

the efforts of libraries to offer Internet access. We will identify and examine some crucial Internet policy debates the library community will need to follow and take part in.

**\*Session 2:** How Will the New Administration Affect You? Libraries face many major legislative issues this year including new assaults on Fair Use, threats to both reauthorization of LSTA and access to government information and, inevitably, more debate over filtering. But a new Congress will also bring new legislative opportunities for libraries. OGR staff and political insiders discuss strategies and tactics for dealing with the new Washington players as we fight for federal library funding and programs.

**Monday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

AASL, ALSC, YALSA

Legislation Committees of the Youth Divisions

*"Telling Tales on Capitol Hill: Current National Legislation and How It Impacts Your Work Day"*

Youth library programs are impacted every day by decisions on Capitol Hill. In this program, Jennifer Armstrong speaks about her book Theodore Roosevelt: Letters from a Young Coal Miner and how letters written to a political figure make a difference. Emily Sheketoff, ALA Washington Office Director, explains how she works for you and how you can help by telling your story for funding and current issues. MaryKay Dahlgreen, Oregon Youth Consultant, gives examples of practical grassroots strategies. Speakers: Jennifer Armstrong, Author; Emily Sheketoff, ALA Washington Office Executive Director; MaryKay Dahlgreen, Oregon State Library

**Sunday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

ALTA

*Closing Session: "Allies in Intellectual Freedom: Library, Legislature, Media"*

This session is designed to be of interest to library directors and public relations and legislative action staff as well as to trustees and advocates. Presenters will share expertise and experiences about issues of common interest to the separate institutions of libraries, legislatures and media, and will also consider how they have worked together in the past and how they can, currently and in the future, join forces to promote and protect the intellectual freedom essential to our libraries and our way of life.

This is a two-hour program, the annual business meeting is in the same room from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### **G4 - Intellectual Freedom & Ethics**

**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

PLA, Intellectual Freedom Committee, ICC

*"Meeting The Challenge: A Sample Workshop On Intellectual Freedom"*

Meeting the challenge is an hour-long, interactive workshop on intellectual freedom produced by the Ohio library council. Designed to be presented to library boards, friends groups and library staff, it helps libraries become more proactive and effective in dealing with censorship and related issues. Other library organizations can easily model this project. Speakers: Jeffrey French, Deputy Director, Euclid Public Library; Cindy Lombardo, Director, Orrville Public Library; Mary Arnold, Young Adult Specialist, Cuyahoga County Public Library

**Saturday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table, Intellectual Freedom Committee, Division Intellectual Freedom Committees

*"David Brin on the Transparent Society"*

David Brin, a best-selling author, was the 2000 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award winner for his book, *The Transparent Society: Will Technology Force Us to Choose Between Privacy and Freedom?* The book is a provocatively good read that raises disturbing questions about the compatibility of privacy and freedom in an age of high technology.

Brin will discuss how the ubiquity and pervasiveness of technology make it impossible to maintain many of the traditional spheres of privacy held dear by advocates of civil liberties. The hard choice, Brin wrote, may be between allowing a few powerful individuals and organizations, such as corporations, police, and intelligence services, access to those private realms, or allowing everyone such access. In his vision of

the "transparent society," openness serves the cause of accountability. Thus, Brin's solution to the problem of the few watching the many is to allow the many to watch, also. Program Chair: George W. Pearson, Florida International University Library, North Miami, FL.

For more information and links, see Intellectual Freedom Round Table 2001 ALA Annual Conference Program

**Sunday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

PLA Intellectual Freedom, ICC

*"Intellectual Freedom and the Fundamentalist Christian"*

The speaker for this program is both a fundamentalist Christian minister and an intellectual freedom advocate. He'll discuss the thought process of fundamentalist Christians, explain why they question library materials in specific ways, detail what he considers the two social benefits of censorship, and discuss how librarians can effectively serve the fundamentalist public. Speaker: Michael Wessells, Regional Library Manager, Hoquiam Timberland Library

**Sunday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

OIF/Ethics

*"Sex, Privacy and the Single Librarian: Ethical Dilemmas They Didn't Tell Us About in Library School"*

Come join the conference's only alternative to the talking heads, where the Not-Quite-Ready-For-Prime-Time Players present three skits followed by lively discussion moderated by the renowned Gene Lanier and Fred Stielow, inspired by Phil Donahue's roving microphone. This year's skits and discussions involve scenarios tackling the ethical implications of: 1) A librarian who blows the whistle on a questionable acquisitions arrangement, 2) User privacy and confidentiality issues related to an electronic reference service, and 3) Sexual harassment of a librarian by both a user and a supervisor.

**Monday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee/

ALA Committee on Legislation

*"Why Filtering is Unconstitutional: An Update on ALA's Legal Challenge to CIPA"*

Daniel Mach, Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) counsel, will present an overview of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) and ALA's legal challenge to them. Time has been scheduled following his presentation for questions from the audience. Be sure to visit the CIPA Web site at [www.ala.org/cipa/](http://www.ala.org/cipa/). A joint effort of ALA's Washington Office and Office for Intellectual Freedom, the site provides up-to-the-minute information about ALA's litigation activities regarding CIPA and NCIPA, questions and answers on the legislation, links to news articles about filtering, and links to ALA, FTRF, and other resources. Speaker: Daniel Mach, Freedom to Read Foundation Counsel. Program Co-Chairs: Margo Crist (IFC), Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Patricia H. Smith (COL), Texas Library Association, Austin, TX.

