

## Deutsche Delegation kehrt begeistert von der Jahreskonferenz des amerikanischen Bibliotheksverbandes ALA aus Chicago zurück

In Deutschland findet jährlich ein bibliothekarischer Fachkongress statt, den rund 3500 Bibliotheksmitarbeiter besuchen, darunter einige hundert Personen aus anderen Ländern, meist aus den deutschsprachigen Nachbarländern Österreich und der Schweiz. Damit ist dieser "Bibliothekartag" die größte Fachkonferenz Europas, zu der übrigens erfreulicherweise auch immer 2-3 Teilnehmende aus den USA anreisen! Aber welcher Vergleich zu dem gigantischen Jahreskongress des amerikanischen Bibliotheksverbandes ALA (American Library Association) mit seinen mehr als 20.000 Teilnehmenden aus mehr als 60 Ländern! Er beeindruckte die deutsche Delegation, die anlässlich des Partnerlandes USA-Deutschland 2016 – 2019 mit 11 Personen vom 22.-27.06.2017 nach Chicago, Illinois, reiste.

## German delegation returns energized from the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago

*By Hella Klauser, German Library Association*

[klauser@bibliotheksverband.de](mailto:klauser@bibliotheksverband.de)

Germany has a yearly library conference attended by some 3500 library staff, including a few hundred people from other countries, mostly from the German-speaking neighboring countries of Austria and Switzerland. This 'Librarians' Day' is the largest conference in Europe, and, by the way, always welcomes the addition of 2-3 participants from the USA! But what a comparison with the gigantic annual convention of the American Library Association (ALA) with its more than 20,000 participants from more than 60 countries! It impressed the German delegation, who traveled to Chicago, Illinois, to represent the country partnership between USA and Germany 2016 - 2019 with 11 people from 22-27 June 2017.

### Inside

From the Editors	4
From the Chair	5
From the Chair Elect	6
IFLA Stories	7
ALA Stories & Awards	10
Around the World	18
Library Spotlight	20



The German Delegation members to ALA show off their distinctive vests while meeting with IRRRT Chair and ALA President-Elect Loida Garcia-Febo

*Continued on next page*

## Deutsche Delegation nach ALA

Seit 2016 haben die beiden Verbände ALA und BID ([Bibliothek & Information Deutschland](http://www.bibliothek-und-information.de)) vereinbart, sich stärker auszutauschen. Dazu gehörte 2016 der Auftritt einer amerikanischen Delegation während des Bibliothekskongresses in Leipzig. Die Kolleginnen und Kollegen aus den amerikanischen Bibliotheken und Verbänden hielten zu verschiedenen Themen Vorträge, stellen die amerikanische Bibliotheksszene im Überblick vor und informierten an einem Stand über die Bibliotheken in den USA. Als Gegenladung kamen nun 11 deutsche Bibliotheksmitarbeiter aus öffentlichen und wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken und dem Deutschen Bibliotheksverband in die ‚windy city‘. Die Reisen wurden ermöglicht über BI-International, einer Kommission des Dachverbands BID ([www.bi-international.de](http://www.bi-international.de)), die den internationalen Fachaustausch fördert – und übrigens auch für Anträge amerikanischer Kollegen für einen Aufenthalt in Deutschland genutzt werden können!

In vier Vortragsblöcken stellten die Deutschen Trends und Erfahrungen aus der deutschen Bibliotheksszene zu den Themen ‚Bibliotheken in Deutschland‘, ‚Bibliotheksangebote für Geflüchtete‘, ‚Entwicklungen im Management von WBs‘ und ‚Bibliotheken unterstützen Forschung‘ vor. Der Kongress war nicht nur wegen seiner Größe für uns überwältigend. Die Keynote während der Abschlussveranstaltung hielt Hillary Clinton, die Schauspielerin Sarah Jessica Parker berichtete von ihrer Begeisterung für Bibliotheken und Reshma Saujani warb in ihrer Keynote während der Eröffnungsveranstaltung voller Hingabe für ihr Anliegen ‚girls who code‘, um Mädchen an Computer, Programmierung und technische Dinge heranzuführen. Solche ‚celebrities‘ sind auf einem deutschen Kongress sehr selten anzufinden und waren uns ein Beweis dafür, dass die Bibliotheken in den USA starke Befürworter und Förderer haben und die Bibliotheken dies durch geschicktes und starkes Marketing erreichen – hier können wir in Deutschland durchaus von den amerikanischen Kollegen lernen!

Beeindruckt hat mich auch die große Ausstellungsfläche auf dem Kongressgelände. Dass neben Bibliotheksangeboten und vielen Verlagsständen auch ein großer Bereich für Comics und für Gaming angeboten wurde, in dem sowohl Brett- als auch Computerspiele tatsächlich auch gespielt wurden, kannte ich so nicht.. Der virtual playground, der viele technische Neuerungen wie Virtual Reality- Brillen oder Drohnen zeigte, war mir als Konzept bekannt. Auf unseren Kongressen, die auch zeitgleich eine große Fachausstellung bieten, wird der Bereich von der ‚Zukunftswerkstatt‘ gestaltet. Der Bereich zum Blutspenden war dann für mich das absolute Highlight! Das hätte ich nun wirklich nicht auf einem bibliothekarischen Fachkongress erwartet und finde es sehr geschickt, hier eine Pause

## German Delegation to ALA

Since 2016 the two associations ALA and BID ([Bibliothek & Information Deutschland](http://www.bibliothek-und-information.de)) have agreed to exchange expertise more. In 2016 there was the appearance of an American delegation during the Leipzig Library Congress. The colleagues from the American libraries and associations gave lectures on various topics, presented an overview of the American library scene, and had an information booth about the libraries in the USA. As a counter invitation, 11 German library staff from public and academic libraries and the German Library Association came into the 'Windy City' of Chicago. The trips were made possible by BI-International, a commission of the umbrella organization BID ([www.bi-international.de](http://www.bi-international.de)), which promotes the international exchange of expertise and by the way also for applications of American colleagues for a stay in Germany!

The Germans presented trends and experiences from the German library scene in four session blocks on topics such as: libraries in Germany, library offers for refugees, developments in the management of academic libraries, and libraries support research. The congress was overwhelming not only because of its size. The keynote during the closing event was Hillary Clinton, the actress Sarah Jessica Parker shared her enthusiasm for libraries, and Reshma Saujani shared her passion for helping girls learn to code. Such "celebrities" are very rare to find at a German congress and were proof that the libraries in the USA have strong advocates and sponsors and the libraries achieve this through clever and strong marketing – we Germans can learn from our American colleagues!

I was also impressed by the large exhibition space on the congress grounds. I did not expect, in addition to library products and many publishers, such a big area for comics and gaming, where both board and computer games were actually played. I was familiar with the concept of the virtual playground, demonstrating many technical innovations such as virtual reality glasses or drones. At our congresses, which also offer a large specialist exhibition at the same time, this area is designated as the "Future Workshop." For me, the absolute highlight was the blood donation clinic! I had not imagined this at a librarian's conference and I found it very clever to combine such a good cause with a conference break. Also very interesting was the poster exhibition

*Continued on next page*

## Deutsche Delegation nach ALA

mit dem guten Zweck zu verbinden.

Sehr interessant auch die Poster-Ausstellung in ihrer thematischen Aufteilung – das ist eine konkrete Idee, die ich an die Organisatoren des ‚Bibliothekartags‘ in Deutschland weiterleiten werde. Das Kino ist ebenfalls eine gute Idee, die aber sicher in Deutschland nicht ankommen würde – Kino ist eher was für den entspannten Feierabend in Deutschland. Und, ehrlich gesagt, bevorzuge ich doch als Erholungsort einen echten Park mit echten Blumen als The Park@ALA mit seinem Kunstrasen, Plastikblumen und Papp-Springbrunnen, der mich mit meinem ausländischen Blick allerdings wunderbar an künstliche Disneywelt erinnerte.

