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Online meeting with the Sheffield University Library
in the KPI Library shelter during the air alarm

WORKING FOR VICTORY: LIFE OF A UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY DURING THE WAR

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The most frequent question Ukrainians have been hearing since February 24, 2022 is “How are you?” The same question is asked of Ukrainian libraries. But it is not easy to find the words to describe everything we have been living all this time. Inside our KPI Library we say with a smile and pride: “We work for Victory.”

In the beginning of 2022, we all had plans and dreams. We were used to a rapidly changing and evolving world, and we tried to keep up with it and timely respond to new challenges and opportunities. There

ПРАЦЮЄМО НА ПЕРЕМОГУ: ЖИТТЯ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ УНІВЕРСИТЕТСЬКОЇ БІБЛІОТЕКИ ПІД ЧАС ВІЙНИ

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Найчастіше запитання, яке чує українець від 24 лютого 2022 року, — «Як ти»? Те саме запитання адресують і українським бібліотекам. Та підібрати слова, щоб описати все, чим ми живемо весь цей час, непросто. Усередині нашої Бібліотеки КПІ ми з усмішкою та гордістю кажемо: «Працюємо на Перемогу».

На початку 2022 року всі ми мали свої плани та мрії. Ми звикли до світу, що швидко змінюється, розвивається, й намагалися не відставати, вчасно

have always been many challenges facing Ukrainian libraries, but the war has multiplied and exacerbated them. And now we are dealing with the damage and destruction of libraries across the country, the loss of books (especially rare and valuable) and equipment, the departure of competent librarians abroad, lack of or minimal funding, library closures, reduction of library positions, and psychological problems. University libraries face two more challenges: distance learning and the fact that many teachers and students are abroad.

Ukraine is a country rich in libraries, but in 2022, we had 3123 fewer public and 8 fewer university libraries. Full statistics are not yet available. 3282 educational institutions were damaged by bombing and shelling, 265 of them were destroyed. There are 109 of them in Kyiv. More than 25 university libraries were damaged and destroyed. We also have unique phenomena such as displaced universities and libraries, as many of them moved to Kyiv or other cities as a result of the destruction.

In the regions without active hostilities, libraries operate as usual, provide services (physically and online), hold events, and volunteer: weave camouflage nets, and collect humanitarian aid for the Armed Forces and residents of the affected regions.

We say that we work as usual, but of course we live in constant stress, in conditions of daily air alarms, where the peaceful sky is not so peaceful anymore because of the systematic shelling of our cities with rockets and shaheds by Russia. But we are holding on!

реагувати на нові виклики й можливості. Викликів, що стояли перед українськими бібліотеками, завжди було багато, та війна їх збільшила в рази й загостила. І тепер ми маємо справу із пошкодженням та руйнуванням бібліотек по всій країні, втратою книг (особливо рідкісних та цінних) та обладнання, виїздом компетентних бібліотекарів за кордон, відсутністю або мінімальним фінансуванням, закриттям бібліотек, скороченням бібліотечних посад, психологічними проблемами. Університетські бібліотеки мають ще два виклики: дистанційна форма навчання та те, що багато викладачів і студентів перебувають за кордоном.

Україна багата на бібліотеки країна, та в 2022 році у нас стало менше на 3123 публічні та 8 університетських бібліотек. Повна статистика поки що недоступна. 3282 навчальні заклади пошкоджено внаслідок бомбардувань та обстрілів, 265 із них зруйновані. Лише в Києві таких 109. Пошкоджено та зруйновано понад 25 університетських бібліотек. Маємо й таке унікальне явище, як переміщені університети та бібліотеки, адже чимало з них внаслідок руйнувань переїхали до Києва чи інших міст.

У регіонах, де немає активних бойових дій, бібліотеки працюють у звичайному режимі, надають послуги як фізично, так і дистанційно, проводять заходи, а ще займаються волонтерством: плетуть маскувальні сітки, збирають гуманітарну допомогу для Збройних Сил та мешканців постраждалих регіонів.

The KPI Library



Let us show you the example of the KPI Library, the library of the largest and best technical university in Ukraine, the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

How the KPI Library Lives

Our library has a special building with an area of 14,000 m², with 5 reading rooms, 3 coworking spaces, 2 learning centers, 1 open laboratory of electronics, 1 conference room and 4 open halls. We also have 117 employees.

From the first day of Russia's full-scale invasion, we kept in touch with each other in our team chat. Every morning and evening we started with a roll call: who, where, how. Every day at 8 p.m. we had the Zoom call. It is very important to know that you are not alone when rockets are flying over you or when you are under occupation.

