

IFRT Report

Issue 80: Summer 2018

Intellectual Freedom Roundtable (IFRT) of the American Library Association

Eric Johnson - editor

Big Data in Libraries: Friend or Foe

Saturday, June 23, 2018, 1-2 PM, Morial Convention Center, room 278

Can we collect big data and still guarantee the minimum standards of privacy for our library users?

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table has a mission to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of intellectual freedom in libraries. A moderated debate of big data analytics in the library world, Big Data in Libraries: Friend or Foe, is the IFRT Chair's program for Annual Conference 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The event will take place from 1 to 2pm in the Morial Convention Center, Rm 278, on Saturday June 23, 2018.

Moderated by William Marden, Director of Privacy and Compliance at The New York Public Library, opposing views will be presented by two experts: **Peter Brantley** and **Erin Berman**. Peter Brantley is director of online strategy at University of California-Davis, and Erin Berman, innovations manager at San Jose Public Library. Peter and Erin are well-established figures in the world of library privacy and are sure to bring a thoughtful perspective to the subject.

ALA guidelines and federal, state and local privacy laws protect the rights of library users to keep their use of library resources discreet. However, given the contemporary technological landscape and all its opportunities, data collected about patrons can be used for countless opportunities including: trend analysis, local government reporting and grant funding. Even if library patron information is anonymized, bundled or otherwise aggregated, is library user information truly still private or is this a modern form of surveillance?

Open to all conference registrants, we hope to see you there!

Message from the IFRT Chair

It has been a great honor to serve as Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) this year. I am very energized by the great enthusiasm I see in our committees, among the members of our Executive Board and among the Office of Intellectual Freedom staff. One of my major goals this year has been to provide a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of IFRT and the American Library Association (ALA) in defense of intellectual freedom. As Chair, I made every attempt possible to appoint IFRT members who approached me during conferences for a committee assignment or went through the IFRT committee volunteer form.

This year IFRT invested in the future leaders of our round table and our profession by sponsoring an ALA Emerging Leader. We are most pleased that Angela Ocana from Eugene Public Library in Eugene Oregon is our 2018 IFRT sponsored ALA Emerging Leader.



[Please join us for the 2018 IFRT Chair's Program at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans](#)

Big Data in Libraries: Friend or Foe? – Saturday, June 23, 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) is proud to 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.

But those protections are increasingly challenged by the use of “big data”: library patron information that is bundled up, aggregated, and (usually) anonymized for varied purposes including trend analyses, grant funding, and reporting to local governments. But has this new era of data collection become another 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?

In this lively discussion, two speakers, Erin Berman, Innovations Manager at San Jose Public Library and Peter Brantley, Director of Online Strategy, UC Davis Library at UC Davis 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.

[The Intellectual Freedom Privacy Subcommittee](#) will also sponsor a separate session

Defense Against the Dark Arts: Techniques and Practices to Protect User Privacy When Conducting Data Analytics - Monday, June 25, 9:00 – 10:00 am in which the panel will cover the threats to library user privacy posed by data analytics and the practices and techniques that libraries can adopt to mitigate these threats, including access control, aggregation, and de-identification. in which they will discuss some of the more-practical matters of big data aggregation (e.g., tools, techniques, methods, etc.).

This year, the Round Table planned and implemented a two-year fundraising campaign that is raising funds for the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Awards program to help sustain the future of the round table’s awards. The Campaign has included individual solicitations and ticketed fundraising events at the upcoming annual conferences in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. The IFRT awards include the Oboler Award, the Immroth Award, the Gerald Hodges Award and the Merritt Fund.

The ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) will host an [Awards Recognition and Fundraising Breakfast on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 7:30 – 9 a.m.](#) at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The breakfast will celebrate IFRT award winners and raise funds to support the awards, which recognize intellectual freedom heroes and contributions. Three awards will be presented: the Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award, the John Philip Immroth Award and the Eli M. Oboler Award. IFRT will honor the **Nebraska Library Association Intellectual Freedom Round Table** with the Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award for its ongoing program to increase awareness of the importance of intellectual freedom in the state. The John Philip Immroth Memorial Award will be presented to **Lindsey Whittington**, a media specialist in Dixie County Florida in recognition of her defense of First Amendment rights of her students. And the Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award will be presented to **Robert P. Doyle** for his work "[Banned Books: Defending our Freedom to Read](#)," published in 2017 by the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association.

