

**MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**Division/Committee/Officer Annual Report for years FY2018, FY2019, FY2020**  
**Due June**

**Unit:** Intellectual Freedom Panel (IFP)

**President/Officer:** Julie Ranelli

**Officers and Active Members:**

Katelyn McLimans, Secretary  
Sara Brown, Social Media Coordinator  
Scott Businsky  
Mou Chakraborty  
Hannah Erickson  
Nay Keppler  
Sarah Jane Miller  
Gaylord Robb  
Ryan Shepard  
Mary Somers  
Alex Supko  
Dianne Whitaker  
Hannah Wilkes

**Goal 1 – MLA professional development and training initiatives empower members to successfully address pivotal challenges and opportunities for the Maryland library community.**

List the Objective then strategies your unit accomplished in the past fiscal year:

- Ensure MLA Annual Conference remains premier professional development for Maryland library community by planning conference sessions and poster session and contributing to silent auction
- Provide convenient, affordable training and ensure value and relevance of MLA professional development by leading Banned Books Panel

Describe the outputs, outcomes and measurement used for each.

- Three conference sessions attended by over 200 people with feedback collected (Fake News, LGBTQ and Youth Access, and Privacy); poster session on Intellectual Freedom; basket donated
- 21 attendees at Banned Books Panel on 9/28/17

**Goal 2 - MLA fosters and promotes highly effective advocacy for the Maryland library community, conveying the needs, the principles, and value of libraries.**

List the Objective then strategies your unit accomplished in the past fiscal year:

- Ensure the legislative panel remains the premier advocate for Maryland libraries and the library profession in Maryland by providing Intellectual Freedom Panel representation
- Ensure that MLA Officers and the Intellectual Freedom Panel are “go to” resources for best practices on sustaining intellectual freedom, protecting privacy and access by responding to request for LATI training and updated wiki resources and revising the IF Manual
- Enhance panel’s ability to uphold and advocate for core values by supporting panel member’s application for Library Freedom Project and referring Alex Supko as OIF blog writer

- Enhance panel's ability to uphold and advocate for core values by supporting members facing challenges

Describe the outputs, outcomes and measurement used for each.

- IFP chair attended legislative panel meetings and Maryland Library Legislative Day and contributed to discussions of net neutrality legislation
- Provided in-person training to LATI in the fall and winter. Provided updated resources for LATI wiki
- Revised Intellectual Freedom Manual and published to MLA website.
- Sara Brown accepted into Library Freedom Project and begins training in June 2018. Alex Supko regularly writing for OIF blog.
- Regular communication with OIF regarding known challenges and encouraging the MLA community to report challenges and then providing access to resources about the most banned books of 2017

**Goal 3 - The library community is well-informed about MLA and the opportunities and value it provides.**

List the Objective then strategies your unit accomplished in the past fiscal year:

- Effective communication to MLA members and expanded channels for communication
- Effective communication to MLA members via development of intellectual freedom LibGuide

Describe the outputs, outcomes and measurement used for each.

- Increased Facebook likes to 246 and added Twitter account
- LibGuide in progress with screen shots included on MLA Conference poster session

**Goal 4 – MLA fosters an inclusive organizational culture, representing a growing and increasingly diverse organization, and prepares members for leadership opportunities.**

List the Objective then strategies your unit accomplished in the past fiscal year:

- Engage new members by following up with MLA Office regarding interest areas on member renewals

Describe the outputs, outcomes and measurement used for each.

- Two new members active with developing LibGuide and coordinating social media

**Other comments:**

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

I would like to see us to continue to engage new members while relying on the expertise of long-term members. We'll need to continue to develop future leaders and to advocate for the role of the panel as it promotes core library values.

We could have furthered effective communication by contributing more articles to The Crab. Perhaps we should assign a panel reporter in addition to the social media coordinator role.

Social media has been a success story for us over the past year, with more posts and engagement than any other MLA group and among the most active state intellectual freedom feeds nationwide.

Meeting in person has been challenging for some members; the June meeting was cancelled due to lack of members' availability. The majority of members now attend via Google Hangout. Our December lunch meeting had the highest attendance of the year. We would like to find a way to connect with each other during the MLA Conference also.

The revision of the MLA Intellectual Freedom Manual and LATI wiki resources were two projects that consumed a lot of members' time. Following those projects, we resumed a project started a few years ago, an Intellectual Freedom LibGuide, that has member support but will need some new momentum to see completion in the coming year.

**Prepared by:** Julie Ranelli

**Date:** June 26, 2018

***Complete and mail the Annual Report to the Planning and Bylaws Chair by June 1st***