Die Themen, die während der mehr als 1800 Programme diskutiert wurden, behandelten die Verankerung der Bibliotheken in der Gesellschaft, Bibliotheksangebote für die multikulturelle Zielgruppe, neue Räume und Angebote wie Makerspaces – Themen also, die uns auch in Deutschland beschäftigen. Auch internationale Themen wie die ‚global community‘, die Vorstellung der chinesischen Bibliotheksentwicklungen und die Rolle der Bibliotheken zur Erfüllung der Nachhaltigkeitsziele der Agenda 2030 der Vereinten Nationen wurden diskutiert. Die Zukunft der Bibliotheken, strategische Planungen und zukunftsorientierte Entwicklungen standen ebenfalls auf der Agenda – Themen, die uns in Deutschland ebenfalls bewegen und die einmal mehr verdeutlichen, dass wir alle in einem Boot sitzen! Umso entscheidender, auch einmal in den Diskussionsstand in anderen Ländern einzutauchen.

Dass wir uns so wohl und willkommen gefühlt haben, verdanken wir unseren amerikanischen Gastgeber, insbesondere Michael Dowling vom ALA International Relations Office. Die Einweisung in den Kongress durch die International Librarians Orientation, ein sehr sympathischer Empfang für alle ausländischen Teilnehmer des Kongresses und ein Rahmenprogramm, das uns auch einen Einblick in die wunderbare Stadt Chicago vom Boot ermöglichte – das sind Erinnerungen, die wir nicht vergessen und für die wir uns sehr herzlich bedanken!

Der Deutsche Bibliothekartag wird 2018 vom 12.-15.Juni in Berlin stattfinden <http://www.bibliothekartag2018.de/> – wir hoffen, viele amerikanische Kolleginnen und Kollegen dort begrüßen zu dürfen!

## German Delegation to ALA

and the thematic division of the posters - this is a tangible idea, which I will forward to the organizers of the 'Library Day' in Germany. The cinema is also a good idea, but surely would not be as favorably received in Germany, where cinema is rather for a relaxing evening. And, frankly, as a resort, I prefer a real park with real flowers versus The Park @ ALA with its artificial lawns, plastic flowers and cardboard fountains, which reminded me, with my foreigners' eyes, however unbelievably of artificial Disneyworld .

The themes discussed during the more than 1800 programs dealt with the lending of libraries in society, library programs for the multicultural target group, new spaces and offers such as Makerspaces, which also concern us in Germany. International issues such as the global community, the presentation of Chinese library developments, and the role of libraries to meet the sustainability goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030 were also discussed. The future of the libraries, strategic plans and future-oriented developments were also on the agenda - topics which also concern us in Germany and which once again make clear that we are all sitting in the same boat! This makes it all the more crucial to dive into the discussion in other countries.

The fact that we felt so comfortable and welcome is due to our American hosts, especially Michael Dowling from the ALA International Relations Office. The introduction to the congress by the International Librarians Orientation, a very delightful reception for all foreign participants of the congress and a supporting program, which also gave us an insight into the wonderful city of Chicago from the boat - these are memories that we will not forget and for which we would like to thank you very much!

The German Librarians' Day will be held from 12 - 15 June 2018 in Berlin - we hope to welcome many American colleagues there! (<http://www.bibliothekartag2018.de/>)





## Message from the Editors

This is our first issue in our 2 year term. In this issue, we are expanding our linguistic reach - our lead report from the German delegation at the ALA Annual conference is in both German and English. We recognize that we are an international publication, and want to encourage our readers who speak languages other than English to participate. In addition, in every issue, we will be highlighting a unique collection from different parts of the world.

We are always interested in hearing from our readers and receiving articles, blurbs and announcements to include in the newsletter. Please contact us at [ala.intl.leads@gmail.com](mailto:ala.intl.leads@gmail.com). Thank you for this opportunity to serve!

### Meet the Editors



#### Rebecca Miller

I am an independent library consultant, focusing on libraries in developing countries. I specialize in research, strategic planning, outreach, administration/management for

libraries. I also offer tailored professional development trainings and presentations on these and other topics. I have over 20 years of experience with libraries, as a practitioner and professor.



#### Florence Mugambi

I am the African Studies Librarian at the Herskovits Library of African Studies, Northwestern University in

Evanston, Illinois, USA. I have over 10 years of experience as a librarian, and a very strong interest in literacy & establishment of libraries in rural communities of developing countries.

### Call for Submissions

Do you have news or stories about ...

- ◇ **International library activities?**
- ◇ **People in international librarianship?**
- ◇ **Upcoming international conferences?**

Why not submit to International Leads? Email us at [ala.intl.leads@gmail.com](mailto:ala.intl.leads@gmail.com)

### IRRT Officers

#### Chair

##### Loida Garcia-Febo

Principal, LGF International Strategies,  
and President, Information New Wave  
[loidagarciafebo@gmail.com](mailto:loidagarciafebo@gmail.com)

#### Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

##### Muzhgan Nazarova

Librarian, Asian & Middle East Division  
Library of Congress  
[mnaz@loc.gov](mailto:mnaz@loc.gov)

#### Past Chair

##### Beth Cramer

Coordinator of Bibliographic Services  
Appalachian State University  
[crameree@appstate.edu](mailto:crameree@appstate.edu)

#### Secretary/Treasurer

##### Jeremiah Paschke-Wood (secretary)

Manager of Reference Services  
University of Arizona Libraries  
[jeremiahpaschkewood@gmail.com](mailto:jeremiahpaschkewood@gmail.com)

#### Councilor

##### Sandy Hirsh

Professor and Director, School of Information,  
San Jose State University  
[sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu](mailto:sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu)

#### Member-at-Large

##### Julia Gelfand

Applied Sciences & Engineering Librarian,  
University of California, Irvine  
[jgelfand@uci.edu](mailto:jgelfand@uci.edu)

#### Member-at-Large

##### Richard Sapon-White

Catalog Librarian, Oregon State University  
[richard.sapon-white@oregonstate.edu](mailto:richard.sapon-white@oregonstate.edu)

*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.

## Message from the IRRT Chair



By Loida Garcia-Febo

[loidagarciafebo@gmail.com](mailto:loidagarciafebo@gmail.com)

These are very exciting times for international librarianship. Together with the IRRT Board, Committees, and members, we will bring you online events, conference programs, insightful *International Leads* articles, and opportunities for international members to engage with ALA.

We will continue growing the IRRT Endowment and will award the first grants from the Endowment to support international initiatives and colleagues this year—stay tuned.

As in prior years, we are looking forward to sponsoring an ALA Emerging Leader. We love to work with new librarians and LIS students!

I am grateful to Beth Cramer, IRRT Chair 2016-2017, and to John Hickock, IRRT Past Chair 2016-2017, for their guidance and contagious enthusiasm while leading the IRRT. Their leadership and vision paved the way to accomplish this coming year's goals.

I am very excited to work with the IRRT Executive Board, committee chairs, and members to provide opportunities for international librarians to engage with ALA.

As a researcher I have studied diverse, multilingual, and multiethnic populations during my entire career. Based on statistics, conversations, and new increasing library services developed by libraries in many areas of the world, my focus for this coming year will be “Library Services for Immigrants and Refugees.”

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' latest report published in 2016 shows that there are [22.5 million refugees worldwide](#),<sup>1</sup> and that every minute, 24 people are displaced for different reasons. The Center for Immigration Studies estimates that there are [42.4 million immigrants in the USA](#), which represents “the highest number ever in American history.”<sup>2</sup> For instance, “the 13.3 percent of the nation's population comprised of immigrants in 2014 is the highest percentage in 94 years.”

All types of libraries have the potential to enrich the lives of each one of the members of the communities they serve, including immigrants and refugees. Article 19 of the [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) states that “...everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”<sup>3</sup> IFLA's Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section's [Raison d'être for Multicultural Library Services](#) states that “Multicultural and multilingual library services ensure equality of service and access to information.”<sup>4</sup> Recently, ALA developed “[Libraries Respond](#),”<sup>5</sup> a dedicated page with resources for libraries serving immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Librarians and information workers are providing programs and services that build community, while enriching and saving lives of immigrants and refugees. At the IRRT, we want to be part of these efforts. Stay tuned for articles on our IRRT Newsletter and

in-person and online events featuring services for these populations. You can join our [IRRT Facebook page](#), our [alaworld listserv](#), and read our [blog](#).

