**Intellectual Freedom Round Table Chair’s Report**

**Virtual Board Meeting**

**December 13, 2017**

1. All of our committees have been hard at work. Shortly after Annual Conference in Chicago I completed the IFRT committee appointments. I made every attempt possible to appoint anyone who approached me during annual conference for a committee assignment or went through the committee volunteer form.

2018 IFRT Chair’s Program at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans

**Big Data in Libraries: Friend or Foe?**

-At ALA’s 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans, the IFRT will sponsor a moderated debate on the subject of “big data” analytics in the library world. The right of library users to keep private their individual use of library resources has traditionally been protected by federal, state and local privacy laws as well as ALA’s long-standing guidelines on patron privacy.

But those protections may be challenged by the increasing use of “big data” in libraries: i.e., patron usage information that is bundled up, aggregated, and (usually) anonymized for such purposes as trend analyses, grant funding, and reporting to local governments.  Has this new era of data collection become a form of surveillance? Is the aggregated data of library users truly "anonymous"? Can we collect such data and still guarantee the minimum standards of privacy for our library users? How do we ensure that third-party vendors who promise to share only "aggregated data" are truly doing so?

Join us for a lively discussion on this topic in which two speakers, representing opposing points of view, will debate the “big data” phenomenon and its possible consequences for patron privacy. The roundtable discussion will be moderated by Bill Marden, Director of Privacy and Compliance at The New York Public Library.

-[IFC Privacy Subcommittee](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/ifc-privacy-subcommittee) will sponsor a separate session in which they will discuss some of the more-practical matters of big data aggregation (e.g., tools, techniques, methods, etc.).

-IFRT co-sponsorship of conference program - Fake News or Free Speech: Is there a right to be misinformed?

1. Fundraising Campaign for IFRT Awards

This year, the Round Table is conducting a two-year fundraising campaign that will raise funds for the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Awards program to help sustain the future of the round table’s awards.  The Campaign will include individual

Page 2

solicitations, ticketed fundraising events at the upcoming annual conferences in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. and the securing of award sponsorships.  The IFRT awards include the Oboler Award, the Immroth Award, the Gerald Hodges Award and the Merritt Fund.

My special thanks to Past IFRT Chairs and IFRT Board Members who have contributed so far. To dovetail nicely with our campaign, I have exciting news to share! An anonymous donor is matching gifts made to the ALA Annual Fund as of November 1, through January 15, 2018. Donations are tax-deductible, and gifts from an individual donor, up to $1,000, are eligible. The match is capped at $10,000 total per ALA unit, and $100,000 overall. #GivingTuesday (November 28) is a social media driven day of giving held in conjunction with the beginning of the holiday season and end-of-year giving.

Please visit [ala.org/donate](http://ala.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT03MTM4NjAxJnA9MSZ1PTEwNjk0MjI5MjcmbGk9NDk1NzA2Mzk/index.html) if you wish to make a donation, or explore our IFRT awards below. Please click on roundtables and then click on IFRT. Your donation will be formally recognized in the IFRT Annual Report.

\*\*\*Look for our ticketed Fundraising Breakfast Event with featured speaker \*\*being planned for 2018 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans

1. 2018 IFRT Sponsorship of ALA Emerging Leaders Program

We are very pleased to announce Angela Ocana from Santa Clara City Library, Santa Clara, CA as our 2018 IFRT sponsored ALA Emerging Leader.

1. Intellectual Freedom Fighters

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456760254514041/>

Please consider joining our public forum on intellectual freedom issues if you are not a member.