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### IFRT Annual Events

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Greetings!

The IFRT is once again delighted to bring you our usual fare of outstanding articles. In this issue, look for notices of meetings and events at Midwinter, a piece about the IFLA/UNESCO Trainer's Conference in Costa Rica, two reports—one from our Councilor and another from our Chair. Also, a perceptive article and passionate debate about intellectual freedom in an Information Science class. Congratulations to OIF for 40 years of outstanding work in defense of intellectual freedom!

So, Happy Holidays, enjoy, and I look forward to seeing you at Midwinter! Stay warm!

See you in Philadelphia!

Lauren Christos

IFRT Editor

IFRT Events at Annual in Washington DC

Winners of the ProQuest/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Achievement Award are the Connecticut John Does. They were chosen for this award for defending intellectual freedom when they challenged the constitutionality of National Security Letters (NSLs) and the gag provisions of NSLs issued under the USA PATRIOT Act. Connecticut Librarians: Janet Nociek, Barbara Bailey, George Christian, Peter Chase (absent), Roseanne Cordell, IFRT Chair; Steven Norman, Award Chair.

Susan F. Wood, former Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health at the Food and Drug Administration discussing the value of sound science in health care policy decision-making, the growing politicization of science, and the importance of scientific freedom in safeguarding the public interest.

George Christian delivering acceptance speech.
Meeting in the nation’s capitol turned out to be a big draw, with record-breaking attendance at conference: 28,635, including 7,169 vendors. Council business covered a wide range of topics, from condemnation of the use of National Security Letters to obtain library records, to support of immigrant rights to use libraries.

ALA Council

Here is an overview of resolutions that came before Council, with the primary resolve clauses, my vote and the outcomes:

The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) FY 2008 Funding – “Resolved, the American Library Association urge Congress to restore full funding for NDIIPP to complete its activities.” IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.


- Funding for the National Library Service – “Resolved, that the American Library Association call upon Congress to fund the $19.1 million needed for the first year of the National Library Service’s multi-year digitization project to convert to up-to-date digital technology, thereby printing Talking books services to people with visual or physical disability.” The IFRT Executive Board voted to formally endorse this resolution and directed the Councilor to vote in favor. IFRT Councilor voted in favor; unanimously adopted.

- No Child Left Behind – “Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) urges the passage of the SKILLS Act with provisions to be included in any reauthorization of ‘No Child Left Behind’ (NCLB). The provisions are: (1) to include school library media specialists who meet the criteria established by the state educational agency as highly qualified in NCLB; (2) to require school districts, to the extent feasible, to ensure that every school within the district employs at least one highly qualified school library media specialist; and (3) to allow state and local professional development funds (Title II) to be used to assist in recruiting and training highly qualified school library media specialists.” IFRT Councilor voted in favor; unanimously adopted.
- Principles for Digital Content – “Resolved, that the American Library Association adopts this declaration, Principles for Digital Content.” IFRT Councilor voted in favor; adopted.

- The Use and Abuse of National Security Letters – “Resolved, that the American Library Association condemns the use of National Security Letters to obtain library records; that the American Library Association urges Congress to pursue legislative reforms in order to provide adequate protection for each library user’s constitutional right to be free from unwarranted and unjustified government surveillance, including judicial oversight of National Security Letters (NSLs) requiring a showing of individualized suspicion and demonstrating a factual connection between the individual whose records are sought by the FBI and an actual investigation; elimination of the automatic and permanent imposition of a nondisclosure or “gag” order whenever an NSL is served on an individual or institution; allowing recipients of NSLs to receive meaningful judicial review of a challenge to their NSL without deferring to the government’s claims; increased oversight by Congress and the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice over NSLs and FBI activities that implicate the First Amendment; and providing for the management, handling, dissemination and destruction of personally identifiable information obtained through NSLs.” The IFRT Executive Board voted to endorse this resolution in principle. IFRT Councilor voted in favor; unanimously adopted.

