Celebrating Reading as Well as Holidays in Libraries

Julia Gelfand

As another holiday season arrives with a new year’s schedule of occasions to celebrate, how libraries promote the spirit of celebration and using library materials in creative ways to foster diversity, inclusion, creativity and different forms of literacy is always of interest to librarians. The results are of interest to readers and library users as they look forward to both in-library and digital exhibits. Publishers and information providers create and release new reading lists, graphics, products and materials that come out in time to be acquired, licensed and made available to library users. Many are instructional, some just entertaining, others border on the commercial push but they are instrumental in reinforcing that celebrations are a positive activity that can be conducted alone or in the company of many.

In order to foster reading, building a calendar of book holidays to celebrate reading all year long is a way to structure such activities. Forgetting the religiosity of holidays, making everything ecumenical this compilation features literary and thematic holidays that can be and are universally celebrated worldwide. Some ideas include:

Library Lovers Day, National Library Lovers Month or sometimes known as Valentine’s Day/Month – February 14

Celebrated with the theme of romance. Everyone’s heart flutters when they are happy, feel connected with partners, spouses, children, parents so find a romantic novel, or a romantic movie. The idea of how to demonstrate that you love libraries may be to encourage someone who has yet to obtain a library card to do so, take a young friend to a library activity, contribute to or build a little free neighborhood library to exchange books and make sure that you consider registering your “Little Free Library” so it becomes part of the movement.
Post-Modern and Diamond Age defining different styles and schemes. For more information, review A Complete History of American Comic Books (2008) and revel in the art, visual stimulation, dialogue, themes, and overall contributions to pop culture. Today, we add graphic novels, anime, manga, manhwa, movies and other creative outputs that entertain and amuse readers of all ages.

**National Cookbook Month – October**
The pandemic reinforced the culinary instincts in many of us as we stayed home and tried out new cooking and baking skills. Whether we binged on cooking shows on television, subscribed to new cooking magazines or bought new ingredients that caught our fancy and needed to be used, our culinary tastebuds were elevated. Cookbooks offer a cultural history of how people prepare meals in different places, the nutritional composition and hints for healthy lifestyles. The ethnographic story makes reading and viewing the photographs of how to plate a dish so enticing it is just wishful thinking that the taste and presentation together make one salivate as they scroll through a recipe or read a cookbook cover to cover.

Take some time, try and celebrate the special value of books as they relate to everyday living and reflect on the insights you glean and can thus share with other readers. Happy Holidays, gift giving and savoring the essence of the page.

**World Poetry Day – March 21**
Poems are a wonderful way to express your feelings about anything and to acknowledge meaningful poems and the work of established poets. Amanda Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history and was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. Celebrate by promoting poetry, inviting Poet Laureates to read at your library and host a poem writing day at your library. Soon after this is April, which is National Poetry Month and will allow you to extend your celebration.

**Drop Everything and Read Day – April 12**
Yes, call in sick and stay home and read anything that gives you pleasure all day. It may be a selfish or indulgent thing to do but it will calm you down, and likely give you great pleasure and remind you to take time for yourself.

**National Comic Book Day – September 25**
If you were not a comic book fan and follower in your youth, don’t worry as you can catch up by reviewing the history American comics that started in the middle of the nineteenth century and with the first true comic book appearing in 1934 after being printed in newspapers prior to that time. Now there are many ages attributed to American comic books spanning the Victorian Age, Platinum Age, Golden Age, Silver Age, Bronze Age to the Modern Age and now the
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

We welcome everyone to Vol. 36 #4 of *International Leads*! It is amazing to realize that we come together to the 4th issue of our newsletter. This has never happened without the contributions of our colleagues from the different parts of the globe and of course the valuable contents from ALA IRRT Chair Safi Safiullah and Vice Chair Mark Mattson.

