

Haitian American Museum of Chicago-Cazale, Haiti Library Partnership

About the Haitian American Museum of Chicago

by Michael Harris

The Haitian American Museum of Chicago (HAMOC) was founded in 2012 by Elsie Hernandez as a cultural addition to Chicago's diverse arts, cultural and historical landscape. As Haitian Jean Baptiste Point DuSable is considered the founder of Chicago, Chicago needed to have an institution dedicated to a complete representation of Haitian history and culture, especially around its critical place in history as the world's first Black republic.

Since the organization's founding, HAMOC has engaged the public through multiple activities and programs, such as:

The HAMOC Library

- Art exhibitions
- Artist-in-Residence program for Haitian and Haitian-Americans
- Film Festivals
- Language classes
- Oral History projects

Cazale Library Project

In 2020, the Haitian American Museum of Chicago looked to further its partnerships with organizations in Haiti with a focus on providing books and other literacy-oriented materials. The intended goal of this project is to assist in improving the literacy rates of community members while also setting the path for the community to have a fully stocked library with the capacity to serve the community's needs.

As HAMOC received donated books and purchased new

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and used items utilizing monetary donations, HAMOC's President and Founder, Elsie Hector Hernandez inspected each item to ensure materials were in good condition, while also gathering ISBN information for use by HAMOC library volunteers. This inspection process was essential to HAMOC because the organization wanted to ensure Haitians receiving the items felt respected and didn't come away thinking they were simply given items in any condition and expected to accept substandard items.

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Haitian American Museum, continued

During the first phase of the project, HAMOC's volunteer library manager at the time, Amanda Sexton, and volunteer library assistant, Michael J. Harris, led the efforts to gather each book's information and input it into a catalog spreadsheet. The creation of the spreadsheet was important to HAMOC to ensure Cazale library's leadership and community members seeking to access the library's resources had an efficient and comprehensive record of each item in the collection. And as Kreyòl, French, and English serve as the predominant languages used for speaking, reading, and writing in Haiti, Harris developed Cazale library's inventory sheet to enable volunteers and staff at HAMOC and in Cazale the ability to translate information into one of the respective languages efficiently.



As the inventory and documentation of materials took place, HAMOC volunteers began packing and shipping materials to Cazale to ensure materials would arrive promptly. Throughout the six-month process, the team shipped over 800 items to Cazale, which has added another asset to this vibrant and committed community. The Cazale library project is ongoing. As new materials are received, HAMOC continues updating the inventory sheet to ensure Cazale volunteers know of the new items prepared for shipment to their location.

The next phase of this project encompasses the creation of a separate catalog for Cazale materials, which will allow users to view their library's holdings online, enabling them to utilize their time for other matters more efficiently. The capacity to begin this phase is possible because of Sexton's prior work leading the revamp of HAMOC's library procedures and cataloging items in LibraryThing. LibraryThing, an online resource, enables users to catalog their holdings online, providing a user-friendlier platform for an organization's library users. Through LibraryThing, HAMOC's library volunteers will conduct virtual sessions with Cazale library staff and volunteers, provide instruction on how to utilize the platform, and brainstorm on concrete ways HAMOC can assist in building Cazale library's capacity to best fit their organizational and community needs. HAMOC sees these sessions as part of a multi-step approach that helps in the following:

- Structured fundraising plan focused on the construc-

tion of a more secure library facility

- Cazale library serves as a community resource for disaster preparation and recovery education, where community members and governmental and local agencies develop emergency processes and procedures following natural or man-made disasters
- Utilizing multiple formats for cataloging the library's holdings to ensure records are secure and accessible
- Development of library policies and procedures that align with Haiti's National Library and other community libraries throughout the country

HAMOC's partnership with the Cazale community centers on strengthening the community's cultural vibrancy and allowing community members the capacity to take ownership of their library, and HAMOC transitions to a strictly support role. Through this partnership, HAMOC's library volunteers see this project as a catalyst where libraries across Haiti develop a more cohesive structure where strengthened communication and collaboration occur amongst the different entities, resulting in a national library system less dependent on international entities, and one that is self-sufficient and better able to serve the needs of its users; this exemplifies the mission and vision of the Haitian American Museum of Chicago, the work it does, and its goal for the country of Haiti, and its diaspora.

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Documenting the Ukrainian Crises and War: Actions of a librarian and partners

Julia Gelfand

Liladhar Pendse, PhD., Librarian for East European, Central European, Central Asian and Armenian Studies Collections at the University of California, Berkeley Libraries has been hosting programs and opportunities to document the War in Ukraine via a web archive. After having curated the [At-Risk Afghanistan Web Archiving Project \(ARAWA\): 2021](#) and [Belarus Crisis 2020-21](#), he dove right in to archive Ukrainian websites that document the Russian invasion of Ukraine from February 2022. Other institutions were engaged in some of the same work including Harvard University's Ukrainian Research institute and the multi-institutional Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO) project. Together with colleagues from the Internet Archive she expanded the War in Ukraine: 2022 Web Archive to preserve the narratives of the invasion as it occurs. For more information visit the sites and review a recent [blog posting](#) about this incredible work.



Credit: Vlad Kholodnyi @Kholodnyi_vlad

The recent Charleston InBetween Virtual Conference held May 11, 2022 had a terrific [program](#) organized by Ann Okerson who shares Ukrainian heritage and has extended family there. She moderated a spellbinding program com-

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Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO): Digital relief work relationships more than technology

Quinn Dombrowski
Email: info@sucho.org

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, librarians across the world watched with horror and a sense of paralysis. Even for those with subject-area expertise in Eastern Europe, it was hard to avoid the pull of doom scrolling for those first few days, longing to help but unsure what was possible from the other side of the world.

On Saturday, February 26th, Anna Kijas, a music librarian at Tufts University, broke free from the horror of the news and announced a data rescue event for the following weekend, focused on music collections that had been digitized and posted to Ukrainian cultural heritage websites. Seeing this in California, Quinn Dombrowski, an Academic Technology Specialist in Stanford Libraries, imagined doing more web archiving sooner, and at the same time, in Vienna, Austria, Sebastian Majstorovic at the Austrian Center for Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage suggested the open-source WebRecorder tools for this work. The three of us got together and launched SUCHO (Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online) on March 1st, building the

website, as we were setting up the Slack, as we were writing the first tutorials, as we were creating a volunteer form.

Within the first day, we had 400 people sign up to volunteer – just through posting it on Twitter and personal networks. Clearly SUCHO had struck a nerve: people wanted to do more than just donate, they wanted to help more directly as well. Our volunteers come mostly from North America and Western Europe, and while many have some background in the cultural heritage sector, the group includes everyone from Quinn's 8-year-old son, Sam, who loves archiving sites using the easy, web-based Browsertrix Cloud software, to Abbe Alpert, a retiree with limited tech skills who wanted to put her free time to good use.

