CHARLES WILLETT: AN ALTERNATIVE AMERICAN VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP

By Ron Chepesiuk

Charles Willett is one of the American library profession's best known critics of ALA policy and champion of the alternative press. For seventeen years, he worked in acquisitions and collection development, last as a department head at the University of Florida, where he was denied tenure after a bitter struggle. Then worked for almost ten years as sales representative for a library supplier, traveling extensively, first in the U.S. and then throughout Central and Western Europe and South Africa.

In 1991, he founded CRISYS Press, and since 1993 he has been the coordinator of the Alternatives in Print Task Force of the ALA's Social Responsibilities Roundtable, planning programs and marketing books and periodicals at an exhibit booth at the ALA annual meeting, and publishing the biennial directory, Alternative Publishers of Books in North America. He also founded the Association of Independent Publishers quarterly, alternative review journal, Counterpoise.

Given that Willett will be speaking at the ALA annual meeting this June 27 from 2 to 4 p.m., IL thought it appropriate to interview him and get his outspoken views on ALA policy, international librarianship, the alternative press, intellectual freedom, and other topics of interest to librarians.

Q. Why did you start Counterpoise?
A. The course of my life has taken has led me to question the values of mainstream American culture. I was educated at elite private schools and Harvard College to believe that the United States of America was a country of honor.

But a series of eye-opening combat experiences in Korea as an ordinary rifleman; study in England and Germany; diplomatic service in Germany and Austria; activism for human rights; management positions in acquisitions and collection development at three university libraries; and travels throughout the U.S., Europe, and South Africa for nine years as sales representative for an American bookseller ... all this gradually introduced me to alternative points of view. I founded Counterpoise to help others make similar discoveries.

Q. Counterpoise has the subtitle "For Social Responsibilities, Liberty and Dissent." Could you explain what you mean by that?
A. Counterpoise is published by the Alternatives in Print Task Force of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table. SRRT was started in 1969 by librarians who believed that libraries should actively support responsible social change. AIP, one of its first task forces, was founded to defend free speech and to promote the acquisition and use of little-known materials encompassing the full spectrum of facts, opinions and points of view. Counterpoise offers a new vehicle for that mission.

Q. What kind of role do you see the publication fulfilling in the world of library publishing?
A. Other review journals take money as their first variable, choosing titles to review on the basis of their corporate, government, or university backing and expected sales. Counterpoise, on the other hand, disregards money, choosing little-known (Continued on page 3, Column 1)
MESSAGE FROM THE IRR T CHAIR
GLOBAL IS ENTERING U.S. LIBRARY VOCABULARY

By Lucinda Covert-Vail

As we approach our annual conference in New Orleans, the excitement and anticipation are beginning to build, not to mention the organizational angst as we pull it all together. The speakers are set, the flowers have been ordered, the international visitors lounge is ready, an outstanding set of international papers has been selected, and the international poster session presenters are probably searching for the ideal push pin. All that is left is for each of you to make an appearance, attend the papers, visit the poster sessions, and take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to meet with your international colleagues and exchange ideas about librarianship here and abroad.

Visit the international pages on the ALA website. Both the IRT and the ALA International Relations Office pages are filled with information about the organization, international programming at the annual conference, and information for you about international opportunities. If you want to work in the international visitors’ lounge or be a mentor to an international visitor, but just forgot to sign up, there is still time. The websites will give you all the information. The addresses are:

http://www.ala.org/irtables/irtables_home.html — Click on “International Relations”

http://www.ala.org/work/international—International Relations Office

Thanks in advance of the annual conference to all IRT members and the ALA International Relations staff who put in many hours to organize the programs, mentoring, international visitors lounge, web pages, international papers and poster sessions, reception, and other international activities for the year. I also want to thank Ron Chepesiuk and Ravi Sharma for their joint editorship of International Leads for the last three years. It has been a major effort and their dedication and collective editorial eye have kept all of us informed about international and IRT activities through the publication.

The Round Table was founded “in the belief that participation by librarians in library programs abroad [would] contribute to an improvement in the library profession and in library services both here and abroad as well as to international understanding.” The IRT has offered a variety of programs over the years. International Leads became a quarterly publication in 1957 as LEADS, a Fact Sheet, and the international visitors lounge appeared at annual conferences in the 60’s. The IRT is a membership-based group, and has always offered a forum at conferences, in print and now on the web for all of us to come together and share our ideas, experiences, and perspectives on international librarianship and the profession.

As I look around the U.S. library world, it is clear that little by little, “global” is entering our vocabulary. Many universities are adding global and international outreach to their mission statements. School and public libraries are increasingly adding foreign language materials to their already heavily used collections and developing programming and activities to reach out to their new communities. We no longer have to go abroad to be global, it is coming to us, and we now have the opportunity in our home institutions to introduce international awareness and discussion into our activities.

It has (or will be) a wonderful fiftieth year, and I’m sure I speak for us all as we look forward to the next half century. If you are attending the ALA annual conference, please join us at any (or all) of the IRT activities we’ve organized. And bring a friend as well! Enjoy New Orleans. I look forward to meeting all of you there.

Lucinda Covert-Vail is chair of the ALA International Relations Round Table.

