Amendments to Rainbow Book List Project Committee Procedures, July 2014

NB: This document is the current procedures for the Rainbow committee. It is based on the last version that was adopted in July 2012. This information is displayed on the committee’s homepage:

http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/about/committees/jnt-rainbowprj

To make changes to this document, use MS Word. Turn Track Changes on so that the amendments document can be shared in the Versions section of the committee page. Using track changes also helps web committee update text on the page. (Directions: Under the Review Tab, verify Track Changes is on. Also select All Markup and Show Markup in the menus by the Track Changes button. Under Show Markup, make sure all items are selected in the list and that Balloons display Comments and Formatting Changes. Note that Macs with Word will allow you to see all this information but the controls will be different.)

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Rainbow Book List Project Committee

Charge [web template page heading]
To select from the year’s publications, books that reflect gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans-gendered/queer-questioning (glbtq) experience for young people from birth to age 18 and to annotate selected titles.

2009
Formal committee charges are forthcoming from the GLBTRT steering committee. Previous GLBTRT bylaws contained procedural language which served as charges for each committee. Since the round table as adopted new bylaws, without procedural language, formal charges must be drafted and adopted.

Roster [web template page heading]
- Etc.
- Etc.
- Etc.

Previous Year / Next Year
Displaying active committee roster as of 07/02/2012. Last retrieved on 07/02/2012. Members can log in to view full contact information for committee members.

About [web template page heading]
The Rainbow Book List is created by the Rainbow Project Committee, a joint-committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender and Social Responsibilities Round Tables of the American Library Association (ALA). The committee creates an annual book list of recommended GLBTQ fiction and nonfiction titles for young readers from birth through age 18. Books on the final bibliography, to be determined at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, are published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year.
We invite recommendations for this bibliography from anyone not affiliated with the author or the publisher of the proposed book prior to September 30 of each year. A short statement explaining the book’s merit should accompany the recommendation. Nominations-Titles for consideration from jury members are to be submitted by October 31. Complete information about the jury process is available at the Rainbow Book List blog.

Nominations-Titles under consideration and information can be found at the following:

- Rainbow Books List
- MySpace
- Twitter
- Facebook
- LibraryThing

Questions about Rainbow Books and suggested titles may be sent to: Past Chair, Lynn Evarts: LEvarts@aol.com.

Public Posts from ALA Connect [web template page heading]

- Rainbow Project Task Force Meeting (SRRT / GLBTRT)
- Rainbow Project 2012 Midwinter Committee Report
- The Rainbow Project Task Force Meeting (GLBTRT/SRRT)
- Rainbow Project Book List Committee I (GLBT RT / SRRT)
- Rainbow Project Book List Committee II (GLBT RT / SRRT)

Composition [web template page heading]

The Rainbow Book List Committee consists of nine members appointed from GLBTRT and SRRT membership, serving two year terms, and led by a chair. The committee has a liaison from the GLBTRT Board and an ALA Staff Liaison.

Procedures [web template page heading]

General Information

Books considered for the bibliography are to have been published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year. Eligibility of books originally published outside the United States will be determined according to the original publication dates in the United States. Books must be distributed in the United States during the period of eligibility to be considered for the list. Revisions of previously published titles will be considered if the revision is to such an extent as to make the book substantially different from the previous edition. Any book removed from nomination consideration at the beginning of the first ALA Midwinter Meeting is eligible for nomination consideration during the following year if it meets the eligibility requirements. Any book nominated considered and discussed at ALA Midwinter Meeting will be ineligible for nomination during the following year.
Both fiction and nonfiction shall have readable text and format appealing to children and/or teens. Although the list attempts to present a variety of reading tastes and levels, no effort will be made to balance the list according to subject, area of interest, age, or genre. Annotations for the bibliography are written so as to attract the young reader.

The American Library Association Rainbow Project committee prepares an annual annotated bibliography of books displaying commendable literary quality that relate to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning experience and are recommended for young readers from birth through age 18.

The Rainbow Project is a joint undertaking of GLBTRT and SRRT (Social Responsibilities Round Table) with the expectation of continued monitoring by the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS). Rainbow Project Policies and Procedures will in no way conflict with the GLBTRT Bylaws and the SRRT Bylaws.

