



Consent Agenda Sep. 2020

ALA Council Report to ULA

September 2020

Submitted by: Pamela Martin, Utah Chapter Councilor

As your councilor to ALA, I represent Utah on ALA's governing body. If you ever have questions or concerns about ALA, please let me know. You can reach me at pamela.martin@usu.edu or 435-797-2685.

A list of complete council actions taken at ALA Annual will be available online as well as the Annual documents. I am going to provide a summary below and include highlights only. If you want my FULL, very ROUGH notes, please feel free to peruse them at your leisure.

From June 22-27th, I attended the annual virtual ALA conference. In my capacity as ALA Councilor, these are the meetings I attended, noted in Mountain Time:

- Virtual Information Meeting, June 22, 11:30
- Membership Meeting, June 22, 2:00
- Council I, June 23, 11:00
- ALA Council II, June 23, 2:00
- ALA Council III, June 27, 11:00

ALA Annual Council Documents:

- Annual documents.

Highlights:

- Finances: Lots of uncertainty because of COVID-19, but it has not been a good year.
 - ALA Annual did have insurance coverage on the conference in Chicago, which will help offset the 8million in losses.
 - Preliminary FY 2021 budget is normally approved at annual, but will not be ready till September; special Council will be held to approve it.
- Council will take ownership of SCOE (restructuring of ALA/Strategic Committee for Organizational Effectiveness) work and try to reorganize with constitutional conventions: <https://forwardtogether.ala.org/>

- This does not mean the council will run with all (or any) of the SCOE suggestions
- Council & membership will have to vote on changes
- Notable resolutions passed:
 - [Resolution on Developing Library Security Policies](#) regarding police brutality, racial justice, and library security.
 - [Resolution on protecting privacy and safety in coronavirus-related policy](#)

USL Report September 2020

Utah State Library is hosting a competitive grant round of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding allocated to us by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Funds totaling \$275,000 are available for public, school, academic, institutional, special, tribal, private, and research libraries, and library consortia

USL is one of four libraries in the country involved in the first phase of the e-reader pilot, testing a device made by HumanWare. The e-reader is designed for reading electronic braille files. The e-reader itself is a compact and portable device that reads braille files via a 20 cell refreshable braille display. Part of the pilot is to discover the best access for users, whether the user downloads braille files from an online database, or the library provides the braille files on media that is plugged into the device. In addition to internal and external memory capabilities, the e-reader is able to connect via wifi to the BARD audio and braille site to download books. The e-reader is also bluetooth enabled, to connect to a smartphone or tablet to read files via the BARD app.

USL is partnering with Multicultural Affairs to create a book list for the Book Buzz book group regarding diversity inclusion. These titles are an excellent addition to the Book Buzz collection, and will hopefully stimulate some much needed conversations throughout Utah.

USL is partnering with Utah Education Network to provide free Mobile hotspots available for checkout at Utah libraries.

State of Utah received CARES funding and distributed a portion to Utah Education Network. UEN approached USL to distribute some of their allocated funds. USL agreed and has plans for spending up to \$337,000. This project is moving at lightning speed. UEN must spend funds by August 31st. USL must spend funds by December 1st. Funds must be spent on professional development on the topic of blended learning in libraries or librarianship in the time of COVID-19.

The Library Resources Program reevaluated the way that it managed OverDrive, one of its most popular online offerings. Previously, the State Library carried a significant portion of the financial burden for this platform and its content, which consists of e-books, e-audio books,

magazines, and videos. USL staff met with representatives from all the participating libraries and organized the Beehive Library Consortium. All members of this consortium sign an annual agreement which states that their library will contribute a specific dollar amount (based on their budget and usage) towards the shared collection. The agreement also details the various responsibilities of the member libraries and State Library. An administrative committee was formed to manage the group. The organization of the Beehive Library Consortium shifted OverDrive from being a State Library led and funded resource to a member-library led and funded resource, which dramatically improved the resources' long-term sustainability, while at the same time, will end up saving the State Library more than \$200,000 per year. State Library signed a new 5 year contract with Creativebug, an online learning platform containing high-quality, on-trend arts and crafts instructional videos. Included are award-winning HD instructional videos on drawing, painting, sewing, knitting, crochet, quilting, jewelry making, baking, crafts for kids, and more. New websites were launched for the Bookmobile Program and Utah's Online Public Library.