WEB PAGE EDITOR

The IRT Publications is seeking candidates for the volunteer position of Web Page Editor. Inquiries and applications should be sent to Richard A. Olsen at the James P. Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908 (rolsen@ric.edu). The appointment will be made at the ALA annual Conference in New Orleans.
CHARLES WILLETT: AN ALTERNATIVE AMERICAN VOICE

(Continued from page 1)

A. The titles reviewed often deal with other countries and cultures. Let me give you some figures. The cumulative subject index to volume 2, which reviewed 322 titles, shows 15 entries for Africa, 9 for Asia, 4 for Australia/New Zealand, 12 for Canada, 18 for Europe, 13 for Latin America and the West Indies, 5 for the Middle East, 20 for Indigenous People, 36 for International Relations, and 38 for Multiculturalism. This year I hope we can raise those figures even higher. The associate editors for Australia, Canada and the UK are residents and citizens of those countries, and several American editors have extensive knowledge of foreign languages and area studies.

And for foreign readers interested in the United States, Counterpoise offers alternative points of view not found in other library publications.

Q. Does the ALA spend enough time on international issues?

A. ALA should encourage joint projects among American and foreign librarians, similar to the links that have existed among librarians all over Europe for decades. Working groups of specialists, communicating by e-mail, through the Internet, and at occasional technical meetings, could coordinate policies and practices, and strengthen international understanding. American library collections are woefully inadequate in foreign materials. Of the 18 titles listed in the Almost Banned Book Awards of 1998, eight were published abroad.

A good example of a joint project partly funded by ALA was the international meeting of progressive librarians organized by SFRIT’s International Responsibilities Task Force at the Annual Conference in Washington last summer. Librarians from the UK, Sweden, Germany, Austria, and South Africa presented a very good program called “Social Responsibility Around the World.” Each speaker expressed quite different experiences and concerns. The texts will be published in the next issue of “Progressive Librarian.”

One of the visitors, Chris Atton from Napier University, Edinburgh, received AIP’s annual Jackie Eubanks Award for his writings on alternative librarianship, especially his excellent book (held by only 155 OCLC libraries), Alternative Literature: A Practical Guide for Librarians (Gower, 1996, ISBN 0-566-07665-9). In accepting the award Atton noted how much it meant in the UK for a British librarian to be honored in the United States.

Q. Should librarians from other parts...
LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION IN PALESTINE: A FIELD REPORT
by Ron Chepeshiuk and R.N. Sharma

From November 10 to 18, 1997, we were part of a three member delegation that visited the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The delegation also included Professor Fouad El-Harazin, President of the Gaza Gouvernate International Foundation. It was the first official delegation of American librarians ever to visit Palestine. During our visit, the delegation met with officials of the Ministry of Higher Education, presidents, deans, directors of libraries, librarians, faculty members and students of various institutions, as well as President Yasser Arafat; Ms. Entersar El Wazeer, Minister of Social Services; Mr. Jir Alquwah, chief advisor to Yasser Arafat; and El Shawa, Mayor of Gaza City.

This past April, we published LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION IN PALESTINE: A FIELD REPORT, which describes the condition of libraries in Palestine. The 102-page report has been sent to President Arafat and will be used as a planning document for the future development of libraries in Palestine. The report provides a summary of conditions for librarians in Palestine. Here are some of the major points:

• The conditions of libraries in the Gaza/West Bank from all perspectives are poor.
• Only one library has journals and newspapers on microforms.
• Two libraries have Internet facilities, but they are for the use of librarians only.
• Budgets for libraries are inadequate. For example, many libraries have no, or almost no, book budget.
• There are no library schools in Palestine to train librarians.
• The book collections are outdated in many libraries and lack recent titles.
• Libraries within Palestine have no communication with libraries in other parts of the area, and this has retarded development.

The report makes 34 recommendations for improving library service in Palestine. They include:
• There is an urgent need to develop a proper plan for all types of libraries, including academic, public, school, and special libraries.
• The Ministry of Higher Education should appoint a committee to develop standards for all academic libraries.
• Academic libraries should be given five to six percent of the total budget of the institution.
• Collections should be developed for all types of libraries.
• A few schools of library and information science should be started to train librarians for all types of libraries and award bachelor and master's degrees in the subject. All degree programs should include paid, full-time internships of at least six months. It will help prepare better librarians and library educators.
• A few consultants from Arab and Western nations should be hired to plan, guide and lead the development of libraries and librarianship.
• More public libraries should be open in all areas, including remote villages with free access to collections for all ages, including children. It would help them to become better citizens of their nations.
• More effort should be made to get grants from various international foundations and associations such as UNESCO, World Bank, Ford Foundation, Gates Learning Foundation, and other agencies to develop libraries and librarianship.
• Major publishers and vendors in different countries should be approached and asked to donate books, journals and technology to the emerging nation of Palestine.

Our report notes that a landmark was achieved during the annual conference of the American Library Association (ALA), held in Washington, D.C. from June 25-July 1, 1998. An historic resolution written by the Near East and South Asia Sub-Committee (chaired by R.N. Sharma) of the International Relations Committee (IRC)/ALA was passed by IRC "to offer assistance to libraries and librarians of the Gaza Strip/West Bank in terms of resources, advice, expertise, and consultation as needed to assist in establishing good library services in the area." (See Appendix for the full text of the Resolution).

