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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ALA COUNCIL 1

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005 - 10:45 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m.  
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>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Good morning again, Council, if  
I could ask you to take your seats. The chair calls the  
first meeting of the ALA Council to order. Would all  
Council Members please take the reserved seats at the  
front of the room?

If you want to speak at this meeting, please go to a  
microphone, wait for recognition and then give your name  
and indicate if you are a division Councilor, a chapter  
Councilor, a Councilor-At-Large or a Round Table  
Councilor.

Motion forms must be completed for all motions. For  
your convenience, the motion forms are available at each  
end of your table. Motion forms must be printed legibly,  
signed by the motioner and seconder and given to the  
projectionist before you go to the microphone. This will  
insure that the overhead slide of your motion will be

**ALA CD#50, Resolution on Endangered Libraries List.**

I now refer you to ALA Council Document Number 50, Resolution on Endangered Libraries List. And would Councilor Al Kagan please go to the microphone and read only the "resolved" clause of ALA Council Document 50.

(Someone sneezed.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Bless you.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: "Therefore be it resolved that the American library association establish and maintain a 'Endangered Libraries Lis' which will capture and centralize in readily accessible format information on libraries whose funding is in endangered and encourage the dissemination of this list as an organizing tool."

And I would like to make a short remark.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Please go ahead.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: This document comes to you because we have done such good work around Salinas and the library in Texas and some other efforts recently. And because when some of us looked at the guidelines that were established for doing this kind of advocacy, we realized that there may be something left out. And the part that was left out that we saw was the need to maintain an up-to-date listing of exactly what's happening so that we could be more on top of the situation.

And the movers think that it's not for ALA to establish such a list, but it's for the people at the local level to come forward and say they want to be on this list and request advocacy at the national level.

So that's why you have the document in front of you. I think it's just an addition to the good work that we've been doing recently.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Thank you. Microphone 3.

>> LIZ BISHOFF: ALA Councilor-At-Large. You announced at the beginning of the session that resolutions needed to go to BARC. I checked with the Chair of BARC. This has not gone to BARC. Therefore I'd like to refer it to **BARC and have them bring it back prior to the close of Council meeting.**

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: So we have a motion. Do you have a second?

>> Second.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Motion and seconded to refer this resolution to BARC and bring it back prior to the close of Council meeting at this conference. We have

that motion on the floor. All those in favor, please raise your hand?

(Raise of hands.)

All those opposed please raise your hand?

All right. The motion passes. And this resolution will be referred to BARC to come back at this conference.

**ALA Council Document 51, Resolution Requesting that U.S. News and World Report Evaluate Graduate Schools of Library and Information Science in 2006 and More Frequently Thereafter.**

I now refer you to ALA Council Document 51, Resolution Requesting that U.S. News and World Report Evaluate Graduate Schools of Library and Information Science in 2006 and More Frequently Thereafter.

Would Councilor Diedre Conkling read only the "resolved" clause of ALA Document Number 51.

>> DIEDRE CONKLING: Councilor-at-Large. "Resolved that the American Library Association, through a letter from the ALA Executive Director, request that U S. News and World Report undertake a new evaluation of graduate schools of library and information science in 2006 and that they plan to evaluate graduate schools of library and information science with a greater frequency in the future."

May I speak to that?

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Yes, please.

>> DIEDRE CONKLING: One of our interests continues to be encouraging people to become librarians. A source that is often used as a place to find some information about the schools that provide education librarianship is U.S. News and World Report. Although most of us may disagree with the ranking process they use, we have to be made aware that this is a source used by the general population.

To be using such dated information, though the report is using 1999, it's actually 1998 statistics, so using such dated information gives people information that has moved from null and ranking to just plain incorrect information.

