



International Leads

A Publication of the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association

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Building a New Library in a War-torn Country and the Importance of Partnership

By Amed Demirhan

After more than 20 years of war and dictatorship in Iraq, the universities and libraries like many other institutions have been strongly diminished. However, after the war of 2003 that toppled the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, Iraq opened to the world, particularly the Kurdistan Federal Region in northern Iraq. I was appointed in September 2006 to build a new library for the newly established University of Kurdistan-Hawler, an English-language university. Soon, I discovered the challenge of international transportation of books and serious limitations of the local market in building a library collection. The South East Florida Library Information Network (seflin.org), together with Florida Atlantic University Library and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Team in Hawler (Erbil), Federal Region of Kurdistan – Iraq, played an important role in partly overcoming this isolation. The American Library Association's professional rules, regulations, and publications were very helpful for our local staff development.

After arriving to Hawler (Erbil), the capital of Kurdistan Federal Region of Iraq, I visited several libraries, but to my surprise they were still operating with card catalogs and many of their library materials were outdated. In addition, like some other Middle Eastern countries, the libraries were used as



Mr. Amed Demirhan greets Major Melvin Juan and a donation of books from the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Unit stationed in Hawler (Erbil).

a depository and had closed stacks. Furthermore, the majority of people who were making decisions about libraries were not professionally trained librarians and the number of librarians with BA degrees in librarianship totaled about fifteen people in all three provinces governed by the Kurdistan Federal Region. All of them were educated in Baghdad and Mosul; no one had a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. However, those who had a BA were overburdened with many duties and

few or very limited opportunities for professional development.

Because of the economic embargos/sanctions and wars, the library supplies were almost non-existent; library furniture, equipment, and even simple cataloging and circulation supplies were hard to come by. Even after the economic sanctions were removed, the market has not recovered and despite a safe environment in Kurdistan Federal Region many suppliers still

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Message from the Editor

In this final issue for 2009, we have several interesting reports from around the world. Leading off the issue, Mr. Amed Demirhan describes the creation of a library in a new university in Kurdistan, part of the war-torn regions of Iraq. Although faced with numerous obstacles and challenges, he has created a modern library for the students and faculty of a rebuilding country. His optimism and energy are inspirations for us all.

Mr. Jeffrey Bowen recently visited Brasília, Brazil, and submits a report of the library serving the public there. Although named the “national” library of Brazil, this newly renovated library acts as a public library, offering reading materials, computers and outreach services. I found the community libraries program quite interesting.

Ms. Nicole Powell, a library student, reports about her visit to Great Britain on the annual summer study tour organized by the University of Southern Mississippi library school. From her description of the activities, it sounds like she saw a very good sample of libraries and became even more of an “international” librarian.

We also have two conference reports. Maria Antonia Carrato submits a summary of the joint meeting between NAPLE and EBLIDA that resulted in a proclamation of library support – a great example of associations working together to improve libraries in Europe. Mr. Sjoerd Koopman supplies a report from the 11th International “Interlending and Document Supply” Conference – another example of international concern for cooperation.

I have been joined by an assistant editor to help me stay on top of informing IRRT members. Jennifer Dupuis is a student at the University of Kentucky library school and brings great previous experience with publishing. We hope to start doing more with the ALAWorld electronic list and IRRT blog to keep you informed of current activities in international librarianship. Welcome, Jennifer!

It may be hard to believe, but 2009 is almost over! It’s time to think about the ALA Midwinter meeting to be held in Boston, January 15-19, 2010. The schedule of meetings and events for IRRT and IRC follows the message from IRRT President Sha Li Zhang. I hope to see you there!

~ Rebecca L. Miller

Call for Submission

Do you have news about...

International library activities?

People in international librarianship?

Upcoming international conferences?

International partnerships between libraries?

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

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Message from the IRRT Chair

Before we say good-bye to 2009, I want to share with you some exciting activities from IRRT in the past months.

