Ilhan Kum: A Remembrance

By Jordan M. Scepanski

He was gentle, polite, and unfailingly cheerful. He was a teacher, a scholar, and a university administrator. And he was a librarian. He was very proud to be a librarian, even though the role and relevance of the profession in his country were not all that well understood.

I first met Ilhan Kum on a warm Sunday afternoon in Ankara, the fall of 1981. He was chairman of the Department of Library Science at Hacettepe University where I had just been assigned as a Fulbright grantee. On medical leave from the university, he nevertheless wanted to immediately see the new American faculty member, and so he dispatched a senior colleague to pick up my wife, my daughter, and me and bring us to his home. Having just arrived in the Turkish capital the evening before, we were ushered in, bleary-eyed and still disoriented, to meet this distinguished Turkish educator and his equally renowned spouse, Eren Hanim, dean of the university’s nursing school. Over tea and pastries he told us stories of his days at the University of Kentucky and at the Brooklyn Public Library.

In 1951 Lawrence Thompson, the director of University of Kentucky libraries, had been sent to Turkey by the U.S. State Department to assess the status of libraries there. In a training course he offered during that time Thompson identified Ilhan as a bright prospect who could benefit from further education in the field. He promised him a job and assistance in enrolling in library school. Ilhan went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the university while working part time in the library’s circulation department. He then moved to the Brooklyn Public Library’s Science and Industry branch. That afternoon in 1981 he talked with fondness of the blue grass state and of his love for fried chicken, a taste acquired in Lexington, Kentucky.

We did not see a great deal of Ilhan that year. The severity of his heart condition limited his presence in the department to but periodic visits. There were nevertheless social and ceremonial occasions with him during our eleven months in the country, and encounters on subsequent trips. We talked about Ilhan dreamed of having IFLA someday meet in Turkey. That dream was realized in 1995, three years after his retirement, when the organization convened its general conference in Istanbul. libraries, about the state of the profession and medical librarianship, about the turmoil in Turkish higher education, and about his many travels to gatherings of the International Federation of Library Associations.

Continued on page 2
A Remembrance

Continued from page 1

materials, of school libraries, of medical libraries, of special libraries, of libraries the world over. He shared with each beginning class his extensive collection of library photographs he had taken during his travels. He taught his students library history and how the profession had developed in Turkey. He told them of his work abroad, of his positions at Middle East Technical University, at Ankara University, and as founding director of the medical

Ilhan took it upon himself to first interest these neophytes in his noble profession and then to excite them about its possibilities.

library and later secretary general (or chief operating officer) of Hacettepe University. It was while he was Hacettepe’s secretary general that he convinced that university’s founder, the indomitable Ihsan Dogramaci, to establish an Institute of Librarianship and Documentation, which was later to become a full-fledged department. It was there that he created a graduate program modeled after those in the United States.

Ilhan dreamed of having IFLA someday meet in Turkey. That dream was realized in 1995, three years after his retirement, when the organization convened its general conference in Istanbul. There his former colleagues,

Jordan M. Scepanski and Ilhan Kum in August 1989 in Ankara. (Photo: Jordan Scepanski)

students, and friends displayed for the world’s librarians the richness of the country’s culture and the dynamism of their profession. Ilhan Kum did much for Turkey’s libraries, for librarianship, and for education. He died peacefully in his sleep on January 3, 2001 at the age of 73. (Jordan Scepanski is executive director of the Triangle Research Libraries Network and Chair of International Relations Committee. He served a senior Fulbright lecturer in library science at Hacettepe University in 1981/82)

IRRT International Librarians Reception in San Francisco

Mark you calendars again for the best reception at ALA Annual! The International Librarians Reception will be held on Monday night, June 18 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the spectacular Bankers Club on the 52nd floor of the Bank of America Building. Please join us for the great views, great company, and wonderful food. International Librarians, including Canadians, receive a complimentary ticket. For U.S. librarians, tickets purchase after May 18 will be $25. You may purchase your tickets using the on-line or printed ALA registration forms, or you can send checks to the International Relations Office. Tickets may also be purchased at the conference.

Congratulations to New IRRT Executive Committee Members! Vice-Chair: Karen Starr, Member at Large Rebecka Lindau, and Secretary-Treasurer: Jeanette Pierce.

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: shali.zhang@wichita.edu
Message from the IRRT Chair
By Frederick C. Lynden

Last year the IRRT continued its promotion of programs and activities to further the international objectives of ALA and provide hospitality and information to visitors from abroad. In 2000/2001, a number of special programs were developed, the first being an effort by the Continuing Education Committee, led by Roman Kochan, to provide a program for the IFLA Fellows. Planning for this program is well underway. It is the intention of this committee to orient the Fellows who attend IFLA on grant support about IFLA and Boston as well as introduce them to American librarianship.