None of the distance and electronic education programs are a part of this information. These programs were not flourishing programs -- were not the flourishing programs that they are today. It does a real disservice to

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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
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ALA COUNCIL 2

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005 - 9:15 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.  
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Welcome to the ALA Council 2

Tuesday, June 28, 2005.  
9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
McCormick Place.  
South Building.  
Grand Ballroom A.  
Chicago, Illinois.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Good morning, Council!  
The Chair calls the second meeting of the ALA Council to order. Would all Councilors please occupy the reserved seats at the front of the room?

Again, we are voting on what you see on the screen, the strategies and the recommendations. Will all those in favor, please raise your hands? Thank you.

Will all those opposed, please raise your hands? Thank you.

>> LING HWEY JENG: Thank you very much.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Thank you, Ling Hwey, for the excellent work your task force conducted.

(Applause.)

Please mark your ballots CD Number 48.

We will now take up New Business. And I refer you to

**ALA Council Document 50, Endangered Libraries List Resolution.** Would Councilor Al Kagan please go to the microphone and read only the "resolve" clause of ALA Document 50? Microphone 7.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: "Therefore, be it resolved that the American Library Association establish and maintain an 'endangered libraries list' which will capture and centralize, in readily accessible format, information on libraries whose funding is endangered and encourage the dissemination of this list as an organizing tool."

And I would like to make brief comments.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Please go ahead.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: Thank you. One thing that I noticed this this morning was that in the Treasurer's Report, one of the specifically addressed areas is going to be collection of primary and secondary data. And I think this actually fits well with the Treasurer's Report.

I spoke to this last time, and I don't want to speak too long on this. I just want to say that we've done some really wonderful work. We saw the work in the video this morning. I thought that was great. We've got some guidelines. This is just a way to continue and do more on what we need to do. Thanks.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Okay, thank you. Is

there any discussion on the motion? Microphone 5.

>> ANN SPARANESE: Councilor-At-Large. I speak in favor of this motion. I also noticed on, I guess it was in the video this morning, information about 31 libraries being closed and libraries encountering budget cuts of over \$82 million. And I realized that I don't know any of those 31 libraries and why they were closed and what their situation was. And in the case of Salinas, it was a little bit lucky that it was a town of Steinbeck and Caesar Chavez. It's one of the reasons it got so much publicity. Otherwise, these things are happening under the radar. And I think a list, which I see as being maybe a self-selected list, that libraries who want help in this area putting themselves on the list, would be important in letting everyone know what's going on in the field.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: I might just comment that while of course it makes it no less serious, perhaps, but those were branch libraries of different systems. As far as we know, at this point, because Salinas is open and Bedford is now open again, there is no city without a public library at this point that had one previously.

Microphone 7.

>> CAROLYN CAYWOOD: IFRT Councilor. While I support the idea in spirit and probably would have voted for it a week ago, I got, in the mail, from Smithsonian a mailing saying "10 libraries to close, acquisitions cut to zero, Iowa libraries budgets halved, the library's worst nightmare come true," et cetera. Here is just one quote from an article sent on to us by the American Library Association that is unfortunately typical of what we are hearing everywhere. It goes on with somebody's story. Then it lists Seattle; Baltimore; Warren, Michigan; Brooklyn and concludes by requesting funds to be sent to Smithsonian to purchase subscriptions for these poor libraries.

I cannot vote for this without some control over how the list will be used, who can do what with it, some kind of a sense of some management for it. I'm not quite sure what entity in ALA should take charge of it, but there needs to be some charge taken.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: Member at Large. I don't have such a graphic example of why I'm very uncomfortable with this process. I can agree in spirit also; however, I have real reservations about a number of issues. One, as a library director, again, the idea of my library getting on a list like that maybe unbeknownst to my mayor, to my City Council, to other people that are doing things with the budget and we're working on issues, could poison the well good deal locally. I'm also concerned about ALA having some liability. If we put libraries on a list like that and they didn't want to be there or didn't feel they were or, you know, don't feel what kind of guidelines whereby they were put there, I think there could be some problems in that area, too. So I'm not supportive of actually going to this level and publishing a list like this at this point in time.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 7?

