

**Report to ALA Council
Policy Monitoring Committee
2019 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 2018 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 New Orleans, LA, the Policy Monitoring Committee finds the following three items that require Council action:

Action Items:

Item #1. At the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Council adopted 2017-2018 ALA CD#19.7_62617_act, Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: *An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*. Based on Council's action, **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the following interpretation as section **B.2.1.11**

The American Library Association affirms that library-initiated programs provide vital support for the mission of libraries by providing users with additional opportunities for accessing information, education, and recreation. Libraries should actively seek to include a variety of programming options representing a diversity of genres, formats, and expressions representing a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives, and accommodate the information needs of those who speak and read languages other than English. Library-initiated programming should not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and should comply with the ADA and other disability accessibility guidelines, including the provision of accommodations for the deaf or hard-of hearing.

Libraries should have a policy guiding the development and implementation of programs that sets forth the library's commitment to free and open access to information and ideas for all users. Libraries should vigorously defend the First Amendment right of speakers and participants to express themselves. Library programming should not be canceled because of the topics of the program or the views expressed by the participants or speakers. The "right to use a library" includes the right to attend library-initiated programs. Any restrictions on participation based solely on the gender, chronological age or educational level of users violates this right and should be enforced only when it would adversely impact the safety of the participants. Libraries should not deny access to library-initiated programs if patrons owe the library for overdue fines or other fees, nor should program attendees be required to share their personal information in order to attend a library program. If libraries charge program participants for supplies used, they should make every effort to reduce economic barriers to participation. Adopted AC 2018

(See "Policy Reference File": Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: *An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*, 2017-2018 ALA CD#19.7_62617_act)

Item #2. At the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Council adopted 2017-2018 ALA CD#19.8 62617_act, Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*. **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the following interpretation as section **B.2.1.21**

The American Library Association affirms that people with disabilities are a large and vibrant part of society. Libraries should be fully inclusive of all members of their community and strive to break down barriers to access. Library staff should never presuppose a person's limits based on disability, and a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of a disability, whether actual or perceived. Libraries should provide equal access to collections, services, programming, and facilities for all library users, and all library resources, including its website and online resources, should be available in formats accessible to people of all ages and abilities. When this is not possible, reasonable accommodations and timely remediation should be employed to provide an equivalent experience to people with disabilities. Libraries should comply with all applicable laws, including the standards and requirements of the ADA and state or local disability accessibility guidelines.

Libraries should contain a diverse collection that highlights the perspectives of marginalized groups, including the words and depictions of people with disabilities. People with disabilities are to be reflected in the collection not as a single group but as an intersectional part of the community, across age, race, gender, class, and orientation. Libraries should adopt policies to ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity to serve as members of the library staff, administrative units, and governing boards. As part of a commitment to free access, library staff should proactively reach out to individuals with disabilities, as well as advocacy and support organizations, to create formal or informal partnerships with them. By working to remove barriers to access, libraries promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into society. Adopted AC2018.

(See "Policy Reference File": Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*, 2017-2018 ALA CD#19.8_62617_act)

Item #3. At the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Council adopted the following amendment to the ALA Policy A.4.2.3, Council Resolutions: Guidelines for Preparation of Resolutions to Council under "Process, #5."

PMC MOVES INSERTION of revised text into the *ALA Policy Manual as Policy A.4.2.3, Process, #5* as follows (new language **underlined**):

PROCESS, #5

The Resolutions Committee must submit to the Executive Director and the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) all resolutions deemed to have fiscal implications at least 24 hours before they appear on the Council agendas so that BARC can provide fiscal information as required in by ALA policy.

- a. A resolution which the Resolutions Committee has deemed to have fiscal implications should be moved and seconded by its proponents.**
- b. The proponents should open the debate on the resolution they have initiated.**
- c. Council members should then be invited to briefly debate the resolution.**
- d. After a brief debate, BARC Chair (or designate) should move to refer the resolution to BARC and should then explain the potential fiscal implications that necessitate the referral.**
- e. Other members should then be invited to debate the motion to refer.**
- f. The motion to refer to BARC should then be put to a vote.**

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. She will be missed. We welcome Marsha Burgess as our new staff liaison as we move forward the ALA Policy Monitoring work.

Policy Monitoring Committee

Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair

Vivian Bordeaux

Samantha Cordell Helmick

Susan Hildreth, ALA Executive Board Liaison

Marsha Burgess, ALA Staff Liaison