**Monday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee/AAP Freedom to Read Committee/American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression

*"We Have Rights Too! The First Amendment Rights of Children"*

Are children in danger of being deprived of their First Amendment rights? If so, can depriving them of their rights be justified for their own "protection" or other reasons? Can deprivation of rights ever be justified? These and other questions related to First Amendment rights will be explored by a panel of librarians and other experts. Speakers: TBA. Program Co-Chairs: Margo Crist (IFC), Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Jane Isay (AAP), editor-in-chief, adult trade, Harcourt Brace & Company, New York, NY; Chris Finan, president, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, New York, NY.

Links to non-ALA sites have been provided because these sites may have information of interest. Neither the American Library Association nor the Office for Intellectual Freedom necessarily endorses the views expressed or the facts presented on these sites; and furthermore, ALA and OIF do not endorse any commercial products that may be advertised or available on these sites.

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## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD DEADLINES

Deadline for all IFRT Intellectual Freedom Award Nominations is December 1, 2001.

For further information on these awards and nomination forms, please contact the following URL's:

### The Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award

#### More Information

[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/oboler\\_a.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/oboler_a.html)

#### Nomination Form

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/oboleraward.pdf>

Honors a literary work or series of works, in the area of intellectual freedom, including matters of ethical, political or social concerns related to intellectual freedom. Presented biennially. The 2000 recipient was The Transparent Society: *Will Technology Force Us to Choose Between Privacy and Freedom?* by David Brin.

### The John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

#### More Information

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/immroth.html>

#### Nomination Form

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/imrothaward.pdf>

Honors notable contributions to intellectual freedom and demonstrations of personal courage in defense of freedom of expression. Presented annually. The 2000 recipient was Gordon Conable.

### The SIRS State and Regional Intellectual Freedom Achievement Award

#### More Information

[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrt\\_spa.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrt_spa.html)

#### Nomination Form

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/state&regionalaward.pdf>

Honors the state library association or state educational media association intellectual freedom committee or state intellectual freedom coalition that has implemented the most successful and creative state IFC project during the year. Presented annually, and sponsored by the Social Issues Resources Series, Inc. (SIRS). The 2000 recipient was The Ohio Library Council.

*For information additional to that provided in these web sites, please contact the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the OIF Main Line (1-800-545-2433, ext. 4223), Fax 312-280-4227, or [oif@ala.org](mailto:oif@ala.org).*

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# IFRT Report

*Intellectual Freedom Round Table* No. 48 Summer 2001

## From the Chair ...

Peggy Barber, recently retired from ALA and now out in the world of library consulting, spoke recently at a gathering of California public library directors in Santa Barbara. Sharing the podium with Martin Gomez and Joey Rodger, she spoke eloquently about the need to rekindle our passion for librarianship and to share that passion—to share it with those who question us regarding our professional ethics and standards—with those who question our selection practices and policies—with those who question our modes of service and their delivery—and most importantly, to share it with those who are entering or contemplating entering our profession.

She challenged each of us to think back to the day we decided to become professional librarians. In a room of about 150 library directors, only a handful responded that they had always known they would be librarians. Most of us indicated that we had chosen the profession as a second career, or at the very least, had made the decision after considering other career paths.

I owe my decision to become a librarian to Jeanne Wingate, then librarian of Grapevine Middle School, where we were both on the faculty. She encouraged me to take a general reference course with her at Texas Woman's University, and I was hooked for life.

Ruthann Garcia, a young woman on my staff, said this about her choice to attend the UCLA School of Education and Information Studies beginning in the Fall of 2001. "In becoming a librarian, affecting the way in which libraries are socially, economically, and racially constructed, I hope to join the preservation of one of the last safe public spaces. The library remains a space in which an incredible wealth of imagination and information assemble, where both children and adults are students of the most beautiful, benign, subliminal, and malignant literature ever articulated. Centuries of ideas, along with their accessible criticisms, are given a safe space to convene in libraries, while offering a safe space to readers in desperate search of an ideology. The freedom to read, think, and imagine is one of the library's unrecognized social services to the public. Yet this freedom is constantly subjected to insult and censorship, by the public banning of materials and in the failure of libraries to acquire texts for various reasons."

Expressing her intention to focus primarily in the collection of ethnic literature, Ms. Garcia continues, "I am currently working at the Moreno Valley Public Library as a Page. My role is simple: I sort and reshelve materials returned by patrons. Yet I find it tremendously rewarding to replace materials, continuing the circulation of ideas and images. I love my job and the fulfillment it brings, knowing that I am part of a free service to the public. I hope to be part of the exciting innovations and struggles the public library will continue to experience. I plan to combine the practicality of my work experience with the theories and lessons of the graduate program, simultaneously, in an effort to make my transition into the workplace easier."

Idealistic? Perhaps. But the implication is clear. Bright and eager minds are still attracted to my profession. Young women and men full of passion, ingenuity, and creativity are stepping up to the call for a new generation of information brokers to safeguard the ideals of all who have gone before them—from Melvil Dewey to Peggy Barber, to my friends and mentors Jeanne Wingate and Lee Brawner, to countless others who have stood on and for the principle of the free flow of information. Thanks to Peggy and Ruthann, I have enjoyed a renewed sense of the importance of our work and a new freedom to express my passion for it to any and all who will listen.