In the three months that SUCHO has been working, we have archived more than 50 TB of website archives. We've been collecting links from an intake form where anyone can submit a cultural heritage website URL, but have branched out in other ways. We downloaded all the WikiData related to libraries, archives, and museums in Ukraine, though we discovered that much of that information was out-of-date, pointing to WordPress sites that had been hacked and transformed into casinos or

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Message from the Editors

Greetings!

We hope everyone is well and excited about the June issue of *International Leads*! You will read about the National Library of Azerbaijan, the archiving of Ukraine's websites through the efforts of Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO), the Haitian American Museum of Chicago's partnership with the town of Cazale, Haiti to create a community library, the 2022 Public Library Association Conference, and other news of interest.

And with summer just around the corner, there are many great things to look forward to, including the ALA 2022 Annual Conference!! After two years of virtual conferences, ALA will meet in-person in Washington, D.C. from June 23-28. Several IRRT events are planned, including the International Librarians Reception and the IRRT Chair's Program. We hope to see you there!

This summer also marks the return to in-person attendance at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress! The 87th World Library and Information Congress will meet in Dublin, Ireland, July 26-29. The theme for this year's congress is "Inspire, Enable, Engage, Connect."

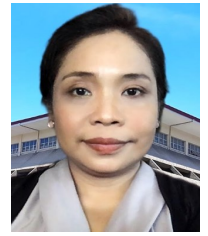
And as always, if you have stories, news, and events to share, please do not hesitate to send them to us.

Happy reading!

Meet the Editors

Reysa Alenzuela

Reysa is the Head Librarian of the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Czech Republic. She has over 20 years of experience as a librarian and has been working as an international librarian for almost a decade. She is a Member of ALA IRRT.



Julia Gelfand

Julia is the Applied Sciences & Engineering Librarian, University of California, Irvine. She has been a member of IRRT most of the 45 years she has been involved in ALA and has been working with international



Michele Fenton

Michele is a Monographs Catalog Librarian, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Michele is active in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the International Relations Round Table, and



Winners of the ALA and IRRT 2022 Elections

ALA

President: **Emily Drabinski**

Treasurer: **Peter Hepburn**

IRRT

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect : **Mark Mattson**

Member-at-Large: **Felicia Chan**

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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Message from IRRT Chair



Jim Neal
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The IRRT theme for 2021-22 has been: **Global Libraries Are Agents of Leadership in Our Pandemic World**. With three sub themes:

- Global Libraries Re-Opening and Refreshed: How do we build on the creative strategies of the past two years and not just return to the new normal? How do we share and learn from these experiences and these new approaches to serving our communities around the world?
- Global Libraries As Advocates For Information Policy Change: What are the persistent and new policy issues that libraries across the world must focus on? How can we strengthen our ability to influence legislative and legal change, and participate effectively in the political process on the local, national and global levels?
- Global Libraries As Agents of Social Justice: Where do we effectively focus: racial justice, gender justice, health justice, environmental and climate justice, information justice, digital access justice, economic justice, voting justice, food and water justice, education justice, LGBTQ+ justice? Where do libraries around the world fit into the battle for human rights?

A special IRRT project advanced this year in partnership with a team of ALA Emerging Leaders, we sought to promote and enable IRRT member attendance and participation in international conferences and programs. The initiative has three goals:

- to identify and bring to the attention of IRRT members virtual and in-person conferences
- to encourage and support IRRT member participation in these conferences through submission of paper, panel, workshop and poster session proposals

- to assist with the registration fees for attendance at these conferences, focusing on virtual and hybrid events, through a competitive application process, and with a plan to raise funds

The work of IRRT is carried out through seventeen committees. Some are focused on events at the ALA Annual Conference: the chair's program and other programs at conference, a pre-conference, poster sessions, an international visitors center, and the international reception to be held on the Monday at the Library of Congress and where the ALA president will present the citations for innovation.

The work of IRRT also includes committees focused on: orientation and mentoring, papers and projects, sister libraries, research grants, international connections, sustainable libraries, webinars, membership, nominating, and publications including the IRRT newsletter International Leads.

Please consider volunteering to work on one of these committees by submit your interest at the IRRT website.

As new leadership takes responsibility for the work of IRRT, I encourage continuing attention to the themes of the current year, with a particular focus on:

- How do we integrate the themes of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Social Justice into IRRT mission and programs?
- What role should IRRT play in advocating for intellectual freedom and against censorship in libraries?
- How can IRRT assist Global libraries in understanding the transition from pandemic to endemic - what have we learned and how have we changed?
- Now that we have established a development committee in IRRT, how can we build an expanded resource development and fundraising program to support and advance our work?
- How should we celebrate the 75th anniversary of IRRT in 2024, and ALA's 150th anniversary in 2026? ALA in the World: Past, Present and Future.

###

For more information about 2021-2022 IRRT Chair's Theme, you can visit the page - <https://www.ala.org/rt/irrt-2021-2022-irrt-chairs-theme>

Message from IRRT Chair - Elect



Safi Safiullah

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As we are approaching the ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C., I look forward to meeting IRRT members and many other colleagues from around the globe. We worked hard virtually last year, intending to produce great in-person sessions for this annual gathering. This year, we will have a busy conference, as the IRRT has a schedule filled with engaging meetings and many enlightening sessions.

As chair-elect, I was the liaison to the International Papers and Projects Committee and had an opportunity to collaborate with its global members. Felicia Chan and Brea Hanson worked efficiently to look over the submissions and choose compelling papers to be presented at the conference. The International Reception committee, under the helm of Katie Spiers and Laverne Page, also worked tirelessly to select citations to be presented at IRRT's reception. I am excited to see these paper presentations as well as those who will receive citation awards from the ALA President. Also, the International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group, led by Connie Champlin and Carolyn Ziering, gave their valuable time to present an exemplary session during the LibLearnX meeting. I am grateful for these committed leaders who care so much about the IRRT's mission to better the global library community.

IRRT's main theme of my tenure will be "The New Normal for Local and International Libraries." The COVID-19 pandemic has caused every workplace to adapt to new, dynamic situations. This has particularly affected libraries, as they are some of the only remaining public institutions at the grassroots level that can provide services to community members who need help with literacy and other services. To continue to provide

these services, creative librarians around the globe added new resources and programs for the community in addition to their regular activities. New activities such as virtual story time, virtual classrooms, online tutorial sessions, online research support, and curb side services, to name a few, are becoming normal with a sense of permanence, even as the pandemic slowly begins to ease. This comes with a new set of challenges, as library personnel are working to adjust to the new socio-economic reality we face today. The pandemic has stressed librarians psychologically and administrations are rewriting library policies to address EDI and personnel issues. Under the heading of a "New Normal," we will discuss these topics in upcoming IRRT sessions throughout my 2022-2023 tenure.

