

IFRT Report

Issue 79 – Summer 2017

Intellectual Freedom Roundtable of the American Library Association

Eric Johnson - editor

Intellectual Freedom and Open Access: Working Toward a Common Goal?

Saturday, June 24, 2017, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, McCormick Place, W184a

What is the relationship between intellectual freedom and open access? How and where do they intersect? Intellectual freedom is a principle and a right, one as old as libraries. Open access is a response to the increasing pressure of publishing costs on individuals and institutions.

Panelists and domain experts in these areas will explore the rich and complex intersection between intellectual freedom and open access (OA) in libraries, why OA publishing is important for the library community, and how we can use the intellectual freedom banner as a tool to move the library field closer to more accessible information. (Sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table)

Panelists:

Marguerite Avery is senior acquisitions editor at Trinity University Press in San Antonio, Texas. Previously she was executive editor at Amherst College Press and Lever Press, digital-first, open access scholarly press startups sponsored by academic libraries. She spent more than a decade at The MIT Press where she cultivated a critically acclaimed publishing program in Communications, Information Science and Policy, Internet Studies, and Science and Technology Studies on a foundation of the principles of infrastructures and flows. Her training and work experience spans the library-publishing spectrum and focuses on making content and information accessible to an array of readerships. As a research affiliate at the Program on Information Science at the MIT Libraries, she studied the connections/disconnections between university presses and university libraries in scholarly communication and questions of labor and access. She currently holds advisory positions with Open Library of Humanities, Pacific University Press, Open Access Directory – and reluctantly resign her position on the Somerville Public Library Board of Trustees due to relocation.

April Hathcock is the scholarly communications librarian at NYU where she educates the campus community on issues of ownership, access, and rights in the research lifecycle. Before entering librarianship, she practiced intellectual property and antitrust law for a global private firm. Her research interests include diversity and inclusion in librarianship, cultural creation and exchange, and the ways in which social and legal infrastructures benefit the works of certain groups over others.

James LaRue is director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation. Author of "The New Inquisition: Understanding and Managing Intellectual Freedom Challenges," LaRue was a public library director for many years (including a 24-year tenure as director of the Douglas County Libraries in Colorado), as well as a weekly newspaper columnist and cable TV host. He has written, spoken, and consulted on leadership and organizational development, community engagement, and the future of libraries.

Message from the IFRT Chair

It has been an honor to serve as IFRT Chair for the past year, which has been busy and productive. We have revised our bylaws, added free webinars as a new membership benefit, and worked to update IFRT's operations and procedures. Thanks to the work of the Executive Board, our round table is strong and stable and ready for the challenges ahead.

If you are attending the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, I hope to see you at IFRT's meetings and events. The executive committee meets on Friday, June 23, and Monday, June 26, and all conference attendees are invited to attend our meetings. The program committee has done a fabulous job developing our program, "Intellectual



Freedom and Open Access: Working Toward a Common Goal?" A panel of experts will explore the rich and complex intersection between intellectual freedom and open access in libraries.

I'm looking forward to the IFRT Awards Reception and Member Social, which will be held Saturday evening.

The social is an opportunity for members to reconnect with friends and get to know new colleagues over drinks and a light buffet. IFRT will honor the **Oregon Library Association (OLA) Intellectual Freedom Committee** with the Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award for its ongoing program to help OLA members stay up to date on intellectual freedom news and issues. The John Philip Immroth Memorial Award will be presented to **Robert P. Doyle** in recognition of his defense of intellectual freedom in a library career spanning more than thirty years.

As my term comes to a close, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as IFRT Chair. It has been a

privilege to work with IFRT's leadership and committee members. Their commitment and dedication to IFRT and our core values is inspiring. I would especially like to thank **Steve Norman** for agreeing to serve as IFRT Treasurer when a vacancy occurred last year. Steve was elected to a full two-year term this year and I'm confident IFRT's finances are in good hands.

Finally, I'd like to thank **Ellie Diaz** and **Kristin Pekoll** of the Office for Intellectual Freedom for their support and assistance over the past year. They have always been there when I needed them – ready to share information, provide guidance, and answer my endless questions. I cannot thank them enough.

See you in Chicago!

Cyndi

Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Reception & Member Social

All conference attendees are invited to the 2017 IFRT Awards Reception & Member Social on Saturday June 24. at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. IFRT's John P. Immroth and Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations awards will be presented. Food will be served, and a cash bar will be available.

This year, the IFRT Awards Reception & Member Social is being combined with a promotional event for the Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund. Donations to the Merritt Fund will be accepted and encouraged at the reception. Come enjoy food and festivities at this Intellectual Freedom celebration!

Intellectual Freedom Round Table Events at ALA 2017 Annual Conference

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

Friday, June 23

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. IFRT Meeting I -
Everyone is welcome.

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.

www.ala.org/ifrt

Hyatt Regency McCormick, Prairie Room B

Saturday, June 24

8:30am – 10 a.m. Intellectual Freedom
and Open Access: Working Towards a
Common Goal?