Cynthia Pirtle, *Chair*  
Intellectual Freedom Round Table

## The Latest Super Challenge: The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

One of the best things about the American Library Association, in my opinion, is the collective courage of its members to hold strongly to our values even in the face of some pretty big and powerful bullies. Like Dr. Laura, for example, with her national pulpit. And like our nation's legislators who, though having failed consistently to adequately support education, health care, and numerous social agencies fighting poverty, now decide that they can't sleep at night over a sudden and deep concern for children. And just who is putting these children at risk (a risk mightier than illiteracy, poor health, and poverty that is)? Why America's librarians, of course.

Now, enter the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). This act will require that every public and school library receiving Universal Service Funds (better known as the e-rate) filter all their public access computers that have Internet access. It's a new move by Congress to ensure that children are kept "safe" at the library, "safe" from dangers posed by librarians who believe that the best filter is the human brain.

I am extremely pleased to say that ALA's executive board voted at the 2001 Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. to initiate litigation against CIPA. This legislation is dangerous both for its potential to chill intellectual freedom and inquiry in the library, and for the precedent it sets by moving policy-making at libraries from the local to the national level. Hopefully, this bad law will be found unconstitutional but it will be a tough fight. Unlike the Children's Online Protection Act before it, CIPA doesn't mandate filters for all public and school libraries *unless* these libraries *choose* to receive federal funds. This makes the case harder because it will be argued that no library is forced to accept federal funds, therefore, no library is forced to filter. This law effectively places librarians in the untenable position of having to decide between violating patron rights to constitutionally protected information or potentially increasing the digital divide in their communities by refusing federal assistance. Either choice results in censorship – technological censorship or economic censorship – not exactly a winning choice for intellectual freedom.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# IFRT

## COUNCILOR'S REPORT

ALA Council dealt with a number of substantive issues at Midwinter in Washington DC. A comprehensive policy statement on library services for people with disabilities was approved after changes were made to “tone down” the language and differentiate between actions mandated by law or within ALA's organizational control, and actions ALA is recommending that libraries implement. The statement was brought to Council by ASCLA. The IFC had been considering an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights for people with disabilities; this item was tabled pending the outcome of the ASCLA proposal. It will be re-examined in light of the new policy at the IFC's spring meeting.

Two items dealing with library education issues were sent back to the Committee on Education for additional work after considerable discussion. The first item established criteria for programs to prepare library technical assistants. Some councilors stated they were not aware of these kinds of programs or how and where such assistants were employed in libraries.

The second item would have given Council approval for ALA to begin the process of setting up a separate 501(c)(6) organization to provide certification for post-Masters studies — for example, a certificate in public library management. COE wanted Council's provisional approval before they began working on the specifics of implementation. Council wanted to see the specifics before they gave their approval to go forward with the proposal. COE was directed to bring a detailed implementation proposal back to Council at Annual in San Francisco, and Council specified they wanted to have the proposal in their hands for study at least 30 days before conference begins.

Executive Board members Sally Reed and Liz Bischoff reported on further deliberations on the issues of privatization coming out of the debate on outsourcing. They offered a definition of privatization to distinguish it from outsourcing: “privatization is the shifting of *policy making* and the *management* of

library services from the public to the private sector” (emphasis added). They strongly urged continued association-wide discussion of this issue and its implications for librarianship.

Council approved resolutions from the Committee on Legislation regarding full funding of the GPO, improving public access to government information, fair use in the digital age, and LSTA reauthorization.

COL and IFC both presented a resolution stating ALA's opposition to CIPA (filtering mandates in public libraries), which was approved by Council. Later the Executive Board gave the go ahead to join with the Freedom to Read Foundation in filing suit to challenge the constitutionality of CIPA. The suit is due to be filed on March 20. The ACLU is planning a similar suit on behalf of several state library associations and public libraries. People for the American Way is also considering a challenge to CIPA.

Council also approved the IFC's request that ALA endorse the “Statement on Violence in the Media” prepared by the Association of American Publishers (AAP). The Statement has been endorsed by a number of other organizations as well.

Council approved a charge and membership composition for a new Committee on Literacy.

Karen Schneider submitted a report from the Task Force on Electronic Meeting Participation that sparked considerable comment and debate. Some councilors had particular concerns relating to ALA's open meeting policy. The Committee on Organization will be holding hearings at annual in San Francisco to discuss electronic communications and open meetings. Council finally approved the Task Force recommendation to provide some kind of chat-based service to facilitate committee work and communications but not virtual committee meetings during 2001.

Submitted by:  
Pam Klipsch  
IFRT Councilor

# IFRT

## Profile

### Don Wood



One of the glories of ALA is the superb staff support given to so many of its units by the Office of Intellectual Freedom under the leadership of 30-year veteran Judith Krug. The OIF staff is ready to serve any library or library organization faced with a need for information, advice, training, or moral support in the area of Intellectual Freedom. Individual OIF staff members are designated liaisons to subdivisions and affiliates of ALA, including the Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Freedom To Read Foundation, and, of course, IFRT. IFRT's present liaison is Don Wood.

"The coolest thing about liaising with IFRT is the diversity of people and the new ideas they bring in", says Don. "There's always opportunity for new blood. New members with commitment can take responsible positions right away."

