IFRT Report

Issue 78, Summer 2016

Message from the IFRT Chair

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I became chair of IFRT. It has been a fabulous experience and I would encourage anyone who wishes to become involved with intellectual freedom issues at the grassroots level, to consider joining the IFRT Executive Board. My involvement with IFRT began in graduate school and has been one of the most personally rewarding experiences that I have had within ALA.

I truly believe that Intellectual Freedom is intrinsic to our practice and it is rightly included within the core value statements of the American Library Association. Whatever type of library we work in, intellectual freedom needs to be acknowledged, discussed, and protected. As an academic librarian for the past 15 years, I have seen challenges to intellectual freedom in the context of academic freedom. Academic freedom is undergoing some of its greatest challenges at a time when the survival of academic institutions are themselves at risk. State governments are using austerity arguments to attack tenure in Wisconsin and in Illinois universities have been forced to give staff layoff notices. These are not new tactics and we have seen how devastating public library closures are to their communities.

As advocates for our patrons and colleagues we have supported the fight for privacy and protection from government surveillance. I was intensely proud in January 2016 when ALA Council voted unanimously to support
the Resolution for Restoring Civil Liberties and Opposing Mass Surveillance. I am proud for many reasons but it truly felt to me that many people and groups worked together to create a statement that represented an ideal. A belief that librarians have an important voice and that we need to stand up for our core values when called upon to do so. It took many voices and perspectives to draft that resolution and I would personally like to thank Pam Klipsch, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, for her leadership.

The strength of IFRT comes from its people and their commitment to working within their communities and sharing this experience and knowledge with the broader ALA community. I would like to thank all of those who worked this year to make IFRT better and to improve how we can share this expertise more widely. I am especially happy to see new faces on the Executive Board, individuals who I know will continue leading IFRT into the future. I look forward to seeing IFRT members at the Member Social and Awards Reception, as well as at our program on academic freedom.

With gratitude,

Laura Koltutsky

Join an IFRT Committee

Now is the time to indicate your interest in serving on an IFRT Committee by completing the IFRT volunteer form. All IFRT members are invited to serve and there are many ways to become involved. Visit the IFRT webpage for a list of committees and information on what they do. Appointments will be made following this year’s Annual Conference.
IFRT Conference Schedule

We look forward to seeing you at IFRT’s meetings and events in Orlando!

Friday, June 24
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
IFRT Meeting I
Orange County Convention Center, Room S321

Saturday, June 25
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Offensive Speech, Trigger Warnings, and Other Threats to Academic Freedom, What Is the Role of Academic Librarians?
HYATT Regency Orlando, Room Celebration 09

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Reception & Member Social
HYATT Regency Orlando, Room Bayhill 17

Monday, June 27
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
IFRT Meeting II
Orange County Convention Center, Room W207A
Offensive Speech, Trigger Warnings, and Other Threats to Academic Freedom, What Is the Role of Academic Librarians?

Laura Koltutsky, IFRT Chair

The 2016 IFRT Annual program is focused on academic freedom from multiple perspectives. The program is a panel of speakers who will address the topic from their personal and professional perspectives. Dr. Mark Alfino is a Professor of Philosophy from Gonzaga University, whose publications include *Information Ethics for Librarians* and the *Library Juice Press Handbook of Intellectual Freedom: Concepts, Cases, and Theories*. Dr. Toni Samek is Professor and Chair at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta. Her works include *Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility in American Librarianship 1967-1974* as well as *Librarianship and Human Rights: A twenty-first century guide*. Martin Garnar, Dean of Kraemer Family Library, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs has been actively involved in the Intellectual Freedom community of ALA, serving as chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee and currently representing IFRT as our Councilor. Martin’s publications include *A History of ALA Policy on Intellectual Freedom* and the *Intellectual Freedom Manual, Ninth Edition*.

