

Amendments to Over the Rainbow Book List Committee Procedures, 2014 July

1 NB: This document is the current procedures for the Oven the Rainbow Book List Committee. It is based
2 on the last version that was approved in July 2012. This information is displayed on the committee's
3 homepage: <http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/about/committees/glb-otr>

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

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12 **Over the Rainbow Book List Committee**

13 **Charge [web template page heading]**

14 Promote the improved quality and accessibility of GLBTQ literature through the provision for
15 adult readers of an annual annotated bibliography of books for general readership
16 published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1st and December 31st of the
17 previous calendar year. Ad hoc committee members would select titles which exhibit
18 commendable literary quality and significant authentic GLBTQ content and are
19 recommended for adults over age 18. The OTR Project would coordinate with other GLBTRT
20 committees to promote the improved quality and accessibility of GLBTQ literature.

21 *Adopted 2011 ALA Annual, GLBTRT Membership Meeting*

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

26 **Roster [web template page heading]**

- 27 • Etc.
- 28 • Etc.

29 Previous Year / Next Year

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

32 **About [web template page heading]**^[A1]

33 ~~Over the Rainbow Book List is created by a committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender~~
34 ~~Round Table (GLBTRT) of the American Library Association (ALA). The committee will create an annual~~
35 ~~bibliography of books that exhibit commendable literary quality and significant authentic LGBT content~~
36 ~~for general adult readers over age 18. The bibliography includes books published between July 1 and~~
37 ~~December 31 of the previous calendar year.~~

38 ~~**The bibliography is not meant to be all-inclusive but is intended as an annual core list for**~~
39 ~~**readers and librarians searching for recommendations of a cross-section of the year’s titles.**~~
40 ~~**Although the committee attempts to present titles for a variety of reading tastes and levels,**~~
41 ~~**no effort will be made to balance this bibliography according to subject, area of interest, age,**~~
42 ~~**or genre.**~~ General Information

43 The Over the Rainbow (OTR) Project is a committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender
44 Round Table (GLBTRT) of the American Library Association (ALA). OTR creates an annual, annotated
45 bibliography of books for general adult readers aged 18 years or older that have commendable literary
46 quality and significant, authentic gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (GLBTQ)
47 content. OTR will work with the Stonewall Book Awards Committee, Rainbow Books, the GBTRT
48 Newsletter, and creators of subject bibliographies to promote the improved quality and accessibility of
49 GLBTQ literature.

50 Each annual bibliography will cover books published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1
51 and December 31 of the previous calendar year. OTR will release the list of titles at the American Library
52 Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, usually held in January.

53 The bibliography is not meant to be all inclusive but is intended as an annual core list for readers and
54 librarians searching for recommendations of a cross-section of the year’s GLBTQ titles. Although the
55 bibliography attempts to present a variety of reading tastes and levels, no effort will be made to balance
56 this bibliography according to subject, area of interest, or genre.

57 For more information:

- 58 • Over the Rainbow Books (the blog is the official home of the bibliographies)
- 59 • Facebook
- 60 • LibraryThing

61 Questions and Suggestions

- 62 • Questions about Over the Rainbow Books and suggested titles may be sent to:
63 booksotr@gmail.com
- 64 • Suggestions should be shared on the OTR Suggestion Form
65 <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/suggestions->

66 **Public Posts from ALA Connect [web template page heading]**

- 67 • Rainbow Project Task Force Meeting (SRRT / GLBTRT)

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

72 **Composition [web template page heading]**

73 The Over the Rainbow Book List Committee (OTR) consists of six to ten members (called jurors)
74 appointed from round table membership by the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair and is led by a chair. The
75 committee will have a liaison from the GLBTRT Board and an ALA Staff Liaison. ~~Members will serve two~~
76 ~~year terms, and be led by a committee chair. Committee members serve two year terms beginning at~~
77 ~~the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Every effort is made to maintain gender parity.~~
78 ~~Leadership duties of the committee are assumed by a chair and a chair-elect. The chair-elect serves in~~
79 ~~that capacity for one year and then assumes the chair position the following year. The chair-elect will be~~
80 ~~selected from the membership of the committee by the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair. The committee chair~~
81 ~~will recommend the candidate to the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair with the approval of committee~~
82 ~~membership. The chair-elect will become chair upon completion of one year of service as chair-elect.~~
83 ~~During the year following service as chair, the past chair will serve as a resource to the new chair.~~

