

ALA Annual Highlights, June 24-28, 2016

Submitted by Sara Ring, ALA Chapter Councilor

Below are a few of the highlights from the American Library Association Midwinter Conference, followed by my full report (page 3).

Libraries Transform

This 3 year public awareness campaign is now a 3-5 year campaign. There was a lot of discussion at ALA Council I and within the Chapter-related meetings.

ALA Council: All 150 + Councilors split into small groups to discuss the campaign, what is working well, what are the desired outcomes of the campaign, what can chapters, divisions, etc do to amplify the message that Libraries Transform. It was a really fruitful discussion and hopefully all the feedback will be shared with us soon. Several commented that academic libraries need more of a message/toolkit for their libraries and communities. Councilors were also asking for more measurable outcomes from the public awareness campaign.

Incoming ALA President Julie Todaro announced that her spin on the Libraries Transform campaign will be: "Libraries Transform: the Expert in the Library." At the ALA store at the conference, you could purchase a Libraries Transform badge and use it to fill in your area of expertise. Name badges are also available online through the [ALA online store](#).



There was a Libraries Transform [conference session](#) that was presented at ALA Annual, where panelists shared how they are implementing the initiative locally. The ALA Public Awareness Office is looking at turning that into a webinar for more library staff and Chapter members to attend.

Chapter Councilors Forum: Lots of discussion about how Chapters have implemented Libraries Transform, and we want more opportunities to share ideas!

- Discussed how/where to share about what we are doing locally. A designated space (like ALA Connect) to share what the Chapters are doing would be useful.
- The more ALA can do to make the toolkit easy to remix and reuse the better.
- A message template for Chapters to use for announcements would be nice.
- Wisconsin Library Association incorporated it into their legislative day, and created this [one page handout](#). They also had legislators take their pictures next to [Libraries Transform messaging](#), and sent the posters out to the local libraries to put up. UW-Madison Libraries created their own [Because statements](#) for National Library Week.
- Reminder about how easy it is to create a [Libraries Transform Facebook profile picture](#)
- Suggested that we ask the ALA Chapter Relations Office to add more Libraries Transform giveaways for the booths that we have at our conferences.

- There are several other Chapters that have made their own Libraries Transform logo. The state name appearing before the “libraries transform” text seems to be the most prevalent. Ohio Libraries Transform, and Wisconsin Libraries Transform are two that I’m aware of.
- I discussed with the South Dakota Chapter Councilor an idea for the ALA professional table at MLA’s annual conference in October 2016. We could create a picture frame cut-out with the phrase “Libraries Transform: I’m an Expert in ...” People who stop by the booth could write down their expertise and have their picture taken. The final picture would be of them inside the frame, and they could be uploaded to the MLA Flickr page. They also had these ribbons that I’m hoping to request from ALA and hand out at the 2016 MLA Annual Conference.



Resolutions Passed During Council

- [Resolution Calling Upon Libraries to Build More Inclusive Communities](#)
- [Resolution in Support of the Professional Cataloging Processes and Determinations of the Library of Congress](#)
- [Resolution on the Restoration of the United Nations Depository Library System](#)
- [Resolution on Equity for All School Libraries](#)
- [Resolution on Equity for School Libraries for the DOE Making Rules For ESSA](#)
- [Resolution for Immediate Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled](#)
- [Resolution of Appreciation to Congressional Champions for Support of School Libraries and School Librarians in the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

Other Resolutions

These in particular concern Chapters and will resurface at ALA Midwinter that you should know about:

The [Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association](#) had much discussion among the Chapter Councilors. Background: Resolution stated (whereas clauses) that ALA does not always make an effort to seek input from Chapters regarding invitations to state elected officials, there is concern that we do not have the opportunity to discuss initiatives with ALA leadership prior to those initiatives being implemented nationally and imposed on Chapters, and concern that the ALA leadership has not responded when Chapter leaders have reached out to ALA. This was a resolution that asked for more open communication channels between the Chapters and ALA, asked that ALA ensure Chapters have a role in developing national initiatives and campaigns in which they will play a role, and asked that ALA support efforts to expand the role of the Chapter Relations Committee. There was concern from non-Chapter Councilors that we were exerting too much power in this resolution, and that divisions and other ALA subgroups have had similar issues. Instead of voting on it during Council the New Jersey Chapter Councilor asked that it be referred to a new working group to be led by incoming ALA President Julie Todaro.

[Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons](#)

Background: This resolution was in response to the 49 people murdered in Orlando, FL, whereas the

safety and security of all communities served by libraries across the U.S. are threatened by unexpected gun violence, the safety and security of workers in and patrons of libraries are vulnerable to gun violence, and more. This resolution asked that ALA extend condolences, make a statement deploring gun violence that affects the communities served by libraries, asked that ALA work with other professional associations to support sensible and effective national gun safety laws and oppose “gun friendly” state legislation (in particular legislation that permits the carrying of guns in or near libraries and schools), and more. The Committee on Legislation moved that this resolution be deferred to committees and come back to Council at ALA Midwinter. There was quite a bit of heartfelt discussion for and against deferring this resolution. Fear of an NRA backlash against libraries was one of the arguments for deferring, until the resolution adds some hard facts to back up the resolution’s whereas clauses. Several Councilors also spoke about the urgency to pass it now in light of the Pulse shootings in Orlando. A suggestion was made to have virtual participation between now and Midwinter with the library community and conversations on ALA Connect. 85 Councilors voted to defer (as I voted), 50 to pass it.

ALA Annual Full Report, June 24-28, 2016

What follows is my full report, organized chronologically, from ALA Council and related meetings I attended at the American Library Association Annual Conference. Some of the other Chapter Councilors also write blogs and report on the activities of ALA Council. Visit the [ALA website](#) to read other reports. All of the Council documents linked to below can be found on the ALA website here: www.ala.org/aboutala/council-documents-midwinter-and-annual-conference-2016

Chapter Relations Committee I (Saturday, June 25, 2016, 1:00 – 2:30)

- Keith Michael Fiels, in response to the resolution concerning the role of chapters in the American Library Association, met with Julie Todaro (ALA President-Elect) and the New Jersey Chapter Councilor on Thursday, June 23rd to discuss what ALA can do to address the issues mentioned in the resolution. He assured us that regardless of whether or not the resolution passes, they are committed to increasing communication and addressing other concerns brought up in the resolution.
- Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of the ALA Washington Office reported on these activities:
 - ALA advises FCC why maintaining strong broadband privacy rules benefits the schools and communities that libraries serve
 - Through the voice of the Library Copyright Alliance, ALA is advocating for copyright policy reforms and commenting when asked for public input from the Copyright Office.
 - ALA laying groundwork for broad support of Librarian of Congress nominee Dr. Carla Hayden.
 - ALA wages multi-front campaign to protect FY2017 LSTA, IAL funding.
 - ALA opposes congressional moves to block LC Subject Heading changes.
 - ALA backs bill to repeal Cybersecurity/Information Sharing” statute passed as part of massive year-end funding package.
 - ALA supported coalition pushes landmark privacy protections unanimously through House.
 - ALA backs whistleblower protection bill, protests mischaracterization of whistleblowers as threat by Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

- ALA succeeds in push for legislation to make CRS (Congressional Research Service) reports publicly and freely available
- National Library Legislative Day: Over 400 participants from all but three states attended this year's NLLD in Washington.
- [And much more!](#)

Council /Executive Board/Membership Information Session (Saturday, June 25, 2016, 3:00 – 4:30)

This session prepares ALA Council for the upcoming business that Council will address over the next 3 days. Here are links to all the reports presented.