At the same time, despite all the stress and confusion, we felt that in order not to break down and to survive, we had to do our daily work. This is where our “quarantine” experience was helpful, so our library immediately started providing services online. Every day at 10 a.m. the library's top management team met and planned the day. Once a week we met with department heads, and monthly with all teams. And every day we worked for our users. We persevered. All this time, we compared our actions with our vision and mission, with the goals we set in our strategy. On May 1, we returned to providing services in two formats: in the library and online. And we continue doing so.

Library Collection

We continue to develop an actual collection of various information resources. Currently, we have over 2,300,000 copies of printed publications, about 46,000 documents in the institutional repository and 300 digital copies of rare books in the digital library. We also offer our users more than 80 databases of external e-resources. And since many of our students and faculty are located in different parts of Ukraine, we offer them book delivery by post.

Last year, we had no money to buy books, but we have an open-ended campaign called “Book for a Student”, which invites everyone to donate books to the library. Thus, in 2022, the library was given almost 3,000 books.

We also have almost 9,000 rare and valuable documents. We are gradually digitizing them.

Another challenge for us, as well as for most university libraries, is the relevance of the collection, because 42% of the printed materials are Russian-language books published in Soviet times that are not used for teaching and learning. Therefore, we remove about

Ми кажемо, що працюємо в звичайному режимі, та, звісно, ми живемо в постійній напрузі, в умовах щоденних повітряних тривог, де мирне небо вже не таке й мирне через систематичні обстріли наших міст ракетами, шахедями, які здійснює Росія. Та ми тримаємось! Покажемо, як це в нас виходить на прикладі Бібліотеки КПІ — бібліотеки найбільшого й найкращого технічного університету України — Київського політехнічного інституту ім. Ігоря Сікорського.

Як живе Бібліотека КПІ

Наша бібліотека має окрему будівлю, площею 14 000 м², де є 5 читальних залів, 3 коворкінги, 2 навчальні центри, 1 відкрита лабораторія електроніки, 1 конференцзал та 4 відкриті холи. А ще в нас працює 117 людей.

З першого дня російського повномасштабного вторгнення ми підтримували зв'язок одне з одним у чаті нашої команди. Кожен ранок і вечір ми починали з переклички: хто, де, як. Щовечора о 20:00 ми збиралися на Zoom-зв'язок. Дуже важливо знати, що ти не один, коли над тобою літають ракети або коли ти в окупації.

І водночас, попри всю напругу та розгубленість, ми відчували, що для того, щоб не зламатися і вистояти, маємо робити свою звичайну щоденну роботу. Тут нам став у пригоді «карантинний» досвід, тож наша бібліотека одразу перейшла на дистанційний формат надання послуг. Щоранку о 10 годині команда топменеджменту бібліотеки збиралася й планувала день, раз на тиждень проводили зустріч із керівниками відділів, а щомісяця — з усіма співробітниками. І кожного дня ми працювали для наших користувачів. Ми вистояли. Весь цей час ми порівнювали наші дії з нашим баченням і місією, з цілями, які ми поставили в нашій стратегії. З 1 травня ми повернулися до обслуговування в двох форматах: в приміщенні бібліотеки й дистанційно. Що й продовжуємо робити.

Колекція інформаційних ресурсів

Ми продовжуємо розвивати актуальну колекцію інформаційних ресурсів на різних носіях. Наразі ми маємо понад 2 300 000 примірників друкованих видань, близько 46 000 документів в інституційному репозитарії та 300 цифрових копій рідкісних книг у цифровій бібліотеці. Також ми пропонуємо нашим користувачам понад 80 баз даних зовнішніх електронних ресурсів. А оскільки багато наших студентів та викладачів перебувають у різних куточках України, ми пропонуємо їм доставлення книг поштою.

50,000 volumes of outdated literature from the collection per year.

To overcome these challenges, we are increasing the electronic part of our collection. In the case of textbooks, open educational resources are an alternative. We are currently running a beta version of the Open monograph press platform, which we plan to use for this purpose. Since 2019, our universities have had Scopus and Web of Science national licenses.

It has been a great support for us that after February 24, many scientific publishers provided free access to their databases for Ukrainian universities. In addition, universities can use the RapidILL service for free provided by Clarivate.

To protect our electronic resources, we joined the SUCHO project and made backups of our local databases, which are now additionally stored in the cloud.

Last year was very difficult for us, but we persevered and did many new things. We implemented a long-desired project of simultaneous search in all our information resources. We were the first in Ukraine who implemented the Discovery System using the VuFind software.

Research Support

Like any other university library, we pay special attention to research support. We provide services on topics of the research life cycle, and they are popular.

