

**ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee Report to Council
2013 Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA
Tuesday, January 29, 2013**

The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) is pleased to present this update of its activities.

INFORMATION

Resolution on Homelessness and Libraries (ALA Council Document No. 45) Update

At the 2012 Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA, then IFRT councilor, John Moorman, made a motion to refer ALA Council Document No. 45 to IFC because the “Resolved” clause asked to amend the *Library Bill of Rights* to include “housing status.” IFC discussed CD#45 during its third Committee Meeting and concluded that the term “homeless” is covered under “background” under Article 1 of the *Library Bill of Rights*. IFC is in the process of reviewing the *Library Bill of Rights* and its Interpretations in preparation for the ninth edition of the *Intellectual Freedom Manual* and will insure that the Interpretations make it clear that a person's housing status should not be used to deny access to library services.

OIF Online Learning

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is pleased to announce the availability of four free webinars in spring 2013 to improve your “IF IQ.” Topics include filtering and CIPA; self-service holds and reader privacy; programming for Choose Privacy Week; and challenge reporting. For more information on these and other OIF online learning events, and to register, visit www.ala.org/offices/oif/oifprograms/webinars.

Sweater Vest Sunday

To help raise awareness about the importance of reporting challenges to library and school materials to OIF, ALA Midwinter Meeting attendees were invited to participate in Sweater Vest Sunday. Hundreds of intellectual freedom advocates wore sweater vests in Seattle to help spread the word about supporting intellectual freedom, and many participated virtually by posting pictures of themselves in sweater vests on various social media sites with the hashtag #sweatervestsunday.

Challenges reported to ALA are kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes. Challenges or removals can be reported online, by phone, or by paper form. Visit www.ala.org/challengereporting for more information on why reporting challenges is so important, and how the reporting process works.

Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom

This fall, OIF and ALA Publications successfully finished transitioning the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* to an all-digital format. The *Newsletter* is now hosted on MetaPress and is available as a digital edition that provides a print-on-demand option for those who wish to have a physical copy.

The IFC is now moving to the second phase of revitalizing and renewing the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*. A group of IFC members will work over the next six months to initiate a redesign of the *Newsletter* and consider how to enrich its content to provide greater value to librarians and researchers who rely on it for information and news about intellectual freedom.

PROJECTS

Banned Books Week: Celebrating 30 Years of Liberating Literature

Banned Books Week 2012 (Sept. 30 – Oct. 6) marked the 30th anniversary of the national book community's annual celebration of the freedom to read. Award-winning broadcast journalists Bill Moyers and Judith Davidson Moyers

were named the first ever Honorary Co-Chairs for the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week. To honor this milestone anniversary, Bill Moyers produced a video essay entitled “The Bane of Banned Books,” which was featured as part of the Banned Books Virtual Read-Out.

Over 500 readers joined Moyers in the Virtual Read-Out, including critically acclaimed banned author Stephen Chbosky of *The Perks of Being A Wallflower*; Chicago-based author Sara Paretsky of V.I. Warshawski fame; and San Antonio’s Poet Laureate, Carmen Tafolla. The videos are posted at www.youtube.com/bannedbooksweek.

In addition to the Banned Books Virtual Read-Out, OIF coordinated the 50 State Salute to Banned Books Week. The 50 State Salute formed the core of ALA’s participation in the Virtual Read-Out and consisted of videos from each state demonstrating how they celebrate the freedom to read. Check out the 50 State Salute map to find out if your state created one: www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/celebrating-banned-books-week/50statesalutevideos. OIF also created a timeline of banned/challenged books, which features a prominent banned or challenged book a year since 1982. To view the timeline, visit www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/timeline30-years-liberating-literature.

BBW merchandise, including posters, bookmarks, t-shirts, and tote bags, are sold and marketed through the ALA Store (www.alastore.ala.org/). More information on Banned Books Week can be found at www.ala.org/bbooks. You also can become a fan at www.facebook.com/bannedbooksweek or follow @OIF on Twitter – the hashtag is #BannedBooksWeek.

Banned Books Week 2013 will take place September 22 – 28.

Choose Privacy Week

Choose Privacy Week will take place May 1 – 7, 2013 and features the theme “Who’s Tracking You?” which is reflected in the bold graphics used for the posters and buttons available for the 2013 event. Also available for premiums and giveaways this year is a unique item – an RFID blocker sleeve for bank cards and ID cards that prevents unauthorized access to the card’s chip. Current activities planned for Choose Privacy Week include a youth video contest and a programming webinar for librarians.

This marks the fifth and final year of the Open Society Foundation grant that has funded the OIF privacy initiative. In addition to Choose Privacy Week, the grant has funded two other projects. The first is a new survey measuring librarians’ attitudes about privacy; the second is outreach to libraries serving immigrant communities to help us understand how libraries can assist immigrants in learning about their privacy rights. We are now exploring grant opportunities with our research team that will enable OIF to create programming materials to achieve this goal.

In June 2012, Consumer Action, the non-profit consumer rights organization based in Washington, D.C., recognized the Office for Intellectual Freedom’s advocacy on behalf of privacy rights by awarding OIF its 2012 Consumer Excellence Award. In presenting the award, Consumer Action cited OIF’s ongoing efforts to educate consumers on their privacy rights via Choose Privacy Week, the privacyrevolution.org website, and its short videos on privacy, including the 2012 Choose Privacy Week video, “Vanishing Liberties.” Consumer Action formally presented the award to OIF on October 2, 2012.

In closing, the Intellectual Freedom Committee thanks the division and chapter intellectual freedom committees, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, the unit liaisons, and the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee

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