In October 1999, two architects and I spent three weeks in Kosovo conducting a postwar survey of the state of cultural and religious heritage. Our Kosovo Cultural Heritage Survey, supported by a grant from the Packard Humanities Institute, was undertaken, in part, to assess wartime damage and to identify projects and institutions in need of assistance.

In reading the following account, one should keep in mind that Kosovo is a small place, half the size of Slovenia but more densely populated, and was poorer in resources than other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

It should also be recalled that the Milosevic regime’s imposition of direct rule over Kosovo in 1989-90 was followed by a decade of systematic neglect of all public services and institutions, including libraries and archives.

Beginning in October 1990, ethnic Albanian faculty and students were ejected by Serbian police from classrooms and offices at the University of Pristina, which became an apartheid institution reserved for ethnic Serbs only. At the same time, non-Serb readers were banned from the National and University Library, which serves as the central research library for the university and as Kosovo’s national library of record. Kosovar Albanian professionals were summarily dismissed from their positions at academic and public libraries and other state-supported institutions. The acquisition of Albanian-language library materials effectively ceased. In the mid-1990s a number of library facilities in Kosovo were converted to other uses. Parts of the National and University Library building in downtown Pristina were turned over to a Serbian Orthodox religious school; library offices were used to house Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia. For almost a decade 1.8 million Kosovar Albanians, 90 percent of the population, were not allowed to set foot inside libraries in Kosovo.

Libraries and Archives at War
During NATO’s air bombardment of Yugoslavia (March-June 1999), the National and University Library and the building that houses the Kosovo State Archives and the Archives of the Institute of History, were taken over and used as command and control centers by the Yugoslav Army. Fortunately, neither the State Archives nor the National Library building were hit by bombs or missiles during the air war, but when the Yugoslav military departed, it left a mess behind.

At the National and University Library, equipment had been stolen, reading room furniture smashed, and the card catalog had been dumped in the basement.

Items from special collections had been scattered throughout the building; 47 rare volumes are reportedly still missing. Discarded military uniforms, sniper rifles, and hand grenades were found in the stacks. KFOR peacekeeping troops kept the librarians out for a week while...
Libraries and Archives in Kosovo: Continued from page 1

they swept the building for booby traps and explosives. An estimated 100,000 books from the National Library’s reserve collection, multiple deposit copies of publications in Albanian kept for exchange and for distribution to public libraries elsewhere in Kosovo, were gone — they had been sent to the Ljiljan paper mill for pulping before the war by order of the Serbian library director.

Nevertheless, the Library’s research collection of 600,000 volumes has survived both the decade of the apartheid regime in Kosovo and the recent hostilities without major losses. Now that the war is over, Kosovar librarians and archivists have returned to reclaim their institutions and have begun to assess the damage.

Archives: The Loss of the Public Record

During the withdrawal of Serbian military and police forces, public records and archives comprising almost the entire documentary base for the orderly functioning of government and society in Kosovo were removed on orders from Belgrade. Registries of births, marriages and deaths, citizenship, probate and property records, as well as judicial and marriage, buy or sell property, settle a legal dispute or claim an inheritance, are left stranded in a legal and documentary limbo. As was the case in the 1992-95 Bosnian war, the major losses of historical archival materials in Kosovo involved bodies of older records (such as property deeds, some of them dating back to Ottoman times) that had been retained by the record-creating agencies rather than being transferred to the custody of the state historical archives. The only public historical archive known to have been destroyed during

On 22 November, the Ministry of Justice in Belgrade announced that public records in Kosovo had been removed to Serbia “to prevent the Albanian secessionists from destroying or forging [them].”

