

# IFRT REPORT

Publication of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table

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Winter

# IFRT Report

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Greetings!

Alas, this will be my last IFRT Report! While I can honestly say it has been truly a most enjoyable experience, it is also time to move onto a new position within IFRT. I want to thank everyone who contributed to our Report, and also thank the IFRT Board for their patience and support. I am pleased to welcome David Hurley as the next IFRT Editor. David is currently the manager of the virtual library of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. He has been with the IFRT for several years and also served on the Program Committee for the 2006 IFRT/AILA Annual Program in New Orleans. Welcome Dave! Other appointment announcements and introductions will be forthcoming at Midwinter in Denver. So stay tuned for upcoming news from your intellectual freedom cast here at IFRT Board. Again, please consider getting involved with IFRT. My experiences with the Round Table over the years have given me an incredible appreciation and passion for this work. Our meetings are, of course, always open, and I would encourage all of you to come and meet with us.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Christos  
IFRT Editor

# IFRT Report

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## *The American Dream* By Lauren Christos



I took these photos at last year's Burning Man, 2008. The theme of last year's event was "The American Dream" "The 2008 art theme was "about nationality, identity and the nature of patriotism." While I don't believe there could be such a thing as a "typical" Burning Man, I can safely write that like most Burning Man events, the ironic, the satirical, and the parodies, play out in fantastical and yet sublime ways. As these photographs depict the questions posed at the outset of this year's theme: "What has America achieved that you admire? What has it done or failed to do that fills you with dismay? What is laudable? What is ludicrous?" We were also encouraged to: "Put blame aside, let humor thrive, and dare to contemplate a larger question: What can America, this stumbling, roused, half-conscious giant, still contribute to the world?" I think this Roving Surveillance Team acted with their pressed uniform suits and camera heads, merely walking or posing, gave all of us a giggle, and of course, a pause to reflect on the truth of the matter.

By Lauren Christos



## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM MEETINGS

### **IFRT I**

Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
1:30-3:30PM  
Convention Center Room 407

### **IFC/IFRT/Div. IFCs**

Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:30AM - 12:30PM  
Grand Hyatt Grand Ballroom

### **IFRT II**

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
8:00-10:00AM  
Convention Center Room 708

### **IFC I**

Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:00-10:00AM  
Convention Center Korbel Ballroom 4E

### **IFC Issues Briefing Session**

Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
10:30AM-12:30PM  
Convention Center Room 706



## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM MEETINGS

### **IFC/COL**

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:00AM - 10:00AM  
Grand Hyatt Grand Ballroom

### **IFC II**

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 - 6:00PM  
Grand Hyatt Pyramid Peak A

### **IFC III**

Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1:30 - 6:00 PM  
Convention Center Room 603

### **IFC IV**

Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 - 4:00 PM  
Convention Center Room 603  
American Library Association



## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM MEETINGS

### OTHER EVENTS

#### **70th Anniversary of the Code of Ethics**

Featuring Rushworth Kidder

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Convention Center Room 207

#### **4th Annual Freedom to Read Foundation Author Event**

Featuring Lauren Myracle

(\$25 per ticket)

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Tattered Cover Bookstore, 1628 16th Street

***We look forward to seeing you in Denver!***

Thanks to Jen Hammond  
Program Coordinator  
Office for Intellectual Freedom

# American Library Association – Intellectual Freedom Round Table Annual Conference 2008 – IFRT Councilor’s Report By Sylvia Jayne Turchyn

Among the statuesque palms of Anaheim, the work of Council included many “housekeeping” activities. For the first time in recent memory, Council adjourned a few hours early, allowing councilors one last chance to purchase mouse ears for the flight home....not.

## ALA COUNCIL

What follows is an overview of the actions taken by Council, with resolutions often presented with the primary resolve clauses or final motion, my vote as your representative and the Council vote.

### Council Resolutions Committee

- Presented significantly revised content for ALA Policy 5.3 *Council Resolutions: Guidelines for Preparation of Resolutions to Council*. Voted in favor; adopted. (Note: Your councilor also serves on this Council committee.)