This important resolution was endorsed by the International Relations Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries (IRC/ACRL), and for the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section (AMES)/ACRL during the Midwinter Meeting of ALA in Philadelphia on January 30, 1999. It was also endorsed by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)/ALA. Earlier, during the June 1998 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., the SSRT/ALA endorsed the Basic Services for Libraries Project for Palestine, including the move to aid the Gaza Health Sciences Library at the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

We view the visit as a good learning experience. The delegation, however, was of the view that it will take a long time to bring the library system in Palestine to the level it should be. It won't be easy, and it won't happen overnight. And it won't be done without international help. The delegation members are confident that the proposed recommendations, if followed and implemented properly, will certainly help the Palestine government to have a good network of libraries, develop them, and provide excellent services for the benefit of all children, young adults, students, scholars, researchers, and all other citizens of Palestine for years to come in the 21st century. Moreover, a good viable library system can play an important part in the search for peace in the Middle East.

Ron Chepeshiuk is Editor-in-Chief and R.N. Sharma is Associate Editor of the International Leads, and was chair of the delegation to Palestine.
CONGRATULATIONS TO IRRT ON ITS 50TH YEAR! As the new Director of the ALA International Relations Office, I look forward to working with you as you begin your second half-century at the start of the new millennium! With the New Orleans conference only a few weeks away, I want to touch on some of the international activities that will be taking place.

I hope that those of you attending the Conference will be able to find the time to participate in some of these programs and events. The International Relations Office, the International Relations Committee, and the IRRT have worked together this year to institutionalize many of the international initiatives from Barbara Ford's "Global Reach, Local Touch" theme from last year.

International activities will begin on the morning of Friday, June 25th with an IRRT half-day pre-conference for international librarians entitled "The State of American Librarianship." The IRRT will present the 'Orientation for International Librarians' on Friday afternoon. The IRO has also continued the 'Mentor Program', which is matching U.S. Librarians and their international colleagues at Conference. IRRT will also be hosting the popular International Lounge.

For the second year in a row, 'International Poster Sessions' and the 'International Papers' will provide opportunities to see and hear how librarians in other countries are tackling issues. The poster sessions will be held on Sunday, from 1:00-2:30 in the Exhibit Hall. You also don't want to miss international librarians presenting papers on 'Intellectual Freedom' on Monday morning from 8:30-12:00.

In addition, there will be global programming from different divisions and round tables this year. The topics will range from Armenian Library Linkages to Moving Librarianship into the Global Village.

The ASCLA president's program will even have an international focus this year: "Information Access and Human Rights of People with Disabilities, National Library Association and Global Cooperation". For meeting locations, please visit the IRO website at http://www.al.org/work/international.org.

Finally, don't forget to block off Monday night on your schedule for the Reception for International Librarians. It will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Plimsoll Club on the 30th floor of the World Trade Center of New Orleans. Beautiful views, great food, and a chance to mingle with your international colleagues. Tickets are $20 through the IRO before the Conference, and $25 on-site at the International Registration Desk.

Beyond Annual Conference the International Relations Office will be turning a lot of our focus to Mexico. August 17th is the deadline for applications for the 1999 Guadalajara Book Fair which will be from November 27-December 5. If you would like to participate in the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program this year, please contact us. The Guadalajara Book Fair will also have a booth in the exhibit area at annual conference to provide you with more information.

President-elect Sarah Long's theme for next year will be "Libraries Build Communities". With the mid-winter meeting in 2000 scheduled for San Antonio, ALA will be inviting librarians from Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean to come to the meeting to discuss "Building International Library Communities". IRRT will be working to help put the program together, and we will be incorporating a lot of the programming that is provided at Annual Conference for this meeting.

Another initiative of Sarah Long's is to create Sister Libraries between libraries in the U.S. and libraries in other countries. You will be hearing more about this initiative after June. If your library would be interested in participating, please contact us.

With the year 2000 only six months away, it's not too early to start thinking about 2001! The 67th IFLA Council and General Conference will be held in Boston on August 16-25, 2001. This will be the first time since 1985 that the IFLA conference will be in the United States. ALA and the other major library associations in the U.S. are planning right now to host the over 3,000 international visitors who will attend.

To see what is going on with IFLA 2001, please visit the website at http://www.ifla2001.org.

Michael Dowling is the Director of ALA International Relations office, Chicago, Illinois.

WRITERS GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADS

INTERNATIONAL LEADS (IL) welcomes articles that reflect the editorial focus of the publication: news about international library activities, the international work of ALA and other organizations, and people and publications in the library field.

To determine the suitability of the author's article for IL, the newsletter prefers to see a brief letter, rather than a completed manuscript.

IL reserves the right to return manuscripts unsuitable for IL.

All manuscripts must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelop.

All articles should be double spaced in format and no more than 1,500 words in length.

IL reserves the right to edit all manuscripts submitted for publication.

IL encourages letters to the editor, but reserves the right to edit them for length and style.

Please send a printed copy of your article and if possible, a computer disk in 5.1 Workperfect format.

IL welcomes the submission of photos and other graphics to illustrate articles.

