Establishing International Partnerships & Projects

As your IRRT Chair this year, I want to share my experiences establishing international partnerships and projects with you (i.e., “walk the walk,” not just “talk the talk” on international outreach efforts). I enjoy doing this at my own library and recently, my international activity was profiled on my library’s homepage: http://libraryblogs.fullerton.edu/2016/02/11/librarian-john-hickok-tours-east-asian-libraries/  My efforts take a variety of forms:

Partnerships with libraries in other countries. For 8 years now, my library partnered with libraries in Vietnam and Cambodia for an annual children’s book donation project. Students at my university raise funds and donate books. I take them in my airline luggage during visits. Then students at our partner universities deliver the books to needy schools and conduct story times.

Guest presenting in other countries. At ALA or IFLA conferences, you have the opportunity to meet librarians from all over the world. Don’t let it stop there. Begin email communication. Then, if you like to travel, pay your new international friend a visit! Do you have a specialization? (RDA skills? Information Literacy expertise?), you may be invited to share your knowledge at your friend’s library, or even a gathering of multiple libraries. I was delighted to speak with

Twitter Partners in Reading
By Rachel Franks and Ellen Forsyth
State Library of New South Wales

The State Library of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia) in collaboration with the New South Wales Public Library Network coordinates an international Twitter reading group, Read Watch Play #rwpchat. The project began in New South Wales, in 2011 as #readit2011, and now includes partner libraries from New Zealand, Singapore, England and Denmark.

This is a flexible collaboration with different libraries involved in a variety of ways. Some libraries do two Tweets a month on the first of the month for the new theme and the last Tuesday of the month for the online discussion. Others such as the Singapore Public Libraries use Instagram

(Continued on page 7)
IRRT NEWS AND NOTES

The International Relations Round Table has 1,800 members from 96 different countries. The IRRT is a great global team!

Working with the ALA International Relations Round Table is your opportunity to internationalize your library or to work as an international librarian. We are still accepting applications to fill IRRT committee appointments for 2016-2018. To volunteer, fill out the electronic form on our IRRT Committee site.

Message from the Editors

Partnering to support refugees. Using technology and collaborating with other countries to foster a love of reading and a discussion of books. Looking at the skills we need to use when working in a country different from the one we call home. And finding interesting ways to become more international and welcoming to foreign visitors. These are just a few of the insights in this issue. Please take your time and read these thoughtful articles about the ways in which we provide services in our international world.

And don’t forget—ALA 2016 Orlando is almost upon us! It is not too late to register for the IRRT preconference. Our International Visitors Center is there to welcome you. And take a look at our programs—there are sessions for everyone from students to seasoned librarians and for public, academic, and special librarians. The programs provide you with opportunities to learn and grow.

Finally, many thanks to the IRRT Board and Publications Committee. This concludes our first year as editors and we are grateful to everyone for the support.

SEE YOU IN ORLANDO!

Gail Alter Sacco & Karen Bordonaro

Ways to Connect with IRRT:

The IRRT WEBSITE

New Executive Board Members

Chair-Elect Loida Garcia-Febo

I am currently a member of the IRRT Executive Board and Director-at-Large. I chaired the International Reception and the ALA Presidential Citations for Innovative International Library Projects Committee from 2013-2014 and the International Relations Committee of ALA from 2014-2015. I am also a Governing Board Member of IFLA, chairing several committees.

One of my great passions in life is to work with libraries and librarians from around the world. I've been fortunate to collaborate with international organizations to help diverse populations. I have taught in 20 countries in five continents and have advocated on behalf of libraries at the United Nations. It has been an honor to speak to the media about human rights, advocacy, and services to multicultural populations.

Member-at-Large Richard Sapon-White

I have been a member of IRRT since 2002. Since joining, I have served on the International Posters Committee, International Visitor Center Committee, and the International Papers Program Committee (including co-chair for the past 3 years). I have also been active on the International Relations Committee, serving on the Near East/South Asia Subcommittee (serving as chair from 2009-2012).

During my two sabbaticals from my current position at Oregon State University, I taught library science courses overseas supported by Fulbright Core Awards (Czech Republic, 2005; Poland, 2012-2013). I am currently coordinator for the Oregon Library Association’s Horner Exchange with China and will be visiting China this coming fall for three weeks as part of that program.

