UNESCO Efforts for Promoting Literacy through Libraries

By Lesley Farmer

Dr. Lesley Farmer, Library Program Coordinator at the California State University Long Beach, was invited to work with Library Director Lisa Krolak at the Hamburg UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). The two information professionals are revising literacy promotion publications for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) under the auspices of its Literacy and Reading Section. It is intended that the two documents -- Using Research to Promote Literacy and Reading in Libraries (Farmer) and Literacy Matters: Guidelines for Library-Based Literacy Activities (Krolak) – will be approved by IFLA and published in 2016.

This two-week study trip in January 2016 enabled Dr. Farmer to access documents held at the UNESCO UIL library. Both monographs and periodical from around the world can be difficult to find, and the library also collects brochures and guides about lifelong learning. The institute oversees three programs: adult learning and education, lifelong learning, and literacy and basic skills. The institute also maintains two important databases: Effective Literacy Practice (http://www.unesco.org/UIL/litbase/) and the library’s Adult Learning Documentation and Information Network (http://www.unesco.org/education/aladin/). Both of these databases may be freely accessed by anyone.

Lisa Krolak also arranged for Dr. Farmer to visit the main public library and the Hamburg University for Applied Sciences, which offers bachelor’s and master’s degrees in information science. The public library system has made several outstanding efforts to help refugees who live in the area, such as collections in several languages, regular language dialogue sessions to help people practice German, and online library cards. The library also collaborates with refugee centers and social management of homes for asylum seeker to provide services, with the literary festival Harbour Front to get donations for refugees, and with students who print and sell “Refugees Welcome” with profits going to the dialogue service.

In turn, Dr. Farmer presented two literacy topics to the UNESCO audience. The presentation “Technology Impact on Teen and New Adult Behavior about Health Information” summarized Dr. Farmer’s extensive literature review since 2007 about information behaviors. “The Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program” presentation highlighted the literacy efforts from around the word, which were recognized selected by the program’s advisory board. Dr. Farmer serves on that board.

About her two-week study trip Dr. Farmer remarked: “The UNESCO library offers unique materials about the role of libraries in promoting literacy and reading. Furthermore, the UNESCO staff have been most welcoming and helpful with my work. I could not have accomplished the literature review and writing without their guidance.”
Greetings to international librarians everywhere! Our March 2016 issue contains a rich array of news and feature articles.

John Hickok, Chair, and Beth Cramer, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, IRRT (International Relations Round Table), offer news about the ongoing work done by the committee, and ways in which you can contribute to this work. News about a devastating university library fire in Northern Malawi also appears in these pages, with ways in which you can help here too. News about an upcoming Fulbright webinar is in this issue as well.

In addition, this issue further includes a rich collection of inspiring feature articles. Lesley Farmer offers an intriguing view of UNESCO efforts to foster literacy through libraries. Patricia Wand describes how ALA helped bring librarians to the Gulf for an international book fair. Amed Demirhan and Tamara Pianos showcase international library cooperation through projects like the Econbiz Partner Network. Loida Garcia-Febo shares information about the Cape Town Book Donation Project, Gift a Book, Change a Life. Heshan Mohamed and Salwa Elmeawad demonstrate how library transformation fuels library staff training in Egypt. And Margy MacMillan notes how attending international conferences can help librarians everywhere “go global.”

~Karen Bordonaro and Gail Sacco

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Call for Submission

Do you have news about…

- International library activities?
- People in international librarian-ship?
- Upcoming international conferences?

Then why not submit to International Leads? Send your news and stories to the co-editors: Karen Bordonaro, kbordonaro@brocku.ca, Gail Sacco, gsacco75@gmail.com

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International Leads Web Site

http://www.ala.org/irrt/intlleads/internationalleads

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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. IL is indexed by Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA). The IRRT mailing address is: International Relations Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Materials for IL should be sent to Co-editor, Karen Bordonaro, James A. Gibson Library, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2S 3A1
Greetings IRRT membership! It was terrific seeing many of you at Midwinter in Boston! As you can see from our Friday reception photo below, we had a wonderful gathering of socializing and networking. One of the greatest benefits of being a member of IRRT is the opportunity to networking with like-minded professionals who have interest and experience in international librarianship. While in Boston, I talked with both librarians working abroad as well as librarians here in the U.S. engaged in internationalizing efforts (multilingual collection development, services to immigrants, instruction to international students, and on & on). The spectrum of experiences for international librarianship is broad and exciting.