Our library is the driver of open science on campus. Since 2014, we have been developing the university open access platform, which consists of three components: an institutional repository, open journals, and open conferences. In 2022, our university (the first among Ukrainian universities) developed the Open Science Policy. The library played a key role in this.

Our library is also a driver of raising the level of academic integrity culture in the university community. We provide consultations on academic integrity, offer special courses for our students and teachers, and coordinate the verification of academic texts for plagiarism. The Library Director leads the University's academic integrity commission and working group.

Team Development

Developing the competence of our team is our priority. In 2022, we continued to actively cooperate with colleagues from other countries. In particular, we started active cooperation with the library of the

Минулого року ми не мали грошей на закупівлю книжок, але в нас діє безстрокова акція «Книгу студенту», у межах якої кожен охочий може подарувати бібліотеці книги. Так у 2022 році бібліотеці подарували майже 3000 видань.

Також у нас є майже 9000 рідкісних та цінних документів. Поступово ми оцифруємо їх.

Ще одним викликом для нас, як і для більшості університетських бібліотек, є актуальність фонду, адже 42% друкованих матеріалів — це російськомовні книги, видані за радянських часів, які не використовуються для викладання та навчання. Тож ми вилучаємо з фонду близько 50 000 томів неактуальної літератури на рік.

Щоб подолати ці виклики, ми збільшуємо електронну частину нашої колекції. У випадку з підручниками альтернативою є відкриті освітні ресурси. Наразі в нас працює бета-версія платформи Open monograph press, яку плануємо використовувати для цієї мети. Із 2019 року наші університети мають національні ліцензії Scopus та Web of Science. Неабиякою підтримкою для нас стало те, що після 24 лютого багато наукових видавництв надали безкоштовний доступ до своїх баз даних для українських університетів. Крім того, університети можуть безоплатно користуватися сервісом RapidILL від Clarivate.

Убезпечити наші електронні ресурси нам допоміг проєкт SUCHO — ми зробили резервні копії наших локальних баз даних, які тепер додатково зберігаються у хмарі.

Минулий рік був для нас дуже складним, але нам вдалося вистояти й зробити багато нового. Ми реалізували давно омріяний проєкт — одночасний пошук в усіх наших інформаційних ресурсах. Ми першими в Україні впровадили Discovery System за допомогою програмного забезпечення VuFind.

Підтримка досліджень

Звичайно, як і будь-яка інша університетська бібліотека, ми приділяємо особливу увагу підтримці наукових досліджень. Ми надаємо низку послуг на теми життєвого циклу досліджень, і вони мають високий попит.

Наша бібліотека є рушієм відкритої науки в університеті. З 2014 року ми розвиваємо університетську платформу відкритого доступу, яка складається з трьох компонентів: інституційного репозитарію, відкритих журналів та відкритих конференцій. У 2022 році наш університет (першим серед українських університетів) розробив

The KPI Library team on Vyshyvanka Day 2023



Sheffield University in the UK (within the Twinning Universities program) and held seven online meetings. We participated in 19 scientific and practical events in 6 countries. Our library also became a member of the Association of European Research Libraries.

Events and Volunteering

Our library is not a typical university library, as we pay special attention to activities for personal development. Until 2022, we organized about 400 events per year: lectures and training on various topics, exhibitions, concerts, maker fairs, yoga, meetings with famous people, etc.

Last year, we organized only 160 events (mostly online). Since 2022, the topics of our events have also been related to war, security, psychological support, and patriotic values. We organized mine safety training. We held regular book therapy meetings and a movie discussion club, and art exhibitions dedicated to the war. We continue to do all this now. We are glad that people find a place for their development, support, and volunteering in the library.

Volunteering is what every Ukrainian does today. We also initiate volunteer activities and join others. In 2022, we learned to weave camouflage nets. Every month we send a new net to our defenders.

Smart Shelter

As Russia bombs everywhere and every day, we decided to make a smart shelter in the basement of the library, which was used as a book depository. With students, we removed all books and shelves from the space (600 m²). It was an initiative that united the university community. Now we are working on creating a smart shelter that will function with all the features of a coworking space even during alarms.

Політику відкритої науки. У цьому процесі бібліотека відіграла ключову роль.

Бібліотека також є драйвером підвищення рівня культури академічної доброчесності в університетській спільноті. Ми надаємо консультації з питань академічної доброчесності, пропонуємо спеціальні курси для наших студентів та викладачів, координуємо перевірку академічних текстів на плагіат. Директорка бібліотеки очолює комісію та робочу групу з академічної доброчесності в університеті.

Розвиток команди

Нарощування компетентності нашої команди є нашим пріоритетом. У 2022 році ми продовжили активну співпрацю з колегами з інших країн. Зокрема, ми розпочали активну співпрацю з бібліотекою Шеффілдського університету у Великій Британії (у межах програми “Університети-побратими”), провели сім онлайн-зустрічей.