### Policy Monitoring Committee

- Consistency of language denoting the library profession – Changes in the ALA Policy Manual. Voted in favor; adopted.
- Updating ALA Policy 55.4 *Standards of Accreditation in Library Education: Appeals Procedure*. Voted in favor; adopted.
- Placement of revisions to ALA Policy 40.2 *Code of Professional Ethics for Librarians*. Voted in favor; adopted.
- Revised ALA Policy 5.3 *Council Resolutions: Guidelines for Preparations of Resolutions to Council*. Voted in favor; adopted.

### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- To accept the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) as an affiliate under Article X of the ALA Constitution. Voted in favor; adopted.
- To accept the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) as an affiliate under Article X of the ALA Constitution. Voted in favor; adopted.
- Revised the ALA Constitution Article VIII, Section 2. Vacancy, regarding the offices of president-elect and treasurer. Voted in favor; adopted.
- Revised the ALA Constitution Article VIII, Section 5, Terms of Office, regarding the end of terms for officers and elected members of the Executive Board. Voted in favor; adopted.

### Intellectual Freedom Committee

- Revisions to the following Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights
- “Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- “Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- “Diversity in Collection Development.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- “Evaluating Library Collections.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- “Expurgation of Library Materials.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- “Free Access to Libraries for Minors.” Voted in favor; adopted.

## International Relations Committee

- Replaced the “Resolution on the Confiscation of Iraqi Documents from the Iraq National Library and Archives (January 16, 2008) with the resolve “That ALA condemns the confiscation of all seized documents from Iraq and strongly advocates the immediate return of those documents to the people of Iraq.” Voted in favor; adopted.

## Committee on Organization

- To revise the composition of the Committee on Accreditation to reflect practice. Voted in favor; adopted.

## Committee on Legislation

- In Support of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) – “That the American Library Association urges the United States Congress to fund NAL for FY2009 at the \$22 million level recommended by the House Agricultural Subcommittee.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- On the E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007 – “That the ALA urge Congress to authorize adequate funding to support the role of libraries in the delivery of E-Government services as expressed in Section 213 of the E-Government Act of 2002.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- In Support of Preservation and Access to the Audio Heritage of the United States – “That the American Library Association urges Members of the U.S. Congress to charge the U.S. Copyright Office to conduct a study on the desirability of bringing sound recordings before February 15, 1972, under federal jurisdiction.” Voted in favor; adopted.

## Other Resolutions

- On Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information – “That the American Library Association (ALA) urges the Government Printing Office (GPO) to give priority to expanding the scope of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) collection by capturing a greater percentage of digital and print fugitive government information products; urges the GPO to develop a plan to expand partnerships for digital retrospective conversion and born digital capture with standards based curation; urges the GPO and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to accept and archive digital copies resulting from cooperative government information digitization efforts; urges the GPO to explore within current law all options for cooperative collection development and maintenance, including shared housing agreements between regional depositories and selective depositories; urges the GPO to create an inventory of all government publications held in depository libraries; urges the GPO to coordinate depository library cataloging projects for pre-1976 and fugitive publications; and to incorporate them into the Catalog of Government Publications (CGP); urges the GPO to carry out a series of focused studies that together provide a comprehensive accounting of the issues facing the FDLP and the participating libraries; and urges Congress to allocate sufficient appropriations to GPO to undertake these initiatives.” Voted in favor to refer to the ALA Committee on Legislation; referred.
- On Support for Funding for Cataloging and Bibliographic Control at the Library of Congress – “That the American Library Association (ALA) Executive Director instruct the Washington Office to advocate and petition for increased federal funding to support the work of bibliographic control at the Library of Congress by filling and expanding the number of bibliographic access positions.” Voted in favor; adopted.

- Supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) – “That the American Library Association (ALA) calls for the reinstatement in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of protections for transgender persons from employment discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression; and ALA calls for passage of H.R.2015 or other inclusive version of ENDA by both Houses of Congress.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- Adopting the Definitions of Digital Preservation and the Revised Preservation Policy for the American Library Association – “That the American Library Association adopts the definitions of digital preservation and the revised Preservation Policy for use on the web, verbally, in written policy statements, and other documents. Voted in favor; adopted.
- Concerning ALA Policy Opposing Sweatshop Labor and Support Union Businesses – “That the American Library Association (ALA) and its divisions, round tables, and all other units should purchase all products for distribution to membership from sweatshop free producers.” Voted in favor; adopted.
- On Expanding Council Transparency – “That Council instructs the ALA Executive Director explore methods of making Council proceedings transparent to the ALA membership.” Voted in favor; adopted.

### Other Action Items

- Restructure Corporate Membership – Voted to establish two levels of corporate membership dues, \$500 and \$2,000.
- ALA Budgetary Ceiling – Approved the FY2009 total ALA budgetary ceiling of \$67,984,278.



Roving Surveillance Team, Black Rock City, Burning Man 2008

*Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read*

*September 27–October 4, 2008* <http://www.ala.org>

*“We all know that books burn—yet we have the greater knowledge that books cannot be killed by fire. People die, but books never die. No man and no force can abolish memory.”*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

In a message to the American Booksellers Association, April 23, 1942

*“Book banning is as old as books”*

William O. Douglas

*We the Judges, 1956*

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read was observed the last week of September. Began in 1982, this annual ALA event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. This year is the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Banned Books Week.

BBW celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one’s opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

*“To prohibit the reading of certain books is to declare the inhabitants to be either fools or slaves.”*

Claude Adren Helvetius

*De l’Homme, Vol. 1, sec. 4*

*“Censorship, like charity, should begin at home; but unlike charity; it should end there.”*

Clare Booth Luce

BBW is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, American Library Association, American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers, National Association of College Stores, and is endorsed by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

*“The fact is that censorship always defeats its own purpose, for it creates, in the end, the kind of society that is incapable of exercising real discretion...In the long run it will create a generation incapable of appreciating the difference between independence of thought and subservience.”*

Henry Steel Commager

## IFRT Pioneers Going Virtual

By Robert P. Holley, Chair IFRT

IFRT went virtual so stealthily that I didn't even know about this major change until one newly appointed committee chair asked when his committee would meet at the ALA Annual Conference and I discovered that there weren't any physical meetings. My predecessor, Doug Archer, told me that IFRT had implemented this change several years ago. I think that IFRT should take credit for pioneering this move to the virtual world.

Going virtual has many advantages. More IFRT members might be willing to serve on a committee if they know that they don't have to attend committee meetings at ALA Midwinter and Annual. Newer members or members whose organizations don't pay their conference costs would be especially appreciative of the opportunity to serve ALA without shouldering the burden of conference costs. The ALA conference staff should be happy since not scheduling physical rooms for the eight IFRT committees helps meet the goal of requiring less meeting space at conferences. The various committees can also carry out their business throughout the year without saving issues for the two annual meetings. Mary W. Ghikas, Senior Associate Executive Director, ALA told me that ALA supports discussion lists, blogs, wikis, and an online classroom (OPAL) where up to 100 members can meet. Committee chairs can take advantage of all these options at no cost.

Virtual committees also pose some risks. Chairs need to take greater responsibility to communicate with their members and to realize that business must move forward even without the deadlines of the physical meetings. Members must realize that virtual membership will require some extra effort on their part to participate in whatever format the chair decides is most effective for carrying out committee business. In the end, virtual participation may demand more of committee members than the current practice of attending two physical meetings.

A most important consideration is ALA's open meeting policy. This policy is designed to assure transparency and requires that almost all activities that fall under the definition of a "meeting" are open to all ALA members. As an approved exception to the open meeting policy, this rule doesn't apply to the four committees that select award winners and name the nominees for IFRT elected positions since these committees discuss personal matters. The other four general committees must find some way to follow the open meeting policy while still getting their work done virtually. Perhaps the best way would be to conduct committee business through one of the ALA supported mechanisms listed above (discussion lists, blogs, and wikis) since any ALA member can join these discussions. The committee chair could also set up a meeting in OPAL or some other online conferencing/chat system with an announcement posted far enough ahead of time on one of the ALA supported options for observers to attend the virtual meeting. One slight disadvantage for these open meetings might be the need for the committee to determine how to deal with non-members who wish to participate in the discussion since the open meeting policy does not guarantee that observers can join the conversation. I would also strongly support a requirement that chairs let the membership know about discussions and meetings in the *Newsletter* and through the IFRT discussion list.