Academic freedom is being attacked from multiple directions and there is a lack of discussion around some of the unique challenges facing academic librarians. How can we work within our institutions to protect academic freedom for both ourselves and our academic colleagues. The wealth of experience represented on the panel will provide a rich and lively conversation. Panelist presentations will be followed by moderated questions and audience discussion.

Please come and join the conversation on Saturday, June 25, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Celebration 9 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando.
Jarrett Dapier received the 2016 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

Jennifer E. Dinalo, IFRT Publications Committee

Jarrett Dapier received his Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in December, 2015. Prior to his graduate studies, Dapier worked for more than five years as a teen services specialist at Evanston (IL) Public Library, where he regularly devised and lead diverse programs for young adults, including a teen theater troupe devoted to the adaptation of young adult literature. His adaptation of Chris Crutcher's book, The Sledding Hill, about a book banning that rocks a small Idaho town, will be published in 2016 by ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom as part of a digital package in honor of Banned Books Week. He is currently at work on a non-fiction graphic novel along with Chicago-based illustrator, Isabella Rotman, based on his research into the attempted banning of Persepolis in Chicago Public Schools.

Dapier spent two years as legal assistant on the First Amendment, Racial Justice, and Reproductive Rights Projects at the ACLU of Illinois, an experience that schooled him in the importance of organizations that act via lawsuits, legislation, and advocacy to protect Americans from censorship, racial profiling, and other incursions on our individual rights. Later, as the assistant publisher at In These Times magazine, he wrote articles devoted to individuals committed to exposing uncomfortable truths about capitalism and culture, like Christopher Shinn, Ian Mackaye, Jonathan Kozol, and Chris Hedges.

Dapier continued his social justice work while working on the thesis for his MLIS degree. As part of his research, he investigated the Chicago Public
School’s attempted ban on the graphic novel *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, a memoir about her childhood growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. He obtained internal documents through a Freedom of Information Act request that showed this attempted removal occurred through a directive from the highest level in the school system, rather than the miscommunication as had been previously stated. This work is why he has been awarded the 2016 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award as stated in the IFRT press release:

Jarrett’s actions were key to exposing the improper actions of the school system, and the reporting based on his research brought national attention to continued attempts by schools to improperly remove books from classrooms and library shelves.

Jarrett Dapier is awarded the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for defending the principles of intellectual freedom by continuing to research this incident after it was no longer newsworthy and for exposing wrongdoing which could have resulted in a violation of the constitutional rights of the students in Chicago Public Schools.

He is honored beyond measure to receive the 2016 John Phillip Immroth Award.

The Immroth Memorial Award will be presented at the IFRT Awards Reception & Member Social on Saturday, June 25, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in Room Bayhill 17.
The 2016 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award, which recognizes the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom, will be presented to *The Library Juice Press Handbook of Intellectual Freedom*, edited by Mark Alfino and Laura Koltutsky.

In recognizing *The Library Juice Press Handbook of Intellectual Freedom*, the Oboler Award selection committee said it believed that the book was an enormous contribution to the existing literature and indispensable to a thorough discussion of the subject of intellectual freedom. The book looks at intellectual freedom from a wide range of theoretical perspectives and in connection with a wider range of cultural topics, under the premise that "thought and action about intellectual freedom needs to be informed by a broader and more complex range of topics and theoretical reflection than it typically has been." The twenty-one articles focus on topics that include threats to intellectual freedom, academic freedom, the arts, the internet, and censorship, along with connections to contemporary social issues and institutions, and historical and cultural theories.

The Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award, which consists of $500 and a certificate, is presented for the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom. The award was named for Eli M. Oboler, the extensively published Idaho State University librarian known as a champion of intellectual freedom who demanded the dismantling of all barriers to freedom of expression. The award has been offered biennially since 1986.
The Oboler Memorial Award will be presented at the IFRT Awards Reception & Member Social on Saturday, June 25, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in Room Bayhill 17.