Ми взяли участь у 19 науково-практичних заходах у 6 країнах світу. Також наша бібліотека стала членом Асоціації європейських дослідницьких бібліотек.

Заходи и Волонтерство

Наша бібліотека не є типовою університетською бібліотекою, адже ми приділяємо особливу увагу заходам для різностороннього розвитку особистості. До 2022 року ми проводили близько 400 заходів на рік: лекції та тренінги на різні теми, виставки, концерти, мейкерські ярмарки, йога, зустрічі з відомими людьми тощо.

Минулого року ми провели лише 160 івентів (більшість — онлайн). Починаючи з 2022 року, теми наших заходів також пов'язані з війною, безпекою,

And finally

Along with “How are you?” we often hear from our colleagues around the world “How can we help you?” And we are very grateful to all our colleagues for this support, for all the given opportunities, for every invitation, whether to participate in an international conference or to write an article for a professional journal, where we can tell the truth about the Russian-Ukrainian war to the world.

We would like to encourage everyone to donate to different donation campaigns, including to the ALA Relief Fund for Ukrainian libraries and librarians. For more information on Ukrainian library funding relief, book donations, and humanitarian relief donations, go to <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/ukraine-library-relief-fund>.

We thank you!



Mine safety training

психологічною підтримкою, патріотичними цінностями. Ми організували кілька тренінгів із мінної безпеки. Регулярно проводили зустрічі з книготерапії та кінодискусійний клуб. Ми організовували художні виставки, присвячені війні. Продовжуємо все це робити й цього року. І радіємо, що люди знаходять у Бібліотеці місце для свого розвитку, підтримки, волонтерства.

Волонтерство — це те, чим сьогодні займається кожен українець. Ми теж ініціюємо самі і долучаємось до волонтерських ініціатив інших. У 2022 році ми навчилися плести маскувальні сітки. Щомісяця ми передаємо нову таку сітку нашим захисникам.

Смартукриття

Оскільки Росія щодня бомбить скрізь і всюди, ми вирішили зробити смартукриття в підвальному приміщенні Бібліотеки, яке використовувалося як книгосховище. Разом зі студентами ми звільнили 600 м² від стелажів і книжок. Це була ініціатива, яка об'єднала університетську спільноту. І зараз ми працюємо над створенням смартукриття, яке функціонуватиме з усіма можливостями коворкінгу навіть під час тривоги.

Наостанок

Поряд із «Як ти?» ми часто чуємо від наших колег з усього світу «Чим ми можемо вам допомогти?».

І ми дуже вдячні всім нашим колегам за підтримку, за всі надані можливості, за кожне запрошення — чи то взяти участь у міжнародній конференції, чи то написати статтю для фахового журналу, де ми можемо розповісти світові правду про російсько-українську війну.

Ми хотіли б заохотити всіх прилучатися до різних благодійних кампаній, зокрема Фонду допомоги українським бібліотекам і бібліотекарям від Американської бібліотечної асоціації. Щоб дізнатися, як підтримати українські бібліотеки, передати книги та гуманітарну допомогу, переходьте на сторінку <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/ukraine-library-relief-fund>.

Дякуємо вам!

THE EDITORS



Whitney Bevill

Whitney is the Humanities Librarian for Collection Management at Appalachian State University. Her background is in foreign language education and she is active in global librarianship-related committees in ALA.



Amanda Harrison

Amanda is an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Missouri in the Educational Technology and Library Sciences department. Her current and on-going interests include school libraries, global librarianship, critical pedagogies, and diversity in children's literature.



Gloria Creed-Dikeogu

Gloria is the Associate Dean of Libraries at California State University, Bakersfield. Her current interests include global librarianship, serving international student populations in academia, Africana and writing poetry, children's picture books as well as young adult, new adult, and adult novels.



Anna Kozłowska

Anna is an Assistant Professor, Reference and Liaison Librarian, Honors College Instructor and Fellow at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Adjunct Consultant.



Johann Frederick Cabbab

Igor is an Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies where he currently teaches Media Materials and Technology as well as Literature for Children and Young Adults.

EDITORIAL

Hello readers,

This is the first issue by a new editorial team and we are excited to be sharing IRRT news with you!

We begin the issue with a new column. In each issue, we plan to publish an article by a librarian in a language other than English. We hope this will expose readers to the authentic voices of librarians around the world, helping to reflect IRRT's mission to promote interest in library issues and librarianship worldwide.

