

**Report to ALA Council
Eliminating Library Fines as a form of Social Equity Working Group
2019 ALA Annual Conference**

At its 2019 Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, ALA Council passed a Resolution on Eliminating Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity (CD #38). The fourth resolved clause called for establishment of a working group to develop information resources, including strategies and tips, for libraries interested in abolishing fines. The working group was charged with delivering a report to Council at the 2019 Annual Conference.

ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo established the working group in February. Since that time, the group has undertaken the following activities:

- Consulted with membership about what would be useful to them in terms of information resources, strategies, and tips. Group member Sarah Houghton compiled the feedback and distilled it into a set of trends and topics for the group to work from. These trends and topics will inform the FAQ document that will be one outcome of the group's work.
- Built upon an existing resource that shows which libraries have gone fine-free. Group member Andy Woodworth has maintained a site (<https://endlibraryfines.info>) that the group has been able to refer to as well as add to. The group has also heard directly from a large public library that is going fine free and welcomes further such examples.
- Began development of an FAQ document. Group member Mica Johnson has set up the framework for a document that could be shared among ALA members and beyond to answer questions about library fines and going fine free. The FAQ document is yet to be completed.

The working group has two further tasks it needs to undertake: consulting with division and round table executive bodies for their feedback on what would be useful information for their members to have and developing a communication plan that addresses how to disseminate the work of the group to as many libraries as possible.

Although CD #38 specified only a report to Council at Annual, the working group feels that it would be in the spirit of that resolution to ask for more time to finalize its work. With that in mind, and based on the tasks that the group has identified as still needed, **the Working Group MOVES that it be given a deadline of August 31, 2019, to deliver to Council a final report as well as the needed information sources for libraries.**

Eliminating Library Fines as a form of Social Equity Working Group

Peter Hepburn, Chair

Sarah Houghton

Mica Johnson

Eric Suess

Andy Woodworth

Ed Garcia, ALA Executive Board Liaison

JoAnne Kempf, ALA Staff Liaison (until retirement)