We can make things happen. Let's continue working together!

### References

- 1 <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>
- 2 <https://cis.org/Immigrants-United-States>
- 3 <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
- 4 <https://www.ifla.org/publications/raison-d-tre-for-multicultural-library-services?og=73>
- 5 <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy/diversity/libraries-respond-immigrants-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

### 2017-2018 IRRT online events

As part of Loida Garcia-Febo's Chair Initiatives, the IRRT will be hosting an online series during the year 2017-2018. Here are the themes.

- ◇ Resources to serve immigrants and refugees
- ◇ Libraries in the USA serving immigrants and refugees
- ◇ Libraries in Germany serving immigrants and refugees (as part of the ALA partnership with the German Library Association)
- ◇ Advocacy resources to serve immigrants and refugees

Stay tuned for more information!

## Message from the IRRT Vice Chair/Chair Elect



By Muzghan Nazarova  
minazarova@gmail.com

Returning from the recent 83rd World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Wroclaw, a very successful International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) event which gathered some 3,000 library professionals from 122 countries, I find myself with a new enthusiasm derived from the opportunity to attend different professional sessions, cultural events, and library tours, and meet with and learn from international colleagues, cultural events and library tours. In addition, I participated in a 270 international volunteer team composed of WLIC participants from 20 countries.

Beyond the opportunity for advancement of knowledge of the international issues in the library and information science and networking, the Congress was a big success in addressing its titular theme - Libraries. Solidarity. Society - a pithy formulation whose social implications were poignantly developed in the opening address of the IFLA's outgoing President Donna Scheeder "This theme perfectly expresses our hopes and dreams for the future. The solidarity of a united library field can guarantee our continued ability to make a difference in people's lives and to use knowledge to improve the conditions in society." It also coincides with Scheeder's presidential agendas: Call to Action and the Critical Role of

Libraries in Achieving the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, President Scheeder's agenda aligns with the ALA's eight key action goals (advocacy for libraries and the profession, diversity, education and lifelong learning, equitable access to information and library services, intellectual freedom, literacy, organizational excellence, transforming libraries), as well as its four strategic initiatives. Her agenda also coincides with the IRRT's core mission – to further the international objectives of the ALA in creating strong partnerships with international librarians and library associations both within and beyond the organization's boundaries.

These initiatives carry particular significance for me, a librarian whose life story has taken her around the world. I was the USIS Librarian in the US Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan when I first attended the ALA annual meeting in Orlando, FL, in 1993, a formative professional experience which led me to eventually join the organization in 1996 while enrolled as an MLS student at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science.

However, I could not have imagined even from these early experiences the degree to which ALA would not only change my own life, but also empower me to change the lives of others. Indeed, over the course of my lengthy international library career, I decisively impacted the development of librarianship in my home country of Azerbaijan, as well as adjoining regions of the South Caucasus, in addition to making similar contributions to the careers and institutions of librarians from the different parts of the world.

For instance, I was privileged to be a fellow (1996), and later work as an instructor (2000) and program

coordinator (2007) at the Mortenson Center for International Library Program, whose core mission is to promote international understanding and peace by strengthening international ties among libraries and librarians. Through my work at the Mortenson Center, I had the opportunity to work and engage with library professionals from over 40 countries around the world.

In a similar vein, as a past chair of the Eurasia and Central Asia Subcommittee I took a leading role in the ALA's Library Advocacy project in the South Caucasus. As a chair of the IRRT's International Connections committee in 2012, I initiated "Leaning International: Stories from the Field" program which became quite a successful annual event. Though these kinds of international collaborations are truly inspiring, more intimate, smaller scale partnerships can also play an important role. We need to be proactive! Any kind of international cooperation and exchange at a bigger or smaller scale matters.

Some personal reflections about my professional goals were summarized in my statement for the IRRT chair ballot, thus:

*"It has been a privilege to be a part of this vital profession and a member of ALA for several decades. I believe as library professionals we have a responsibility to transform and change our communities, our country and the world for the better. As IRRT Chair I would like to use my longstanding experience in international librarianship and leadership to support the major international goals and objectives of ALA through advocating for the more than ever important issues of intellectual freedom, information privacy, information literacy, free access and social justice. In my role as ALA's Councilor-at-Large contributing to the process of formulating policies and standards that affect international library and information services and the audience they serve. As an*

*Continued on next page*



*LIS educator and practitioner I will continue to advocate for internationalization of the library and information education and services in a global society.”*

In conclusion, I would like to extend a general thank you to those who voted

for me. In addition, my special thanks go to IRRIT's executive board; Michael Dowling, director of ALA's International Relations Office (IRO) and a newly elected IFLA Executive Board member; and Delin Guerra, IRO's Program Officer and the driving

force behind all IRO and all IRRIT related activities.

As I work on defining a theme for my chairmanship next year, I welcome any suggestions and look forward to great collaborations.

## IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2017, Wrocław, Poland

By Rebecca Miller, BiblioDev, LLC  
rmiller@bibliodiv.com

The 83rd [IFLA General Conference and Assembly](#) took place 19-25 August 2017 in Wrocław, Poland. Over 3,000 librarians from more than 100 countries gathered together to share, learn and discuss.

Standing committees had their regular meetings, and the General Assembly informed members of the future of IFLA. A membership survey will be conducted in the next year. The Global Vision campaign is underway, with the [online voting portal](#) to select the top opportunities and challenges to

guide the future work of IFLA launched. Everyone is encouraged to make their voice heard.

A special highlight was the announcement of both Nancy Bolt and Terry Weech, longtime IRRIT members, as recipients of the [IFLA Scroll of Appreciation](#) for their respective service to IFLA and the international librarianship field.

Of course it would not be a WLIC without wonderful cultural entertainment. The opening session featured local musicians, acrobats, and singers who walked us through Wrocław's history. The Cultural Evening was

filled with Polish food and dance; a wonderful opportunity to start lasting friendships.

ALA's participation in IFLA, with dozens of members attending, underlines the strong relationship between these two associations. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved as a representative of ALA to IFLA, you are invited to contact the [ALA International Relations Office](#).

The [2018 WLIC](#) will be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 24-30 August. Hope to see you there!

## IFLA Global Vision Discussion: How a unified library field can tackle the challenges of the future

By Robin Kear, Univ. of Pittsburgh (PA)  
rlk25@pitt.edu

On 25 June 2017, at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, approximately 50 librarians participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represented 471 years of library experience. Lian Ruan and I facilitated this session with the help of Stephen Wyber, IFLA Manager, Policy and Advocacy.

According to an 8 Aug 2017 press release from IFLA, the global vision dis-

cussion has reached 140 countries across 6 regions. The IFLA Global Vision Regional workshops have focused on how to strengthen the ties within the library field

and respond to the fast-pacing globalization that is opening new opportunities and challenges. IFLA's Secretary General, Gerald Leitner, who has guid-



Participants at the Global Vision discussion held at ALA Annual.

ed all the IFLA Regional Workshops, said in a 20 July 2017 [press release](#):

*Since IFLA launched the Global Vision Discussion I have been delighted at the*

*Continued on next page*

## ... how a unified library field can tackle the challenges of the future

*response from library professionals from all over the world to get involved and discuss how the library field can become stronger and more connected to tackle the challenges of globalization[sic].*

*The workshops were just the beginning. Now, the Global Vision movement reaches out to everyone. We want discussions taking place in all countries, all communities and all libraries so that every voice can be heard.*

Lian Ruan and I attended the North American Regional workshop on May 3-4, 2017 at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Our group from the USA and Canada responded to the important questions about challenges and solutions that IFLA is asking and we learned how to run our own workshops to gather more feedback. Lian and I decided to try and run an open meeting at ALA Annual in Chicago in six short weeks. With help from the ALA International Relations Office (thanks to Michael Dowling and Delin Guerra) and PLA (thanks to Scott Allen), we were able to find a time during the conference to hold an open discussion session.