- [ALA Presidents Report, Council Document #21.1](#): At BookExpo America 2016 in Chicago, ALA staff hosted a two-day Libraries Transform marketing event in Millennium Park. Libraries Transform posters, stickers and banners helped raise visibility of the campaign while staff invited people to enjoy a cup of coffee “on America’s libraries.” The event provided a great opportunity for ALA staff to engage with the general public and share messages about the transformative work of libraries today. 600 people accepted coffee. The event resulted in nearly 115,000 impressions on Facebook as well as 87,700 impressions on Twitter.
- [ALA President-Elect Report, Council Document #29.1](#): Julie Todaro has participated on the Task Force for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. So far they have created armbands for awareness and identification for ALA members, planned service and memorial project activities for ALA Annual, continued work on survey results, completed task force recommendations (later in this report), and created a new group to carry out the recommendations submitted for process, design, and chairs.
- [ALA Executive Director Report, CD #23.1](#): ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels reported that ALA membership has grown, the first time in 5 years! Called out United for Libraries for bringing in Friends and Trustees groups to ALA. In the area of advocacy, Libraries Transform has been huge (more than 3000 libraries have signed on). Symposium on Future of Libraries, eLearning, publishing, emerging leaders programs, badges, competencies work, and more mentioned in the report.
- [Budget Analysis and Review Committee Report, CD #33.1](#): FY16 – At 8 month mark. The budget is looking great. The ALA General fund has a little less in revenue than expected. ALA Midwinter expenses were more than projected. Division revenues are higher than what was budgeted (PLA and ALSC conferences had more expenses than budgeted). Round Tables revenue less than budgeted, but expenses less than budgeted. ALA Financial Learning Series offered. The topics included round table financial orientation and budget planning for a pre-conference or a one-time event. Handy webpage: [ALA Online Learning Offerings by Unit](#).
- Treasurers report, CD #13.2 (not available online at the time of this writing). There was a 1% compensation increase for staff, publishing revenue will be flat, increase in revenue and overhead from conferences, increase in ITTS (Information Technology & Telecommunication Services) operating budget. New business developments include: electronic publishing, continuing education online, international community, and our public/library users – how can we bring them in? Budgetary ceiling of 65,403,215 will come to Council III to approve.
- [Endowment Trustees Report, CD #16.1](#): The ALA portfolio went down 990,000 as a result of Brexit. No reason to panic. Need to diversify more. Issues impacting the market:

- Low odds for U.S. recession in 2016 due to healthy household sector
- Would expect to be back where we were before this fall, 2016.
- [Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, CD #38](#): Their charge was to develop a plan and strategic actions to build more equity, diversity, and inclusion among members, the field of librarianship, and our communities. The report includes 58 recommendations to ALA, with a three year timeline.

ALA Council I (Sunday, June 26, 2016, 8:30 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.)

At the first ALA Council meeting we heard the following announcements, reports, and voted on two resolutions that passed. You can also read a nice summary by American Libraries of Council I [here](#).

- Nominations for the 2016-2017 Council Committee on Committees Election, [CD #12](#).
- Nominations for the 2016-2017 Planning and Budget Assembly Election, [CD #12.1](#).
- Appointment of the Tellers Committee for the Committee on Committees (COC) and the Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA), [CD #12.2](#)
- Review of Executive Board Actions since the 2016 Midwinter Meeting, [CD #15.1-15.2](#).
- Implementation of the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting Council Actions, [CD #9.2](#). A useful read to see how ALA responds to resolutions and other actions passed by Council at the ALA Midwinter meeting.
- Resolutions
 - The [Resolution Calling Upon Libraries to Build More Inclusive Communities](#) passed.
 - The [Resolution in Support of the Professional Cataloging Processes and Determinations of the Library of Congress](#) passed.
 - The [Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons](#) was referred to Committees and Council III.
 - The [Resolution Concerning the Creation of the Deaf Culture Digital Library](#) was referred to Committee and will be discussed at ALA Midwinter 2017.
 - The [Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association](#) was referred to Council II.
- Libraries Transform discussion: All Councilors split into small groups to discuss the questions listed below, and then we reported back to the larger group with a lead facilitator. It was a really fruitful discussion, but unfortunately all my notes were handed in for compilation, and hopefully all the feedback will be shared with us soon. It was mentioned that academic libraries need more of a message/toolkit for their libraries and communities. So far, the message and tools available seem to be more for a Public Library audience. People were also asking for measurable outcomes from this public awareness campaign.
 - What can I (my chapter, division, library) do to amplify the message of Libraries Transform
 - What are the desired outcomes of LT in the next six months to a year?
 - What are the desired outcomes of LT in the next 2-3 years?