Thanks to the IRRT nominating committee, Julia Warga, Samantha Thompson-Franklin, and Min Chou for providing a strong slate of candidates.
Greetings IRRT members!

From Our Chair... John Hickok

ALA Annual in Orlando is just around the corner. You can see all of IRRT’s programs here: http://www.ala.org/offices/iro/iroactivities/meetingsprograms. Plan on attending as many as you can, from our Friday Preconference to our Monday Reception, and everything in between.

IRRT is well-known for its wonderful programs and services at ALA’s annual conferences. IRRT also does a lot—behind the scenes—all year long. Looking back on this past ALA year, IRRT:

♦ initiated a team to create a “Library Disaster Preparedness” Free Links Wiki
♦ partnered with the International Librarians Network to provide a free mentoring program
♦ used its publicity and social media to promote relief efforts for library disasters
♦ co-sponsored a webinar on library Fulbright opportunities
♦ and much more

This terrific work is due to dedicated IRRT members giving wonderful committee service. If you’re not yet serving with a committee, I encourage you to consider joining any of IRRT’s great committees. Volunteer now, before spots are filled. (http://www.ala.org/irrt/irrtcommittees/committees).

My term as IRRT Chair concludes after Orlando. What a thrill it has been to serve with so many talented colleagues in IRRT. On IRRT’s Executive Board, past-chair Robin Kear has been a wealth of knowledge, and chair-elect Beth Cramer will lead us well in the next ALA year. Board members Angelique Simmons, Loida Garcia-Febo, Chris Shaffer, and Sandy Hirsh have all been amazing! Likewise, our many committee chairs, including Shali Zhang of the IRRT Endowment committee, have been terrific.

I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando!

Call for Submission

Do you have news about…

International library activities?
People in international librarianship?
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

International Leads Web Site

IRRT Officers

Chair, John Hickok
International Outreach Librarian
California State University Fullerton
jhickok@Exchange.FULLERTON.EDU

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Beth Cramer
Coordinator of Bibliographic Services
Appalachian State University
crameree@appstate.edu

Past Chair, Robin Kear
Liaison Librarian
University of Pittsburgh
rlk25@pitt.edu

Secretary/Treasurer, Angelique Simmons
Chief Librarian
Fort Bragg Throckmorton Library
Angelique.Simmons@gmail.com

Councilor, Sandy Hirsch
Professor and Director, School of Information, San Jose State University
sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu

Member-at-Large, Christopher Shaffer
Dean of Library Services, & Associate Professor, Troy University
shafferc@troy.edu

Member-at-Large, Loida Garcia-Febo
Principal, LGF International Strategies, and President, Information New Wave
loidagarciafebo@gmail.com

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
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING AT ALA 2016 ORLANDO

Friday, June 24 – Monday, June 27 • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
International Visitors Center
Orange County Convention Center-West Building, Lower B Lobby
Want information about the ALA Conference and international events? Need tips on getting around Orlando? Looking for a place to meet friends and other international visitors? Computers are available to check e-mail and use the Internet. Or just sit and relax!

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
Internationalizing Your Library: Strategies for All Types of Librarians: Public/School/Academic/National/Government -- IRRT Preconference
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Orange County Convention Center, W205A
Calls for internationalizing libraries are increasing in the library world, and among all types of libraries—public, school, academic, and government-national. But what does it mean to “internationalize?” It can take many forms This preconference will feature specialists from all 4 library types (public/school/academic/government-national), providing strategies for internationalizing.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
Cost: $90 USD
Registration includes: Materials, refreshments and lunch.
http://2016.alaannual.org/register-now

International Librarians Orientation
2:30 - 4:00 PM
Orange County Convention Center, W109B
An introduction to the ALA Conference and the city of Orlando, for international and other attendees from abroad. Learn about conference transportation, how to navigate the exhibit hall and how to get involved. Colleagues from ALA’s many divisions and round table who will help you to get the most from your conference experience.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
IRC+/IRRT+ All Subcommittee Meeting
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Orange County Convention Center, W308
8:30 - 9:00 am IRRT Chairs Meeting
9:00 - 10:00 am IRRT Subcommittee Meetings
10:00 - 11:30 am IRRT Chairs report back to IRRT Executive Board

From Vietnam to Syria: Refugees, Their Stories, and Needs
(co-sponsored by IRRT)
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Orange County Convention Center, W103B
During the Vietnam War, thousands of refugees fled the fighting and political violence in Southeast Asia and came to the United States. Vietnamese Americans will tell their stories and librarians will share their programs and strategies for helping today’s refugees.