Two more IRRT activities related to IFLA are the membership drive and reporting in International Leads. This year the membership committee set a goal to increase membership significantly, and Karen Starr, Chair of the Membership Committee, plans on having IRRT membership forms and IRRT members at the ALA booth at IFLA. Executive Committee members at Midwinter voted funds to insure that Sha Li Zhang, International Leads Editor, will be able to attend IFLA and report to the International Leads audience.

A fourth program is the database to be generated from International Participation Forms, tentatively called “Global Reach”, created by Michael Dowling, as a means of making available information to the State Department and ALA about experts on foreign libraries. The IRRT Executive Committee and Committee Chairs volunteered to test the participation forms that will create the database to be unveiled at the ALA annual meeting in San Francisco.

Three more activities will bear fruit at the summer meeting. The Reception Committee, headed by Monica Ertel, has planned a spectacular reception for international visitors. The Poster Committee, chaired by Nora Kondratiev, has a very full Poster Program to inform convention goers about international library activities. And with the aid of volunteers, the Hospitality Committee, chaired by Lucinda Covert-Vail and Jennifer Schwarz, will host visitors at the Hospitality area at the Moscone Convention Center.

In addition, Inga Filippo, as Chair of the Orientation Committee, took the initiative to obtain funding for the Orientation meeting in San Francisco and the Publication Subcommittee, led by Barbara Kile, has been working hard to update the web, not resting on their International Leads laurels. Finally, the Program Committee, headed by Artemis Kirk, has prepared a stimulating program on how librarians in some countries of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East provide information to users despite barriers to resources.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as Chair of the International Relations Round Table over the past year. Thanks to an excellent International Relations Office staff headed by Michael Dowling and assisted by Alisha White, much gets accomplished during the interim periods between the annual meeting and midwinter meetings. Congratulations must also go to Lucinda Covert-Vail, Mary Jean Pavelsek, Lea Wells, Mary Sherman, and Ed Valauskas who have all helped in numerous ways to make the year a very successful one for IRRT.

Photos from the International Librarians Reception at 2000 ALA Annual Conference

Below: librarians from Russia

Above: librarians from India

Above: American librarians post with their international colleagues.

(Photos were provided by Sha Li Zhang, IL Editor, July 2000.)
IRRT and IRC Programs and Meetings At the 2001 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco (June 14-20, 2001)

Programs

Preconference “State of American Librarianship”
Friday, June 15, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
University of California Extension Conference Center

International Librarians Orientation & Welcome Reception
Friday, June 15, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Marriott – Salon 7

“Preserving Cultures and Collections: Digital Libraries in the Future for Eurasia and Central Asia”
Sunday, June 17, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Marriott – Walnut

“Libraries in Society: Essential Links to Knowledge”
Monday, June 18, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Moscone Convention Center, Room 224/226

IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston Updates
Monday, June 18, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Moscone Convention Center, Room 238

“Government Documents: Some Have It, Some Don’t: Access to Information”
Monday, June 18, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Moscone Convention Center, Room 232/234

International Librarians Reception
Monday, June 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bank of American Building, Bankers Club, 52nd Floor

Meetings

International Relations Committee
Friday, June 15, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Hilton and Tower – Union Square 23/24
Tuesday, June 19, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Moscone Convention Center, Room 10

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting
Saturday, June 17, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Marriott – Salon 7

IRRT Executive Committee Meeting
Sunday, June 17, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sir Francis Drake – Carmel

Korean – Korean American Discussion Group
Saturday, June 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Pan Pacific – The Terrace

Russian – Russian American Discussion Group
Saturday, June 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Grand Hyatt – San Miguel

The Bogle-Pratt Award Winner

Harriet Lightman, Bibliographer for History, Economics, and Philosophy at Northwestern University Library, has been selected to receive the 2001 Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund Award. In her application, Dr. Lightman stated the importance of establishing contacts with publishers, vendors and academics in other countries to the effectiveness of the subject bibliographer. She has used the award to establish contacts with publishers, vendors, and academics in Europe by attending the Salon du Livre in Paris, France, on March 16-21, 2001. The award will be formally presented at the International Librarians Reception to be held at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco on Monday, June 18, 2001.

The Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund sponsored by the Bogle Memorial Fund and the Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science. An award of $1,000 is given to an ALA member to attend their first international conference. The award is in recognition of Sarah Comly Norris Bogle, a prominent U.S. librarian who made notable contributions to international library service. (Submitted by Jeannette Pierce, Chair, Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund Award Committee)

Welcome New IRRT Members!