84 **Procedures [web template page heading]**

85 ~~**General Information**~~ ~~The Over the Rainbow (OTR) Project is a committee of the Gay,~~
86 ~~Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) of the American Library~~
87 ~~Association (ALA). OTR creates an annual, annotated bibliography of books for~~
88 ~~general adult readers aged 18 years or older that have commendable literary quality~~
89 ~~and significant, authentic gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning~~
90 ~~(GLBTQ) content. OTR will work with the Stonewall Book Awards Committee,~~
91 ~~Rainbow Books, the GBTRT Newsletter, and creators of subject bibliographies to~~
92 ~~promote the improved quality and accessibility of GLBTQ literature.~~
93 ~~Each annual bibliography will cover books published within the assigned calendar year or~~
94 ~~between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year. OTR will release the list of titles~~
95 ~~at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, usually held in January.~~

96 ~~The bibliography is not meant to be all inclusive but is intended as an annual core list for readers~~
97 ~~and librarians searching for recommendations of a cross-section of the year's GLBTQ titles.~~
98 ~~Although the bibliography attempts to present a variety of reading tastes and levels, no effort~~
99 ~~will be made to balance this bibliography according to subject, area of interest, or genre.~~

100 **OTR Jurors and ~~Officers~~ Chair**

101 OTR shall be composed of six ~~(6)~~ to ten ~~(10)~~ members (called jurors) and is led by a chair. Jurors
102 and the chair begin their terms following the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The
103 committee has a liaison from the GLBTRT Board and an ALA Staff Liaison.

104 OTR jurors serve a two-year term beginning at the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting.
105 Each juror is eligible for an additional second twoone year term, if there is a lack of volunteers.
106 Jurors are recommended by the OTR Chair to the GLBTRT Chair elect/Chair with the approval of
107 the continuing jurors. The GLBTRT Chair makes appointments. A one-year hiatus before
108 consideration for reappointment is required after completion of two consecutive terms.
109 Members serve a two-year term beginning at the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting and
110 will complete a one-year hiatus before being eligible for another appointment to the
111 committee. Members serve a two-year term and will serve a one year hiatus before being
112 eligible for reappointment beginning at the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

113 When possible, appointments will maintain a balance of geographical regions of the United
114 States, racial and ethnic groups, types of libraries, and gender. Every effort will be made to
115 maintain gender parity. Incoming jurors and officers begin their terms following the conclusion
116 of the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

117 OTR jurors will select books that exhibit commendable literary quality and significant, authentic
118 GLBTQ content for adults age 18 and over. Jurors will be expected to actively seek and nominate
119 recommend books for consideration and to read nominated recommended books.

120 Leadership duties of OTR are assumed by a Chair committee chair and a Vice Chair/Chair Elect.
121 The chair Vice Chair/Chair Elect serves in that capacity for one year and then assumes the Chair
122 position the following year. Chairs are not reappointed unless there are extenuating
123 circumstances.

124 **Eligibility and ~~Book Nominations~~ Recommendations for Consideration**

125 To be considered for the list, a book must be published within the assigned calendar year or
126 between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year. Eligibility of books originally
127 published outside the United States will be determined according to the original publication
128 dates in the United States. Books must be distributed in the United States during the period of
129 eligibility to be considered for the list. Revisions of previously published books will be
130 considered if the revision is to such an extent as to make the book substantially different from
131 the previous edition. Any book removed from nomination consideration at the beginning of the
132 first ALA Midwinter Meeting is eligible for nomination consideration during the following year if
133 it meets the eligibility requirements. Any book nominated recommended for consideration and
134 discussed at ALA Midwinter Meeting will be ineligible for nomination consideration during the
135 following year.

136 Jurors must read a book in its entirety before nominating recommending it for consideration. All
137 jurors will nominate make recommendations books and discuss nominations them
138 electronically.

139 Anyone may recommend suggest a book to OTR jurors for nomination consideration. If a book is
140 suggested by someone not on OTR, at least one juror must read and nominate recommend that
141 book for it to be considered. The deadline for non-juror recommendations suggestions is

142 September 30. ~~Recommendations-Suggestions for nomination~~ will not be accepted from the
143 publisher of a proposed book, agents or representatives of the author, or anyone else who may
144 stand to gain directly from the ~~nomination-recommendation~~ of the book. A short statement
145 describing why the book is being ~~recommended for nomination-suggested~~ shall accompany the
146 request, which is to be submitted to the OTR Chair or to the OTR Suggestion Form on the OTR
147 website <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/>. Juror ~~nominations-recommendations for~~
148 consideration must be sent to other OTR jurors by October 31.

149 OTR jurors are expected to read as many of the ~~nominated~~-books under consideration as they
150 can. All jurors will be informed of each ~~nomination-new recommendation~~ as it is made. Review
151 copies of a book will be requested from its publisher as available. During the year, jurors will
152 actively participate in ongoing discussions of books, both those ~~nominated-under consideration~~
153 and those ~~being-merely considered for nominations-suggested~~. Jurors will also expected to read
154 book reviews of ~~nominated~~-books under consideration, either by consulting review sources
155 directly available to them or by reading reviews posted or otherwise distributed by other OTR
156 jurors.

