



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: American Library Association Representative

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I attended the ALA Annual conference in Chicago Illinois on June 23 - June 27. I was present at all of the ALA Council sessions, Council Forums, and Executive board meetings.

Highlights from the Council sessions:

- ALA statement on global climate change and a call for support for libraries and librarians – This statement was brought forward to show ALA’s support for librarians, library workers, and educators who provide information, or access to information as it relates to climate change. Here are the resolved statements:
 - Resolved that the ALA on behalf of its members 1. recognizes that human interactions and activities affect the dynamics of Earth’s climate system, and that there is a large and growing base of factual scientific data, information, and literature providing robust and accurate STE3M3 (scientific, technical, environmental/economic/ethical, medical/mathematical/management) evidence of global climate change; 2. Affirms a commitment to the preservation and availability of this factual scientific data, information, and literature, both from government and citizen sources; and 3. supports librarians, library workers, and educators, as they are guided by the ALA Policy Manual, in their roles for providing rigorous, robust, and accurate reference and referral services; access to data (both historical and current) and information resources, literature, and collections; and instruction in their use in assisting climate stakeholders’ and library users’ greater understanding of global climate change.
- The Committee on Diversity brought forward an addition to the ALA Policy Manual to define equity, diversity, and inclusion. It was voted by the council to be included.
- ALA Resolution on Libraries as responsible places – This resolution was brought forward to define libraries as places where everyone can feel safe from harm. There was much discussion about saying libraries are ‘safe’ places, and how to define ‘safe’. The resolved statements are:
 - The ALA, on behalf of its members, 1. urges libraries to embrace the mantle of responsible spaces by adopting and enforcing user behavior policies that protect patrons and staff from harassment while maintaining our historic support for the freedom of speech; 2. encourages libraries to develop community partnership programs with and promote services to underrepresented and unacknowledged community members; 3. encourages libraries to sponsor programs fostering meaningful and respectful dialogue in community; and 4. directs the Committee

on Diversity, with the support of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and the ODLOS Advisory Committee, to develop, provide, and disseminate materials and programming for libraries that deter hate, foster community, and oppose bigotry toward or oppression against any group.

For a full list of all the documents used in the council meetings at the annual conference, please go to: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/council-documents-midwinter-and-annual-conference-2017>

For a full list of all the actions of the council at the annual conference, please go to:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council-documents>