Chapter Councilors Forum (Sunday, June 26, 2016, 12:30 p.m.– 2:00 p.m.)

These are less formal than Council business meetings, and the agenda is whatever people wish to discuss. These points were discussed:

Libraries Transform: Lots of discussion about how Chapters have adopted the ALA Advocacy Plan, which includes Libraries Transform.

- Discussed how/where to share about what we are doing locally. A designated space (like ALA Connect) to share what the Chapters are doing would be useful.
- The more ALA can do to make the toolkit easy to remix and reuse the better.
- A message template for Chapters to use for announcements would be nice.
- Wisconsin Library Association had legislators take their pictures next to Libraries Transform messaging, and sent the posters out to the local libraries to put up.
- Reminder about how easy it is to create a Libraries Transform Facebook profile picture
- Agreement to ask ALA Chapter Relations Office to add more Libraries Transform giveaways for the booths that we have at our conferences.
- There are several other Chapters that have made their own Libraries Transform logo.
- After the meeting, I discussed with the South Dakota Chapter Councilor an idea for the ALA professional table at MLA's annual conference in October 2016. I would like to create a picture frame cut-out with the phrase "Libraries Transform: I'm an Expert in ..." People who stop by the booth could write down their expertise and have their picture taken. The final picture would look like a driver license picture, and they could be uploaded to the MLA Flickr page.

The [Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association](#) was heavily discussed. The writers asked for input on suggested changes. There wasn't a lot of support from non-Chapter Councilors of the resolution. There were objections to the mandate that any person who holds a leadership role in ALA be a member of their State Chapter (for example, in Ohio, the chapter is only the public librarians in the state, so why would an academic librarian who held a leadership role join the public library-only chapter in Ohio?) There were objections to the requirement that one chapter councilor should be elected to serve on the ALA Executive Board (it would follow that divisions, round tables, and others could appoint representation on the board too). During the meeting, the first two resolve clauses were dropped, and we thought we had a pretty good resolution to bring to Council. But then, there was overall strong feelings from the other Councilors that the Chapters were exerting too much control in this resolution. And, it turns out that the ALA Divisions and other groups had the same concerns as Chapters. It brought up a lot of good discussion and attention (which was also good) to Chapters, but the resolution itself was never voted on at the Council II meeting. Instead, it was voted at Council to defer to a yet-to-be formed working group, to be led by incoming ALA President Julie Todaro who would deal with these communication issues (beyond just the Chapters). The ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels and Julie Todaro met with the New Jersey Chapter and others pre-ALA and committed to improving Chapter relations.

Other things desired/discussed:

- Affordable webinars for Chapters
- Training and support for Chapters that involve us
- Chance to meet virtually between conferences

[ALA Council II](#) (Monday, June 27, 2016, 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m.). You can also read a nice summary by American Libraries of Council II [here](#).

Reports of ALA/Council Committees:

