

**ALA Conference Accessibility Task Force (CATF)
Report to the ALA Council and Executive Board
ALA Annual Meeting, June 2016
Orlando, FL**

Embracing and celebrating diversity, creating a more inclusive profession, and ensuring a level playing field for all members to participate have been long-standing goals of the American Library Association. However, the impetus for creating the Task Force was the ongoing concern expressed by members about the persistent structural ad7esi.t

the culmination and persistence of negative experiences for attendees with disabilities has led to frustration and a desire for further action on the part of the Association. Following in-depth discussion of these barriers and obstacles to accessibility over the past few years by members of and attendees to ALA's Accessibility Assembly, and deliberations via Email, phone, and in-person by the

6. How virtual electronic meeting and conference software is guaranteed and evaluated.

Information on conference procedures has been received. The subcommittee plans to meet with ALA conference services staff at Annual Conference to further review existing procedures. This fact gathering will inform future recommendations.

The Guidelines group is working with ALA Senior Associate Executive Director Mary Ghikas and Conference Services staff to gather and evaluate existing contract language regarding ADA compliance of convention centers or language guaranteeing accessible hotel rooms in hotel contracts. The group hopes to learn what post-conference enforcement mechanisms ALA (and its counsel) have at its disposal should a member wish to file suit, grievance, etc.

Members of the training subcommittee have been working to compile and cross-share collections of favorite training and learning resources on accessibility and

programs. For example, the task force will consider offering a “News You Can Use” breakout session featuring an expert in the field, and a facilitated dialogue with conference attendees at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. This dialogue, which will follow ALA’s “Kitchen Table” conversations that have taken place at recent conferences to gather information about members’ perception of a desired future within ALA and the profession, will be facilitated by task force members and, if possible, a professional facilitator.