Borderless Libraries: Pushing Boundaries for Innovation and Leadership-IRRT International Paper Session & Projects
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Orange County Convention Center, W103B
To meet the challenges and needs of our interconnected world, libraries are reaching outside of their institutional and geographical borders to cooperate with institutions and agencies of all types. This program will feature presentations on projects and collaborations that cross traditional boundaries, both geographical and institutional, in order to innovate and lead.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26
IRRT Executive Committee Meeting
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Orange County Convention Center, S321

International Poster Session
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
 Exhibit floor – Orange County Convention Center
Come to the Exhibit floor and find out about innovative programs and transformative ideas that are shaping libraries all over the world.

Leaning International: Stories from the field-IRRT International Connections
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Orange County Convention Center, W110B
For MLS students through seasoned information professionals interested in working internationally, this annual program hosted by IRRT’s International Connections Committee features American librarians discussing their own unique international experiences.
AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES - THRIVING ON DISRUPTION!

By Liz McGettigan BA MCILIP ACMIF RSA, Director of Digital Library Experiences; V. P.of Chartered Institute of Library and Information professionals Scotland

Disruption is the word of the decade. What disruptive innovation or development is going to rock the library world in the near future? How do we stay up there and morph into the relevant “next” library?

Over the last few weeks I have had the honour of talking about my work and digital disruption to colleagues across Australia - a country that so values libraries as core parts of their culture, education and learning it is putting libraries at the heart of communities. Our governments can learn a lot from Australia’s investment in libraries for regeneration, education and literacy. Melbourne has built 3 new libraries in the past 3 years and is working on a 4th now and the State Library of Victoria now has an $83 million dollar refurbishment project as well.

Kate Torney brings style, energy, people skills and leadership to her new role as CEO at the State Library. Kate heads up the transformation of the stunning State Library into an innovative, contemporary, centre for knowledge, learning and culture which will feature a centre for digital media, a centre for entrepreneurship and new education. and most exciting an E-Town hall.

Everywhere I have been libraries are being invested with beautiful refurbishments and new builds and have a huge appetite for the SOLUS digital discovery technology and platform. I had the honour to meet many of their new breed of leaders—the “get out of my way - this is happening” movers and shakers.

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, is the driver of the amazing Trove which makes Australia’s documentary culture available to Australians and the world with over 485,034,845 Australian and online resources. Sally Jones made a 1st in Australia with our SOLUS app in Darebin. Suzie Gately also made a first with her cool all Solus digital library cafe/ bar in Newcastle Australia. It made radio https://radio.abc.net.au/programitem/peyQx19BOL?play=true (skip to 1:53:25 and television news http://www.nbnnews.com.au/2016/04/22/innovative-new-library-cafe-opens-in-newcastle/.

Kate Torney in the State Library of Victoria

There are more international-related programs and events at Annual that are listed on the link of our IRRT website (http://www.ala.org/offices/iro/iroactivities/meetingsprograms), and are sponsored by ALA or other entities, not IRRT. Use our link to check them out!
a consortium of Thai academic private libraries last December 2015.

Visiting libraries in other countries. Make your next vacation trip as a library trip. My university has large numbers of students from China, India, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and other Asian countries. In working with these students, I take time to learn about their home library environment. During my next vacation or holiday time, I travel there! Sure, the normal tourist sites are fun, but visiting libraries (of all types: public, academic, school) is even more interesting.

International outreach without leaving home. You can “go international” without leaving home. If you are at an academic library, work with your international office to reach out to international students. Host cultural fairs in your library and invite the students to participate. Partner with international students clubs as well.