I am thankful to those members who came forward to serve on various committees for 2022-2023. Though the pandemic isolated us, I am happy to report that with the help of Delin Guerra, I have completed the first round of committee appointments. This shows how the IRRT members care about its mission and are committed to improving our communities. At this time, I will need your help to form a group of members to serve on a special committee to organize the 75th anniversary celebration of the IRRT. Together, we have been working since 1949 to further global librarianship. Please feel free to contact me at ssafiullah@slcpl.org or contact Delin Guerra at dguerra@ala.org if you are interested in serving on any of our committees. Thanks to Delin, who is well versed with ALA's by-laws and is always ready to help.

IRRT's current Executive Board of 2021-2022 is composed of an exceptional group of committed library lovers who dream to make the community literate. I am thankful to all of them. Jim Neal is such a lover of the library world and is a leader who knows the nuts and bolts of the library and is well connected across the globe. Alexandra Humphreys is another caring leader who is always there to support with her knowledge on how to address a wide array of issues. Erica Saito and Grace Liu made the Emerging Leaders program a success because of their strong commitment and relentless work. Barbara Marson is always there to advise about ALA as she worked as a counselor. Allison Sharp and I worked together on the International Papers Session and Project Committee and she is a joy to collaborate with.

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Message from IRRT Chair - Elect, continued

I congratulate and welcome two new leaders, Mark Mattson and Felicia Chan, and I am eager to work with them on the 2022-23 Executive Board and utilize their great wealth of experiences. Also, my words will not reach the global audience without the help of the editorial board of *International Leads*. No matter how busy they are, they always make sure we get reminders weeks ahead of any due dates. I would like to extend an additional thanks to Julia Gelfand, Reysa Alenzuela, and Michele Fenton for their hard work.

A special thanks goes to all IRRT members who are committed and are supporting the mission of the IRRT and the ALA. I am looking forward to working with you all and I hope to see you in-person at the ALA annual conference in June!

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There must be something in the water: Colorado's Trifecta, Part III

Janet Lee, Nancy Bolt, Jane Mirandette

This is the final excerpt that defines the trifecta noted in the title; earlier segments are in the March 2022 and December 2021 issues.

Travel

It should come as no surprise, that international librarians travel, and ILCE-IG has helped to facilitate this on several occasions.



Janet Lee at an African Storybook training session in Ethiopia

In 2013, Nancy traveled to Bulgaria to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the American Bulgaria Library Exchange (ABLE) with a member of ILCE-IG as well as two other librarians. They visited five libraries throughout Bulgaria and made presentations at a one-day conference, Past Accomplishments and Future Trends, to which 65 Bulgarians attended.

In 2015, Nancy served as faculty for an Emporia State University SLIM trip to Bulgaria as part of a class on international librarianship. Two members of ILCE-IG served as mentors and accompanied eleven masters-level students.

Also in 2015, ten librarians participated in the first ILCE-IG/CAL-sponsored international trip, a trip to Nicaragua. ILCE-IG developed a promotional brochure, itinerary, and registration form. Each traveler contributed a donation to CAL as part of the fee. The group toured libraries and sev-

eral schools as well as visited local tourist sites.

Presentations and Publications

Members of ILCE-IG have presented widely, published frequently, and served as editors for numerous newsletters and journals. These contributions can be found at:

<https://ilceig.wordpress.com/papers-presentations/>

Of special note was the sponsorship of the late IFLA President, Donna Scheeder, during the MPLA/CAL conference in Loveland in 2016. Another significant event was the international colloquium that was a result of the 2017 grant awarded to Jimena Breton and Rita Puig for the colloquium "Colorado Librarians Touch the World." Three librarians from La Salle University in Mexico City were the invited speakers and joined Colorado librarians for a very full day of presentations. ILCE-IG is considering sponsoring another colloquium in 2022.

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International Connections Committee

Best Practices from World Libraries



By Polly Boruff-Jones, Sandy McCarthy and Jessica O'Neil

The 2022 “Best Practices from World Libraries Photo Gallery” presents a selection of photographs from around the world which feature library projects and programs that best illustrate the 2022 ALA International Relations Round Table (IRRT) President’s initiative: **“Global libraries as agents of leadership in our post pandemic world”**. The submissions highlight library best practices during the pandemic.

First created in 2019, the photo gallery website is curated by the ALA IRRT International Connections Committee. The original idea for the photo gallery comes from a 2018 IRRT Emerging Leaders’ Project titled *Towards Increasing Engagement of International New Professional Leaders in ALA Activities*, which identified “sharing innovative services and best practices” and “promoting the concept of a global community of libraries” as the highest priorities for increasing engagement.

Over several weeks in March and April, the Best Practices Subcommittee of the IRRT International Connections Committee solicited submissions for the 2022 photo gallery via multiple postings to regional, national and international library listservs. The Subcommittee received 43 submissions from thirteen countries. Taiwan led with ten submissions, nine came from seven states in the USA, seven from the Republic of Turkey, four from China, four from the Czech Republic, two from Canada and one submission from Australia, Columbia, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Qatar and Slovenia. Twenty-eight submissions (65.1%) came from public libraries, seven from academic libraries (16.3%), five from national libraries (11.6%) and one each from a school library, a museum library and a public libraries administrative center (2.3% each).

The subcommittee selected the photographs that best represent libraries building strong communities around the world by applying the following criteria:

- Relevance to the 2022 theme (Global libraries as agents of leadership in our post pandemic world)
- Demonstration of ALA Core Values of Librarianship for democracy, diversity, social responsibility, educa-

tion and lifelong learning, service and professionalism.

- Scalability, replicability and social impact
- Creativity, innovation and inspiration
- High quality standards of professional services

The submissions will be displayed via the 2022 “Best Practices from World Libraries Photo Gallery” website, scheduled to go live in June, in conjunction with the 2022 ALA Annual Conference.

Here are the previous year’s winners:



Photo by Mestská knihovna Tabor

Cipher game in Tabor library

Public library of Tabor, Tabor, Czech Republic

Shut down your computer, wake up your brain and get moving after online COVID times! Run around Tabor, decipher a few ciphers and win! This was the challenge of the Municipal Library in Tabor and its cipher game ŠifT for anyone between the ages of 14 and 99 in June 2021.

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Best Practices from World Libraries, continued



Photo by Natasha Lee

Bee Haven Project

Cooranbong Public School Library, Lake Macquarie, New South Wales, Australia

As tiny as they are, bees play a big role in every aspect of the ecosystem. Without them, there would be no us. However, bee numbers are decreasing due to land clearing, insecticides and the perception of bees as harmful rather than helpful creatures. Cooranbong Public School library's Bee Haven Project sought to address these issues and lead the change that fights for our precious pollinators.

Outdoor Storytime

Centennial Library, Morristown, Vermont, USA

Vermont poses a challenging climate for outdoor activities. At Morristown Centennial Library we got outside each week to bring stories and art to our youngest community members.



Photo by Cary Varner, Librarian



Photo by National Central Library, Taiwan

Come! Let's read together with peace of mind

National Central Library, Ministry of Education in Taiwan, Taipei City, Taiwan

Taiwan Reading Festival is a reading brand dedicated to Taiwan that has long been cultivated by the National Central Library. Libraries, central and local government agencies, schools at all levels, publishing houses, cultural and educational institutions and reading club groups respond, launching rich and diverse reading events: highly anticipated, annual, national-level reading pageants.