Dee Bailey
Barbara Breened
Sambhavi Cheemalapati
Huiyuan Chen
Kirsten Corning
Patricia Cutright
Svetlana Dubinsky
Michael Gallagher
C. Hagar
Shonna Jungbluth
Diana Lekus
Thomas Leonhardt
Sandra Levy
Barbara Mades
Kara Malenfant
Madeleine Masso
Marybeth McCartin
Bryan McCormick
Emilie Ngo-Nguidjol
Derrie Perez
Cecilia Sercan
Arlie Sims
Mara Tepper
Carlo Turner
Vela Word
Rebekah Youngman-Forbes
I am happy to report that the IRO is back at full strength. Delin Guerra, who has been working in IRO on a temporary basis, has become official as of May 21, 2001. Delin is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois–Chicago with a major in Spanish. She is originally from Mexico City. She will be in San Francisco, helping out with international registration, international programs, and the IFLA 2001 booth. Delin is also helping to translate “@ your library” phrases into Spanish for ALA’s new “Campaign for America Libraries.”

The office continues to assist with the IFLA Fellowship program and we are now in the process of coordinating the travel plans for Boston for the 93 librarians from 52 countries. If you are going to IFLA and would like to serve as a mentor for an IFLA Fellow, please contact the Office.

Testing continues on the new ALA International Participation Form. I wanted to thank all of those who input their data for the testing phase. We are still anticipating unveiling the form at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco this summer.

We had 25 applicants for ten slots in our new book fair partnership with the Hong Kong Book Fair, which will take place July 18-23, 2001. The partnership will assist librarians collecting Chinese language materials first hand access to the latest being published in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and Singapore.

The deadline for the ALA-ZIBF Free Pass to the Zimbabwe Book Fair recently passed and it continues to attract interest of ALA member librarians. The Guadalajara Book Fair will be next one. You will find more information on the Fair on this page.

---

**Tips on Attending the Guadalajara International Book Fair**

Toni Bissessar, Director, Multilingual Center (MLC) at the Brooklyn Public Library in New York, has gone to the Guadalajara International Book Fair for the past twelve years. She has the following tips offering to new goers:

1. We first decide who will be attending. Usually we have at least two people attending the Guadalajara Book Fair each year. In 2000, we sent four staff members: a librarian on the MLC staff, a librarian from one of our branches that has a large and extensive Spanish collection, a part time staff member that also works for the MLC, and myself.

2. Prior to the trip, my assistant and I developed a budget plan for the branches and for the MLC. We sent out a Spanish Language profile questionnaire to all the branches that have Spanish language collections. Branches completed and sent their questionnaires back to me. We created an Excel spreadsheet with all the information submitted by the branches. The profiles were used at the book fair to select and purchase materials for the branches and the MLC. These profiles were also sent to our vendors so that they could use them to look for the materials that we needed. The vendors were also told the budget amounts that we would spend on each branch so that they could help us keep tracking our budget. In the past twelve years, we usually spent about $40,000 to $50,000 each year at the fair.

3. At the book fair, we do not purchase directly from the publishers because we have the vendors do this for us. We only select the materials, write the bibliographic information on an order form, and give these orders to our vendors who in turn purchase the materials for us. Attending FIL has been an excellent way of purchasing Spanish language materials.

---

**ALA-FIL FREE PASS Program for 2001**

ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair are partnering for the fifth year to provide support for American or Canadian librarians to attend the 15th Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) from November 24 - December 2, 2001.

The ALA-FIL FREE PASS Program will provide three days lodging, continental breakfast, and registration at the expense of FIL (six nights if you share a room with a colleague who is also part of the program). ALA will contribute $100 toward the cost of airfare. FREE PASSES will be awarded to up to 200 librarians who are members of ALA and who work in the area of Spanish language acquisitions and/or are working to build their Spanish language collection to better serve their community and users. The featured country this year is Brazil. The deadline for application to the ALA-FIL FREE PASS Program is **August 15, 2001**. For more information and application click on the English version of the FREE PASS Program at [http://www.fil.com.mx](http://www.fil.com.mx) or contact:

David Unger  
FIL New York, Division of Humanities  
NAC 6293  
The City College of New York  
New York, NY 10031  
phone: 212-650-7925  
fax: 212-650-7912  
e-mail: FILNY@aol.com
Being an international visitor at ALA Annual Conference is a great experience. I participated for the first time at the Chicago conference last summer. I am a bibliographic consultant at the Danish Bibliographic Centre (DBC). DBC is the Danish national bibliographic agency and the manager of the union catalog for Danish libraries (DANBIB). Our vision is that DBC shall be counted among the leading bibliographic institutions of the world. I went to Chicago to meet American colleagues and exchange views on bibliographic developments. My special interests are metadata and authority control.

