

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 18, 2024

RE: (select one)

ACTION REQUESTED

INFORMATION

REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: (add below)

Report: ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee (CD#19.3)

Information: Draft Revision - Prisoners' Right to Read: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (CD#19.4)

Information – Draft Revision - Restricted Access to Library Materials, An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (CD#19.5)

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: (if applicable)

**None.** Two information items.

ACTION REQUESTED BY: (add committee name)

N/A

CONTACT PERSON:

**ALA INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE  
REPORT TO COUNCIL  
2024 ANNUAL MEETING  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) is pleased to present this update of its activities and the activities of the Office for Intellectual Freedom since the LibLearnX Conference in January 2024:

**REVIEW OF INTERPRETATIONS OF THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS**

In preparation for the publication of the eleventh edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual, the Intellectual Freedom Committee began review of the Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights and other ALA policy documents addressing library users' intellectual freedom and privacy. In February, five working groups were formed to review the five interpretations deemed to be in most need of review and revision:

- Restricted Access to Library Materials
- Diverse Collections
- Prisoners' Right to Read

address privacy and security concerns that arise when creating and modifying name authority records.

During LibLearnX, members of the subcommittee joined with members of the Rainbow Roundtable to present a well-received panel, "Upholding Trans Patron Privacy & Information Access." The panel was highlighted by *American Libraries*-~~3 (l)-2 (a)-1 (b)-1 (c)-1 (d)-1 (e)-1 (f)-1 (g)-1 (h)-1 (i)-1 (j)-1 (k)-1 (l)-1 (m)-1 (n)-1 (o)-1 (p)-1 (q)-1 (r)-1 (s)-1 (t)-1 (u)-1 (v)-1 (w)-1 (x)-1 (y)-1 (z)-1 (aa)-1 (ab)-1 (ac)-1 (ad)-1 (ae)-1 (af)-1 (ag)-1 (ah)-1 (ai)-1 (aj)-1 (ak)-1 (al)-1 (am)-1 (an)-1 (ao)-1 (ap)-1 (aq)-1 (ar)-1 (as)-1 (at)-1 (au)-1 (av)-1 (aw)-1 (ax)-1 (ay)-1 (az)-1 (ba)-1 (bb)-1 (bc)-1 (bd)-1 (be)-1 (bf)-1 (bg)-1 (bh)-1 (bi)-1 (bj)-1 (bk)-1 (bl)-1 (bm)-1 (bn)-1 (bo)-1 (bp)-1 (bq)-1 (br)-1 (bs)-1 (bt)-1 (bu)-1 (bv)-1 (bw)-1 (bx)-1 (by)-1 (bz)-1 (ca)-1 (cb)-1 (cc)-1 (cd)-1 (ce)-1 (cf)-1 (cg)-1 (ch)-1 (ci)-1 (cj)-1 (ck)-1 (cl)-1 (cm)-1 (cn)-1 (co)-1 (cp)-1 (cq)-1 (cr)-1 (cs)-1 (ct)-1 (cu)-1 (cv)-1 (cw)-1 (cx)-1 (cy)-1 (cz)-1 (da)-1 (db)-1 (dc)-1 (dd)-1 (de)-1 (df)-1 (dg)-1 (dh)-1 (di)-1 (dj)-1 (dk)-1 (dl)-1 (dm)-1 (dn)-1 (do)-1 (dp)-1 (dq)-1 (dr)-1 (ds)-1 (dt)-1 (du)-1 (dv)-1 (dw)-1 (dx)-1 (dy)-1 (dz)-1 (ea)-1 (eb)-1 (ec)-1 (ed)-1 (ee)-1 (ef)-1 (eg)-1 (eh)-1 (ei)-1 (ej)-1 (ek)-1 (el)-1 (em)-1 (en)-1 (eo)-1 (ep)-1 (eq)-1 (er)-1 (es)-1 (et)-1 (eu)-1 (ev)-1 (ew)-1 (ex)-1 (ey)-1 (ez)-1 (fa)-1 (fb)-1 (fc)-1 (fd)-1 (fe)-1 (ff)-1 (fg)-1 (fh)-1 (fi)-1 (fj)-1 (fk)-1 (fl)-1 (fm)-1 (fn)-1 (fo)-1 (fp)-1 (fq)-1 (fr)-1 (fs)-1 (ft)-1 (fu)-1 (fv)-1 (fw)-1 (fx)-1 (fy)-1 (fz)-1 (ga)-1 (gb)-1 (gc)-1 (gd)-1 (ge)-1 (gf)-1 (gg)-1 (gh)-1 (gi)-1 (gj)-1 (gk)-1 (gl)-1 (gm)-1 (gn)-1 (go)-1 (gp)-1 (gq)-1 (gr)-1 (gs)-1 (gt)-1 (gu)-1 (gv)-1 (gw)-1 (gx)-1 (gy)-1 (gz)-1 (ha)-1 (hb)-1 (hc)-1 (hd)-1 (he)-1 (hf)-1 (hg)-1 (hh)-1 (hi)-1 (hj)-1 (hk)-1 (hl)-1 (hm)-1 (hn)-1 (ho)-1 (hp)-1 (hq)-1 (hr)-1 (hs)-1 (ht)-1 (hu)-1 (hv)-1 (hw)-1 (hx)-1 (hy)-1 (hz)-1 (ia)-1 (ib)-1 (ic)-1 (id)-1 (ie)-1 (if)-1 (ig)-1 (ih)-1 (ii)-1 (ij)-1 (ik)-1 (il)-1 (im)-1 (in)-1 (io)-1 (ip)-1 (iq)-1 (ir)-1 (is)-1 (it)-1 (iu)-1 (iv)-1 (iw)-1 (ix)-1 (iy)-1 (iz)-1 (ja)-1 (jb)-1 (jc)-1 (jd)-1 (je)-1 (jf)-1 (jg)-1 (jh)-1 (ji)-1 (jj)-1 (jk)-1 (jl)-1 (jm)-1 (jn)-1 (jo)-1 (jp)-1 (jq)-1 (jr)-1 (js)-1 (jt)-1 (ju)-1 (jv)-1 (jw)-1 (jx)-1 (jy)-1 (jz)-1 (ka)-1 (kb)-1 (kc)-1 (kd)-1 (ke)-1 (kf)-1 (kg)-1 (kh)-1 (ki)-1 (kj)-1 (kk)-1 (kl)-1 (km)-1 (kn)-1 (ko)-1 (kp)-1 (kq)-1 (kr)-1 (ks)-1 (kt)-1 (ku)-1 (kv)-1 (kw)-1 (kx)-1 (ky)-1 (kz)-1 (la)-1 (lb)-1 (lc)-1 (ld)-1 (le)-1 (lf)-1 (lg)-1 (lh)-1 (li)-1 (lj)-1 (lk)-1 (ll)-1 (lm)-1 (ln)-1 (lo)-1 (lp)-1 (lq)-1 (lr)-1 (ls)-1 (lt)-1 (lu)-1 (lv)-1 (lw)-1 (lx)-1 (ly)-1 (lz)-1 (ma)-1 (mb)-1 (mc)-1 (md)-1 (me)-1 (mf)-1 (mg)-1 (mh)-1 (mi)-1 (mj)-1 (mk)-1 (ml)-1 (mn)-1 (mo)-1 (mp)-1 (mq)-1 (mr)-1 (ms)-1 (mt)-1 (mu)-1 (mv)-1 (mw)-1 (mx)-1 (my)-1 (mz)-1 (na)-1 (nb)-1 (nc)-1 (nd)-1 (ne)-1 (nf)-1 (ng)-1 (nh)-1 (ni)-1 (nj)-1 (nk)-1 (nl)-1 (nm)-1 (no)-1 (np)-1 (nq)-1 (nr)-1 (ns)-1 (nt)-1 (nu)-1 (nv)-1 (nw)-1 (nx)-1 (ny)-1 (nz)-1 (oa)-1 (ob)-1 (oc)-1 (od)-1 (oe)-1 (of)-1 (og)-1 (oh)-1 (oi)-1 (oj)-1 (ok)-1 (ol)-1 (om)-1 (on)-1 (oo)-1 (op)-1 (oq)-1 (or)-1 (os)-1 (ot)-1 (ou)-1 (ov)-1 (ow)-1 (ox)-1 (oy)-1 (oz)-1 (pa)-1 (pb)-1 (pc)-1 (pd)-1 (pe)-1 (pf)-1 (pg)-1 (ph)-1 (pi)-1 (pj)-1 (pk)-1 (pl)-1 (pm)-1 (pn)-1 (po)-1 (pp)-1 (pq)-1 (pr)-1 (ps)-1 (pt)-1 (pu)-1 (pv)-1 (pw)-1 (px)-1 (py)-1 (pz)-1 (qa)-1 (qb)-1 (qc)-1 (qd)-1 (qe)-1 (qf)-1 (qg)-1 (qh)-1 (qi)-1 (qj)-1 (qk)-1 (ql)-1 (qm)-1 (qn)-1 (qo)-1 (qp)-1 (qq)-1 (qr)-1 (qs)-1 (qt)-1 (qu)-1 (qv)-1 (qw)-1 (qx)-1 (qy)-1 (qz)-1 (ra)-1 (rb)-1 (rc)-1 (rd)-1 (re)-1 (rf)-1 (rg)-1 (rh)-1 (ri)-1 (rj)-1 (rk)-1 (rl)-1 (rm)-1 (rn)-1 (ro)-1 (rp)-1 (rq)-1 (rr)-1 (rs)-1 (rt)-1 (ru)-1 (rv)-1 (rw)-1 (rx)-1 (ry)-1 (rz)-1 (sa)-1 (sb)-1 (sc)-1 (sd)-1 (se)-1 (sf)-1 (sg)-1 (sh)-1 (si)-1 (sj)-1 (sk)-1 (sl)-1 (sm)-1 (sn)-1 (so)-1 (sp)-1 (sq)-1 (sr)-1 (ss)-1 (st)-1 (su)-1 (sv)-1 (sw)-1 (sx)-1 (sy)-1 (sz)-1 (ta)-1 (tb)-1 (tc)-1 (td)-1 (te)-1 (tf)-1 (tg)-1 (th)-1 (ti)-1 (tj)-1 (tk)-1 (tl)-1 (tm)-1 (tn)-1 (to)-1 (tp)-1 (tq)-1 (tr)-1 (ts)-1 (tt)-1 (tu)-1 (tv)-1 (tw)-1 (tx)-1 (ty)-1 (tz)-1 (ua)-1 (ub)-1 (uc)-1 (ud)-1 (ue)-1 (uf)-1 (ug)-1 (uh)-1 (ui)-1 (uj)-1 (uk)-1 (ul)-1 (um)-1 (un)-1 (uo)-1 (up)-1 (uq)-1 (ur)-1 (us)-1 (ut)-1 (uu)-1 (uv)-1 (uw)-1 (ux)-1 (uy)-1 (uz)-1 (va)-1 (vb)-1 (vc)-1 (vd)-1 (ve)-1 (vf)-1 (vg)-1 (vh)-1 (vi)-1 (vj)-1 (vk)-1 (vl)-1 (vm)-1 (vn)-1 (vo)-1 (vp)-1 (vq)-1 (vr)-1 (vs)-1 (vt)-1 (vu)-1 (vv)-1 (vw)-1 (vx)-1 (vy)-1 (vz)-1 (wa)-1 (wb)-1 (wc)-1 (wd)-1 (we)-1 (wf)-1 (wg)-1 (wh)-1 (wi)-1 (wj)-1 (wk)-1 (wl)-1 (wm)-1 (wn)-1 (wo)-1 (wp)-1 (wq)-1 (wr)-1 (ws)-1 (wt)-1 (wu)-1 (wv)-1 (ww)-1 (wx)-1 (wy)-1 (wz)-1 (xa)-1 (xb)-1 (xc)-1 (xd)-1 (xe)-1 (xf)-1 (xg)-1 (xh)-1 (xi)-1 (xj)-1 (xk)-1 (xl)-1 (xm)-1 (xn)-1 (xo)-1 (xp)-1 (xq)-1 (xr)-1 (xs)-1 (xt)-1 (xu)-1 (xv)-1 (xw)-1 (xx)-1 (xy)-1 (xz)-1 (ya)-1 (yb)-1 (yc)-1 (yd)-1 (ye)-1 (yf)-1 (yg)-1 (yh)-1 (yi)-1 (yj)-1 (yk)-1 (yl)-1 (ym)-1 (yn)-1 (yo)-1 (yp)-1 (yq)-1 (yr)-1 (ys)-1 (yt)-1 (yu)-1 (yv)-1 (yw)-1 (yx)-1 (yz)-1 (za)-1 (zb)-1 (zc)-1 (zd)-1 (ze)-1 (zf)-1 (zg)-1 (zh)-1 (zi)-1 (zj)-1 (zk)-1 (zl)-1 (zm)-1 (zn)-1 (zo)-1 (zp)-1 (zq)-1 (zr)-1 (zs)-1 (zt)-1 (zu)-1 (zv)-1 (zw)-1 (zx)-1 (zy)-1 (zz)-1~~