The breakfast will also feature a presentation by John Pope, author of “[Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from the New Orleans Times-Picayune](#),” a collection of 123 mini-biographies that mark the deaths of Crescent City society scions, artists, authors, moguls, politicians, doctors, scoundrels and assorted characters. A contributing writer for

The Times-Picayune, Pope's book ties into the distinct history of New Orleans. A member of The Times-Picayune team that won two Pulitzer Prizes, a George Polk Award, a National Headliner Award and the Medill Award for Courage in Journalism for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, Pope will share stories about Katrina and its impact on journalists such as himself, as well as censorship in the field of journalism, the impact of "fake news" on journalism today and the importance of intellectual freedom in journalism. A book signing will follow the breakfast and Pope's books will be available for purchase.

The IFRT breakfast will also include a raffle, which will benefit the IFRT awards program. The items will be on display before and during the breakfast event.

Conference attendees can register for the IFRT ticketed-breakfast in their initial Conference registration, or add the event using the unique link in the email confirmation following Conference registration. Tickets are \$20 for ALA members, other members and non-members, and \$10 for IFRT members.

Finally, this year we added two new social media coordinators, Stephanie Barnaby and Keith Weimer to raise awareness of intellectual freedom issues and round table activities via IFRT's social media. To further raise awareness of our IFRT members, we are preparing to kick off a Member Spotlight program as part of our ongoing communication with members. I am grateful for their accomplishments this year. Additionally, I promoted our Intellectual Freedom Fighters Public Forum on Facebook. The goal of the Intellectual Freedom Fighters (IFF) is to get Intellectual Freedom issues on the minds, hearts, and tongues of the wider library community. I am pleased to report that our forum membership continues to grow.

As my term comes to a close, I want to say what a privilege it has been to work with IFRT's leadership and committee members. Their commitment and dedication to IFRT and our core values is most impressive. Finally, my thanks to **Ellie Diaz** and **Kristin Pekoll** of the Office for Intellectual Freedom for their support and guidance over the past year. They have always been there ready to share information and provide assistance and advice whenever I needed it. I am most grateful to their never-ending dedication to IFRT and to intellectual freedom.

Thank you,

Charles Kratz, IFRT Chair

June 2018

IFRT member spotlight – Kelley Rowan

Kelley Rowan's interest in intellectual freedom goes back to high school and some of the books they read and discussed. She distinctly remembers Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and one of the more interesting class discussions that followed.

"That may have been the moment I came to understand the power inherent in the written word and began to feel passionately that nobody should be denied their right to read not only whatever interests them, but whatever they need to read to make sense of the world around them."



She gets rather emotional just reading about librarians who successfully fight attempts to censor material in their libraries. As an academic librarian, she is not on the front lines of this ongoing battle, but is right there in spirit with those that do!

Her biggest challenge? "Trying to appear normal and functional in a world of morning people." But seriously, she's been trying to learn various coding languages and it all goes fine until math happens. Math, specifically word problems, appears to be her greatest challenge at this point.

Kelley is a 3rd generation native Angleno (Los Angeles) who has been living in Miami, Florida for the past 19 years. Or as she likes to say, "I am an unfortunately located hiker living in swampland."

Kelley received a master's in Music from California State University Fullerton School of Music followed by a Master's in Religious Studies from Florida International University (FIU) before receiving an M.L.I.S. from Florida State University in 2011.

At Florida International University, she is the Digital Archives Librarian at working with an amazing group of colleagues in the Digital Collections Center. There she manages, publishes, and preserves all university theses and dissertations as well as managing projects with internal and external partners that have collections hosted in their dPanther digital repository.

The two things she loves most about her job are that every day brings different projects and challenges, and she has the opportunity to learn something new every day.

While doing her MLIS she learned to quit. She also enjoys hiking, snorkeling, and gardening and helps care for a cat colony at FIU which has led to her keeping an "extra" cat (or two) [sighs heavily].

Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Recognition & Fundraising Breakfast

All conference attendees are invited to the 2018 IFRT Awards Reception and Fundraising Breakfast <<https://2018.alaannual.org/registration/ticketed-events#IFRT>> on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 7:30 - 9 a.m. at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

The breakfast will celebrate IFRT award winners and raise funds to support the awards, which recognize intellectual freedom heroes and contributions. Three awards will be presented: the Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award, the John Philip Immroth Award and the Eli M. Oboler Award.

The breakfast will also feature a presentation by **John Pope**, author of "Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from the New Orleans Times-Picayune <<http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1819>>," a collection of 123 mini-biographies that mark the deaths of Crescent City society scions, artists, authors, moguls, politicians, doctors, scoundrels and assorted characters. A contributing writer for The Times-Picayune, Pope's book ties into the distinct history of New Orleans. A member of The Times-Picayune team that won two Pulitzer Prizes, a George Polk Award, a National Headliner Award and the Medill Award for Courage in Journalism for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, Pope will share stories about Katrina and its impact on journalists such as himself, as well as censorship in the field of journalism, the impact of "fake news" on journalism today and the importance of intellectual freedom in journalism.

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The Intellectual Freedom Round Table<<http://www.ala.org/rt/ifrt>> provides a forum for the discussion of activities, programs and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians; serves as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; promotes a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; and promotes a greater feeling of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom.

Intellectual Freedom Round Table Events at ALA 2018 Annual Conference

We look forward to seeing you at IFRT's meetings and events in New Orleans!

Thursday, June 21

8:00-12:00	Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Meeting I	296 Morial Convention Center (MCC)
2:00-4:00	FTRF Meeting II	296 MCC

Friday, June 22

8:00-10:00	Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Meeting I	296 MCC
10:30-12:30	Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Meeting II	296 MCC
2:00-3:00	Emerging Leaders Poster Session and Reception	345 MCC
4:00-5:30	Opening Session: Michelle Obama	Exhibit Hall F, MCC
5:30-7:00	Exhibits Opening Reception	Exhibit Hall, MCC
5:30-7:00	Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Raffle tickets for sale	Stand for the Banned Booth

Saturday, June 23

7:00	IFRT Raffle Tickets for Sale	218 MCC
7:30-9:00	IFRT Recognition and Fundraising Breakfast (Purchase tickets with conference registration or via your conference dashboard.)	218-219 MCC
9:00-5:00	Stand for the Banned video recording booth Banned Books Week began in 1982 and ever since readers and authors have taken to read-outs across the country in support of books that have been banned. At ALA Annual, readers can record a video	

	of themselves reading from a banned book or talking about censorship. Videos may be featured on the Banned Books Week YouTube channel .	
10:30-11:30	Intellectual Freedom 101 Moderated by James LaRue, this lightning paced program will walk individuals through all of the intellectual freedom activities, and groups in ALA.	398-399 MCC
1:00-2:00	Big Data in Libraries: Friend or Foe IFRT Chair program	278 MCC
1:00-2:00	The Librarian's Dilemma: How Would You Respond? Committee on Professional Ethics program Moderated by Andrew Harant and featuring intellectual freedom experts: Martin Garnar, Trevor Dawes, Pam Klipsch, the panelists will guide a discussion on the ALA Code of Ethics and ethical considerations both in and out of the library. In order to have a thoughtful reflection on ethics, professionalism, and librarianship on topics such as patron behaviors, hate speech and censorship. Through skits and discussions, the panelists will engage with the audience on what to do when faced with a personal or professional dilemma.	386-387 MCC
4:00-5:00	Fake News or Free Speech Intellectual Freedom Committee program	288 MCC
4:00-5:30	New Dawn for Libraries: Conversation with Dr. Carla Hayden	279 MCC

Sunday, June 24

8:30-11:00	ALA Council I	La Nouvelle Orleans BR C, MCC
8:30-10:00	Intellectual Freedom Committee Privacy Subcommittee Meeting	216 MCC
9:00-5:00	Stand for the Banned recording booth	
10:30-11:30	Intellectual Freedom Committee/COL Joint Meeting	323 MCC

12:30-2:30	<u>Intellectual Freedom Committee Meeting III</u>	338 MCC
3:00-5:00	<p><u>IFRT Meeting</u></p> <p>A meeting of the officers and directors-at-large of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table. The board provides oversight of round table business and planning. It carries out the formal decisions of membership and approves the annual round table budget. It makes recommendations and reports to membership through round table communication channels.</p> <p><u>www.ala.org/ifrt</u></p>	338 MCC