We promoted the session through our networks and social media accounts, but were not sure how many participants to expect on such short notice.

My expectations were exceeded when we had approximately 50 people in the session, including two newly elected IFLA Governing Board members.

These participants were ALA conference attendees, many from the United States but others from all over the world. The libraries represented included public, academic, school (k-12), and state. There were also consultants, association staff, and a non-governmental organization representative.

Stephen Wyber started the discussion by reading a welcome statement written by Donna Scheeder, IFLA President, 2015-17.

Since we only had 90 minutes, we asked our important questions about challenges and solutions to the whole group and facilitated the answers from the front of the room. Overall, it was a very energetic group, engaged and enthusiastic about the vision process.

IFLA wants to hear from every library in every country as to what they believe are the most important opportunities and challenges of the future. There are several easy ways to get involved and already self-facilitated Global Vision workshops like ours are taking place using IFLA's downloadable templates.



Lian Ruan, Robin Kear, and Stephen Wyber facilitating discussion on the Global Vision.

An online voting platform was launched on Monday 21 August during the IFLA World Libraries and Information Congress (WLIC). Visit here: <https://globalvision.ifla.org/vote/> to vote on your top opportunities and challenges.

There are many ways to contribute.

- ◇ Stay up-to-date on IFLA Global Vision by visiting <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>
- ◇ Join the conversation on Twitter and Instagram using the #iflaGlobalVision hashtag.

### IFLA Global Vision

How can you contribute?

**Vote**  
CAST YOUR VOTE  
AND  
SPREAD THE WORD

**Step 1:** Go to: [globalvision.ifla.org/vote](https://globalvision.ifla.org/vote)

**Step 2:** Vote!

**Step 3:** Share it with your community

<https://globalvision.ifla.org/vote>

#iflaglobalvision

Don't forget to vote!

<https://globalvision.ifla.org/vote/>

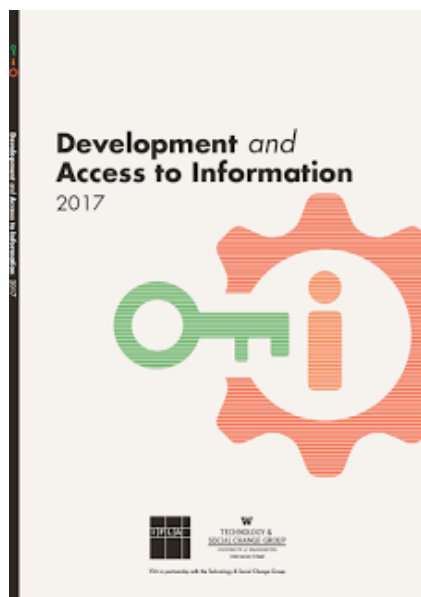
*Join us!*

*Together we create the future*



# 2017 Development and Access to Information Report: The role of libraries in sustainable development

By Violetta Bertolini (IFLA)  
from the DA2I press release



The [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)](#), in partnership with the [Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington \(TASCHA\)](#), has launched the first [Development and Access to Information \(DA2I\)](#) Report.

The DA2I Report shows how essential access to information is for development, and makes the case for coordinated and sustained efforts by all to guarantee it. It demonstrates how meaningful access to information, supported by libraries, contributes to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and monitors the progress countries are making towards fulfilling their commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda.

As the Agenda for Sustainable Development progresses, the need to address the underlying factors holding back development in all our societies

becomes more and more pressing. Few are as pernicious as information poverty – the lack of access to, or the ability to use, the information necessary to foster economically and socially inclusive societies. IFLA President Donna Scheeder stressed:

*“There is no sustainable development without access to information. And there is no meaningful, inclusive access to information without libraries.”*

In addition to the regulatory changes and infrastructure investment needed to ensure that everyone has the practical possibility to get online, the report calls for a coordinated drive to ensure that people have the confidence and skills needed to get the best out of the Internet. This will require contributions from all levels of government and across stakeholder groups.

To monitor Member States’ progress, the report presents a set of baseline indicators, drawing on established datasets, as well as providing contributions from international experts showing how access to information is already making a difference. The report focuses this year on four SDGs highlighted at this year’s UN HLPF – agriculture (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), and infrastructure and innovation (SDG 9).

Libraries, as pre-existing, trusted public centers, with both a global perspective and strong understanding of local needs, are essential partners for governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. IFLA is working globally to ensure libraries’ key contri-

bution to development is recognised. It has signed agreements with representatives from 73 countries, committing to work with them to build understanding of the UN 2030 Agenda at a national and regional level, and engage in the planning, monitoring, and implementation processes of National Development Plans.

IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner remarked: *“The library field is unique. A global community of millions of institutions, sharing the same values and objectives. IFLA, as the global voice of libraries, is proud to be able to bring this potential to bear in support of development. I believe that, together, we can deliver. The library field is certainly ready.”*

The report was officially launched on 17 July 2017 at the New York Public Library, during the annual [United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#). It can be downloaded from the DA2I official website at [DA2I.ifla.org](http://DA2I.ifla.org).

The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and carries the responsibility for follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The event was attended by Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and Chiefs of various UN departments. Representatives from Facebook and Mozilla also attended. Library leaders from the United States, Mexico, Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, and Spain were also present, emphasizing the scope and importance of the report.

# ALA Emerging Leaders partner with IRRT to enhance Sister Libraries Program

By: Lisa Blake, *Arapahoe Community College (Colorado)*; Joy Bridwell, *Stone Child College (Montana)*; Stacy Gilbert, *University of Colorado - Boulder*; Anna Sandelli, *University of Tennessee - Knoxville*; Melissa West, *Kennebunk Free Library (Maine)*

Contact: Melissa West [mwest@kennebunk.lib.me.us](mailto:mwest@kennebunk.lib.me.us)

What makes for a successful, sustainable international partnership? In Spring 2017, members of ALA's [Emerging Leaders program](#) worked with the IRRT Executive Board and Sister Libraries Committee to help answer this question. The Emerging Leaders program provides leadership development opportunities for newer library professionals to engage in problem-solving, deepen their understanding of ALA's structure, and serve the profession.

Five Emerging Leaders (ELs) selected IRRT's "Building and Enhancing Global Connections Through Sister Libraries" for their project, which they began working on at the 2017 Midwinter Conference and completed with a poster presentation at 2017 ALA Annual. IRRT tasked the ELs with the following goals:

1. Identify factors that lead to successful and sustainable international library partnerships,
2. Propose new approaches to improve the sustainability of Sister Libraries (SL) partnerships, and
3. Provide updated information about SL partnerships to the Sister Libraries committee and develop/update materials based on the data collected.

To achieve these goals, the ELs performed a review of the literature relat-

ed to domestic and international partnerships; conducted an open-ended, emailed questionnaire that four current and past IRRT SL program participants answered; and implemented an online survey of librarians both familiar with and unaware of the IRRT SL program to assess awareness of and interest in the program.

The four librarians who corresponded with the open-ended questionnaire represented a public library in North America and three libraries from three different countries in Africa. The online survey received 238 responses from individuals working in a variety of library environments.

Through their work the ELs identified numerous factors that lead to successful and sustainable SL partnerships. The most frequently mentioned factors for a successful partnership were having a formal agreement, being in frequent communication, having face-to-face visits, having a flexible mindset, and planning a trial period.

A formal agreement can help establish and manage expectations for the partnership, such as identifying the project's scope, each party's contributions, a trial period or end date, and the potential benefits. While a formal agreement is useful, it is also important that participants have a flexible mindset, recognizing that the partnership may not go as planned and that the relationship will evolve over time. Such a mindset can cultivate a sense of trust, so that both partners feel that they have the ability to discuss the relationship and identify ways to make it a rewarding experience for all involved.