The ALA annual conference is a great opportunity to view the trends in American librarianship because you can attend in one place meetings and discussion forums of all the ALA sections and divisions.

I was asked: “Don’t you have a conference like this in Denmark?” In Denmark, we have three major library associations: The Danish Library Association, an association of public libraries, The Danish Research Library Association, and Danish Union of Librarians. The latter two organizations both have special interest subgroups and every association or subgroup has its own conferences and meetings. This structure scatters the effort to keep up with trends. The difference between American and Danish organization of library development is very understandable. Denmark is a very small country where you can easily gather for a one-day meeting. We don’t need to have large conferences with a lot of simultaneous events. I must admit, that planning my days in Chicago tore my soul apart. There were such a lot of interesting meetings, and being human means that you can only be in one place at a time, so I had to choose.

The strength of the ALA conference is that you get together with a lot of colleagues with different interests.

In Denmark you tend to meet with the same persons with the same special interests as yourself (except at the annual congress of the Danish Union of Librarians). Of course even in Chicago, the same people tended to show up for the same meetings, but between meetings, at lunch, and in the exhibition area I met a lot of other interesting people.

Meeting people is the interesting part of the ALA’s Chicago conference. No any email-discussion group or web-published paper could be anything but a supplement to the experience of being there.

Back in Denmark I know more about different projects in development of bibliographic data. I know more about how American libraries use metadata in their catalogs. I know more about how you want to develop cataloging rules to meet the needs of cataloging electronic resources. I know more about ALA and the divisions and which subgroups I should like to follow, or perhaps even join. Being a bibliographic consultant, my interests obviously lie with ALCTS, especially Committee of Cataloging, and with LITA.

I want to thank you for all the kindness and openness I as a foreigner experienced in Chicago. Especially I want to thank the International Relations Office and International Relations Round Table for the wonderful idea of having a mentor program. We had a great time, and it was comforting, when travelling alone to U. S. A. for the first time in my life, to know that in Chicago there was a kind fellow librarian waiting just for me. (Mary-Bess Halford, Library Director at Bethany College, edited and submitted this report on behalf of Birgit Gotterup, Bibliographic consultant at Danish Bibliographic Centre)

* * *

The challenge of navigating the ALA Annual Conference can be a daunting experience for librarians from abroad. To help international librarians make the most of their conference experience at the ALA, International Relations Office is once again coordinating a mentoring program.

Please consider becoming a mentor to an international librarian. A little bit of your time at conference (and/or correspondence prior to the conference) will be very valuable. You can help international librarians review the conference programs, make suggestions on making schedules to attend programs and visit the exhibits, or provide other helpful hints. It will make a big difference for them and be a rewarding experience for you.

The International Relations Office will strive to match each international librarian who requests a mentor with an American librarian who shares a similar area interest. If you are interested in participating in the mentoring program, please fill out the form on the IRO website http://www.ala.org/work/international/mentor.html
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) librarians and friends will get together for lunch during the ALA Annual Conference on Saturday, June 16, 2001 at 12:45 p.m. at the Thirsty Bear Brewing Company, 661 Howard St., San Francisco. Phone: 415-974-0905 and website: http://thirstybear.com/thirsty.second.html The restaurant is within easy walking distance (just half a block east) of the Moscone Convention Center. As a group, reservation will be needed. Please contact Beth Sibley for reservations at esibley@library.berkeley.edu

The ACRL Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section would like to invite you to attend “Unicode: Representing the World’s Languages Online: Trends and Applications” to be held on Sunday, June 17, 2001, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Marriott Golden Gate A1. Come and explore how Unicode is revolutionizing accessibility and usability of languages in the online library world with our panel of experts from the Unicode Consortium (Mark Davis, Unicode Consortium President), OCLC (Lynn Kellar, OCLC Enterprise Database Technology Director), RLG (Walt Crawford, Research Libraries Group Information Architect), and VTLS, Inc. (Vinod Chachra, VTLS Inc. President). Our panel will guide you through these changes and how they are affecting bibliographic utilities, indexing and abstracting services, online catalogs, and librarianship.

