Preface

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It is with great appreciation to the contributing authors that we present this issue of Library Trends entitled, “New Perspectives on Intellectual Freedom.” This issue is an outgrowth of the June 24, 2012, American Library Association Library History Round Table Research Forum that took place in Anaheim, California. The authors of these papers presented their perspectives on the history of intellectual freedom as evidenced in the concerns and actions of libraries, librarians, and library associations. Additionally, two other contributors were asked to provide their viewpoints on issues regarding intellectual freedom, and Louise Robbins, author of some of the most important works in the area of intellectual freedom and librarianship, was kind enough to write the introduction to the volume.

A collection of fresh writings that focus on matters of intellectual freedom should enliven scholarly communication about our rights as citizens and the library’s role in helping rising generations to secure those rights and build communities and societies that endure.

Mark McCallon is associate dean for library services, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas. He has authored several articles in the area of library history, including biographies of E. J. Josey and Robert Wedgeworth for the African American National Biography (Oxford, 2008). He has also made presentations at the American Library Association Annual Conference on the controversial film The Speaker. He is currently co-authoring the book American Academic Library Historiography with John Mark Tucker.