If you are at a public library, determine if your city has an international Sister City, and email your public library counterpart there, to create library displays of each other’s countries and culture. Even without a formal Sister City relationship, identify the cultural communities you serve, and consider creating a Sister Library relationship with one of those groups’ country. Use the IRRT’s Sister Library Wiki: http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/ALA_/IRRT_Sister_Library_Initiative

These are only some of the ways to bring international connections to your library. Being involved with IRRT is terrific way to learn more of them. So ask around. Consult the literature. Go online. With interest and effort, you can make things happen!

REFUGEE COMMENTS ABOUT THE ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:

“I enjoyed my trip to the library. The books are easy to access. There are so many choices.” --- Pabitra Chuwan

“The library is a very pretty place to visit. I felt comfortable there.” --- Endwile Chemisoile

“The library staff are helpful and kind.” --- Bhargahi Timsina

The Internation Collection at the Erie County Library. Simple and effective.

(Refugees. Continued from page 1)

native patrons. The International Collection houses foreign language books, ESL materials, and citizenship information. The International Institute has provided brochures, posters, and other helpful items to round out the collection.

The International Institute has helped the library to gather worthwhile materials for the International Collection. The Institute has made numerous recommendations for books, CDs, and DVDs. Together the two agencies are able to supply precisely what is needed to help non-natives reach their goals of employment, language, and citizenship.

The Erie County Public Library presents monthly tours of the library for clients of the International Institute, and for other local agencies that assist immigrants. Participants have the opportunity to sign up for library cards and learn about the ways the library can educate and entertain. The new card-holders are most enthusiastic about the library’s Internet Lab and the DVD collection in addition to the International Collection.

“These are people who have been forced by extreme circumstances to leave their native land and put down roots on the other side of the planet,” says Daryl Kidder, the librarian who conducts their monthly Library orientation. “It must take terrific courage to transplant to a new culture, climate, and language and the library is here to assist each individual at a giant crossroads in the history of their families.”

“The groups I have met have all been so appreciative. They’re interested in every detail, every display case, and every picture on the wall. I feel so proud, yet humbled, when they insist that I crowd into the happy group photos they take of themselves learning about the library.”

The Erie County Public Library is happy to be able to assist the new residents, and grateful for the support of the International Institute of Erie.
Developing Competencies
Within the Global Organization
For Expatriate Adaptation and Success:
The experience of an expatriate academic librarian
By Jiselle Maria Alleyne; Campus Librarian, The College of the Bahamas

As the global village becomes more networked by the growth of multi-national organizations, the gate for expatriate workers to gain global experience in their specific fields as well as to inject and transfer competencies into the new organization open. Higher education is not exempt from this and academic libraries that operate within this area are also impacted.

Academic librarian leaders leaving their home countries for overseas assignments, inevitably go through an initial period of personal assessment, where their skills and competencies are matched with the needs of the new organization. They must quickly determine if the leadership competencies they already have can be transferred easily and ‘fit’ into the new organizational environment. Within this early evaluation period, a decision is also made if additional competencies must be ‘acquired’ and what continuous learning development plan accommodates quick and effective learning that will feed back into their new responsibilities.

The 21st century organizational environment creates the need for leaders who are not only charismatic in nature, but leaders who can take the organization to higher levels of effectiveness because of the many proficiencies they possess. Competencies are no longer just seen in the light of the accumulation of superior skills and talents for superior performance. The acquisition of various capabilities in today’s organization is key for the leader to effectively take the organization through change.

As institutions of higher education go through transformation one key area is brought under the microscope: employee performance. As a result, many organizations are re-investing in the learning, re-tooling, re-training of their employees as one sure means of building stable and quality internal systems. They also ensure that the expatriate workers who they attract can sustain the growth and expansion of the organization. This is the new competency driven context in which expatriate academic library leaders, operate, one that demands the worker to have the requisite skills to manage transformational change, continuous learning and sustainable development within the organization.

