

## **International Relations Committee Report to Council**

**June 23, 2019**

**Submitted by the IRC Chair, Robin Kear**

Committee Members: Robin Kear (Chair) Bobby Bothmann, Min Chou, June Garcia, Valerie Gross, Eboni Henry, Katherina Lee, Haipeng Li, Joan Weeks, Evviva Weinraub, Janice Welburn, Eugenia Beh (Intern), Ben Himmelfarb (Intern), Michael Dowling (Staff Liaison)

### International at Annual

Five hundred and thirty-one librarians from sixty-nine countries joined U.S. colleagues here in Washington, D.C. The International Relations Round Table welcomed and assisted colleagues at the “International Librarian’s Orientation” and at the International Visitors Lounge. All conference attendees were able to interact with fifty exhibitors from fourteen countries.

IFLA President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón and Secretary General Gerald Leitner were honored guests, providing a report to International Relations Committee as well as an “IFLA Update Session.” AALA Representatives to IFLA staffed an IFLA stand in the Registration Area.

In addition to the IFLA program, there were over a dozen international focused programs, from country specific presentations such as how Japanese public librarians engage in building better communities, to how dialog and exchange transforms Russia and U.S. libraries, to an excursion into Africana collections around the world. Other programs provide insight on how U.S. librarians and libraries can become connected internationally. There were also twenty-three international focused posters.

The IRRT International Connections Committee, in partnership with ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo’s presidential committee, curated a collection of photographs submitted by librarians around the world. The “Best Practices from World Libraries” photo gallery displayed around the convention center featured library projects and programs that best demonstrate “Libraries = Strong Communities.” Highlighted with many U.S. libraries were libraries from Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, and the Netherlands.

International attendees will be feted at “International Librarians Reception” on Monday evening in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress.

### IFLA Report

President Pérez-Salmerón and Secretary General Leitner provided an update on recent IFLA activities. Due to a delay in the completion of the new conference center in Auckland, the 2020 IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) cannot take place as scheduled. Auckland will now be the 2022 congress site. IFLA is looking at final alternative options for 2020 and a

selection will be made before WLIC in Athens this August. The 2021 Congress has been selected and will also be announced in Athens.

IFLA has been working on a new strategic plan, which will be voted on in Athens. IFLA will then move on to a discussion of its governance structure.

In May in Buenos Aires IFLA released a new Development and Access to Information (DA2I) Report, produced in partnership with the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington. It brings together data and perspectives from across the range of policy areas that fall under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

The report provides an overview of global trends in the key pillars of meaningful access – physical connectivity to the internet, skills, social and cultural factors, and legal barriers. It also offers views from external experts on the role of access in development in different areas, and of course evidence about the contribution of libraries.

In Buenos Aires IFLA was also able to bring together Ministers of Culture from eighteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which resulted in the “Buenos Aires Declaration” that recognizes the indispensable contribution of libraries across the region to development, including in national development strategies, and ensure that libraries of all types have the resources, support and infrastructure needed to carry out their missions.

### ALA IFLA Nomination Results

IRO Director Michael Dowling was elected to the IFLA Governing Board for 2019-2021. ALA nominated twenty-two members to various IFLA Section Committees for 2019-2023. This year a record number seventeen (out of forty-five) IFLA Sections went to a ballot. Eleven ALA nominees were automatically appointed to Sections that did not go to ballot. Of the eleven others who went to ballot only five were elected. One of those elected was ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo who will begin a four-year term on the IFLA Management of Library Associations Section at the end of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Athens in August. The IRC discussed the more competitive environment, and IFLA leaders noted that future voting will provide more details on candidates such as who nominated them, which would note an ALA nominee.