- Policy Monitoring Committee, [ALA CD#17.1](#)
- Committee on Organization (COO), [ALA CD#27.1](#). Two action items voted on and passed:
 - Action Item 1: Resolved, that Council defines the word subdivision as an ALA division or round table.
 - Action Item 2: Resolved, that Council approves the composition of the Chapter Relations Committee, as follows on page 3 of the report linked above.
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee, [ALA CD#25.1](#). There were two items we voted on.
 - Item 1: Recommendation that Council place an amendment to the ALA Bylaws on the spring 2017 ballot. This passed.
 - Item 2: Recommendation that Council approve an amendment to the ALA Constitution as a first step towards placing the amendment on the spring 2016 ballot for a vote by the ALA membership. This passed.
- International Relations Committee (IRC), [ALA CD#18.1](#). There was one resolution we voted on, a resolution to restore the United Nations Depository Library System. In this resolution ALA is asked to urge the United Nations to reinstate the print depository library program or countries in areas of the world where the cost of Internet access is too high and not widely developed, provide the UN Depository Library Program with free access to the iLibrary, abide by the recommendations made by depository libraries concerning the Consultation Paper, which was submitted to the UN Dept. of Public Information in June 2014, encourage full cooperation and communication among the United Nations Depository Library Program and others to assure the broadest possible access to UN documents and publications, and respect existing UN policy.
- Retiring Councilors and Executive Board Members were recognized and there was a photo taken of all Councilors to commemorate the 140th Anniversary of ALA.



Reports of Special Committees:

- Freedom to Read Foundation, [ALA CD #22.1](#), The Freedom to Read Foundation is a non-profit legal and educational organization affiliated with the American Library Association. FTRF protects and defends the First Amendment to the Constitution and supports the right of libraries to collect - and individuals to access - information.
- Conference Accessibility Task Force, [ALA CD #37](#). Background: There is ongoing concern expressed by members about the persistent structural and societal barriers to accessibility of ALA conferences and virtual meetings. A resolution was passed at ALA Midwinter 2016, and

called for a task force to gather data and made recommendations to ALA. There will be at least 1 survey that will go out to ALA members in the coming year. The Process Review Subcommittee of the Task Force is meeting with ALA Conference Services staff to ascertain what procedures and protocols ALA currently utilizes for reviewing accessibility complaints and for making the conferences and virtual meeting spaces accessible for members. There's also an Accessibility Guidelines Subcommittee and Accessibility Training Subcommittee working on various projects, detailed in the full report.

Resolutions

- Resolution Concerning the Role of Chapters in the American Library Association, [ALA CD#40](#), referred to new working group to be led by incoming ALA President Julie Todaro. See explanation under the "Chapter Councilor Forum" section of this report.
- Resolution on Equity for All School Libraries, [ALA CD #47](#) passed.
- Resolution on Equity for School Libraries for the DOE Making Rules For ESSA, [CD #48](#) passed.

[Chapter Relations Committee II](#) (Monday, June 27, 2016, 1:00 – 2:30)

Miscellaneous

- Hoping to expand and have conference calls in between midwinter and ALA Annual of this committee.
- Discussion of Chapters resolution that was referred to a working group in Council II (see "Chapter Councilors" Forum section of this report for more of an explanation of this resolution). Mentioned that there was an issue with excluding divisions in the resolution as they are having some of the same communication issues as Chapters.
- New leadership from the Chapter rotates so much, so need to request to repeat the communications and nuts and bolts of Chapters and Chapters Relations Office at the Chapter Leaders Forum on Friday every ALA meeting.

Libraries, Chapters, and Libraries Transform, Jeff Julian, ALA Public Awareness Office

- More than 3,000 libraries and supporters signed on with the campaign so far
- Reminder about monthly e-newsletter that goes out
- They would like to turn the Libraries Transform conference session that was presented at ALA Annual into a webinar.
- They would like to integrate libraries transform into advocacy and thinking about the idea of regional collaboration around it.
- Committee members asked for more Libraries Transform stuff for the rotating ALA booth. Maybe make a photo frame and people can take photos "I'm an expert in..."
- Worked on 4 more "Because" statements that focus on the "I'm an expert in..." theme and those will be released soon.
- Looking at how to integrate Libraries Transform into Academic Libraries
- The ALA public awareness staff are available to present on the campaign too (and would like to include libraries that have done implementation well).

Lisa Vargas, Virginia Library Association reported on the Chapter Relations Committee program “Do you want to plan a conference?” Well received at ALA Annual. Could make it an ongoing program slot at Midwinter. Slides are available on the [ALA Scheduler](#).

