

**MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**2008-2009**  
*Division/Committee/Officer Annual Report*

**Unit:** Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel

**President/Officer:** Mary Somers, Harford Community College

**Officers and Active Members:**

Secretary: Monica McAbee, Prince George's County Memorial Library  
Steve LaBash, University of Baltimore, Retired  
Leila Shapiro, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Retired  
Pat Guyton, Anne Arundel County Public Library  
Annette Goodman, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Margie Rhoden, Calvert Library  
Gaylord Robb, Salisbury University  
Moushumi (Mou) Chakraborty, Salisbury University

**List the activities your unit addressed the past 12 months:**

Met bi-monthly

Sponsored a program in October, "Harmful to Minors? Rights of Youth to Library Access", presented by Carrie Gardner at the Boonsboro Library.

Completed a survey on "The State of IF"

Sponsored a conference program "Protect Patron Privacy: It's the Law!", presented by Carrie Gardner.

Published an article in the CRAB; the topic was intellectual freedom, and was in the format of an interview between two panel members, Annette Goodman and Mary Somers.

Pat Guyton created an IFAP blog, which features news and events important to Intellectual freedom, and which is updated regularly.

Spearheaded (with Kay Bowman) an initiative to pass a memorial resolution in honor of Judith Krug.

The workshop "Defending Access" was presented as a professional development opportunity at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

**Describe the accomplishments and methods:**

When the program "Harmful to Minors?" was presented in 2007, evaluations strongly urged the panel to repeat the program in Western Maryland. This program was co-sponsored by LMD. We had over 40 attendees, including some from West Virginia. Evaluations were extremely positive.

The Chair of the panel completed an email survey sponsored by the OIF office of ALA. The survey was an attempt to gauge how active libraries are in defending intellectual freedom. The panel got some great ideas from the survey, which we will hopefully be able to implement.

Carrie Gardner presented again for us at the May 2009 conference, this time on the topic of patron privacy. Over 35 people attended, and all had positive things to say about the program.

Mary Somers and Monica McAbee presented their popular program “Defending Access with Confidence” at Orleans Street Branch of EPFL on Thursday, April 30. There were 15 attendees.

At the May Executive Board meeting, a resolution was passed honoring Judith Krug. This resolution was crafted and edited by IFAP members Monica McAbee and Barbara Webb; the content was taken from a similar resolution passed the Missouri Library Association.

**What is your overall evaluation for the year, and what suggestions would you like to see carried over in the future?**

This has been our most active year in a long time. We gained several new members (and retained some retirees!!). Along with the sponsored programs in Boonsboro and at the conference, IFAP members have participated in surveys and interviews, provided a professional development opportunity on the topic of defending access, created a blog, and in general raised the profile of intellectual freedom in Maryland. We hope to continue these initiatives into next year.