###

The National Library of Azerbaijan: Functioning during COVID

Eldaniz E. Mammadov

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The National Library of Azerbaijan is considered the largest library in Azerbaijan, and has had an important role in the scientific, cultural and social life of the country, its activities and services to readers during the coronavirus pandemic.

National History

The Republic of Azerbaijan was the first independent Democratic Republic in the East from 1918-1920 in the Turkic and Muslim worlds. It is a unitary presidential republic located in the South Caucasus, west of the Caspian Sea basin, a multinational and multi-religious state with a multicultural lifestyle, secular with most residents identifying with Islam. The country is bordered by the Russian Federation to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west, Turkey to the southwest and Iran to the south. The capital is Baku. The official language is Azerbaijani. For historical reference, the Republic of Azerbaijan was under the occupation of Bolshevik Russia, then the Soviet Union from April 1920 to October 1991. It became a constituent union republic in 1936, declaring sovereignty in 1989 and independence on October 18, 1991. The current population is over 10 million inhabitants occupying 86,600 km², making it the largest country in the Caucasus.

Library History

Divided into several regions, libraries have had different histories due to geography and various occupations. Today, there are more than 12,000 different libraries in Azerbaijan, which have an extensive library and information network.

The largest library by collection size, the number of employees and by status is the National Library of Azerbaijan, which opened in 1923. It is a state book depository, collects and preserves national publications, printed materials about Azerbaijan, as well as information resources published in foreign languages. In 2004, library was given the status of “National Library” while also serving as a “universal academic library.”

Modern History

In 1961, a new library building was opened as the Azerbaijan State Library (Figure 1). Before the spread of Covid, the National Library in 2019 had 24 departments

and 359 employees. The library has documents in more than 40 foreign languages. Automation and computerization of the National Library dates back to the late 1990s. Since 2003, the National Library has been using all modules of the library automation package “Virtua” Integrated Library System (ILS) from VTLS. The current holdings are shy of 5 million volumes.



Azerbaijan National Library - Side view

The Pandemic struck

COVID that engulfed the entire world in 2020 created certain difficulties in Azerbaijan and has affected library work, as in many other areas. From the first days of the pandemic, the state and government of Azerbaijan, addressed this difficult challenge. Serious preventive measures were taken in a short period of time to prevent the spread of the infection. Hundreds of thousands of needy families have received financial assistance, and this process continues today. As of May, 2022 there have been a total of 793,000 reported cases of COVID and 9,709 deaths attributed to the corona virus.

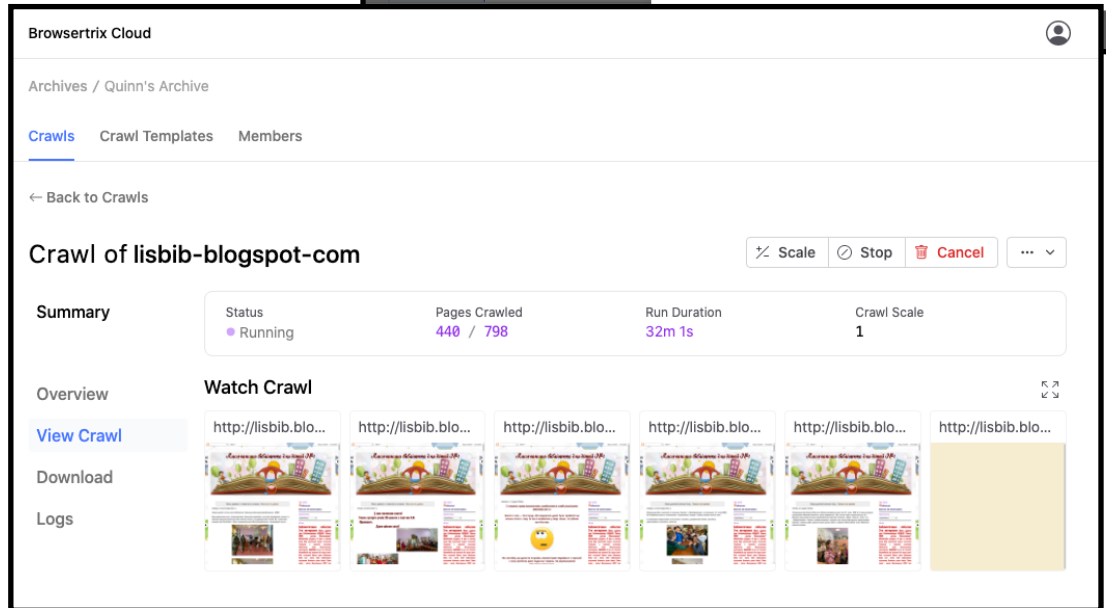
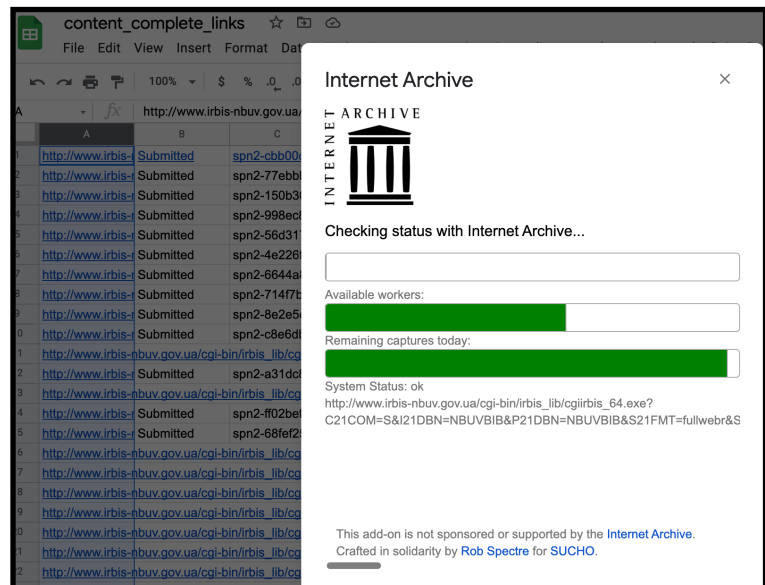
The Azerbaijan National Library prepared comprehensive resources on how to protect against the virus educating people to deal with the pandemic and placed these re-

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Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online, continued

We have volunteers sorting through over 500,000 URLs, trying to separate out cultural heritage websites. As part of our situation monitoring work lead by Erica Peaslee, we have volunteers manually walking through Google Maps of cities under air raid alerts, looking for the museum or cultural heritage icon on the map, then looking for those organizations' websites. And sometimes we stumble down rabbit holes that yield tens or hundreds of new links, like when we started exploring monasteries or a platform for schools to build websites. It's incredibly hard to calculate what percentage of the extant Ukrainian cultural heritage websites this amounts to, especially when we're taking an expansive view of "cultural heritage" that reaches far beyond galleries, libraries, archives, and museums to include things like children's after-school activities and fan fiction.