- Accessible Digitization Projects – “Resolved, that the American Library Association strongly encourages all libraries and other entities engaging in digitization projects to adopt Section 508 regulations to ensure that they are creating versions of materials that are accessible to persons using screen-reader or other assistive technologies.” The IFRT Executive Board supported this resolution in principle. IFRT Councilor voted in favor; unanimously adopted.

- Representation – “Resolved, that the Committee on Organization be requested to develop and propose improvements to the processes of selecting committee members and to the communications protocol with successful and unsuccessful committee candidates; and that Committee on Organization be requested to report such improvements to the ALA Council at the 2008 Midwinter Meeting.” The IFRT Executive Board voted to endorse the resolution in principle. IFRT Councilor voted in favor, adopted.

Other votes taken by Council covered the following topics of interest. Your IFRT Councilor voted in support of all of these action items.

- Membership Meetings – Amended ALA Policy 7.4.10 of the Policy Manual to read “… Agendas of membership meetings shall provide priority to discussion of membership resolutions during the second part of the meeting…”

- ALA Ballots – Deleted the last sentence of Bylaws Article III. Nominations and Elections, Section 1(c) regarding the position of candidates on the ALA ballot being determined by lot. Created a new subsection, Bylaws Article III, Section 3(d) stating that the position of candidates on the ballot shall be randomized.
Catholic Library Association Affiliation – Voted to accept the CLA as an ALA affiliate, following the revision of CLA’s purpose statement to remove a previous impediment to affiliation.

Action Items– Voted to adopt these action items supporting the following policies as additions to the Policy Manual.

- 52.4.5 Support of Immigrant Rights- ALA strongly supports the protection of each person’s civil liberties, regardless of that individual’s nationality, residency, or status; opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA or its territories, citizens or otherwise, to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels.

- 50.16 The Role of Libraries in Providing E-Government and Emergency Services. The ALA urges governments at all levels to acknowledge and support the essential role local libraries play in providing e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and to include libraries in relevant legislative or other policy actions. The ALA also encourages continued research documenting library needs and capacity to provide effective e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and to help libraries develop best practices and train staff to deliver these essential services.

- ALA & E-Participation – Voted that a formal task force be established by President Roy charged with examining existing documents and developing recommendations to adapt association policy so as to help ALA move forward with effective e-participation practices.

- ALA Budgetary Ceiling – Approved the FY2008 total ALA budgetary ceiling of $60,530,585

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The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
Greetings! This is Rory Litwin from Library Juice Press, with a publication announcement: Alternative Publishers of Books in North America, 6th Edition

http://libraryjuicepress.com/apbna.php
Author: Byron Anderson, compiler
Price: $18.00
ISBN-10: 0-9778617-2-4
5.5" by 8.5"
177 + ix pages
Published: October 2006
Printed on acid-free paper.

Alternative Publishers of Books in North America, 6th Edition, by Byron Anderson, is a directory of alternative publishers in the U.S. and Canada. Entries provide useful information about 163 publishing companies unlikely to be covered in other directories, including contact information, years in operation, titles per year, areas of focus, and descriptions of a page or more in length that describe the history of each press, with reference to some of their publications. A subject index lets the user find publishing companies that focus on specific subject areas, which can be useful to both collection development librarians and authors.

"Alternative publishing" in the context of this book refers to smaller, independent publishers of the overall Left, which focus, varyingly, on topics such as sustainable development, punk culture, social justice, ethnic studies, gender studies, human rights, socialism, anarchism, and globalization.

This is the 6th edition of the book, which was formerly published by CRISES Press, of Gainesville, Florida, associated with the review journal Counterpoise. It was formerly a biannual publication, but it has been over four years since the last previous edition was published, making this sixth edition a major update. This directory is a project of ALA/SRRT’s Alternatives Media Task Force, to which compiler/author Byron Anderson is generously donating his proceeds.

