IFC meeting – January 12, 2016

Present: Matt Beckstrom, Judy Hart, Lauren McMullen, Jim Kammerer, Sheila Bonnand, Dana Charmichael.

Assignments from last meeting:

Judy:

Judy has been playing phone tag with ALA. They shouldn’t have much of a problem with us using their form. They keep records in the ALA IFC newsletter. They are moving away from the IFC newsletter and moving to a quarterly journal, the *In Libris Libertas.* First publication out in the Spring of 2016. They will continue to include the “Censorship Dateline”, which provides a state-by-state survey of challenges, bannings, and burnings. Judy is hoping that ALA IFC will be able to forward some historical data on Montana. Judy asked if the MLA IFC should subscribe to the new journal. Jim will look into getting a statewide subscription for the new publication through the State Library. Judy will continue to work with ALA for more historical data and any upcoming webinars, etc for Montana libraries and will also begin work on drafting a challenge form.

Sheila:

Sheila contacted the MLA Board President requesting time on the agenda for the January MLA Board meeting. She suggested that we include a link to the National Council of Teachers of English, an excellent resource for school librarians.

Lauren:

Lauren updated the MLA IFC wiki. Thanks to Lauren many new and useful links have been added. The Committee will review the additions to the wiki and submit any comments/additions/suggestions. Deadline for review and comments is January 31, 2016. It was suggested the committee create additional roles for committee members, including assigning a member to regularly review and update the wiki/MLA website. This will be addressed at the MLA Conference committee meeting.

Lauren will also upload sample policies, both school and public library policies. It was suggested that the Livingston School District policy be uploaded as they recently faced a challenge and revisited their policy. Judy suggested uploading the Lewis & Clark Library policy. Lauren will also update wiki to reflect new committee terms begin end of May 2016 and add the 2014 and 2015 Intellectual Freedom Award winners. (2014 – Billings School District for Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian and 2015 – Livingston School Board of Trustees for Punkzilla).

There is a need for another school librarian to serve on the committee. Dana will be attend a Flathead librarians retreat next week and will seek a volunteer. Judy will contact Lynde Roberts, Billings School District.

Jim:

Jim is drafting an article for the FOCUS newsletter and will distribute the draft to the group next week. Dana suggested the article include information/link to beginning steps for getting help when facing a challenge. The flow chart is very helpful.

Matt:

Matt visited several state library associations to find out what materials and resources they provide to their member for intellectual freedom. Overall, there was not a lot of information, especially regarding book challenges. He contacted Stephen Haddock, the MLA webmaster, and started the conversation about adding the IFC materials and resources on the MLA website.

The group discussed different options for a better web presence on the MLA website. It would be helpful to include a link to IFC under the School Library Division section. Options for a website presence include a graphic of some sort on the homepage, or including a link under “Quick Links”. Matt, Sheila, Lauren and Judy will be attending the MLA Board meeting and will discuss approach to MLA website during IFC time on the agenda. Matt will also continue communicating with MLA webmaster and share highlights of the groups discussion.

Adjourned 11:00 a.m. Thanks everyone!