### IFLA/ALA Webinar Series

IRO continued ALA's partnership with IFLA by hosting two webinars this spring. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, librarians from Canada, Germany and South Africa shared their experiences during “Benefits of International Exchange Programs” An on May 28<sup>th</sup> the free global webinar was “Enhancing your strengths through coaching.” The programming is created by IFLA's Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section (CPDWL) and IFLA New Professionals SIG (NPSIG). ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis is coordinator of the series this year for CPDWL. The webinars are available at <http://npsig.wordpress.com/webinars/>

In addition to the IFLA webinars, IRO worked with the IRRT Webinar Ad Hoc Committee to present two webinars aimed to promote interests, programs, and activities on international librarianship. The first webinar of the year took place on April 8<sup>th</sup>, where USA-based librarians shared their experience participating in the “Librarians without Borders-Guatemala” program. The second webinar- "Hosting International Visiting Librarians in US Academic Libraries: The Korea Foundation Librarian Intern Program"- will be presented on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional information is available at <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>

### ACRL International Perspective Webinars

ACRL International Perspectives Webinar series also provided global knowledge with “Academic Librarianship in Côte d'Ivoire / Ivory Coast on April 25<sup>th</sup>.”

### ALA President International Relations Initiatives

ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo continued her presidential efforts with a third event hosted by ALA and the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library. "Sustainable Development Goals in Libraries Today: the role of libraries in strengthening our communities" provided an international platform to discuss how libraries around the world are creating and cultivating new relationships to help communities learn, understand and support sustainable professional development. IRC chair Robin Kear participated as a panelist.

<http://www.worldpeaceever.tv/economy-and-society/368-sdg-in-libraries.html>

Garcia-Febo’s international relations working group, Barbara Ford, Ray Pun, and Robin Kear continued with the I AM ALA featuring international ALA members, which will be sustained by IRRT, and hosting a Library Map of the World display in the registration area here at annual.

### Sharjah International Library Conference

IRO has been developing the professional content for this fall’s 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sharjah International Library Conference, November 5-7. The preliminary program is done, and registration is now open. ALA President-elect Wanda Brown will serve as the keynote speaker, as have previous ALA Presidents. In addition to the main two-day conference three full-day preconference workshops are slated, two based on ALA or division output. “New Concepts and Applications for Cataloging” will focus on the new RDA toolkit. For the third year the conference will include an ACRL Road Show. This year it will be “Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action.”

### SCOE

IRC members discussed the SCOE implications for the IRC at both meetings. IRC members provided input to the SCOE feedback meetings that were held at Annual. IRC Chair Robin Kear will be providing written feedback to SCOE chair, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, on behalf of the committee.

## **International Programs and Events ALA Annual 2019 Washington, D.C.**

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019**

#### **Transforming Community Relationships - IRRT Preconference**

(IRRT) 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Libraries today continue to be attuned to meeting the needs of their communities. In the 21st century, libraries are encouraged to be the center of community life, to be community builders and places where people get involved. This pre-conference will focus on innovation in meeting these community needs. It will include representatives of different types of libraries around the world who will share their innovative practices and how they can be adapted in other libraries.

#### **International Librarians Orientation**

(IRRT) 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

For international and other attendees from abroad, this session is an introduction to the ALA Conference and the city of Washington, D.C. This session will provide an overview of the conference, including recommended programs and social activities. Learn about conference transportation, how to navigate the exhibit hall and how to get involved. You will also meet and network with other colleagues from ALA's many divisions and round table who will help you to get the most from your conference experience.

### **SATURDAY, June 22, 2019**

#### **Grassroots Library Initiatives in South America**

(IRC) 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

A number of grassroots initiatives have created community libraries in South America, trying to make substantive differences in the quality education in underserved communities. Come hear about these projects, and how they have succeeded through variety of collaborations and partnerships. Also hear about the challenges they face to be sustainable- funding, training, cultivating volunteers, etc. We invite you to come and learn from a representative panel sharing their expertise and viewpoints, including how you can participate in grassroots efforts.