Research also found that it is important to have strong, frequent communication, to use communication technologies or methods that are accessible to both institutions, and to involve multiple library employees to ensure the partnership will be sustainable through change.

Several additional factors emerged to keep in mind for both setting up and sustaining a partnership. These include: fostering a feeling of equality in the relationship; identifying funding and agreeing on a cost structure; and having supportive administrator or institutional support. Multiple sources echoed the value of sharing frequent updates to keep partners engaged and energized.

Based on these factors the ELs recommended approaches to IRRT to develop successful and sustainable partnerships. These recommendations centered on how partnerships are created, marketing and outreach, and participant resources. When creating partnerships IRRT should encourage participants to look within their community, and build on existing relationships such as working with immigrant populations and local chapters of Rotary International, Lions Club International, or Kiwanis International. Libraries could also develop partnerships based on their needs.

For example, a library could work with another institution that has special collections that are of interest to its patrons. Potential participants should also be encouraged to find partners at conferences or other in-person networking

*Continued on next page*

# ALA Emerging Leaders and Sister Libraries Program

events. Similarly, if an institution approaches IRRT with a partner in mind SLs may be more successful and sustainable in the long term. In such an instance, IRRT could then support the partnership as a mentor or facilitator to help the relationship grow. Since the ELs' research determined that communication is a major factor in successful partnerships, it is recommended that when IRRT sets up partnerships the institutions' communication preferences are taken into account. IRRT could also provide virtual communication channels for other SLs to communicate with each other, thereby providing peer-to-peer support.

In addition, the ELs recommended several approaches to increase interest in the Sister Libraries program through marketing and outreach. The ELs found that having a social media presence on outlets such as Facebook and Twitter might be beneficial to reaching a larger population of librarians. A social media presence allows people to learn about the program on their own time, and can reach librarians who are unable to participate in or attend official ALA conferences or events. It was also suggested that IRRT create short yet informative videos that highlight the benefits of being involved in a SL partnership, and share these videos on IRRT's website and social media.

Outside of social media, the ELs recommended IRRT have a visible presence at ALA conferences, as well as at the regional and state levels, in order to connect with a wide variety of people. A conference presence could include having an informal table where face-to-face connections with a SL mentor can be made. Panel discussions and mem-

ber interest group meetings about the SL program could also facilitate interest and informal discussion about the benefits of a partnership. The ELs also recommended IRRT update the current Sister Libraries brochure to attract attention and direct interested parties to IRRT's communication channels.

Based on their research, the Emerging Leaders created or updated materials to help the SL Committee build and enhance SL partnerships. One resource is a form for updating and maintaining SL contacts. The ELs found numerous outdated emails from past SL partnerships and gave these emails to IRRT to update their records. To help in the collection and maintenance of SL contacts, the ELs recommended that a Google Form or Qualtrics survey be sent out each year, asking contacts to provide their contact and institution's information, partner's information, and updates on their SL relationship. The form can also be used to collect information on success stories.

Secondly, the ELs' literature review found articles written in 2016, and they recommended IRRT highlight these articles on platforms like their website to refresh its content with recent scholarship and dialogue.

Additionally, since research showed formal, but flexible agreements are a factor in successful partnerships, the ELs created a template Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) specifically for SL partnerships. A template MOU could be used to help new partnerships establish terms, goals, objectives, expected benefits, some indication of activities, contacts, and duration of the partnership. Lastly, the ELs made a list

of potential funding and grant opportunities for SL participants to consider. As money is often a major barrier to pursuing SL partnerships, the ELs recommended IRRT highlight organizations that offer funding.

Throughout this project, the ELs were able to identify and report key elements for creating and sustaining successful Sister Libraries partnerships, including open pathways of communication, formal agreements, and assistance in funding. The ELs hope the suggestions they have made to IRRT will help create relationships that enhance a valuable program and provide for lasting and meaningful Sister Library partnerships.

## *Acknowledgements:*

Thank you to the International Relations Round Table for the opportunity to work on this project. Special thanks to Beth Cramer, Loida Garcia-Febo, Alexandra Humphreys, Christopher Shaffer, Angie Wichagen, and Delin Guerra for their feedback.

*Interested in becoming a Sister Library?*

*Visit the Sister Libraries wiki at*

<http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/>

[index.php/ALA/](http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/ALA/)

[IRRT Sister Library Initiative](http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/ALA/IRRT_Sister_Library_Initiative)



*Libraries are waiting for partners!*



# The Refugee Library Project: Crowdsourced research for endangered populations

By Christian Zabriskie & Lauren Comito, Queens Library (NY)  
[christian.g.zabriskie@gmail.com](mailto:christian.g.zabriskie@gmail.com)

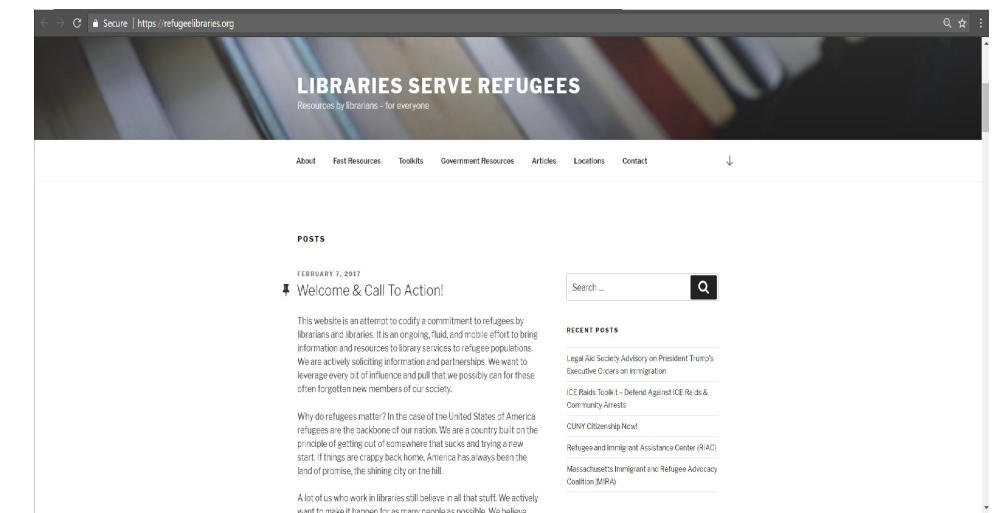
## In Brief

The goal of the [Refugee Library Project](#) is to produce a comprehensive and reliable resource for librarians to provide information support to refugees and immigrants. Our focus is on the US due to the makeup of our corps of volunteers. All resources are double checked prior to publication and the standards for accuracy and currency are very high. We have been able to engage with a large group of volunteers and set up structures for teams to work asynchronously in geographically disparate locations. Issues and problems include the scope and size of the project outstripping available resources, as well as the inevitable ebb and flow of a workforce that is entirely voluntary. The project is ongoing and is seeking support and new volunteers particularly in getting content in various languages.

## Origin

The Refugee Library Project came out of a series of conversations between a group of ALA Councillors, including ALA President Elect Loida Garcia-Febo, prior to ALA Midwinter 2017 in Atlanta. US President Trump's rhetoric towards immigrants and refugees during the campaign was aggressive and rampant. It seemed important to talk about how libraries could be responding to these issues prior to it becoming a crisis.

When Iraqi refugees were detained at JFK airport in late January and spontaneous protests shut down Terminal 4 we realized that the crisis was already upon us. We put out a call for volunteers and were quickly inundated. Within two weeks we had to cap our volunteer enrollment at 150 due to the limi-



Screenshot of the *Refugee Library Project* website: <http://refugeelibraries.org>

tations of some of the tools used to organize the work. We suddenly found ourselves with a workforce that was ten times what we had been expecting.

## Process

With this many volunteers working in geographically disparate areas we began by breaking the work down into four teams with discrete but complementary tasks. We use Slack and Airtable very heavily to accomplish our work together. Slack allows us to communicate remotely and manage messages to individuals or to various groups and work teams, with conversations archived for future use. We can also share documents and images via Slack.