Our IRRT committees are busily preparing for ALA Annual in Orlando. We’ll have many programs (Chair’s Program, Papers Program, Preconference program, etc.) and our popular events (International Visitors Center, International Reception gala, etc.) Committee work is one of the best ways to get involved and network with others. We have many spots that will be opening up on our committees, so visit our IRRT Committees page to read up on volunteering. And don’t let inability to attend conferences stop you; virtual members are welcome too.

From now until Annual, we are continuing our fundraising drive to reach $50,000 for our Endowment Fund. This fund—which we cannot begin using until it reaches $50,000 (per ALA policy)—will enable IRRT to begin doing some incredible things that we currently can’t: such as travel awards for overseas librarians, or training materials for sister libraries, or international webinars connecting U.S. and foreign librarians, or more.

We are currently at $38,000, so if everyone donated only $5 or $10 more, we’d reach the goal. You can donate here.

IRRT Web Site: http://www.ala.org/irrt/front
Message from the Chair Elect

Volunteer for an IRRT committee - internationalize your professional life.

In my experience, working with the International Relations Round Table has been an amazing volunteer opportunity. Through my work with IRRT, I have served as hostess for librarians from around the world, kept informed about various international travel and volunteer opportunities, and worked with a fabulous cross-section of librarians from academic, school, public, and special libraries.

We currently have appointments to fill and are taking applications for 2016-2018. To volunteer, request appointment to an IRRT committee by filling out the electronic form on our IRRT Committee site.

We have several committees to match your interests and talents:

- **International Connections**: focuses on projects promoting exchanges/ cooperation between libraries.
- **International Librarians' Preconference**: plan and present a half-day pre-conference.
- **International Librarians' Orientation**: plan and present an orientation session for our international ALA attendees.
- **International Paper Session and Projects**: review and judge papers to be presented at ALA Annual.
- **International Poster Session**: review and judge posters to be presented at ALA Annual.
- **International Reception**: plan the famous International Reception held at ALA Annual.
- **International Sister Libraries**: promote partnerships between sister libraries.
- **International Visitors Center**: greet and assist international librarians in our Visitor Center at ALA Annual.
- **Membership**: help promote IRRT and reach out to new members.
- **Nominating**: help find, nominate, and present the next cycle of IRRT officers.
- **Publications**: work with our social media presence and offer support to our website and publications.

I very much look forward to working with you, Beth Cramer, Chair-Elect, 2016-2017.

ALA and Sharjah International Book Fair

By Patricia A. Wand

Around 300 information professionals from 20 countries came together in the United Arab Emirates for the 2nd annual Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) / ALA Library Conference, November 10 – 12, 2015 at the Sharjah Expo Centre.

Two keynote speeches - opening with Sari Feldman, ALA President and closing with former ALA Treasurer James Neal - bookended 17 presentations and a poster session. Concurrent papers offered new ideas in children services, cultural centers, serving faculty, big data, technology for assessment, advocacy and consortia. The diverse topics were based on surveys of library workers in the area and last year’s attendees. A fully-enrolled preconference focused on RDA cataloging standards.

The 34-year-old Sharjah International Book Fair is emerging as the largest book fair in the Gulf. Ahmed Al Ameri, Director, Sharjah Book Authority, is committed to expanding professional development opportunities and raising the visibility of libraries in the region.


ALA’s participation is coordinated by Michael Dowling, Director, ALA International Relations Office; Mary Mackay, Director, ALA Marketing; Jon Malinowski, President, Combined Book Exhibit, and Janet Fritsch, International Book Fair Coordinator.

The Mzuzu University (“Mzuni”) Library Initiative

By Paul Hover

In the early morning hours of Friday, December 18, 2015, the Mzuzu University library in Northern Malawi was completely destroyed by fire. This was a terrible loss to the University, the principal institution of higher education in the least developed region of one of Africa’s poorest countries.

Many books will be required to support the students and faculty in the University’s various departments. The specific titles that are urgently needed have been identified by faculty and librarians at Mzuzu University and can be purchased on MyRegistry (search for “Mzuni” under the organization/NGO category).

Books can also be donated by following the guidance provided on the Mzuni Library Initiative’s website. In addition to books, Mzuzu University requires new computers and tablets to support the reading/viewing of digital media.

