International Innovation Shines in Anaheim

By Melissa Chiavaroli and Derek Mosley

The International Relations Round Table did a wonderful job at Annual of showing America’s librarians what we already know—international librarians are changing the world! A busy welcome center highlighted the benefits of joining the IRRT and introduced countless librarians to what professionals across the world are accomplishing.

The International Librarians Reception on Monday evening was regarded as “the highlight of the conference” by many of its attendees. The sold out reception was held at the Muzeo, treating attendees to a beautiful view on the open air patio, international cuisine, and a free tour of the museum. However, the most anticipated moment of the night was the presentation of this year’s ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects.

The ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects began as an ALA Presidential initiative of Dr. Loriene Roy, ALA President in 2007-2008 and Notable IRRT Member. The citations were started to acknowledge the innovations of libraries outside of the US—and to acknowledge these efforts within the US. These first awards were delivered at the 2008 annual conference in Anaheim.

The 2012 recipients represented four continents, a diverse patron group, and a myriad of new services. It was easy to see why these librarians garnered rock star status after accepting their citations. The projects truly took innovation to the next level and provided new opportunities for the librarians to cement their status as essential information professionals in their communities.

So, what made these projects stand out the most? The libraries response to a community needs of course! Often, before the community even realized they needed it.

The Urban Office is the Helsinki City Library’s (Finland) answer to the need for

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Message from the Editor

With this issue, we welcome a new year, a new IRRT board, and an online-only format for International Leads. Let’s join together to thank Past-chair, Eve Nyren, for a job well done, and welcome Dr. Loriene Roy as she embarks on her duties as Chair.

The first article, International Innovation Shines in Anaheim, celebrates one of Dr. Roy’s initiatives as ALA President, 2007-08, the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects. It is appropriate that we celebrate this Citation in Anaheim, the site of the first awards.

As noted in the IRC report, President-Elect Maureen Sullivan will focus her international activities on three areas, one of which is close to my heart: exploring a partnership with the Peace Corps alumni association. Marcy Carrel, a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and current Peace Corps official, describes the common connections between Volunteers and library professionals in Connections and Common Values—Librarians and the Peace Corps. As I did, many Volunteers set up libraries in their villages as secondary projects, fully aware of the importance of libraries in their communities. Some return to the U.S., continue in the profession, and find like-minded fellowship in IRRT’s International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group.

Loida Garcia-Febo introduces us to a series of webinars sponsored by IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning and IFLA New Professionals Special Interest Group in her news item New Librarians Global Connection.

There is still time to submit a proposal to Library 2.012 Worldwide Virtual Conference. Check out Knowledge Sharing at the Forefront of Virtual Conference for details.

Mid-winter will be held in Seattle and the annual conference in Chicago. See you there!

~ Janet Lee

Call for Submission

Do you have news about...

- International library activities?
- People in international librarianship?
- Upcoming international conferences?
- International partnerships between libraries?

Then why not submit it to International Leads? Send your news to intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com for consideration.

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common office space amongst the city’s mobile workers, small businesses, and students. Equipped with the newest technology, modern design and furniture, and fulltime librarian support. While many people dread going to the office, people cannot wait to reserve time here.

Planner Kirsi Salminen notes that her library decided to pursue this project because their patrons indirectly demanded it. “We were in the process of changing the services we offer in our lobby when suddenly the customers started using the empty space in a new way, so we decided to fill this gap.” It was decided that the space should have its own building and that is when the project really took off.

Helsinki City Library staff is available from Monday to Friday between 11 am and 8 pm providing guidance on how to use the services, manage reservations, and help with technical problems. Urban Office users enjoy modern equipment, high speed wireless internet, a pleasant atmosphere, and comfortable workspaces at no charge. Need a data projector and screen? No problem! Need a multimedia and video editing workstation? They have that too! This project has been so successful, that the library is creating a handbook for other libraries interested in establishing a similar service.

While Helsinki is taking their patrons into the future with the newest technology and space design, Hong Kong Baptist University is opening up the past to a whole new world of users, literally. Lisa Song is the librarian behind the Chinese Medicine Digital Projects. The use of Chinese plants and herbs in medicine is admired worldwide. However, did you know that this information has never been available outside of the Chinese language before now? Lisa’s partnership began with a single professor. She now has so many faculty members waiting to work with the library as a direct result of this project that they will be hiring more librarians to meet the University’s needs! As if this would not be enough of a benefit from any single project, the Chinese Medicine Digital Projects is working on making the entire cannon of Chinese Medicine available in English for the very first time!