Presumably, control of these records will also make it possible for the Belgrade government to selectively add to, remove or alter documentation to suit its own purposes. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Kosovars who were deprived of their personal documents when they were expelled in the spring of 1999, whose passports or licenses have expired, who wish to register a

International Leads (ISSN 0892-4546) is published quarterly by the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association in March, June, September, and December. The first issue was published in 1957. IL contains news about international library activities, the international work of ALA and other organizations, and people and publications in the field. IL is indexed by Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and is sent free to all members of IRRT (dues $10); non-ALA members can subscribe for $12 per year by writing to International Relations Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Materials for IL should be sent to International Leads Editor, Sha Li Zhang, Wichita State University Libraries, 1845 Fairmont, Wichita, KS 67260, USA, e-mail: zhang@twsuvml.uc.wsu.edu.

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Message from the IRRT Chair
By Lucinda Covert-Vail, Chair

Greetings to all International Relations Round Table members and aficionados in 2000. Midwinter in San Antonio was an encouraging and invigorating meeting and I’m happy to report on many of our activities. Our new editor of International Leads, Sha Li Zhang, began the first year of her editorship and attended various international meetings and activities. Sha Li made her presence known and as a result this issue of IL includes reports from our committees as well as the other international groups and committees that abound in ALA.

The IRRT Executive Board met on Sunday morning and in addition to reports from all of its committees, we recommended several actions that will be of interest to all of you.

We recommended making the Sister Library initiative established by ALA President Sarah Ann Long a subcommittee of the International Relations Round Table.

The Sister Library Program encourages U.S. libraries to form relationships with libraries in other countries. It already publishes a terrific tip sheet that helps interested libraries get started and includes recommendations for how to find a sister library, ways to participate and suggested activities. The IRRT is a natural home for this initiative and ALA President Long has taken us up on our offer to provide a permanent site for this worthy and exciting international project. The ALA Sister Library Program works closely with the ALA International Relations Office. Visit their website at http://www.ala.org/sisterlibraries to view their tip sheet and learn more. The new committee will be appointed immediately after the annual conference in Chicago this summer.

The IRRT will host its annual summer program in Chicago on the topic of sister libraries. Fred Lynden, IRRT chair-elect, is organizing the program for Monday afternoon. Also, for Chicago, mark your calendars for the International Visitors Reception that will be held at Chicago Public’s Harold Washington Library on Monday evening.

You may remember that the IRRT is now the permanent home for another presidential initiative, that of past President Barbara Ford to solicit and present international poster sessions.

The poster sessions are slated for Chicago on Sunday 11-12:30 p.m. Other IRRT activities planned for Chicago include, the international visitors orientation, a workshop for international attendees on the state of US librarianship sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee, a program on international exchanges sponsored by the IRC/IRRT Joint Committee on International Exchanges, and the international visitors lounge organized by the IRRT Hospitality Committee. Watch for the call, as we’ll be soliciting volunteers for the international visitors’ lounge.

Beginning with the last two issues of IL, we automated production and posted the entire issue on our website in addition to distributing it in print. We will continue with both print and electronic distribution of IL and plan to begin scanning and posting previous issues as well to the IRRT website: (http://www.ala.org/irrt).

The IRRT Executive Committee also agreed to reactivate its earlier recommendation to contact all ALA units/divisions holding pre-conferences of potential interest to international visitors. We are requesting that as a courtesy, international visitors be offered the same registration fees as members. The Executive Committee also passed a motion to endorse Council Document 46, “Resolution on World Trade Organization Policies Affecting Libraries”, that recommended that the ALA endorse the IFLA WTO position statement. The IFLA WTO position statement was published in the December 1999 issue of IL and is available on our website. ALA Council approved Document 46 and its text may be viewed at http://www.ala.org/alaorg/council/actions_mw00.html.

The IRRT Executive Committee approved the candidates for the upcoming IRRT elections. We have a very strong group of candidates and I encourage all of you to make sure to mark and return your ballots for this year’s election. The IRRT as well as the IRC reviewed and commented on a document developed earlier in the year that presents an international relations agenda for the ALA.

Still in its draft stage, the document received input from members and a revised document will be available for comment and presentation in Chicago.