157 **Selection**

158 Much of the process of discussing and selecting the books will be carried out electronically.
159 Jurors will recommend ~~nominate~~-books, discuss ~~nominations~~ them, and participate in straw
160 polls electronically prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The results of the straw polls will be
161 compiled and disseminated to the jurors of the Project within a week.

162 The official selections will be made by the conclusion of the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Decisions
163 will be reached by consensus, meaning that each juror accepts the decision. If the group cannot
164 come to consensus, the decision will be made with no more than one person dissenting. For a
165 book to be put on the list, at least half of the active OTR jurors must have read the book and
166 agreed with its inclusion. The book is then annotated by the jurors. Jurors can only participate in
167 the final discussion of books they have read in their entirety.

168 **Announcement of Selections**

169 The Chair will notify the authors and/or publishers of the selected books as soon as soon as the
170 final decision is made. At the ALA Midwinter Meeting the Chair will notify the ~~Co-Chairs of the~~
171 GLBTRT Board and the American Library Association, particularly the ALA Public Information
172 Office and the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, of the selections.

173 In collaboration with the Chair of the GLBTRT External Relations Committee, the Chair shall
174 prepare a press release announcing the selections. Copies of this announcement shall be sent to
175 the editor of the GLBTRT Newsletter, the ALA Public Information Office, library and bookselling
176 periodicals, publishers, booksellers, periodicals, and newspapers that address library
177 professionals and GLBTQ books. The press release shall also be distributed widely through
178 electronic discussion groups, blogs, etc.

179 **Requirements and Duties of OTR Jurors**

180 Jurors, ~~including officers,~~ must be members of the American Library Association and the
181 GLBTRT.

182 Jurors may not ~~nominate~~ ~~recommends~~ ~~suggest~~ a book for consideration that they have
183 contributed to, edited, or in any other way been affiliated with, or a book authored or edited by
184 a member of their immediate family or anyone with whom they currently share a household.

185 Jurors shall adhere to the following requirements and responsibilities:

- 186 • Select books that exhibit commendable literary quality and significant, authentic GLBTQ
187 content for adults age 18 and over.
- 188 • Actively seek and recommend books for consideration.
- 189 • Keep abreast of current GLBTQ publishing and notify the Committee of eligible
190 ~~nomination~~ candidates.
- 191 • Read and critically evaluate as many current literature and nonfiction GLBTQ books as
192 possible.
- 193 • Participate actively in Committee discussions of books both ~~nominated~~ recommended
194 for consideration and those eligible for nomination consideration.
- 195 • Submit ~~nominations~~ recommendations of GLBTQ books throughout the year for the OTR
196 list.
- 197 • Work collaboratively to acquire and relay to the Committee book reviews and other
198 information pertinent to ~~nominated-eligible~~ books being considered for nomination.
- 199 • Follow the rules and procedures of the OTR Project Committee and meet the deadlines
200 established by the Committee Chair chair and Vice Chair/Chair Elect.
- 201 • Perform other duties as deemed necessary by the Chair chair and Vice Chair/Chair Elect.
- 202 • Not be a member of another media selection or award committee during their term on
203 OTR.
- 204 • Jurors completing terms on OTR are strongly encouraged to participate on other
205 committees within the GLBTRT.

206 **Requirements and Duties of the Chair ~~and Vice Chair/Chair Elect~~**

207 In addition to the requirements and duties of OTR jurors, the Chair ~~and Vice Chair/Chair Elect~~
208 ~~are~~ is proscribed from holding any other official positions within the GLBTRT throughout the
209 course of their terms.

210 ~~The Chair and Vice Chair/Chair Elect shall work together in a collaborative and communicative~~
211 ~~manner.~~

212 The Chair ~~and Vice Chair/Chair Elect~~ shall adhere to the following requirements and
213 responsibilities, ~~dividing leadership in a mutually agreed upon manner:~~

- 214 • Offer the GLBTRT Chair-elect/Chair recommendations for committee members who will
- 215 maintain a balance of geographical regions of the United States, racial and ethnic
- 216 groups, and types of libraries. Every effort will be made to maintain gender parity.
- 217 • Keep abreast of the publication of eligible books and compile lists of eligible books.
- 218 • Ensure that small and academic presses are given the same consideration as large trade
- 219 and mass-market press publications.
- 220 • Ensure that the Committee complies with American Library Association and GLBTRT
- 221 policies and procedures, as well as its own.
- 222 • Set and meet deadlines agreed upon by the Committee, the GLBTRT, and the American
- 223 Library Association.
- 224 • Pursue and advocate for adequate funding for the OTR Project with the GLBTRT and the
- 225 American Library Association.
- 226 • Report on the Committee’s work to the GLBTRT Board and its general membership via
- 227 appropriate Round Table discussion lists and newsletters, and at American Library
- 228 Association conferences/meetings.
- 229 • Perform other duties as deemed necessary by the Committee and the GLBTRT.