#### **Serving communities: locally and globally - IRRT Chair's Program**

(IRRT) 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

As librarians and information professionals we assist our patrons to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address their needs and the needs of the communities they represent. The IRRT 2019 Chair's program will address how different types of libraries develop innovative services and programs to meet the needs of the communities they serve: locally, nationally and globally. The panel presenters representing national, public and academic libraries will share

their experiences of programming and outreach in their libraries which situate them as centers of innovation, learning, and partners in moving their communities forward.

### **Japan Libraries: Transforming Libraries with Innovative Ideas - How Japanese Public Librarians Engage in Building Better Communities**

(IRC) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

This program introduces how Japanese public libraries develop creative ideas and innovations to transform themselves. It consists of an overview and three cases. 1) A small-Japanese town librarian's outreach to farmers connects people through books and events to become an information hub in the town. 2) A Japanese prefecture library faces a rapidly aging society and works out programs for senior citizens, collaborating with families of dementia patients as well as local government. 3) A Japanese city library provides hands-on support to would-be entrepreneurs in their business plans; and, to high-school students in realizing their dreams.

### **Will They Stay or Will They Go? 'Sense of Belonging' as a Foundation for Creating Inclusive Library Services for International Students**

(ACRL/IRC) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

International students bring diverse perspectives that are essential to U.S. colleges and universities. However, they face more barriers than domestic students. In this program we will explore research on 'sense of belonging' as it relates to international students as a basis for creating inclusive library services. Theories of culture shock and student development in an international student services context will provide a perspective for attendees to develop inclusive services appropriate to their unique user populations.

### **Understanding research libraries in North Korea: A case study of Pyongyang University of Science & Technology (PUST) - ACRL International Perspectives Discussion**

(ACRL) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

This presentation will cover the current state of research libraries in North Korea with a special focus on Pyongyang University of Science & Technology (PUST). PUST is the only university in North Korea that is established and operated by a foreign entity, and it provides unique opportunities to understand the role of academic libraries in the higher education system in North Korea. The presenter will discuss how international agencies have quietly assisted building a digital library at PUST and how faculty and students at PUST perceive library services. The presenter will also offer some insights on partnership opportunities with libraries in North Korea.

### **When You Can't Go Home Again: Refugee and Exile Authors in the U.S.**

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Facing censorship, threats and uncertainty, refugee and exile authors travel to the U.S., where they confront a new set of obstacles. "When You Can't Go Home Again" will explore the challenges authors experience in countries around the world, and issues that they encounter after moving to the States. These issues range from locating an interested publisher and depending on a translator, to resisting self-censorship and being aware of the ever-watchful presence of their home country. After taking an eye-opening exploration into the realm of international writings and translations, attendees will gain insight into how they can welcome these authors on their shelves and in their libraries.

## **Knowledge is Global: Expanding the Awareness and Impact of Research from the Global South**

(ACRL) 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

As we move toward a more openly accessible research environment, progress is often framed in terms of increasing access to original studies and associated data published in peer reviewed scholarly journals indexed in databases like Web of Science and Scopus. Much of this research is already open access, but because major western databases don't index most of those journals, it does not register in terms of traditional bibliometrics that use citation counts to measure the impact of authors, their articles and the journals they publish in. This panel gathers researchers, librarians and policy experts to explore new and innovative ways to change the ways we both access and assess research outputs, and why that is important.

**SUNDAY, June 23, 2019**

### **Bringing Global to Local: The Horner Fellowship Arizona-Japan Librarian Exchange**

(IRRT, Sister Libraries) 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

In this panel presentation, members of the Horner Fellowship Committee, together with an Arizona Horner Fellow and a representative of the JLA, will discuss the evolution of the Horner Fellowship. They will describe the criteria and process for selecting Horner Fellows, the benefits and challenges of this kind of exchange program, and the experiences of the Arizona and Japanese library professionals who have traveled with the support of Horner funds. There will be special focus on practical implications for the respective local and global communities, the impact of the Horner Fellowship on the fellows' personal and professional lives, especially in forging new relationships, and the implementation of new acquired practices in their professional settings, such as new expertise in haiku poetry, puppet theater, manga books, school libraries, teaching literacy skills, culturally inclusive skills, teaching students with disabilities, and many other things.