The preface to the book, by former ALA President Nancy Kranich, discusses the importance of alternative publishing in building balanced library collections in the age of media conglomeration, and it is available online:

http://libraryjuicepress.com/apbna-preface.php

Library Juice Press is a new publishing company founded in 2006 by ALA Councilor Rory Litwin. We specialize in books about issues in libraries from a social, political, or philosophical point of view. Topics of interest to us include library philosophy, information policy, library activism, media studies, library history, and “critical studies in librarianship.”

Our website is at http://libraryjuicepress.com/
The Facebook Era: Teens and Privacy

Rachel Bridgewater
Washington State University

Felicia Smith
University of Notre Dame

Ben Trapskin
Hennepin County Library

Fanice Tsai
Carnegie Mellon University

Caleb Tucker-Raymond
Multnomah County Library

Framing Privacy

Teens today have grown up in an environment of constant information availability where revealing personal information and participating in social networks has become the norm. We examine how ‘privacy’ is now framed in their minds:

• They think of themselves as having an audience*
• They have an archived adolescence*
• Their skin is thicker than yours*

Internet Use**

Internet use has increased in both numbers online & intensity.

• Connectivity
  • 93% Use the Internet
  • 69% Weekly
  • 61% Daily
• Social Networking Sites
  • 65% have profiles online
  • 60% restrict access to their profiles

Gender Differences**

• Post more photos
• Concerned information links to physical location
• Post city/town, last name, cell phone number
• Post false information

Profile

Felicia Smith
• The Outreach Librarian at University of Notre Dame
  • Ben Trapskin
  • Rachel Bridgewater
  • Caleb Tucker-Raymond

Janice Tsai
• As a PhD candidate in Engineering and Public Policy, she is studying Privacy on the Internet.

Figure 1: Profiles on a Variety of Sites

Figure 2: Information Posted Online

Information That Teens Feel Should or Should Not Be Shared Online

• Information about your family
  • Your family’s address
  • Marital status
  • Financial information
• Information about your current self
  • Political affiliation
  • Religious affiliation
• Information about your past self
  • Past behavior
  • Past relationships
• Information about your future self
  • Future plans
  • Future career

True Leaders Create Other Leaders
By Felica Smith

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

I was deeply honored to be one of the first American Library Association Emerging Leaders. Being part of the first group of any endeavor is at once both flattering and pioneering.. With a group of 116 participants from all over the country, this was no small undertaking. This program was very well designed and responsive to participant feedback and recommendations. It was refreshing to be a valued member of this program.

The 2006-2007 program was launched officially at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Seattle and culminated at the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The objective was for participants to put their leadership skills to use by accepting a term of service on an ALA committee, task force, working group, or project team.

The program has made a concentrated effort to ensure that every participant is given the opportunity to contribute their skills to our national professional organization. I believe there were equally beneficial, yet unstated objectives, such as national collaboration among new librarians with demonstrated leadership potential. This was achieved by assigning participants to projects of interest to them. The final objective was present a poster session at the annual conference in June.

Perhaps an unintended objective may have been to expose the participants to the actual (potentially frustrating) experience of working on ALA committees, task forces or working groups. This baptism by fire is my positive interpretation of those projects that were not completed within the allotted timeframe or those participants who had difficulty communicating with ALA members to complete their projects. From what I have been told, these experiences were not unique to our Emerging Leader projects, but are real obstacles that exist for many ALA project teams.

The aforementioned frustrations served as an incentive for me personally, and for my group collectively. The main lesson I learned from this program was the need to be a leader at all times and in all situations. By that I mean making a way when there is not one provided. Ralph Waldo Emerson encourages people to “Go where there is no path and leave a trail.” I think real leaders are required to do that constantly. Rather than experiencing frustration by the lack of desired instruction or guidance, I decided as a leader to identify the opportunity to create something valuable.