Monday, June 25

8:30-11:30	<u>ALA Council II</u>	<i>La Nouvelle Orleans BR C, MCC</i>
9:00-10:00	<p><u>Defense Against the Dark Arts</u></p> <p>LITA program</p> <p>This panelists for this program will discuss mitigation strategies for risks to patron privacy in data analysis. Strategies to be discussed include: de-identification, aggregation and access control.</p>	293 MCC
10:30-11:30	<p><u>Can I Lose My Job For That?</u></p> <p>RUSA program</p> <p>Subtitled Intellectual Freedom and Employee Protections in the Library Workplace, panelists at this joint program will present academic and intellectual freedom concepts for those times when ethical, political, and moral beliefs might become contested during the course of our varied work in the library environment. Panelists will also discuss some of the potential protections that can apply to library workers in both public and private sector organizations, and the benefits of union membership. Speakers at this program include: Aliqae Geraci, Michael Wasser, Alexis Logsdon, Danya Leebaw, Martin Garnar, and Lisa Jorgensen.</p>	290 MCC

12:30-2:30	Intellectual Freedom Committee Meeting IV	357 MCC
1:30-3:30	Committee on Professional Ethics Meeting	338-339 MCC
2:30-3:30	CORRECTIONAL LIBRARIES, COLLECTION BUILDING AND COLLABORATIONS: success stories from those serving in an information desert	283 MCC

Tuesday, June 26

7:45-9:45	Council III	<i>La Nouvelle Orleans BR C, MCC</i>
10:00-11:30	Closing Session: Viola Davis	<i>Theater B, MCC</i>

Intellectual Freedom Raffle

Win literary prizes and support intellectual freedom at ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans

Would you like to support contributions made to intellectual freedom on a personal level? And in the process come away with some great prizes?

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table is pleased to announce an exciting raffle at its breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, June 23 at 7:30 a.m. at the [2018 ALA Annual New Orleans Conference](#). The raffle supports [IFRT awards](#) celebrating important contributions to intellectual freedom.



Raffle tickets can be purchased on Friday, June 22, between 5:30-7 p.m. at the Stand for the Banned booth area or Saturday, June 23, before the fundraiser at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, rooms 218/219.

Raffle tickets may be purchased with cash, check or [online donation](#) (verified with receipt). Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

Gerald Hodges Chapter Relations Intellectual Freedom Award

by Heather Hopkins

Nebraska Library Association Wins 2018

Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award

The NLA Intellectual Freedom Round Table (NLA IFRT) published a new Nebraska [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#) in 2016. Throughout 2017, committee members traveled the state delivering frequent presentations. Their work facilitated increased awareness of the importance of intellectual freedom in the state. The NLA IFRT plans to continue their tireless effort in 2018 by continuing to support intellectual freedom for all library patrons.



According to past NLA IFRT chair, **Michael Eisener**, "We genuinely enjoyed giving the presentations. Intellectual Freedom and free speech are difficult subjects, and they often lead to challenging discussions and disagreements. Intellectual freedom is probably most visible in our fight against censorship and challenged materials, but it encompasses so many other factors that may go unnoticed."

The American Library Association (ALA) released its own new [Intellectual Freedom Manual in 2015](#) and allowed the Nebraska Library Association to use that manual as a reference.

When asked what factors alerted the committee to a need for a new manual, Eisener explained,

Intellectual freedom is continually evolving, and there seemed to be many essential items missing from the previous manual. For example, the courts have struck down the meeting room policies of several libraries in recent years. Nebraska libraries needed guidance on procedures for meeting rooms, collection development and resource consideration, privacy and confidentiality, user behavior, internet use, internet filtering, and labeling and ratings.

I hope libraries across the Nebraska will download the manual and use it as needed. Intellectual Freedom is really at the heart of librarianship as a profession, and libraries should train their employees on these critical topics. We also started a project this year to send out an annual survey to

track challenged material throughout the state to report to ALA. We are hoping to improve the data collection on a national level to see if there are any trends on the types of challenged materials. Libraries should use that information to raise more awareness to the importance of the freedom to read, privacy, fighting censorship, and providing ethical service to patrons.

