

Report to ALA Council  
Policy Monitoring Committee  
2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting

In accordance with Policy A.4.2.6 of the ALA Policy Manual the Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) has reviewed all actions taken by the ALA Council during the 2014 ALA Annual Conference for possible incorporation into, addition to, or changes to the ALA Policy Manual Based on Council actions at the Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, the following additions and changes are recommended:

ACTION ITEMS# 1-3:

Item #1: Communication to ALA members by ALA Committees and Council Committees

At the 2014 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Council

Such a report on the...  
the above text be incorporated into...  
Committee Reporting.

Item #2: Lifespan of Membership Initiative G

At the 2014 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Co  
A.4.3.2: "Once established, a MIG may operate for  
petition for another three- year term or may request  
by following the procedures for establishing that typ  
COO to disband it. The re-petitioning process can  
petition process is not carried out when due, the M

PMC moves that the revised text be incorporated into the ALA *Policy Manual* as Policy A.4.3.12 to read:

“A Membership Initiative Groups (MIG) is formed when a group of ALA members identifies a common concern or interest about librarianship which falls outside the delegated responsibility of a single division, roundtable, or unit, and wishes to establish a short-term, renewable mechanism to address this concern or interest. To establish a MIG, which must be approved by COO and reported to Council, a group must submit to the Committee on Organization a statement of purpose, at least one hundred signatures of ALA members in good standing, and the names and addresses of designated organizers. Once established, a MIG may operate for three years at which point it may re-petition for another three- year term or may request another place within the ALA structure by following the procedures for establishing that type of group, or may request the ALA COO to disband it. The re-petitioning process can be renewed every three years. If the re-petition process is not carried out when due, the MIG will be disbanded.”

Item #3: Copyright: Interpretation of the Code of Ethics      O

## NON-ACTION ITEMS #4-16 (housekeeping)

During the 2014 ALA Annual Conference, the ALA Council adopted 14 amended Interpretations to the **Library Bill of Rights**. The interpretations are traditionally represented in the ALA **Policy Manual** by means of an abstract, followed by a reference to the Policy Reference File, where the full text of the Interpretations reside. In these cases the latest date of revisions and the parenthetical statements will be updated to reflect the new revision date, and the new existing text of the abstract. Revisions to the 14 Interpretations are presented below for the ALA Council's information.

### Item #4

Old abstract: **B.2.1.13 Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials**  
(Old Number 53.1.4)

Recognizing that librarians cannot act in loco parentis, policies which set minimum age limits for access to nonprint materials and equipment with or without parental permission abridge library use for minors. Nevertheless, ALA acknowledges and supports the exercise by parents of their responsibility to guide their own children's viewing, using published reviews of films and videotapes and reference works that provide information about the content, subject matter, and recommended audiences.

Is REPLACED with:

**B.2.1.13 Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors** (Old Number 53.1.3)

Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, or format. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors. Adopted 1989, amended 1991, 2004, 2014. (See "Policy Reference File": Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the **Library Bill of Rights**)  
2013-2014 ALA CD#19.4\_63014\_act)

### Item #5

Old abstract: **B.2.1.3 Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program**

Members of the school community involved in the collection development process employ educational criteria to select resources unfettered by their personal, political, social, or

access to resources and services free of constraints resulting from personal, partisan, or doctrinal disapproval. School library media specialists resist efforts by individuals or groups to define what is appropriate for all students or teachers to read, view, hear, or access via

foundation of intellectual freedom: developing collections (both real and virtual) with multiple perspectives and individual needs of users in mind; providing programming and instructional services framed around equitable access to information and ideas; and teaching information skills and intellectual freedom rights integrated appropriately throughout the spectrum of library programming. Adopted 2009, amended 2014. (See “Policy Reference File”: Advocating for Intellectual Freedom: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights ALA CD#19.6\_63014\_act)

Item #7

Old abstract B.2.1.1 Challenged Materials (Old Number 53.1.1)

Challenged materials that meet the criteria for selection in the materials selection policy of the library should not be removed under any legal or extra-legal pressure.

Is REPLACED with:

**B.2.1.1 Challenged Resources**

“Libraries: An American Value” states, “We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services.” The American Library Association declares as a matter of firm principle that it is the responsibility of every library to have a clearly defined

Is REPLACED with:

#### B.2.1.11 Diversity in Collection Development

Library collections must represent the diversity of people and ideas in our society. There are many complex facets to any issue, and many contexts in which issues may be expressed, discussed, or interpreted. Librarians have an obligation to select and support access to content on all subjects that meet, as closely as possible, the needs, interests, and abilities of all persons in the community the library serves. Adopted 1982, amended 1990, 2008, 2014. (See “Policy Reference File”: Diversity in Collection Development: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights 2013-2014 ALA CD#19.8\_63014\_act)

Item #9

Old abstract: B.2.1.8 Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards (Old Number 53.1.8)

Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards Libraries maintaining exhibit spaces and bulletin boards for outside groups and individuals should develop and publish statements governing use to assure that space is provided on a equitable basis to all groups that request it. A publicly supported library may designate use of exhibit space for strictly library-related activities, provided that this limitation is viewpoint neutral and clearly defined. Libraries may include in this policy rules regarding the time, place, and manner of use of the exhibit space, so long as the rules are content neutral and are applied in the same manner to all groups wishing to use the space.