Academic Sister Libraries: Troy University, Dothan, AL and Kirovohrad State Pedagogical University (Ukraine)
by Olga Casey, Technical Services Librarian, Troy University, Dothan

The Troy and Kirovohrad Universities began our partnership in 2009 on the basis of informal communication between the libraries’ staff members. I am originally from Ukraine and my grandmother graduated from that Ukrainian university in the 30s. Since 2010, as a representative of Troy University library, I visit Kirovohrad University library almost every year. We exchange presents: the Ukrainian library receives books and periodicals on different disciplines. Troy University library receives books, works of the Art Department students, and other materials from the Ukraine library. These are used on our library floor for

(Twitter Book Discussion. Continued from page 1)
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

By Bonnie Smith, Assistant Program Director for Human Resources, University of Florida, George A. Smathers Libraries

As a human resources professional, I have first-hand experience with the dynamic, creative, but also jolting changes taking place in academic libraries, such as the ever expanding landscape of new technologies. We work hard at cultivating employees through creative approaches to defining and organizing roles, hiring personnel, and retraining existing staff to conceive, build and implement change. Curiosity and a desire to learn from an international community of fellow professionals led me to conduct a study of library associations and their affiliates (e.g. committees, discussion groups, roundtables, sections and other groups/units) that support management, human resources and professional development functions of academic and research libraries.

The study, conducted in June 2014, composed of a survey and a focus group, explored three research areas: 1) past international collaborative initiatives; 2) the level of interest in increased collaboration internationally; and, 3) perceived rewards and barriers to engaging internationally. Eighty-four contacts covering all 10 IFLA congress regions were identified. Thirty-five groups (42%) completed the survey. Seventy-five percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that members of their group would be interested in future international collaboration. The strongest interest for both past and future collaborative efforts was in the area of staff development. Delving deeper into possible topics for future collaboration the data indicate that ‘competencies’; ‘training practices’; ‘strategic planning’; ‘training resources’; and ‘staff development’ were of greatest interest (see table).

The cost associated with international collaboration was by far the greatest barrier identified with ‘complicated logistics’ and ‘lack of transferability of practices’ as serious challenges. However, significant rewards identified, included ‘encourage greater innovation’; ‘better support scholarly activities’; ‘gain insights into how to improve processes’; and ‘better understand and support training needs’.

A focus group, comprised of representatives from four library associations, was convened at the IFLA Congress in Lyon, France (August 2014). The discussion indicated a clear and strong desire to increase opportunities for dialogue by creating stronger links internationally, collaborating, and learning from each other.

In conclusion, it seems clear that study participants embrace sharing knowledge and experience cross-culturally, cooperating on complex projects, and engaging with professionals who have looked at the same issues and come up with different solutions, to inform and add value to the development of impactful training and development programs.

A more in-depth article on this study can be found in IFLA Journal 41(2).

Mission of the International Relations Round Table

To promote interest in library issues and librarianship worldwide; to help coordinate international activities within the American Library Association, serving as a liaison between the International Relations Committee and those members of the Association interested in international relations; to develop programs and activities which further the international objectives of ALA; and to provide hospitality and information to visitors from abroad.
QUALITY CONTROL (QC) PARTNERSHIP: THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) MONA LIBRARY AND THE MONA POSTGRADUATES ASSOCIATION (MAPS)

By Cherry-Ann Smart and Jacqueline Howell Nash

In the 2015/16 academic year, The University of the West Indies Mona Library partnered with the Mona Postgraduate Association (MAPS) to host their first ever Thesis Camp. The Camp was organised to address concerns students encounter during the final stages of their thesis preparation. Papers are often plagued with poor in text citation, referencing, grammar, and non-adherence to The University’s formatting guidelines.

In order to prepare graduates, three half day workshops were organised by MAPs in September and October 2015, and January 2016. The Campus Coordinator, Graduate Studies and Research, and IT personnel facilitated at one of the three sessions and librarian volunteers were a constant presence at all sessions. Graduate participants represented a cross section of the multidisciplinary campus in Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Humanities and Education, and Medical Sciences. Library presentations focused on writing in the disciplines using the different style manuals as well as common grammatical errors, effective use of MS Word, citing and referencing, and referencing tools such as Endnote. Other presentations featured work-life-study balance and the submission process for Turnitin.

The Camp culminated in April with librarians reserving three days to provide one-on-one consultation with graduates. Librarians scrutinised works in progress and provided advice on citations, referencing, and publishing features. Although students were advised to make appointments, walk-ins were also facilitated. Outreach and partnership activities such as Thesis Camp, enable the library to revisit and assess its Information Literacy offerings to graduates. Reference scrutiny also enables the Library to evaluate whether its collections are meeting student needs for research and knowledge generation.