IRRT Emerging Leader Chosen

Mr. Lucas Wing Kau Mak, a Metadata & Cataloging Librarian at the Michigan State University, was selected by IRRT from a very competitive pool of applications to participate in the ALA 2010 Emerging Leaders Program. Mr. Mak has actively served on the IRRT International Librarians' Orientation/Mentoring Committee since 2007. On his project with the ALA Emerging Leaders Program, Mr. Mak will be working on enhancing free links to electronic resources which are available on the Internet. With Jeannette Pierce, past IRRT Chair and the advisor for the project, Mr. Mak and his group will update the existing links, add new links, market and promote these free links to librarians abroad, and document recommendations for sustainability. Congratulations, Lucas.

The Executive Committee Regular Conference Calls

The IRRT Executive Committee has continued its work since the ALA 2009 Annual in Chicago through monthly conference calls. Led by Win Shih, IRRT Secretary and Treasurer, the IRRT Executive Committee started using a Skype account for the regular conference call in November 2009. The conference call in November via Skype was a very successful one and cost-effective. The notes from the conference calls in September, October, and November 2009 were recorded by Win Shih and posted on the IRRT wiki by Joan Weeks at <http://irrt.ala.org/wiki/>.

Editor Positions for *International Leads*

Dr. Rebecca Miller, Assistant Professor from the LIS program at University of Kentucky, has agreed to continue her second term as Editor-in-Chief for Leads, the IRRT newsletter. Dr.

By Sha Li Zhang

Miller's editorial experience from her first term on the position in 2007-2009 is a great asset to this publication. Additionally, Dr. Miller recruited Jennifer Dupuis, a LIS student from the University of Kentucky program, to serve in the position of Assistant Editor of Leads. Many thanks, Dr. Miller, for recruiting a new and young IRRT member, and for recommending Ms. Dupuis to this position.

Preparation for the ALA 2010 Annual Conference

Though it seems far from June 2010, preparations are well under way for the programs and events to be hosted by IRRT at the annual conference. The International Papers Committee, co-chaired by Marcy A. Carrel and Graziano Krätli, has issued a call for proposals, with the first deadline on December 4, 2009. Co-chaired by Maureen Morris and Inger Kruger, the International Poster Session Committee is ready to review proposals for the international poster session. The due date for the proposals on the ALA poster session is January 1, 2010. The International Librarian Reception Committee, led by Joan Weeks, has received co-sponsorship from the Asian Division of the Library of Congress for the event. Preparation and planning for other IRRT programs and events will be reported in the next issue of *Leads*. With the energy and efforts from many active IRRT members, we are able to continue developing strong programs and services focusing on global issues and dialogs for ALA members in the U.S. and abroad.

With 2010 fast approaching, I want to take this opportunity to send my warm greetings to all IRRT members for a Happy New Year. See you at the ALA 2010 Midwinter Meeting in Boston.

IRRT/IRC Midwinter Schedule

Friday, January 15

International Relations Committee I
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center -Room 258C

IRRT Reception for Endowment Donors and International Visitors
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Location: TBA

Saturday, January 16

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting
8:00 am - 11:00 am
Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center -Room 153A/B

IFLA Update
11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center - Room 151A/B

Sunday, January 17

IRRT Executive Committee Board
8:00 am - 11:00 am
Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center -Room 206A

Monday, January 18

International Relations Committee II
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center -Room 258C



Conference Reports

NAPLE and EBLIDA Joint Meeting

Submitted by **María Antonia Carrato**

NAPLE Annual Assembly, EBLIDA Annual Council and the Joint NAPLE-EBLIDA Conference, under the theme "A Library Policy for Europe," were held 7-9 May 2009 in Vienna, in collaboration with BVOE, the Austrian Library Association and VOEB, the Austrian Association of Librarians.

NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe) is an international forum created in 2002, pursuing the interests of the national public library authorities in Europe. EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) was founded in 1992 and is an independent umbrella association of national library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe.