In addition to initiative, I contend that true leadership must focus more on the human experiences as opposed to simply the process. Leadership is not merely the programs or workshops, but rather the overarching experience and mutually beneficial interaction. Leadership must come from the heart and soul of one individual who is genuinely concerned with the hearts, souls, and prosperity of others. It is an all consuming attitude and continual way of life, not only a role playing exercise performed during an Emerging Leader program.
This concern for others is why I am incredibly grateful to be one of two participants sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT). This was special because not every participant was able to have a sponsor and the IFRT actually sponsored two Emerging Leaders.

Our project attempted to begin framing the issue for a national deliberation on privacy. Framing the issue of privacy was believed to be the most important and difficult step. How an issue is framed can illuminate or bias deliberation as well as make it boring or stimulating. During the framing stage, it is critically important that all points of view, values, and concerns be brought to the table before the actual framing begins.

Our poster highlighted some crucial statistics reported by the Pew Internet and American Life Project in their document: “Teens, Privacy and Online Social Networks: How Teens Manage Their Online Identities and Personal Information in the Age of MySpace.”

After participating in this amazing experience, I garnered an increased appreciation for the initiative required to become a leader in an organization as humungous and with as many sections as the American Library Association. As a result of the Emerging Leaders program, I have rededicated myself to doing my level best to inspire others and to plant the seeds of my personal example that will hopefully germinate and beget future leaders.

I believe that the ultimate goal of leadership is inspiration and empowerment of others to bring about a profoundly positive change in oneself and others. I would like to close with my response given during the closing session of the Emerging Leaders program when asked for my personal definition of leadership:

“I believe that all leaders create followers;
but distinguished or exceptional leaders create other leaders!”
~From the Chair~

By Doug Archer

Midwinter is almost upon us! If you are coming to Philadelphia, feel free to join us for the IFRT Board Meetings, Saturday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30, or Monday morning from 8:00 to 10:00, and find out what’s happening. Please check the conference book for locations of these meetings. In addition, there will be a meeting for the National Conversation on Privacy, on Saturday, January 12, at 12:30 pm. We always welcome guests, whether they are IFRT members or not, and we usually have several stopping by to check out what we’re up to. Many have even joined us on the spot! There are few intellectual freedom events at Midwinter, so we are definitely one of the better shows in town!

If you’re not coming to Philadelphia for Midwinter, keep your eyes open for the next issue of the *IFRT Report*. There’s sure to be an account of all things IF in Philly.

One of the major initiatives for next year is the Round Table’s second year of participation in the ALA President’s Emerging Leaders program. This year five folks relatively new to the profession have signed up to work on an IFRT sponsored project. We have asked them to brainstorm the use of new technologies to advance the work of IFRT. This might include, but is not limited to the use of old friends such as email and listservs, newer tools like blogs, wikis, MySpace and RSS, and really new stuff like virtual reality (e.g. having a presence in Second Life) and other developments that old fogies like me are completely unaware of.

Our emerging leaders will be working with Lauren Christos, chair of our Publications Committee and editor of the *IFRT Report*. If you have suggestions for technologies that we should be exploring or would like to get involved in implementing them for the good of intellectual freedom, be sure to contact Lauren at christol@fiu.edu.

If you have any other suggestions for the advancement of the Round Table’s work-- education and advocacy for intellectual freedom-- or would just like to get involved, please write me at archer.1@nd.edu or Bob Holly, the Chair-Elect at aa3805@wayne.edu.

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A tracking cookie has been installed in your browser

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Thanks to http://www/wickedsunshine.com
IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto Guidelines: Training the Trainers Conferences

By Loida Garcia-Febo

The Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee of IFLA (International Federation of Library Association) has employed a most effective strategy of “training the trainers” from developing countries. Two main areas developed in this strategy dealt with the Internet Manifesto Guidelines and Access to Public Health Information. The conferences were made possible by funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Last March, 96 people from 14 countries attended the first conference in Costa Rica. This successful event opened the doors for more conferences of this nature with librarians from developing countries. There were two successful conferences, one in Mexico and the other in Connecticut/New York that I was fortunate to attend.