>> MICHAEL MCGRORTY: Member at Large (inaudible) and I stand very strongly in support of this resolution. And I would like to also say with regard to the last point that was raised that there were people in Salinas and throughout California that did not think that the Salinas resolution or my even bringing the subject up was a good idea.

A lot of things we're going to do may not go well the local libraries. We serve the library community, not necessarily the Library Administrator that doesn't want that to be known that the library hasn't been funded.

In any event, we can't use that to stifle what we do, otherwise we would never go anywhere. We've made a great start in Salinas. If I could speak to any issue on this, it would be that we

need hard parameters for this in order to make an inclusive and good list, a sound list with qualifications. And then we need to move forward. But I stand very strongly in favor of the resolution. Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 4.

>> BERNARD MARGOLIS: Councilor-At-Large. I can only support this if every American library will be put on this list.

(Laughter and applause.)

I think the process of discerning among the different types of libraries, including special libraries, academic libraries, library school libraries, public libraries is really an impossible task.

I'm concerned not only because that task is so great, but I'm concerned because the resolution in no way speaks to who or whom within ALA will do this, how it will be accomplished. Will it be a regularized process? Clearly it has implications, as noted earlier, for some costly process on the part of ALA. But because that's really not clearly outlined in the resolution, I will vote against it.

I think there is one other issue to point out that I think is fairly important but hasn't been touched on. ALA is a membership organization. We actually have several thousand institutional members, including many different types of libraries. I think you need to at least poll that group to find out how they would feel, as institutions, having the option of being on an endangered libraries list or not and certainly find out from that portion of our constituency, who pay a fair amount of membership dues every year, how they would feel and whether they would see that as a supportive member service or something that would be quite contrary to their own interests.

But I think we should vote down this proposal. Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 5.

>> NAN BLAINE HILYARD: Member of the Executive Board. First of all, I am not in

favor of this resolution because I think, gee, we could be a poster child, we've been named to the list for five years in a row. The danger of having erroneous information available and getting -- how that could be misused.

Also, quick parenthetical note. The Smithsonian campaign has been going on for a number of years. It uses highly, highly, highly outdated information going back to the problems of license finances in the early 1990s. I appreciate Councilor bringing it to our attention. Every time I get that ad, it makes me write a letter. I think maybe it's shared to the Executive Director we can maybe bring it to the Public Information Office to write the proper response. Although interestingly, it turns out I looked at our library's shelf, and it turns out that we have actually been one of those poor libraries who's benefited from a gift from somebody in a completely other state to give us a subscription to the Smithsonian. But now we can do something about this. So thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 2.

>> MARY AUGUSTA THOMAS: Councilor-at-Large and Associate Director of Smithsonian Libraries. (Laughter.)

I won't speak whether we're endangered or not, but most of you do know our story. It's a marketing piece. It's a point of information from the magazine. That has nothing do with the Smithsonian's own libraries, nor in fact were we ever consulted about whether we are endangered or not.

So, we have not been successful in asking them to clarify that, and so I'd support anything we can do. But I wanted you to know that's coming from the marketing department.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Thank you. Microphone 7. Microphone 7.

>> MARK ROSENZWEIG: Councilor-At-Large. I have to reiterate something that my colleague Ann Sparanese said early on in this discussion and that was libraries would self-select

themselves to be on this list. This would not be something that ALA would impose on local libraries. This would be something, a list that would be available for those libraries who see the importance. And I believe that there will be lots of them, of a national campaign which links their local problem to the overall national problem of the endangerment of libraries as an institution, as a national institution.

I think the greatest virtue of this formulation is that it is a -- it energizes a public campaign and it focuses a public campaign on the entire problem of the endangerment of libraries as a national issue. And because of the position of ALA as the national organization of American librarians and libraries, it seems that that would be the proper level at which we would address this. And it could be a tremendous boon to the local libraries to be considered part of a much larger problem. And at the same time it would, if they wish, draw attention to their own particular case, which would illustrate the problem in its scope.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 8.