The problem of disinformation has captured a great deal of scholarly attention, and continues to be an area of concern and engagement in libraries as well, which has driven a lot of web archiving work focused on government websites and news sources. SUCHO takes a different perspective: from the beginning, statements from the Kremlin have made it clear that cultural heritage is at the heart of this war. There are questions at stake around who gets to choose to have their own country, their own culture, their own language, and the disinformation aims to undermine the legitimacy of Ukrainian nationhood, culture, and language. We are archiving Ukrainian cultural heritage sites not only because they are at risk of physical server destruction, but also because their message – representing Ukraine's unique and distinctive culture – could be corrupted in an effort to reframe everything in the region as Russian. We want to ensure that the materials on those sites, and the context offered by the Ukrainian cultural heritage community, remains safe



throughout the war; our goal is digital repatriation, giving back to the cultural heritage community a copy of anything lost or damaged during the war when the time comes to rebuild.

"We are archiving Ukrainian cultural heritage sites not only because they are at risk of physical server destruction, but also because their message – representing Ukraine's unique and distinctive culture – could be corrupted in an effort to reframe everything in the region as Russian."

SUCHO follows in the footsteps of other rapid response digital humanities initiatives, such as *Torn Apart / Separados* (related to the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border) and *Nimble Tents* (a mapping project in the wake of Hurricane Maria), developed by Alex Gil et al. Even for digital humanists who usually apply their skills to scholarly research questions, there are moments – such as this one – when there's a real need to set those questions aside, and apply the

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Documenting the Ukrainian Crises and War, continued

posed of librarians, academics, publishers and vendors who supply content from the Ukraine. I strongly invite you to listen to each of these speakers and learn some firsthand experiences of how the current situation is playing out and affecting all segments of the population.

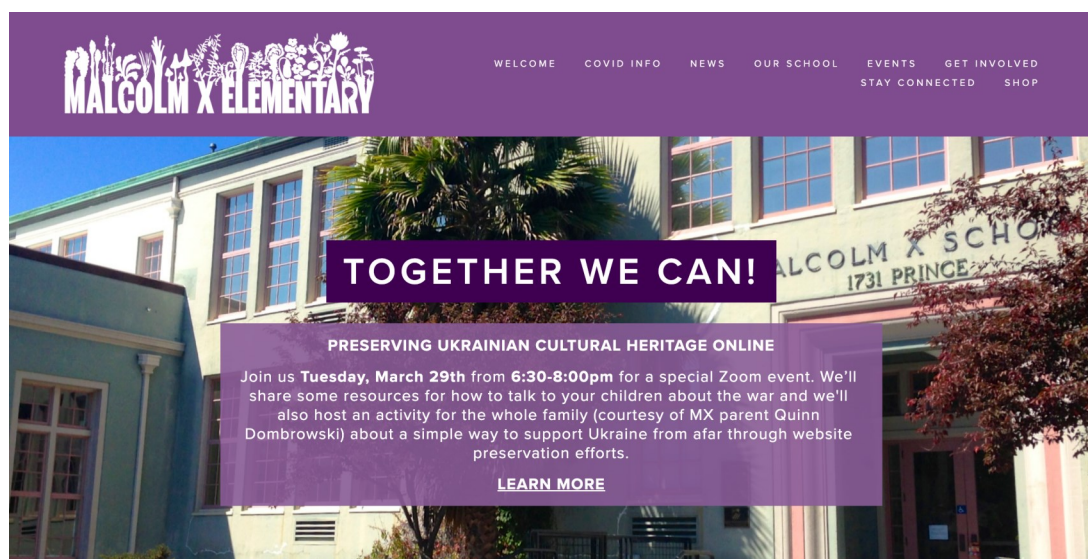
In addition, GreyNet is compiling results from a global survey of libraries that have preserved forms of grey literature tracking Ukrainian related documents, data and materials.

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Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online, continued

combination of technical skills and investment in the humanities to current social and political issues. For all three organizers, our academic background and history of engagement with technology have prepared us in different ways for this work.

We have said that if SUCHO incorporates as a non-profit entity we will have failed. We are, fundamentally, a rapid response effort, not an organization that can or should exist in the long term. There are things that individuals can do quickly that organizations like libraries cannot, and rapid response is one of them. Libraries have policies and procedures in place that are essential for their long-term sustainability, but they inhibit a quick response once a war breaks out. SUCHO has stepped in to fill that gap for Ukraine, but over time, any longer-term maintenance of these archives is going to need to fall to a coalition of libraries and archives. We also are advocating for more thoughtfulness around preemptive web archiving. How much more data, especially non-public-website data from cultural heritage institutions, could we have protected if we started this work in January? We believe it is increasingly essential for the cultural heritage sector to devote attention to preserving digital materials, both digital surrogates and born-digital creations. What if there were a model similar to “sister city” pairings, where institutions around the globe could be paired up to preemptively archive one another’s materials at least once a year, so that there’s a guaranteed relatively recent copy safe somewhere else in the world, in case of natural disaster or war? We think there’s a role for UNESCO in facilitating these kinds of pairings, but we recognize that it will take some time – perhaps not



enough to be ready for the next war, or the one after that, but maybe the one after that. In the meantime, our group of volunteers are working on developing an open-access handbook of emergency web archiving, to document what we’ve learned with SUCHO and make the path easier for the next people doing this kind of work.

Our advice for librarians around the world – even people who don’t see themselves as “technical” – is to find out who the people are in your library who work with web archiving, and go get coffee with them. Go talk to your local digital scholarship coordinator, and the people doing digital humanities projects in your library. At the end of the day, what underpins digital relief work is relationships more than technology. Developing those relationships now, before disaster strikes parts of the world where you have domain-expert knowledge, will pay off tremendously if you ever need to call upon their help.

###

2nd International Online Conference on Digital Transformation in Culture and Education

Serbian Library Association Section for Digital Transformation hosts DTCE 22

Serbian Library Association Section for Digital Transformation hosted the 2nd International Online Conference on Digital Transformation in Culture and Education ([DTCE 22](#)), which took place on 16-17 May 2022. This virtual conference gathered librarians and professionals working in knowledge institutions who are involved with digital transformation as well as academics, researchers and practitioners in the field. There were four sessions and thirteen presentations from different countries including Portugal, Russia, Philippines, USA, Kazakhstan, Romania, Greece, Croatia, the Netherlands and Serbia discussed a plethora of topics along the areas of IT infrastructure in cultural and educational institutions, digi-

Continued on page 14

2022 Public Library Association Conference

From March 23-25, 2022, the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association, held its 2022 Conference in Portland, Oregon. The conference was held in a hybrid format, allowing people to attend in-person or virtually. The event attracted over 6,000 attendees.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, conference officials implemented several safety protocols to protect attendees and promote a safe environment for the conference. Attendees were required to wear masks and observe social distancing. Additionally, attendees were asked to provide a vaccination card or a negative COVID test.