Once again I’m sending you my pitch for ALAWorld, the international listserv for all ALA members. It is your best source for news and announcements from the IRRT and is also a venue for other ALA committees, divisions, and round tables to announce their international activities. To subscribe, send an email to: listproc@ala.org. Include the following message: subscribe ALAWorld [your first name] [your last name]. All in all, it was a very productive Midwinter and you’ll get a better flavor of it, I’m sure, as you read through the other articles and reports in this issue of International Leads. See you in Chicago.
Library Conferences Around the Global

Intellectual Property vs. the Right to Knowledge?
8th International BOBCATSSS Symposium
By Barbara Kile

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the BOBCATSSS symposium on Library and Information Science was initiated by Dr. Ruud Bruyns from Hogeschool van Amsterdam to stimulate understanding and cooperation between the library profession in Western Europe and the former Eastern European countries. These conferences are unique as a professional event because they are planned, organized, and implemented by students.

This year’s symposium was held in Krakow, Poland, from January 24-26, 2000. Students from the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark and Jagiollian University in Krakow, Poland were responsible for the 8th symposium on the topic “Intellectual Property vs. the Right to Knowledge?” There were over 200 participants, librarians and library school students from Europe including Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom. I was the only person representing the United States.

Charles Oppenheim, Professor of Information Science at Loughborough University, UK and Mogens Damm, President of the Danish Library Association, presented keynote speeches. In their presentations they focused on the future of intellectual property in the information age and the importance of accessibility to information for the individual. Both speakers stressed the need for librarians to be involved in the political process through library organizations and their own efforts. They encouraged the students to lobby for the individual right to access to information.

In addition to the formal presentations, there was time for socializing among the participants. An opening reception was held on the grounds of The Wawel Castle, the home of the kings of Poland from the 10th century until the 17th century. A closing party was held at the Japanese Art and Technique Center.

The conference organizers accepted my proposal for a paper on the historical precedent for intellectual property protection. This paper gave a brief synopsis of laws and treaties protecting intellectual property and described some of the library programs providing access to intellectual property. Finally I discussed the balancing of private interest and public good in the protection of intellectual property in the electronic environment. In addition to this paper published in the proceedings, I had an opportunity to talk about depository programs in the United States and some of the lobbying efforts of librarians to ensure access to information by anyone in the US.

BOBCATSSS 2001 will be in Vilnius, Lithuania with the theme “Democracy, Information and Knowledge in the Open Society.” Watch their web site http://www.bobcatsss.com for more information.

NIT ‘99 in Taipei Focused on Global Digital Library Development
by Ching-chih Chen

NIT ’99: The 11th International Conference on New Information Technology (NIT) was held at the National Central Library in Taipei, Taiwan from August 18 to 20, 1999. The Proceedings were published in a book entitled IT and Global Digital Library Development. This title clearly reflects the focus of the conference.

The series of International Conferences on New Information Technology have been organized by Dr. Ching-chih Chen since 1987 to help reach global consensus on key problems and issues facing library and information professionals. The previous successful ten conferences were held in Bangkok, Singapore, Guadalajara, Budapest, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, Alexandria (Virginia, USA), Riga (Latvia), Pretoria (South Africa), and Hanoi (Vietnam). Clearly, this reflects Chen’s strong desire for community building of the library and information professionals globally, and for providing Continued on page 5
From ALA’s International Desk

By Michael Dowling

I wanted to thank everyone who was involved in making the “Building International Library Communities/Comunidades Bibliotecarias Internacionales” program at ALA Midwinter a success, and to provide you with a brief summary of the program. This special three-day event was an initiative of ALA President Sarah Long, and it attracted 120 international librarians from 10 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Puerto Rico) and 80 U.S. librarians for three days of programs and formal and informal networking.

One of the highlights was a successful teleconference to four sites in Mexico entitled “The Impact of the Utilization of Electronic Document Resources for International Cooperation”. Over 100 Mexican librarians got up as early as 7:00 am on a Sunday morning to participate in this program. This teleconference was the first ALA program to connect an international and US-based audience, and the first one conducted in Spanish.