In this issue we begin with a beautiful thought and informative article from my co-editor Julia Gelfand on celebrating reading. My co-editor Michele Fenton also shares about the upcoming Fourth National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. Conferences are slowly going back to face-to-face mode but the transition is taking slow and sure like 11th Eurasian Academic Conference which was done hybrid (face-to-face and online) although some similar activities continue to embark on the virtual platform, to defy time and space. Virtual events also provide more opportunities for librarians around the globe to participate and engage. The Virtual International Conference on Library & Information Science 2022 (VCLIS) in Sri Lanka, Entrelib Conference 2022 and World Academic Libraries (WAL) Forum shared about how libraries move forward through innovation and look forward on how to address the United Nations sustainable goals. Likewise, we formally introduce our comic illustrator to our readers. Of course, we have our regular columns – the new resources and our comic illustration. Lastly, don’t miss the opportunity in the IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant call for proposal.

We wish everyone holiday cheers and happy reading!

Warmest regards,

Reysa Alenzuela

MEET THE EDITORS

Reysa Alenzuela

Reysa is the Head Librarian of the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences in the 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, at the 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 colleagues most of her career.

Michele Fenton

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have news or stories about international library activities, people in international librarianship, upcoming international conferences?

Submit them to International Leads.

Email us at ala.intl.leads@gmail.com

*International Leads* (ISSN 0892-4546) is published quarterly by the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association in March, June, September, and December. IL is indexed by Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA). The IRRT mailing address is: International Relations Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.
MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR: IRRT SEES A NEW HOPE

Safi Safiullah

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The IRRT Executive Board (EB) members are working relentlessly to make the committee stronger. In anticipation of LibLearnX (January 27-30) and the 2023 ALA annual conference (June 22-27), I am happy to inform you that the EB and committee members are creating excellent programs and events, as well as creating welcoming spaces for our international members. Here are a few additional updates on the projects the IRRT is currently addressing.

As part of its duty to support global librarian communities, the IRRT EB offered feedback to the ALA Executive Board’s statement on social issues in Iran. Specifically, the IRRT EB wanted to emphasize the American Library Association’s support for our Iranian librarian colleagues and the people of Iran. Their goals to further democracy, human rights, women’s rights, and freedom of speech and expression are the core of our society.

The Pre-Conference Committee has decided to combine this year’s Chair’s theme, “The new Normal for the Libraries” along with last year’s social justice initiative to create a session for the Annual Conference. As libraries operated through the COVID-19 pandemic, administrations created new policies to define the role of libraries as well as adding EDI perspectives to their missions and visions. There is a greater expectation for employees to advocate for social justice within their libraries and communities. The Pre-Conference Committee’s session will delve more into the obstacles we face when calling for social justice within library internal systems and implementing new EDI policies.

The IRRT Nominating Committee found six qualified candidates to run for three leadership positions on the IRRT Board: Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Members-at-large. The EB approved the candidates, and the committee will submit their names to the ALA election committee.

The IRRT’s Endowment committee submitted a proposal to develop a strategy more aligned with the ALA guidelines for projects in the upcoming year. These guidelines are important to future IRRT projects and they open up opportunities for grant funding.

The Sister Libraries Committee is working with the Webinar Committee to plan and organize programming during the Annual Conference. All other committees are meeting and working among themselves to create projects and Annual Conference sessions.

We also have various task forces and subcommittees diligently working on special tasks. The IRRT’s 75th Task Force met and made some good recommendations for the resources needed for programs taking place in the upcoming months. The TF highlighted ideas such as organizing a reception and writing articles in International Leads about IRRT’s past activities, leaders, and members.

The IRRT’s Restructuring Task Force came with very fruitful and timely recommendations to update the IRRT into a strong, 21st century board that can address current issues. The Executive Board approved Andrea R. Malone as the IRRT representative to the ALA EDI Assembly, Jim Neal for the Freedom of Reading, and Barbara Marson as a representative on the ALA Conference Services Jury. The Board also has a nominee for a posthumous Notable IRRT Member award.

