AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLISHING COMMITTEE
2017 Midwinter Meeting Committee Report – Atlanta, Georgia
Submitted by ALA Publishing Chair: Sandy Hirsh

Committee Members Present
Sandy Hirsh, Chair
Debbie Abilock, Member (via phone)
Allison M. Escoto (via phone)
Audra L. Caplan, Member (via phone)
Hong Cheng, Member (via phone)
Camille McCutcheon, Member
Melissa Ringle, Intern (via phone)
Mary Augusta Thomas, Member
Andrew Wertheimer, Member

Committee Members Absent
Elizabeth Nelson, Member
Janice Garthrite Radl, Member

Publishing Staff and Others Present
Don Chatham, ALA Staff Liaison
Mary Jo Bolduc, Committee Secretariat
Laurie Borman, Publisher of American Libraries
Dan Freeman, Director of e-Learning
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference
Rachel Johnson, ALA Graphics
Chris Murphy, Publisher of ALA Editions
Bill Ott, Publisher of Booklist
Susan Hildreth (ALA Treasurer), BARC Liaison
Nannette Naught, observer, ALCTS Program Committee
Karen Downing, Executive Board Liaison

Accomplishments:
• Carnegie Whitney Grant decisions - The Committee voted to approve the subcommittee’s recommendations for proposal awards. There were 34 proposals. The committee recommended funding 10 applications, with a total slightly under $50,000.
• Publishing Department Strategic Plans and Updates – The Committee is working closely with the ALA Publishing department to update the strategic plan for publishing. The current strategic plan is ending in 2017. Don Chatham led the review of the first draft of the strategic plans for each of the publishing units and the committee gave detailed feedback on these drafts.
• Goodbye to Don Chatham – The committee said goodbye to Don as this was his last ALA Meeting.

Planned Activities:
• Publishing Department Strategic Planning – This continues to be the big activity for the Committee. The Committee will hold a teleconference to discuss revised strategic plans before the Annual 2017 meeting. The Committee has been working with Acting AED Bill Ott and will also start working with the new AED for ALA Publishing. At Annual 2017, the revised strategic plans will be reviewed again with the goal of approving these plans and discussing next steps.
• Carnegie-Whitney Award Subcommittee – A subcommittee will be named at the ALA Annual 2017 meeting. This subcommittee will recommend awardees for the Carnegie-Whitney Awards at the Midwinter 2018 meeting.

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

Interactions with other units within ALA:
• The American Libraries Advisory Committee asked to appoint an official liaison to the ALA Publishing Committee. This was discussed by the ALA Publishing Committee and with Don Chatham to understand if this is permissible. It was recommended that rather than appointing an official liaison that the ALA Publishing Committee send a standing invitation to an advisory board representative from each ALA Publishing imprint that has a board and is interested. This is still under discussion.

Current level of committee members’ involvement:
• We had good attendance at the ALA Midwinter meeting, but there is always someone (sometimes more) who cannot come and wish to attend via teleconference.

Committee self check on its value and viability:
• Overall, the committee is important and continues to be viable.