Don himself is fairly new blood, having arrived at OIF in June of 1997, armed with a BA from the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque and a degree in Editorial Journalism from the University of Washington. His nose for news is evident to anyone who follows his many postings to such listservs as *alaoif*, *IFRT*, and *PUBLIB*. He scours both web-based and print resources to pick up news, commentary, court proceedings, and items of interest to draw to the attention of the IF community. His web skills are on display at [www.ala.org/oif](http://www.ala.org/oif) and its subcomponents. "If you can't find your answer (about intellectual freedom) on my website, tell me about it and it'll be up there tomorrow," he says, and means it. More than once, I have called Don with a question, and by the time I hang up the phone and check my email, the answer from Don is already there. I strongly suspect ESP. And he doesn't play favorites: "My goal, at the end of the day, is to educate everyone on the First Amendment."

Don is a tower of strength and offers sage advice to those organizing programs or serving in elective capacities on IFRT. His readiness to track down and copy needed documents, his knowledge of internal ALA procedures, and his willingness to facilitate any endeavor makes service in these positions much more rewarding. Don likes it this way: "It's easy to get involved in IFRT. Just come to the meetings and speak up. The IF community in ALA is very open to new contributors."

When you go to IFRT meetings, you might not notice Don right away—he tends to be quietly efficient rather than explosively vocal. But study his picture and when you see him, thank him. He is one of the ones who make your IFRT work well.

Mike Wessells  
Timberland Regional Library  
Hoquiam, Washington

#### THE LATEST SUPER CHALLENGE: THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The decision to fight CIPA was easy; determining the way in which we will fight was more difficult. First, we had to choose between joining the ACLU in its battle against CIPA or to initiate our own litigation working in tandem with the ACLU. After much deliberation the consensus was that we need to be in the lead for libraries. We believe this is a bedrock case for us and that we need to take a strong stand and be in complete control of our destiny on this issue. I believe the case against CIPA will be strengthened by the dual attack from ALA and ACLU.

Second, and this decision quite frankly was even harder, we had to decide if we would litigate on behalf of both public and school libraries. In the end, it has been determined that ALA lacks the legal standing to bring a lawsuit on behalf of the schools that are the fund recipients under the statute. Our inability to include school libraries in our litigation is extremely disheartening to us all. However, ALA has pledged to support any legal efforts by school groups who do have standing and we will continue to work with any and all school groups to advise and help them in their own struggle with this law.

If certain members of Congress fear that librarians pose a danger, they are partially right. To the extent that we will not sell out our belief in the fundamental right to know, we are dangerous. We're dangerous because we are freedom fighters. Libraries and the First Amendment are inextricably linked and nowhere is this proud link more evident and strong than when we are asked to ignore our very reason for being. Libraries exist to provide the fullest range of materials and information possible so that each individual can learn and know what he or she wishes without government constraint or oversight. It's what democracy is all about. It is what freedom is all about. James Cone (theologian and educator) said, "Freedom is not a gift but a risk that must be taken." I am proud of ALA and of librarians everywhere for taking the risk.

For additional information on CIPA and ALA Litigation, see [www.ala.org/cipa/](http://www.ala.org/cipa/)

Sally Reed  
Executive Board  
American Library Association

### For Further Information . . .

. . . on topics covered in this issue of the IFRT Report, please consult the following websites. Get involved in IF in your state!! Contact persons are given for the state chapters below.

**State Association Intellectual Freedom Committee Chairs and State Educational Media Association Intellectual Freedom Committee Chairs**  
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/stateifc.html>

**San Francisco Programs**  
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifprograms.html>

**State Resolutions on CIPA**  
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/stateresolutionscipa.html>

**IFRT Program**  
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrt2001program.html>

**IFRT Awards**  
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifawards.html>

**CIPA Litigation**  
<http://www.ala.org/cipa/litigation.html>

# Reference Tools for Intellectual Freedom

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of annotated bibliographies of useful intellectual freedom materials. If you have helpful additions or comments, please forward them to the editor at mwessell@timberland.lib.wa.us.*

When I was a library school student in the late 70's there was really only one reference resource for intellectual freedom, ALA's relatively new, loose-leaf *Intellectual Freedom Manual* (Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, Chicago, 1974). It's still with us and about to appear in a thoroughly revised 6th edition. It's the best single source in existence for both theoretical and practical information on intellectual freedom and the American library. It contains all of ALA's statements on intellectual freedom, chapters specific to each type of library, and a diverse collection of sample policies and procedures. Any librarian who doesn't own it, or at least have access to it, should rush out and get it! Just so you don't think we're shilling for ALA, I personally own the 3rd, 4th and 5th editions and plan to buy the 6th.

In 1984 a second extremely helpful tool made its appearance as part of the *Banned Books Week* observance. Not surprisingly, it was titled *Banned Books Week*. Edited from the start by Robert P. Doyle, the latest annual edition is titled *Banned Books: 2000 Resource Book* (American Library Association, Chicago, 2000). Since it's intended as a tool for use with a specific event, it's tempting to think of it as a throwaway; it isn't. The collection of brief descriptions of challenged materials retains its value for many years. In addition it contains a collection of IF quotes which makes it more than worth its price. If you have one, hold on to it.

Since the mid-80's and particularly in the late 90's, there has been a small explosion of reference tools for defenders of intellectual freedom. Since no such bibliography yet appears to have been compiled, here is a short, selective, annotated list of such items. It is limited to handbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias. All but the Green title are in print.

Guides to banned materials, chronologies, anthologies and other similar tools will appear in later issues of the *IFRT Report*.

*Censorship*. 3 Vols. Lawrence Amey et al, editors. (Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 1997), 1088 pp.

