

**ALA Presidential Task Force on Equitable Access to Electronic Content  
Report to Council  
January 10, 2011  
2011 Midwinter Meeting - San Diego, CA.**

**Co-Chairs Linda Crowe and Michael Porter Chair**

The ALA Presidential Task Force on Equitable Access to Electronic Content (EQUACC) provides this update from the Task Force.

Roberta Stevens called on ALA divisions to appoint members to the Task Force. A list of their names is attached. The Task Force met for the first time at this Midwinter meeting, reviewed the charge of the Task Force (attached) and identified directions the Task Force would take over the next year, emphasizing that the ALA needs to play, at the national level, an active role in defining an e-content market place model that not only works for libraries but also ensures that the mission of libraries is maintained. Key discussion items included library lending, accessibility of content, preservation, and ideas for actionable projects that the library community can engage in. The Task Force agreed that an environmental scan of libraries and the e-content market should be prepared, drawing on many existing documents that already address aspects of the larger concern. of .... Challenges and solutions in libraries for improved electronic content services to meet the needs of the communities that libraries serve. Documentation will include data and reports from organizations and groups outside of ALA. Organized polling of the library community to identify concerns not yet known may be conducted. In addition, the Task Force noted the need to better publicize that libraries are key and unique players in the ecosystem and culture of reading.

Immediate actions include reaching out to accessibility communities and diversity groups to gather information and ensure that the information needs of all people are met. The Task Force will establish an ALA Connect community open to all concerned to discuss initiatives and projects. We realize that there is much we can learn from librarians and welcome all comments and ideas. The Task Force will meet as a group in at spring meeting in Washington, DC. Regularly, the Task Force will meet via conference calls.

At the Annual Conference, the Task Force will return to Council with a report of our progress.

## Presidential Task Force on Equitable Access to Electronic Content

### Background and charge

#### Council Resolution

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the ALA Council passed a resolution that called for the formation of a Presidential Task Force, integrating the OITP Working Group, charged with studying:

- challenges and potential solutions in libraries for improved electronic content access, distribution and preservation systems, and infrastructure in response to the creation and migration of materials from print to electronic access;
- collaborations that provide electronic content and distribution infrastructure for libraries, including the development of a list of potentially practical, effective collaborations and courses of action that ALA and libraries around the country could engage in;
- current and emerging assistive technology that provides people with sensory and physical disabilities the opportunity to access electronic information hitherto inaccessible through libraries;
- methods of encouraging solutions through libraries for electronic content access that use formats and standards that work across DRM-free device platforms;
- options for compromise agreements between the library and publishing communities regarding access to digital content; and
- the need for any ALA policies required to further the creation of an effective electronic content and distribution infrastructure for libraries; and

The resolution called for the Task Force to submit a report to Council at ALA Annual Conference in 2011 containing recommendations for the Association.

#### The role of OITP

The Office for Information Technology Policy advances ALA's public policy activities by helping secure information technology policies that support and encourage efforts of libraries to ensure access to electronic information resources as a means of upholding

the public's right to a free and open information society. It works to ensure a library voice in information policy debates and to promote full and equitable intellectual participation by the public.

Working together with ALA's Office of Government Relations and the Office for Intellectual Freedom, OITP works to ensure a library voice in information policy debates and to promote full and equitable intellectual participation by the public by:

- Conducting *research and analysis* aimed at understanding the implications of information technology and information policy for libraries and library users,
- *Educating* the ALA community about the implications of information policy, law, and regulation for libraries and library users,
- Advancing ALA's *information policy interests* in non-legislative government policy forums, and
- Engaging in *strategic outlook* to anticipate technological change, particularly as it presents policy challenges to libraries and library users.

Recognizing the role of OITP, it was understood that the Committee and Office would serve as the lead in and "home" for this effort.

Currently, an OITP subcommittee is working on issues closely related to the Council resolution. The mission of this subcommittee is to:

- explore and articulate the issues surrounding e-books (and allied devices), licensing agreements, and access to information in the library context, and
- engage vendors in a productive dialogue to improve matters for the library community.

This group is conducting an initial background exploration, which was to be followed by a broader discussion involving representation from the relevant ALA divisions, offices, roundtables, and other entities.

### **Initial Tasks**

The digital revolution enables great opportunity for improved access to information through libraries but at the same time creates challenges for equitable access to electronic content. A major focus of these challenges is the infrastructure of how electronic content is acquired, accessed, distributed, and preserved. Particular issues of interest include the formats and standards for information and technology and assistive technology. Addressing these challenges effectively may take a variety of forms including collaboration and negotiation within the library community, with the publishing community, and with other groups.