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Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Reception & Member Social

All conference attendees are invited to the 2016 IFRT Awards Reception & Member Social on Saturday, June 25, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in Room Bayhill 17. IFRT's John P. Immroth and Eli M. Oboler Memorial awards will be presented. Food will be served, and a cash bar will be available.

This year, the IFRT Awards Reception & Member Social is being combined with a promotional event for the Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund. Donations to the Merritt Fund will be accepted and encouraged at the reception. Come enjoy food and festivities at this Intellectual Freedom celebration!
Librarians, student press advocate share 2016 FTRF Roll of Honor Award

Librarians Helen Adams and Nancy Kranich and attorney and First Amendment advocate Frank LoMonte have been named the recipients of the 2016 Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Roll of Honor Award.

“I am very pleased and honored to announce Helen Adams, Nancy Kranich and Frank LoMonte as this year’s Roll of Honor co-awardees,” said Honor Roll Committee Chair J. Douglas Archer. “In his or her own distinctive way, each has been a life-long, stellar defender of free expression and the right to read, view, listen to, or otherwise access whatever one chooses.”

Helen Adams, a school librarian and educator who has taught intellectual freedom and ethics to graduate library science students for over a decade, is a past trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation and has also served on ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee and its Privacy Subcommittee. She is a past president of the American Association of School Librarians and remains active in that division, providing leadership, training and information about intellectual freedom to its members. She has received numerous awards recognizing her professional service and her defense of intellectual freedom, including the 2007 SIRS/Proquest Wisconsin Library Association Intellectual Freedom Award.

Nancy Kranich, past president of the American Library Association and a former trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation, teaches intellectual freedom, information policy, and community engagement at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information and serves as Rutgers' special projects librarian. While president of ALA, Kranich was instrumental in spearheading ALA’s and FTRF’s effort to overturn the Children’s Internet Protection Act and has served as chair and member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, on which she served as a member of the IFC’s Privacy Subcommittee and helped to launch the ALA Privacy Tool Kit. Among many other honors, she recently received the ALA’s Ken
Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship (2015) and was recognized that same year by the Rutgers University Department of Library and Information Science for her distinguished achievement as a part-time lecturer. She continues to advocate for intellectual freedom, open access and privacy as a member of the board of the National Security Archive, the New Jersey Center for the Book, the Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide and the ALA Center for Civic Life.

Frank LoMonte is executive director of Student Press Law Center where, for almost two decades, he has led the Student Press Law Center’s vigorous defense of the first amendment rights of student journalists. Since 1974, the Student Press Law Center has been devoted to educating high school and college journalists about the rights and responsibilities embodied in the First Amendment and supporting the right of student journalists to cover important issues free from censorship. The Center provides free information and educational materials for student journalists and their teachers on a variety of topics. Prior to joining Student Press Law Center, LoMonte clerked for federal judges in the Northern District of Georgia and the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and practiced law in Atlanta. LoMonte is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, where he served as a senior editor of the Georgia Law Review. Before law school, LoMonte was an award winning political columnist and investigative reporter in Georgia and Florida. His First Amendment and media-law articles have been widely published in the legal and educational press.

The Roll of Honor award will be presented at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference during its Opening General Session from 4:00–5:15 p.m. on Friday, June 24, at the Orange County Convention Center.
Katie Chamberlain Kritikos has been awarded the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship for 2016. The scholarship will cover her costs to attend the American Library Association (ALA) conference in Orlando, Florida, including transportation, housing, and other expenses. While there, she will attend a variety of intellectual freedom programs and meetings. Afterwards she will present a report about her experiences at the conference. This year will be the first-time the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship has been awarded to a doctoral student.

Kritikos will be recognized at the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Annual Member Reception on Thursday, June 23, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Room W209C, Orange County Conference Center.