Please consider supporting this important initiative in any way you can. If you have any questions, please contact Hayden Boyd (President of the Malawi Education and Children’s Welfare Foundation, hayden_boyd@yahoo.com) who is leading the US response with support from Virginia Tech. His report on the fire can be read here.

“The library was the main place on campus for students to study, read, and use computers. Few students can afford to purchase books, so the library was their only access to these resources. Faculty members also have few books by rich country standards, but reading and reference materials were available to them in the library. The university’s information technology department and network servers were also housed in the library. All of these resources were destroyed.”

Source: Dr. Mavuto Tembo
International Cooperation Among Libraries

By Amed Demirhan and Tamara Pianos

The rapid development in Internet technologies and open access resources have created great opportunities for libraries to cooperate and collaborate locally, nationally, and internationally. The number of learning resources has been radically increasing. For example, the Directory of Open Access Journals as of January 26, 2016 contains “11,087 Journals with 8,637 of which are searchable at Article level, from 136 Countries covering 2,169,211 Articles in total”.

This directory alone has more journals and articles than most academic institutions have in subscribed print journals, and it is free. A study published by Madian Khabsa and C. Lee Giles in May 2014 states: “Our estimates show that at least 114 million English-language scholarly documents are accessible on the web, of which Google Scholar has nearly 100 million. Of these, we estimate that at least 27 million (24%) are freely available since they do not require a subscription or payment of any kind.” This includes many open access (free e-textbooks), directories, and reference resources. Therefore, the issue is no longer about how many resources one could have access to but rather is about the quality of those resources. These developments make the role of librarians and libraries more important than ever and can help foster collaborations among librarians.

The German National Library of Economics (ZBW) thrives to foster collaboration among likeminded libraries. The ZBW runs the subject portal EconBiz.de, one of the largest search-portals for economics and business studies and related subjects. The international EconBiz partner network initiated by the ZBW is a strategic partnership for improving search experiences and various network activities. It enables research institutions and libraries to interact and find solutions for challenges that all or many partners face (e.g. access to information).

Networking has potentially huge benefits for all partners who are involved. Small Business BC lists the following five general benefits of networking: 1. Shared Knowledge, 2. Opportunities, 3. Connections, 4. Increased confidence, 5. Raising your profile. These general benefits of networking not only apply to businesses but also to networks that have no interest in economic gain.

(continued on p. 7 )
The subject portal EconBiz covers over 9 million title records. About one million of these records lead to open access full-text. The portal offers simple and advanced search options as well as faceted filtering. By including the research guide EconDesk into the portal, it offers personalized help in the search process via chat, mail or telephone. EconBiz-Apps for iPad, iPhone and Android smartphones are available, and the portal itself has been optimized for mobile use as well.

The most prominent feature of the portal is the search for academic publications. EconBiz tries to show the best availability options for each result set. In order to do this, it provides links to open access PDFs wherever possible but also includes link resolving systems to show availability in libraries via WorldCat or German referencing and link resolving systems.

The EconBiz calendar of events covers conferences and summer schools in the area of economics and business studies from all over the world in cooperation with Resources for Economists (RFE) by the American Economic Association (AEA). A visual search for events that can easily be integrated into third party websites shows the current distribution of future events covered.

**The International EconBiz Partner Network**

The international EconBiz partner network initiated by the ZBW is a strategic partnership for improving search experiences and various network activities. It enables research institutions and libraries to interact and find solutions for common challenges such as access to information. Finding partners for potential projects is also an important role of the network.

Events hosted by partners are promoted through the EconBiz calendar of events. This ensures greater visibility for the events and enrichment of the calendar at the same time. The promotion of ZBW’s library services and improved visibility of German research in the partner countries is a welcome effect for ZBW whereas the partners gain access to a wealth of quality publications.

One piece of feedback from the first partner meeting was that the partners wanted a Facebook group to exchange news etc. Thus, an open Facebook group was initiated.