### **Global Solutions - International Poster Session (IRRT)**

9:30 am – 11:00 am

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Library of Congress Literacy Awards: Recognizing Global Literacy Initiatives</li><li>2. Reading Auction-A Creative Campaign for Reading Promotion in Taiwan</li><li>3. Building the Trusted Digital Repository in the National Level</li><li>4. Beyond information: showing wider roles public libraries can play in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa</li><li>5. Talk Sense, Not Shop: Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners Online and in the Library Classroom</li><li>6. Special Library Service for Public Libraries</li><li>7. Destination Indonesia: An Embedded Librarian's Experience as Part of a Short-term Study Abroad Course</li><li>8. Riverside Drive Revisited: A dynamic approach to promotion of world literature in translation in the library</li><li>9. Building Special Poster Collections at Hong Kong Baptist University Library</li><li>10. Critical Global Citizenship In and Out of the Classroom: Incorporating Community-Based Global Learning and Cross-Cultural Information Literacy in an Undergraduate Course</li><li>11. Bridging the Digital Divide through the use of Chromebooks and a Stand-alone Server in Rural Ethiopia</li><li>12. From Behind the Bars - To an Enriched World</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>13. International Collaboration in Academic Libraries: The Case of University of Split and Penn State University</li><li>14. Understanding Our Users - Supporting the Transition to Research4Life from TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library)</li><li>15. Global Library Internship Without Leaving Campus</li><li>16. Bilingual Language Acquisition in Early Literacy</li><li>17. Announcing the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative Translated YA Book Prize!</li><li>18. Digital Humanities/Scholarship in the Asia-Pacific: Trends and Developments</li><li>19. 'One City, One Book' : A South Korean Experience</li><li>20. Library Resources in Universities Supporting Their East Asian Studies Subjects</li><li>21. Library Best Practices: Fresh Innovations from Asia</li><li>22. Immigrant Librarians in the United States</li><li>23. Praxis, Baby, Praxis': Building Capacity in Information Literacy Teaching &amp; Assessment: A Territory-Wide Strategy of the Academic Libraries in Hong Kong</li><li>24. Libraries as Advocates for Open Educational Resources: Building Partnership in Kyrgyzstan</li><li>25. Embedded Librarian Services: An Information Marketing Strategy</li></ol> |
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### **Dialog and Exchange Transforms Russia and U.S. Libraries**

(IRC) 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

International exchange has been shown to increase mutual understanding between cultures, which is increasingly important in times of global tension, as the outlooks, attitudes, and beliefs of Russian and American citizens with respect to the each other influence and shape in important ways the possibilities, and the limits, of the relationship between our two peoples. Come hear how recent dialog and exchanges between the U.S. librarians and the Russian librarians, including library school students, have had led to positive impacts in both countries. Numerous libraries across Russia have evolved to become community centers, locations for civic discussions on the future of their towns and cities, and much more. U.S. libraries are now learning to focus more on the impact they make to the societal issues that are tied to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Preparing for a Changing World: How Libraries Facilitate the Acquisition of New Skill Sets in Communities - IRRT Paper and Projects Session**

(IRRT) 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Societies are constantly changing whether because of demography, socio-political climates or even new technology disruptions which require new ways of thinking and learning. All of these have an impact on communities, how they function, interact as well as a bearing on who gets ahead and who falls behind. Libraries have long sought to level the playing field, promoting equity and inclusivity while trying to keep up with change. In this session, speakers will share on international library projects, trends and issues relating to new skills sets that libraries facilitate in their community such as but not limited to health literacy for an aging population, new media initiatives and strategies that help families navigate a changing media landscape, critical evaluation skills to help members assess the information they consume online and other life skills like communication and negotiation that have grown in importance in a divisive world.