Cooperation between NAPLE & EBLIDA was strengthened after the 5th NAPLE Forum Assembly, October 2008, when the NAPLE Board and the President and the Director of EBLIDA agreed on celebrating a joint conference in Vienna in May 2009. Delegates from more than 30 different European countries attended. There were three thematic blocks: Library Policy and Legislation, The Role of Libraries in a European Perspective and Libraries of the Future: Creating Access for Europe. As a result, the Vienna Declaration was formulated and approved. The Declaration is the first step to establish a common European library policy. Its main objective is the defence, in European institutions and member states, of library services' existence as key agents for the development of the knowledge society and as basic instruments to ensure the access for all citizens to information.

Both organisations keep on working on the development of the points stated in the Declaration and in 2010 they will celebrate again together their Annual Assembly and Annual Council with a joint Conference, in order to continue cooperating. It will take place in Helsinki, Finland in May 2010.

The full text of the Vienna Declaration can be found at http://www.mcu.es/naple/news/Vienna_Declaration.pdf

NAPLE - <http://www.mcu.es/naple/index.html>

EBLIDA - <http://www.eblida.org/>

Ms. Carrato is Head of the Sub-Directorate General for Library Coordination with the Ministry of Culture, Spain

11th International "Interlending and Document Supply" Conference (ILDS)

Submitted by **Sjoerd Koopman**

"Strategic Alliances and Partnerships in Interlending and Document Supply" was the motto of the international conference held in Hannover from 20-22 October 2009. It is the mission and the concern of the IFLA "Section on Document Delivery and Resource Sharing" to facilitate networking between partners from the fields of librarianship, information provision and publishing.

The conference in Hannover offered the entire spectrum of ILDS topics and tried to indicate where interlending, document and full-text supply are headed. A high-calibre programme presented contributions of renowned experts from 16 countries and engendered lively discussions within

the sessions. These covered topics such as "Cooperation in Document Supply and Interlending", "International Experiences in Resource Sharing", "Country Case Studies in Resource Sharing", "Open Access and Copyright" and "The Future of Information Services". Many national and international co-operations and projects, such as the handling of Open Access resources or the embedding of non-textual materials into holdings, serve as yardsticks and provide examples for future developments in these areas.

The conference guests constituted a remarkably international gathering: 195 library and information specialists arrived from 35 countries on all five continents, from Australia to Nepal and Zimbabwe. Eighty per cent of all visitors came from Europe, with Germany and Northern Europe representing 30% respectively.

The conference was organized jointly by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the three German National Libraries, namely the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB), the German National Library of Medicine (ZB MED) in Bonn and Cologne and the German National Library of Economics - Leibniz Information Centre for Economics (ZBW) in Kiel and Hamburg. The German Federal Minister for Education and Research, Professor Annette Schavan, was the patroness of the conference. In her written welcome address she pointed out the need for easier and faster access to information that is both structured and peer-reviewed for quality as well as for the creation of strategies to maintain and preserve resources.

Details about the conference can be found at <http://www.ilds2009.de>

Mr. Koopman is the Professional Programmes Director for IFLA

American Library Student Explores British Libraries through Library Tour Program

By Nicole Powell

Last summer, I had the opportunity to take the British Studies course for Library and Information Science in London, England. The program is a six-week course in London, touring the operations of British libraries and museums. I traveled with 16 other library students from all over the U.S. Our professor was Dr. Teresa Welsh of The University of Southern Mississippi. She arranged some very exclusive tours and speakers.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that really expanded my global perspective. I was touched by visiting urban public libraries in the U.K. and realizing we share so many of the same struggles in libraries, such as reaching reluctant readers and dealing with budget cuts.

Highlights from the course include visiting the St. Paul's Cathedral, City of London libraries, the British Library, Museum of London, Shakespeare Centre Library, Greenwich National Maritime Museum, the British Museum, National Art Library, Oxford University, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh Central Library, National Archives of Scotland, Scottish Storytelling Centre and the Bibliotheek Amsterdam.