- BOOK RESUMÉS: Working in collaboration with dozens of publishers and librarians and with the support of professional review resources like Booklist and School Library Journal, OIF staff coordinated the launch of Book Résumés as a tool against censorship. Book résumés are one page, easy-to-print documents designed to help support access to books targeted by censors. Each book résumé summarizes the book’s significance and educational value and includes a synopsis, professional reviews, awards and accolades, and information about how a title has been successfully retained after a demand to censor the book. Over three hundred book résumés are now housed on ALA’s Unite Against Book Bans website, with firm plans to continue to work with Unite Against Book Bans’ publishing partners to continually expand and update the book résumé collection.

information to gain expertise and solid grounding of relevant legal concepts so that they are prepared to share that information with non-attorneys. Faculty members, all licensed attorneys, presented on topics such as the First Amendment, CIPA, social media and internet, privacy, and copyright to ninety-one attendees representing 48 states who

Unite Against Book Bans was also invited to participate in the Freedom to Learn National Day of Action on May 3, led by the African American Policy Forum. Unite Against Book Bans supported this effort through its social media channels, on its website, and in messaging to supporters and Jennie Pu with ALA's Policy Corps Cadre represented Unite Against Book Bans at the Freedom to Learn National Day of Action event in New York City. AAPF and the UABB

and the Freedom to Read Foundation. We thank Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Eric Strohane, Betsy Gomez, Joyce McIntosh, Karen Gianni, and Sarah Lamdan for their support of our members and colleagues who are fighting censorship and other challenges to intellectual freedom in their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

**ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee**

Lesliediana Jones, Chair

Kate Lehmann, Co-Chair

Becky Calzada

Peter D. Coyl

Karen E. Downing





ideas in any format. The carceral library collection, like all library collections, should reflect the needs of its community.

Carceral libraries and their staff may be required to prohibit materials that promote illegal acts or harm. These restrictions are because of the following:

- Federal, state, or local laws
- Administrative rules
- Court decisions

Staff should only restrict items posing a real and imminent risk to safety and security. These limiting factors may reduce available materials. However, following the *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations can help minimize the impact.

Use these principles to serve people who are incarcerated or detained. They apply to everyone, no matter where they are from or if they have been convicted of a crime.

- **Collection Management:** Libraries should follow a written policy for how to maintain their collections. Library workers and carceral administrators should agree on the policy. The policy should align with the *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations.
- **Challenges Procedures:** If someone challenges a library item, the library should have written procedures to follow. This includes a policy that explains what makes an item unacceptable.<sup>3</sup>

- **External Material Access:** Incarcerated or detained people should be able to get materials from the outside.

When free people, through judicial procedure, segregate some of their own, they incur the duty to provide humane treatment and essential rights. Among these are the rights to read and to access information. The right to choose what to read is crucial, and the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. The denial of intellectual freedom—the right to read, to write, and to think— reduces the humanity of those segregated from society.

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<sup>1</sup> *Procunier v Martinez*, 416 U.S. 428 (1974)

<sup>2</sup> 28 CFR 540.71(b): “The Warden may not reject a publication solely because its content is religious, philosophical, political, social or sexual, or because its content is unpopular or repugnant.”

<sup>3</sup> [“Challenged Resources: An Interpretation of the \*Library Bill of Rights\*,”](#) adopted June 25, 1971 by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; January 10, 1990; January 28, 2009; July 1, 2014; and January 29, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> [“Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the \*Library Bill of Rights\*,”](#) adopted June 30, 1972, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991; June 30, 2004; July 2, 2008 under previous name "Free Access to Libraries for Minors"; July 1, 2014; and June 25, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> [“Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the \*Library Bill of Rights\*,”](#) adopted January 28, 2009, by the ALA Council under the title "Services to Persons with Disabilities"; amended June 26, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> A person who has the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills.

Adopted June 29, 2010, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 2014; January 29, 2019; First Draft Revision for Review, June 5, 2024.



Library policies that restrict access to resources must be crafted and managed carefully to ensure they adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom. This caution is evident in many ALA policies:

- “Evaluating Library Collections”
- “Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors”
- “Preservation Policy”
- ACRL “Code of Ethics for Special Collections Librarians”<sup>3</sup>

Libraries aim to provide access to diverse viewpoints on current and historical issues. Proposals for restricted access should be scrutinized to ensure that they do not suppress viewpoints or create barriers. Libraries must have policies and procedures that serve the diverse needs of their users and protect the First Amendment right to access information.

## NOTES

1. “Labeling Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights,” adopted June 30, 2015, by the ALA Council; originally part of “Labeling and Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights,” adopted July 13, 1951, by the ALA Council; amended June 25, 1971; July 1, 1981; June 26, 1990; January 19, 2005; July 15, 2009; and July 1, 2014.

2. “Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights,” adopted January 24, 1996, by the ALA Council; amended January 19, 2005; July 15, 2009, under the previous name “Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks”; amended June 25, 2019.

3. “Evaluating Library Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights,” adopted February 2, 1973, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; June 2, 2008; and July 1, 2009, 11.04 84.24 348.72 Tm(3.)Tj/TT0 1 Tf( )Tj/TT (L)1 (A)2 -10 (J)-1 (ul)-2 (y 1, 1981i(e)4 by t)-rrip2 (g