Our first bilingual article in this series is from Ukraine, detailing the challenges faced by the library at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. Libraries throughout Ukraine have been facing difficulties and some, devastation, to which the American Library Association is responding. The ALA's Relief Fund for Ukrainian libraries and librarians has raised \$25,000 to help with book donations, preservation, equipment replacement, and more. For details on the program and ways to help, visit <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/ukraine-library-relief-fund>.

Also in this issue are the ALA IRRT reception held in Chicago last June 22 to 27, the LIDA Conference in Osijek, Croatia last May 24 to 26, an interview with incoming IRRT Chair Carol Brey, and an interview with the Chair of the OCLC Global Council Evi Tramantza.

Submit to us news on events, projects, initiatives, activities, achievements, grants, conferences at: ala.irrt.leads@gmail.com.



MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR

Mark Mattson

Email:

mam1196@psu.edu

As the 2023-24 Chair of the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) of the American Library Association, it is my great pleasure and honor to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you as we embark on a new ALA year! As a roundtable, we stand at the beginning of a year that promises to bring exciting change and great celebration for our community. As we prepare to mark the 75th anniversary of IRRT at the next Annual Conference, we take time to honor the visionaries who laid the foundations for the round table and the countless individuals who have propelled its mission forward. We also recognize the changing landscape and the need to adapt to the new ways of working that have become ubiquitous. For this reason, I have chosen "The Impact of IRRT: Celebrating our Past and Looking to our Future" as the Chair's theme for this year.

This year, we have a unique opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the remarkable milestones of the round table's past. For three-quarters of a century, IRRT has worked to promote cultural exchange and understanding within librarianship and across borders, and I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to IRRT. It is because of your dedication, passion, and collective efforts that we have been able to foster an effective community. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced change, and championed global collaboration within ALA and the field more broadly while delivering high-impact programming and initiatives. I look forward to celebrating this milestone and legacy in San Diego next June!

As we celebrate our history, we must also embrace the opportunities for change with which we find ourselves presented. Our 75th anniversary year marks a pivotal moment in the round table's journey, one where we will actively engage in transformation and progress. It is a time for us to innovate, evolve, and redefine our structure in a world of Zoom meetings, webinars, and greater international connectivity. On the agenda for this year is a rewriting of, and voting on, our bylaws in coordination with the new Round Table Coordinating Assembly



bylaws template, reestablishing mechanisms for organizational communication and documentation, and an approved reorganization of our committee structure. With these changes, we have the opportunity to continue robust support for the well-established and vibrant slate of events, programs, and initiatives associated with ALA Annual while also ensuring that we can sustain innovative new initiatives like the IRRT webinar series and International Librarian Networking Program.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I encourage you to actively participate, share your insights, and contribute to the collective wisdom of IRRT. Your voice matters, and it is your ideas, skills, and expertise that drive the transformative change we aspire to achieve. Together, we can create a legacy that will inspire future generations of librarians, promote cultural understanding, and fostering connections across borders.

In closing, I want to reiterate my gratitude for your support for, and dedication to, the International Relations Round Table. As we look to the next 75 years, let us embrace the winds of change with open arms, celebrating our past while looking forward to our future.

MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR-ELECT

Carol Brey

Email:

cbrey@lascrucis.gov

I am proud and happy to be the new Chair-Elect of the International Relations Roundtable, and look forward to working with all of you, dear members, as well as the Executive Board to accomplish our goals. I expect that, following passage by our membership, much of our activity this year will be focused on the restructuring of IRRT to increase the effectiveness of our organization.

I also hope that members will reflect on how you can be active in IRRT. A call for volunteers to serve in IRRT positions will be going out and I will be looking for a diverse, equitable, and inclusive array of candidates for our IRRT positions. So I ask you to please think about stepping up – there are so many ways that you can serve!



And I know from experience that involvement in IRRT is extremely rewarding, having served for several years on the Sister Libraries Committee, and more recently on the Webinar Committee. As our world grows smaller, I find that international issues become increasingly relevant at home. I know you share my passion for working with libraries internationally, or you wouldn't have joined IRRT! So now I ask that you join in the work of IRRT as well, to make our organization even stronger.

ADVOCACY AND INVOLVEMENT AN INTERVIEW WITH CAROL BREY, INCOMING IRRT CHAIR

Whitney Bevell

Humanities Librarian for Collection Development
Appalachian State University

Brazil, Mexico, and Paraguay; public art, exhibition openings, embassy receptions, and library advocacy; working with a range of entities from public libraries to the Department of State: these are all parts of incoming IRRT Chair Carol Brey's story. Carol is a lifelong supporter of libraries and advocates for international librarianship, where in her new role she looks forward to strengthening the IRRT, forging new global partnerships between libraries, and striving for intellectual freedom.