Address inquiries and send articles and other news items of interest to Ron Chepesuik, Editor-In-Chief, Dacus Library, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC 29730, USA.
NEW HUMANITIES RESEARCH LIBRARY AT UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The University of York in England has launched the program of constructing a new building to establish its new humanities research library. The new library building would be built adjacent to the J.B. Morrell building overlooking the campus. The donation of £1 million from the University would be used for the purpose.

Until now, and for the last 35 years since its inception, the university focused its objectives primarily on teaching and learning. This move to establish the humanities research library is the newest venture in supporting the inter-disciplinary research work in humanities. The current library already contains centers for the eighteenth and twentieth century humanities material which also includes some important international materials.

The new library is projected to house the expanded microform collection of primary sources, the new special collections and also bring together the existing humanities collection. The existing collection include the Milner-White collection of English detective fiction; the Eliot collection of first editions by (and about) twentieth-century masters such as Eliot, Auden, Yeats and Lawrence; the Milner Walker collection of early medical books; the Aaron Copland collection; and the Dyson collection of English literature from the seventeenth century onwards (mainly poetry), including Dryden, Pope and the Romantics.

The library now has planned to focus on building a collection in twentieth century print materials to make the collection valuable for the humanities researchers and scholars of the 21st Century. There will be environmentally controlled rooms for the researchers using the collections, spaces for storage of materials, seminar and exhibition areas for full utilization of the resources.

Elizabeth Heaps, the University of York Librarian, is very enthusiastic about this new undertaking at the University.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PASSES THE FIRST READING OF DIRECTIVES ON COPYRIGHT IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The passing of the first reading of the directives document in European Parliament on February 10, 1999, caused a widespread disappointment. Eblida, the independent body that represents library organizations in Europe, has observed that the comments/suggestions submitted by four European committees were simply put aside without any debate or discussion. As such, the users of the copyright (consumers, libraries, disabled people) have been greatly ignored.

The current draft allows the libraries for digital reproduction for documentation and conservation only. There is no other clarification or explanation of the provision or anything about the discretion for the member states. The document contains copying provisions for teaching and scientific research while ignoring the copying for lifelong learning and private study.

The Library Association of England, has, however, written independently, a signed protest letter to the Under Secretary at the Trade and Industry in its effort to explain the danger arising out of the proposed Euro copyright directives document.

Reported by Fazle Kabir

BRITISH ARTS MINISTER ALAN HAWORTH PRAISES LIBRARIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING NATIONAL YEAR OF READING (NYR)

The Minister of Arts observed that the Government's support to NYR is a part of its Literacy Strategy for the people. The aim is to ensure that 80 percent of the 11 year olds may reach the expected standards in English for their age by the year 2002.

It is also intended for those adults whose lack of basic skills lead to dissatisfaction amongst them, those who have poor physical and mental health, and those who lack self esteem. The NYR is also aimed at the young people who have been slow learners and developing negative attitude toward reading. Public libraries—the street corner universities have played an excellent role in arranging successful activities for the target groups during the NYR. The Buckinghamshire has introduced a "Golden Service" for the people who are sixty or older. This program would enable them to use the library resources in a relaxed and unhurried way. The Oxfordshire has introduced a program called, "Looking Back," which would encourage the library users to reminisce the past events. Family readings have been boosted and encouraged through the program, such as "Lads and Dads," sometimes linked to local games or sports organizations. In many libraries, programs for utilizing videos and CD-ROMs along with the books are introduced to encourage young library users.

NYR has led many libraries to expand their services beyond the four walls of the libraries by the mobile libraries. Many other such enterprises have been started during the NYR. All these activities have reaffirmed that the libraries have an invaluable role and is a forum for reading activities, nationally.

Reported by Fazle Kabir

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS RECEPTION

The annual INTERNATIONAL VISITORS RECEPTION will be held on Monday, June 28 from 6PM-8PM at the Plimsoll Club in the World Trade Center of New Orleans. The Plimsoll Club is located at the top of the World Trade Center on the Mississippi River, a splendid site. There is no charge for international visitors. Americans can purchase tickets for $25 at the International Registration Booth. Come and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks and meet international visitors attending ALA. For further information, contact Fred Lynden at 714-479-2345 or Frederick_Lynden@Brown.edu.
of the world be encouraged to join ALA?

A. Only directors of the largest foreign libraries could afford to attend ALA meetings regularly, and those individuals already have access to their U.S. peers at IFLA. But ALA might arrange a class of associate memberships at reduced rates for foreign librarians who participate in joint projects.

Q. What do you think are some of the important international library issues that ALA has ignored?

A. ALA must stop being a tool of the U.S. national security state. Libraries have to do with reason, education, science, health, justice, peace and creativity and not with greed, lies, armed aggression, and destruction.

ALA should intercede with the U.S. government to spare the libraries, schools, hospitals, museums, concert halls, theaters, and historical sites in the countries it attacks.

ALA should urge the U.S. government to pay its debt to the United Nations (I think it’s $1.5 billion) and to cooperate with UNESCO in aiding foreign libraries.

ALA should implore the U.S. government to sign the international convention on the rights of the child and other fundamental international accords promoting peace and human rights that have been ratified by almost every other country in the world.

ALA should disinvite General Colin Powell as keynote speaker at the 1999 Annual Conference. Powell was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf war. He presided over war crimes, such as the slaughter by U.S. warplanes of thousands of helpless, retreating Iraqi soldiers caught in a 100-mile traffic jam on the Highway of Death. A far more suitable choice would be Subcomandante Marcos, leader of the Mayan Indians of Chiapas (and author of a multicultural children’s book), who defends the rights of indigenous peoples.