We use Airtable to hold the resources and information we find as well as tagging them with metadata. This is also how we track workflow and gauge how many resources we have, where they are in the preparation process, and what areas they cover. It is also useful, though not perfect, at eliminating redundancy in the research.

The first team, researchers, are tasked with doing pure research. They are giv-

en a general subject area to explore then set loose to find whatever timely and accurate resources they can find in that area. The topic might be geographic (Northeast, Southeast, Michigan, Texas, etc.) or it could be around a particular topic area (unaccompanied minors, Federal Govt resources, resources in various languages). Once the researcher has located the resource and checked it to make sure that it is reliable, accurate, up to date, and from a reputable source that genuinely has these populations' best interests in mind, they then put it into Airtable and sign off that the research is complete.

The resource is then claimed by a member of the editorial team. The editor double checks the content for currency and accuracy. They then give the resource a title and write an abstract for the website. When they are satisfied with the content of the resource and have generated clean and engaging copy to support it, then they put the title and the abstract into Airtable and sign off as the editor. This team also created its own stylebook and editorial guidelines.

*Continued on next page*

Once the editor is done with it the resource is picked up by a member of our metadata team. They check the resource again for accuracy and use the original resource as well as the abstract as tools to tag it for indexing. This team has created a variety of tags and use them to create connections between various resources. When they are satisfied that the tagging is thorough and complete they input their work to Airtable and sign off on it as complete.

Finally the web administration team takes all of the work and puts it up on our website. They publish the resource and ensure that the link, tags, and design all work. They also assign it to categories, although the metadata allows a lot of things to be cross accessed in a variety of ways.

## Results

We currently have more than 120 accurate and timely resources ready to help people. Due to the nature of the work, some teams were larger than others and some teams required specialized skills (metadata, web admin) that most team members did not have (nor need). We obviously needed a lot of researchers since we opened our research scope to essentially “let’s find everything that we can.” Having a large group of dedicated researchers who would focus on particular areas and gain experience in those areas was a given.

What was surprising was the number of editors that we needed for the job. The process of doing a thorough second check on each information resource took more time than we originally allocated. This team also holds itself to a very high standard of work. It is where a lot of our friends in publishing ended up being assigned and they take their work as non-library professionals quite seriously. We are fortunate to have some talented professional writers and editors dedicating their skills for compelling writing on the site.

We have gotten some great feedback from people serving the undocumented and refugee population. They appreciate having a central place to look for resources. There is a real need for this kind of information triage. People need a lot of information, not just for their current situation but to plan for the future. Access to this information in easy to find places could potentially free up resources at agencies which deal with these populations. An immigration lawyer who is advising the project wants this kind of ready information to go out as widely as possible, because if people can access the basic information themselves, counselors and attorneys have more time to focus on more complicated and involved clients.

## Challenges

There have been problems of course. The original information architecture of our website was designed to support far fewer resources. The original scope of this project was narrower and we expected to have between 30-40 resources. Given that we already have more than three times that number of resources, and feel like we are barely scratching the surface, the original structure is falling apart and needs a complete rework. Our web administration team is beginning to work with [Library Market](#) to explore options and create new infrastructure and design.

Our entire staff are volunteers and only about a dozen of them have ever met face to face. The size of the team is a testament to the values of our profession and the innate decency that is still at the core of the American character. This is wonderful but as an administrator coordinating this many people from all over is an interesting challenge. We hope to use video chats and regional meetups as ways to keep people connected and engaged. We had a meeting at ALA Annual 2017 and it was really productive to actually have a group of

people sitting around a table talking about this face to face.

## Future Plans

In the future we will continue to amass more resources while redesigning the site to make these resources easier to locate. We will also need to seek funding by way of grants and fundraising to offset costs. We have been using the free versions of Airtable and Slack, but there are still costs associated with these tools, the web hosting and any meetups or programming. [Urban Librarians Unite \(ULU\)](#) has been acting as the sponsoring agency and has been able to cover these costs so far, but eventually will need to get support. Fortunately ULU is a 501(c)(3) in good standing so is eligible for grants and tax free donations.

Funding and keeping a large body of people who never see one another motivated are great challenges. An even bigger challenge is the scope of the work and the need for it. This is crucial information for members of our society who are often overlooked when they are not actively oppressed. This project exists to offer them strong and reliable resources that they can use without fear of invasion or inaccuracy.

We are excited by the interest and efforts of so many people in the profession on this issue. Many libraries are doing innovative and courageous work, such as [Project Welcome](#) from the [Mortenson Center](#) and ALA. We have always been very inspired by the work of [REFORMA’s Children In Crisis Project](#). Libraries and librarians are claiming this issue and will continue to serve everyone in our community including the displaced, the undocumented, and people in transition.

*Interested in helping? Connect with the Refugee Library Project at <https://refugeelibraries.org/contact/>*

# Amed Demirhan recognized as John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award Winner

Mr. Amed Demirhan received the 2017 ALA International Relations Committee's [John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press](#) award for significant contributions to international librarianship. The award was presented by Irene Hoffman of OCLC.

In 2006, Mr. Demirhan led the establishment of the first library with international standards in Kurdistan (Iraq), at the University of Kurdistan Hawler. In 2011, he became the director of the American University of Nigeria Library, and transformed it into a digital library, leading to the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects in 2013. Library Journal recognized him as a “[mover and shaker](#)” in 2014. Mr. Demirhan is currently the director of the Barzani National Memorial Library in Kurdistan (Iraq). He has been a member of IRRT since 2009.

*International Leads* asked Mr. Demirhan to share some thoughts with readers.

**IL:** What is your most significant contribution, out of all that you have done?

**Mr. Demirhan:** Increase resources, decrease cost, and expand services by envisioning electronic impact on resources, space, cost, organization, and transportation.

**IL:** What are your next big plans?

**Mr. Demirhan:** When I advocated for the above vision I discovered how much even highly educated people are away from conceptualizing electronic impact despite being active users. Therefore, to expand the vision we need to conceptualize two concepts:

1) E-thinking: when making decisions we have to incorporate electronic opportunities in our calculations; and 2) M-thinking: how much work and services we could do with mobile applications. Many people already are doing this, but not necessarily consciously. Therefore there is a need to make E-and M-thinking part of our strategic thinking and planning. This will help us to expand resources and services much faster to our communities locally, nationally, and internationally

**IL:** What advice would you give to young members of IRRT?

**Mr. Demirhan:** My advice is classic in the sense that I will share what I have learned from my mentors, library leaders, and coworkers whom I credit a large part of my success. 1) Never hesitate to volunteer. 2) Networking. 3) Never hesitate to ask questions or help from fellow librarians and library leaders. Librarians are the most generous people in the world when it comes to sharing and helping. 4) Remember as a librarian you have more access and more knowledge about learning resources than anyone else around you. 5- Your communities should always be in the focus for your services. We are there because our communities need our services.



Ms. Irene Hoffman of OCLC presents the John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award to Mr. Amed Demirhan

**Congratulations Mr. Demirhan. We look forward to seeing what you do next for international librarianship!**

## Connect with IRRT!

- ◇ Join the alaworld email distribution list to stay informed of ALA international activities. Subscribe at <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/alaworld>
- ◇ IRRT blog <http://alairrt.blogspot.ca/>



## Sara Zettervall wins 2017 Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund



The [Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund](#) award provides \$1,000 to support a librarian's first international conference, sponsored by the Bogle Memorial Fund and the Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science. The award is in recognition of Sarah Comly Norris Bogle, a prominent U.S. librarian who made notable contributions to international library service.

Ms. Zettervall is the Founding Consultant of Whole Person Librarianship, as well as the Community Engagement Librarian for the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center (Minneapolis) with Hennepin County Library.

[Whole Person Librarianship](#) seeks to serve each patron based on the context of their lives and the social systems surrounding them. With the support of the Bogle-Pratt award, Ms. Zettervall attended the [International Consortium for Social Development's](#) International Symposium in Zagreb, Croatia in July. She noted, "North America is at the forefront of library-social work collaboration, so this conference is an oppor-

tunity to share our groundbreaking work internationally. It's also an opportunity to bring social workers up to speed on WPL, which has not yet been presented at a major social work conference."