The success of program shows the interest is out there to build an international library community, and that ALA can use technology to reach out to our members and colleagues who are living outside of the United States. We have made the first step and hope to build on it.

To continue the dialogue between the librarians at the program we have created a discussion list called ‘COMUNIDAD’. The majority of the discussion on this list will be in Spanish. Even if you could not make it to the program at Midwinter you are invited to participate in this discussion list. If you would like to join and participate in this discussion list send an email message to LISTPROC@ALA.ORG.

Leave the subject line blank.

As the only line of the text in the body of the message enter the following:

Leaving out the brackets.

Subscribe COMUNIDAD [your first name] [your last name]

I want to encourage those of you going to ALA Annual in Chicago to sign up if possible to be a mentor to an international visitor or to volunteer some time at the international lounge. Both are rewording experiences and a great way to meet colleagues from other countries.

The International Relations Office has a new Administrative Assistant. Alisha White is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Spanish and Economics. Troy Swanson, a library school student at Dominican University, will be working in the office as an intern to help us out with the international registrants who come to conference. (Michael Dowling is Director of ALA International Relations Office)

NIT ‘99 Conference

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opportunities for formal and informal interaction and interchange of ideas among professionals from both developed and developing countries. Her tireless efforts have yielded a powerful network of about 3,000 library and information professionals from over 35 countries.

Almost 300 delegates from over 20 countries participated at NIT ’99, including high-level administrators from national libraries and national science and technology documentation centers in over 15 countries. Those who came from countries outside the Asian Pacific region include Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Latvia, Lithuania, Holland, and United States. NIT ’99 was sponsored by the U.S. National Commission of Library and Information Science, the Ministry of Education, and the National Central Library of the Republic of China.

The conference featured five keynote speeches: Ching-chih Chen provided an overview on NII, GII, I2 (Internet 2), NGI (New Generation Internet), and IT*2 Initiatives in the US and discussed the implications of these developments to the digital library development in the US; Nancy Kranich of New York University, President-Elect of the American Library Association, talked about the need for collaboration in building a digital library collection; Robert Hayes of the University of California at Los Angeles presented a model for estimating the markets and values to the users of digital libraries; Edward A. Fox of Virginia Tech described the SS framework for digital libraries with further discussion of two case studies; and finally David Raitt, editor of the Electronic Library, provided an overview on the European digital library development. The conference’s final session was presented by speakers from Taiwan, describing the exciting “digital museum” activities in Taiwan, supported mainly by the National Science Council.

The first NIT of this new millennium will be NIT 2001. It will be held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China in conjunction with a major celebration event - the 90th Anniversary of Tsinghua University, a great world-class university generally being considered as the MIT of China. Those who are interested in this conference can address your inquiry to Dr. Ching-chih Chen via email: chen@simmons.edu (Ching-chih Chen is a Professor at Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College)
Report from the International Relations Committee
By Jordan M. Scepanski, Chair

The International Relations Committee (IRC) met twice during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January 2000. Following a report on International Relations Office activity by Michael Dowling, the committee heard from Rick Weingarten, director of the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy, on OITP activities and their relationship to international affairs. Mr. Weingarten mentioned the importance of keeping inclose contact with the IRC as critical technology policy issues come to the fore, many having significant implications in the international arena. ALA’s immediate past president Ann Symons updated the committee about their workshop on association building and promotion of cooperation among libraries and librarians in Azerbaijan in September 1999. Sponsored by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), the Soros Foundation, and the United States Information Service in Baku, the event was well attended and gained considerable attention in the Azeri media.