Q. What are some of the important issues you think ALA should be addressing? Let’s start off with outsourcing.

A. The Final Report of the ALA Outsourcing Task Force issued in January 1999 does not come clean. It does not mention that ALA’s Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) promoted outsourcing and privatizing core library functions in a series of national and regional programs in 1995 and 1997, or that ALCTS supported the five-year, total outsourcing contract that Hawaii State Librarian Bark Kane signed with Baker & Taylor in 1996. It describes neither the extraordinary rebellion of rank-and-file Hawaii librarians (who defied their employer and ALA) nor the intense work of AIP’s Hawaii Working Group in publicizing that successful fight.

ALA’s OTF report suppresses alternative points of view. It leaves out the strong SRRT resolution passed at Midwinter 1997 (SRRT Newsletter, March 1997, p. 15), which, unlike ALCTS’ ex-post-facto milktoast, actually influenced the struggle in Hawaii, being quoted in the daily press. Further, it fails to cite among its sources the proceedings of AIP’s ALA program (“Counterpoise vol. 1, no. 4, pp. 7-30) and the “Special Feature” on the “Hawaii Outsourcing Scandal” published in Alternative Library Literature 1996-1997 (McFarland, 1998, pp. 251-262). So here are three clear examples of censorship by ALA itself, two of them blotting out references to its own publications.

The outsourcing and privatizing struggle continues. Of the six recommendations in the OTF report, only the two most general ones were approved by ALA Council. Two requests for specific ALA policy statements failed outright, and two other proposals were referred to a committee for further study.

Q. What other issues should ALA be discussing?

A. ALA should be more democratic and responsive to its membership. Membership meetings have been abolished by setting the quorum threshold much too high, so it is no longer possible to debate issues or gauge majority opinion. Insiders select candidates for high offices. This year both presidential candidates are university library administrators with similar views.

It is often difficult to find out certain information, such as who invited General Powell to be the keynote speaker this year, how much he is being paid, and why. ALA’s intellectual freedom establishment does not seem to care that a few huge conglomerates dominate most libraries’ shelves. ALA Council is heavily weighted toward administrators and corporate executives.

Q. The organization touts itself as intellectual freedom’s champion. In your opinion, what has been the ALA’s record on intellectual freedom?

A. I can’t speak to ALA’s intellectual freedom record as a whole. But as external coordinator of AIP/SRRT, I must express disappointment at the unwillingness of ALA’s intellectual freedom establishment to address new intellectual freedom statement, “Libraries: An American Value” refused to include significant wording changes proposed by the Social Responsibilities Round Table and AIP members emphasizing that the fight for intellectual freedom in libraries has not yet been won. (Editor’s note: contact Charles Willett to get a list of significant word changes prepared by AIP and SRRT).

Q. You are giving a talk at ALA’s annual conference in New Orleans this year on “Intellectual Freedom and the Alternative Press.” What’s that about?


Q. We hope to be there. Any final last words for our readership?

A. I’ve been an IRRT member since the ’80s. If you are interested in the alternative press, please consider writing reviews for Counterpoise and invite foreign librarians to write reviews as well. Last year for example, we published an excellent review article, “The Independent Critical Press in Spain,” by Mr. Sancho Catala, a Spanish graduate of San Pablo University in Valencia.

For Further Information
Contact: Charles Willett at Counterpoise, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608-4049, Phone 352/335-2200, E-mail: willett@gnv.fgd.net. Website giving mission statement, sample reviews, and subscription information can be found at <www.LibLib.com>

Ron Chepesiluk is Editor-in-Chief of International Leads and the 1999 recipient of the Humphrey/OCLC/Forest Press Award for significant contribution to international librarianship.
ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NEW ORLEANS
JUNE 24-30, 1999
FRIDAY, JUNE 25
9:00am-1:00pm
Preconference "The State of American Librarianship" (ALA International Relations Round Table Continuing Education Committee)
2:00pm-4:00pm
International Relations Committee Meeting
4:30pm-6:30pm
Orientation for International Visitors (ALA International Relations Round Table)

SATURDAY, JUNE 26
8:00am-12:30pm
International Relations Committee/International Relations Round Table, All Subcommittee Meeting
2:00pm-4:00pm
Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ACLTS) International Relations Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, JUNE 27
8:30am-11:00am
"Information Access and Human Rights of People with Disabilities: National Library Association and Global Cooperation" (Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) President's Program)
8:30am-12:30pm
International Relations Round Table, Executive Committee Meeting
9:30am-12:30pm
Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) International Relations Committee Meeting
1:00pm-2:30pm
"International Poster Sessions" 15 International librarians from around the world present poster sessions on projects that they are working on in their libraries.
1:00pm-2:30pm
"Moving Librarianship into the Global Village" (ACRL International Relations Committee) Academic librarians describe their international library experiences and discuss the value of adding an international dimension to their professional lives.
2:00pm-4:00pm
"The Impact of American Librarianship on Libraries of Post-Communist Russia and Eastern Europe 1990s" (ACRL Slavic and East European Section) The end of Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe revealed decades of neglect of library infrastructure, collections, and personnel. U.S. librarians, non-profit foundations, and other organizations provided advisory financial help to organize and redefine the role of libraries in an open and democratic society, and to train librarians for their new leadership roles in society.
2:00pm-4:00pm
"Armenian Library Linkages: Connecting Resources with Information Needs" (Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table and the Armenian Librarians and Library Information Circle) A panel of Armenian librarians will present the ways in which the institutions or organizations they represent are inter-connecting to create a Virtual Hye (Armenian) Library