The 2004 Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Manual was only a few pages long and the committee felt it was not a useful resource for some of the complex issues that come up daily in a library. The revised manual addresses a range of topics and serves as a practical guide on how to handle challenging situations such as internet filtering, law enforcement, copyright, and third-party vendors.

NLA IFRT Members who contributed to the 2016 manual included:

- Michael J. Elsener, Southeast Community College, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Sue Ann Gardner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- K. Joan Birnie, Broken Bow Public Library
- Karen Drevo, Norfolk Public Library
- Brenda Ealey, Lincoln City Libraries
- Timothy Lentz, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (current NLA IFRT Chair)
- Todd Schlechte, Southeast Library System, Lincoln, Nebraska

[YouTube: NCompass Live: The New NLA Intellectual Freedom Manual Comes to the Rescue](#)

Key Concept: Libraries should minimize the collection of personally identifiable user information, store it locally and securely, maintain legal control of the data and insure that library practices do not divulge user information or put it on public view (e.g., self-service hold shelves that reveal a user's identity).

The [Gerald Hodges Award](#) recognizes an organization that has developed a strong multi-year, ongoing program or a single, one-year project that exemplifies support for intellectual freedom, patron

confidentiality, and anti-censorship efforts. The award named for Gerald Hodges, an ALA staff member from 1989 to 2006, whose passions included chapter relations and intellectual

enthused freedom. A charter member of the ALA Legacy Society, Hodges willed a portion of his estate to support those efforts.

Awarded since 2013, the honor consists of a citation as well as \$1,000.

The American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Round Table will present the Hodges award at [ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA](#). The IFRT Awards Breakfast and Fundraiser will occur on Saturday, June 23, 7:30 - 9:00 am.

[NLA](#) president, **Andrew Cano**, nominated NLA IFRT for the award. Michael Eisener effused, "We truly appreciate the nomination and are happy we won!"

The deadline for nominations the Gerald Hodges Award is January 1 of each year.

An online and printable pdf nomination form are available on the [ALA IFRT web site](#).

Alternately, send nominations and supporting evidence via email or mail to:

American Library Association
Office for Intellectual Freedom
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
oif@ala.org

Questions? Call 312-280-4226

Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Manual: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/45/>

American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Manual: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/04/ninth-edition-intellectual-freedom-manual>

YouTube: NCompass Live: The New NLA Intellectual Freedom Manual Comes to the Rescue: <https://youtu.be/0VkmCPofltk>

Gerald Hodges Award: <http://www.ala.org/rt/ifrt/gerald-hodges>

**Membership in IFRT
is \$15 per year.**

[Add IFRT to your membership!](#)

Lindsey Whittington receives the 2018 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

By David Moody, IFRT Publications Committee

Lindsey Whittington was awarded the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for 2018. She will receive \$500 and a citation. She will be honored at the ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans. The award will be presented at the IFRT Awards Recognition and Fundraising breakfast on Saturday, June 23, 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Michael Furlong, Chair of the Immroth Award Committee, was privileged to announce this year's winner, "The John Phillip Immroth Awards Committee unanimously selected Lindsey Whittington as the recipient for this year's award. As the committee's chair, it is always a pleasure to reward those who help to sustain intellectual freedom and recognize the impact of those efforts. Given the potential for censorship, we are very proud to present the award to Lindsey Whittington in recognition of her outstanding work. We wish Lindsey Whittington all the best as she champions intellectual freedom for her students".

Whittington, a certified Library Media Specialist in Dixie County, Florida, publicly defended the First Amendment rights of her students, challenging a broad ban on school materials.

Mike Thomas, the superintendent of Dixie County issued a directive that contradicted the district's existing policies. The overly broad directive forbids the purchase of printed materials containing "profanity, cursing, or inappropriate subject matter" without trying to clarify what these terms mean. The directive as written threatens for removal numerous material from both the district's curriculum and library collections. Further, the directive appears to ignore the district's own policies regarding the selection of educational media materials (library material), adoption of instructional materials, as well as the process for reviewing and making decisions regarding challenges to school materials. Further, as Whittington noted the directive violates teachers' rights as outlined in the district's policies and limits what students can learn.

