

**AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLISHING COMMITTEE**  
**2016 Annual Meeting Committee Report – Orlando, Florida**  
*Submitted by ALA Publishing Chair: Sandy Hirsh*

**Committee Members Present**

Sandy Hirsh, Chair  
Audra L. Caplan, Member  
Anders Dahlgren, Member  
Mary Augusta Thomas, Member  
Elizabeth Nelson, Member (via phone)  
Chris Diaz, Intern (via phone)

**Committee Members Absent**

Hong Cheng, Member  
Pat Hawthorne, Member  
Scott Walter, Member  
Kerry Weinstein, Member  
Janice Garthrite Radl, Member  
Melissa Ringle, Intern

**Publishing Staff and Others Present**

Don Chatham, ALA Staff Liaison  
Mary Jo Bolduc, Committee Secretariat  
Laurie Borman, Publisher of *American Libraries*  
Chris Murphy, Publisher of ALA Editions  
Bill Ott, Publisher of Booklist  
Alison Escoto, incoming Intern  
Andrew Wertheimer, incoming Member  
Jim Rettig, visitor  
Kossiwe Logan, visitor

**Accomplishments:**

- *AL Digital Humanities Issue* - The Committee held discussions around concerns arising from revisions made by AL editors to an article prepared as a work for hire on Digital Humanities for *American Libraries*. The ALA Publishing Committee and the *American Libraries* Advisory Committee met in joint session at Midwinter 2016. The committees held a conference call with ALA publishing staff in the Spring 2016. Follow ups included:
  - There was a panel discussion inspired by the AL /Digital Humanities issue on June 25, 2016. The Chair of the ALA Publishing Committee, Sandy Hirsh, participated on this panel.
  - The ALA Publishing committee reviewed and unanimously approved a statement developed in collaboration with the *American Libraries* Advisory Committee. This approved statement will be submitted to the ALA Executive Board.
  - *American Libraries* staff updated the Q&A on the website regarding a work for hire to clarify expectations of authors and editorial prerogative over the final publication. The Q&A has been posted on the Publishing website (<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/submissions/>)
  - The ALA Publishing committee reviewed a revised work for hire agreement, which clarifies author responsibilities and editorial policies. The agreement has also been reviewed by ALA counsel.
- *Publishing Department Budget Reports* - ALA Publishing Committee reviewed and gave input on the ALA Publishing budget.

- *Publishing Department Updates* - ALA Publishing Committee received updates from the publishing units, including a Neal-Schuman update. This included an introduction to Christopher Murphy, the new Publisher for ALA Editions. Bill Ott shared updates on Booklist. Laurie Borman shared updates on new initiatives, including the launch of the *American Libraries* Dewey Decibel podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/dewey-decibel-703453552>.

**Planned Activities:**

- *Publishing Department Strategic Planning* – Strategic planning will be a major focus of the ALA Publishing Committee and ALA Publishing Department this year, as the current strategic plan ends in 2017. ALA Publishing Committee will meet with the ALA Publishing Department in the Fall 2016 to review accomplishments against the existing strategic plan and to review updated work around SWOT or SOAR activities. At ALA Midwinter 2017, draft plans will be reviewed. An updated ALA Publishing strategic plan should be ready by ALA Annual 2017. To accomplish this work, teleconferences are planned in between conferences.
- *Carnegie-Whitney Award Selections* – A subcommittee was named to recommend awardees for the Carnegie-Whitney Awards. These recommendations will be presented to the ALA Publishing Committee at the Midwinter 2017 meeting.

**Issues that affect the committee’s work and their implications for the future:** Not applicable

**Interactions with other units within ALA:**

- For the last several years, the ALA Publishing committee has invited the chairs from division / section publishing committees for an open forum at Midwinter. Turnout has been minimal over the last few sessions – 3 to 5 maximum. Hirsh asked the committee’s intent for such a session at 2017 Midwinter, and the consensus of the committee was to cancel this meeting. If interest revives and there are clear agenda items to cover, the ALA Publishing Committee is happy to host these again.
- The ALA Publishing Committee worked closely with the *American Libraries* Advisory Committee because of the AL Digital Humanities issue.

**Relationship of the committee’s work to the ALA strategic plan:** See Planned Activities around Strategic Planning.

**Current level of committee members’ involvement:**

- Increasingly, it is getting hard for people to physically attend conferences. We have tried to offer committee members who are unable to attend our committee meetings in person the opportunity to call in to the committee meetings held during conferences; several of the committee members have participated in committee business via phone. We need to provide more ways for committee members to contribute to meetings when they are not able to physically attend in person.

**Committee self check on its value and viability:**

- Overall, the committee is important and continues to be viable.