The conference began with opening session speaker, Luvvie Ajayi Jones, author of *Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual*. Jones spoke about being fearless and courageous, and to speak up and stand up when facing challenges. She encouraged those in the audience to be professional troublemakers and to use their voice to bring about change.

Attendees had a wide variety of sessions to choose from on topics of interest to public libraries:

- Intellectual Freedom Forum Ask A Lawyer

- Clear and Kind: Building Boundaries in Outreach Work
- A Black History Month Taxonomy: Programming in Public Libraries
- A Library's Journey Towards Building A 21st Century Inclusive Community
- Leveraging Staff Talent to Create Your Strategic Vision

In addition to attending programs, conference attendees visited exhibitors in the exhibit hall, picking up swag and other goodies for their tote bags.

Closing out the conference was actor and author Kal Penn. Penn, who served as the Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, is the author of the book, *You Can't Be Serious*.

Overall, the conference was a jubilant and joyful event. Attendees were ecstatic and pleased to attend an in-person event after two years of virtual conferences. The next PLA Conference will be April 3-6, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio.

###

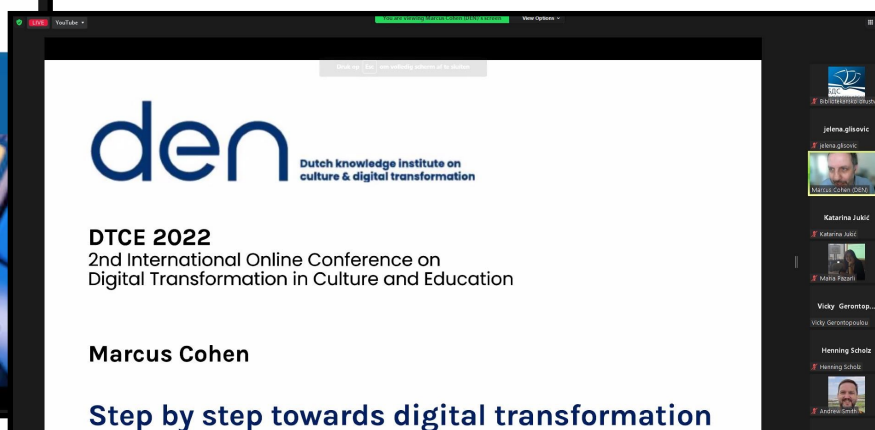
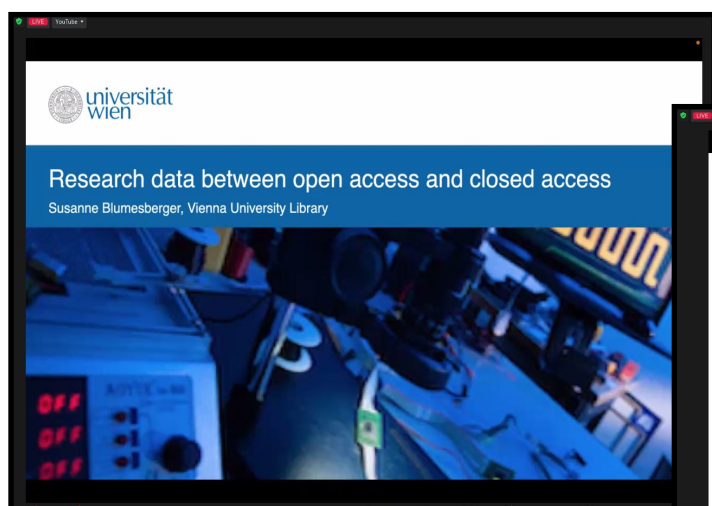


International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions

The IFLA 2022 General Assembly

On August 25, 2022 the IFLA 2022 General Assembly will be held in-person and streamed online virtually. Due to travel restrictions imposed by some countries, IFLA made the decision to hold the general assembly in hybrid format to accommodate members who are not able to attend in-person. The time of the general assembly will be announced at a later date. Please note that the conference and assembly are being held separately. The conference will be on 26-29 July 2022. For more information, please check [this link](#).

DTCE 22, continued



alisation and digital collections, web and social network engagement, the changing paradigm of education in the 21st century and digital ethics.

The first day of the conference kicked off with an opening remarks from Bogdan Trifunovic, the President of Serbian Library Association. Tamara Butigan, DTCE program Chair served as the Moderator/ Chair of the first session with Dr. Susanne Blumesberger, the session's keynote speaker, who talked about "Research Data Between Open Access and Closed Access." After the presentations from Kazakhstan and Portugal, a winning video at the IFLA NPSIG Music Contest by the National Library "Ilija M. Petrovic" Pozarevac by authors Branka Prazic, Branko Prazic, Marija Kopun and Predrag Grigorijevic was also featured. The second session started with the presentation of Andrija Sagić as keynote speaker who discussed about "Knowledge in Information Era" with Jelena Glišović as Moderator/ Chair. Presenters from Russia and Spain shared about "Problems of Searching in the Remote User's Electronic Catalog During Pandemic" and "Making Information Disorder in Digital Environments Visible and Measurable."

The first session for the second day's online conference be-

gan with Miran Petek's discussion on "Possibilities of Connecting DCobiss with Local Repositories" followed by presentations from Russia, Philippines, Romania, the United States with the Moderator/Chair Mirjana Nešić.

The last session was Moderated/ Chaired by Andrija Sagić with Henning Scholz as session's keynote speaker who talked about, "The Role of Standards and Frameworks for the Digital Transformation of the Cultural Sector." The last session included presentations from Greece, Croatia, the Netherlands and Serbia.

This year's online conference on digital transformation provided an avenue for sharing best practices, frameworks and models, latest advancement, along with challenges, future directions and trends in digital transformation.

###

The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs: Thirty Years Promoting International Education, Understanding, and Peace

*Clara M. Chu, Director and Mortenson Distinguished Professor
Mortenson Center for International Library Programs
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Email: cmchu@illinois.edu*

Since 1991 more than 1,300 library leaders from over 90 countries have been trained at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs – the only one of its kind in the world.

While the Center has just celebrated 30 years of achievements, more than two of these years have taken place during a pandemic. The Center <https://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/> was established by a

generous gift from C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson, who also had provided an earlier gift in 1986 to establish the Mortenson Distinguished Professorship. “Librarians sharing information is one of the shortest and surest roads to world peace” was Walter Mortenson’s vision, which drives the Center’s work to advance its mission to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians worldwide for the promotion of international education, understanding, and peace. While the Center’s work was a balance of in-person (in the United States (US) or internationally) and online activities, in March 2020 we pivoted to fully online work, increasing our offerings of webinars, developing new partnerships and converting our in-person training to online mode.