Congratulations



Lindsey Whittington

Dixie County School Librarian

on receiving the **2018**
John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

INTELLECTUAL
FREEDOM
ROUND TABLE

This directive came after one parent complained about students being required to read "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest J. Gaines. The book is on the National Coalition Against

Censorship's list of Top Ten Banned Books that Changed the Face of Black History. The student of the parent who complained was given a substitute book, and following district policy a committee met to discuss possibly removing the book from the curriculum. After deciding not to remove the book, a day afterwards Thomas simply attempted to ban all books with questionable subject matter by issuing his directive.

Whittington took action to save the collection. She spoke up and worked to have the decision rescinded. In the process not only did she work to affect change but her actions empowered her own students to speak up.

While defending the rights of her students, Whittington was eloquent in stating, "I am very proud of the books that are currently in the library and in the curriculum for the high school. I stand behind the reading and the English teachers and their rationale for teaching texts of their choosing in order to impart to students the valuable lessons that can be learned from these esteemed novels. Isn't the point of education to teach students how to think, not what to think?"

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table applauds Whittington for resolutely defending the standards of intellectual freedom in her community for her students

The Immroth Award is sponsored by the ALA's Intellectual Freedom Roundtable. Michael Furlong, stressed the importance of this Round Table in announcing the winner, "The IFRT provides a forum for the discussion of activities, programs and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians; serves as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; promotes a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; and promotes a greater feeling of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom."

The award, given out annually, aims to honor those who have made notable contributions to the support of the principles of intellectual freedom, including showing demonstrations of personal courage in the defense of freedom of expression. It was named in honor of John Phillip Immroth, a founder and the first chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table. He made numerous contributions to librarianship during his life: A professor; writer on a range of topics, especially regarding technical services; an active member of the ALA and Pennsylvania Library Association; and a tireless advocate for free access to information. The award was established after his death in 1979.

For more about the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ifrt/john-phillip-immroth-memorial-award>.

The Immroth Memorial Award will be presented at the IFRT Awards Recognition & Fundraising Breakfast on June 23.

Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship Winner 2018

By Stephanie Barnaby

Dovi Mae Patino is the 2018 winner of the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship. She is a first-generation MLIS student in her first year at the University of Washington's School of Information. The scholarship will fund Patino's attendance at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans where she will attend Freedom to Read Foundation meetings as well as other intellectual freedom group meetings and programs. The scholarship's namesake, Gordon M. Conable, was an intellectual freedom advocate and librarian in Michigan and California with significant interest in both intellectual freedom and mentorship.



Patino aspires to be a public librarian committed to equitable access to information and resources specifically for underrepresented communities. As a Filipina-American she places a high value on intellectual freedom and professional development and mentorship, an area that is often inaccessible to individuals of color. Chair of the Conable Scholarship Committee Katie Chamberlain Kritios speaks to Patino's merits, "Dovi was an outstanding applicant. The committee was impressed with her commitment to intellectual freedom and diversity. Her graduate school and work experience demonstrate her commitment to the FRTF's mission of intellectual freedom and

information access and the ALA's core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion."

Irene Conable, the wife of Gordon M. Conable and the Freedom to Read Foundation's board were prompted to create the Conable Scholarship after his unexpected death in 2005. Patino will meet with mentors during the Annual Conference and write a report summarizing her thoughts at its conclusion.

The Conable Conference Scholarship was created to advance two principles that Gordon M. Conable held dear: intellectual freedom and mentorship. Thus, in addition to covering the costs for a recipient to attend the ALA Annual Conference and intellectual freedom events, the recipient receives a one-year membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation and consults with a mentor while at the conference. Recipients must be either new professionals or current graduate students in the field of library science. Gordon Conable was a librarian and intellectual freedom champion in Michigan and California who served several terms as president of the Freedom to Read Foundation. His unexpected death in 2005 inspired his wife, Irene Conable, and the FTRF Board to create the Conable Fund, which provides funding for the Conable Scholarship.

To donate to the Gordon M. Conable Memorial Fund, please visit www.ftrf.org/?Conable_Fund.

