

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE

# SRRT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 160/161      DECEMBER 2007



Please make plans to attend the following Action Council meetings:

Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 10:30 AM

Monday, January 14, 2008 at 1:00 PM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COORDINATOR'S REPORT 2

FTF REPORT 3

IRTF REPORT 3

MLK REPORT 4

HHPTF REPORT 4

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 5

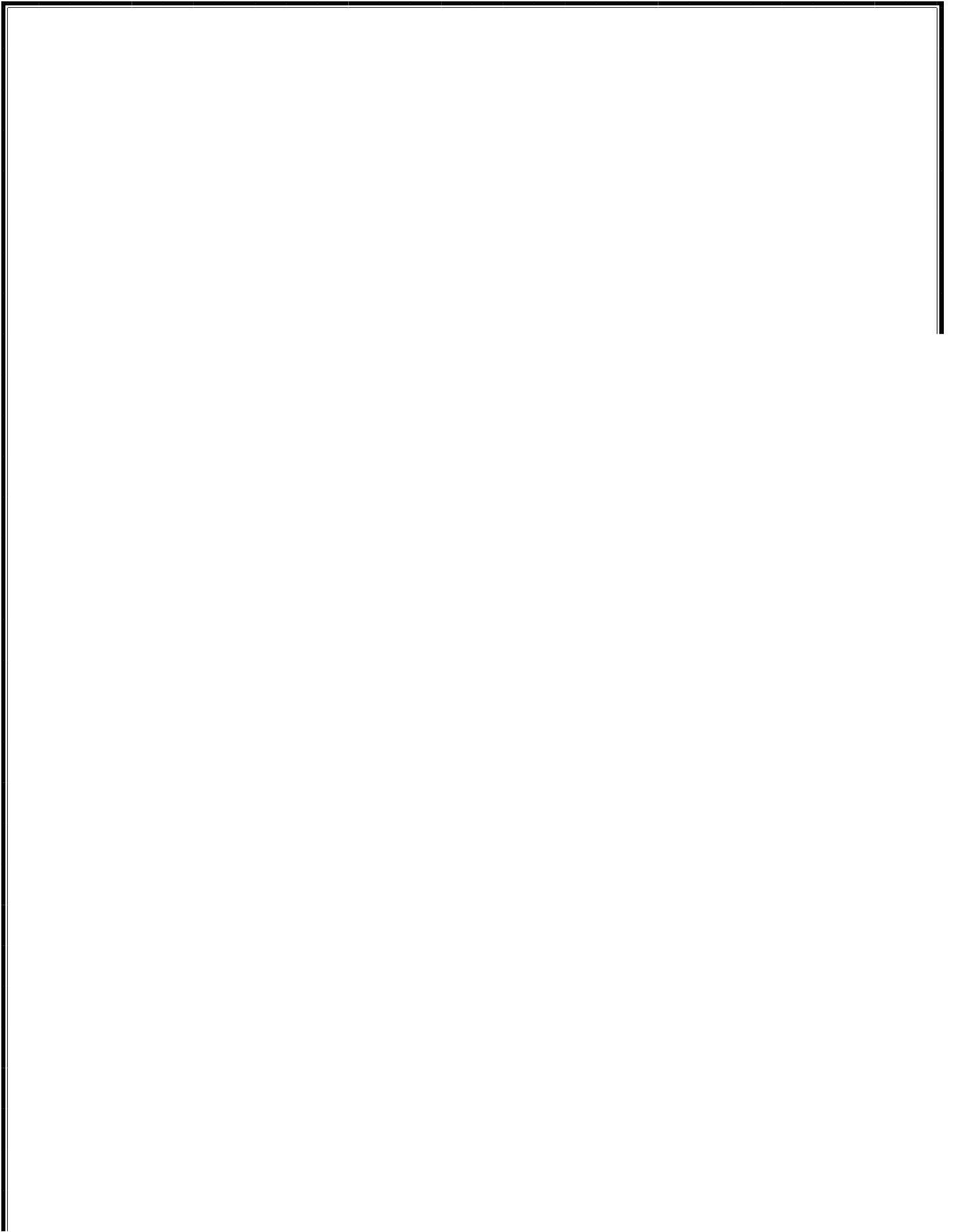
MIDWINTER REPORT TO COUNCIL 6

TFOE REPORT 7

IFLA REPORT 8

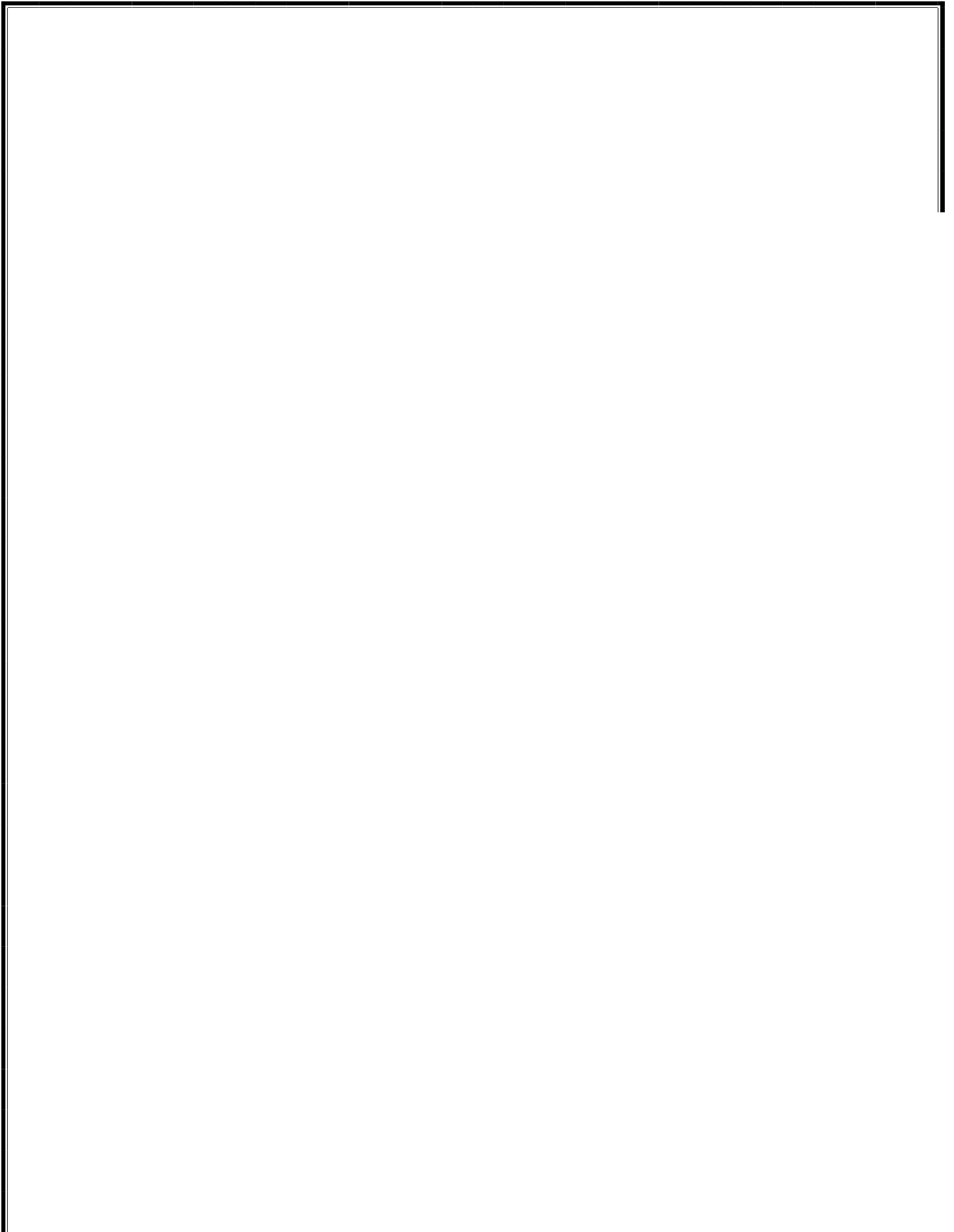
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT, CAROL GULYAS 9