This is one of the few censorship resources which seeks to be truly international in coverage. The signed articles, written by almost three hundred contributors, mostly academics, cover all of the usual suspects and more. For instance, rather than simply having an entry for religion, this work includes articles on many (but not all) major traditions or their leading figures. Entries include "see also" references and many end with a bibliography. Volume three contains an index of

books, films and other artistic works mentioned within articles, an index of court cases and an extensive topical index. Each volume closes with a list of entries by category.

Foerstel, Herbert N. *Free Expression and Censorship in America: an Encyclopedia* (Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1997), 260 pp.

At first glance similar to Hurwitz's historical dictionary, Foerstel's work emphasizes themes, concepts and persons rather than legislation and court cases. Also, while there are fewer articles, they tend to be longer and more detailed. Each entry is referenced. An index and table of cases are included.

Green, Jonathon. *The Encyclopedia of Censorship* (NY: Facts on File, 1990), 388 pp.

A general purpose encyclopedia by a single author, this title is similar in coverage to the Salem Press's three volume work. Coverage is international and includes significant events, persons, landmark cases and legislation, themes and terminology. There are no references associated with the individual entries. A bibliography of significant books and a detailed index are included at the end. (Out of Print)

Hurwitz, Leon. *Historical Dictionary of Censorship in the United States* (Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1985), 584.

Containing detailed coverage of historical events in the United States, this work's focus is significant legislation, court cases and concepts. It includes lengthy entries for those books and films which were subject to precedent setting legal action (*Lady Chatterley's Lover*) but not for the "merely" controversial (*Catcher in the Rye*). If you want a description of a well-known or even not so well known censorship incident without extensive legalese, this is the place to go. A chronology, table of cases and index are also included.

Riley, Gail Blasser. *Censorship* (NY: Facts on File, 1998), 231 pp.

Don't confuse this work with the *Encyclopedia of Censorship* (Facts on File, 1990). Riley's work is an eclectic research handbook with historical and topical essays, annotated bibliography, chronology, highly selective biographical dictionary and list of major organizations and associations. The book certainly tries to live up to its series' title, "Library in a Book," though its size limits it to no more than a sampling of each topic. For a person or a library on a tight budget, this title could certainly be worthwhile.

J. Douglas Archer  
Notre Dame University Library

# Making Sense of the Filtering Debate

With the onset of CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) litigation, the discussion of the merits and demerits of filtering Internet access in public libraries has heated up once again. Emotions run high on this issue, mine as much as anyone else's, but I thought it would help my thought processes to try to lay out along a spectrum the various arguments I had heard for and against filtering. I thought if I could get a handle on the premises and conclusions reached by the various sides. Without the emotional overtones, I felt that I might get a clear idea of what we are all talking about. Maybe if we could reach some agreement on what the arguments are, we could live with the fact that we disagree and reach some rational approach to policy-making. With the hope of testing my reading of the debate, I posted what I considered to be the Seven Arguments About Filtering on the ALA/OIF listserv and invited comment. Against the possibility that trying to organize your thoughts about the filtering debate is on your agenda, I give you the results of my analysis below.

It seemed to me that all the positions I had heard anyone take about whether or how much to filter in public libraries could be boiled down into one of seven arguments, and all the positions were some variation on one of these seven. I lay them out beginning with the argument for the most open access and moving toward that for the most closed access. In terms of what might be filtered out, I used the example of pornography, since that is the one most often discussed, though the same arguments could be used about other kinds of speech—violent speech, hate speech, religious speech, etc. I also noted variations in how many patrons might find their searches blocked if the argument in question prevailed. It is worth emphasizing that I do not necessarily agree with any particular argument, or even consider the implementation of it defensible in court; I do consider these the fairest statements of the positions that I have so far encountered. The seven arguments are as follows:

**The New Hampshire Argument** (Live Filter-Free or Die): Access to information is not only a right but a fundamental attribute of citizenship in a democracy. All filters deny access to at least some information; therefore, any use of filters in a public forum (e.g. public library) is a contradiction to our form of self-government. Following this rationale, no one is blocked.

**The Choice Argument:** All patrons should be free to make their own decisions regarding use of library materials. Librarians should honor those choices. Some patrons wish the choice of filters for their own searches; therefore, libraries should offer a filter option. As a result, nobody is blocked unless they choose it for themselves.

**The Parent Argument:** Parents are responsible for the choices of their minor children. Libraries should offer a range of choices for parents to make in behalf of their children. Filtered Internet access should be one of those choices. As a result, nobody is blocked unless his or her own parent so chooses.

**The Village Argument:** Not all parents are physically present to, or wish to, make responsible choices for their children. Community institutions share the responsibility for the upbringing of community children; this responsibility outweighs the general mission of any individual institution. Filtering Internet access is one of those responsibilities; therefore, libraries should filter Internet access for minors. As a result, nobody is blocked unless he/she is a child.

**The Community Standards Argument:** In order to maintain an acceptable quality of life, communities must uphold certain standards of decency. Members of the community should accept

that the curtailing of some individual freedoms is necessary for the good of the community. Keeping freely available pornography out of the public libraries is one of those decency standards for any number of reasons, e.g. it is demeaning to women, staff should be protected from harassment. Therefore, libraries should filter Internet access. As a result, everybody is blocked because most people want it that way.

**The Stalker Argument:** The free availability of pornography draws a certain type of person into the library. These individuals are likely to be excited unduly by exposure to this material and may target a child or other vulnerable patron. Some people feel very unsafe in this environment. Therefore, libraries should filter. As a result, everybody is blocked because some people want it that way.