At the time of this writing, the Center is again welcoming international librarians to its signature Associates Program, a professional development program for library leaders and innovators. This year’s theme is “Smart and Smarter: Leadership and Innovation in Libraries”. Held at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, this 3.5-week program offers librarians from around the globe the opportunity to explore current issues, trends and emerging technologies in the library field, develop leadership skills, engage with US librarians implementing cutting-edge programs and services, and develop a network, resulting in long-term connections based on learning from and with each other.

The Center advances its mission through four lines of activities: training programs such as the Associates Program, the Partnerships Program, Visitors Program and Lecture Series, including webinars. Through its Partnerships Program, the Center engages with or supports the needs of library and information institutions from around the globe. Close to \$3 million dollars in grants from multiple foundations and agencies have supported library and capacity development worldwide in different library settings. Through the Visitors Program, the Center organizes seminars, tours, discussions or hosts visiting librarians or scholars in the United States. The Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture promotes international understanding and intellectual freedom, and has featured many world-renown leaders and authors, including Pulitzer Prize winner and scholar Viet Thanh Nguyen, Holocaust survivor and engineer Agnes Kaposi, and IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) past presidents Robert Wedgeworth, Alex Byrne, and Ellen R. Tise.

The Center’s impact is enduring according to the 2013 Arabella Advisors’ independent evaluation of the Center’s previous five years of programs:

- Over 70% of Mortenson Center alumni introduced a new tool, service, or resource in their library within five years of training.
- 79% of Mortenson Center participants believe that their library is more prepared to serve their users’ needs.
- 80% of alumni feel better prepared to take on leadership roles or additional responsibility in their libraries.
- 1/3 of Mortenson Center participants went on to take leadership roles in professional networks

As the Mortenson Center looks ahead to the future, we will continue our programs and especially build on recent activities, some of which are highlighted here:

- Libraries for Peace <https://librariesforpeace.org/> – a web portal of resources for libraries to promote peace

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Selective Upcoming International Library Conferences, Meetings Book Fairs & Events, June 2022+

- 13-16 June 2022 – [International Digital Curation Conference](#), Virtual
- 15-18 June 2022 – [ATLA Annual Meeting](#) (Theological Libraries Association), Baltimore, MD, USA
- 12-16 June 2022 – [IATUL Annual Conference](#), Miami, FL, USA
- 14-16 June 2022 – [European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations](#) (EBLIDA), Athens, Greece
- 20-24 June 2022 – [ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries](#), Cologne, Germany
- 21-24 June 2022 – [RBMS 2022](#), Virtual
- 22-23 June 2022 – [The Art and Practice of Managing Digital Media \(DAM Europe\)](#) – London, UK
- 23-28 June 2022 – [American Library Association \(ALA\) Annual Conference & Exhibition](#), Washington, DC, USA
- 25-27 June 2022 – [International Conference on Innovation, Knowledge and Management](#), Hong Kong
- 18-22 July 2022 – [International Association for School Librarianship](#), Hybrid Conference/Columbia, SC, USA
- 21-22, 29-31 July 2022 – [New Horizons in Artificial Intelligence in Libraries](#) – IFLA Satellite Meeting, Galway, Ireland
- 21-24 July 2022 – [IFLA Satellite Meetings throughout Ireland](#)
- 9-12 August 2022 – [International Conference on Emerging Digital Library Platforms](#), Bangalore, India
- 13-29 August 2022 – [Edinburgh International Book Festival](#), Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- 24 August 2022 – [Open Source and Community-Supported Infrastructure](#) (NISO Virtual Conference)
- 24-27 August 2022 – [Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting](#), Boston, MA, USA
- 24-27 August 2022 – [Beijing International Book Fair](#), Beijing, China
- 26 August – 12 September 2022 – [Lisbon Book Fair](#), Lisbon, Portugal
- 12-16 September 2022 – [International Conference on Digital Preservation](#), Glasgow, Scotland
- 19-23 September 2022 – [Annual Conference of the International Council on Archives](#), Rome, Italy
- 20-23 September 2022 – [International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries](#), Padua, Italy
- 22-25 September 2022 – [Gothenburg Book Fair](#), Gothenburg, Sweden
- 26-29 September 2022 – [Information Behaviour Conference](#), Berlin, Germany
- 28 September – 2 October 2022 – [Nairobi International Book Fair](#), Nairobi, Kenya
- 5-9 October 2022 – [Baku International Book Fair](#), Baku, Azerbaijan
- 11-14 October 2022 – [International Conference on Information Literacy \(ICIL\)](#), Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 17-20 October 2022 – [Australian Society of Archivists National Conference](#), Canberra, ACT, Australia
- 17-21 October 2022 – [eResearch Australasia Conference](#), Brisbane, Australia
- 18 October 2022 – [International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers](#) (STM) Autumn Conference, Frankfurt, Germany
- 19-23 October 2022 – [Frankfurt Book Fair](#), Frankfurt, Germany
- 27-30 October 2022 – [Helsinki Book Fair](#), Helsinki, Finland
- 28 October – 2 November 2022 – [Association for Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting](#) (ASIS&T), Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- 31 October – 4 November 2022 – [Charleston Conference](#), Charleston, SC, USA
- 1-2 November 2022 – [Entrepreneurship & Libraries Conference International](#), Virtual
- 15-17 November 2022 – [Access Services in Libraries](#) (ASiL), Atlanta, GA, USA

Continued on page 17

The National Library of Azerbaijan, continued

sources in the [library's database](#). During the pandemic, the Azerbaijan National Library temporarily stopped direct service to readers from March 11, 2020. Employees of the National Library worked remotely and served readers online. The library was fully opened to readers on October 1, 2021.

During the building closure of the library, a new “Online Services” window was created on the library's website to provide users with library and information services in a virtual mode. In 2020, 75,523 items were sent to 62,850 users through the “Ordering and electronic delivery of documents” section and in 2021, 170,575 resources were sent through this section to 147,219 users. Despite the obstacles created by the pandemic, in 2021 the National Library has grown its collection of eResources to over 1.3 million items.



Throughout the pandemic, the National Library exchanged electronic information with more than 40 national libraries and other public institutions, with which it signed a [Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation](#) to share access to scientific electronic resources. Enhanced access to global information, especially during the pandemic has allowed scholars and students in Azerbaijan to continue their work remotely, stay engaged with copyright issues and open access publishing outputs.

In addition, the “Open Library” concept, which was operational since 2016, provided uninterrupted library services to citizens 24/7, continuing its activities. Even if anyone is not a registered library user, they can take and read a book from this collection or donate a book they no longer use to this library.