I took a special interest in researching the influence of magic on British youth literature, especially in series like Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. I saw many Harry Potter film locations and places that inspired J.K. Rowling while writing the series. I visited the famous Platform 9 ¾ in London. I toured the school (George Heriot's school in Edinburgh) that was Rowling's inspiration for Hogwarts Academy of Witchcraft and Wizardry. I also spent some quality time at Elephant House, the cozy café where Rowling spent time writing

some of the Harry Potter books while overlooking Greyfriars Kirkyard and Edinburgh Castle.

My favorite experience was the Barbican Library, which serves as the downtown public library for the City of London. The library is on the second floor of the Barbican Centre, a cultural arts venue for film, art, music, theatre and dance. The site was a Roman ruins, but was bombed during the Second World War. The current arts centre and surrounding residential buildings opened in 1982 and the 'brutalism' architectural style of the Barbican is reminiscent of Roman times.

The Barbican Library offers free membership to anyone who lives, works or studies in the City of London. I was surprised to see Dewey as the classification system for this British library! I was also surprised to note the Bibliographic Records in the catalog were familiar, and the library even used Pharos to operate the public computers, the same system we use at Kansas City Public Library! For Outreach services, the City of London Libraries offer Home Delivery Ser-

vice to the elderly and disabled. Of special interest was the Children's Library, holding 25,000 items with books. In addition to regular storytimes and reading groups, the Children's Library hosts two different Outreach programs. The Bookstart program provides parents and their new babies with reading support. Bookstart is made possible by Booktrust, an independent charity. Reading is Fundamental is a national effort that provides funding for library outreach to all the playschools and nurseries in the community. The Barbican Children's Library partnered with Starbucks to reach children who don't often have the opportunity to visit the library. It was nice to see the Summer Reading Challenge in full swing!

I loved the libraries of London and I visited often, with my City of London library card. I felt right at home checking out books and using the Internet. To read all about my London experience, visit "Nicole's Nightly Nimbus Ride" at <http://nimbus-2009.blogspot.com/>.

Ms. Powell is Library Outreach Assistant with the Kansas City Public Libraries and a MLS student at the School of Information Science & Learning Technology at the University of Missouri



Nicole Powell takes a running start to the Hogwart's Platform.

Have you recently visited libraries overseas or hosted an overseas guest? If you have - please share your experiences with us! Send a description of your partnership or visit to intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com. Photos are always welcome!

Biblioteca Nacional de Brasília: Brazil's New National Library?

By Jeffrey Bowen

The city of Brasilia was a planned city, designed and built in the 1960s with the grand purpose of moving the capital of the country into the interior. It was intended that the national library, then located in Rio de Janeiro, was to be moved to Brasilia. A building was designed for this purpose but never built. In the early 1980s, a commission studied the transfer of the national library to Brasilia. They concluded that it was unrealistic to move the entire national library from Rio (too many volumes) but that a building should be built that would contain newer materials, as well as moving the copyright office from Rio to Brasilia. The Brazilian Congress did not approve this plan and so the national library remained in Rio and no new building was built.

In 2002, the Governor of the Federal District, where Brasilia is located, decided it was time to build the library. Without federal permission, he took the original design of the building and began construction on the land the government had set aside for the library. The building was completed in 2006. Because the federal government had not given money or permission to build the building, it technically is not the national library. Although the title of this new library has the word "national" in it, in fact this institution is more like a public library.

This new building was based on the original 1960s design and so resembles much of the construction in the city. However, no money was provided to operate the building. It was determined that 2 million Reais (about 900,000 dollars) a month would be required to operate the building yet Congress refused to fund it. However, since there was a building now, librarians from other organizations within the government were loaned

out to work in the new library even though they officially work for some other department.