230 ~~Policies for Over the Rainbow Eligibility and Book Nominations Consideration~~^[A2]

231 ~~To be considered for the list, a book must be published within the assigned calendar year or~~

232 ~~between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year. Eligibility of books originally~~

233 ~~published outside the United States will be determined according to the original publication~~

234 ~~dates in the United States. Books must be distributed in the United States during the period of~~

235 ~~eligibility to be considered for the list. Revisions of previously published books will be~~

236 ~~considered if the revision is to such an extent as to make the book substantially different from~~

237 ~~the previous edition. Any book removed from nomination consideration at the beginning of the~~

238 ~~first ALA Midwinter Meeting is eligible for nomination consideration during the following year if~~

239 ~~it meets the eligibility requirements. Any book nominated recommended and discussed at ALA~~

240 ~~Midwinter Meeting will be ineligible for nomination consideration during the following year.~~

241 ~~Jurors must read a book in its entirety before nominating recommending it for consideration. All~~

242 ~~jurors will nominate recommend books and discuss nominations them electronically. Anyone~~

243 ~~may recommend suggest a book to OTR jurors for nomination consideration. If a book is~~

244 ~~suggested by someone not on OTR, at least one juror must read and nominate recommend that~~

245 ~~book for it to be considered. The deadline for non-juror recommendations suggestions is~~

246 ~~September 30. Recommendations for nomination Suggestions will not be accepted from the~~

247 ~~publisher of a proposed book, agents or representatives of the author, or anyone else who may~~

248 ~~stand to gain directly from the nomination of the book. A short statement describing why the~~

249 ~~book is being recommended for nomination suggested shall accompany the request, which is to~~

250 ~~be submitted to the OTR Chair. Juror nominations recommendations for consideration must be~~

251 ~~sent to other OTR jurors by October 31.~~

252 OTR jurors are encouraged to read as many of the nominated recommended books as they can.
253 All jurors will be informed of each nomination recommendation for consideration as it is made.
254 Review copies of a book will be requested from its publisher as available. During the year, jurors
255 will actively participate in ongoing discussions of books, both those nominated recommended
256 for considartion and those being considered for nomination eligible. Jurors will also expected to
257 read book reviews of nominated recommended books, either by consulting review sources
258 directly available to them or by reading reviews posted or otherwise distributed by other OTR
259 jurors.

260 **Version History**

- 261 • [2014 July Amendments PDF ??? kb -- Amendments to further align procedures with the](#)
262 [GLBTRT Bylaws and the GLBTRT Leadership Responsibilities document.](#)
- 263 • 2012 July: alignment of procedures with [GLBTRT Leadership Responsibilities](#) adopted on 7
264 March 2012 by GLBTRT Steering Committee [[pdf: 382kb](#)]

265 **Origin [web template page heading]**

266 The Over the Rainbow Book List is an expansion of the highly successful Rainbow Book List. Over the
267 Rainbow Book List is created by a committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round
268 Table (GLBTRT) of the American Library Association (ALA).

269 The project was proposed in February 2010 and was formally charged as a GLBTRT ad hoc committee by
270 the GLBTRT Steering Committee in April 2010. The round table Steering Committee received the below
271 project proposal documents. The committee's progress was evaluated by the round table Steering
272 Committee at the ALA 2011 Annual Conference. The Over the Rainbow Book List Committee was
273 formally voted in as a standing round table committee at the GLBTRT Membership Meeting, 2011 ALA
274 Annual Conference.

275 GLBTRT Membership Meeting Documents, 2011 ALA Annual Conference:

- 276 • Membership Meeting Minutes [pdf: 111kb]
- 277 • Membership Meeting Agenda [pdf: 16.9kb]

278 Project Proposal Documents:

- 279 • Over the Rainbow Project Proposal [pdf: 24.0 kb]
- 280 • Over the Rainbow Project Proposed Policies [pdf: 36.0 kb]

281 Ad hoc Committee Reports:

- 282 • 2011 ALA Annual Conference, Over the Rainbow Ad hoc Committee Report [pdf: 29.8]
- 283 • 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting, Over the Rainbow Ad hoc Committee Report [pdf: 66kb]
- 284 • 2010 ALA Annual Conference, Over the Rainbow Ad hoc Committee Report [pdf: 71kb]