Is REPLACED with:

#### B.2.1.8 Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards

Libraries that make bulletin boards available to public groups for posting notices of public interest should develop criteria for the use of these spaces based on the same considerations as those outlined above. Libraries may wish to develop criteria regarding the size of material to be displayed, the length of time materials may remain on the bulletin board, the frequency with which material may be posted for the same group, and the geographic area from which notices will be accepted. Adopted 1991, amended 2004, 2014. (See “Policy Reference File”: Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights 2013-2014 ALA CD#19.9\_63014\_act)

Item #10

Old Title: B.2.1.2 Expurgation of Library Materials(Old Number 53.1.2)

Is REPLACED with:

B.2.1.2 Expurgation of Library Materials

**Note:** At the 2014 Annual Conference, the ALA Council amended the wording in Expurgation of Library Materials: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. The policy abstract was not changed.

Adopted 1973, revised 1981, 1990, 2008, 2014. (See “Policy Reference File”: Expurgation of Library Materials: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. ALA CD#19.10\_63014\_act)

Item #11

Old abstract: B.2.1.18 Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries (Old Number 53.1.18)

The general principles set forth in the Library Bill of Rights form an indispensable framework for building collections, services, and policies that serve the entire academic community. Among many other requirements, academic libraries must protect the privacy of their users; develop collections without consideration of personal values; maintain a balance of materials; provide open and unfiltered access to the Internet; promote a service philosophy that affords equal access to information for all in the academic community without discrimination of any kind; and ensure a procedure of due process for dealing with the removal or addition of library resources, exhibits, or services.

Is REPLACED with:

**Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries** A service philosophy should be promoted that affords equal access to information for all in the academic community with no discrimination on the basis of race, age, values, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, cultural or ethnic background, physical, sensory, cognitive or learning disability, economic status, religious beliefs, or views. Adopted 2000, amended 2014. (See “Policy Reference File”:

## Item #1 2

Old abstract: B.2.1.7 Labeling and Rating Systems (Old Number 53.1.7)

Prejudicial labeling and ratings presuppose the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is appropriate or inappropriate for others. They presuppose that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read or view.

Is REPLACED with:

### B.2.1.7 Labeling and Rating Systems

Viewpoint-neutral directional labels are a convenience designed to save time. These are different in intent from attempts to prejudice or discourage users or restrict their access to resources. Labeling as an attempt to prejudice attitudes is a censor's tool. The American Library Association opposes labeling as a means of predisposing people's attitudes toward library resources. Adopted 1951, amended 1971, 1981, 1990, 2005, 2009, 2014. (See "Policy Reference File": Labeling and Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the **Library Bill of Rights** 2013-2014 ALA CD #19.12\_63014\_act)

## Item #1 3

Old abstract B.2.1.22 Minors and Internet Interactivity (Old Number 53.1.22)

The First Amendment applies to speech created by minors on interactive sites. Usage of these social networking sites in a school or library allows minors to access and create resources that fulfill their interests and needs for information, for social connection with peers, and for participation in a community of learners. Restricting expression and access to interactive Web sites because the sites provide tools for sharing information with others violates the tenets of the **Library Bill of Rights** is the responsibility of librarians and educators to monitor threats to the intellectual freedom of minors and to advocate for extending access to interactive applications on the Internet.

Is REPLACED with:

### Minors and Internet Activity

The First Amendment applies to speech created by minors on interactive sites. Use of these social networking sites in a school or library allows minors to access and create resources that fulfill their interests and needs for information, for social connection with peers, and for participation in a community of learners. Restricting expression and access to interactive web



sites because the sites provide tools for sharing information with others violates the tenets of the Library Bill of Rights the responsibility of librarians and educators to monitor threats

collections should be carefully scrutinized to ensure that the purpose is not to suppress a

Universal Right to Free Expression: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights  
CD#19.17\_63014\_act)

## In Conclusion

The Committee would like to thank our staff liaison, Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, for her knowledge sharing, her patience, and her cheerful, ready assistance.

## Policy Monitoring Committee

Vicky L. Crone

Alys Jordan

Henry R. Stewart, Jr., Chair

John A Moorman, ALA Executive Board Liaison

Lois Ann Gregory-Wood,