The emerging leader group submitted a research proposal on librarians’ interests in participating in international conferences. The Membership Committee is discussing the possibility of implementing ALA membership tiers for international libraries similar to the IFLA. For example, there may be a tier where librarians living in developing countries can join the ALA for a smaller fee.

We have over 1100 members in the IRRT’s general body, yet it is sometimes hard to find members to appoint to various committees. I am grateful for everyone who has replied to my calls to fill vacancies. We still have room, and I am again calling on our general body members who are looking to gain more experience to step forward. Serving on a committee can provide valuable experiences that you can use throughout your career, especially if you plan to join the Executive Board in the future. As of now, we only need a few more members on our Membership Committee.

I am looking forward to attending LibLearnX to meet my colleagues and IRRT members in-person. I hope to see full-pledged library services reignited with the fresh energy as we missed during the pandemic. As poet Rumi said appropriately, “Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure.”

Happy Holidays!
The last several months have seen a flurry of activity across IRRT. Many committees have been getting to work to create meaningful projects, programs, and opportunities for both our IRRT members as well as colleagues around the world. While the results of some of this work will not be realized until next June at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, other committee projects have already been launched or will be deployed over the coming months. Some recent IRRT activity includes some fantastic programming from the IRRT Webinar Committee which includes a webinar held in October which focused on reflective practice and storytelling through a framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and an upcoming webinar scheduled for December 9th entitled “Engaging in LIS Practice: Impact of COVID-19 on Research, Teaching, and Mentorship.”

IRRT has also, once again, sponsored an emerging leader participant and submitted an emerging leader proposal as well.

In my last message I had mentioned working to revise IRRT bylaws for alignment with the new Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) bylaws template. While this work is largely complete, we have been asked to wait until the new ALA bylaws have been approved before individual round table bylaw revisions are finalized for distribution to, and consideration of, the members. It will likely be quite some time before we are able to send out new bylaw info to our roundtable, but it makes sense to be sure that the IRRT bylaws match up with the forthcoming ALA bylaws as well as the RTCA template.

I had also mentioned in the last International Leads column that we are coming up on IRRT’s 75th anniversary. We now have an ad hoc committee that is beginning to look at the planning elements of the celebration and we met a couple of weeks ago to begin that work. While the ad hoc committee is charged with leading this planning work, I would also like to invite any ideas or suggestions that you might have for the anniversary celebration. I will also be incorporating this milestone into my Chair’s Theme, so I anticipate that there will be many opportunities throughout the year for IRRT committees and groups to contribute to the anniversary celebration in the ways that make sense for each group.

Finally, we are getting closer to the midpoint in our ALA working year and that means we will once again have an opportunity to meet to discuss our goals and assess our progress. I am planning to attend the LibLearnX conference in January in New Orleans and I hope to see and meet up with some of you there. However, if you are unable to attend the conference in-person, we will be sharing out information about IRRT’s progress for the year through either a virtual meeting, written reports, or both.

I would like to end by giving a huge thank you to you all for your contributions to IRRT and your engagement throughout the roundtable. Without active and engaged members the IRRT would not be the thriving community that it is nor be able to serve our profession in the meaningful ways that it does. If you would like to find other ways to engage in IRRT work or if you just have questions about different aspects of IRRT that you might be interested in, please do not hesitate to reach out. We can always use volunteers and would likely be able to make a good match for you!

**MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR-ELECT**

**Mark Mattson**

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The American Library Association’s International Relations Round Table (IRRT) Papers and Projects Committee invites proposals for a presentation at the 2023 American Library Association Annual Conference, scheduled to take place in Chicago, IL from June 22-27, 2023.

The International Papers and Projects Session provides librarians with an opportunity to exchange information about library services, collections and projects throughout the world. The program also serves to stimulate the interest of U.S. librarians in international library matters. The 2023 International Papers and Projects theme is Finding a New Normal: Library Policies and Practices.