MONDAY, JUNE 28
8:30am-12:00pm
"Intellectual Freedom: A Global Perspective" (ALA International Relations Committee, ALA International Relations Round Table) International librarians speak on intellectual freedom, freedom of expression and access to information issues facing them.
9:30am-11:00am
Library Information Technology Association (LITA) International Relations Committee Meeting
2:00pm-4:00pm
"Celebrating Our Past: Poised for the Future" (ALA International Relations Round Table) Celebrating the 50th anniversary of IRRT. A panel presentation will feature an historical overview of U.S. librarianship in the international arena, the role of ALA, the IRRT, and the IRC in international library affairs, and the future of international librarianship at the turn of the new century.
6:00pm-8:00pm
Reception for International Librarians (ALA International Relations Round Table) Open to all ALA members, this year’s reception will be held in the beautiful Plimsoll Club at the top of the World Trade Center of New Orleans (30th floor)

TUESDAY, JUNE 29
2:00pm-4:00pm
International Relations Committee Meeting

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR
Compiled by Frederick C. Lynden

August 19-28—IFLA Council and General Conference (65th) Bangkok, Thailand. Theme: "On the Threshold of a New Century: Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World." For further information contact: Mr. Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities e-mail IFLA@ifla.org


(Continued on page 11, column 2)
SUPERLIBRARIANS FOR SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

It is a fact that many school libraries in England are understaffed, undervalued and do not have adequate funding. However, Trish Botten of the Library Association (U.K.), has pointed out a new trend in this area of librarianship. In many schools, library resources and the Information Technology (IT) resources are being merged together. This is in realization that these institutions would need librarians for utilization of the IT resources to avoid wastage in expensive investment in IT resources. Ms. Botten referred to a recent employment advertisement for a middle manager in a school who would be responsible for leading the development of independent learning. The manager would also need to have library management experience and to have excellent Information and Communications Technology training.

Ms. Botten calls it a good trend and good news. She has said that she will spend this year in creating awareness amongst head teachers in the schools across the nation of this emerging new trend. This new trend would provide professional job opportunities in school libraries. The awareness of the head teachers would also be very beneficial in light of the investment made by the government in the National Grid of Learning Program.

Reported by Fazle Kabir

OCLC INSTITUTE TAKES UP GLOBAL LIBRARIANSHIP

The OCLC Institute guided 41 librarians from 18 countries in a highly critical analysis of the foundations of global cooperative librarianship during a workshop in Dublin, Ohio, on March 18. The program followed the 17th Annual OCLC Research Library Directors Conference, held March 15-16.

Introducing the program, Erik Jul, associate director for the institute, invited participants to consider cooperative librarianship on the largest scale, "a transcendent practice of knowledge management that enables individual access to a virtual global collection of selected knowledge resources."

In a plenary session, workshop participants identified key success factors—conditions that must exist in support of global cooperative librarianship—such as shared vision, leadership, effective communications, understanding of cultural diversity, and demonstrable benefits.

Breaking into small groups for facilitated discussions, participants identified barriers and solutions for selected key success factors before reporting their findings and recommendations to the plenary session. Mr. Jul encouraged participants to craft their recommended next steps as "specific, realistic, near-term actions that you could actually do."

As one next step, the OCLS Institute will publish a full workshop report for dissemination worldwide.

The OCLC Institute, a recently created educational division of OCLC, promotes the evolution of libraries through advanced education and knowledge exchange. The OCLC Institute conducts educational and consulting programs worldwide. Recent or planned international venues include Canada, Brazil, Iceland, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

More information on the OCLC Institute can be found at <http://www.oclc.org/institute/>
RADER TO RECEIVE ACRL ACADEMIC OR RESEARCH LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hannelore B. Rader, university librarian at the University of Louisville (KY), has been named the 1999 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic or Research Librarian of the Year.

The award, which includes a citation and $3,000 donated by Baker & Taylor Books, is given annually to recognize an individual who is making outstanding contributions to academic or research librarianship and library development.

Award Committee Chair James F. Williams II said, "Hannelore Rader's work has defined the field of instructional services in academic libraries. She has thoroughly articulated the rationale for and the philosophy of these services while documenting the evolving concepts at the foundation of instructional services. She commands a commitment to the pedagogical, managerial, and political issues that must be addressed in order to develop effective instructional programs in the academic library community. And the record will show that she has an equal and abiding professional commitment to the educational role of academic libraries."

Rader has successfully created three model library instruction programs at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), Cleveland State University (CSU), and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside (UWP). She was also an original member of ACRL's Bibliographic Instruction Task Force, which led to the creation of ACRL's Bibliographic Instruction Section. She was a leader in the establishment of the Library Orientation and Instruction Exchange that was founded at EMU in the mid-1970s.

