

ALA International Relations Report

Submitted by Michael Dowling-Director, International Relations Office

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International at Annual

Four hundred and fourteen librarians from sixty-one countries outside the U.S. have registered to date. There is usually a good number of on-site international registrations. The final international attendance in New Orleans last year was five hundred and forty from fifty-nine countries. There are fifty exhibitors from outside the U.S. from fourteen countries this year. That compares to fifty-two exhibitors from eleven countries in New Orleans.

IFLA President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón and IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner will both be participating. They will be speaking to the International Relations Committee and presenting at an “IFLA Update Session” on Sunday. The IFLA Stand near Registration will be staffed by ALA IFLA Representatives.

In addition to the IFLA program, there are over a dozen international focused programs, from country specific presentations such as how Japanese public librarians engage in building better communities, to how dialog and exchange transforms Russia and U.S. libraries, to an excursion into Africana collections around the world. Other programs provide insight on how U.S. librarians and libraries can become connected internationally. There will be twenty-three international posters, and the International Relations Round Table will welcome and assist colleagues at the “International Librarian’s Orientation” and at the International Visitors Lounge.

The IRRT International Connections Committee, in partnership with ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo’s presidential committee, curated a collection of photographs submitted by librarians around the world. “Best Practices from World Libraries” photo gallery presents a selection of photographs, which feature library projects and programs that best demonstrate this year’s ALA theme, “Libraries = Strong Communities”. A gallery of 18 posters will be displayed throughout the convention center at ALA Annual. Photo gallery:

<https://sites.google.com/view/icc-programs/2019-librariesstrong-communities>

International attendees will be feted at the end of the conference at the “International Librarians Reception” on Monday evening in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress.

ALA IFLA Nomination Results

IRO Director Michael Dowling was elected to the IFLA Governing Board for 2019-2021. ALA nominated twenty-two members to various IFLA Section Committees for 2019-2023. This year a record number seventeen (out of forty-five) IFLA Sections went to a ballot. Eleven ALA

nominees were automatically appointed to Sections that did not go to ballot. Of the eleven others who went to ballot only five were elected. One of those elected was ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo who will begin a four-year term on the IFLA Management of Library Associations Section at the end of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Athens in August. The IRC will be discussing the lower than expected selection of ALA nominees.

IFLA Governing Board Activities

The IRO Director participated in IFLA's Governing Board in the Hague, Netherlands in April. The Board Meeting was preceded by a two-day discussion of the draft of IFLA's new Strategic Framework that will be voted on by IFLA membership in Athens. Due to a delay in the completion of the new conference center in Auckland, the 2020 IFLA World WLIC cannot take place there. The Board voted to award the 2022 WLIC to Auckland but IFLA is looking at options for 2020. A selection will be made before Athens. The 2021 Congress has been selected and will be announced in Athens.

IFLA/ALA Webinar Series

IRO continued ALA's partnership with IFLA by hosting two webinars this spring. On April 9th, librarians from Canada, Germany and South Africa shared their experiences during "Benefits of International Exchange Programs" An on May 28th the free global webinar was "Enhancing your strengths through coaching." The programming is created by IFLA's Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section (CPDWL) and IFLA New Professionals SIG (NPSIG). ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis is coordinator of the series this year for CPDWL. The webinars are available at <http://npsig.wordpress.com/webinars/>

In addition to the IFLA webinars, IRO worked with the IRRT Webinar Ad Hoc Committee to present two webinars aimed to promote interests, programs, and activities on international librarianship. The first webinar of the year took place on April 8th, where USA-based librarians shared their experience participating in the "Librarians Without Borders-Guatemala" program. The second webinar- "Hosting International Visiting Librarians in US Academic Libraries: The Korea Foundation Librarian Intern Program"- will be presented on June 14th. Additional information is available at <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>

ACRL International Perspective Webinars

ACRL International Perspectives Webinar series also provided global knowledge with "Academic Librarianship in Côte d'Ivoire / Ivory Coast on April 25th.

Sharjah International Library Conference

IRO has been developing the professional content for this fall's 6th annual Sharjah International Library Conference, November 5-7. The preliminary program is done, and registration is now open. ALA President-elect Wanda Brown will serve as the keynote speaker, as have previous ALA Presidents. In addition to the main two-day conference three full-day preconference

workshops are slated, two based on ALA or division output. “New Concepts and Applications for Cataloging” will focus on the new RDA toolkit. For the third year the conference will include an ACRL Road Show. This year it will be “Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action.”

ALA International Membership Marketing Group

IRO has reconstituted a staff International Marketing Group this spring to look holistically at ALA’s current international reach, share data and contacts, and look for potential opportunities. Currently eighteen staff members from publishing, divisions, and offices are participants. The group has started to look at specific regions with Europe being the first. Canada will be discussed at the next meeting in July.