

**ALA Publishing Committee**  
**Annual 2019 Committee Report – Washington, DC**  
***Submitted by ALA Publishing Chair: Sandy Hirsh***

**Committee members present**

Sandy Hirsh, Chair  
Joseph Askins, Member  
Jennifer Joe, Member  
Sigrid Kelsey, Member  
Emily Knox, Member  
Melanie McGurr, Member  
Marissa Richardson, Member  
Nicole Spoor, Member  
Mary Augusta Thomas, Member  
Anjelica Rufus-Barnes, Associate

**Committee members absent**

Elizabeth Nelson, Member  
Jennifer Pate, Associate

**Publishing staff present**

Mary Mackay, ALA Associate Executive Director - Publishing  
Dan Freeman, Director, e-Learning Solutions  
Jamie Hennelly, Director, Digital Reference/RDA  
Rachel Johnson, Director, ALA Graphics  
George Kendall, Publisher & Editor, Booklist  
Chris Murphy, Publisher, ALA Editions/ Neal-Schuman  
Sanhita SinhaRoy, Editor & Publisher, American Libraries  
Karen Downing, Executive Board and BARC Liaison

**Visitors**

Christine Korytnyk Dulaney, incoming Member  
Jim Rettig

**Accomplishments:**

- *Reviewed and discussed the budget report and the publishing department strategic plans/measures/progress.* We have been pleased with the detailed reporting on the Publishing department's budget and activities. We feel that the publishing department is making good progress against its strategic plan as well.
- *Continued with new approach for engaging with Publishing units.* In 2018, the committee established a new approach for interacting with the publishing units at meetings. The committee asks each publishing unit to prepare a five-minute update

focused on one highlight, one challenge, one question for the ALA Publishing Committee. The committee chooses one of the publishing units to have a longer discussion with, in other words, a “deep dive,” that lasts 25-30 minutes. At our ALA Annual meeting, instead of doing a deep dive, we met with the new Booklist unit manager George Kendall and learned about his vision for Booklist.

- *Discussed EDI implementation for ALA Publishing:* The committee engaged in a good discussion around how we could address EDI in the work of the ALA Publishing Committee. The committee will continue this discussion at future meetings.
- *Discussed textbook pricing as part of the Neal-Schuman update:* Emily Knox walked us through some of the challenges of using ALA Neal-Schuman textbooks due to the relatively high price point (despite some recent lowering of prices) and the pressure on faculty to use cheaper course materials. This is an issue we agreed we need to keep in mind.
- *Established the Carnegie Whitney Subcommittee:* Anjelica Rufus-Barnes (our former Associate and incoming Member of the ALA Publishing Committee) will chair this subcommittee; she has previously served on this subcommittee. Joining her will be Sigrid Kelsey, Joseph Askins, Emily Knox, and Christine Korytnyk Dulaney.
- *Completed transition to new ALA Publishing Committee Chair:* After serving as ALA Publishing Committee chair for the last four years, I will no longer be serving on the committee. Mary Mackay and I met with new chair Nicole Spoor to ensure a smooth transition. I also shared the chair transition manual that was prepared by previous ALA Publishing Chair Gail Schlachter to aid in the transition.

#### **Planned Activities:**

- We will start working with the Publishing staff on an updated publishing strategic plan, since the current 2018-2020 strategic plan will be ending soon. Mary Mackay will start the process internally in Fall 2019 and will share more information with the Publishing Committee at ALA Midwinter 2020. Some considerations for the next strategic planning process include removing some of the tactical aspects and focusing more on strategic initiatives, adding more of an EDI focus, ensuring good alignment with ALA’s strategic directions, and addressing net revenue pressures.
- We will continue to discuss EDI implementations for the ALA Publishing Committee.
- We will continue to focus on areas where the ALA Publishing Committee can provide guidance, specifically:
  - Collaborations and partnerships
  - Organizational/bulk sales
  - Ideas, trends, and needs we come across at work

- Customization opportunities
  - Any comments about ways to improve.
- We will continue to have each unit manager present one highlight/challenge/question (5 minutes) and one deep dive for one unit each conference meeting.
- We established the Carnegie-Whitney Subcommittee; this subcommittee will do its work before ALA Midwinter Conference and report their recommendations for adoption to the full committee at that time.

**Issues with other units within ALA:** Not applicable

**Interactions with other units within ALA:** Not applicable

**Current level of committee members' involvement:**

- We had very strong attendance at the ALA Annual meeting, with nearly all members attending (two members were not able to attend). Members of the ALA Publishing Committee have been very active and engaged. We had one incoming member to the ALA Publishing Committee attend the Annual meeting as well.

**Committee self-check on its value and viability:**

- Overall, the committee is important and continues to be viable.