Reviews 10





---



Greetings once again to SRRT members, old and new. Following up on our previous successes, in Seattle we introduced a resolution aimed at lobbying the Congress to defund the Iraq War. The resolution referenced our past successful resolutions since 2003, which addressed securing Iraqi cultural resources and rebuilding libraries; opposing torture; opposing disinformation, media manipulation and the destruction of public information; and for getting the US military out of Iraq. Unfortunately, after much debate, the resolution failed 98 to 48. Although we had some unlikely supporters speak to it, the Council was just not ready to take this next logical step. Almost everyone we talked with was in favor on a personal level, but there i 658.9 Do Q430o(s)-6( )5(j)9(u refq-9.12 -8.8799 600.24 81

## MIDWINTER COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

There was one other ALA Council resolution of note. Several progressive councilors introduced a resolution to follow

-  
resolved at the Midwinter 1999 meeting to cut its formal relationship with the BSA because of their explicit homophobia and discrimination based on religious affiliation. These councilors pointed to a liaison listed on the website of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). The ALSC Councilor defended its practice and said this did not constitute an official relationship. In the end, Council decided to put this on hold until the Council could receive an official response from ALSC, which will happen at the annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Finally, the ALA-APA (Allied Professional Association) easily passed a resolution endorsing a nonbinding minimum salary of not less than \$40,000 for professional librarians.

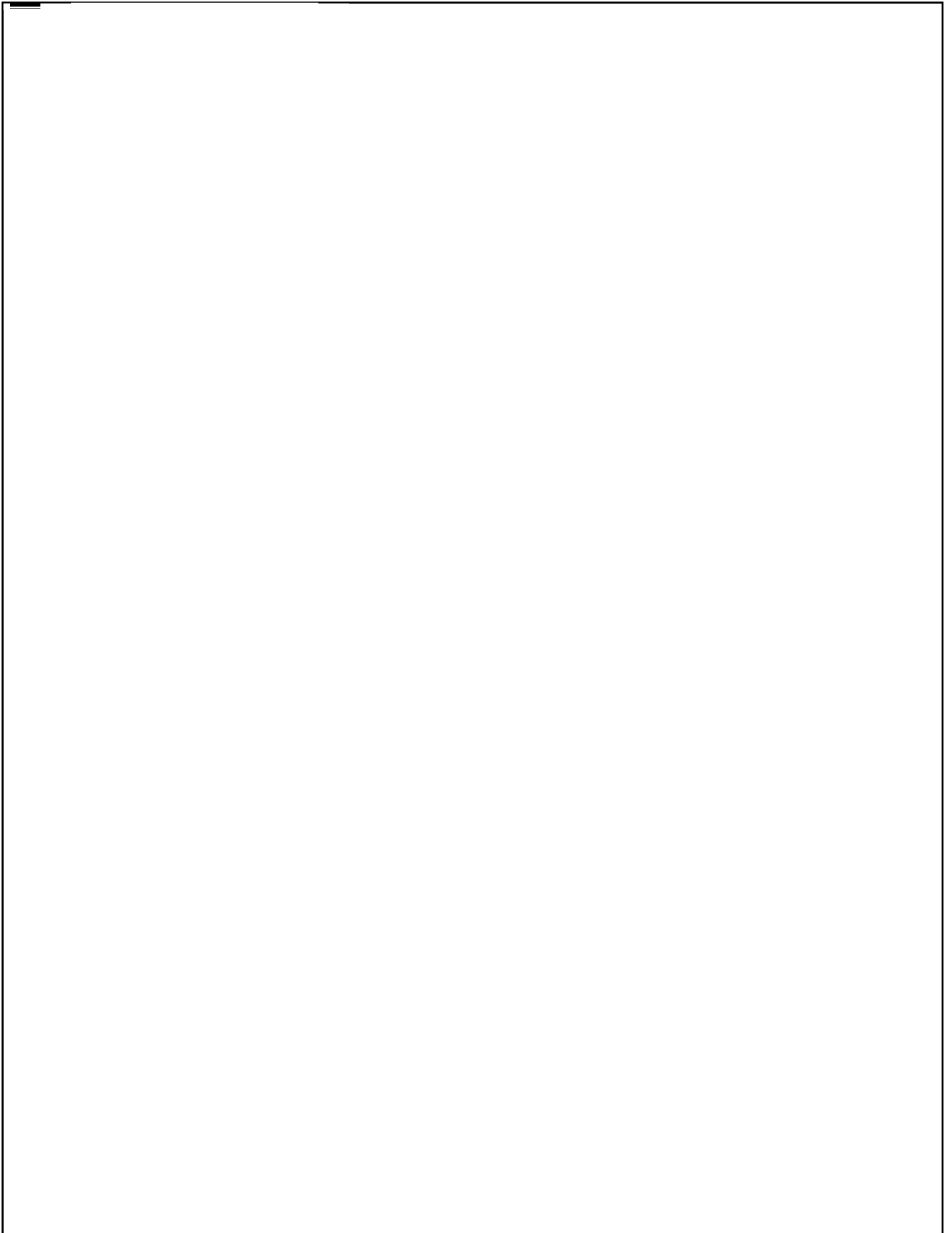
As usual, I will be happy to try to answer any questions.

Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor, [akagan@uiuc.edu](mailto:akagan@uiuc.edu)

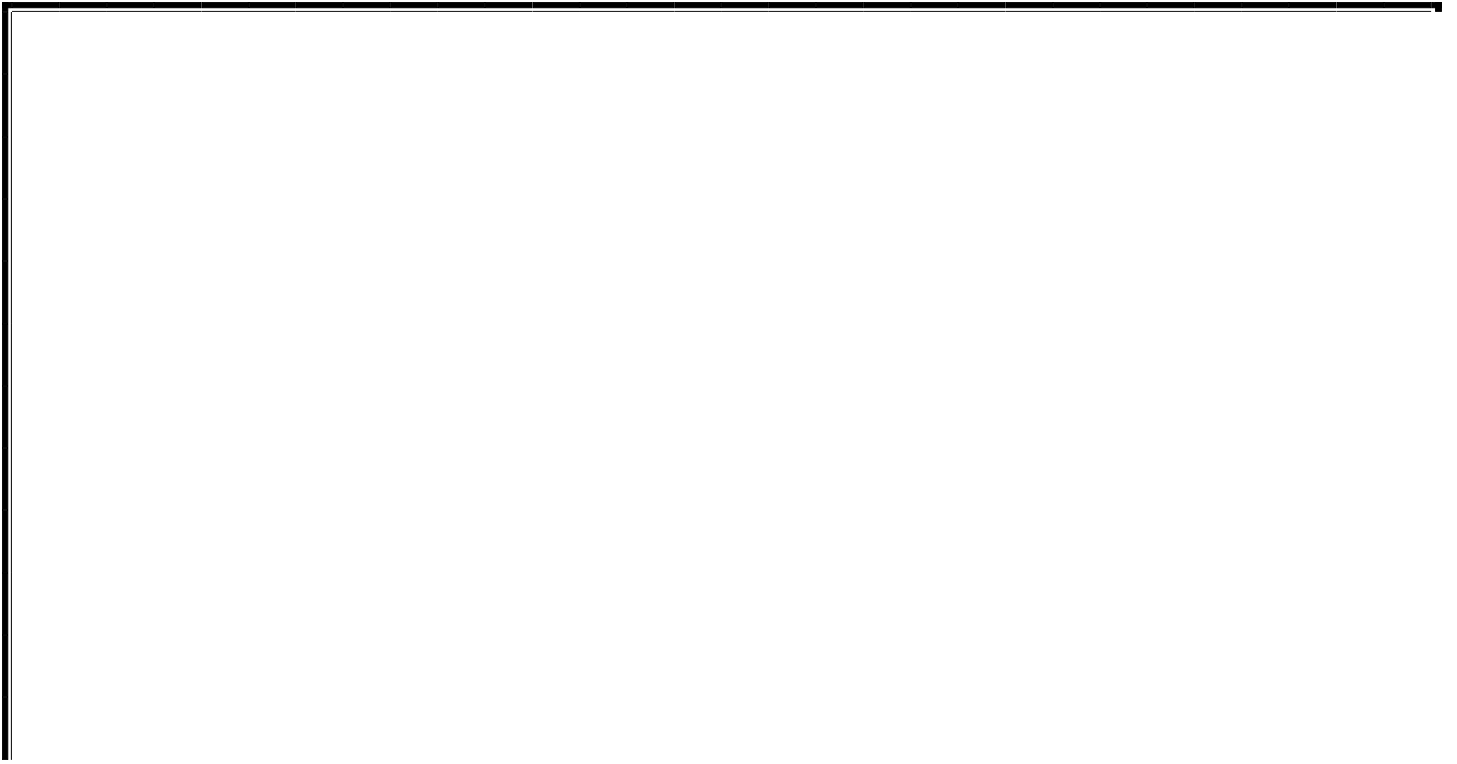
## TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT ALA ANNUAL PROGRAMS