*International Leads* asked Sara to share her impressions of the conference with readers.

**IL:** How was the conference? What were your impressions or what did you take away from your experience to apply to your own work?

**Ms. Zettervall:** The conference was a great reminder to me that there are so many factors to consider in understanding and serving our patrons. There was a lot of talk about how conditions in the home country and cultural trauma lead to women not seeking help in their new countries of residence. Part of that is a lack of understanding of how things work in their new countries, and that's where libraries, and particularly public libraries, can be an important point of access for social services. I and my social work collaborator were there to introduce social workers, and particularly social work faculty, to this role for libraries in connecting with social services.

**IL:** This was your first overseas conference - what did you find most interesting or challenging about it?

**Ms. Zettervall:** In addition to this being my first overseas conference, it was my first time traveling in continental Europe. It turned out that Croatia is a very welcoming country to visit, and getting around was easier than I ex-

pected. It was a relatively small conference but still had attendees from 67 nations. It put me in a place of constantly questioning my own assumptions about what's possible in human services. This is an area I'd like to explore much more in both libraries and social services. How can our collaborative work be translated into different cultural contexts? There's much more work to be done.

**IL:** Any words of advice for others thinking of going to their first overseas conference?

**Ms. Zettervall:** I certainly don't consider myself an expert yet! But I would suggest being aware that the culture of the conference and the culture of the host country may be two different things. If you're interested in the host country and not just the conference, it's important to consider how travel there can be part of your professional experience. Don't try to limit yourself to what you think is going to be relevant to you, because there are more connections between us than you might realize.

**Congratulations Ms. Zettervall and good luck in your work!**

## Shali Zhang Joins Ranks of IRRT Notable Members

Dr. Shali Zhang, Dean of Libraries at the University of Montana, is the newest addition to the roster of [IRRT Notable Members](#). This award recognizes ALA members who play an important role in promoting understanding of and interests in library services around the globe, and contribute substantially to ALA's core values on the international scale.

[Dr. Zhang](#) has been a member of IRRT since 1991, and has been very active with IRRT and IRC. She served two terms as Editor of International Leads, chaired two terms of the International Relations Committee, and served as IRRT Chair. She has also been involved with IFLA, serving on the Standing Section Committee on Acquisitions and Collections Development for eight years, and is currently a member of the IFLA Journal Editorial Committee. She has traveled extensively to visit libraries and present at conferences around the world. Dr. Zhang enters the roster of IRRT Notable Members as the 26th member. Dr. Beth Cramer, IRRT Chair, presented Dr. Zhang the certificate of recognition at the IRRT Reception at ALA Annual.

*International Leads* asked Dr. Zhang to reflect on her experience with IRRT.

**IL:** What drew you to be a member of IRRT?

**Dr. Zhang:** When I was in the LIS program, I had an opportunity to attend my first ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. I was also given a complementary ticket to attend my

first ALA International Librarians Reception then. This event introduced me to IRRT and to the librarians who had passion and commitment to international librarianship. I got to know some IRRT members through the reception event. Therefore, IRRT was the first ALA roundtable that I joined and I have been its member since. IRRT has opened the door for me to get involved and to participate in many projects and initiatives on international librarianship. I am very grateful for being its member.

**IL:** What part of your experience with IRRT stands out the most to you, or are most proud of?

**Dr. Zhang:** I served two terms as Editor-in-Chief for International Leads that publishes stories and reports events on ALA membership's global engagement. I was elected by the IRRT membership as IRRT Chair, which gave me opportunities to connect with the IRRT members in U.S. and abroad. In fall 2015, John Hickok, the IRRT chair, asked me to lead the IRRT Global Leaders Campaign Ad Hoc Committee and to complete the fundraising initiative that started in 2009. The committee members and I worked very hard on this project. With the donations from IRRT members, we reached the target by the ALA Annual Conference in 2016. I am very happy that the IRRT members will see the fruition of this fundraising project soon.

**IL:** What advice would you give to young IRRT members?

**Dr. Zhang:** Learn a few words or

phrases of another language when you travel abroad; **read** books by authors from other countries; and **bring** global perspectives to your daily work.

**Congratulations Dr. Zhang, you are an inspiration!**



IRRT Chair Dr. Beth Cramer presents the IRRT Notable Member award to Dr. Shali Zhang

### Connect with IRRT!

Visit the IRRT Website

<http://www.ala.org/irrt>

Visit the IRRT Blog

[http://  
alairrt.blogspot.com](http://alairrt.blogspot.com)



# ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects

The ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects was launched as a presidential initiative by [Dr. Loriene Roy](#) as ALA President (2007-2008). Citations recognize individuals, groups, or organizations for innovative projects outside the United States that are publicly highly visible, greatly improve existing library services, and are sustainable and a model for other libraries. Since the first citations awarded in 2008, [over 30 innovative projects](#) around the world have been recognized. ALA President Julie Todaro presented the 3 recipients with a recognition plaque at the IRRT Reception on Monday, June 26.

## augustana human library

Nancy Goebel, Head Librarian  
Augustana Campus Library,  
University of Alberta (Canada)



The augustana human library is the first library in Canada to seek to address forms of intolerance by expanding the concept and sustaining the model of the “Human Library,” making it a part of the institution’s mission and culture, and assisting other libraries all over the world to implement the program.

***Congratulations to these inspiring librarians!***

## Project FryskLab

Aan Koostra, Joeren de Boer, and Bertus Douwes Library Service Friesland  
(Netherlands)



The Project FryskLab team introduced Europe’s first official library FabLab, a mobile makerspace, introducing creative, technical and entrepreneurial skills to primary and secondary education throughout rural Friesland.

## Rural Internet Hotspot Lending Programme

Jessica Veldman, Information Services Librarian, and Murray McCabe, Chief Librarian, Wellington County Library  
(Canada)



The RIHLP provides free Internet access service to rural areas served by Wellington County Library by leveraging a county government agreement with a local ISP. Continued financial support is secured by extensive coverage of the success of the program; providing a model for other library systems to replicate.

## ISLD Program at ALA Annual

By Kay Cassell  
[kcassell@nyc.rr.com](mailto:kcassell@nyc.rr.com)

Libraries and information access are more important than ever for the international community. Recognizing their impact on global literacy and understanding, the International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group (ISLD) addressed the sustainable na-

ture of libraries and their services, particularly in developing nations, with recognition of differing library systems and user expectations at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Patricia A. Wand discussed how sustainable libraries don’t just happen. Sara C. Mansback discussed the bookless village in rural Haiti. Joan Weeks

discussed sustainable library projects that are featured on the ISLD web page. Peter Deekle discussed ISLD’s program proposal for 2018 on libraries and refugees.

More information on ISLD is available on its web page: <http://www.ala.org/irrt/irrtcommittees/isld/isld>



# Conference report: 4th African Library Summit / 2nd AfLIA Conference

By Janet Lee, Regis University  
[jlee@regis.edu](mailto:jlee@regis.edu)

U.S.-based and American librarians working in Africa were among the 127 attendees at the [4th African Library Summit / 2nd AfLIA Conference](#) held in Yaounde, Cameroon, May 2017. What was the attraction that would draw these library professionals such a distance? For many, the allure went beyond the professional and toward the personal, a return to Africa, an opportunity to network, a starting point for new projects.

Over 45 African countries sent representatives to the conference, from Egypt in the north and South Africa in the south, with South Africa once again sending the largest number of representatives. The conference was simultaneously translated in English and French to serve the multilingual needs of conference attendees.

The University of Yaounde Choir opened the ceremonies with a round of musical selections. IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner and IFLA President-Elect Gloria Perez-Salmernon opened the conference. Both noted the strong presence of IFLA in Africa and its growing role in the Development Agenda: Access to Information. Deborah Jacobs from Global Libraries followed and challenged African libraries to be the model for other regions of the world.