**The Ultimate Evil Argument:** Pornography is inherently evil. Safeguards to protect members of the public from this evil are worth any consequent social cost. Anyone who opposes such safeguards is, therefore, working toward an evil purpose. As a result, everybody is blocked because "any moral person" would want it that way.

When the Seven Arguments were posted, in a slightly different form, I received numerous responses. For example, I was looking at the different positions a given person might take regarding policy-making in a library. Charles E. Carroll pointed out a more generic argument, which reflects current ALA policy, while noting that he does not necessarily endorse it:

"The Local Control Argument: It should be up to each particular library system whether to filter or not. Neither filtering nor non-filtering policies should be imposed on a library by the federal government, state governments, or the demands of outside organizations. What is a good solution for one library system may not work in another. One size does not fit all."

James B. Casey of Oak Lawn (IL) Public Library sent a number of possible additions, some of which I considered to be variations on the seven, but two of which I thought particularly interesting:

**"Protecting Children rather than Innocence:** Attempting to shield children from access to any and all possible exposure to evil influences might prevent them from developing the ability to experience and identify evil.

**"Encourage Learning Outside of the 'Box':** If all learning and exposure to information is fully controlled and directed, a child might never learn to develop the ability to conduct research, gather information from alternative sources, and to question the doctrines of those in authority.

Whatever your views on the filtering issue, and I suspect most IFRT members will cluster toward the open access end of the spectrum. It is a worthwhile exercise to try to identify the possibilities of reasonable arguments, given certain premises, held by individuals who hold different views along with positive intentions, rather than letting the whole debate become an exercise of who can most effectively demonize the "enemy". I suspect the truth is that the patrons whom we are dedicated to serve in our communities will fall across all seven positions, as well as others I didn't even consider.

Mike Wessels, *Editor*  
IFRT Report

*For additional comment please send email to  
mwessell@timberland.lib.wa.us*

## David Brin on the Transparent Society . . . IFRT Program at the San Francisco Conference

In the last decade, technology has seemingly ushered in an astonishing new era of both freedom and privacy. The Internet is emerging as a global source of unfettered information, and provides a variety of cheap and near instantaneous forms of communication. Advances in encryption allow us a comfortable privacy in our electronic doings. Many futurists see the digital world as a harbinger of something truly revolutionary where the individual is electronically empowered, and the coercive, controlling organs of the state wither away. Some experts even suggest that Utopia is as close as the computer on your desk. But others wonder just where we will take this new technology, how many technologies are to come, and what they will be like when they arrive.

David Brin is one such wonderer. He is an astronomer, speaker, noted science fiction author, and the winner of the 2000 Oboler Award for his book, *The Transparent Society: Will Technology Force Us to Choose Between Privacy and Freedom?* He will also be the feature speaker at this year's annual IFRT program, "David Brin on the Transparent Society" at the Annual Conference at San Francisco on Saturday, June 16, 2-4 PM. He will bring a position that will be challenging and somewhat disturbing to the traditional civil libertarian who embraces both privacy and freedom. As the title of his book suggests, Brin believes that advances in technology may soon bring about an unwanted dilemma, forcing upon us a choice few have envisioned.

While freedom has a long, if sporadic lineage throughout history, privacy is a relatively new principle. Until very recently, privacy was rare for individuals, and rarely thought of as a civic or moral virtue. However, humans have generally lived a communal existence and life in small towns and rural venues, long the norm, has been anything but private. The rise of cities, with their overcrowding and general state sponsored snooping and control, made for less privacy, not more (after all, Thoreau didn't move to New York City to find his solitude). Only within the last century, arguably first in an influential article co-authored by Louis D. Brandeis, has a general "right to privacy" found legal formulation. But recency is not a necessary measure of legitimacy. Surely the two cherished principles are inextricably linked, as privacy is an essential foundation for freedom? How can I be truly free under the omniscient glare of state and society?

Brin is adamant about rejecting such a linkage. Indeed, he argues that the above argument has it all backwards, and that freedom comes first, and is what allows us the luxury of privacy. He is highly skeptical of claims that an electronic haze of encryption can act as a shield protecting the little guy from the piercing gaze of government or big business. The wealthy and powerful will always have greater access to information than the vast majority of ordinary people. Brin argues that making a fetish of privacy is a losing proposition for those who hold freedom as a virtue. The attempt to blind everybody, even if desirable, is an impossible task. In the real world, privacy is akin to a one-way mirror, with most people enjoying the illusion of anonymity, while a shielded few can peer out unobserved.

Although he is a self-described contrarian, it would be wrong to picture Brin as a black-and-white ideologue. He understands the desire and need for private space and soli-

tude, and concedes that some areas, such as home and various aspects of one's personal life, need to remain private. But he is skeptical of those who argue for "strong" privacy, secrecy, and anonymity as the primary means of preserving an open society. His solution is not to try and lessen the flow of information through laws and regulations and bureaucratic layers, but to open it up, and above all to ensure that the flow goes both ways. According to Brin, it is accountability, not privacy, which makes for a free and open society. Perhaps his best illustration of this is a very real-world phenomenon: video cameras.

It is estimated that the average American shows up on camera about 10 times a day. Surveillance cameras are being used ever more frequently by police and private concerns as a powerful deterrent to crime. Despite the fact that they work, many civil libertarians, worried about an Orwellian nightmare come true, have fought this trend of placing cameras throughout public spaces. Brin shares their worry of an overbearing government, but proposes a radically different solution: don't blind the few, but make sure everyone can see. One of the unintended consequences of all these cameras has been to allow citizens to focus on official misconduct. Videos of officers arresting suspects can (and do) show police sometimes acting unprofessionally, brutally, and even criminally. To the classic question, "Who will watch the watchers?" Brin answers, "Everybody".