What is the relationship between intellectual freedom and open access? How and where do they intersect? Intellectual freedom is a principle and a right, one as old as libraries. Open access is a response to the increasing pressure of publishing costs on individuals and institutions.

McCormick Place, W184a

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Intellectual
Freedom Round Table Awards
Reception & Member Social

Everyone is invited to the 2017 Awards Reception & Member Social. IFRT's John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award and Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award will be presented, food will be served, and a cash bar will be available. This year, the IFRT Awards Reception and Member Social is being combined with a promotional event for the Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund. Donations to the Merritt Fund will be accepted and encouraged at the reception. Come enjoy food and festivities at this Intellectual Freedom celebration!

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Columbus IJ

Monday, June 26

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. IFRT Meeting II -
Everyone is welcome.

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.

McCormick Place, W475a

**For additional Intellectual Freedom
events at ALA 2017 Annual:**

<http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=9771>

Gerald Hodges Chapter Relations Intellectual Freedom Award

by David Moody, IFRT Publications Committee

The **Oregon Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee** was awarded the Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award for 2017. They will receive \$1000 and a citation. Their organization, represented by co-chairs **Ross Betzer** and **Krista Reynolds**,



Intellectual
Freedom
Committee

Oregon Library Association

will be honored at the ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 7 p.m -9 p.m at the Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Reception & Member Social, room Columbus IJ, in the Hyatt Regency.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) launched "Tuesday Topics"; in 2014 as a way of providing all Oregon library staff, regardless of type of library, with current intellectual freedom resources and information. Since then this ongoing program has continued to provide intellectual freedom news and legislative updates, addressing a wide variety of issues. Topics include links to resources and policies written for all types of libraries. They include examples, case studies and ideas for implementation. This resource is distributed to both the Oregon Library Association listserv and the Oregon Association of School libraries listserv. It is also included in the Retirees Newsletter. Through this resource, their Intellectual Freedom Toolkit and their annual Intellectual Freedom Champion Award they have promoted the importance of intellectual freedom, and helped provide resources and support in building a community of informed librarians.

Coalition Building Committee Chair Wanda Mae Huffaker was excited to have chosen this year's winner, "One of the greatest rewards in volunteering for the ALA is having the opportunity to notify someone that they have won an award. Krista Reynolds, co-chair of the Oregon Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, was no exception. I think it is because while she is honored, she also knows the amount of work she, the co-chair Ross Betzer, and their committee has done. They have been able to represent coalition building as they worked together in planning topics, vetting articles, sending articles to different listservs in Oregon and the retiree's newsletter, and keeping intellectual freedom in the minds of the community to help them feel supported. This is what the Gerald Hodges IF Chapter Relations Award is about."

Named after Gerald Hodges, a passionate supporter of intellectual freedom and chapter relations, who, starting in 1989, spent years serving the ALA in a variety of leadership positions. He died in 2006, willing a portion of his estate to the ALA and its support of intellectual freedom. The Award recognizes an ALA chapter or other qualified organization that has done exemplary work marshalling support, promoting awareness, or other effective actions confronting intellectual freedom issues at the national, state, or region level. The award, given out annually since 2013, consists of \$1,000 and a citation. For more about the Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ifrt/gerald-hodges>.

Robert P. Doyle receives the 2017 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

By David Moody, IFRT Publications
Committee

Robert P. Doyle was awarded the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for 2017. He will receive \$500 and a citation. He will be honored at the ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 7 p.m -9 p.m at the Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Reception & Member Social, room Columbus IJ, in the Hyatt Regency.

Michael Furlong, Chair of the Immroth Award Committee, spoke of how honored he and his committee were in announcing this year's winner, "The Intellectual Freedom Round Table Awards Committee is pleased to recognize Bob Doyle with the 2017 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award. His career is a testament to upholding intellectual freedom and being a staunch advocate for library patrons. We encourage ALA members to attend the 2017 IFRT awards ceremony at the annual Chicago conference to help celebrate his accomplishments and service in strongly defending intellectual freedom."

For over 30 years Doyle has been a defender of intellectual freedom. An active member of the Illinois Library Association (ILA) and currently their executive director he has helped defeat 18 attempts that would have mandated filtering legislation in Illinois, as well as defeat several attempts in the state to change its obscenity and user privacy laws. His success in stopping these attempts was partly through his efforts



using the ILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, Public Policy Committee and Advocacy Committee to unite the library community and others within the state in a coalition to support intellectual freedom issues.

In addition, he also supported an annual ILA award to recognize outstanding contributions in defending intellectual freedom. He has also been active within the ALA since 1982 as the editor of the ALA Banned Books Resource guides and its supplemental field reports of banned and challenged books. Over the years these resources have listed thousands of books that have been the subject of censorship challenges.

Doyle served as the deputy director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom under Judith Krug's tenure. Doyle served two terms as a member of the Freedom

to Read Foundation (FTRF) Board of Directors and received the 2009 FTRF Roll of Honor Award. He was also active in supporting the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions to create the Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression.