Each database entry contains a picture of the specimen, its name in Chinese, English, and the Latin name. Known uses for each item are listed as well as warnings for what other herbs and drugs with which it may interact badly.

The most impressive part of this project is the school’s commitment to providing access to this information for free. The first two of the four planned databases have been completed and can be searched at http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/lib/electronic/libdbs/scm_specimen.html.

The Riecken Community Libraries (RCL) and The World is Just a Book Away (WIJABA) projects are serving the youngest members of our global community and their families. Both projects build libraries in areas that have been devastated by poverty, war, or natural disasters. But the true innovation behind these projects lie in the way the communities are expected to support their library.

RCL President Bill Cartwright explained that open stacks libraries are very rare in Central America and most children have never even touched a book. At a recent library opening, more than 1000 people showed up because they had never seen that many books (about 400) in one place.

Riecken has opened more than 60 libraries in Central America. Several initiatives including developing early literacy programs to assist mothers in learning how to read along with their children; providing training and access to technologies like GPS that enable community members to document their cultural spaces/cultural heritage; and publishing local books in indigenous languages are helping the organization to meet its goal of ending the cycle of illiteracy and oppression.

Similarly, James Owens founded TWIJABA on the belief that education breaks the cycle of poverty and promotes peace. More than 27,000 children have been served through 49 libraries, 26 parent libraries and two mobile libraries.

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All but one of these libraries are attached to a school. Children are encouraged to pick the types of books the library will buy. The libraries provide books for the parents as well since many of them stay during class time because they live so far away. WIJABA provides children with hope, empowering them to change their own lives and the world at large. James Owens has been so successful in realizing his dream of this year’s Presidential Citation, we should all commit to reaching out and seeing what our peers have to offer. We may not be able to visit, but there are plenty of ways we can work together wherever we are. After all, isn’t that what we do best?

Melissa Chiavaroli and Derek Mosley on behalf of the Emerging Leaders IRRT Project Team

Message from the Chair

by Loriene Roy

It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the 2012-2013 Chair of ALA’s International Relations Round Table (IRRT). You and I are on new ground as this is the inaugural online-only edition of International Leads. While a few IRRT members preferred that we continue to produce and distribute a print version of the newsletter, publishing it online has some distinct advantages. For example, the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter can now be used for other IRRT activities. Also, the online edition can be shared easily and issues can be produced in a more timely matter. This will help us maintain contact with IRRT members and share news more broadly!

Did you know that of ALA’s twenty round tables, IRRT has the largest number of members? In May 2012 we learned that IRRT membership (1,858 members) had exceeded the membership of the ALA Members Round Table (1,830 members). Being number one, though, is not an easy position: I need each one of you to continue your membership and to help us welcome new IRRT members!

I value each IRRT member: you illustrate ALA’s commitment to international librarianship. That commitment culminates with the many activities organized by IRRT Committees for each ALA Annual Conference. These activities include: the IRRT pre-conference, orientation for international librarians, international visitor’s center, poster sessions, papers, Chair’s program, awards, and the ever popular international reception. Your efforts are meaningful and appreciated. Carol Brandenburg, Content Selection and Acquisitions Coordinator at Lincoln University, was one of our international delegates attending ALA 2012 in Anaheim. She co-presented a session with Carolyn Robertson at the international papers program on the impact of the earthquakes on libraries in Christchurch, Aotearoa/New Zealand. In reflecting on her first ALA annual conference, Carol described her top three experiences:

1. Friendly, helpful team of International Relations Round Table working to provide an exciting programme of sessions from a wide range of institutions and situations.

2. International Librarians Reception, incredible night with the perfect venue, great food and (only brief) speeches.

3. Informal opportunities to speak with colleagues from all types of institutions and in all sorts of situations, e.g. International Orientation was the perfect example.

What have I been doing...
as your IRRT Chair-Elect? Ms. Eve Nyren, immediate Past Chair, and other members of your IRRT Executive Board, have helped me learn the ropes. I helped revamp the IRRT Committee Appointment process. Thanks to Delin Guerra, the process is now based on a Drupal form. Just start by logging into ALA with your ALA member number and then log in at:

http://www.alanli.org/CFApps/Committee/volunteer-form/volunteerform.cfm

Then follow the links to indicate your committee preference! Dr. Carol Kem, IRRT Chair-Elect, will be making the appointments this year.

I have plans for this coming year!