During the first week of November, Paul Sturges, Barbara Jones, and myself visited Mexico City to present an “Internet Manifesto Guideline” workshop. Participants came from 17 out of 31 Mexican states (18) and from Mexico’s Federal District (6). The attendees included public and academic librarians, as well as officials from various international library associations. The purpose of this workshop was to train librarians on how to work with the IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto Guidelines to ensure access to the information on the Internet. It included writing policies, hearing of success stories of libraries using the Internet, removing barriers to access of information on the Internet, and promoting the role of the librarian to assist in gaining access to information on the Internet. The idea behind this concept is the trainers will then go back to their communities and regions and train other librarians.

The enthusiastic Mexican librarians were receptive to the Guidelines, and through active participation in many discussions, they expressed interest in attending more workshops and hoped to further their involvement. One of the attendees, Helen Ladrón de Guevara Cox, in late November, presented a program utilizing the materials from this workshop at the Guadalajara International Fair. This event was presented in conjunction with IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American and Caribbean Section, and the Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecologicas [CUIB] at the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM], and the Dirección General de Bibliotecas, Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes from the Mexican Government.

From Monday, November 26 to Saturday, December 1st, FAIFE presented an innovative event which I baptized the “traveling international conference” because it started in Connecticut and ended in New York City. This conference brought 10 librarians from 9 countries to Connecticut and New York with the purpose of training ‘trainers’ in two main areas: The “Internet Manifesto Guidelines” and “Access to Public Health Information,” particularly with regard to HIV/AIDS awareness.

The attendees included academic librarians, professors, officials from library associations, and librarians working with governments from Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand, Costa Rica, Mexico and Brazil. The main goal for the librarians was to share initiatives, strategies, ideas and projects in the hope that visiting librarians will gather together their ideas and duplicate them in their countries.
In order to gather information about projects and strategies about access to information on the Internet, including policies and access to public health information, the attendees visited academic and public libraries in Connecticut such as the Olin Library and the Science Library at Wesleyan University, Russell Library, Hartford Public Library, and the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University. The group also met with the Connecticut State Librarian to talk about the advocacy role of librarians. A full-day workshop about the topics was also presented at Queens Library’s in Flushing, New York. The Queens Library partners with the National Library of Medicine and with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to offer access to information regarding all issues concerning health. Programs and services were presented and discussed with the attendees who stated that they will use the information to share these same initiatives in their own countries. Interestingly, a number of librarians expressed interest in hosting a FAIFE workshop on Access to Public Health Information and Internet Guidelines Manifesto.

The event was organized by fellow FAIFE member and Wesleyan University Librarian, Barbara Jones and presented in conjunction with Wesleyan University. I was proud to organize the Friday session in Queens Library. FAIFE Chair, Paul Sturges attended the conference as well.

Based on these successful events, FAIFE intends to continue presenting ‘training the trainers’ conferences in various countries from the developing world!

*Loida Garcia-Febo manages Special Services for Queens Library. She is a member of IFLA/FAIFE, ALA/IRC and a Director-at Large of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.*
Intellectual Freedom Event at Midwinter:
*Freedom for the Thought that We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment by Anthony Lewis*

During the 2008 Midwinter Meeting, the Freedom to Read Foundation will be cosponsoring an event featuring two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Lewis. Lewis will be discussing his new book, *Freedom for the Thought That We Hate*, with Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and FTRF Trustee. The event will be held on Monday, January 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit [http://www.constitutioncenter.org/visiting/CalendarofEvents/Events/2008_01_14_18310.shtml](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/visiting/CalendarofEvents/Events/2008_01_14_18310.shtml)