The world continues to navigate the changing landscape shaped by three years of living with the pandemic, political upheaval, and environmental crisis. Organizations must find balance among traditional, pre-pandemic policies and practices, pandemic-related policies and practices that changed how and where libraries provide service, and the “new normal” of returning to more traditional policies and practices while the pandemic continues. At the same time, organizations must take special care in how they support and validate their employees as well as take strides in leading inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility efforts in their communities.

The aim of this session is to explore the role of library policies and practices that balance the needs of the organization, the needs of the employee, and the need of the patrons. The balance between policy and practice may also be a delicate framework of expectations and understanding new to the landscape of leadership as libraries seek a new normal. This session hopes to showcase the considerations of developing policies to:

1. sustain collections and services,
2. provide for employees; and
3. lead inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility practices as well as
4. methods of implementation;
5. successes and failures; and
6. revisions after implementation.

This session seeks stories of challenges, successes, and failures of getting buy-in and communicating change to library employees and patrons. We are looking for speakers to share on international and U.S. library projects and issues relating to how they have managed this process and what they have learned from it.

Possible questions related to this theme may include, but are not limited to:

1. How have “post-Covid” policies and practices affected librarians psychologically and physically?
2. How can we most effectively support librarians in their workplaces, as library policies and practices adapt so that they can continue to provide services to the community?
3. How are library administrations creating new policies to transition libraries into a post-Covid era? What practices do employees take to implement them?
4. What obstacles are libraries facing in creating policies and practices to keep buildings open during times of labor shortages, demands for improved EDI focuses, and calls for greater social justice efforts in their organizations?
5. How have your library’s policies impacted the kind of back-to-work model that your institution has adopted in the post-pandemic era? (in-person, hybrid, fully remote work). What factors influenced these decisions?

We encourage submissions that reflect the diverse approaches of the public sector, the academic environment, special libraries, or other types of information organizations. International library schools may also share how they are preparing their students to think about policy and practice. International submissions will be given priority, but submissions from the U.S. will be considered as well, especially if they may be of interest to the international community. To ensure representation from around the world, the IRRT Papers and Projects Committee aims to accept one presentation per country though exceptions may apply.

**ADVANCED CALL CONDITIONS**

This call for proposals has been released in advance of program acceptance by ALA in hopes that interested international applicants will have more time to seek funding and visa approvals for conference travel. ALA accepts programs between December and January. If ALA denies the IRRT Paper and Projects Session program, the Committee will organize a webinar with selected speakers.

**ALTERNATIVE PARTICIPATION METHOD OPTION DUE TO COVID-19**

Considering the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its impacts on international travel, we want to ensure the inclusivity of diverse experiences and wide-ranging perspectives on the challenges of policy and practices.
that our international community continues to face. Thus, we are also welcoming proposals for short 5-minute interview-style videos, in addition to the traditional conference presentations. These videos will be played at the beginning of the conference session prior to the full-length presentations.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Proposals and presentations must be written and delivered in English, which is the working language of the program. By submitting a proposal, the presenters acknowledge that the policy and practice information can be shared widely in a public setting and the speakers are comfortable and able to address aspects of the policy and practice. There are two submission types for this conference:

**Proposals for In-Person Conference Sessions**

Proposals for in-person conference sessions should include:

1. Title of the presentation
2. Abstract (500-800 words)

A good abstract will:
- describe the library, its community, the policy and practices, and the situation requiring policy and practice change,
- describe how the policy and practice relates to one or more of the suggested possible questions or the vision of the session,
- describe how the policy was drafted, what stakeholders were involved, how it was implemented, and what practices resulted from it,
- describe how the library addressed the situation through leadership or advocacy in relation to the policy and practice
- discuss the impact of the policy and practice on the library, employees, community, and its effect on the situation, and
- address overall if the policy and practice was successful in relation to the situation or if the policy or practice will be adapted or changed in the future.