>> ELAINE HARGER: Councilor-At-Large. After hearing Bernie Margolis' comments about we should all be on the endangered species list -- endangered libraries list, I thought that's probably true. We are all on the endangered libraries list because the public's fear is endangered at this moment.

However, we can also take a look at from whence this kind of metaphor came with the endangered species act. I mean if we look at the environmental problems facing the globe today, every living thing on this planet happens to be endangered, okay? However, I think that the metaphor is one that is very familiar with the public. And given the public awareness initiatives that the American Library Association conducts, this could be a very -- this could be a metaphor that really resonates with members of the public. And I think that's

where its strength lies.

If the bald eagle had not ever been put on an endangered species act, people would not have been energized to do things to protect its habitat in order that it would one day again, and, thankfully, it is now no longer endangered.

So having a library that feels threatened for whatever reason asked to be put on the endangered species -- or endangered libraries list so that it can develop and galvanize the local public to its assistance is something that can be very helpful. And we've seen that happen in the few instances with the Salinas libraries. The public got together. And the threats that were facing that library, you know, are not as dire as they were. And there is hope for the future of that library system. So I speak in strong support of this resolution.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> JO ANN PINDER: Councilor-At-Large. As I age, I realize that I will never know the truth of anything. And as we all struggle, as administrators and as staff, to have adequate funding for our libraries, a lot of that is done behind the scenes and a lot of that is things that we cannot talk about in public. I think having an endangered library list is very -- yes, dangerous, thank you -- is very dangerous.

There are areas in which this Association needs to be very proactive. There are areas where it needs to be reactive. And I think in local issues, this Association needs to be reactive not proactive like this.

(Applause.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> BERNADINE ABBOTT HODUSKI:  
Councilor-At-Large. In my career, I've been involved with getting historic buildings on the preservation list, like our wonderful hotel in Glacier Park, getting animals on the endangered list as when I worked at Interior in EPA. Frankly, there are groups who campaign to get on these lists. We campaigned in Montana to get our hotels on the list because it means funding,

it means recognition.

So I would say that if we did the endangered list, which, frankly, I'm for it, we should have criteria where people have to actually campaign to get on it; and, therefore, you would not be getting on it unless you really, really needed to get on it.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 5.

>> JULIE BREWER: Delaware Chapter Councilor. I think the potential closing of libraries is a very concern for the American Library Association. This discussion reminds me of the one we had expressing concern for the closing of libraries -- library schools. And we just heard a report from the task force, which I thought was pretty effective for outlining strategies for dealing with that. I wonder, should this fail, if ALA could have a task force that would look at strategies, a similar task force that addressed the closing of the library schools.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> MARY PARHAMOVICH FARRELL: Maggie Farrell, Councilor-At-Large. As Bernadine also pointed out, there's no criteria, there's nothing specific that says what is an endangered library. And I think if we had a criteria or if we had define what endangered is, then we would be able to decide on this specific issue.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 8.

>> JAMES CASEY: Councilor-At-Large. I move to end debate.

>> Second.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: We have a motion on the floor. Is there any objection to closing debate?

>> I object.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Of course there is.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

Silly me. All right. All those in favor of closing debate, please raise your hand? Thank you.

All those opposed, please raise your hand? It's really close. All right. I think we

better divide the house. Oh, we need two-thirds, right. All right. The parliamentarian is telling me we do not have two-thirds. And that's what we need to close debate. So we will proceed. Microphone 4.

>> DAN O'CONNOR: Councilor-At-Large. I was going to tell a little story but I'll skip that for now.

(Laughter.)

The endangered libraries list brings -- is fraught with a lot of problems. A closed libraries list is not.