Grossman, Elizabeth.  
Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2006.

When my laptop died, I asked friends and colleagues if they could recommend a reliable computer repair shop. The

explores the global crisis in technical waste, from the manufacture and disposal of digital devices. According to the author, Elizabeth Grossman, the 290 million people in America own over two billion pieces of high tech consumer products, including computers, cell phones, televisions, printers, fax printers, microwaves, PDAs, and entertainment systems. On average, personal computers are replaced every three years. The EPA estimates that over 2 million tons of e-waste ends up in U.S. landfills annually.

When the high tech industry started about forty years ago, it was widely proclaimed to be clean, with little impact on the workers or the environment. Today there is much evidence that the high tech industry has produced a serious legacy of toxics and health issues in some areas of the U.S., such as Silicon Valley, Endicott, New York, and Phoenix, Arizona.

And the problems are not limited only to manufacturing towns. For example the flame-retardants polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) -- found in many products, including the plastics used in electronics -- are associated with learning, memory, and behavioral problems and are now found everywhere, in the soil in the United Kingdom, in

The life of a digital device can be shockingly short. In the U.S., there are no mandatory regulations regarding the disposal of electronics, in spite of the toxic substances that make up these devices. Recycling is an option for some devices, but the vast majority of them end up in landfills.

Even when recycling happens, it too poses a health threat. In the United States, prisoners have been used to perform some of the recycling processes. Many questions have been raised concerning the health conditions under which this recycling has been done and the lack of OSHA oversight of the process. Another low cost option for recycling in the

aware of the justice and health issues related to the development and disposal of electronics. As libraries have felt the pressure to provide electronic access to resources for all patrons, keeping up with technology has become a priority. But should libraries also be considering the implications regarding the creation and recycling of the electronics they use?

Grossman points out that high-

## REVIEW, GOLDEN G

clear-

for political struggle that works across narrow identities, boundaries, and ideas of what constitutes politics,

indispensable is its insistence that we arrive at our present only through a traceable history, one that she convincingly lays out here. Understanding and acknowledging this history – something Golden Gulag makes possible – allows us to move toward a different kind of future, a future without any cages at all. Essential.