The IRC had been asked in December 1999 to consider the draft of a letter to be sent by ALA concerning the detention in Beijing, China, of Song Yongyi, a librarian at Pennsylvania’s Dickinson College. Mr. Song was arrested and formally charged with “the purchase and illegal provision of intelligence to foreign people.” Upon the advise of IRC members, the letter was redrafted for ALA president Sarah Long’s signature and Chinese authorities were asked to look into the circumstances surrounding Song’s detention. It was pointed out that Mr. Song was a noted scholar of the Cultural Revolution and that his presence in the People’s Republic of China was in connection with his duties as a librarian and researcher. The IRC discussed the matter and what the committee’s and the association’s approach ought to be in situations such as this one. It was agreed that the committee needs to develop guidelines for action in circumstances such as these, and that it should do so in the context of the “international relations agenda” it is developing. Mr. Song subsequently was released, returning to the U.S. in late January.

Nancy John, a member of the committee and first vice president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), discussed recent IFLA developments, including proposed changes in the structure and governance of the organization.

The IRC reviewed the work of an ad hoc subgroup that met in Chicago in December 1999 to prepare a draft of a planning agenda. The document produced by the group was critiqued and suggestions made for its improvement. The committee will continue to refine the plan and seek reaction to it from the broader community. The latest draft can be found at http://www.ala.org/work/international and those interested in commenting on the document should direct their remarks to Michael Dowling (mdowling@ala.org) or to Jordan Scepanski (jordan@trln.org). The committee hopes to have the agenda approved no later than at the annual conference in July 2000.

At the committee’s second session Michael Dowling reported on the very successful “Building International Library Communities” program taking place during the meeting and on the activities of the librarians visiting from Mexico and from Central and South America. On behalf of Gary Strong, one of ALA’s representatives to the IFLA 2001 Organizing Committee, Duane Webster, co-chair of the committee with Strong, told the group of the work being done in preparation for the conference to be held in Boston in August 2001. The organizing committee is seeking a major presence by the North American library community and is planning an attractive and engaging event.

Margaret Ling, the managing director of the Zimbabwe International Book Fair’s United Kingdom office told the committee about plans for the fair in Harare in July 2000 and invited the participation of American librarians. The theme of this year will be “Celebrating African Books” and the country of focus is Ghana.

Area subcommittees, award committees, and others detailed their activities during Midwinter. The chair of the International Relations Round Table, Lucinda Covert-Vail, outlined the round table’s program planning for the annual conference in Chicago and provided details about the reception for international visitors.

An ALA Council document, “Resolution on World Trade Organization Policies Affecting Libraries,” was considered and the committee voted to propose amendments which were seen as improving its intent. The IRC also reviewed the Committee on Education

Want to meet and help out international colleagues at the ALA Annual Conference? The International Relations Office will once again be matching up American librarians who would like to mentor an international colleague to make the ALA Annual Conference a rewarding experience for international attendees. If you are interested in being a mentor in Chicago, please contact the International Relations Office, 1-800-545-2433, ext. 3201; email: intl@ala.org
the war was the regional archive for the district of Decani, located in the town of Junik, which was burned by Serb forces. The other regional archives lost computers and other equipment, but their collections have reportedly survived. This is a preliminary assessment, based on our visits to the regional archives in Pec (Albanian: Peja), Junik, Djakovica (Gjakova), and Vucitrn (Vushtrri) and the Kosovo State Archives in Pristina.

Academic and Public Libraries

Some academic libraries were plundered of parts of their collections, including several of the faculty libraries of the University of Pristina. We visited the libraries of the Faculty of Architecture, where all but two dozen volumes had been taken. At the Faculty of Law in Pristina, a portion of the Law Faculty’s 100,000-volume collection discovered later by KFOR was stashed in various locations around Pristina, boxed for shipping and marked with Cyrillic labels reading “Biblioteka.”

However, the main research collection of the National and University Library has survived essentially intact.

The most pressing problems facing the library at this point are:

— Missing, damaged or outdated equipment. The building’s HVAC system is not operational. During our visit at the end of October 1999, we saw librarians working with their overcoats on. A colleague who visited at the end of January 2000 wrote that it was sad to see the librarians “in unheated offices, without lights or electricity trying to carry on their work. But they are ‘determined’.”

