

ALA Publishing Committee

Annual 2021 Committee Report

Submitted by ALA Publishing Chair: Christine Korytnyk Dulaney

Committee Members:

Christine K. Dulaney, chair
Megan Biddle, member
Heather Campbell, member
Paul Flagg, member
Jennifer Ashley Joe, member
Shay Ramsey, member
Anjelica T. Rufus-Barnes, member
Danielle Skaggs, member
Lori Giles-Smith, member
Rachel Edford, associate
Christina Springfield, associate
Maggie Farrell, Executive Board and BARC liaison
Mary Mackay, staff liaison
Mary Jo Bolduc, staff liaison

Accomplishments:

ALA Operating Agreement Working Group

As chair, Christine represented the Publishing Committee at monthly meetings of the ALA Operating Agreement Working Group (OAWG). She further represented the committee at the Publishing Subcommittee of the working group. In representing ALA publishing in this group, Christine brought back to the Publishing Committee issues regarding publishing which were raised by the OAWG. In these committee discussions, the members discussed the operating agreement as it relates to publishing, how the members have used ALA published products and what do they see as the content gaps in the ALA title list.

Regarding the operating agreement, the concerns raised centered around identifying the challenges of publishing with ALA as well as identifying the benefits of uniting all publishing efforts of various ALA divisions under a single ALA “umbrella” and leveraging efficiencies gained by eliminating overlapping efforts. Each meeting of the Publishing Committee, members were able to discuss this issue and provide feedback. Mary Mackay as staff liaison provided valuable insights into the financial challenges which ALA Publishing.

Review of ALA products:

In this year, two ALA Publishing Committee meetings were devoted to a review of ALA products. Members reviewed the Library Technology Reports series and the ALA Poster products in the December, 2020 meeting. Both individual use of the products as well as content and pricing for individual titles were discussed. Members also provided feedback on how they would like these products developed in the future.

In the April, 2021 meeting, committee members served as a focus group to provide input on ALA Editions/ ALA Neal-Schuman products. Editions staff prepared a series of questions for the committee in order to guide the discussion and to provide the most useful feedback on how the committee members do professional research and use various published products.

Review of committee charge:

As part of the ALA-wide discussion on the operating agreement, Christine and Mary initiated a discussion regarding the effectiveness of the committee and the relevancy of the committee charge. In the May, 2021 meeting, Committee members expressed a desire to revise the charge with text which more clearly stated the responsibilities of the committee and provided actionable tasks. Overall, committee members were unclear of their role on the committee and suggested more onboarding for new members. Christine and Mary prepared a draft revision of the charge to be presented at ALA Annual in June, 2021.

Committee members received ALA Publishing reports for review at the same time as they were submitted to governance groups such as the Executive Board and BARC, and to the Executive Director. These reports included sales and budget updates as well as impactful activities from the various business units.

The committee held more frequent virtual meetings in FY2021 than had been held in the past. Monthly meetings were scheduled, and occasionally canceled if not needed.

2021 Carnegie Whitney Grant

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawrds/carnegiwhitney>

The 2021 Carnegie Whitney Grant application submissions were due November 2, 2020. The Committee received 20 applications for the sub-committee to review. The 2021 sub-committee was:

Anjelica Rufus-Barnes – Chair
Jennifer Ashely Joe
Megan Biddle
Rachel Edford
Shay Ramsey

The Committee selected 7 winners to be voted on by the full Publishing Committee at Midwinter 2021. Due to covid, ALA Connect was used for this vote, and all recommendations were approved by the full committee. The winners were notified and formally accepted their grants. Projects are currently in process. Here is the press release announcing the 2021 winners. <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/05/carnegie-whitney-grant-2021-award-winners>