### **IFLA Update**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Want to learn more about the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)? Come and hear updates from IFLA's President and staff about the 2019 conference in Greece, the IFLA organization, committee information, and more!

## **MONDAY, June 24, 2019**

### **Leaning International: Stories from the Field**

(IRRT International Connections) 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Are you an MLS student/recent graduate interested in working internationally, or a seasoned information professional looking for a new experience? Join the IRRT's International Communications Committee as we host a panel discussion featuring experienced and diverse American librarians with international experience. In this discussion we will hear their experiences and stories, how they became involved in international work, and their best advice for getting involved with international librarianship. After their discussion, we will have a Q & A Opportunity.

### **Librarians and U.S. State Department Study Abroad Scholarships**

(IRC) 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Help connect high-school students and their parents in your school or community with US Government exchange program scholarships that provide the opportunity for over a thousand students to study overseas each year. Learn how students can increase their leadership skills and prepare for the globalized workforce by spending up to an academic year in countries such as China, Russia, Morocco, and many others. State Department staff will explain these exciting programs, help demystify the application process, and how you can promote and assist at your library.

### **Libraries Advancing Peace with Local Initiatives: Learn Globally, Act Locally -**

(IRRT ISLD) 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Libraries abroad are becoming leaders in promoting peace globally by taking action in their local communities. In this presentation, we will learn about an Iberbibliotecas-funded Community-Library Inter-Action (CLIA) project entitled "Interact with your community from the public library: Learning and advancing peace from the contexts of Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru." Each presenter will illustrate how the project was implemented at his or her location and will speak about outcomes that have been observed thus far. There will be time for questions and a resource sheet will be available.

### **An Excursion into Africana Collections Around the World**

(IRC) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Interest in Africa continues to grow in all facets, from education to development, human rights, engineering, politics, commerce, and health among others. Information – the common denominator among these topics – has become a highly sought-after commodity. This program will highlight both distinguished and little-known (yet essential) Africana collections from different parts of the world. The speakers will discuss the scope of their collections and how these collections may be made available and accessible to users beyond their primary clientele. It is anticipated that these conversations will lead to new institutional partnerships and collaborations on access, acquisition, digitization, and lending practices, while simultaneously opening up new research possibilities for information seekers of all kinds.

### **From Alexandria to Aarhus: What Three Americans Learned Exploring International Libraries**

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Libraries exist all over the world in diverse communities, and while each has unique objectives and needs, many goals, experiences, and challenges are shared among libraries across the globe, making learning from colleagues in different countries inspiring and eye-opening. Through a generous donation to fund an international travel fellowship, Alexandria (VA) Library staff have traveled to Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark to explore libraries, learn about international librarianship, and bring best practices back to Alexandria. Discover the unique initiatives taking place in European libraries, how to build your own connections with international libraries, and how to cultivate donor support for uncommon initiatives.

### **An International Leaders Forum: Leading a Vision for a Global Community of Libraries**

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Libraries around the world share a deep commitment to support the enduring values necessary

for the continued progress of humanity including justice, freedom, equality and peace. These values are universal and borderless. Responding to a call by international members of ALA, the IRRT International Connections Committee invited international library leaders to help us understand the concept of a global community of libraries and why it matters. They will share their vision of a global community of libraries, discuss opportunities and challenges we face and how we can work together to make it happen.

### **An International Leaders Forum**

(IRRT) 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Following up on the steps of "An International Leaders Forum: Leading a Vision for a Global Community of Libraries," this session will be moderated by ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo in conversation with global library leaders about best practices and recommendations to foster international collaborations by libraries and library workers.

### **International Librarians Reception**

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building, Great Hall

Your chance to meet and mingle with librarians from more than 80 countries! This is a great chance to enjoy a mix of culture and ideas, awards presentations, regional cuisine, hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. ALA President, Loida Garcia-Febo, will announce the recipients of the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Projects. Winners of the Bogle Pratt Award and the Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for International Librarianship will be announced. Free to international librarians registered for the full conference.