Eligibility of Books

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Rainbow Project Committee

The committee consists of nine members appointed from GLBTRT and SRRT membership, serving two year terms, and led by a chair. The committee has a liaison from the GLBTRT Board and an ALA Staff Liaison. Members will serve two year terms that begin and end at the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting. All members are appointed from GLBTRT and SRRT membership by the by the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair and the SRRT Coordinator.

The chair-elect serves in that capacity for one year and then assumes the chair position the following year. Chair serves a one-year term. During the year following service as chair, the past chair will serve as a resource to the new chair. The setting chair-elect coordinates committee
membership to nominate the next chair-elect by an anonymous process. The nomination must be received by the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair and SRRT Coordinator by December 1. The and is appointed by the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair and SRRT Coordinator appoints a chair-elect from committee membership or GLBTRT/SRRT membership by January 1.

Members serve a two-year term beginning at the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting and will complete a one-year hiatus before being eligible for another appointment—beginning at the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting to the committee. All members are appointed from GLBTRT and SRRT membership by the by the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair and the SRRT Coordinator.

When possible, appointments will maintain a balance of geographical regions of the United States, racial and ethnic groups, types of libraries, and gender.

- Reappointments are allowed only in extenuating circumstances. Following two terms (four years), a one-year hiatus is required before a member is eligible for reappointment.

Bibliography Selection Process

All Project jury members will nominate recommend books for final list consideration; all field submissions are to be nominated by a Project jury member. Field submissions may be sent by anyone to the committee via the suggestion form on the website: http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/. Any Rainbow Project jury member listed on the GLBTRT Contacts page. Jury members shall read the books before nominating recommending them. Nominations Recommendations will be submitted in the following format: Author. Title. Ilus. by (if applicable). Year. Pp. Publisher, price. (ISBN-13). Grade level.

The person submitting a nomination recommendation should carefully check the bibliographic information for accuracy and eligibility. A one- or two-sentence annotation, suitable for publication with the list, is to be included with all nominations recommendations. If the primary character(s) is (are) not glbtq, a brief explanation should detail why the title should be considered for the list. These nominations recommendations shall be sent electronically to all jury members of the Project and are to be received by midnight on October 31. Field submissions must be provided by September 30 to be considered for nomination recommendation.

Recommendations for nomination books to consider will not be accepted from the publisher of a proposed book, agents or representatives of the author, or anyone else who may stand to gain directly from the nomination recommendation of the book. Jury members of the Rainbow Project may not nominate recommend a book that they have contributed to, edited, or in any other way been affiliated with, or a book coauthored or edited by a member of their immediate family or anyone with whom they currently share a household.

Review copies of each nominated title under consideration will be requested from its publisher for each Project member. During the course of the year, Project jury members actively participate in ongoing discussions of books, both those nominated recommended and those being titles considered for nomination under consideration. Project jury members are also expected to read...
book reviews of nominated books under consideration, either by consulting review sources
directly available to them or by reading reviews posted or otherwise distributed by Project jury
members.

Meetings
All Project meetings are open to persons with guest badges. These observers may speak if
recognized by the chair. Before the committee discusses each suggested title, an opportunity will
be given to observers to make short comments about the books (two minutes or fewer per
observer); the Chair reserves the right to cut short the comments if necessary. Publishers’
representatives are requested to refrain from participating in discussion or asking for comments
about their own books.

During the last meeting at ALA Midwinter Conference, the jury will jointly prepare final
annotations, verify bibliographic information, and write the introduction for the list.

Voting
Project jury members will nominate-recommend titles, discuss nominations-recommendations, and
participate in straw polls electronically prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting. This nonbinding vote
indicates the status of books within six weeks before the ALA Midwinter meeting. The results of
this straw poll will be compiled and disseminated to the jury members of the Project within a week.

After the results of the straw poll, a book may be withdrawn by the person who nominated
recommended the title. If another Project jury member wishes to keep that title on the list for
discussion, that person must indicate this; otherwise the book is dropped from the nomination
recommended titles list.

The final discussion and selection of the bibliography will be conducted at the ALA Midwinter
Meeting. Decisions will be reached by consensus, meaning that each member accepts the decision.
If the group cannot come to consensus, the decision will be made with no more than one person
dissenting. For a book to be put on the list, at least five jury members must have read the book and
agreed to its inclusion. Consideration for the final list is not based on a certain number of fiction or
nonfiction titles, nor is it based on a certain number of titles for different age groups. Only jury
members attending the ALA Midwinter meeting and participating in all discussions about the book
will be allowed to vote on a specific title. Jury members can vote only on books they have read in
their entirety. The top four or five and the top ten books are also selected for purposes of
highlighting exceptional titles for publicity. After the final discussion and selection, titles are then
annotated by the committee.

