

**Report to ALA Council
Policy Monitoring Committee
2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

In accordance with Policy A.4.2.6 of the *ALA Policy Manual*, the Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) has reviewed all actions taken by the ALA Council during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference for possible incorporation into, addition to, or changes to the *ALA Policy Manual*. Based on Council actions at the Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA, the Policy Monitoring Committee finds the following 3 items that require Council action:

Item #1-2. At the 2015 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee recommended and the ALA Council separated the Policy B.2.1.7 Labeling and Rating Systems into two new interpretations (Labeling Systems, ALA CD#19.4 and Rating Systems, ALA CD#19.5).

Based on Council's action, **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the new interpretations as follows:

B.2.1.7 Labeling Systems

Labels as viewpoint-neutral directional aids are intended to facilitate access by making it easier for users to locate resources. The prejudicial label is used to warn, discourage, or prohibit users or certain groups of users from accessing the resource. The prejudicial label presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they chose to access. Adopted 1951, amended 1971, 1981, 1990, 2005, 2009, 2015. (*See* "Policy Reference File": Labeling Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*, 2014-2015 ALA CD#19.4); and

B.2.1.8 Rating Systems

Many organizations use or devise rating systems as a means of advising their opinions of the content and suitability or appropriate age or grade level for use of certain materials. However, the American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read or view. Libraries are not required to provide ratings in their bibliographic records. If they choose to do so, they should cite the source of the rating in their catalog or discovery tool displays to indicate the library does not endorse any external rating system. Adopted 1951, amended 1971, 1981, 1990, 2005, 2009, 2015. (*See* "Policy Reference File": Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*, 2014-2015 ALA CD#19.5)

Item #3. At the 2015 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee recommended and the ALA Council adopted ALA CD#19.3, Internet Filtering: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*.

Based on Council's action, the **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the following abstract into the ALA *Policy Manual* under B.2.1.18, Use of Filtering Software in Libraries (which will be renumbered as B.2.1.18 based on Items 1 -2 above:

B.2.1.18 Use of Filtering Software in Libraries (new numbering)

B.2.1.18.1 Internet Filtering. The negative effects of content filters on Internet access in public libraries and schools are demonstrable and documented. Consequently, the American Library Association cannot recommend filtering. However, the American Library Association recognizes that local libraries and schools often must rely on federal or state funding for computers and internet access. Because adults and, to a lesser degree minors, have First Amendment rights, libraries and schools that choose to use content filters should implement policies and procedures that mitigate the negative effects of filtering to the greatest extent possible.

Adopted, 2015. (*See* "Policy Reference File": Committee on Professional Ethics Report: 2014-2015 ALA CD#19.3)

INFORMATION ITEMS

The old B.2.1.7 Labeling and Rating Systems will be retired to the ALA Policy Manual's historical files.

The current B.2.1.8 through B.2.1.23 would be renumbered to B.2.1.9 through B. 2.1.24.

In Conclusion

The Committee would like to thank our staff liaison, Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, for her knowledge sharing, her patience, and her cheerful, ready assistance.

Policy Monitoring Committee

Vicky L. Crone, Chair

Alys Jordan

Laurie McHenry

Gina Persichini, ALA Executive Board Liaison

Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, ALA Staff Liaison