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 Reception & Member Social on June 24 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Join an IFRT Committee

Now is the time to indicate your interest in serving on an IFRT Committee by completing the [IFRT volunteer form](#). All IFRT members are invited to serve and there are many ways to become involved. Visit the [IFRT webpage](#) for a list of committees and information on what they do. Appointments will be made following this year's Annual Conference.

2017 Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Roll of Honor Awards

This year's Freedom to Read Foundation awards are presented to three long-time advocates for intellectual freedom whose work helps libraries everywhere.

The first winner is **Joan Bertin**, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) since 1997. At NCAC, Joan helped to launch the Kids' Right to Read Project (KRRP), which offers support, education, and direct advocacy to people facing book challenges or bans in schools and libraries. Under Joan's leadership, NCAC has defended hundreds of book titles across the country, helping ensure that thousands of children will continue to enjoy literary masterpieces and popular young adult novels.

Also winning the award are **Bob Holley**, a recently retired professor of library science at Wayne State University and his spouse, **Martha Spear**, a long time local intellectual freedom fighter in MAME (Michigan Association for Media in Education). Together on a library professor and librarian's salaries they have amassed and committed significant financial resources to the work of FTRF. Bob has also been an active leader in the Intellectual Freedom Round Table and is also a newly elected trustee of the FTRF.

Kids' Right to Read Project

The Kids' Right to Read Project (KRRP) is a signature aspect of NCAC's Youth Free Expression Program. KRRP offers support, education, and direct advocacy to people facing book challenges or bans in schools and libraries and engages local activists in promoting the freedom to read. It was co-founded with the American Booksellers for Free Expression and is supported in part by the Association of American Publishers and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.



KRRP has helped defend hundreds of titles, in cases in almost every state in the nation. Our work on book censorship incidents is responsive and strategically tailored to each situation. We contact teachers, booksellers, librarians, local reporters and free speech advocates involved in the challenge. Energizing and backing community involvement is essential to the work of KRRP. We work to engage local communities as much as possible to provide resources and support for their advocacy for the freedom to read.

In addition to our casework, KRRP [spearheads a collaborative effort](#) to oppose the growing trend to "red flag" and label books like movies and video games.

<http://ncac.org/project/the-kids-right-to-read-project>



Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship Winner 2017

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) has selected **Kate Davis** as the recipient of the 2017 Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship. The Conable Scholarship will provide for Davis's expenses to attend the 2017 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago, IL.

As part of the scholarship, the recipient will attend FTRF and other intellectual freedom meetings and programs at the conference, consult with mentors, and present a report about her experiences and thoughts following the conference. She will be recognized at the FTRF Annual Member Reception from 5:00pm—6:30pm on Thursday, June 22, 2017 in McCormick Place, Room MCP W471b.

"The committee was impressed with Kate's commitment to intellectual freedom, teaching, and international librarianship," said Conable Scholarship chair Julia Warga. "Her graduate studies and internship work demonstrate that she is someone who is very interested in intellectual freedom, advocacy, and education which are key areas of the Foundation's work. We are excited to meet Kate, and to introduce her to our members."

Davis very recently received her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Denver. She received a Master of Education from the University of Florida, and completed her B.A. in English and History at Rutgers University. She is a former school teacher who has taught in Denver, Colorado and the United Arab Emirates. She will soon begin working as a solo librarian at a school in Nigeria.

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.

LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund

Over the past year, the Merritt Fund has received three applications, and one grantee (The two that were not granted simply didn't provide enough information). The Merritt Fund not only helps librarians who lose their positions, or need financial help due to their intellectual freedom stances, but also those whose problems are related to various discrimination concerns.

Founded in 1970 in honor of Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt, the Merritt Fund continues to serve an important role in our world. For more information about the Merritt Fund and how to support this worthy cause, please visit:

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

Would you like to get involved with the Merritt Fund? Anyone who donates to the Fund is invited to participate in the annual election.

The 2016-2017 Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund elected trustees are Rosanne Cordell, Douglas Archer, and Nancy Kranich and is a separate organization from ALA.

Subscribe to OIF's Intellectual Freedom News

Intellectual Freedom News is a free periodic compilation of news by the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom including:

- Current book challenges in libraries and schools
- Articles about privacy, internet filtering and censorship
- ALA activities, conferences and institutes, products, online learning opportunities, awards and grants, international exchanges, and more
- how to get involved and make the most of what ALA offers

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Submit an Intellectual Freedom eLearning Proposal

ALA has many opportunities to participate in the work of the association and develop the continued learning of members of our profession. Your colleagues value the unique perspective you bring to the profession. Fill out [this form to propose](#) online presentations. Upon receipt, staff will review your proposal and respond with 1-2 weeks. [Click here for a list of recent eLearning opportunities.](#)

IFRT Leadership

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Wanda Mae Huffaker, Coalition Building

Michael A. Furlong, John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

Steve Norman, Membership

Mary Elizabeth Wendt, Merritt Fund Promotion

Laura Koltutsky, Nominating

Laura Koltutsky, Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award

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Membership in IFRT

is \$15 per year.

Add IFRT to your membership!