3. Presenter’s name, title, institutional affiliation, and full contact information (including a valid e-mail address)
4. A short biographical profile of each presenter (100 words each. If the program is accepted, biographies will be used in program advertising).
5. Proposals should be submitted electronically (as a single Microsoft Word or PDF attachment) to the International Relations Office via email at intl@ala.org with copies to brea.henson@unt.edu, and mfenton@library.in.gov.

**Proposals for Introduction Video Clips**

If you are interested in sending a video clip, please include:

1. Type of policy change
2. A statement (250-500 words)
3. A good statement of interest will:
   - include a summary of the policy and practice, and
   - describe how the policy and practice relates to the suggested possible questions or vision of the program.
4. Presenter’s name, title, institutional affiliation, and full contact information (including a valid e-mail address)
5. A short biographical profile of each presenter (100 words each)

Proposals should be submitted electronically (as a single Microsoft Word or PDF attachment) to the International Relations Office via email at intl@ala.org with copies to brea.henson@unt.edu, and mfenton@library.in.gov.

The deadline for submitting proposals is February 17, 2023.

**PRESENTATION FORMAT**

Proposals and presentations/interviews must be written and delivered in English, which is the working language of the program. There are two submission types for this conference:

**Format for In-Person Conference Session**

Each panel presentation is between 10-15 minutes. Applicants are encouraged to consider creative and effective presentations to connect attendees with the topic and to share information that will let attendees know how they could implement similar solutions/programs for their library communities. Slides will be edited and vetted by the IRRT Paper and Project Committee. Since ALA has announced Annual 2023 is going to be an in-person conference, we are looking for proposals and panelists who are comfortable traveling to Chicago, IL to present.

**Format for Introduction Video Clips**

If selected the IRRT Papers and Projects Committee will send the presenters a list of questions and schedule an interview over Zoom. This interview will be recorded, edited, and combined with other interviews to create an introduction video to be played at the beginning of the conference session. The IRRT Paper and Project Committee will post the video for public viewing on its platforms.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Up to four in-person proposals will be selected to present at the ALA Annual in June 2023. The IRRT Paper and Project Committee will aim to use as many interview clips in the video as they are able. The video will not exceed 10 minutes of content. Notification of acceptance for proposals and videos will be emailed in March 2023.

We would like to invite you to view previous presentation titles listed on IRRT’s International Papers and Projects Session Committee website.
Examples of proposals that could be considered for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Support for travel that is necessary to advance an international project
- Funds to collaborate sister library projects
- Funds to support the development and distribution of training or publicity materials in support of an international project.

The amount available for grants may vary each year. IRRT may choose to use available funds to provide one or more grants of varying amounts. The maximum grant amount per proposal will be $1,000.

Proposal process: Please visit the IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant website to learn more about the criteria and proposal process and to download the proposal form.

Proposals are due no later than January 9, 2023 and will be reviewed by the IRRT Endowment Committee.

**GONE GLOBAL: ENTREPRENEURIAL LIBRARIANSHIP IS ALIVE AND WELL RECAPS OF THE ENTRELIB CONFERENCE 2022**

Julia Gelfand

Entrelib is the Entrepreneurship and Libraries Conference also known as ELC. Three hundred attendees from around the world on four continents in Asia, Africa and North and South America attended the first global online Entrelib Conference November 1-2, 2022. This conference hosted by three librarians in North Carolina, USA, under the auspices of BLINC, the business librarianship section of the North Carolina Library Association, who have led a U.S. based Conference for Entrepreneurial Librarians from 2009-2016, has seen a steady growth in the role of innovation and entrepreneurship services and resources in libraries worldwide. The theme of this mini-conference was “librarians to support entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship around the world connecting, sharing, and learning with each other.”