In announcing this year’s recipient, Conable Scholarship Committee Chair Julia Warga explained, "The committee was impressed by Katie’s long-term commitment to intellectual freedom. Her graduate work and volunteer experiences demonstrate that she is someone who will continue to be focused on important areas of intellectual freedom. Katie’s research is currently focused on free speech, privacy, and ethics and their information
policy implications. We are excited to meet Katie, and to introduce her to our members.”

Katie Chamberlain Kritikos, a former attorney with experience in tax litigation, is currently a research assistant at the Center for Policy Research at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She received her MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her JD from the University of Illinois College of Law. Her published articles have included discussions on libraries, information access and copyright law. Copyright and information access has also been the foundation of conference presentations she has given. At the Wisconsin Library Association’s conference in April her presentation covered the legal issues surrounding 3D printing in libraries. Copyright issues and information access regarding both orphan works and grey literature were the topics of both her poster session and presentation in 2015 at the International Conference on Grey Literature, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

The Conable Conference Scholarship was created to advance two principles that Gordon M. Conable held dear: intellectual freedom and mentorship. Thus, in addition to covering the costs for a recipient to attend the ALA Annual Conference and intellectual freedom events, the recipient receives a one-year membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation and consults with a mentor while at the conference. Recipients must be either new professionals or current graduate students in the field of library science. Gordon Conable, who died in 2005, was a librarian, mentor to many, and a champion of intellectual freedom. He was active in FTRF for years, including serving seven years as its president. After his death his wife, Irene, and the FTRF Board established the Gordon M. Conable Memorial Foundation to provide funding for the Conable Conference Scholarship.

To donate to the Gordon M. Conable Memorial Fund, please visit www.ftrf.org/?Conable_Fund.
LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund

Founded in 1970 in honor of Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt, the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund provides financial assistance to librarians who were denied employment because they defended the First Amendment or were discriminated against. The Merritt Fund is managed by three elected trustees and is a separate organization from ALA.

Would you like to get involved with the Merritt Fund? Anyone who donates to the Fund is invited to participate in the annual election.

Taking the Cake: A Generational Talkback

In 2016, A Birthday Cake for George Washington was published, then pulled, by Scholastic. While created, illustrated, and edited by women of color, the book was strongly criticized because of its images of “smiling slaves.” Many people believe the book should never have been published and celebrate its removal from shelves. Others believe that intellectual freedom has been compromised.

For many years, intellectual freedom, a core value of librarianship and many colleagues in the publishing world, has looked to a near First Amendment absolutism. Today, a growing concern over the need for more diversity in publishing, a greater sensitivity to the abuses of power and privilege, has given rise to a stronger commitment in the field to social justice.

Are these values in conflict? Is one value replacing another? In an era of trigger warnings, revenge porn, and an emerging global community of new voices, what does IF mean today? What are our responsibilities as one generation of publishers and librarians begins to give way to another?

Engaging in the conversation and talkback will be Judy Platt of the Association of American Publishers and a Freedom to Read Foundation Roll of Honor recipient, and Katie ChamberlainKritikos, the recipient of the 2016 Gordon M. ConableConference Scholarship. James LaRue, director of ALA’s the Office for Intellectual Freedom will introduce the session.
Subscribe to OIF’s Intellectual Freedom News

Intellectual Freedom News is a free biweekly compilation of news by the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom including:

- Current book challenges in libraries and schools
- Articles about privacy, internet filtering and censorship
- ALA activities, conferences and institutes, products, online learning opportunities, awards and grants, international exchanges, and more
- how to get involved and make the most of what ALA offers

Signup today!

Submit an Intellectual Freedom eLearning Proposal

ALA has many opportunities to participate in the work of the association and develop the continued learning of members of our profession. Your colleagues value the unique perspective you bring to the profession. Fill out this form to propose online presentations. Upon receipt, staff will review your proposal and respond with 1-2 weeks. Click here for a list of recent eLearning opportunities.
IFRT Leadership

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