

RNTLOAK Committee Report July 2016

Accomplishments:

Our first meeting was March 11, 2016 via Conference Call

Members Present: Susan Hess (Chair), Liana Juliano, Tania Bardyn, Miriam Nauenburg, Whitney Sakakibara (Intern). ALA Staff present: Jody Gray and John Amundsen, ALA ODLOS.

Review and Approval of Minutes from previous meeting The minutes from the RNTLOAK meeting on Monday, June 29, 2015 during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Introductions

As the Committee was unable to meet during ALA Midwinter in Boston, the group introduced ourselves. Susan Hess was introduced as the newly-appointed Chair of the Committee, having accepted the nomination by President-Elect Julie Todaro to fill the vacancy by prior Chair Megan Beard. Hess will serve the remainder of Beard's term through the conclusion of the 2016 Annual Conference and then will serve a one-year term through Annual 2017.

Review of Committee Charge and Composition

The Committee reviewed its charge and composition, and a concern was brought regarding the composition of the Committee over recent years. The ALA President-Elect appoints six Members-at-Large, while the five remaining members are as follows:

- 1 representative from the American Indian Library Association (AILA), appointed by the AILA President
- 1 representative from the Public Library Association (PLA), appointed by the PLA President
- 1 representative from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), appointed by the AASL President
- 1 representative appointed by the Committee on Legislation Chair
- 1 representative appointed by the ODLOS Advisory Chair

ALA Governance has been appointing the Members-at-Large; however, the appointments of representative members for AILA, PLA, AASL, CoL, and ODLOS Advisory have not been added to the group. John Amundsen and Jody Gray in ODLOS will look into this further and work with the mentioned organizations to secure representatives and appoint them to the Committee, as well as ensure that these appointments are made going forward.

Update from John - We are reaching out to the constituent groups that appoint representatives, including AILA, PLA, AASL. And COL (Committee on Legislation) Additionally, the ODLOS chair also appoints a member to this group, per the composition. We are aiming to have a full

roster completed by September 1st at the absolute latest so we can begin preparations for Midwinter and Annual 2017.

Annual Conference Program

ODLOS has set aside two possible slots for a possible RNTLOAK program at ALA Annual Conference: Sunday, June 26, 2016, from 4:30pm-5:30pm, and Monday, June 27, 2016, from 8:30am-10:30am. Jody Gray has sent out the call for proposals to ODLOS and RNTLOAK constituencies, to be submitted to Chair Susan Hess by Friday, April 9th, at which point the Committee will vote on one presentation.

Update from Susan – The Committee received and accepted 2 proposals. After a brief discussion about scheduling, we decided to hold both programs on Monday, June 27th. Here is a description of the programs:

Promoting Language, Literacy, and Culture in Native American Communities

This session highlights two innovative programs that promote language, literacy and culture in Native American Communities. **Arlene V. Salazar, Research, Instruction and Outreach Librarian at the Albert B. Alkek Library of Texas State University**, will discuss the “Roving Exhibit PowWow.” project, which provided an outreach and marketing of their American Indian children’s and young adult literature collections. **Erin Hollingsworth, Public Services Librarian at the Tuzzy Consortium Library of Ilisagvik College, Barrow, Alaska**, will present, “Inupiaq Edge: Inupiaq History, Language, and Culture in the Community and Classroom,” a project that utilizes technology to promote language, history and culture documentations and revitalization.

This program is sponsored by the Committee on Rural, Native and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds(RNTLOAK), Committee on Literacy(COL) and the American Indian Library Association(AILA).

Planned Activities:

Toolkit Revisions

The Committee will consider revisions to two toolkits: “**TRAILS: Tribal Library Procedures Manual, 3rd Edition**,” revised in 2008; and “**The Small but Powerful Guide to Building Big Support for Your Tribal Library**,” revised in 2011.

Susan Hess and Whitney Sakakibara volunteered to look at the “Small but Powerful Guide,” and Liana Juliano, Tania Bardyn and Susan will look over “TRAILS” for areas to be revised. We will follow-up in May.

Update from Susan: Liana, Tania and I met with John at the end of May to plan the updating of the TRAILS Toolkit Tribal Library Procedures Manual, 3rd Edition,” revised in 2008;

The group agreed that much of the TRAILS toolkit is still very relevant and useful today, but can certainly use updating.