Robert P. Doyle Wins 2018 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award for *Banned Books: Defending Our Freedom to Read*

Doyle's meticulous and wide-ranging work covers book bannings from ancient times until the present day. It includes a list of 1,955 titles that have been banned or challenged and offers ways for readers to support free speech. *Banned Books: Defending Our Freedom to Read*, published in 2017 by the Office of Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association.

The Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award is awarded biennially to the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom. Eli M. Oboler was for many years the head librarian at Idaho State University. He was a forceful defender of intellectual freedom and wrote widely on the topic. The Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award has been awarded since 1986. Authors receive a certificate and \$500.



LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund

This past year the Merritt Fund received two applications, one of which was funded. Facing a fifteen day disciplinary suspension, which was met with community protest, the Merritt Fund provided librarian Lesley Williams with financial assistance during this trying time, and also helped to cover her legal expenses. More can be read about Lesley's story here: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/evanston/news/ct-evr-suspended-librarian-returns-to-work-tl-0601-20170525-story.html>

The Merritt Fund was founded in 1970, in honor of Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt. The fund assists librarians who have lost their positions, or who need financial assistance, due to their stances on issues involving intellectual freedom. The fund also provides aid to librarians who are put under financial strain due to various discrimination concerns. In helping libraries face these issues, the Merritt Fund continues to serve an important role.

For more information about the Merritt Fund, and how you can support this worthy cause, please visit the fund's website at:

<http://www.ala.org/groups/affiliates/relatedgroups/merrittfund/merritthumanitarian>

The Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund elected trustees for 2017-2018 are Douglas Archer, Nancy Kranich and Julia Warga.

2018 IFRT sponsored ALA Emerging Leader – Angela Ocana

Angela Ocana developed an interest in intellectual freedom during an eye opening class at San Jose State's Ischool. Amy Sonnie, the editor of *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology*, which caused a bit of a fuss when it was banned, spoke to her class. It was her first real account of how people within the library community actively sought to stop a book from circulating.

"I think listening to Amy talk, and being inspired by her right to have people read what they wish, really resonated with me. I often think back that seemingly innocuous moment, and try to hold myself to a very high standard of allowing people the right to find what they need within our walls."



Currently there are two fascinating movements of intellectual freedom that really intrigue Angela. The first, is the librarian's struggle with self-censorship. Librarians hold a 'right' to decide what is placed within their collections under the justification that it is what our community wants, or what they think the community needs. While most succeed in making good choices, Angela thinks it's still fascinating to hear librarians talk about books they would never add to their collections.

"I personally feel like, if there isn't one book in your collection that ticks you off that you have it, then your collection might not be as open as it could be."

This ties into the second piece that interests her, our current political climate.

"I don't think I've seen librarians struggle as much as they do now with what materials they will add to the collection due to their personal beliefs. These moments are testing the fabric of what we believe in, and opening our eyes to how important it is to really value intellectual freedom."

For a very long time Angela worked within one library system in Northern California. There she built great relationships and partnerships with peers inside and out of her library, and felt like an innovator and change maker. She relished meeting new people at the California Library Association conferences, and being inspired by what everyone was creating. Then she decided to make a huge life decision and move to another state! Now her biggest challenges include fighting allergies, and recreating a lot of her everyday magic into a new library system without the years of institutional knowledge and relationships.

Angela has worked in libraries her whole life, in fact she spent twenty years with the City of Santa Clara in a number of different capacities. Being a librarian never really interested her, and so she worked part time while spending years managing at Starbucks, and becoming a law school dropout. Starbucks gave her an amazing perspective on customer service, balancing budgets, and working with people, but one day one of her colleagues at the library walked by with her “homework,” a large stack of graphic novels. She started connecting to these fabulous librarians, who were passionate and eager to make the library a thriving space for their community. These librarians inspired her to everything that was possible in the world of librarianship and she thinks about how wonderfully lucky she was to meet them, and be mentored by them.

“The coolest thing about me (other than being unicorn), is that I absolutely love what I do. Sometimes, when I think about all the stuff on my to-do list, (which will crush me and no one will find me for days), I just remember how freaking awesome it is that I get to do what I do. You can find me in the forest at the Eugene Public Library, on Twitter @ninjabookmaster, or listen to me talk comics @onepanellater.com”

Image from www.sfpl.org. San Francisco Public Library. Future of Libraries 11

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