• I plan to work with Chairs of IRRT members to support their continuing work.
• Now that the IRRT Endowment has launched, we need to double the size of the endowment in order for it to start working for us. Someday we will be able to support international delegates to present at the ALA Annual Conference. I need your help and ideas on how to support and advance the endowment!
• I hope to extend the message of IRRT to ALA members and beyond, starting with regular posts on the IRRT blog at: (http://alairrt.blogspot.com/).

My own international connections continue.
• I continue to serve as the Convener for the IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Indigenous Matters. Anyone can be a member of the SIG, regardless of IFLA membership. We communicate largely through our FaceBook page at: (https://www.facebook.com/groups/66990630010/).
• I maintain my membership in Te Ropu Whakahau, Maori in Libraries and Information Management (http://www.trw.org.nz/).

• I serve as a 2012-2014 Adjunct Professor in the School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa/New Zealand. In this unsalaried/volunteer position I will work with Victoria through consulting with students and faculty, and building connections.
• I serve as an advisor on the planning of A Global Gathering: A Pilgrimage of Love and Forgiveness (www.fetzer.org) that will take place from 19-23 September 2012 in Assisi, Italy.

• In October 2012 I will attend and present at “Honoring our Indigenous Ways of Knowing: How We Are Making a Difference,” the Annual Lifelong Learning Conference in Lethbridge, Alberta.

• My colleague, Dr. Ciaran Trace, and I have been awarded a planning grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services for “Indigenous Ways” to assess the degree of awareness of indigenous ways among educators and recent graduates of programs that prepare entry-level professionals for library/archives/museum work settings.

Meanwhile, if I had a theme for my year as your IRRT Chair, it is love & forgiveness. I welcome your examples and thoughts of how the work we do through libraries exemplifies love and forgiveness!
Connections and Common Values—Librarians and the Peace Corps

by Marcy Carrel

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in the southern African country of Lesotho from 2006 to 2008, Devin Burritt was assigned to serve as an English teacher in a rural secondary school. Soon after his arrival, the school opened a library and received a donation of textbooks from the U.S. Embassy. A direct result of that donation would help cement Devin’s eventual career track.

“I remember walking over to the athletic fields for our sports day, and spotting several students hiding in the trees and aloe plants. I snuck over with the aim of scolding them for their lack of school spirit, when I noticed what they were doing. A group of high school-aged students were skipping outdoor athletics to pore over a crisp new science textbook,” Devin recalls, adding, “I was considering becoming a librarian, but that moment will be forever embedded in my mind as the moment when I knew it was what I wanted to be.”

After completing his Peace Corps service, Devin earned an MLS with a focus in youth studies from Kent State University in 2010. His first professional position out of library school was at a small rural library in Maine where he served as the assistant director/technology librarian/technical services librarian/youth services librarian. “I was considering becoming a librarian, but that moment will be forever embedded in my mind as the moment when I knew it was what I wanted to be.”

And, Devin doesn’t have to look far for someone with common interests. His wife, Jessica Atherton, also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho (2006-08) and received her MLS from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010. She is currently the Youth Services librarian and head of public relations for the Bangor (Maine) Public Library.

Devin and Jessica are certainly not the first or the only returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) to decide to pursue an MLS and a library career. The affinities between Peace Corps service and the library profession are real and continuing. Although there are no hard statistics, there are many stories.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps has a long relationship with librarians and library projects. In the early years, the agency actively recruited professional librarians to serve in positions in Africa, the Americas, and other parts of the world. For example, Peace Corps librarians served in secondary schools in Malaysia; an economic information center in Colombia; university libraries in Swaziland; and the national institute of agricultural research in Niger. Although the Peace Corps no longer recruits or places librarians, small library projects are still common secondary activities for Volunteers in the field. Volunteers often seek additional funding for library projects through the Peace Corps Partnership Program, which supports community projects worldwide through tax-deductable donations from the general public. In 2011, there were over 70 book- or library-related funding requests through this program alone.

Library professionals join the Peace Corps for non-librarian assignments as well, while some returned Peace Corps Volunteers become librarians after their service. Others may enjoy another combination of Peace Corps service and the library profession. For example, Allaina Wallace worked as a student assistant at the Regis University library under librarian Janet Lee (RPCV/Ethiopia, 1974-76) before joining Peace Corps and serving in...
Allaina earned her MLS from Emporia State University in 2004 and now works as a librarian and archivist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado.

There are many other stories...