— The need to make up for a decade of neglect of collection development. In ten years, only 22,000 items were added to the collection, none of them in Albanian, the language of the overwhelming majority of the population. Checking the shelves, we saw recent books in Serbian (publication dates in the mid-1990s), while books in Albanian and in foreign languages (English, French) were old, with publication dates from the late 1980s and before.

Since the end of the war, there has been no money to buy books to make up for the lost years, but the librarians told us that “every day two or three people show up” with donations for the library, “sometimes with 10 cartons of books.”

— The loss of on-line catalog records and automated systems. Before the war, the library’s on-line records were distributed from a central computing facility in Belgrade, which served as the union catalog for all national libraries in the Yugoslav federation. That utility has severed its link with the Pristina library since the war. Fortunately, the library also kept paper records (a card catalog), which can still be used by readers and staff. The library urgently needs assistance with a new automated system and re-conversion of its catalog.

UNESCO Program --

UNESCOis creating a new program for contributing to a just and free information society with universal benefit. UNESCO’s Member States wish that the new program, which will replace the General Information Program (PGI) and the Intergovernmental Informatics Program, promote free and universal access to information which individuals need to participate equitably in the global information society. The program should also provide an appropriate framework for the preservation and global sharing of information and knowledge and is thus of particular relevance to the archives and library community. Information experts are invited to submit suggestions as to the scope and activities of the new program as well as to its name at http://www.unesco.org/webworld/future/index.shtml

Sister Library Program --

The ALA Sister Library Program has gathered a list of international libraries and U.S. libraries that would like to create a sister library relationship. If you are looking for a sister library, please visit the Sister Library Program website at http://www.ala.org/sisterlibraries to find out about the program, find potential matches, or submit a request for your library.

Exchange Opportunities --

Are you interested in doing projects at a library in Switzerland? The Swiss Association of Libraries is working with the ALA International Relations Office to help facilitate exchanges between librarians in the two countries. No funding is available, but the two associations will help to find suitable exchange opportunities for those wishing to do an exchange. For more information please contact the IRO at intl@ala.org, or visit the website athtttp://www.ala.org/work/international.
— The need for professional training. While the library’s current staff includes some library professionals, their training predates the 1990s and they had been cut off from the profession, unable to work for the past decade.

— The lack of financial support. Staff at the National and University Library and other libraries in Kosovo have been working without salary for more than six months since the end of the war. The United Nations administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) has promised support, but has been unable to provide it because member countries have not lived up to their financial commitments.

During our stay in Prishtina, we met with the National and University Library’s director, Mehmet Gerguri, and his staff. Mr. Gerguri had worked at the library since 1968 and was appointed as director in 1989. After the imposition of the Serbian apartheid regime in October 1990, ethnic Albanian librarians were dismissed and barred from the premises.

Mr. Gerguri and his colleagues were able to re-enter the library after the arrival of NATO forces (June 1999) and resumed the work that had been interrupted nine years previously. Among their first tasks, after cleaning up the premises, re-shelving the scattered books and re-filing the library’s dumped card catalog, was to take stock of the condition of libraries throughout Kosovo. Although the survey was still in progress, Mr. Gerguri was kind enough to share the data in hand and has since provided me with an update.

The survey includes complete data for public libraries in 25 of Kosovo’s 29 municipalities, with combined pre-war holdings of 2,015,000 volumes (as of 1990). Of the 25 main public libraries, 10 have survived intact, 12 suffered damage of varying degrees and three were burned down. However, 62 of the 158 branch libraries serving neighborhoods and villages were completely destroyed. The combined holdings of all of these public libraries after the war were reported at 1,114,000 volumes. This represents a drop of more than 900,000 volumes from the pre-war total — a loss of 44.7 percent of the collections held by public libraries in Kosovo. (Andras J. Riedlmayer is a Bibliographer at Fine Arts Library of Harvard University; this report will continue on IL June 2000.)