Thanks to Dave Shumaker’s posting in InfoToday (December 6, 2022) we can learn more about this conference and its reach. The conference co-chair, Summer Krstevska shared that the conference would explore “approaches libraries have undertaken to
support social entrepreneurship,” and that was one of the four basic themes of the conference. Social entrepreneurship integrates the “application of entrepreneurial tactics to realize social, rather than commercial objectives.” As libraries have taken on the mission of helping users become more entrepreneurial by establishing small businesses, marketing new products, creating new distribution channels and practicing innovation in multiple ways, librarians find themselves working with a diverse range of users from business students, to business owners, and others motivated by commercial and social opportunities they envision and want to experience. Libraries across all sectors were represented from public libraries, academic, government and special libraries where librarians interact with ambitious and enthusiastic users interested in trying new strategies as they explore different forms of entrepreneurship, funding support, and global participation.

Presentations at this conference covered themes of librarians as social entrepreneurs; supporting entrepreneurs; entrepreneurial tools, techniques and strategies. The conference presentations and accompanying slide-decks are found at https://entrelib.org/international-2022/ There was discussion about how social entrepreneurship contributes to the UN Sustainability Goals and how libraries support and partner with various initiatives and projects building relationships in communities big and small, rural and urban. The participants have created a Enterlib International space on LinkedIn to expand their network as the key players stress a grassroots organizational structure is sufficient to eliminate costs but still allow for information sharing.

**LIBRARIAN PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

2022 Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries (WAL) took place online on the 16th and 17th of November. The forum has been annually co-hosted by International Association of University Libraries (IATUL), Tsinghua University Library, The University of Hong Kong Libraries and China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) since 2020. This year, the discussion theme was centered around “Digital Competence and Future -- New Model of Academic Libraries and Global Knowledge Sharing”. Thirty academic library leaders and industry experts from 13 countries have participated in the forum interaction. Nearly a thousand librarians and scholars from over 25 countries and regions were attracted to register the event.

At the opening session, Mrs. Barbara Lison, President of International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) stated in her opening speech that the existence of digital technologies alone was not enough to make change happen. To make change happen, we need new models and new ways of working so as to deal with new situations successfully. Mr. Changxin Liu, Chairman of CNKI addressed in the welcome speech that libraries were encountering new challenges and opportunities of changing their conventional role from information provider to information infrastructure platform, facilitating and empowering higher education’s teaching, research, scholarly communication and discipline evaluation.

As University librarian of Macau Library Jianzhong Wu indicated on the forum, the key issue of remodeling the library service lies on digital transformation. Library digital transformation requires leadership, resources, technologies, data management, skilled librarians, collaborations, etc. All these issues were deeply discussed by speakers during the forum with different country background.

**Resource Construction**

Yunzhong Jiang, Chairman of Tsinghua University Library, explained in details their collection construction strategies, including increasing digital resources collection in response to discipline construction requirement, accelerating digitization of special collections, launching self-owned resource platforms, optimizing the integration of all media resources, and working on the revelation and reuse of the collected academic resources along with discipline services. Hansong, Lou, Director of Zhejiang University Library also shared their vision of precision, data-orienting, intellectualizing and specialization on digital resource development, as well as their practice on resource integration and services such as the creation of Liberal Arts Laboratory which provides new shared themed academic space.

**Data Management and Technologies**

“Libraries, by their expertise in information science and reader service, successfully foresee the huge potential of big data and emerging technologies, laying an overall foundation for the strategic transformation of those universities,” Changxin Liu, Chairman of CNKI indicated in his welcome speech.

Big data, data management and new technologies reflections were also rich in the event. President of International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) Anna Walek specially explained the librarian profession setting of “data librarian” during the forum. Head Librarian of Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences Dr. Reysa Alenzuela introduced the practice regarding their RDM service thanks to the ASEP system. She presented the library’s efforts to support research and publishing, managing metadata and data sets, revealing the successful experience as well as challenges on building
University librarian of Macau Library called for enhancing global collective cooperation and sharing. He believes for instance the future development of institutional knowledge base will have to put more focus on correlation and cooperation between institutions and repository databases, to solve the problem of “isolated data island”.