We welcome new partners and new opportunities to work with our colleagues. Those interested in the partner network are welcome to contact Tamara Pianos: t.pianos@zbw.eu
Gift a Book, Change a Life: Cape Town Book Donation Project

By Loida Garcia-Febo

More than 420 books, CDs and DVDs were donated by IFLA delegates to Cape Town public libraries during the World Library and Information Congress this past August as part of Gift a Book, Change a Life, a book project donation for Cape Town. The initiative was coordinated by the Africa Subcommittee of ALA’s International Relations Committee (IRC) which I Chaired at the time, the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), and the Libraries for Children and Young Adult Section of IFLA (CHILD). I was honored to hand over the collection to LIASA in representation of the ALA’s IRC and the Africa Subcommittee in a special ceremony during the IFLA Congress in Cape Town. LIASA made arrangements with interested congress delegates to send in more books through the LIASA National Office and worked with the regional public library administration to ensure their distribution to five identified local libraries which were overjoyed to receive the books.

The idea was brought up by the membership of the Africa Subcommittee wishing to share the joy of reading and discovery of information through books. Collaborating with ALA’s International Relations Office (IRO) and the IRC, we were able to frame the initiative as an international concept by working in partnership with the hosting library association, LIASA, and an IFLA committee with experience in book donation for children, IFLA CHILD. I kept thinking how inspiring it was to see the enthusiasm of library associations and the IFLA membership bringing books to contribute to the enrichment of communities in Cape Town.

A team including the Chairs and Presidents of all the organizing partners worked through email and Skype to make the project happen. Local librarians were consulted to identify the specific language and type of books to be collected as well as the libraries who would benefit from the project. They collaborated closely with the management of the IFLA Congress to secure a book-drop location at the LIASA Stand in the South African Hub at the Exhibits Hall. As per the words of Ms. Segametsi Molawa, LIASA President, this was a great partnership.

“On behalf of LIASA I would like to thank the ALA team that organized this initiative and all the donors. This is indeed a special gift of hope for all recipients.”

The Public Library Section of IFLA was one of the groups who collected books for the project and promoted it on their blog and social media. Their energy was contagious and other groups followed disseminating the information on the webpage created by the ALA’s IRO across the globe, including ALA’s International Relations Round Table which featured a blog entry about the call for donations.

Due to the great response from the library community, the team is looking into continuing book donating projects during upcoming IFLA Congresses. Both Chairs of IFLA CHILD and the Public Library Section agreed that this was a great initiative with Vivian Quiñones, Chair of IFLA CHILD encouraging to replicate the project at upcoming Congresses.

As part of the initiative, the Africa Subcommittee presented a poster featuring the concept, best practices for a book donation project and outcomes of the initiative during the Poster Session at the IFLA Congress.

It was a joy to collaborate with esteemed colleagues on this project: Laverne Page, Chair of IRC’s Africa Subcommittee, Segametsi Molawa, President of LIASA, Ujala Satgoor, Immediate Past President of LIASA, Viviana Quiñones, Chair of IFLA CHILD, the ALA IRC and all the members of the committees involved. Together we can!
Libraries have dramatically transformed from places that house books to institutions that provide essential tools for the communities they serve, encompassing their informational, lifelong learning, social, economic, legal, and educational needs. School, academic, and public libraries have used technological innovation to reach out to library users and to enhance their experience with their libraries.

Consequently, libraries have become deeply involved with their communities in all aspects of life. The library role in serving communities has transformed from a passive role of providing services that users requested to an active and innovative role that customizes the library services based on the users’ specific needs. Accordingly, the library as a business model has transformed from a service centered business model that focuses on services to a user centered business model that focuses on the user’s needs.

A great example of library transformation has occurred in New York City. The three New York City public library systems (New York, Queens, and Brooklyn public libraries) have collaborated with the NYC Board of Education during the economic crisis to fill a gap in missing educational services in NYC due to budget alterations. NYC public libraries have developed social applications to connect school children to NYC professional teachers to obtain homework assistance using their social network accounts in their local public libraries. Further, librarians have taken the initiative to guide children on how to use the applications and how to protect themselves online. Libraries have to transform from being gatekeepers to becoming actual informational and educational service providers. Therefore, corresponding staff training is vitally needed for this transformation.

Both Dr. Mohamed and Dr. Elmeawad conducted the following workshops in Egypt as part of their responsibilities toward the profession and trained vast numbers of international public, school, and academic library professionals in Egypt to be prepared for the era of library transformation. This article describes workshops given for each of these sectors.

For Public Libraries:

Tech Educational Services in Public Libraries: Advanced Practices

The event was hosted under the Library Discussion Group of the Information Resource Center (IRC) at The U.S. Embassy in Cairo. Dr. Mohamed presented the Homework Apps for students: NYC Experience and Dr. Elmeawad presented the Technological Advancement and the Need for Corresponding Staff Training.