Carol, a lifelong reader, started working for her local library at the age of sixteen. A musician and music lover as well (the flute is her primary instrument), she earned a bachelor's degree in music at Illinois State University. She was delighted to find out that the profession of music librarian existed, so she got her MLIS and has worked in libraries for over 40 years. Her first job as a librarian was in a bookmobile in rural Missouri, where she saw the unmet needs for literacy. Witnessing this encouraged her continuing interest in advocacy in that area to this day.

Her first trip to Mexico was with her high school Spanish class, and little did she know that she would later use her Spanish and intercultural skills to work with libraries there as well as throughout Central and South America. Carol's international librarianship journey began after her move to El Paso, Texas, in 1995. El Paso, situated on the border between Texas and Chihuahua, Mexico is a multilingual, multicultural city. Librarians on both sides of the border face challenges helping users access resources and understand just how many services and resources are available to them. She cites one basic example of the ways librarians need language and culture skills: The English word library sounds very much like the Spanish word "*libreria*," which actually is translated as "bookstore." This is but one example of why some potential library users may not take

advantage of a library's resources because of unaddressed cultural and linguistic differences.

Advocacy issues hold a special place for Brey. She notes that many library systems around the world face similar challenges, including budgeting, intellectual freedom, marketing their services, and teaching literacy. As part of her advocacy work, Carol was employed by the Department of State as a regional public engagement specialist in the Office of American Spaces. These Spaces are in 140 countries, affiliated with US Embassies, and are often located in these Embassies, partner libraries or universities, or binational centers. Much like the Alliance française or British Council, American Spaces offer not only language instruction but also lectures, makerspaces, business training, internet access, films, research databases, and many other activities and resources.

Carol encourages librarians to not hesitate getting involved with organizations such as IRRT and its various committees if they are interested in working outside the US. For example, the Department of State recruits librarians to work with American Spaces, and the American Schools network is another potential employer overseas; private companies and overseas library systems are also potential workplaces.

As for IRRT, Carol states that communication is very important. She will be working this year to support the roundtable's restructuring rollout which "will allow us to be more nimble, respond to members' interests, address the changing library landscape, and enhance outreach," Carol states. She also has a vision for expanding the reach of international librarianship—IRRT is one of ALA's largest roundtables after all. This vision includes greater interaction between American librarians and international ones, which has been made easier because of the internet and programs like Zoom and webinars. American librarians also have much to learn from other countries who have faced censorship issues, social change and unrest, budget challenges, trouble with marketing, and rapidly changing library spaces. Carol especially values communication and points out that when librarians communicate, they can find out how peers managed similar issues as the ones they are experiencing. Moreover, "communication can tear down barriers you're often unaware of," she notes.

Carol currently works as the Quality of Life Director for Las Cruces, New Mexico, (30 miles from El Paso) overseeing library programming, museums, and public art. She is starting a non-profit with family members to teach basic life skills to area residents. She also keeps busy with ALA activities, hiking, exploring the 400 years of history in El Paso and the surrounding area, playing the flute, attending the theater and museum openings as part of her job, trying new foods in her richly multicultural city, and spending time with her husband and two dogs.

IRRT ALA RECEPTION

Amanda Harrison
Assistant Professor
University of Central Missouri

The work of international librarians and the International Relations Round table was evident at the year's ALA annual conference held from Thursday, June 22nd to Tuesday, June 27th in Chicago, Illinois.

A preconference on Friday highlighted the role of Global Libraries as advocates for information policy change, with a wide-range of experienced presenters, moderated by Jim Neal from Columbia University. Saturday included a meeting of the the IRRT subcommittees as well as the International Sustainable Library Development interest group. Sunday offered a chance for International Librarians to network and present their work via a poster presentation.

Several awards were given at the International Relations Roundtable Reception on Monday evening in the winter garden of the Harold Washington branch library.

John Ames Humphry OCLC Forest Press Award

James (Jim) Neal, former ALA president and treasurer as well as former chair of the International Relations Roundtable, was presented with the John Ames Humphry OCLC Forest Press Award in recognition of significant contribution to international librarianship. For more information about Jim's extensive library work and other awards and honors, please see the ALA press release, <https://tinyurl.com/5h5ysz9c>.



Innovative International Library Projects

Two Innovative International Library Projects were also awarded. The Seoul National University Library in Seoul, South Korea was awarded for their innovation and social contribution. Their program, Innovation and Social contribution based on the <LikeSNU platform> developed through Big Data analysis in Seoul National University Library enables users throughout the entire university community to track their progress and plan for their future. The main service features include Knowledge Map which allows you to check knowledge trends related to the user's major, Knowledge Telescope as a recommended service optimized for user's major and knowledge of interest, and Knowledge Compass which visualizes user's knowledge coordinates and displays them in the form of a dashboard. More information about this program is available at <https://likesnu.snu.ac.kr>.