The next three days were filled with plenary sessions, keynote speakers,

panels, an unconference, and exhibits. Many excellent presentations covered themes of Libraries in the Development Agenda; ICT in Academic/ Research Libraries; Research Data; Role of Libraries in Building Peace and Justice in Africa; Women, Youth, and Children's Services in the Development Agenda; Preservation of Africa's Culture and Heritage; and Linking the Cape Town Declaration with Africa's Future. Each attendee received a CD complete with the full text of the presentations in lieu of a print copy of the proceedings.

Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, Interim Associate Dean and Professor, North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Sciences, led sessions on The Role of ICT, the Digital Divide and the Challenges of Education, as well as the Preservation of Africa's Culture and Heritage. Dr. Abdullahi has long served on ALA, IFLA, and AfLIA committees and boards and has written extensively about practices of international libraries.



Janet Lee discusses her poster with AfLIA President John Tsebe.

I collaborated with Dr. Shimelis Assefa, Professor at the Morgridge College of Education Library and Information Science Program at the University of Denver, on a paper titled "Public Libraries as a Place to Advance Tolerance," which surveyed libraries in Colorado and across the nation on programs and practices that promote tolerance. Dr. Assefa also presented on "Data and Information Literacy." I also partnered with newly Returned Peace Corps Ethiopia Volunteer, Ben Rearick, a student in the University of Michigan's Library and Information Science Program, on a poster titled "A Hyena's Tale: Introducing Children to the Power of Reading in Ethiopia." A version of this poster was also presented at ALA Annual 2017. In addition, Dr. Assefa presented a poster titled "The Well-being of Nations and what Libraries can do to Help: The Case for Africa."

There were ample opportunities to network with librarians from Africa including a visit to the National Museum, a cultural evening with traditional dancing, and an all-conference dinner closing the conference. The next African Library Summit will be held in Cape Town. The combined Summit and AfLIA conference in two years at a place to be determined.

Connect with IRRT



# Working with Arabic-script manuscripts in Africa

By Florence Mugambi, Northwestern University (IL)

A unique, two-part workshop held August 13-20 at Northwestern University, brought together both consumers and curators of a literary tradition that 50 years ago was not known to exist: Arabic-script manuscripts in Africa. The workshop involved 35 participants including instructors, African curators and American students and librarians. It was modelled on previous international workshops on the codicology of Islamic manuscripts held by The Islamic Manuscript Association (Cambridge) and al-Furqan Foundation (London), but this one focused exclusively on African manuscripts. It also highlighted two topics not typically covered in codicology workshops: studying Arabic-script writings in African languages and developing a data base of Arabic writings from across the continent.

Thanks to support from the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, seven curators from African manuscript libraries in Mauritania, Senegal, Nigeria, Mali, Ethiopia, Zanzibar, and Mozambique were invited to help in the instruction of 15 American museologists, librarians and researchers for the first four days of the workshop. Other instructors were drawn from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Northwestern University (NU), Yale, Berkeley, Wesleyan, University of Cape Town, and Paris. The last three days focused on the needs of the African curators.

The first half of the week led off with reflections on ‘container’ and ‘content’ by Yale Librarian Graziano Krätli, and went on to cover topics typical to codicology workshops: papers, watermarks, inks, bindings, design, and text embellishments. It also demonstrated DINO

lite microscope analyses of texts and sophisticated molecular-level studies conducted by materials laboratories at the ACCESS unit of Northwestern University/The Art Institute of Chicago and the Hamburg CSMC labs. In addition, there was focus on the importance and identification of *ajami* texts (African languages written in Arabic script).

Thirteen percent of the Arabic-script manuscripts across West Africa are fully written in African languages, with a larger percentage found down the East African coast. This is a literature that has been largely unknown, and it demonstrates a level of linguistic intricacy and originality yet to be fully appreciated even by specialists in the field. Afternoon ‘hands-on’ sessions utilized the rich Arabic manuscript collection at Northwestern’s Herskovits Library of African Studies. American participants, with the guidance of African curators, studied Arabic as well as *ajami* texts in sessions arranged by Esmeralda Kale, curator of the Herskovits Library.

Attendees had additional opportunities to work with films and digital images from the UIUC Boutilimit (Mauritania) collection of Arabic manuscripts; manuscript collections at the Newberry Library arranged by Lia Markey, Director of the Center for Renaissance Studies; the Field Museum, arranged by Diana Duncan, Technical Services Librarian for Library Collections; and Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago, arranged by Jean Evans, Chief Curator. Curating practices, preservation, conservation, cataloguing, and public outreach were part of each tour.

The second part of the workshop focused on agendas of the African curators, including cataloguing, preservation, digitization, and development of the Arabic-English data base of Arabic-script manuscripts in Africa, AMMS. [AMMS](#) is an online bi-lingual database that was originally developed at the University of Illinois in the late 1980s by Charles Stewart, to describe a collection of Arabic manuscripts in southern Mauritania (Boutilimit).



Hands-on session studying manuscripts at the Herskovits Library

*Continued on next page*

## Arabic-script manuscripts in Africa

An up-dated version of AMMS, that converts it to a relational database which greatly enhances its value for curators seeking to identify manuscripts, was demonstrated.

Now equipped for the addition of digital images of the works that are cited, the current 23,000 records are expected to expand dramatically during the next year. AMMS is soon to be housed at the UC Berkeley Library, and curators are encouraged to heighten the visibility of and access to their collections by adding their libraries to it. The database and the AMMS cataloguing input tool are publicly available at no cost to users. Michelle Biddle from the Wesleyan University Library presented on low-cost manuscript conservation and preservation, and curators were given an overview of digitization projects underway in Mali by the Hill Museum Manuscript Library. Associate Director

Daniel Gullo and Malta Project director Claudia Garradas invited curators to apply for support for digitization projects, and Laila Hussein Moustafa from the UIUC Library reviewed other international funding opportunities for preserving and cataloguing African manuscript collections.

Evening sessions introduced participants to the basics of calligraphy, led by Parisian-based calligrapher Nuria Garcia Masip with the assistance of Mauritanian calligrapher Mohamedan Ahmed Salim. The calligraphy component was provided to remind participants of the deep spiritual significance of the Word during a week that focused on the materiality of manuscripts. In a collaborative venture with the American Islamic College of Chicago, one workshop lecture on calligraphic traditions was held there as was a second three-day course open to the

public that attracted 25 students. Plans to repeat the workshop, hopefully in Africa, were discussed as a way to continue and expand a network of African curators in the coming years.

The workshop was held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Libraries. It was sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) at the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University; the Center for African Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), University of Hamburg; and organized by Rebecca Shereikis, Associate Director of ISITA.

*Read more about the Herskovits Library below.*

## Library Spotlight: The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies

Established in 1954, the [Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies](#) at Northwestern University is the largest separate Africana collection in existence. Its scope is as wide as the continent of Africa itself; its subject matter ranges from art, history, literature, music, science, technology and religion to communications, engineering, management and cooking. The Africana collection is a resource for the entire Northwestern University community, and most of Northwestern's disciplinary programs are reflected in the collection. In addition to serving the NU community, the Herskovits Library also serves regional, national and international scholars to the extent possible.

The Herskovits Library maintains and provides access to unique collections of rare books, archives, Arabic manuscripts, and photographs. The collection also includes maps, posters, videos, and books in African languages, as well as art objects, ephemeral materials and other artifacts,

many of which are [digitally](#) accessible. We welcome use of these resources by faculty, students, staff, scholars, and researchers from all over the world regardless of affiliation.

Northwestern University is located in Evanston, larger Chicago area, Illinois, USA, along the shores of Lake Michigan. For more about the collection, including information about visiting the library, explore the [website](#) (<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/africana>) or search the [catalog](#). A guide to resources at the Herskovits is available at <http://libguides.northwestern.edu/africanaguide>.

*Contact : Florence Mugambi, African Studies Librarian,  
Herskovits Library of African Studies,  
Northwestern University  
[florence.mugambi@northwestern.edu](mailto:florence.mugambi@northwestern.edu)*