On receiving the award, Rader said, "When ACRL President Maureen Sullivan informed me that I would receive the award this year, I thought I was dreaming. It seemed so unreal to me to receive this great honor from our profession. I had often thought how wonderful it must be to receive this award, but I did not think I would actually become a member of this distinguished group of academic librarians. I am grateful that my work has had some impact on my profession."

Prior to joining the University of Louisville in 1997, Rader was director of the university library at CSU (1987-96); director of the library/learning center at UWP in Kenosha, Wis. (1980-87); and held several positions at EMU (1968-80).

Rader will receive the ACRL Academic or Research Librarian of the Year Award at a reception in her honor on June 28 at 5 p.m. during the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans.

ACRL is a division of the American Library Association.

INSTITUTE ON FEDERAL LIBRARY RESOURCES

The twenty-fifth annual Institute on Federal Library Resources, sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science, The Catholic University of America, will be held in Washington, D.C., July 19-30, 1999.

Frank Kurt Cylke, the Academic Director, announced that the carefully planned curriculum will identify the role of the federal libraries, information centers, and data banks in the federal library community; discuss the implications of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science's posture as related to federal libraries; identify resources, publications and specialized services provided by federal libraries; identify resources available through major government clearinghouses, such as the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC); compare the in-operation or the in-process development of the major federal library and information services; identify and articulate the functions performed by the Federal Library and Information Center Committee. Participants will be addressed by twenty-eight directors of federal information programs and several membership association representatives.

Information regarding the Institute may be obtained by contacting the School of Library and Information Science, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064, telephone (202) 319-5085.

WORLDWIDE SURVEY OF DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

The IFLA Core Programs for Preservation and Conservation (PAC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) are working together, on behalf of UNESCO, to undertake a survey of digitization projects in major cultural institutions, in order to establish a virtual library of digitized collections worldwide.

Many national libraries and other institutions are now undertaking or planning digitization programs for some or all of their major cultural collections, either for preservation or access purposes. However, a comprehensive worldwide listing of digitized library collections does not yet exist, and the task of this IFLA project is to identify digitized collections of national importance around the world.

The project is being funded by UNESCO and has links to its Memory of the World Programme because it will also attempt to identify collections with global significance that are suitable for inclusion in the Memory of the World register.

The directory of digitized documents will take the form of a freely accessible database on the UNESCO Web site. The project began in 1998 with the distribution of questionnaires to national libraries to gather information on their digitization programs. The database will consist of a searchable listing of all the collections, together with clickable links to take the user directly to the Web site of the digital collection. Individual items within a collection will not be listed, but it is assumed that detailed information about the contents of each collection will be available from the collection Web site.

Information is also being gathered on the preservation issues surrounding the digitization of materials. Digital preservation is perhaps one of the most neglected areas in the electronic library arena, with large volumes of data already lost because of lack of knowledge about long-term digital preservation issues. The project will aim to offer some information on how the issue of preservation is being handled by each of the libraries listed.

Further information can be found on the Web pages of the IFLA PAC and UAP Core Programs at www.ifla.org/VI/4/pac.htm or www.ifla.org/V1/uap.htm. Information about UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme can be found at www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/index.html. For details on how to ensure that your digitization project is included in the directory, send email to Richard.Ebden at IFLA UAP, richard.ebden@bl.uk.

Reported by MLA News
THE CUBA-U.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Jeanne Drewes

The Cuba Exchange Program of the Johns Hopkins University has sponsored an Intersession course for credit in Cuba for Hopkins undergraduates since January, 1997, as a means of fostering and strengthening intellectual exchanges, which already exist between the United States and Cuba. The exchange program has been in existence since 1977 and is sponsored in large part by the Ford Foundation. The Intersession course is one part of the exchange program.

Each year, students apply for the sixteen to eighteen spaces available for the course. They must be conversant in Spanish and have good academic standing. All lectures are held at the University of Havana's Fundación Fernando Ortiz.

In 1997, its first year, the seminar focused on Alejandro Carpentier's short novel, El Acoso, and Walker Evans's photographic essay, Havana 1933. Dr. Wayne Smith, Director of the Johns Hopkins/Ford Foundation Cuba Exchange Program, directed the seminar session.

In January 1998, the course focused on the book Contrapunteo cubano del tabaco y el azúcar and the short story "Los fugitivos" by Alejandro Carpentier. The central purpose was to explore the history and culture of tobacco and sugar in Cuba through lectures and assigned readings. In addition, visits to two sugar mills in Santa Clara and a vega, or tobacco farm, in Pinar del Rio were scheduled.

The January 1999 course titled Cuba and the Arts: Past & Present was by its very nature interdisciplinary, the group had an architectural history discussion and tour of the city of Havana which included a visit to the Museo de Bellas Artes, the National Archives, Case de Africa, and the Cementerio de Dolón in addition to lectures.

This program was also well suited for a work project, the first of its kind during an Intersession trip. The project was directed by Jeanne Drewes, Head of the Preservation Department of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library at Hopkins. Drewes had attended and participated in an international conference on Preservation of Paper and Photographs held at the National Archives of Cuba in May of 1998. The Cuba Exchange Program sponsored her attendance. During that trip, she visited the Matanzas archives with Erin Loftus, a conservator then at the Library of Congress. Erin conceived of a work project to repackage fragile documents in acid free Kraft paper.