Future Makers Incubator for All

The National Central Library of Taiwan was awarded for their program, Future Makers Incubator for All—A Newly Launched Open Lab Multimedia Center. This project provides a new makerspace where people of all ages can try not only crafts, but any number of creative activities. The expanded services at the library offer extended opening hours, services for children age 6 and up to do thermal printing, music creation, and recording, and workshops to help stimulate creativity and utilization of the space. More information about the space is available <https://open.ncl.edu.tw/en/>.

The call for Innovative International Library projects typically opens towards the end of the calendar year. Libraries outside the USA with highly visible innovative library services are encouraged to apply! For more information regarding the selection of awards please see <https://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/alapresentlibraryaward>.

LIDA CONFERENCE 2023 INFORMATION EVERYWHERE

Amanda Harrison
Assistant Professor
University of Central Missouri

The LIDA conference 2023 took place May 24 to 26 in the lovely Osijek, Croatia with the theme, Information Everywhere. Over the three day period, librarian practitioners and researchers enjoyed the substantial international program which included three invited speakers, 35 juried papers and 68 speakers, 1 PhD forum and a student showcase. The 118 participants represented 19 different countries and 4 different continents. The University of Osijek and University of Zadar from Croatia, and Rutgers University from the US have been organizing LIDA since 2000.

A lovely tribute to the life of Ross Todd, former LIDA co-director, took place on day two of the conference. Dr. Carol Gordon provided an informative review of how his research on the importance of school libraries still shapes advocacy efforts today. An additional session offered letters from several of his colleagues which highlighted his character as a “force of nature,” “provocateur,” and “forward-thinker” who helped nurture the development of doctoral programs and doctoral students. It was clear that Todd was missed by the many participants of the program, but that his substantial legacy will live on in the many researchers and practitioners he impacted.



Dimitris Soudias, Hellenic Observatory (London School of Economics), shown here with Milijana Mićunović from University of Osijek, Croatia gave the final keynote presentation.

The three keynote sessions offered a variety of perspectives on the library world, including Dr. Annemaree Lloyd's opening keynote on information literacy practice; Dr. Carol Gordon's reflective keynote on Dr. Ross Todd's research impact; and the concluding session by Dr. Dimitris Soudias on the Commoning Library and informational capitalism. In addition, the conference offered many opportunities for collaboration with time set aside each day for communal coffee breaks, lunches, and a delicious wine and cheese session during the poster presentation. The ASIS&T European Chapter sponsored the Best Poster contest with a free annual membership.



Researchers Carol Gordon and Polona Vilar from University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Borna Petrović, Lucija Belošević, Marija Erl Šafar, Tihana Lubina presented their poster on Information Literacy of Young Adults at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek.

The next LIDA conference is tentatively planned for the 21st-23rd of May 2025. More details can be found at <https://lida.ffos.hr/>.

REDEFINING THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE AN INTERVIEW EVI TRAMANTZA, CHAIR OF THE OCLC GLOBAL COUNCIL

Gloria Creed-Dikeogu
Associate Dean of Libraries
California State University, Bakersfield

“The OCLC Council is comprised of forty-eight” library leader “delegates, each representing one of three” world regions, the Americas (ARC: America’s Regional Council), Europe, the Middle East, and Africa Regional Council (EMEA) and Asia Pacific Regional Council (APRC). Each Regional Council has an Executive Committee and a Nominating Committee. OCLC Global Council delegates are elected by librarian colleagues with an interest in OCLC activities. Delegates serve to inform library communities globally about “OCLC’s direction, research, products, and services by reflecting the needs of the many libraries and communities that comprise OCLC’s membership around the world” (OCLC, 2023).

Global Council has four committees on which delegates from each Regional Council are elected to serve. These committees are the Global Council Executive Committee, Bylaws Committee and Program Committee. The current OCLC Global Council Chair is Evi Tramantza, a library director from Greece.

An interview was conducted by Gloria Creed-Dikeogu, a member of the OCLC American Regional Council (ARC) with Evi Tramantza, to discuss the Global Council’s area of focus “Redefining the library experience”. Evi is the Director of Libraries and Archives at Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece. Anatolia College is an old American Missionary School in Greece, teaching students from kindergarten through high school and IB college, offering undergraduate as well as graduate programs. Anatolia College has four libraries and archives.

What do you value most from working with OCLC Global Council on the area of focus?

