

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

**TO:** ALA Council

**DATE:** January 20, 2025

**RE:** *(select one)*

- ACTION REQUESTED**
- INFORMATION**
- REPORT**

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** *(add below)*

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

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**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** *(add committee name)*

ALA Publishing Committee

**CONTACT PERSON:** *(add chair information)*

Sara Kelly Johns, Chair, ALA Publishing Committee

**STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:**

George Kendall (Staff Liaison, Interim Director, ALA Publishing & Media, and Editor & Publisher, *Booklist*)

Mary Jo Bolduc (Staff Liaison, Licensing and Permissions Manager)

**BACKGROUND:** *(add information)*

## ALA Publishing Committee Council Committee Report, January 2025

**Members of the Committee:**

Sara Kelly Johns, Chair  
Dr. Amelia Maclay Anderson, Member  
Barbara A. Alvarez, Member  
Gina Costello, Member  
Michelle Fenton, Member  
Kerri F. Foley, Member  
Chad Hetterley, Associate  
David Hurley, Member  
Mazen El Makkouk, Associate

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Charles E. McAuley, Member  
Christopher Lee Proctor, Member  
Renna T. Redd, Member  
Dr. Peter D. Hepburn, Executive Board Liaison  
George Kendall, Staff Liaison  
Mary Jo Bolduc, Staff Liaison

## **Accomplishments, July–December 2024:**

- *Welcomed new committee members and associates.* The chair emailed incoming members after ALA Annual to welcome them. She shared an updated onboarding document that provides an overview of the committee's activities, information about ALA Publishing & Media's product lines and other ALA publishing units, instructions for accessing ALA Connect, and expectations of committee members. Members introduced themselves in virtual committee meetings.
- *Determined [Carnegie-Whitney](#) subcommittee membership and activities.* The grants are for the preparation of popular or scholarly reading lists, bibliographies, indexes and other guides to library resources that will be useful to users of all types of libraries in the United States. Christopher Proctor chairs the subcommittee with Barbara Alvarez, David Hurley, and Mazen El Makkouk serving on it. The subcommittee began reviewing applications, determined their recommendations for the awards, and will present the finalists to the full committee for approval at our next meeting in February 2024.
- Committee updates from Interim Director George Kendall include discussions of ALA Publishing & Media activity and ideas for promoting products; ALA Edition Neal-Schuman's new Discover and Learn series in collaboration with the Library of Congress. <https://alastore.ala.org/LOCcrn>; *Booklist* and *Booklist Reader* as ALA's pre-publication review vehicle, available as subscription; ALA Graphics Department including library merchandise that is customizable; and the RDA Toolkit.
- *Continued the work of the Publishing Ethics subcommittee.* To address criticism (see <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24593>) that ALA division journals lack publishing ethics documentation, the committee formed a subcommittee to draft a policy that all ALA editors can follow. Members included several Publishing Committee members as well as peer-reviewed journal editors from most of ALA's divisions. The subcommittee met virtually with an ALA Connect channel for communication. The Ethics Subcommittee report was brought to Council at ALA Annual, June 2024, as an action item in the Publications report; it was overwhelmingly adopted. The policy will be included in the next update of the ALA Policy Manual. Members hope that this will become the association's default publishing ethics policy, which editors/editorial boards can adapt and publish on their websites. A January *College & Research Libraries* [article](#) by some subcommittee members (Heather Campbell, Emily Knox, Richard Saunders, and Kristen Totleben) described the process of developing the policy. The next step is determining the process for reported misconduct.

## **Planned Activities, January–June 2025:**

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- *Award the Carnegie-Whitney grant.* The full committee will vote on winners in February 2024. The subcommittee is interested in reviewing and revising the rubric for the awards.
- *Continue to review and provide feedback about ALA Publishing & Media products.*
- *Plan the committee's meeting at ALA Annual.*
- *Write a legacy statement to reflect the committee's accomplishments.*