Areas to be strengthened/updated:

- Links and resources should be checked and updated where needed
- A new preface should be utilized that documents/outlines the changes in this revision
- Create an easily-navigable web version of the toolkit as well as an updated PDF
- Highlight digital resources
- Ways to use/incorporate data and analytics in evaluating/measuring services and building support
- Incorporating health data and information throughout
- Appendices should be updated

We established a timeline a plan to have this Toolkit as a web-based document ready to roll out at ALA Annual 2017 in Chicago.

The committee solicit names of people who might assist us in the update of the TRAILS Toolkit.

The Small but Powerful Guide to Building Big Support for Your Rural Library - revised in 2011.

Update from John – Whitney and I volunteered to work on this project. John will create an online doc for us to share our thoughts, and once we've had time to digest the current toolkit we can then schedule a conference call for July between the three of us, like the TRAILS call to share initial thoughts and commit a timeline and deliverables, as well as identify folks and orgs we'd like to bring in.

Issues that affect the committee's work and their implications for the future:

The major issue is that the committee is small...5 active members. With new appointees, hopefully by September, the committee will be able to deliver on its planned timeline of completing both Toolkits and programming for a June, 2017 rollout.

Current level of committee members' involvement (in a form more substantive than an attendance roll.)

The five current committee members were very active and supportive in volunteering to work on revising our toolkits and in planning for our program at Annual.

Promoting Language, Literacy, and Culture in Native American Communities

Arlene V. Salazar, "Roving Exhibit PowWow"

- After noticing that different collections within Texas State's library were underutilized, decided to start promoting it, using traditional displays inside the library AND...
- Arlene Salazar created "Roving Exhibits" to highlight the collection and bring it out to different user groups on campus
- She would connect with various student groups on campus via the school calendar or social media accounts and ask to come do an exhibit at a table. Eventually she said she did it enough, she now gets invited. But don't wait for an invitation! Take the initiative!
- The Roving Exhibits are customized and pertinent to that groups interests and needs. Eg. Setting up a display of "Recommended, Not Recommended" book about and by American Indians at the American Indian Student Association's annual pow wow was a great conversation starter
- Also highlighted the collection by creating digital guides available on the school's website. Eg. <http://guides.library.txstate.edu/native-american>
- Other tips: Keep your display small enough you can easily transport it by yourself, have a back-up table in case your event coordinator doesn't have one, bring a picture of the library to include in your display for great recognition and connection with students (Hard for people to use your collections, no matter how fabulous, if they don't know where you library is...)

Key takeaway: This is a terrific example of the library going out to the community to communicate what we do and how we can help groups meet their goals and needs.

Follow up: ALA doesn't have an award for Native literature (!!!) ☹ How do we fix this?

Full slides: <http://www.slideshare.net/avs0612/roving-exhibits-native-american-resources-63299491>

Erin Hollingsworth "Iñupiaq Edge: Iñupiaq History, Language, and Culture in the Community and Classroom"

- Erin began her presentation by giving us some context for what it was like living and working in a bush community. For instance, the local airport is a landing strip, broken chair, and port-a-potty. A ten pound bag of potatoes can be purchased for a few dollars in the lower states, but goes for \$23 in Barrow...
- The North Slope Iñupiaq language is an endangered language
- Erin has been working on learning the Iñupiaq Language at the local college, with her library director's blessing, taking classes during work hours. This has enabled her to make connections with the community and begin to include the language in storytimes and programs
- Dilemma: There are not very many positive books depicting their people and culture for the kids at her library (Eg. Include "My Name Is Not Easy" by Debby Dahl Edwardson. Random fact: "My Name" is based on the life of Erin's language teacher's husband.
- Dilemma: In the past there have been grants to write books in the language, or create apps, however, as soon as the books are out of print or the technology evolves and no longer supports said app all the money and effort spent becomes obsolete
- Solution: Erin is working on a grant to create a database of Iñupiaq Language content that then can be used to develop apps, books, etc. using an open source backend means everything can be updated and used in a variety of ways

Key takeaway: Find ways to connect with your unique community by going out and build relationships. It's "outreach librarianship." And consider investing time and money into an open-sourced backend database, as the source to create many literacy and community projects, instead of the other way around (which I feel like happens more often)

Follow Up: the video game <http://neveralonegame.com/> is winning many awards and praise and incorporates the language and traditional lore of the Iñupiat people