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Collaborative Leadership and Management in Libraries. Basic Workshop

This workshop was hosted by the Cultural Center and Library Experts Group. The workshop focused on enhancing the leadership and management skills of the library professionals through learning new methods of collaborative leadership to develop customized library services based on the users’ needs. The audience learned the skills needed to identify community needs and to reach out to the community. Participants also learned what types of collaboration need to be established between different departments within the library, and between external civic and governmental organizations to deliver specific services within the community.

From Centralization to Non-Centralization for Better Library Services: An Advanced Workshop.

The first basic workshop was a great success and consequently, the audience requested more advanced leadership workshops. Thus, both Dr. Mohamed and Dr. Elmeawad conducted an advanced leadership workshop that was hosted by the 6th October Public Library in Cairo and Library Experts group. This advanced workshop was designed to educate the audience about the differences between organizational paradigms and which paradigm is suitable for public library organizations. Further, the audience learned the organizational hierarchy based on each paradigm and how to establish a suitable management hierarchical system to assist the library in adapting to both technological changes and to community needs.


This roundtable, which was an Egyptian national event conducted by Dr. Salwa Elmeawad and hosted by the Library Experts Group and Port Said Public Library, allowed attendees to share the experiences of managing multi branches libraries in Egypt and the United States of America. Librarians from all Egyptian cities attended the event.

For Academic Libraries:

Collaborative Leadership and Management for Academic Libraries.

This workshop was hosted by the American Window of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Library Experts Group, Cairo University, and Central Library of Cairo University. The workshop introduced important leadership concepts in academic libraries. The audience learned to implement organizational strategy to manage contemporary academic libraries such as: (a) establishing communication channels to increase collaboration between the library, faculty members and students, (b) learning the skills needed to evaluate library resources and databases, and (c) learning best methods of outreach to students and faculty members and how to engage them in educational activities.

For School Libraries:

How School Librarians outreach to students, encourage them to use the school library and instruct Students to conduct a Research and Make a Successful Presentations

The workshop was hosted by the Millennium Language School and was designed for school librarians who serve school students. In this workshop, the school librarians learned new techniques to reach out to students to encourage them to use the library. In addition, librarians learned how to engage the students in educational activities to prepare them for higher education. The workshop offered professionals research tools that school librarians can utilize to train students on how to develop instructional research classes, recognize authoritative resources for their research, and create successful presentations about their research.

These different workshops show the international ramifications of library transformations throughout the world. Working together, librarians from many countries can help fuel positive changes together.
Going Global: The Benefits of Attending International Conferences

By Margy MacMillan

Becoming part of international communities in the library world can be as easy as attending a conference - but be warned, the experience can be addictive. I’ve been fortunate enough to attend several international conferences, and from each I’ve come away with challenged assumptions, broadened perspectives and an appreciation for both the peculiarities of working within the Canadian academic library system and the commonalities many librarians face in day to day work. International conferences have introduced me to literature often not well indexed by the key tools in our discipline, and librarians doing interesting work I would otherwise miss. I am filled with gratitude and awe for those speakers who present in English even though it is not their most comfortable language! It’s also worth noting that many of these conferences also include cultural excursions, which provide excellent opportunities to make connections with other participants.

To give a personal example of the benefits, I attended an IFLA satellite conference in Limerick in 2014. It was in a beautiful setting, I met people I've been reading and citing for years and saw an astounding array of intriguing work. In between sessions I chatted with amazing librarians and have been able to keep many of those conversations going through email, Skype and Twitter. I also met a librarian working, as I do, with journalism students. That meeting led to conversations and then to collaboration and has since spawned a research project that we’ll be presenting at LILAC in Dublin this March. My partner, also a librarian, went to IATUL in Leuven, Belgium in 2009. He came back so energized, I was inspired to put in a paper for 2012- in Singapore. I enjoyed my first IATUL so much, I had to go again, and with other librarians at my institution, collaborated on a paper that two of us presented in Helsinki in 2014. It was interesting how different this second experience was - a mix of recognizing old friends and meeting new ones, and now being in a position to introduce newcomers to the community. Of course travelling to faraway places brings benefits beyond the conference, including opportunities to tour inspiring library buildings.

If it is difficult for you to get funding to go to international conferences, many of them make regular closer to home. In fact, many of the big conferences are in North America in the next couple of years. Like most conferences these have a mix of regulars who go every year and new participants, and all have events that make it easy to get to know new people.