Library Representatives from Israel, Turkey and France also presented their high quality collaborations between different universities on digitization project, capacity building and skill driven strategy.

Moreover, to tackle the global challenges caused by Covid, participants of the forum also exchanged their leadership and new approaches for mutual learning.

Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries (WAL) has witnessed rapid changes taking place in academic libraries and has attracted more and more attention from libraries all over the world. It has set up a high-level exchange platform for worldwide academic libraries, providing valuable theoretical and practical experience for the future development of academic libraries, helping libraries to establish an efficient and sustainable knowledge innovation ecosystem. The 2022 forum can be watched on the web site: https://k.cnki.net/themeInfo/659.

In order to further empower the global academic libraries on the basis of WAL, since April this year, CNKI, in conjunction with other WAL hosts, has initiated the “WAL Spotlight” Competence Development Program for World Academic Librarians, a monthly event that invites library professionals to share their practical experience, case analysis and research results in their work. It focuses on the practical issues that the industry is most concerned about, helping librarians explore the scientific and efficient mode of knowledge innovation service with global and future-oriented vision. Registration information is released each month, marketing@int.cnki.net can be reached for further details.
11TH EURASIAN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE 2022 IN ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN

Tolkynt Jangulova

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Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC) is an annual international conference that brings international librarians across the world to deliver engaging, inspiring, and experience-based practice and research.

This year the conference is back to on-site mode with the theme “Open Access to Knowledge and Libraries: Achievements and Trends” to witness the present state of open access to knowledge (Open Science, Open Educational Resources, OA technologies, etc.), the role and tasks of university libraries in promoting open access and discuss potential future developments worldwide.

EALC Conference speakers

This year's conference featured three keynote presentations: the first keynote speaker was Matthew Voigts (Netherlands), Policy and Research Officer in IFLA presented his speech with the theme “Copyright and Publications for the Digital Future: A Global View of Laws, Access and Practice”. The second keynote speaker was Paola Corti (Italy), Open Education Community Manager of SPARC Europe, who gave an online presentation on “Ready, Set, Action! ENOEL Librarians at the Crossway of Open Education”. The third keynote speaker Raymond Uzwyshyn (USA), Director of Collections and Digital Services at Texas State University Libraries, presented to the conference participants his speech on the topic “Open Access Data Research Repositories: From Data to Research Ecosystems to Artificial Intelligence”.

There were also 23 invited speakers from the USA, Turkey, Canada, Czech Republic, the Philippines, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. More than 100 participants from such countries as USA, Belarus, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan attended the conference.

The accompanying events of the conference included a roundtable on "The role of corporate collaboration of libraries in the digitalization of higher education in Central Asia", which was followed by a workshop.

The key speakers of the round table were Minshun Xu, program officer of the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI), China; Marat Rakhmatullaev, professor at Tashkent University of Information Technologies, Uzbekistan; Alexandr Plemnek, Director of Information Library complex, Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, executive director of Associate regional library consortiums; and Peter Lapo, general library expert at Nazarbayev University.

This conference was held in a hybrid form, where speakers had the opportunity to present their speeches in the walls of the university, as well as online. During the event there was also a live stream and simultaneous interpretation in three languages - English, Kazakh, and Russian.

To learn more about the conference EALC 2022, please visit the following link: https://nu.kz.libguides.com/EALC-2022/home.