Emily Drabinski, Reference Librarian, Sarah Lawrence College

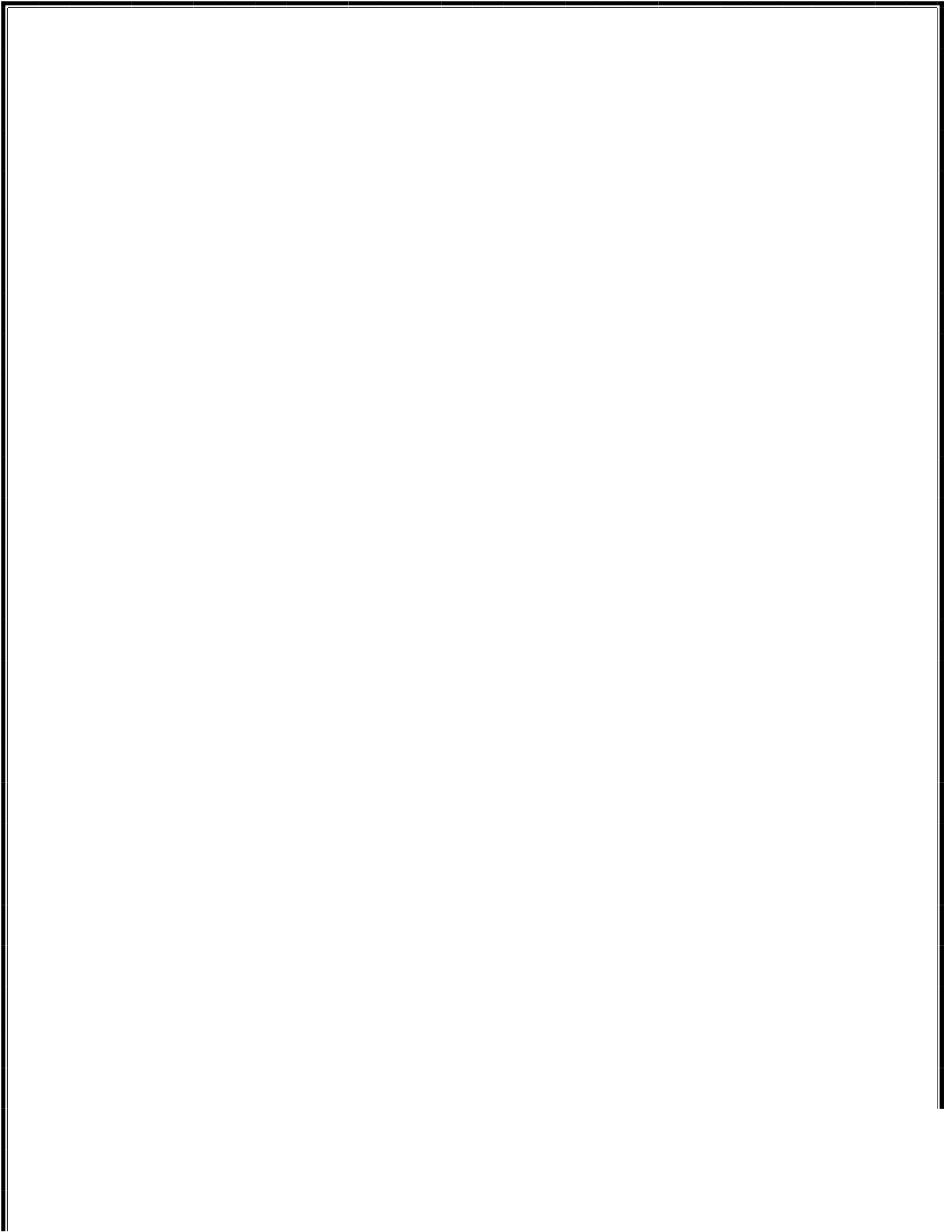
purchase and promotion of genre fiction reduces library staff to the commercialized role of moving merchandise. Though not explicitly advanced as a goal of the work, the authors make a case for the essential role of the public library as one of providing meaningful education. By extension, public libraries should collect quality literature and

serious, quality literature and nonfiction, such that this study is depicted as a sort of \_\_\_\_\_ that the reader must endure. On the contrary, readers of literature that is either not of the genre variety or on the best-seller list or both \_\_\_\_\_ their chosen reading material and do not engage in it solely because it is \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 27% of adults hold an undergraduate degree. That figure alone would

improved the work. Unique in scope, *Readers' Advisory Service in North American Public Libraries* is highly recommended for all public library staff and graduate programs in library science.

