

ALA Councilor Report – 6

Shortly after the NDLA Annual Conference I was added to appropriate ALA Council listservs and was sent some basic information for meeting participation. I will attend most Council-related meetings at ALA midwinter, except for a few where I have conflicts with pre-existing ALA committee appointments.

On the ALA Council listserv there have been a few issues discussed such as aggressive treatment of a student at UCLA during a routing ID check, closure of the Iraq National Library and Archive after numerous sniper attacks and bombings fearing for the lives of librarians, and the closing of EPA libraries. I brought this issue to the attention of NDLA and Marilyn Johnson sent a letter to our congressional delegation. Seventeen congressmen and the GAO and ALA have requested investigation of the closures and disposition of materials. The plan is to digitize materials, but it does not appear this was accomplished before libraries were closed and reference and ILL services are limited to just a few libraries. ALA is working towards improving the ALA website based on a usability assessment conducted during the fall.