I acknowledge how complicated the move from physical to virtual may be as ALA as a whole attempts to apply past practice to the Internet age. The conversations on the ALA Council discussion list about the report on virtual participation coming to Council during Midwinter 2009 have underscored the complexity of this issue. One of my goals for my short term as chair of IFRT will be to bring forward proposals that help assure that IFRT makes efficient use of the virtual world while still respecting ALA policies. I also hope that the IFRT Executive Committee will clarify the duties of committee chairs and members in the virtual world.

**Robert P. Holley**  
Chair IFRT and Professor of Library & Information Science, Wayne State University

## IF Explained

By Doug Archer

The Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is the ALA office charged with intellectual freedom concerns. Its staff support IF work throughout ALA especially the work of the IFC, IFRT and FTRF. Judith Krug, its Director, founded the office over 30 years ago and has been a dynamo in advocating IF within and outside of ALA.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/index.cfm>

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) is the group charged with advising ALA Council (ALA's policy making body) and the OIF on IF issues. For instance, right now it is working with the editor, Candace Morgan on a new, 8<sup>th</sup> edition of ALA OIF's Intellectual Freedom Manual. Specifically it is updating interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights for consideration by ALA Council. Six were approved last Summer at Annual and we'll be bringing several more to Denver.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/ifgroups/ifcommittee/intellectual.cfm>

Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) is the grassroots IF membership organization for ALA. It is a place for anyone to get involved who is interested. It focuses on education, publicity and advocacy by sponsoring programs at ALA conference, by giving awards which recognize individual and group IF accomplishments including defense of IF and publication and by publishing a newsletter, the IFRT Report. The awards are described in detail at its website.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/ifrt/index.cfm>

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) is a separate organization (for legal and tax purposes) linked to ALA that is dedicated to the legal defense of intellectual freedom. It usually becomes involve in court cases at the appeal level but sometimes participates in initial filings. It has been involved in most if not all of the major IF federal court cases of the last three decades. The Director of the OIF (Judith) serves as its Executive Director and Board Secretary.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/othergroups/freedomtoreadfoundation/index.cfm>

The Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund (Merritt Fund) was originally founded by folks involved in all of the above groups to provide financial (and moral) support for individuals hurting because of their defense of IF. It's scope has expanded over the years to cover also persons suffering from various forms of discrimination.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/othergroups/merrittfund/merritthumanitarian.cfm>

Feel free to come to any of these meetings. IFC meets four times starting on Saturday morning for loooong working sessions. IFRT Board meets twice. FTRF holds an all day meeting on Friday. All of these meetings are generally open. Given the nature of its work the Merritt Fund Trustee meetings are closed. However, the often hold an open brown bag lunch meeting for member input.



If you would like to contribute to the IFRT Report, please send your piece to:

lauren.christos@fiu.edu

Thought essays, opinions, book reviews, articles, and reports are all invited.

Thank you!

### Publications Committee

- ♣ Lauren Christos, Chair
- ♣ Diane M. Fulkerson
- ♣ Cindy A. Lombardo
- ♣ Camille McCutcheon

~Special thanks to Marie Therese O'Connell for her contributions in creating this newsletter.

*Founded in 1973, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table is the grass roots intellectual freedom organization within the American Library Association.*

### *Mission Statement*

*The Intellectual Freedom Round Table provides a forum for the discussion of activities, programs and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians; serves as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; promotes a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; promotes a greater feeling of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom.*

### *The IFRT*

*Provides broad opportunities for ALA members to become involved in the support of freedom of access and freedom of expression in libraries*

*Supports librarians involved in censorship controversies*

*Monitors intellectual freedom developments affecting library and information services*

*Provides a forum where ALA members involved in intellectual freedom activities on the state and local level can discuss programs, activities and problems*