Brin proposes the idea of reciprocal transparency as the best, if still imperfect, response to the advent of technologies producing a radically new information environment and ecology. Rather than seal off the light to preserve darkness for all, he would open the windows wide throughout the house. In this sense, he is an unabashed advocate of freedom of information, perhaps more than many may at first be comfortable with. But as the Oboler Award acknowledges, his intellectual freedom credentials are beyond reproach.

What sort of world is it, where information flows so freely, where technology posits cameras smaller than dust motes, databases that know you better than your family, and where librarians re-examine long-held beliefs regarding the sanctity of privacy? Rather than the dour, pessimistic doomsayer that the book's title might indicate, Brin proves an optimistic, feisty, and strikingly original observer. His commitment to an essentially humanistic application of technology is heartening. He may not have all the answers, but he asks the important questions. Attend the annual program, and you may catch a glimmer of a future that is already here.

For related readings, go to <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrt2001program.html>.

George Pearson, Lauren Christos  
Florida International University Libraries

### Call for Papers

Papers are being sought to be part of the David Brin IFRT conference program referenced above. They should address some aspect of the conflict between privacy and freedom. Selected papers will be posted on the IFRT website, and one may be chosen for publication in the IFRT Report. Papers should be no more than 4 pages long, must be received by June 1st, and may be submitted in paper or electronic format to: George Pearson, Chair, IFRT Program Committee, Florida International University Libraries, Biscayne Bay Campus, 3000 NE 151st St., North Miami, FL, 33181-3000, [pearson@fiu.edu](mailto:pearson@fiu.edu).

# Intellectual Freedom 2001 ALA Annual Conference

*“Congress Shall Make No Law Respecting an Establishment of Religion, or of the Press; or the Right of the People Peaceably to Assemble, and To Petition”*

## Track A: Leadership

### A2 – Issues for Management and Leadership A

**Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

PLA Library Confidentiality, ICC

*“Bringing Information Ethics to the Library’s Front Line Staff”*

This program will focus on the concepts related to information ethics, the need for libraries to develop policies and procedures that deal with real-world issues, and how staff can deal with the information ethics problems they face in the library. Speakers: Anne Hoffman, Donnell Library Center, New York Public Library; Marti Smith, PhD, Assistant Professor, Director of the Doctoral Program, The Palmer School of Library and Information Science

### A3 – Issues for Management and Leadership B

**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

ACRL Community and Junior Colleges Library (CJCLS)

*“Assistive Technologies: The Real Issues Behind Access”*

Every academic library faces the challenge and opportunity of redefining “access” to fully include patrons who are learning disabled, low-vision, blind, deaf and/or mobility impaired. How will your library develop and sustain a comprehensive “access framework” using assistive technologies? What do you need to know about new equipment and tools? What about legal responsibilities, staff training and service issues? An expert panel discusses the California community colleges effort to address these issues. Speakers: Sarah Hawthorne, Attorney, U.S. Office for Civil Rights; Carl Brown, Director, High Tech Center Training Unit, California Community Colleges; Marcia Norris, Trainer, High Tech Center Training Unit, California Community Colleges; Johanna Bowen, Director, Cabrillo College Library; Tabzeera Dosu, Director of Library Services, Butte College

## Track C: Digital Library

### C1 – Libraries in the Digital Age

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS)

*“Virtual Space/Virtuous Place: College Libraries in the 21st Century”*

As college libraries develop electronic book collections to add to the number of electronic resources readily available on our constituents’ desktops, they must also continue to provide a physical place where the values of intellectual curiosity, freedom of inquiry, and cultural awareness serve to promote a well-informed society. This program will suggest new metaphors for integrating the traditional college library, a virtuous place of intellectual discourse and cultural activity, with newer virtual electronic learning environments. Speakers: Beverly Sheppard, Acting Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Stephanie Bangert, Assistant Director, The Western Association of Schools and Colleges; Deanna B. Marcum, President, Council on Library and Information Resources; Sam DeMas, College Librarian, Gould Library; LaVerna Saunders, Dean, Library Administration

### C2 – Issues: Policy & Management

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

LITA Electronic Publishing/Electronic Journals IG Digital Rights Management and Intellectual Property Rights

*“How Digital Rights Management Solutions Might Effect Access, Fair Use, Free Speech and the First Sale Doctrine”*

Digital Rights Management Systems control access and usage of digital material and are on the verge of becoming a major component of library operations. This session will attempt to begin defining a set of solutions that fit the needs of intellectual property creators, owners and users. Speakers: Clifford Lynch, Executive Director of CNI; James G. Neal, Dean of University Libraries & the Sheridan Director, Johns Hopkins University; Dennis McNannay, Vice President, Publishing, InterTrust Technologies; Carol Risher, Senior Vice President, Business Development, Savantech, Inc. (Previously, Vice President, Copyright and New Technology, Association of American Publishers [AAP])

### C4 – Emerging Technologies

**Sunday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

LITA Technology and Access Committee

*“Equal Access for All: Networking Adaptive Technology for Public Access”*

The world of networked information presents serious barriers to access for the visually impaired. The adaptive technologies currently available, if properly selected and installed can promote better access for library users. Thoughtful attention to database and website design are also imperative. Three experts in the use and design of adaptive networked products will present their approaches to equal access. Speakers: Will Reed, Cleveland Public Library; Everyl Yankee, Usability Product Manager, Bell & Howell; Judy Dixon, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

