

**American Library Association
Committee Information Update
ALA Annual Conference 2017 (Chicago)**

Committee

Office for Information Technology Advisory Committee (OITP Advisory)

Chair

Marc Gartler

People

Present: Thomas Adamich (via phone); Pat Ball; David Beales; Carla Bosco; Aaron Dobbs; Lizzie Gall; Marc Gartler; Christine Lind Hage; Bohyun Kim; David Lee King; Tracey Strobel; Bob Bocher (fellow) Ellen Satterwhite (fellow); Rosalind V. Bradley (Reynolds) (staff); Larra Clark (staff); Alan Inouye (staff); Kathi Kromer (staff); Carrie Russell (staff); Marijke Visser (staff)

Absent: Cheryl Cyr; Michael Dodes; Lissette Gonzalez; Nate Hill; Janice Tsai

Special Guests:

[Robin Dale](#), *Acting Deputy Director for Library Services, IMLS*

[Roger Goldblatt](#), *Associate Bureau Chief, Government and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission*

[Bobbi Newman](#), *Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, University of Iowa*

[Amanda Wilson](#), *Head, National Network Coordinating Office, Library Operations, National Library of Medicine*

Accomplishments

- [Google announced](#) they are providing \$500,000 in grants to libraries for phase 3 of the [Libraries Ready to Code](#) initiative.
- LIS Faculty were selected for [phase 2 of Libraries Ready to Code](#)
- The digital literacy [partnership with Cox Communications](#) is underway
- Entrepreneurship efforts have borne fruit, including PLA Board members meeting in May with officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration
- OITP sponsored seven programs at ALAAC17, and the popular “Ask a Copyright Question” Booth was again in the Exhibit Hall
- Evaluated Creative Commons’ proposed librarian certification
- Production of two new Copyright educational resources

Planned activities

- Policy brief on Health Literacy & Health Services
- Net Neutrality comments to the FCC
- Ready to Code II Fellows will teach classes this fall
- Ready to Code III grants to libraries
- digitallearn.org customization for pilot libraries as part of the Cox partnership
- Publication of eRate FAQ developed with OIF

- Form Digital Content subcommittee to deal with policy/discussions initiated by the (sunsetting) Digital Content Working Group
- Possible partnerships with NLM (health literacy) and FCC (getting older Americans online)
- Work with Creative Commons on librarian certification program
- Copyright & Copyright Office developments
- Assist with development of an ALA national public policy advocates program

Interactions with other units within ALA

- Discussed *E's of Libraries* with UFL Board, PLA Legislation & Advocacy Committee, UFL Public Library Trustees, UFL Friends & Foundations, and COL Grassroots subcommittee
- YALSA, ALSC, and AASL are cosponsoring the grants offered in phase 3 of *Ready to Code*
- PLA is a partner in the Cox Communications pilot
- eRate FAQ with OIF
- FCC guest met with RUSA group about older Americans
- Met with YALSA past presidents to discuss phase 3 coding grants
- Met with the ALA Executive Board to discuss overall policy portfolio and future directions
- Hosted reception at the Google Chicago office that included guests from many different units of ALA

Relationship of the committee's work to the ALA strategic plan

While Information Policy itself is one of the four priorities of the association outlined in the Strategic Plan, many OITP efforts also support the other three priorities. For example, phase 2 of *Libraries Ready to Code* supports Professional Development: a cohort of LIS faculty are collaborating in re-designing select media/technology courses from their respective institutions to embed coding and computational thinking concepts into their curricula. Another example is phase 3 of *Ready to Code*: by having grants to libraries through this ALA-Google collaboration focus on providing coding opportunities to youth underrepresented in CS education and careers—especially girls, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans—OITP is ensuring that ALA's priority of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion will be conveyed strongly to both internal and external stakeholders. The new National Public Policy Advocates Program advances advocacy goals, as well as all of the strategic directions.

Current level of committee members' involvement

Typically, most committee members attend both meetings during Annual and Midwinter. Substantial communication occurs via listserv between conferences, as do occasional conference calls. Subcommittees and task forces are well attended.

Committee self-check on its value and viability

OITP Advisory is directly aligned with advancement of a key priority of the Association. The committee and its various units function and communicate well, and OITP accomplishes a great deal.