Intellectual Freedom Panel Meeting
Virtual
Wednesday, August 4th at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

• In attendance: Andrea Boothby Rice (Queen Anne’s Co.), Mou Chakraborty (Salisbury U), Kelsey Hughes (PGCMLS), Monica McAbee (PGCMLS), Hannah Rosekrans (Baltimore Co.), Ashley Teagle (Southern Maryland Regional)

• Minutes
  o June 2021 minutes approval postponed to next meeting

• Reports
  o Executive Board and Legislative Panel
    ▪ Voted approval for Black Caucus
    ▪ Bylaws will be voted on next meeting
    ▪ Statement on Digital Content Legislation was sent out, addressing the concept of “reasonable terms”
  o Conference Committee
    ▪ First meeting in June, mostly brainstorming, no theme yet
    ▪ Programs to be ready to submit by October
    ▪ MLA will use centralized form for calling for proposals
    ▪ Looking for keynote ideas

• Old business
  o Freedom to Read Foundation Grant [https://www.ftrf.org/page/Krug_BBW](https://www.ftrf.org/page/Krug_BBW)
    ▪ Discuss ideas next meeting
  o FY22 work plan ideas
    ▪ Along with updating our LibGuide, consider moving it to MLA site – it is currently at [https://libraryguides.salisbury.edu/IF](https://libraryguides.salisbury.edu/IF)
    ▪ Program ideas – Changing the Lens presenters again, privacy topics, panel about privacy and teens with actual teens participating
  o Crab articles
    ▪ Mou working on article for winter issue – interview about Sara passing baton to Andrea

• New business
  o Ashley Teagle : Privacy Advocacy
    ▪ Ashely took Library Freedom Project’s System and Policies course, privacy best practices. Biggest takeaway: library vendors don’t play by library rules re: privacy. Data submitted to vendors can be going to big databases that we don’t really know how it’s being used but possibly could be accessed by law enforcement, etc. Some states are putting laws in place; Ashley spoke with Carrie Willson about advocating for MD to have such a law. Additionally and
more pressingly, ensuring library workers must be educated on these issues to ensure we aren’t entering into contracts that violate patron privacy.

- Ashley recommends LFP as a resource, also encourages LFP courses due to community feeling of participating in a cohort
- As library workers, we need to be better educated about the language the vendors use
- How aware are people of what they are compromising in exchange for convenience?
- Some of these policies are disproportionately affecting BIPOC communities, for example selling data information to ICE. We may not all always realize how much marginalized communities can be disproportionately affected by lack of digital privacy
- Kelsey pointed out that privacy took a backseat to other needs during Covid because we were trying to get things out as quickly as possible – maybe a framing opportunity here for “now that we are moving back into the way things used to be, let’s put privacy back on the front burner.”
- Mou raised that these were also issues in academic settings during the last year, regarding both copyright and privacy.
- Discussion: what should we be doing? Program? Conference program? LibGuides? Discussion with MAPLA/leg panel/both? Ashley will seek place on next MAPLA agenda to discuss some of these issues. We will also be looking at creating a panel to discuss these issues.
- ALA privacy field guides should be released in the fall, unsure if one will be on vendors
- Ashley shared the time commitment for LFI was stated about 5 hours a week of homework, but many weeks may not have been that much, and then the class was about an additional 2 hours a week. Content and resources were very useful and worth it. Libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public_html/index.php/Main_Page/Reading_List
- Should we look at this instructor as a presenter on an MLA panel?
  - Banned Books Week
    - Interest in trivia night as we did last year. Andrea will reach out to LDD to see if they want to collaborate again. Kelsey also suggested collaboration with Membership group
    - Mou raised MLA leaders sharing favorite banned/challenged titles as we did last year. Discussion of whether to ask for a favorite title, or “what’s a banned book you hate but still don’t think should be banned?” Andrea will reach out to MLA leadership for participation.
    - Andrea will send out follow-up emails on both of these for us.
  - Roundtable discussion: current IF issues

Next meeting: October 6th