I belong to another association that, the AAUP, that censors universities that violates academic freedom. Colleges and universities do not want to be on that list. We do not have a list that says those that are thinking about violating it, it's those who do.

If we had a closed libraries list, it would be one that nobody want to be on. We probably have a better name to call it. But an endangered creates a problem for us and one for them. But a closed list gives us something to target. I'll end this by saying we never know the reasons why those libraries are endangered, so I'll slip in this quick story.

When I was 16 years old in the City of Niagara Falls, New York, I challenged the reference policy in the library. The Director called the entire staff together, ripped up my card and forbid me to enter that library for three years. And I was not allowed in. My friends had to get books for me. And I just received an email from my brother that the Niagara Falls Public Library is on the list and about to close. And I knew it would happen. I just didn't know when.

(Laughter.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Interesting. Microphone 7.

>> BETH BOYSON: I'm the Chapter Councilor from Montana. I wanted to reiterate a few points and talk about the intent of the endangered libraries list. I certainly wouldn't want anyone who thought it was dangerous to be

on the list to be on the list.

However, a national list published by the American Library Association that listed some of the rural states' problems would get much more attention than anything we could generate locally. That was a large part of my support of this resolution. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 7.

>> MICHAEL GOLRICK: Member of the Executive Board. It was my recollection that earlier in this conference, our Executive Director reported about the process that currently exists. And I guess while this has been a healthy and useful discussion, it's my personal opinion that the fact that we already have a process to deal with libraries that are in danger of closing is a major step that addresses many of the issues that have been raised by this resolution. And so, therefore, I speak in opposition to this particular resolution because I believe we already have a solution in place. Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 5.

>> SUE KAMM: Councilor-At-Large. There are a couple of problems, and I think other people have brought this up, with this resolution.

One is the backlash that establishing such a list would have on ALA. I think we have enough problems with our positive goals being brought before the public and misunderstood by a certain group of, I won't say it, that this might do ALA more harm than good.

What will do ALA good is to publicize the protocols that my friend Michael Golrick just mentioned so that Library Administrators who think that they may be in danger of either closing or having their budgets cut so drastically, so that they will know how to gather grass roots support, how and when to call in the outside troops.

Anyway, yeah. Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Microphone 3.

>> ELIZABETH (inaudible): Councilor-At-Large. I speak in heavy support for this resolution. I

was one of those who was trying to rally support for Buffalo. We learned that they were in danger at our state library conference. And there was only up to about a month and a half, two months' notice to turn it around.

When I spoke up about it at library events within New York City, people wanted to know what they could do. I didn't have a venue. You need something that's highly visible and easy to look at. And an endangered libraries list provided, as was stated, that the library buys into this, as an easy thing to send people to. So that they can find out the facts.

Later on, the Buffalo Public Library did put stuff up on their own website, which I was able to direct people to. But, you know, it was a scramble.

Seeing no one else at the microphones? Oh, I'm sorry, Microphone 5.

>> LING HWEY JENG: Councilor-At-Large. I remember earlier BARC report reported on the financial impact of this particular resolution. And I believe the Chair of BARC also has some comments. And I wonder if the Chair of BARC is available to share some of those comments with us.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: She did make those comments earlier, but if she would like to reiterate a point, Microphone 2.

>> PATRICIA SMITH: Councilor-At-Large and Chair of BARC. At the discussion yesterday, there were some comments about concerns about local process and concern about libraries being able to handle things locally. And if they need ALA, we have a wonderful process in place. It has helped very much the whole crisis response system. We were raising concerns, too, about the fact that there were no criteria, no definition of what endangered meant. But it was essentially the sense that there is a process in place already through the Crisis Response Plan and that we had -- we wanted to be very conscious of working with local libraries.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Okay, thank you. If

there is no additional discussion, we will move to the vote.

Will all those in favor of the motion please raise your hands? Thank you.

Will all those opposed, please raise your hands? And the motion fails.

Please mark your ballots CD Number 50.