Barbara Ford was the first RPCV librarian to become president of the American Library Association (ALA), serving from 1997 to 1998 under the theme, “Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch.” Barbara strongly encouraged networking among RPCV librarians and a group now meets for lunch on Saturdays at the annual and midwinter ALA conferences. Members of this group of RPCVs, including Connie Champlin, Gail Wadsworth, and Joan Weeks, later formed what became the International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group (ISLD) of the International Relations Roundtable (IRRT) of ALA. ISLD is an active interest group that “mobilizes the power of ALA librarians to raise awareness of, and make significant contributions to, international library development.” (http://www.ala.org/irrt/irrtcommittees/isld/isld)

Many of the skills developed during Peace Corps service translate well to the library profession and its service perspective. The next step is the ALA-accredited MLS degree – and this is where there is a real need and opportunity for growth. Through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program, the Peace Corps partners with various U.S. universities to offer financial assistance to returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

All Fellows complete internships in underserved American communities, allowing them to bring home, and expand upon, the skills they learned as Volunteers. These skills in adapting to new cultures, developing and managing projects, dealing with language barriers, and leveraging limited resources attract the attention of prospective schools. (http://www.peacecorps.gov/learn/whyvol/eduben/fellows/)

Currently, there are Fellows offerings for degrees in public policy, environmental resource management, business, and many other programs. However, there are no Master of Library Science programs. This is an opportunity for great mutual benefit for the Peace Corps and the university, as well as RPCVs who are the prospective MLS candidates and future leaders within the library profession.

What’s next?

- If you are an ALA or IRRT member, consider becoming a member of ISLD to learn about and support international sustainable library development.
- If you would like to learn about or contribute to specific current Peace Corps Volunteer library projects, see the list on the Peace Corps Partnership Program page. (https://donate.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=donate.contribute.donatenow)
- If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Peace Corps Volun-

When asked how Peace Corps service affected his professional development and career, Devin Burritt shared the following: “Peace Corps was invaluable to my success as a librarian. In a profession that is desperately trying to maintain relevance in our communities beyond lending books, Peace Corps taught me how to be flexible and innovative.”

Marcy Carrel
Information, Collection & Exchange
Peace Corps
International Relations Committee Report

By Sha Li Zhang, Chair

International Librarians at Conference

This year, ALA was pleased to welcome 430 international librarians from 83 countries to the ALA 2012 Annual Conference in sunny California. In addition to attendance, a big number of international librarians were also invited to speak at various ALA programs. IRC hosted a program featuring speakers from BRIC countries and other regions on library development in emerging economies. Inviting international speakers to share their experience and practices is one of the goals in the ALA’s 2015 International Strategic Plan.

ALA was honored that IFLA President Ingrid Parent, University Librarian from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, was in attendance. Ms. Parent also spoke at several ALA events, including a keynote speech at the Chinese American Librarians Association Annual Program. Several IFLA governing board members also provided IFLA updates and progress on IFLA’s key initiatives at the Conference.

ALA 2015 International Strategic Plan

Closely following the ALA’s 2015 International Strategic Plan, IRC continued efforts to carry out planned international activities. Several ALA units have made concerted efforts in expanding their activities on a global scale. The interim report on reviewing international activities will be presented at the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting.

IFLA Nominations

IRC began preparing nominations of ALA members who wish to serve on IFLA committees from 2013-2017. A letter of call for nomination and protocols of process from the IRC Chair was sent to the ALA units that will nominate their members to relevant IFLA committees. ALA members have played important roles in serving on IFLA, including promoting international standards and advocating for policies to better serve our communities.

U. S. National Commission of UNESCO Report

Ms. Barbara Ford, reported the status on U.S. funding for UNESCO. The U.S. stopped funding the UNESCO in late 2011 when the international agency admitted Palestine into its membership. In February 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton testified before the Senate Appropriation Committee and asked to waive the restrictions on funds for UNESCO. Ms. Ford will continue to provide updates to the IRC, COL and OIF on this issue.

New International E-Newsletter

The International Relations Office mailed the first issue of ALA International Direct e-newsletter in June 2012. This bi-monthly newsletter will increase communication with international members and customers. The newsletter will highlight ALA resources and opportunities of particular interest, and feature profiles and interviews of international members, as well as best practices from around the globe.

Haiti Library Relief Fund

Thanks to the support of ALA members and others, ALA has been able provide the support to re-open the Petit Goave Public Library in May 2012. The community had been without a library for over two years since the devastating earthquake in January 2010. To date, ALA has raised over $60,000 to help re-open three libraries in Haiti.