Since the original 1960s design was used, the building had no wiring for the Internet, inadequate air conditioning, not enough electrical outlets and the fire suppression system needed replacing. These and other problems with the building forced the librarians, in 2007, to begin strategic planning efforts in order to solve these pressing issues. To their credit, they were able to make partnerships with various government entities and get money for renovation of the building, which began in 2008. The renovation included making the whole building wireless and updating it for modern library needs. Work was completed in December of 2008 and the building officially opened for business.

The first floor is the entrance level and includes an information desk, exhibit space, meeting space and security fixtures. The public has access to the Internet and computers through the computer lab, with 51 computers available for use. The children's space is also located on the first floor.

The second floor includes more exhibit space, the main study room, and the popular materials collection. A space is set aside for Mala do Livro, a project of the cultural department. This is actually a separate library within the library walls. The project collects books to be sent out to people's houses in various communities around the city. It works much like branch libraries in a public library system, except instead of having branch buildings staffed by librarians, they are using individual's houses and the owner of the house agrees to circulate any materials. This program is replete with security issues, but in a community without a significant public library and where a large por-

tion of the population is unable to travel downtown to the new building, this is not a bad solution overall. The second floor also includes an auditorium for 95 people, a cafeteria and a videoconference room. In addition, there is an audiovisual and 3D animation lab for public use.

The third floor contains the Brazil collection. This is a collection of materials about Brazil from all over the world. The goal of the library is to find as many books as they can about Brazil from various countries and in various languages. In addition, the third floor contains the digital materials viewing area, which is designed with seats that have built in controls and monitors. Finally, there are group study areas on this floor as well.

In addition to the first three floors, there is a fourth floor which is currently closed. The money received to renovate the building was insufficient to complete the fourth floor plan. The plan for this space is ambitious however. Once funding can be secured, this floor will be renovated to contain Special Collections, Rare Collections and Periodicals.

Currently 15 librarians are on staff and the library hopes to add 10 more within the year. Of these 15 librarians, 8 of them are working in cataloging to get as many of their new materials out and available as quickly as possible. They rely on book donations and are working to fill the designed capacity of 300,000 volumes.

I spoke with two of the librarians (Felipe Lima, Head of Cataloging and Iris Soares) and the library director, Antonio Miranda, during my visit. The people in this institution have been quite resourceful in making funding partnerships with other organizations. They were able

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Kurdistan

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stay away because simply the name “Iraq” has been so strongly tied to the war and terror.

However, this difficult position created an opportunity to be more assertive and to increase one’s desire to become part of building a contemporary library. I was quite fortunate to be entrusted to build a new library for the University of Kurdistan-Hawler (UK-H). The University Rector said that the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region, Mr. Nechirvan Barzani, had asked him to build a modern University in highest Western academic standards. This was the most important guideline I received.

One of the first things I did was to design a vision and mission statement that would correspond to the vision of the founder of the University of Kurdistan-Hawler. I contacted the Executive Director of the South East Florida Library Information Network, Mr. Tom Sloan, and asked his advice. Mr. Sloan, in addition to much good advice, offered to send us some academic books from South East Florida. However, the transportation of the library materials was a serious issue as there weren’t direct flights from the U.S. and it is very expensive to transport from the U.S. to Iraq. The challenge was not just immediate access to the material, but even with access there were still serious transportation issues.

Together with Mr. Sloan we asked several U.S. government agencies for help with book transportation and after eight months of dead ends we were finally referred to the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Unit in Hawler (Erbil). We were very fortunate to have the Commanding Officer Lt. Colonel Howard Schaffer in Hawler. After a visit to the library by Lt. Colonel Schaffer and a long conversation about our challenges, he decided not just to help us with transportation of donated library

materials, but he also started a campaign among U.S. soldiers to donate books. He became a well-welcomed visitor of the University of Kurdistan-Hawler Library and sometimes joined us and our students for lively discussions in academic matters and challenges. After Lt. Colonel Schaffer left, several succeeding teams of Civil Affairs have continued donating books to the library and helping with the transportation of library materials from Florida Atlantic University and SEFLIN.