Ro Tmre Iro1>3004C90053005Agnfor.32 -30051>300035005000440057>7004840055>17004C900443004F0056>60003>004 509



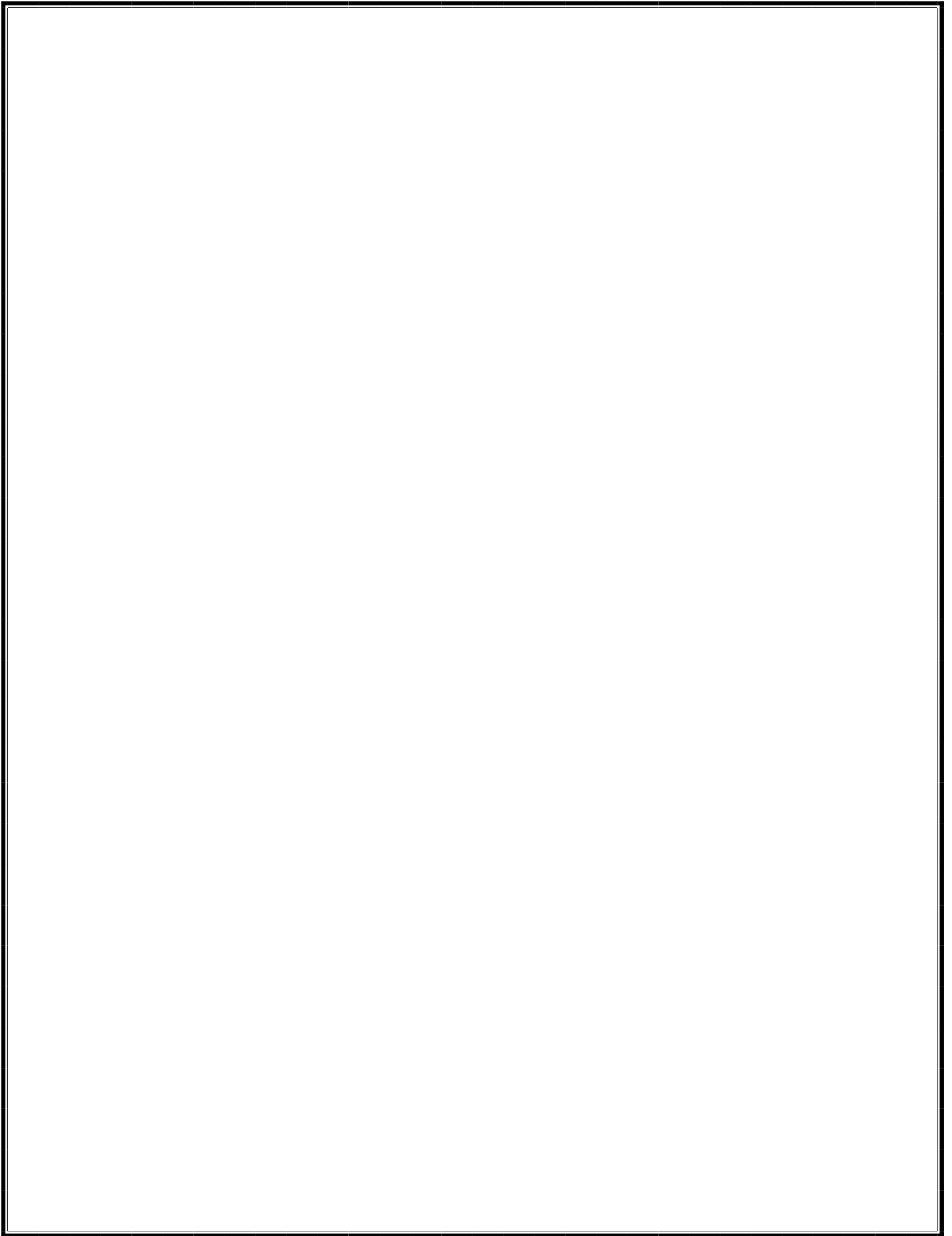


## BOOK REVIEW

Sheehan, Jacqueline, ed.  
Writers and Artists Press, 2005.