Technology, Globalization & Multicultural Services: an IFLA preconference will be held on August 14 – 16, 2001, in Buffalo, New York. The conference will explore the ways that the new technologies and emerging global information networks pose and the challenges and opportunities for the delivery of multicultural services in libraries. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how libraries have begun to develop initiatives to respond to the challenges of technology and globalization in a multicultural setting. International speakers from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe will explore globalization and its effects on society and culture, the impact of technology in an information age and its role in creating a digital divide, and the challenges involved in providing services to a multicultural community. The conference is sponsored by the IFLA Sections on Library Services to Multicultural Populations and on Information Technology. See http://libris.libbuffalo.edu/iflabuffalo/index.html for details.

The Library is the Whole World: International Research Conference for the 90th anniversary of birth of Professor Levas Vladimirovas will be held on January 31 – February 1, 2002, at Theatre Hall of Vilnius University (Universiteto 3, Vilnius, Lithuania). The professional outlook and work of prominent LIS educator, researcher, and administrator Professor Levas Vladimirovas (1912-1999) in the fields of library, information and book sciences are outstanding. The wide scope of his scholarship was related to the cultural, historical, social, political, technological, and economic contexts of the field. During his long and meaningful life, Professor Vladimirovas left many significant publications testifying to his extraordinary personality and input to Lithuanian and international culture and science. Vilnius University and Lithuanian Librarians’ Association organize the conference and invite researchers of libraries, bibliographies, information, book, history and theory of culture as well as library and information practitioners from all over the world, to take part and present papers at the Conference. Languages of the Conference are Lithuanian, English, and Russian. Online registration is through http://www.kf.vu.lt/konferencija

Second China/US Conference on Libraries: Strategic Policy Directions for China/US Library Cooperation will be held on August 11 – 16, 2001. The invitational conference sites include the Queens Borough Public Library in New York and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The major topics of the conference are: Information Policy, Resource Sharing, Human Resources, Role of Libraries in International Development, and Science and Technology Development. The individuals serving on the U.S. Planning Committee include Gary E. Strong at Queens Borough Public Library, Margaret Yu-Lan Chou at University of California-Berkeley, Michael Dowling of the ALA International Relations Office, Hwa-Wei Lee at Ohio University, Beverly P. Lynch at UCLA and the Center for Research Libraries, James G. Neal at Johns Hopkins University, and Winston Tabb at the Library of Congress. The first China – U.S. Library Conference was held at the National Library of China, in Beijing, China, in August 1996, immediately prior to the IFLA 1996 Conference in Beijing. For more information, please see the conference web site at http://www.worldlinq.org/us_china_conf2001/Local_info.htm

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
-Winston Churchill-
**IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston Update**

By Michael Dowling

It is hard to believe, but IFLA is just two months away, August 16-25! Plans continue to move forward and it is really shaping up to be an exciting international event with an American touch. If you haven’t registered, it’s not too late! Once again, ALA members can register at the IFLA rate using the ALA membership number US-0002.

**Speaker Dates Confirmed**
The U.S. Organizers have lined up a quality list of provocative and entertaining lecturers led by keynoter Jonathan Kozol, noted author and critic of the inequalities in American society. Joining Kozol as guest lecturers will be knowledge management expert Laurence Prusak, intellectual property specialist Peter Jaszi, Librarian of Congress James Billington, and a preservationist trio Deanna Marcum, George Farr, and Ann Russell. The presentation schedules are as the following:


**Programming**
IFLA 2001 looks to be the most programmatic IFLA ever. In addition to the extra programs and discussion sessions there will be over 60 poster sessions, a new record. For a complete overview and description of the conference activities visit the IFLA 2001 website at [http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/).

**Fellows Selected**
Thanks to generous support from foundations, corporate sponsors, libraries, and Individual librarians, the IFLA National Organizing Committee (NOC) fellowship program has raised $250,000 to bring 93 librarians from developing countries (primarily Latin American and the Caribbean) to the conference. The International Relations Round Table’s Continuing Education Committee will be coordinating the development of the Orientation session for IFLA Fellows and other grantees at the conference on Sunday afternoon, August 19, 2001.

**Update at the ALA Annual**
There will be a final orientation session and update at ALA Conference on Monday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Room 238 of the Moscone Convention Center. There will also be an IFLA 2001 booth in the Exhibit Hall. If you can’t make it to ALA Annual, go to the ALA Webster and click on IFLA Express for the latest news.

**Evening Activities at IFLA**
IFLA is noted for its conference-wide evening activities and three large receptions are being organized at the following venues: Boston Public Library - August 20, Museum of Science - August 21, and Harvard, MIT - August 23, 2001. There will also be a reception to open the exhibits on August 19 and plans are in the works for a reception for U.S. attendees on August 22, 2001.

**See you in Boston!**
The U.S. Organizers want to thank all of the U.S. library community for all it’s support over the last few years in putting the conference together and look forward to seeing you in Boston in August 2001!