

December 22, 2010

To: ALA Members

From: Vivian Pisano and Maggie Farrell
Co-Chairs, Presidential Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) Task Force

Re: Draft Report

Attached is a draft report from the Presidential TCE Task Force regarding the management and handling of cultural materials in libraries. The Task Force is distributing this draft to solicit feedback from ALA members.

President Camila Alire created the Presidential Task Force on Traditional Cultural Expressions to continue work that had resulted in a resolution discussed but withdrawn from ALA Council consideration during ALA Midwinter 2010.

The TCE Task Force consists of 11 members representing various interests and co-chaired by the OITP Advisory Committee and the International Relations Committee. The Task Force has been working since ALA Annual 2010 on the charge:

- review the background and development of the current version (7.0) of the document "*Librarianship and Traditional Cultural Expressions: Nurturing Understanding and Respect*."
- examine the current document and other relevant material
- as necessary, propose any revisions to the document
- bring forward a recommended revised draft document for approval by the ALA Council at ALA Midwinter 2011.

The Task Force determined that clarification regarding the terminology surrounding TCEs was required to understand the types of materials typically found in libraries. The term "cultural materials" is used to encompass those materials. Respect, collaboration and upholding ALA values were prominent considerations in the development of the report. The Task Force also determined that a report outlining the ways in which libraries contribute to cultural materials management and identifying the issues and concerns surrounding cultural materials would be an excellent first step in educating our membership to the issues of cultural materials and TCEs.

It is the hope of the Task Force that this report opens the dialogue within our profession and identifies strategies to advance the discussions therefore forming a foundation for development of principles that will guide our libraries.

Comments and observations may be sent to the Task Force co-chairs Vivian Pisano (vpisano@earthlink.net) and Maggie Farrell (farrell@uwyo.edu). In addition, the Task Force will hold an open forum during ALA Midwinter, Saturday, January 8, 10:00-11:00, San Diego Convention Center - Room 08. Your insights will inform the final report that will be submitted to ALA Council II on Monday, January 10, 2011.

Thank you for your assistance in discussing this critical issue for our association.