Florence, Massachusetts: Amherst

Primarily works of free-verse poetry, but also prose, is loosely organized around the themes of prison, addiction, children, family, home, love & violence, changes, and spirituality, with a final section of contributions from the not-incarcerated facilitators. The title serves as an introduction to the genre for the reviewer. Though a cursory review of similar titles did not yield a large number of published works in



## REVIEW, STATE OF FEAR, CONTINUED

We are introduced to Ramiro Niño de Guzmán, **now a teacher**, who as a child was kidnapped by Shining Path,

then arrested without charges, jailed, questioned, blindfolded, drugged, raped, and tortured before she finally began confessing to things she never did.

accurate media coverage, and when anything reported, most assumed that those being arrested or questioned

were committed all around them. Thus, when Shining Path attacked Lima, the citizens willingly gave up their civil rights out of fear; they exchanged democracy for security. Consequently, when President Fujimori dissolved Congress in a stunning coup d'etat, **he had 70% of**

These accounts, along with dreadful footage of violence, prisons, and poverty, contribute to a compelling, heartbreaking film that will leave its audience enthralled, stunned, eager to learn more, and possibly angered that

when they learned that their 2000 presidential election was stolen, they protested and removed their corrupt leader.

Beatriz Alva Hart, so profound in her hard-

Tracy Marie Nectoux, Monographic Cataloging and Metadata, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Book review

Yoshino, Kenji.

. New York: Random House, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_

---

## Book Review

Nsouli, Mona A. and Lockman, Meho E.  
Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow, 2006.

covers a lot of territory in its 146 pages. Nsouli and Lockman have gone to great lengths to find relevant material. Articles, books, doctoral dissertations, and encyclopedias are just some of the material cited in this work. In order to formulate their list of citations, Nsouli and Lockman searched more than 19 databases and roamed the stacks of the American University of Beirut, Indiana University Bloomington, the Institute of Palestine Studies, and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Twenty-two different Arab nations each have their own chapter. All members of the Arab League are represented, though some more fully than others. The sections covering nations such as Palestine, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia have multiple sections on such things as freedom of the press, laws and legislation, and copyright. Other nations like Comoros and Djibouti, where less information is available, contain only one entry

The work includes 677 citations, with a number of cross references, that date from 1960 to 2004 and includes entries in English, Arabic, and French. The multiple languages included in this text provide a broad overview of perspectives on Arab censorship and attest the efforts gone through to produce this work. However, some allowances for readers who do not speak or read Arabic or French would have been helpful. While all of the annotations are in English, many of the titles are not. The non-translated entries put the English-only speaker at a disadvantage when using this text. Nsouli and Lockman include translations of non-English titles only if the original authors provided them. For those titles that are not translated, the annotations take on an even greater importance. They are the sole source to discern the contents when they are present.

The annotations themselves are varied. In some cases, they are in depth and provide insight into the text they are describing. In other places, the annotations are only a sentence, and some entries have no annotation at all. A more even treatment on the annotations would have made this work stronger.

Nsouli and Meho have created a detailed and informative resource compiling a great number of sources on a topic that needs more attention. The presence of so many entries in this text belies the idea that censorship in the Arab world is a little explored topic, but there is a lack of comprehensive bibliographies such as these. would be a great resource for researchers interested in this topic.

Heather Hill, Doctoral Student, University of Missouri-Columbia

Congratulations to Toni Samek, Associate Professor at the



SRRTAC-L - The SRRT discussion group SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a relatively low-traffic (less

-

the SRRT discussion group, send the following message in the body of the email, to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org): subscribe  
SRRTAC-L/[your first name] [your last name] To unsubscribe: unsubscribe SRRTAC-L

SRRTMEM -

SocialResponsibilities Round Table. Announcements come from the SRRT Coordinator, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor

activities and to provide information about how to get involved. To s(ho(00520053>3804F0004Fov)-e)6(d.)-9(1 9)-2(e)6(d.)-9( )5