2017 was a relatively quiet year in terms of intellectual freedom issues in Iowa. One issue of concern that arose early on was the blatant intimidation of the State Library by a legislator for sponsoring the Askable Adults Matter post-conference at the 2017 Kids First! event. There was no action taken by the IFC or ILA although a number of Committee members (and others) wrote letters of protest as individuals.

In response to periodic questions about circulating R-rated videos to minors, the IFC wrote and distributed a document, “Rating Systems and Libraries” which presented the facts about ratings as they apply to libraries.

IFC was asked by the Public Library Forum to participate in a fall conference program on fake news. Due to some confusion on PLF’s part, the program was been planned without IFC participation. Since this discovery was made after the conference schedule was set, IFC didn’t attempt to assemble another program.

At the Fall Planning Day IFC members devised and submitted a plan for a preconference, “Intellectual Freedom in the Era of Trigger Warnings” for the fall, 2018 conference.

Submitted by Michael Wright, IFC Chair