Some key International conferences to investigate:

IFLA - I attended this when it was held in Quebec City An amazing gathering where I heard innovative solutions to information scarcity and access issues as well as gaining ideas on library construction in a range of climates. - The satellite conferences are also very good - smaller, more focused, and with more opportunities to build community. This year’s main conference will be in Columbus.

IATUL http://www.dal.ca/sites/iatul.html This conferences tends to focus on aspects of librarianship supporting science and technology students and faculty. European and Australian libraries are well represented. In 2016, it will be hosted by Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, Canada. This conference tends to attract a lot of people in leadership positions and be especially strong on planning and evaluating library buildings, services and operations.

LIBER http://liber2016.org/ brings together librarians from European research libraries. This year it will be in Helsinki where there are some fascinating new libraries to visit.

LIDA - http://ozk.unizd.hr/lida/ Libraries in the Digital Age takes palace every two years in Zadar, Croatia. This year has two themes - digital curation and preservation, and use studies, education and training.

EBLIP- Evidence -based Library and Information Practice is also held every two years. In 2017, Philadelphia will host. There's no website yet, but this page has information http://eblip8.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/EBLIP9-Arrouncement.pdf . This conference attracts participants from Northern Europe, the U.K., Australia and Canada, and covers all aspects of librarianship.

There are a number of conferences, that while not hosted by international organizations, attract international speakers and participants.

(continued on p. 12)
I’m most aware of ones in Information Literacy such as RAILS, LI-LAC, ECIL, but it’s worth searching these out to get a flavour of what library practice looks like in different contexts.

You might also want to consider non-library conferences, either in disciplines you work with or wider aspects of higher education, publishing, scholarly communication, civic engagement or the k-12 sector. Of particular interest to academic librarians are conferences on SOTL - Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. The largest one is ISSOTL which will be in LA this year. The website is under development but will be announced on http://www.issotl.com. There are other regular gatherings across North America and in Europe.

If you can’t actually go to a conference, Twitter is increasingly useful for following at least the content of presentations, even if some of the social elements don't translate as well. It turns out many librarians are excellent live-tweeters. In the last year, I’ve eavesdropped on conferences around the world from the comfort of my couch. All you need is the hashtag for the conference and the rest is easy - you can even catch up on what you’ve missed when it works for your time-zone. For one Australian conference there were several very active Tweeters and I’m pretty sure between them I saw every slide and read every main point for several presentations (if you’re reading this, THANK YOU!) Some presenters also encourage questions and comments over Twitter, making the experience more interactive. Following @LibConferences is a good way to keep up with the latest hashtags.

**Webinar: Opportunities for LIS Professionals in the Fulbright Program**

IRRT will be co-sponsoring a webinar this month on opportunities for LIS professionals in the Fulbright program, including: the application process, getting your workplace on-board with your candidacy and grant, experiences living/working/teaching abroad, and how a Fulbright can enhance your career and studies. This webinar is informal and is not an official webinar sponsored or endorsed by Fulbright, CIES, IIE, or the US State Department.

Co-sponsors of this webinar are the Society of American Archivists’ Students and New Archives Professionals Roundtable and the International Archival Affairs Roundtable. The speakers will include: (1) Natalie Baur, US Student Researcher; (2) Chris Prom, US Scholar; (3) Richard Sapon-White, US Scholar; (4) Andrea Malone, Fulbright Specialist.

This webinar will be held March 14, 2016 at 2:00pm CST. To join the meeting: [http://ala.adobeconnect.com/r8nn7myb0pe/](http://ala.adobeconnect.com/r8nn7myb0pe/)

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**Don’t Forget to Vote in the ALA Election!**

The 2016 ALA elections opens on March 15! Voters will receive email reminders throughout the election period—on March 15 and April 22. Voting may be completed in one sitting, or an individual may “park” a ballot and return at a later date. The polls will close at 11:59 p.m. Central time on Friday, April 22.

**IRRT slate:**

**VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT**
01. GARCIA-FEBO, LOIDA
02. NAZAROVA, MUZHGAN ISRAFIL

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE**
03. MATUSIAK, KRYSTINA K.
04. SAPON-WHITE, RICHARD EDWARD
05. STANISHEVSKAYA, IRINA

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**Ways to Connect with IRRT:**

**BLOG**

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