Drewes presented the work project idea to the Cuba Exchange director, Dr. Wayne Smith. With his approval she then contacted the Director of the archives to confirm her interest in such a project. After confirming the archive interest, Drewes proceeded to organize the project. With the help of Eva Gonzalez, administrative assistant for the Cuba Exchange, the materials were ordered and the arrangements made.

Several weeks before the trip, there was a meeting for the students to explain the project. The process was straightforward. All the documents were grouped in bundles, which were tied with sisal twine. The stiff twine cut into the top and bottom documents. The idea was to replace the stiff twine with flat twill tape, to use pre-cut binders board on both the top and bottom of each bundle, and to wrap the bundles in acid free paper to protect the materials. The bundles were indexed so the organization of the materials already in place had to be maintained. The students were eager to help and excited about the prospect of seeing some of the countryside. Matanzas, called the Athens of Cuba because of its former reputation as a literary center, near Havana and is close to one of the finest beach resorts in Cuba.

The work project was combined with a stay at the beach. The exchange program paid for the materials, and students carried the materials as part of their luggage. There is a weight limit for luggage of 60 lb. per person so the materials were divided into 20 packages for the students and other members of the exchange. Once in Havana the materials were transported to Matanzas by the archives staff and Drewes traveled to Matanzas prior to the rest of the group to make arrangements for the project.

After a brief tour of the facility, a wonderful old house with an inner courtyard filled with plants, the work teams were assigned to stations and the work began. Archives staff brought the bundles to the work tables, where the student work crews carefully untied, straightened and rewrapped the bundles. The labels were carefully attached to the new packages and the archive staff reshelved the materials. Materials had been purchased for 1000 bundles. The students completed 777 packages in the two day work project.

At the end of the last day, the archives arranged for a thank-you party with music and refreshments and a parting gift for each of the student workers. The students felt good about a job well done. They could see the results of the project in the neatly wrapped packages that replaced the ragged bundles. The Archives had the remaining materials to complete more rewrapping and had a good start on the rewrapping project.

Jeanne Drewes is Assistant Director for Access and Preservation, Michigan State University Libraries, East Lansing, Michigan. She was Head of Preservation at Johns Hopkins University's Milton S. Eisenhower Library at the time of this project.

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

(Contacted FROM PAGE 8, COLUMN 2)

Contact Richard.Ebdom@mail.bi.uk or Barbara Kellerman at kelbc@statelib.pw.gov.za

August 13-18, 2000—IFLA General Conference (66th), Jerusalem, Israel. Theme: "Information for Cooperation: Creating the Global Library of the Future." For further information, contact: Mr. Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities. E-mail: IFLA@ifla.org.

August 19-26, 2001—IFLA Council and General Conference (67th), Boston, MA, USA. Theme: "Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Information Age."

Send notice of future international conferences to Frederick C. Lynden, Rockefeller Library, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. E-mail: Frederick_Lynden@Brown.edu. Fax: 401-863-1272. Phone: 401-863-2946
**BOOK REVIEW**


This small but handy periodicals directory lists titles ranging from US-published periodicals and newspapers geared at Hispanic populations to general-audience magazines and scholarly/professional journals published in Spain and Spanish-speaking Latin America. It is not a comprehensive compilation of the entire Hispanic publishing market, but it does provide an excellent synthesis of a broad range of subject coverage and readership audiences. As a collection tool, the book is intended to complement the Latin America, Latin U.S., and Spain and Portugal section of Katz's Magazine for Libraries.* This directory of Latin periodicals is useful as an acquisitions tool in addition to providing an impression of the diversity of publishing houses and subject coverage in the Latin world. Selections in the book include materials published in Spain and Central and South America.

Its content area introduced with a section of acquisitions and collection development strategies. Both sections are thorough and show evidence of rigorous consultation with experienced public and academic librarians serving Latino communities and Chicano studies.

Written for librarians, this book contains not only a subject overview, bibliographies, indices but also titles on Latin American interest, business and professional issues, scholarly literary and history journals, computing, children's and women's issues, and further topics. Not included are sciences and librarianship. Descriptive components for each title include the date the publication was founded, subscription price (both institutional and individual where divergent), editor-in-chief, contact address, circulation size, whether or not the title is refereed, whether available in alternate formats *(e.g. microform)*, and whether/where indexed. The section on newspapers organizes the titles by country of publication. Lists the date of founding and describes the political viewpoint either as: left-wing, conservative, official voice of the ruling party. The book's unique quality rests with the combination of titles from U.S., Spanish, and Latin American publishers, the periodicals' mix of subjects and readership levels, and librarians' evaluations of each title.

While the section of librarianship in the Latin American world is absent, one may glean the issues pertaining to Latin American and Spanish librarianship indirectly through reading the cultural and current-affairs periodicals and the newspapers listed in this book. The book's greatest value is that of a collection-development tool. Even though not necessarily a comprehensive "Bible" of materials published in the Latin World, it does provide a broad range of subjects covered in the Spanish-speaking publishing world and U.S. Hispanic-tailored market. Highly useful for public libraries serving Latino communities and academic libraries with specialized collections supporting Chicano studies, Spanish and Latin American history, culture, politics, and social studies.

Reviewed by *Antje Mays*, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA.

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