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## Founders Keepers Newsletter 2016-11-15

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# Founders Keepers

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving Break (Libraries closed)
- Dec. 3 classes end
- Dec. 5-10 Finals
- Dec. 10-11: Fall commencement
- Dec. 11-22 Interim hours
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2 Winter Break (Libraries closed)
- Jan. 3-15 Interim hours
- Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Day (Libraries closed)

## You Oughta Be on YOUTUBE...

At the American Library Association conference in Orlando, Florida, Rob Ridinger noticed a large booth at the entrance to the exhibits sponsored by the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and showcasing Banned Books Week in September. There were shelves of books that had been banned at one time on a variety of grounds, and the intent of the booth was to get convention goers to stop, choose a title that ap-

pealed to them, and make a short video clip which would later be posted on YOUTUBE during Banned Books Week. As Rob recalls it "There was a great variety of books to pick from...and some titles were just puzzling while others, like *The Color Purple*, were more familiar. I had walked by twice before I decided to investigate and was delighted to spot a very familiar book in the mix." The book he found (and read from)

was *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone*. The only catch in all this was that readers were unable to view themselves before leaving Orlando, so Rob had to wait until September 25 to see how his reading had come out. The result has now been viewed 229 times, and shows no sign of slowing down. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoAHCIS5jdE>



## Photos, Photos, Photos...

Below are some photos shared with *Founders Keepers*. Enjoy!



Kathy Ladell at an Open House for students in October. She attends numerous student events each year, promoting UNIV 105 and University Libraries' services.



A few of our costumed colleagues at the Halloween Party. Annie Oelschlager (behind the cat mask) won the gift card drawing.

## The Last Word

It's been a tough couple of weeks. My husband maxed out our cell phone data allotment checking headline news every few minutes (or so it seemed). The consequence was only a slow-down of data loading, but it was a reminder of how obsessed we had become over the elections. No matter who you voted for, this is a stressful time. Uncertainty stresses everyone, and what politicians will do in a new term is always an area of concern. Will they keep their promises? Will they find new ways of addressing old problems? Will Illinois ever get a budget???? ALA President Julie Todaro sent out a statement on diversity and inclusion that some may view as political. In fact, it is based on core ALA values and statements such as the Code of Professional Ethics and the Library Bill of Rights. I often think of these two statements as flip sides of the same issues, one written for library professionals and the other written for li-

brary users. Libraries are viewpoint neutral, but we are not neutral in advocating for equitable access for all our users or teaching them the information competencies they need. Our Code of Professional Ethics states that, "We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests," and "We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources." If a user is seeking information with which we do not agree personally, we accept their right to seek such information. After all, we sometimes boast that we have "something to offend everyone." However, if a user is seeking help be-

cause he or she is finding only one side of a complex topic, we can suggest search strategies that would bring more choices, emphasizing the need to evaluate that which is found in standard and consistent ways. We can offer help, asking, "Are you finding what you are looking for?" or, "Did you find the information you need?" We can be proactive, but we can't be discriminatory, either in the information we provide or the users we serve. Libraries' need to be viewpoint neutral is not always understood, even by our most ardent supporters. Still, we should be clear about our role in our community and our society. It's too bad all politicians aren't required to read our Code of Professional Ethics and the Library Bill of Rights...Hmmm. Now, THAT is a cause I could support!