A superb history of the First Amendment and the body of law that has followed it. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and longtime Supreme Court observer Lewis (Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment, 1991, etc.), now retired from the New York Times, explains in the clearest of language how freedom of expression evolved in this country. Surprisingly, it was only in 1919 that a Supreme Court justice (Oliver Wendell Holmes) wrote that the First Amendment protected speech and publication, and that was in a dissent—not until 1931 did a majority on the Court begin enforcing the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech. Drawing examples from many cases, Lewis demonstrates that interpretations of the First Amendment shifted over time as the Supreme Court, and the public, began to recognize that freedom of expression was one of America’s basic values. He considers the ways in which freedom can conflict with such other values as the right to privacy, protection from hate speech, the safeguarding of national security and the right to a fair trial (i.e., one uncompromised by prejudicial press coverage). He also explores the evolution of laws against libel here and in Great Britain and reports on the impact of the landmark 1964 case, New York Times v. Sullivan, which ended the press’s fear of seditious libel actions and promoted the investigative spirit that led to critical coverage of the Vietnam War and Watergate. Anecdotes abound in this lively, lucid history. Among other choice bits, readers will learn which Supreme Court Justice viewing films for their possibly pornographic content took a law clerk with him to tell him what was happening on the big screen. Timely an important, a work that astonishes and delights as it informs.

*Source: Kirkus Review*
Intellectual Freedom: Out of the Classroom and Into the World

By Robert P. Holley

My experience over the last week has made me much more hopeful about the future of intellectual freedom with the next generation of librarians. After a mandatory classroom session, my online class passionately debated issues of intellectual freedom in over seventy messages and brought these issues out of the realm of theory into the world of action. To provide some context, I have taught collection development in the Wayne State University Library & Information Science Program for many years; and this course includes a three hour unit on intellectual freedom. I consider this topic important enough that I teach it during one of the three required in-class sessions for my Web centric class, in part because the required text does not adequately cover a subject that is so important in my value system. After this classroom session, I continued the discussion by posting online questions for the upcoming week that asked the class if they had anything more to say on the topic; and they certainly did.

To give an idea of what lead to this heated discussion, I opened the class by showing a photograph of me in front of a classical nude statue in the courtyard of a library in Perpignan, France where the photo developer had used a black marker to cover the “naughty bits” of this marble statue. I presented this image to show that fears about censorship are not unreasonable even at the personal level. I went on to develop the points that are most important to me on both the theory and practice of intellectual freedom including how to handle challenges and stories of Michigan librarians who have suffered for their defense of intellectual freedom. I concluded the class session with an anonymous exercise where the students tell me whether they would buy any or all of the thirty-two objectionable books in multiple categories that I had selected from an alternative press Web site. This exercise helps them understand what offends them personally and what doesn’t so that they will then have a better idea of what biases they will need to recognize in making their future collection development decisions.

I have noticed that the tone of the class almost always changes during the practical second half. Students are surprised to learn that there are real risks in defending intellectual freedom and that it is possible for librarians to lose their jobs by standing up for the integrity of their collections. When I present my packet of objectionable books, I often hear nervous laughter over the objectionable content of some and expressions of disbelief that such books exist and are available for purchase. From body language, I could tell that I had managed to offend some students in the class while others came to tell me that intellectual freedom was one on the principles that drew them to librarianship.

What was different about this class was the passion on both sides of a debate that would continue over the next week in a long series of post and counter-post. Among several issues, the main disagreement occurred over the conflict between intellectual freedom and community standards. The question was whether librarians should select materials that offend parts of the community to the point that the library, as an organization, suffers beyond any negative actions against the librarian. The specific case that I shared was the 1992 decision by Gordon Conable, director of the Monroe County Library System, to purchase copies of Madonna’s book, Sex. I knew more about this case because, besides having read published materials on this incident, I had the chance to spend a few hours with Gordon before his untimely death in 2005.
He recounted his battles with the parts of the community that did not consider this book to be an appropriate addition to the collection. He, on the other hand, believed that the library should follow its normal policy of purchasing bestsellers. The controversy was heated enough that the library received several bomb threats.