###

Selective Upcoming International Library Events, continued

5-6 December 2022 – [International Conference on Grey Literature](#), Bethesda, MD, USA

27-31 January 2023 – LibLearnX (ALA), New Orleans, LA, USA

13-17 March 2023 (virtual), 27-29 March 2023 – [iConference](#), Barcelona, Spain

15-18 March 2023 – [ACRL National Conference](#), Pittsburgh, PA, USA

###

Connect with IRRT

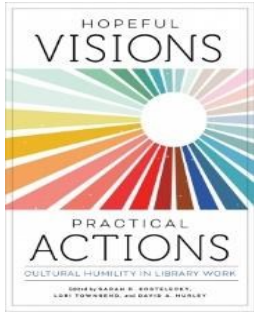
Email: ala.intl.leads@gmail.com

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

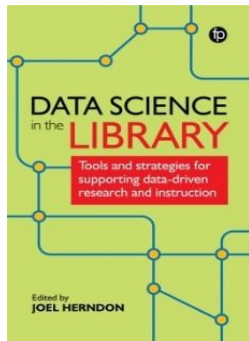
Blog: <http://www.alairrt.blogspot.com>

New Resources

Check out this recent book releases :



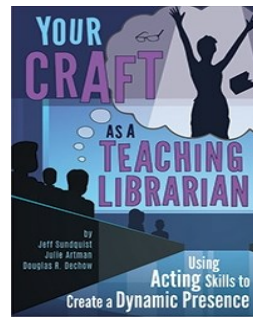
Kostelecky, Sarah, Townsend, Lori and Hurley, David (2022). *Hopeful Visions, Practical Actions: Cultural Humility in Library Work* .Chicago, IL: ALA Editions.



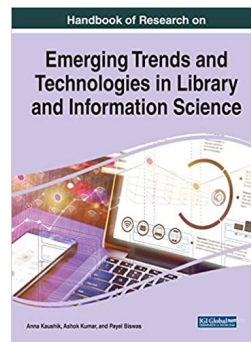
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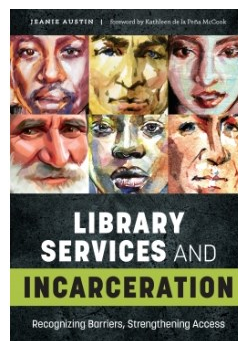
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Sundquist, Jeff, Artman, Julie and Dechow, Douglas R. (2022). *Your Craft as a Teaching Librarian: Using Acting Skills to Create a Dynamic Presence*. Chicago: ACRL.



Ekoja, Innocent Isa, ed. (2022). *Handbook of Research on Emerging Trends and Technologies in Librarianship*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global Publishing.



Austin, Jeanie (2022). *Library Services and Incarceration: Recognizing Barriers, Strengthening Access*. Chicago, IL: ALA.

###

There must be something in the water: Colorado's Trifecta, continued

Venues for the presentations include Colorado Association of Libraries, Colorado Library Consortium, Mountain Plains Library Association, American Library Association, International Federation of Libraries and Institutions, African Library and Information Associations and Institutions, Bulgaria Library Association, and ANIBIPA (Asociación de Bibliotecarios y Profesionales Afines). Frequently posters and presentations turn into invitations for publications and other presentations.

COVID-19 was disruptive for conferences and travel, but also provided many opportunities to expand skills, including the production of webinars. Webinars may become the new normal for presentations and examples of their leadership and creativity are listed in the papers and presentations section of the webpage.

Partnerships

As has been evidenced by the ABLE project, partnerships have become an important outcome of international librarianship and a focus of ILCE-IG. ILCE-IG reached out to Denver Sister Cities International and Aurora Sister Cities International and helped set up partnership with Denver Public Library and Brest France and Takyama, Japan. Nancy visited the Brest Library and made a presentation to staff on behalf of the Denver Public Library. The Patrick A. Lucero Library (Pueblo City-County Library District (Pueblo, CO)) partnered with Peace Trees (Vietnam). The partnership between the Poudre River Public Library District and the HJH Libraries for All program in Nicaragua has been discussed. Janet is an active member of the Denver Sister Cities Axum committee, which played a role in her choice of Axum for her Fulbright service in 2017-18.

Mentorship, consultation, outreach

Over the ten years of existence, ILCE-IG has been approached by others for consultation and advice. Graduate students from the University of Denver and Emporia State University seeking internships, non-profits looking for guidance in setting up libraries, children's book authors pursuing publishers, and new librarians exploring different avenues for their careers, have contacted ILCE-IG and it has been happy to oblige. Library projects have been situated in countries such as Tonga, Liberia, Lesotho, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Librarians and project managers have spoken at ALA and CAL and international conferences about their projects or their own immigrant experiences. Their presentations and participation have enriched us all.

Final Thoughts

A life of service is of its own reward. We have been very fortunate to have found a committed group of like-minded people interested in service, literacy, and people. We have followed our passions and taken advantage of unexpected opportunities, built upon our strengths, and recognized our limitations. No one can be 100%, 100% of the time, but when opportunities do arise, we have taken the leap of faith and answered, "Why not?"

Janet Lee is Dean Emerita, Regis University Library, Denver, Colorado

Nancy Bolt is retired State Librarian and Consultant, Nancy Bolt and Associates

Jane Mirandette is the Founder of the Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All Foundation in Loveland, Colorado

###

The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, continued



IDEA Institute on AI; July 15, 2021

internationally.

- Community-Library Inter-Action (CLIA) <https://librariesforpeace.org/clia> – a mindful practice, co-designed internationally, for libraries to facilitate community dialogue and action of, by, and for the community, that leads to social transformation. Libraries practicing CLIA strengthen their roles as community anchors and catalysts by working WITH, not just FOR communities, supporting community action to advance peaceful and sustainable communities, and for communities to deepen and re-envision their relationship with libraries.
- Partners in Literacy Haiti (PILH) – in the partnership with PILH, the Center supports its strategic development and collaborates to develop the Haiti Libraries Alliance (HLA). <https://haiti-literacy.org/biblio-haiti/>
- IDEA (Innovation, Disruption, Enquiry, Access) Institute on AI <https://idea.infosci.utk.edu/> – this one-week intensive, interactive, evidence-based and applications-oriented professional development program for library and information professionals is funded by the Institute

of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program for two years 2020-22.

- Community Libraries International Portal (CLIP) – a partnership with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning to create a portal that fosters lifelong learning, sustainable and thriving communities by promoting networking, information sharing and capacity development among community library staff, supporters and other stakeholders.
- Engineering Change in Libraries: A Pathway for Meaningful Action aims to understand the Other and mobilize our libraries to provide more effective and

equitable services and programs to underserved communities. <https://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/engineering-change/> Inspired by Dr. Agnes Kaposi, a catalyst for change and 31st Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture, Engineering Change is organized into two components: (1) the lecture (setting the context) and (2) a two-session workshop for library staff and stakeholders to engineer change in libraries in a process of understanding the Other and planning globally to create change locally.

The work of the Mortenson Center is guided by the needs of libraries internationally to strengthen their communities, and by social needs worldwide. The United Nation's 2022 theme for International Day of Peace is "End racism. Build peace". As we have done since 2016, we invite libraries to celebrate Libraries for Peace Day <https://librariesforpeace.org/14pday/> on September 21st on this day and to advance peaceful and sustainable communities throughout the year.

###

*Has your library made an extra effort to provide library services?
We would like to feature your activities in a future issue. Email us.*