Recognizing the enormity of the scope of the Council charge, as well as current efforts underway, it is recommended that the new Task Force include representation from the existing subcommittee. As a first step in addressing the issues outlined in the Council resolution, the Task Force would:

- identify relevant reports and projects that are completed, in-process, or planned by ALA entities
- conduct an environmental scan that includes relevant major initiatives outside of ALA
- analyze and synthesize the information collected and develop potential directions and actions that ALA could pursue
- submit a report to ALA Council at the 2011 Annual Conference

## Presidential Task Force on Equitable Access to Electronic Content

### Co -Chairs:

#### **Linda Crowe**

Executive Director  
Califa Group  
2471 Flores St  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
(650)356-2123  
[lcrowe@califa.org](mailto:lcrowe@califa.org)

#### **Michael Porter**

Communications Manager, WebJunction  
President, Library Renewal  
533 1/2 N 83rd St.  
Seattle, WA 98103  
909-717-9451  
[michael.libraryman@gmail.com](mailto:michael.libraryman@gmail.com)

### Members:

#### **Char Booth**

University of California-Berkeley  
302 Moffitt Library  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
(512) 970-3573  
[cbooth@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:cbooth@library.berkeley.edu)

#### **Paul Courant**

Dean of Libraries  
University of Michigan  
818 Hatcher Graduate Library South  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1190  
(734)764-9356  
[pnc@umich.edu](mailto:pnc@umich.edu)

**Kristine L. Ferry** University of California -  
Irvine Libraries  
Irvine, CA  
(949) 824-0474  
[kferry05@yahoo.com](mailto:kferry05@yahoo.com)

#### **Rod Gauvin**

Senior Vice President – Publishing  
and Global Content Alliances  
ProQuest  
789 E. Eisenhower Parkway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
(734) 997 4870  
[Rod.Gauvin@proquest.com](mailto:Rod.Gauvin@proquest.com)

#### **Christopher G. Harris**

Director, School Library System  
Genesee Valley Educational Partnership  
80 Munson St. Le Roy NY 14482  
(585) 344-7942  
[cgharris@gvboces.org](mailto:cgharris@gvboces.org)

#### **Peggy Johnson**

Associate University Librarian  
University of Minnesota  
499 Wilson Library  
309 19th Ave. South  
Minneapolis MN 55455  
(612)624-2312  
[m-john@umn.edu](mailto:m-john@umn.edu)

**James LaRue**

Douglas County Libraries  
100 South Wilcox Street  
Castle Rock, CO 80104  
(303)688-7656  
[jarue@dclibraries.org](mailto:jarue@dclibraries.org)

**Clifford A. Lynch**

Coalition for Networked Information  
21 Dupont Circle  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202)296-5098  
[clifford@cni.org](mailto:clifford@cni.org)

**Barbara T. Mates**

6716 Cheryl Ann Drive  
Seven Hills, OH 44131  
(216)990-2360  
[barbaramates@cox.net](mailto:barbaramates@cox.net)

**Floyd Pentlin**

University of Central Missouri  
42008 Lovinger  
Warrensburg, MO 64093  
(660)747-0683  
[calaf@charter.net](mailto:calaf@charter.net)

**Axel Schmetzke**

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point  
900 Reserve Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 346-4658  
[aschmetz@uwsp.edu](mailto:aschmetz@uwsp.edu)

**Heather Wicht**

University of Colorado at Boulder  
184 UCB University Libraries  
Boulder, CO 80309  
(303)492-4234  
[Heather.wicht@colorado.edu](mailto:Heather.wicht@colorado.edu)

**Monique le Conge**

273 Carlisle Way  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 771-0104  
[mleconge@gmail.com](mailto:mleconge@gmail.com)

**Robert Maier**

Director, Massachusetts Board of Library  
Commissioners  
98 North Washington St., Suite 401  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)725-1860 x249  
[Robert.maier@state.ma.us](mailto:Robert.maier@state.ma.us)

**Cynthia Orr**

Cynthia Orr Consulting  
5291 Hickory Lane  
Willoughby, OH 44094  
(440) 944-1242  
[CynthiaOrr@att.net](mailto:CynthiaOrr@att.net)

**Jacqueline Rafferty**

Paul Pratt Memorial Library  
35 Ripley Road  
Cohasset, MA 02025  
(781)383-1348  
[jack\\_raff@hotmail.com](mailto:jack_raff@hotmail.com)

**Mark Stoffan**

Florida State University  
3000 School House Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
(850)245-3700  
[mstoffan@fsu.edu](mailto:mstoffan@fsu.edu)

**Bob Wolven**

Columbia University Libraries  
513 Butler Library  
535 West 114th Street  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 854-5585  
[wolven@columbia.edu](mailto:wolven@columbia.edu)

**Staff Liaisons:**

**Carrie Russell**

Program Director

ALA Washington Office

Office for Information Technology Policy

[crussell@alawash.org](mailto:crussell@alawash.org)

(202)628-8410, x8219

**Marijke Visser**

IT Policy Analyst

ALA Washington Office

Office for Information Technology Policy

[mvisser@alawash.org](mailto:mvisser@alawash.org)

(202)628-8410, x8291