.
- Committee worked with Lois Ann to redesign Committee table procedures, move process online, and develop documentation.
- Whiteboard and folders for print resolution process decommissioned.
- Committee reviewed and edited/replaced Resolutions landing page and Guidelines target documents as needed with focus on a single landing page with full information on procedures.
- Committee revised Resolutions e-Form to allow submission of resolution document with e-Form information. Technical difficulties are in review.
- Committee has a tabbed version of the Policy Manual and Constitution & Bylaws at the Resolutions Table to provide ready access to binding governance.
- In addition to in person meetings Committee has met online twice during year to discuss improvements to resolutions process.
- Committee drafted document entitled: Crafting Quality Resolutions: Form and Content generating poorly constructed resolutions for use in training provided to councilors as an exercise to find all the mistakes and disfluencies.
Committee made resolution writing assistance announcement at end of each Council session.

New Action Items

- Committee is developing training materials for MW2018 Councilor Orientation meeting, including flow diagrams from resolution writer perspective.
- Committee is working on a news item for American Libraries Blog about the resolutions process.
- Committee is adapting Crafting Quality Resolutions document as a script for the first in a series of online video tutorials on resolution writing.

Discussion

- The goal of all this work is to make the resolutions that are brought to the body the best resolutions they can be.
  - Correction of minor errors, poor flow
  - Catching violations of existing policy so that the mover can improve their resolution.
- Possible actions
  - Create a checklist for movers: what to think about and consult as they are writing.
  - Considering the resolutions committee as a pool of advisors to make resolutions better.
  - Generate poorly constructed resolutions to use in training. Provide to councilors as an exercise to find all the mistakes/disfluencies; show our key at the end.

Respectfully submitted,

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