Furthermore, SEFLIN has been available for many library related issues and creating several other opportunities for helping the UK-H Library. One of them was the donation of some online training classes for the library staff and another was an attempt to create an Electronic Interlibrary Loan between the UK-H Library and the Florida Atlantic University Library. We are still hoping to create this Electronic Interlibrary Loan as this is very important to improve our access to more resources and building real bridges between and among Kurdistan-Iraq and US libraries.

Another important event for the UK-H library came in January 2008 when it became a member of the American Library Association (ALA). This membership has been important for the library’s connectivity and development. ALA publications have become important sources particularly for our local staff’s education and for us to keep up with professional development in the library field. The ALA articles regarding the “Libraries Bill of Rights” and “Code of Ethics” have become cornerstones for library operations, and they are properly displayed on the library bulletin board.

When I look back to these relations and cooperation among different institutions, I see the moral and psychological value of these relationships far exceeds the material values. Having relationships with the South East Florida Library Information Network and the Florida Atlantic University Libraries has had a great impact on our students and staff in the sense of connectivity and being part of a bigger world after their many years of isolation.

Despite its small size the University of Kurdistan-Hawler Library probably is the only library in all of Iraq and perhaps the Middle East that provides its students, staff, and customers with unrestricted Internet access and a wealth of online resources, and an open stacks print collection. It adheres to copyright laws voluntarily and makes service to its clients the highest priority. It is one of the very first institutions to publish its work report online for transparency and accountability. Those institutions that have been cooperating with the UK-H Library can be very proud of their cooperation and we are looking for many more international relations and interlibrary cooperation.

The library’s webpage can be found at <http://www.ukh.ac/library/>

Mr. Demirhan is Director of the library at the new University of Kurdistan-Hawler.



Brazil

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to purchase computers and other technology because of money received from the Dept. of Science and Technology. They continue to try to gain federal recognition which would provide a more stable funding source, but the current goal of the director is to gain non-governmental organization (NGO) status. In doing this, the library would be uniquely positioned to get money from sources outside the Brazilian government, such as the United Nations, private corporations, etc.

While presenting a great challenge to all those involved, this library has managed to use a fundraising model to achieve its goals. After all, there is no official funding source, either from the Brazilian government or from the local government in Brasilia. The librarians have truly been innovative. They took a building that was designed and built around 1960s specifications and renovated it without a guaranteed funding source. They have managed to operate a full service library with a staff of 15 librarians without any official employees, and they developed a mission of serving the public in the city of Brasilia

as well as seeking to expand that mission to serve the satellite cities as well. With all the challenges this library has had from its very inception to its current funding issues, they have managed to achieve the “do more with less” axiom in the best sense.

Library website: <http://www.bnb.df.gov.br/>

*Mr. Bowen is the
Director of Technical Services at the
University of North Florida*



60th Anniversary Campaign Report

**Jordan Scepanski & Lea H. Wells,
co-chairs**

Efforts to establish an endowment to mark the sixtieth anniversary of IRRT's founding continued at the ALA annual conference in Chicago with recognition of those who have contributed to the fund thus far and an appeal for every member to become involved. Campaign co-chairs Jordan Scepanski and Lea Wells reported progress to the Executive Committee and made presentations at the round table's program and membership meeting and at international committees and subcommittees during the conference. As of November, funds raised for the endowment reached the \$10,000 mark, a respectable amount during difficult economic times, but not yet sufficient for creation of a separate ALA account and still distant from the initial target of \$60,000. More than 70 individuals have made donations, while participation by at least 600 members is being sought. Every IRRT member is asked to make a contribution to the fund prior to the end of 2009.

Please click on “Donate Now!” at <http://www.ala.org/irrt60thanniversary> to charge a donation or for a form to accompany a check. Thank you!

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