Committee Information Update (CIU)

Appendix I: Revised Form

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Name: Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee
Conference Year: 2020-2021
Committee Chair: James K. Teliha
Staff Liaison: Carrie Russell (and attached list)
Committee Members: See Appended List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of meeting(s)</th>
<th>Meeting format (in-person or virtual)</th>
<th>Number of members present</th>
<th>Guest Presenters, Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/4/2020</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td><a href="https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/share/6vV5Ag7A-HxJfbPK9GqAC_4dM4jZT6a80SEa__YMn0hLolatiFwnoxAFxOz8tmtW">https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/share/6vV5Ag7A-HxJfbPK9GqAC_4dM4jZT6a80SEa__YMn0hLolatiFwnoxAFxOz8tmtW</a> Password: $9hb0j2j</td>
<td>See attached agendas</td>
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<td>10/5/2020</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<td>12/16/2020</td>
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<td>1/23/2021</td>
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<td>6/24/2021</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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Committee Charge: To advise on priorities, policies, and strategies for the Association that promote the development and utilization of electronic access to information. To provide an ongoing channel for member communication, working closely with other units, committees and officers of the Association in matters touching information technology.

Objectives of the committee for this conference year, including any planned activities:

1. ___ Wrote Resolution in Support of Broadband as a Human Right
2. ___ Worked with COL on lobbying priorities
3. ___ Monitored Executive Agencies (i.e. FCC, etc.) for rules and policy changes

Describe interactions with other units within ALA: COL included our resolution in their report, passed
unanimously by Council

Synthesis of activities (summarize discussions, decision(s) or motion(s) reached, and note follow-up action(s) required):

1. See agendas
2. 
3. 

If unable to achieve desired committee outcomes, what hampered the ability to achieve stated goals (lack of resources, member participation, communication issues, procedural delays, etc.?)

Current committee has two major issues, first, our longtime staff liaison, Carrie Russel is retiring. Further, in September of 2021, her successor, Marijke Ann Visser, left ALA to become Main State Librarian. As of Monday October 4, Kevin Maher will be working with ITPAC going forward. The second issue is not in ALA’s hands: We (the people) are still waiting for the US Senate to confirm President Biden’s FCC nominations. While Promoting Jessica Rosenworcel to FCC Chair is a terrific start, the rest of the committee is needed to start working on any attempt at restoring Net Neutrality.

Priorities/recommendations for the upcoming year: Continue to pursue restoration of Net Neutrality,

once FCC appointees have been approved by the Senate, as well as pushing Rural Broadband, and closing the digital divide.

Other comments/information you believe will help the Association in its work: __________________________

Submitted by: James K. Teliha, Chair Date Submitted: 10/8/2021

Mr. James K. Teliha (Chair, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021)
Jayne Blodgett (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Sukrit Goswami (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Ms. Christine Lind Hage (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
Dawn V. Kight (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Henry C. Mensch (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Janet Therese O'Keefe (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Kent L. Oliver (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
Mrs. Michelle A. Robertson (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
Danielle Skaggs (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Mr. James K. Teliha (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
Mrs. Lynn A. Valetutti (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
Thumy Webb (Committee Associate, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)

Larra Clark (Staff Liaison, January 1, 2015, to January 1, 2025)
Alisha Dixon (Staff Liaison, January 1, 2015, to January 1, 2025)
August 4, 2020 Agenda:

Welcome

Stimulus update – Alan

Group discussion on how digital content and services have changed since March and plans for the future

Broadband – Marijke
  Hotspots Act update
  Meng-Markey homework gap legislation
  Tribal Connect Act

ITP regular meeting schedule – Jim

October 5, 2020 Agenda

1. Check-in, attendance, greetings
2. Libraries build business - Megan Janicki
3. New report on Tribal broadband – Marijke Visser
4. Survey results – all
5. Alan’s idea here :

Announcements – November meeting 16th or 20th? Or wait until December

Midwinter is virtual. ITP will meet sometime January 22-25

Other announcements?

December 16, 2020 Agenda

1. Broadband Resolution
2. Ideas for making ALA more aware of policy

January 23, 2021 Agenda
We plan to review a resolution on facial recognition. It can be found here:

The Intellectual Freedom Committee is planning to bring a resolution on facial recognition software to Council as part of their report for the Midwinter Virtual Meeting. The committee is inviting your feedback on the draft: Facial Recognition Resolution DRAFT 12/29/20. Please add your feedback as comments on the Google Doc by January 13, 2021 and feel free to share this widely with your membership groups.

I believe this is the latest version of the resolution.
Also, President Patty Wong’s comments on our Broadband Resolution:
“Broadband as a universal human right is one of the strongest Council actions we have taken. Digital equity and universal broadband will be key actions for our work this year and beyond, especially with a new FCC Chair - I’m happy to work on this to further the work of ALA and our impact on all people.”

June 24, 2021 Agenda

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. FCC -- Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and the Emergency Connectivity Fund
3. Group Discussion: What did COVID highlight about libraries that we should consider in our future public policy?
   - The realities of internet access and usage
   - The role of the library as a physical place
   - The role of libraries in emergencies
   - The sources and stability of funding for libraries
   - Future demand for ebooks
   - Outreach services and outdoor activities
4. Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and the Emergency Connectivity Fund
5. Anti-circumvention triennial rulemaking – DVD preservation – Carrie
6. Policy Corps update - Marijke
7. Open Educational Resources resolution
Resolution in Support of Broadband as a Human Right

Whereas broadband networks and services drive robust, resilient, and effective societies and economies;

Whereas broadband is essential for life tasks including education, workforce, healthcare, and is a fundamental element of an inclusive and sustainable world;

Whereas the global pandemic has heightened the awareness of the problems that the lack of access to broadband and digital connectivity have on millions of Americans forced to work from home, connect to online schooling, connect to telehealth resources, access information and maintain a reasonable quality of life;

Whereas the inability to provide in-person library services during the pandemic magnifies inequities for people without the equipment, the capacity to access and the confidence/skills to effectively use broadband and acquire digital literacy;

Whereas access to information must be “predictable, sustainable, [and] location-independent” is a principle of the Networked World (B.4.6.1);

Whereas communities of color, low-income residents, rural, indigenous, older residents, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness are more likely to be without a strong connection to the internet and without the equipment and skills to access reliable resources;

Whereas America’s libraries provide no-fee broadband access in communities and are essential to communities with no broadband access;

Whereas an increasing number of information resources, including government resources and services, are available solely online;

Whereas ALA has endorsed legislation promoting broadband access, including for low-income and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) households and families with school-aged children who lack home internet access;

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) states in “Access to Electronic Information Services, and Networks” (B.2.1.20) that “all individuals have a right to information”;

Whereas ALA signed the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ (IFLA) Library Pledge to Promote Digital Inclusion (https://www.ifla.org/node/93389) recognizing that universal connectivity requires collective, collaborative efforts from all stakeholders across all levels of government (B.6.2.3); and

Whereas the Committee on Legislation (COL) identified broadband as a priority in its 2021 Legislative Agenda; (http://www.alas.org/aboutala/sites/alas.org.aboutala/files/content/committees/ALA%20Legislative%20Agenda%202021.pdf) now, therefore be it,
Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. affirms universal access to affordable high-capacity broadband is as essential as electricity and therefore a basic right for all; and,
2. advocates for legislative and regulatory policies through which libraries can affect positive change toward such universal access

Mover: Jim Teliha (401-632-6616) Seconder: Pat Ball (404-421-3250)