

Over the Rainbow (OTR) Project Ad hoc Committee Report

Steering Committee Meeting 1 – New Orleans, LA – June 2011

The aim of the Over the Rainbow (OTR) Project has been to further the mission of the GLBTRT by promoting the improved quality and accessibility of GLBTQ literature through the provision for adult readers of an annual annotated bibliography of books. We provide GLBTQ readers and the general public with guidance in selecting commendable books that reflect the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience and communities.

Our projects since the Annual Conference in San Diego, CA were as follows—

- At the conclusion of Mid-Winter, the OTR jurors had a total of 108 books with a sufficient number of positive votes to be included in the inaugural OTR annotated bibliography. Of those books, 37 were from small, independent publishers, self-published or from University Presses. Ten of the titles were published in Canada.
- The committee was thrilled that even though it was the inaugural year for the OTR bibliography, *Booklist* featured OTR's "Top 11 of 2011" recommended titles along with the other more established book lists.
- Every January or February, the Web Committee will link each item in the annual bibliography to its WorldCat record. For users in the United States, the WorldCat record will show the nearest libraries that own the book they are looking for. The link is an OCLC permalink, driven by a link resolver, which assures that the link will never break.
- Every January or February, the Web Committee will also add all titles in the annual bibliography to the GLBTRT Library Thing collection. The 2011 OTR bibliography was placed in Library Thing in January 2011, along with the Stonewall BAC list and the Rainbow Project's annual bibliography.
- Thanks to the fine work of David Vess, our blog was successfully transferred to the ALA server. Because David linked the blog to both Facebook and Twitter, we had a number of hits to the site from direct links to both. Highlights of the data from <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/> are as follows. During our first 6 months of using the ALA-based blog (January to May):
 - There were a total of 3,924 visits to the site, with a total of 6,103 page views.
 - Most of the hits were in January from the time when we published our nominations until the end of the January, after we publicized our final list.
 - All told, there were 2,947 unique visitors from 65 countries and territories.
 - 1,051 were direct visits to the URL, 573 were from Facebook, 570 from ALA.org, 504 from Google, 171 from Twitter, 152 from AmericanLibraries.com, 97 from Lambda Literary Foundation. OTR would like to give a special *shout out* to Ivan Coyote for 76 hits from IvanCoyote.com.

- We currently have 217 titles under consideration for next year's list. We are considering titles published between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. Our success with the first bibliography improved communication with publishers this year. Many of the smaller presses now see the benefits to sending us previews, and have been very helpful in finding new titles. The committee has been diligently sharing copies of most titles in an effort not to burden publishers and authors.
- The list of all currently nominated books is published monthly and is available at <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/>
- The 2012 Over the Rainbow ad hoc committee is comprised of 9 members, Chair and Co-Chair-Elect: Arla Jones (Chair), Lawrence, KS; Danielle Pollock (Co-Chair/Chair-Elect), Albuquerque, NM; Martin Garnar, Denver, CO; Bob Graziano, Chicago, IL; Sarah Kanning, Lawrence, KS; Paige Mano, Racine, WI; Jesse Nachem, Oakland, CA; Larry Romans, Nashville, TN; Michael Santangelo, Brooklyn, NY; Katy Vance, Greensboro, NC; and Nel Ward, Newport, OR.
- **Proposed Agenda Item**--The Over the Rainbow Committee is requesting an "upgrade" to full committee status. We believe that we have successfully met the requirements of the Steering Committee. We have been using the same policies and procedures that we set forth in our initial proposal to the SC. OTR furthers the mission of the GLBTRT by serving the information needs of the GLBTQ professional library community, and the GLBTQ information and access needs of adult readers. As such, we feel that we have met and exceeded our intended goals.

**Respectfully submitted,
Arla A. Jones, Chair**