



much of what we do.

Advocacy is a core value driving the function of ALA, and the EB offers one face of that advocacy. Much of my work since I “retired” has been in the advocacy arena, specifically at the local level supporting the reconstitution of school libraries in the Houston Independent School District. While I have always worked on advocacy initiatives within AASL and ALA, the Houston Students Need Libraries effort was intensely hands-on, focusing on an audience that largely saw no need to restore libraries to the campuses. And we succeeded—school librarians were added as required staff members in every school in fall of 2022. Just as here at ALA with TAG, persistence has been key – I am certainly persistent.

Over my 44 years of membership, I have held many roles in ALA, especially AASL. But my most recent work with the ALA Ecosystem Initiative has clarified my understanding of our need within and beyond ALA to encourage librarians to speak with ONE VOICE, to reach both across our siloes internally and to the non-librarian public whether those are legislators or patrons. I appreciate how easy it is to focus on our personal niche while losing track of the big picture of the Right to Read.

members hold more core values than just Intellectual Freedom, but in 2022-23, the other values are supporting our very public focus on Intellectual Freedom and First Amendment Rights. I am proud to stand with ALA and FTRF members to amplify the message that “Free People Read Freely.”

ALA is strong in the face of naysayers. ALA staff and officers work tirelessly to advance the

IRRT Webinar Committee 2020-21
RMRT Liaison to Committee on Library Advocacy, 2022
United for Libraries
Intellectual Freedom, Advocacy and Public Policy Committee, Fall 2022-present
Intellectual Freedom Task Force, 2021-22

Board Member, November 2019-present
Chair, Krug Fund Education Committee, 2021-present
Member Education Committee, 2020
Member, Fundraising Committee, 2022

Texas Chapter Councilor to ALA, 2021-present
Texas Association of School Librarians
Legislative and Advocacy Committee Chair, 2013-2016.
TASLTalks blog Editor, 2014-2016.
Various committees.
Founder, Private School Discussion Group, 2010-2011
Texas School Library Standards Professionalism Subcommittee Chair, August 2016-17
(Texas State Library and Archives Commission)
Texas Library Association (TLA) Conference Program Committee, 2011-2012.
Young Adult Round Table (TX-YART).
Children's Round Table (TX-CRT).
Bluebonnet Award Program Committee (joint committee of TASL and CRT), April
2005-April 2009.

Students Need Libraries in HISD co-founder 2013-present. Local community advocacy for
school librarians in Houston ISD (TX).

Houston Area Independent School Library Network, 1980-present (Founding Chair)
Founding Editor, HAISLN Recommended Reading List (1992-20010)

(selected)

Co-editor, Ecosystem book title (in progress). ALA, 2024 (we hope)

"Thank you for Supporting HISD Students' Freedom to Read & Learn."
, 3 Oct 2022.

"Students Reach Greater Heights with School Librarians." , 5
Nov 2021.

"Comparing Campus Libraries to Classroom Libraries." , 3
Sept 2021.

Visual Guideline to Staffing Choices in School Libraries. 2018. PDF

"Students Need Libraries in Houston ISD (TX)." , 7 July 2017.

"Take the Bull by the Horns." , 23 Jan 2017.

"ESSA and Your Partnerships with Administrators." , 28 April 2016.

"Make Local Data Work for Local School Libraries." , 19 Feb 2016.

Evans, Cathy, Dorcas Hand, Robyn Martin, and David Wee. "The Trailblazers: The Art of
Curation in the Information Forest." (, Winter 2015)

Abarbanel, Elisabeth; Sarah Davis; Dorcas Hand; Matthew Wittmer. "The New School
Library: The Human Connection to Digital Resources and Academic Success." (,
Summer 2013)

