OITP Advisory Committee Report

Annual Conference, 2014

Chair: Christopher Harris (outgoing)

The OITP Advisory Committee worked closely with staff members of OITP to finish off some major projects and transition others to longer term action plans in anticipation of a change in leadership and focus for the committee. The last few years, the committee and OITP have focused on children and youth issues. A report on last summer’s joint OITP and Google Symposium on the 10th anniversary of the upholding of CIPA addressed the ongoing issues of filtering in schools and libraries. OITP will continue to work on children and youth policy issues under some new project plans. With the incoming chair, it is anticipated that the committee’s focus will shift more towards the needs of academic and special libraries to address some emerging challenges in those realms.

OITP subcommittees met and reported out during the Annual Conference:

The America’s Libraries in the 21st Century (AL21C) sub-committee will be reviewing the current recognition of cutting edge technology libraries, a program that has been active for five years, to assess the possibility of upgrading it to an award or taking other action. AL21C will also be reviewed for continued need given the creation of the Center of the Future of Libraries. The possibility of moving some of the ongoing work, including the cutting edge technology recognition, into the Center for the Future of Libraries was discussed. Additional followup conversations are planned.

The E-Rate Task Force has been very busy responding to FCC requests for comments on E-Rate changes. The FCC might be opening up a second period of responses to a more library focused set of changes. A huge thank you is extended to Linda Lord who is stepping down after many years of leadership of the E-Rate Task Force.

The Copyright Education sub-committee is continuing to work on shifting the focus of copyright discussions in libraries towards what we can do as opposed to what we can’t do. Additional webinars are planned in the upcoming months.

Committee members remain highly engaged and involved with the OITP Advisory Committee. Incoming members showed up at some of the meetings to learn more about their upcoming appointment. Furthermore, the committee will be additionally enriched by returning members who have sought appointment again. This is a critical committee that continues to be highly effective and productive in no small part because of the efforts of OITP staff. Having served on this committee for the past six years starting with my appointment after the first Emerging Leaders program in 2007, it has been a great experience.

The OITP Advisory Committee formally acknowledged the relentless and incredibly productive work of the OITP staff and their Washington Office colleagues as being absolutely essential to the overall success of ALA, libraries, and librarians. In a unanimously approved motion, Executive Board Liaison Jim Neal was asked to convey the committee’s great appreciation for the work done by OITP to the rest of the Executive Board.