Campaign for the World’s Libraries

Taiwan launched its campaign in spring 2012 in conjunction with the new National Taichung Library. The Library is using the slogan “REAL @ your library.” The campaign is following up on a year-long campaign focused on children’s books, and this month public libraries across Taiwan are celebrating Newberry and Caldecott winners with exhibits,

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International Access to ALA Store

The IRC would like to recognize ALA Publishing and its effort to make e-content on the ALA Store accessible to international members and customers. After significant effort, the ALA Store is now able to receive payments for e-content from outside the United States.

Hong Kong Book Fair

In July 2012, the Hong Kong Book Fair will again welcome ALA members through the ALA-Hong Kong Free Pass Program. The program makes attendance possible for ALA members who collect Chinese language materials.

ALA Leadership’s International Outreach

ALA leadership has continued efforts in reaching out to library colleagues around the world. Since January 2012, President Molly Raphael participated in the library conferences and events in Brazil, Mexico, and Canada and spoke to library colleagues there. President-Elect Maureen Sullivan will focus her international activities on three areas: strengthening ALA’s work with Sister Libraries program, exploring a partnership with the Peace Corps alumni association, and providing webinars for ALA’s international members.

Staff Thanks

Many thanks to the IRO Office, Michael Dowling and Delin Guerra, for their timely support and ongoing assistance to carry out many international initiatives and activities.

New Librarians Global Connection

By Loida Garcia-Febo

A new series of free quarterly webinars on issues of interest to new librarians, models of library associations and library schools working with new professionals, and groups by and for librarians are sponsored by IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) and IFLA New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) in partnership with the American Library Association.

The first session, presented on January 17, featured Dr. Alex Byrne, New South Wales State Librarian and Chief Executive of the State Library NSW in Australia, IFLA President 2005-2007; Janice Lachance, J.D., CEO of the Special Libraries Association; JP Porcaro, Head of Library Acquisitions and Technological Discovery at New Jersey City University, co-founder of ALA Think Tank, and originator of the Make It Happen philosophy for librarians.

The second session, presented on April 10, included: Kay Raseroka, University Librarian, University of Botswana; IFLA President 2003-2005; Maureen Sullivan, ALA President Elect, Program Facilitator, ALA Emerging Leaders Program; Mace Ojala and Jukka Pennanen, Founders of Cycling for Libraries.

The third session, presented on July 17, included: Barbara Ford, Director and Distinguished Professor, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library, and President of the American Library Association in 1997-1998; Sandy Littletree, Knowledge River Program Manager; and Jessica Hernandez, Co-Chair of the Knowledge River Alumni Network. Rachel Bickley, Assistant Librarian, University of the West of England, and LISNPN Co-manager.

For updates, keep an eye on the IFLA website and Calendar of Events http://www.ifla.org/ and on the NPSIG blog http://npsig.wordpress.com/webinars/

The CPDWL and NPSIG joint work to produce these webinars is coordinated by Loida Garcia-Febo as part of a team including CPDWL Co-Chairs, Sylvia Piggot and Ulrike Lang, and NPSIG Convenor, Sebastian Wilke.

Loida Garcia-Febo,
Coordinator,
New Americans Program,
Queens Library
Knowledge Sharing at the Forefront of Virtual Conference

Coming this fall is the Library 2.012 Worldwide Virtual Conference, an online forum centered on the future of libraries in our evolving information landscape. The global conference will be held around the clock in multiple time zones October 3-5, 2012, and is free to attend.

Distinguished speakers and keynote presenters will steer the participatory conference. Hailing from China, the United States, Mexico, Singapore, and Brazil, the keynote presenters lend an international perspective to the insightful conversation.

Presentations made by library and information science scholars, professionals, and students will round out the conference schedule, furthering the hearty discussions.

Sessions will follow six thought-provoking subject strands addressing physical and virtual learning spaces, evolving professional roles in today’s world, organizing and creating information, changing delivery methods, user-centered access, and mobile and geo-social information environments.

Information professionals worldwide are encouraged to submit presentation proposals and share their valuable research and knowledge. The deadline to submit proposals is September 15, 2012. View Call for Proposals. http://www.library20.com/page/call-for-proposals-2012

To join the global conversation, visit Library2012.com. Participants may also follow the conference Twitter feed using the hash tag “LIB2012.”

Founding Partner: San José State University School of Library and Information Science.