The debate was intense both in the classroom and during the following week. One student, a Monroe county resident, recounted that the library may have suffered an erosion of support from this incident that made it more difficult to receive adequate funding. There was also some speculation about whether this book fit into the category of books worth fighting for. One student commented that he felt it was an attempt by an aging star on the decline to recapture the limelight. Another talked about the fact that I had taught earlier in the semester that the public library existed to meet the needs of the community. Other students supported the decision to buy the book as a bestseller since I had also said earlier that books on the New York Times list were almost always automatic purchases for a public library. Since some students were unsure what all the fuss was about, I finally posted a link, found as the first item from a Google search, to digital versions of the photos that may or may not have been posted legally; and this led to further discussion on the objectionable quotient of their content.

Why was I excited about this discussion and its positive aspects for intellectual freedom when some of my students obviously would not have purchased this book? The reason is that for this class intellectual freedom left the realm of theory where it is easy for many of us to be staunch defenders of a principle that most of us believe will never cause us the slightest discomfort and entered the “real” world where librarians face consequences for their decisions. I’m honest enough to tell my students that it is easy for me to defend intellectual freedom as an absolute value because I have tenure. Unlike Gordon Conable, I haven’t had to suffer for my principles and that as such the depths of my beliefs are untested. I also tell my students that there may be some fights that are more worth fighting than others. Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn, Maya Angelou’s I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, and Robert Cormier’s The Chocolate War deserve greater efforts against the censor than Madonna’s exploitive Sex though drawing any line of this slippery slope is troublesome. After this heated discussion, I’m certain that these students will remember that intellectual freedom is not an abstract concept but a professional and personal value that may demand sacrifices from them.

By Robert P. Holley, Professor, Library & Information Science Program, Wayne State University.
IFRT Meetings during Midwinter

Saturday, January 12
National Conversation on Privacy, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Philadelphia Marriott, Room 411-412

IFRT I, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Philadelphia Marriott, Room 411-412

Sunday, January 13
IFC/IFRT/Div IFCs Joint Mtg, 10:30 am to 11:30 am
Philadelphia Marriott, Franklin 13

Monday, January 14
IFRT II, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Philadelphia Marriott, Salon C

IFC Meetings during Midwinter

Saturday, January 12
IFC I, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Philadelphia Marriott, Franklin 5

IFC Issues Briefing Session, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Philadelphia Marriott, Room 404

Sunday, January 13
IFC/COL Joint Meeting, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Philadelphia Marriott, Franklin 13

IFC/IFRT/Div IFC Joint Meeting, 10:30 am to 11:30 am
Philadelphia Marriott, Franklin 13

IFC II, 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Philadelphia Marriott, Franklin 13

Monday, January 14
IFC III, 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Philadelphia Marriott, Salon C

Tuesday, January 15
IFC IV, 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Philadelphia Marriott, Salon C

We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia!

Thanks to Nanette Perez, IFRT Liaison!
Established December 1, 1967, the Office for Intellectual Freedom is charged with implementing ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights, the Association’s basic policy on free access to libraries and library materials. The goal of the office is to educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries.

Congratulations to Judith Krug, Director and the entire OIF staff!

~on behalf of all IFRT members
If you would like to contribute to the IFRT Report, please send your piece to:
lauren.christos@fiu.edu

Thought essays, opinions, book reviews, articles, and reports are all invited.
Thank you!

Publications Committee
♣ Lauren Christos, Chair
♣ Diane M. Fulkerson
♣ Cindy A. Lombardo
♣ Camille McCutcheon

~Special thanks to Marie Therese O’Connell for her contributions in creating this newsletter.

Founded in 1973, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table is the grass roots intellectual freedom organization within the American Library Association.

Mission Statement—
The Intellectual Freedom Round Table provides a forum for the discussion of activities, programs and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians; serves as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; promotes a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; promotes a greater feeling of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom.

The IFRT—
Provides broad opportunities for ALA members to become involved in the support of freedom of access and freedom of expression in libraries
Supports librarians involved in censorship controversies
Monitors intellectual freedom developments affecting library and information services
Provides a forum where ALA members involved in intellectual freedom activities on the state and local level can discuss programs, activities and problems