The Chapter Relations Committee does have 2-3 allotted slots an ALA conferences and could make more use out of them. Possible future topics:

- Legislative Days
- Libraries Transform Best Practices
- Restructuring at Chapters

[ALA Council III](#) (Tuesday, June 28, 2016, 7:45 a.m.– 9:45 a.m.). You can also read a nice summary by American Libraries of Council III [here](#). The following resolution was discussed and passed:

[Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons](#)

Motion to defer to ALA Midwinter by the Committee on Legislation. There was quite a bit of heartfelt discussion for and against deferring this to the committee to come back again to Council at ALA Midwinter. Fear of an NRA backlash against libraries was one of the reasons to defer until we have some hard facts to back up the resolution’s whereas clauses. Urgency to pass now in light of the Pulse shootings in Orlando. A suggestion was made to have virtual participation between now and Midwinter with the library community and conversations on ALA Connect. 85 Councilors voted to defer (as I voted), 50 to pass it.

Memorials:

- [Ned Vizzini, M-#7](#)
- [John Ganly, M-#8](#)
- [Naomi Kietzke Young, M-#9](#)
- [Orvin Lee Shiflet, M-#10](#)
- [Richard Sweeney, M-#11](#)
- [Dolores Bullock Owen, M-#12](#)
- [Trudy Seidel Jaques, M-#13](#)
- [Larry Romans, M-#14](#)
- [Charles Weld Robinson, M-#15](#)
- [Victims of the Pulse Nightclub Shootings, M-#16](#)

Tributes

- [Resolution Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Video Round Table, T-#3](#)
- [Resolution Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, T-#4](#)
- [Resolution Thanking Mary Alice Baish for Her Service as the 30th GPO Superintendent of Documents, T#5](#)

Reports of ALA/Council Committees

- ALA Treasurer’s Report ALA [CD#13.3](#), which included approval of the annual estimates of income & Budgetary Ceiling for FY2017 of \$65,403,215.

- Committee on Legislation, [ALA CD#20.3-ALA CD#20.7](#). All of the text of the following resolutions can be found in the committee report.
 - After intense lobbying by ALA, LSTA increases in Senate Appropriations Committee but didn't come to the floor (House Appropriations Committee will consider it in July 2016).
 - Library of Congress Subject Headings Controversy: Committee on Legislation involved in preparing the Resolution in Support of the Professional Cataloging Processes and Determinations of the Library of Congress, which passed at Council I.
 - Proposed Resolution Concerning Creation of Deaf Culture Digital Library was referred from Council to both ASCLA and COL. It was decided that given the issues surrounding the creation of such a library, there was a need for more research and discussion. The Resolution will be taken up again at Midwinter.
 - Resolution for Immediate Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled passed (CD #20.4).
 - Resolution of Appreciation to Congressional Champions for Support of School Libraries and School Librarians in the Every Student Succeeds Act (CD #20.5) passed.
 - Resolution on Equity for School Libraries for the Department of Education Making Rules for ESSA (CD #20.6) passed.
 - Resolution on Equity for All in School Libraries (CD #20.7) passed.
 - **Final Note:** Urged all Councilors who have not yet done so to sign up to receive [District Dispatch](#) blog posts in order to be fully informed on current legislative issues, and to receive legislative action alerts.
- Intellectual Freedom Committee, [ALA CD#19.3-ALA CD#19.9](#).
 - The new *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*, the successor to the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, is now a reality. On June 6, Volume 1, Number 1 became available on the JIFP website at journals.ala.org/JIFP
 - Report also includes a list of challenges to library materials, online learning they have offered, 5 new privacy guidelines (for K-12 schools, library management systems, library websites and OPACs, public access computers and networks, and guidelines for data exchange between networked devices and services), project summaries on Banned Books Week, Choose Privacy Week, the New Voices Initiative, Advocacy/Intellectual Freedom Boot camps (**the first workshop will take place in Minnesota in September**), and a New Challenges Database.

Announcements

- Final ALA Midwinter registration: 16,597 total attendees.