## Track D: Children & Youth

### D1 – Programming & Outreach

**Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

ASCLA LSSPS

*“Reading and Exploring Together: Empowering Children with Disabilities and Their Parents as Library Users”*

Inclusive library programs with alternative formats and adaptive toys. Carrie Banks will identify how Brooklyn Public Library’s barrier-free programs and special collections mainstream branch access for children with disabilities. Carol Morrison will review the Braille Institute’s production and free distribution of Braille books to increase juvenile Braille Literacy (samples available). Barbara Mates will showcase Cleveland Public Library’s Read Together Program which pairs children learning Braille with adult Braille readers and provides brailled community exhibit information. Moderator: Elizabeth Ridler, assistant branch Librarian, Paerdegat Branch, Brooklyn Public Library. Speakers: Barbara T. Mates, head, Cleveland Public Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Principal, Barbara T. Mates & Associates, Inc. Library And Information Science Consultants; Carol Morrison, assistant director of the Braille Institute’s Braille Press Carrie

# Programs at the Conference June 14–20, 2001

*Prohibiting the Free Exercise Thereof; or Abridging the Freedom of Speech, or in the Government for a Redress of Grievances.” — First Amendment*

Banks, Child's Place for Children with Special Needs, senior librarian, Brooklyn Public Library

## D2 – Technology in Youth Services

**Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

AASL/YALSA/ALSC Intellectual Freedom Committees

*“Behind the Fig Leaf: Kids' Privacy in the Electronic Age”*

What does it take to advocate for kids' privacy in the electronic age? Youth-serving staff must be informed on the issues and able to communicate them. This session focuses on messages youth services staff must be ready to deliver, including kids' right to privacy in the library and on the Internet and the importance of educating families about online safety. Included are: an introduction to issues in privacy for children using the library; expert help in expressing the issues and answering hard questions about privacy; an opportunity for participants to practice communicating about privacy.

## Track E: Advocacy

### E2 – Marketing & Public Awareness

**Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

AASL Task Force on the Implementation of the New National Guidelines and Standards

*“Award-Winning Successes: Telling Our Story”*

Library media specialists from outstanding school libraries will share their successful techniques for improving student achievement. Recipients of the 2000 National School Library Media Program of the Year Award will discuss their strategies and best practices with a focus on establishing teacher-library media specialist collaboration as a school-wide expectation, using technology to enhance student learning and presentation, and working with administrators and the community to build support for the essential nature of information literacy. Speakers: TBA

**Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

PIO, Communications

Sponsored by Nancy Kranich, ALA Public Awareness Committee, Chapter Relations Committee, Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Legislative Committee Libraries and Internet Filtering: Advocacy Training Use advocacy training to put a positive spin on tough questions about children's access, filtering and related issues. Review the Libraries and the Internet Toolkit to help librarians manage and communicate about the Internet. Learn how to talk in “sound bites” and stay in control with the media. Role-play, Q&A. Taught by experienced library advocates, the program aims to build your skills in addressing hot topics, and provides helpful tips for all types of libraries. Program Chairs: Patricia Schuman, Charles Beard, Margo Crist, Pat Smith

### E3 – Lobbying & Government Relations

**Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Chapter Relations Committee Lobbying 101: Federal, State and Local Advocacy A leadership development workshop for increasing public awareness of library issues. Participants receive first-hand tips and techniques for improving political effectiveness and gaining clout. Learn how non-profit associations can successfully and legally lobby, and how

new tax laws effect nonprofit status. Participants break into small groups to share information on maximizing the impact of Legislative Day, political action committees, ways to use state legislative networks most effectively, and motivating citizens to lobby for libraries.

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

ALTA

*Legislation Committee Program: “Don't Pass the Buck, Just Help Us Pass the Bill”*

Be aware of legislators that support libraries and learn the best way to educate the legislators who don't. Understand how to stay on top of issues concerning libraries and how never to be the last to know.

## Track F: Information Access

### F3 – Books & Other Stuff

**Monday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

International Relations Round Table (IRRT)

*“Some Have It; Some Don't: Access to Information!”*

American librarians take the wealth of information supplied by public, private and government sources for granted. But what's it like to work in emerging democracies and developing nations where resources may be slow, skimpy or censored? What's a librarian working abroad to do when access to information is unavailable or restricted? How do librarians cope with difficulties in acquiring government and other country-based resources? Librarians who've spent time in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East describe their experiences with the process of obtaining and providing government and other information for the public they serve. Join us to hear their stories and marvel at their resourcefulness.

## Track G: Issues & Updates

### G3 – Legislation & Regulation

**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

ALA

The ALA Washington Office Briefing Program

The Washington Office presents an overview of key legislative and policy issues libraries expect to face in the coming year and discusses how the fledgling Administration and Congress might change our strategies and prospects as well as your library's funding, your daily work, and the future of the library world. Special emphasis will be on the E-rate, School Libraries, library advocacy, and reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

**Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

*(Choose one of two sessions, either Session 1 or Session 2!)*

ALA

The ALA Washington Office Briefing Program

**\*Session 1:** Libraries and the Internet of the Future Information technology is racing forward at “Internet” speed both in capacity and capability, and libraries are challenged to stay ahead of the curve. OITP, with some key experts, will look over the horizon to explore where the Internet and Internet applications are headed and the implications for