TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Future of the Digital Content Working Group (DCWG)

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
Review, discussion, and approval to proceed with revised structure of the DCWG.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:
Carolyn Anthony, Co-chair, Digital Content Working Group
Erika Linke, Co-chair, Digital Content Working Group
Alan S. Inouye, Director, ALA Office for Information Technology Policy
Carrie Russell, Program Director, ALA Office for Information Technology Policy

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DRAFT OF MOTION:
Approve the proposed revised structure of the Digital Content Working Group through the 2018 ALA
Annual Conference.

DATE: March 30, 2016

BACKGROUND: As the Association and library community needs for DCWG attention evolve, the
structure of the DCWG must evolve in concert. A new structure is proposed for the DCWG that reflects
priorities identified through broad solicitation of input and a more focused organization to streamline
operations for the future.

ATTACHMENT:
Committee Charge, Composition, and Context

American Library Association

Digital Content Working Group (DCWG)

Committee Charge, Composition, and Context

The rapid shift from print to digitally-based content and services is one of the more dramatic developments now transforming libraries of all types. Moreover, the evolution of digital content is an integral force for the Libraries Transform campaign and each of ALA's three new strategic initiatives—advocacy, information policy, and professional and leadership development.

New digital forms of information offer rich and extraordinary opportunities for libraries to expand community access to information and to revolutionize in positive ways the relationship between libraries and users. At the same time, these new forms of digital content and services pose new challenges.

As libraries struggle to meet the challenges of providing digital content and services in an environment characterized by significant uncertainty and changing on a daily basis, there continues to be a need for an Association-wide focus on these issues. Thus, the Digital Content Working Group (DCWG) is charged to proactively address these digital opportunities and issues at the highest level and from both a policy and operational perspective.

To this end, the ALA Digital Content Working Group is charged to:

- Advise the Association regarding opportunities and issues related to libraries and digital content and the provision of equitable access to digital content for all.
- Explore, analyze and share information on various options for expanding access to digital content for libraries and the public, and for overcoming legal, technological, policy and economic barriers to equitable access.
- Suggest information and training that would be of use to librarians so that they can make informed choices, serve as advocates for digital access, and design, procure, and support digital services in their libraries.
- Advise the Association on efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of issues related to access to digital content and the challenges to/role of libraries in providing equitable access to digital resources.
- Assist in the identification of strategies to influence decision makers—whether government officials, publishers, other information service providers, interest groups, and others—to effect changes that would enable libraries to better serve their communities.

Upon conclusion of the 2016 ALA Annual Conference, the DCWG will focus on two major topics:

1. A national strategy, policy, and advocacy to advance digital preservation, and
2. Making progress through policy and advocacy towards an integrated user experience for digital services, across formats and library types.

ALA's overall engagement with ebook publishers also will continue under the auspices of the DCWG in conjunction with the ALA Executive Board.

The DCWG will comprise 11 members that include two co-chairs. Working Group members will be selected by ALA presidential leadership based on their high level of expertise in the relevant topics and range of experience regarding libraries and digital content of all types. Each co-chair will lead the work on one of the major topics. Hence, to streamline the work of the Working Group, subgroups are not envisioned to be necessary.

Primary staff support for the Working Group will be provided by the Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP). Other staff from throughout the Association will be asked to work with the group on various components of the program that are relevant to their respective areas of expertise and interest.

Appointments to the Working Group will end at the conclusion of the 2018 ALA Annual Conference. Prior to the end of this extended period, an assessment will be conducted regarding the need for continuation of the Working Group or other successor advisory group.