Announcement of the Rainbow Project Bibliography
Following its last meeting, the committee will provide the ALA Public Information Office with the
final list of selected titles in the form of a press release. The press release will be posted on the
Project website and on the Project MySpace and Project Facebook made available to GLBTRT and
SRRT for their newsletters and websites, and provided to various sources such as magazines
directed toward teens, GLBTQ issues, and library professionals and discussion groups on the
Internet. The final bibliography, or a portion of it, will also appear in a spring issue of Booklist.

Requirements/Duties of Rainbow Project Jury Members
Jury members must be members of the American Library Association, the GLBT Round Table, and
the Social Responsibilities Round Table. They must commit to attending the Rainbow Project
meetings at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Jury members are required to attend committee meetings
at two consecutive ALA Midwinter Meetings. Jury members who are unable to attend committee
meetings held at ALA Midwinter without first obtaining an excused absence from the committee
chair, may be asked to resign from the committee.

Jury member responsibilities:

- Maintain knowledge of current glbtq publishing, actively seeking appropriate books.
- Read and critically evaluate current glbtq books.
- Submit Rainbow Project nominations of glbtq books to consider through the year.
- Participate in jury discussions of glbtq books.
- Read books nominated for the Rainbow bibliography.
- Communicate book reviews and other pertinent information regarding glbtq books with
  other jury members.
- Follow the rules and procedures of the Rainbow Project and meet the deadlines established
  by the jury chair and chair-elect.
- Perform other duties that the jury chair and chair-elect deem necessary.

Requirements/Duties of the Rainbow Project Assistant
The function of the Assistant includes the following:

- maintain electronic sites for the Project;
- help with publicity;
- and represent the Project in SRRT and/or GLBTRT meetings as necessary.

Requirements/Duties of the Rainbow Project Chair and Chair-elect
The Project Chair and Chair-elect must be members of the American Library Association, the
GLBTRT, and the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). They must commit to attending the
Rainbow Project meetings at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The chair and chair-elect will work
together in a collaborative manner.

The chair and chair-elect share the privilege and responsibility of reading,
nominating/recommending, discussing, and voting for books with the Project jury members as
described under Requirements/Duties of the Rainbow Project Jury Members.

In addition, Chair responsibilities; they share the following responsibilities as mutually agreed upon:
• Ensure that the Rainbow Project complies with policies and procedures.
• Maintain an accurate database of all nominated titles.
• Communicate frequently with jury members regarding nominated books.
• Report to OLOS, GLBTRT, and SRRT as needed.
• Provide publicity as needed regarding the Project and its bibliographies.
• Facilitate Project discussion.
• Communicate with publishers regarding the mission of the Project and request preview copies of books for jury members.
• Provide the final bibliography to publishers.
• Work with GLBTRT and SRRT leadership to establish meeting location and times at ALA annual conferences and midwinter meetings.
• Coordinate a breakfast at ALA Annual Conference during even years.
• Attend to all other business matters and duties as deemed necessary by the Rainbow Project jury.

During the year following service as chair, the past chair will serve as a resource to the new chair. That person may be, but is not required to be, a voting Project member.

Revision History

• 2014 July Amendments PDF - kb -- Amendments to further align procedures with the GLBTRT Bylaws and the GLBTRT Leadership Responsibilities document.
• 2012 July amendments to procedures PDF: 245kb -- Alignment of procedures with the GLBTRT Bylaws adopted 2011 ALA Election and the GLBTRT Leadership Responsibilities document adopted on 7 March 2012 by GLBTRT Steering Committee.
• 2009 procedures PDF: 82kb

Origin [web template page heading]
The Rainbow Project was created as a grass-roots effort in 2007 to provide young people with books that reflect GLBTQ individuals, groups, and experiences. Although many more books with glbtq content are available to this audience than in the past, many of these are not identified as such, necessitating such a bibliography. The Rainbow Project was originally a Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) task force but became affiliated also with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) during the ALA Midwinter Meeting 2009.