Conference materials are available on NU Repository website: https://nur.nu.edu.kz/handle/123456789/6739.
VOL. 36, NO. 4 • DECEMBER 2022

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE 2022 (VICLIS2022)

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The SLTC Research University with the participation of the IFLA Regional Division Committee for Asia and Oceania (IFLA RDC-AO) and The American Library Association- International Relations Office (ALA-IRO) successfully concluded the VICLIS2022 - Virtual International Conference on Library & Information Science on 25th of October 2022. The other international collaborators of the event include the Hellenic Open University of Greece, University of Bari Aldo Moro of Italy, Faculty of Economics and Business of Zagreb, Croatia along with The National Science Library and Resource Centre of the NSF, Sri Lanka, National Library of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Library Association. VICLIS was conducted by the SLTC for the 2nd consecutive year.

The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Libraries as Drivers for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030’ and has been introduced in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined for 2030 by the United Nations. The outlined goals for 2030 are aimed at creating a long-term balance between the economic, social, environmental, and other needs of the people and the planet. Libraries as information service centers and information science play a major role in carrying out the critical operation of information dissemination.

VICLIS2022 marked a milestone for the professional library fraternity of Sri Lanka as this is the first time that the IFLA Regional Division Committee for Asia and Oceania (IFLA RDC-AO) and The American Library Association- International Relations Office (ALA-IRO) collaborated with a Sri Lankan institution for an event of this magnitude. The event hosted the highest number of collaborators at a library event in Sri Lanka, which will include library associations, institutions, and universities including the 17 state universities of the country. The conference committee was represented by more than 30 countries from around the globe.

The SLTC Research University is the first non-state university in the country to organize an international library conference in Sri Lanka. SLTC expects to provide an international platform accessible to all parties interested in the field of library sciences to present their work to a wider community and share and obtain knowledge of best practices in the field. The conference was an ideal opportunity to meet global experts of the field and engage in gap identification and gap-filling exercises and apply the knowledge to strengthen the library and information science discipline within the Sri Lankan academic circle. The conference in which one can participate at no financial cost was deemed to be an excellent opportunity for the library community across the globe to learn of the latest developments of the field.

There were 77 abstracts and extended abstracts were presented by authors from ten (10) countries namely, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Slovenia, and Sri Lanka. There were over 250 participated online during conference.

You can now watch the inauguration ceremony of the VICLIS2022 on http://www.viclis2022.sltc.ac.lk and for more information, please write to the conference coordinator at viclis2022@sltc.ac.lk.
When the internet started killing print (it led to the demise of the magazine as well as 2 other publications which I took on managing editor duties for) I returned to the academe.

Michele: How do you develop ideas for your cartoons?
Igor: Funny story. One of my comics, Gokitomo, my friend the cockroach (http://gokitomo.com), was about a boy who was deathly afraid of cockroaches. He falls in love with a girl who keeps cockroaches as pets. When I was writing my second series Nopperabo, (http://nopperabo.com) my mom asked me if I had realized that I was the boy in Gokitomo and then she told me the scenes I wrote there happened to me. Turns out I was blatophobic (having a phobia of cockroaches) when I was young and somehow blocked it from memory only to be unearthed in the comics. This leads me to the conclusion that probably most of my work is somehow rooted in my personal experiences. I also have a penchant for naming and designing characters after people I know.

Reysa: How do you find time both for your passion and your career?
Igor: I don’t really know. Actually I take on graphics duties (particularly of the SLIS) like pubmats and journal layout as a form of stress release.

Reysa: As an LIS professor, what advocacies are you into right now?
Igor: Independent/indie publishing, artists’ rights, digital platforms for comics, open access comics, komiks (Philippine comics), and open source software are the usual suspects.

Julia: Any other last words you wanted to share to our readers of International Leads?
Igor: I do hope everyone enjoys what we have in store for every quarter. See you around.

Check out Igor’s comic illustration on page 15.
DON'T GIVE UP!!!

TAME MONSTERS!

FEH! IN MY TIME WE DIDN'T ALLOW SUCH ATROCITIES ON THE SHELVES!

YOU'RE OLD...

BAH HUMBUG!!!