Thesis scrutiny has been an important service point offered by The UWI librarians at the three campuses in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago for over 30 years. Scrutiny ensures that dissertations and theses adhere to the regulated standards and are quality controlled for acceptance into the Institution’s Libraries.

Our partnership may serve a good example for international cooperation. As a real friendship, it strengthens with time. We received more support: with the help of the Director of International and Chapter Related Offices Michael Dowling, in March 2016 we received a generous donation of seven very valuable reference sets for our sister library, and those 20 volumes are already displayed on their shelves!

First Time Meeting Sister Library in Ukraine:
Director of the Library of Kirovohrad State Pedagogical University Library Olga Shulga and the representative of Troy University Library Olga Casey

In the 2015/16 academic year, The University of the West Indies Mona Library partnered with the Mona Postgraduate Association (MAPS) to host their first ever Thesis Camp. The Camp was organised to address concerns students encounter during the final stages of their thesis preparation. Papers are often plagued with poor in text citation, referencing, grammar, and non-adherence to The University’s formatting guidelines.

In May 2012, the libraries participated together in the Ukrainian Conference for Academic Libraries in Crimea. We successfully presented on the ALA Sister Library initiative and our partnership. The same month we organized an informal round table on information literacy and prevention of plagiarism and shared our experience on these critical issues which happen to be very similar for both universities.

In 2014 during the times of crisis, the Ukrainian library organized a fundraising campaign to help ATO (anti-terrorist operation) in the East of the country. The library staff and students made Ukrainian patriotic souvenirs and sold them on the charity sale named “Ukraine starts with you!” The Troy University library supported them and purchased beautiful items of arts and crafts handmade in our sister library. Also in September 2014, I delivered more than 150 articles on the situation in Ukraine from American newspapers. These were publicly displayed in the library in order to help our friend understand that they were not abandoned and that a lot of people in the world were aware of what was happening in the country and felt compassion with Ukrainians.
Information, Libraries, and Democracies:
University of Illinois Students at BOBCATSSS-2016

by Alyson Bell & Terry Weech

In January of 2016, eleven students from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign participated in the twenty-third BOBCATSSS symposium in Lyon, France. BOBCATSSS is a student-driven international symposium held under the auspices of EUCLID (European Association for Library & Information Education and Research). Each year, posters and presentations at BOBCATSSS focus on a theme related to library and information science. The theme this year was Information, Libraries, and Democracies. Four students presented papers with themes on censorship in public libraries, information values and the right to privacy, international library aid, and a comparison of public libraries in the United States and Hungary. Seven students presented a total of five posters on topics such as LGBT cataloging records, public libraries in communities stricken by natural disasters, video streaming in academic libraries, youth libraries and democracy, and pornography and the internet. Professor Terry Weech presented a paper on intellectual freedom, as well as led a workshop about data curation.

The goal of BOBCATSSS is to provide library and information science students and professionals the opportunity to share experiences and discuss the future of Library Science with others from around the world. In this, it succeeds. University of Illinois students attending were able to discuss their projects with international students and professionals. Alyson Bell, who attended the 2015 symposium in Brno, Czech Republic, collaborated with Brigitta Jávorka a student in Budapest, Hungary on their joint paper for the 2016 symposium. Alyson and Brigitta met while presenting papers at the 2015 symposium, and through that meeting, were able to develop and expand their shared interests in the history of public libraries. This kind of international collaboration and partnership fostered at BOBCATSSS is an invaluable resource for library and information science students and professionals. Students from the GSLIS students at the University of Illinois have participated in BOBCATSSS Symposiums since 2001 and were excited and honored to participate in the 2016 Symposium! More information about BOBCATSSS can be found at https://bobcatsss.meulie.net

Bobcatsss 2016 participants: Emily Purcell, Monique, Emily Metcalf, Alyson Bell, Jessica Colbert, Annabella Irvine, Emily Hardesty, Terry Weech. Participants not in the photo: Jeanie Austin, Rebecca Ciota, Callin Cullen, Thomas Mukonde, Kimberly Stelter, Winn Wasson

Countries mentioned in this issue (not in any particular order)...

France, Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia, Singapore, England, Denmark, New Zealand, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Bhutan, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, China, Czech Republic, Poland, India, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Bahamas, the West Indies, and the United States.