Working with OCLC Global Council, I value the community of librarians, who discuss and identify common goals to positively benefit and impact library communities worldwide. I value the respect and the trust that we have for one another and our commitment to service. We collectively navigate common problems and challenges and identify solutions together. The OCLC area of focus is an opportunity to offer resources to global communities,

and to develop collectively via consultation, utilizing the research process and OCLC’s Research reporting.

We engage in discussion and re-inform the future for all of us, through strategically important discussion. The library world always needs consultation with our delegates and our communities. I value this opportunity to focus and bring light into areas of interest for different types of libraries across the world. This work is appreciated by librarians and there is evidence of its impact based on statistics, research, and event participation. Additionally, this work is a testament to the impact of OCLC, and its contribution to the advancement of libraries, users, communities, students, and library stakeholders worldwide. Library leaders use OCLC Research Reports for their planning. In my AMICAL Consortium Meeting, associated with American Liberal Arts Libraries outside the US, thirty members met in May, and I co-facilitated a workshop for library directors, using OCLC model library reports to discuss and plan our strategic focus for the next few years.

What does redefining the library experience mean to you?

It means connecting in a meaningful way and trying to configure and reconfigure how to do that in libraries. Offering opportunities for students, users, and communities to thrive, lead meaningful lives and contribute. Getting to know our users and understanding their needs and providing for these needs is what we try to achieve. This is the library experience we want to offer, to support our communities: providing services that will meet their needs and building capacity for library staff, and offering professional development, to then develop that library expertise and deliver what is needed. There is a lot of complexity today in the information world, and we need expertise around all the areas we care about to be developed, for example, open access data, distance literacies, information literacy, AI, teaching and learning, digital humanities, supporting innovation in our universities or in other libraries, for literacy, for communications, for systems, for collections, and for citizenship. The library has the capacity and flexibility to reshape and adapt and be there to change and deliver, even as we speak.

At the same time, library experience means that we are rooted in strong values. We all are service oriented. We know our work matters and can help to change the lives of people and the world around us. Librarians care very much for supporting democracy, civil liberties, equity, inclusion, diversity, opportunity for education, access to information, and inclusive

environments. We want to be enablers and accelerators. We do not accept book banning. We want to be there for everyone to have decent lives.

Redefining the library means (and we have lived through that during Covid) being able to look after ourselves well, to be strong as librarians, and to be sure that we look after the communities around us. We need to be strong and flexible. But we need to take care of each other because there is a lot of instability, not just for our users but sometimes for our staff as well. We need to care and prepare because only if we are healthy and strong, we will be able to be flexible, agile, and supportive.

The world changes, it evolves all the time, and for us to be ready for this, it is important to build capacity, and to continually redefine, redesign, reimagine library collections, spaces, services, and even structures, ensuring that we can respond to our communities when it is appropriate.

What does not “phase” us, are our strong roots, our ability to provide the facilities, the services, and the resources that are relevant and meaningful to our communities.

What stood out to you the most from the survey findings?

Seeing the participation and listening to the results of the survey, what made a great impression on me, was the power of our collective voice. This survey as with others in the past, emphasizes that as a leader you are not on your own. You can face adversity with other

leaders, giving you confidence and faith in decision making. I realize that our decisions are similar because we care for our communities. That was a constant. We have related experiences, shared experiences, and shared responses to the problems we encounter.

We are service and space providers. Thus, the need for collaborative meeting spaces has increased. There is a need for open science, open education resources, open textbooks, services, and the need to increasingly build capacity around that. What stood out was the need for specifically focused accelerated learning in our teams and staffs. Service offerings in libraries must continue being hybrid, virtual but also physical. Both are needed.

Librarians share more than our differences. Survey findings articulate what the library world feels and does, and this helps us to rethink our provision and our processes. Sometimes it helps us identify blind spots because it could be that in one area, you have not really thought about it, but somebody else talked about it; and this improves the discussion.

An area for further development, that was identified, was techno-analytics visualization. Discussion, about this topic helps us see how we can approach it better. Other areas identified by the survey, specifically related to academic libraries was the need for these libraries to increase their marketing efforts, their communication technologies, their support of student, staff and stakeholder well-being, and their focus on improving the overall user experience at their institutions.

What resonates with me is this Anne Copper Moore quote, that says, “I see libraries being the trusted information source responsible for the information provided, produced and stored for the universities.”

Was there something that surprised you about these survey findings?

What surprised me most was the public library tendency to partner with nonprofits in the community. I was thinking about how this can work for academic libraries as well, because of their funding and service needs.

What is your hope for the future of libraries? What role can OCLC Global Council play?

I have big hopes. I would like to see academic libraries continue to work, in teaching, learning and research, as actors for global change, alleviating problems and inequities, sustaining good environments that support different types of literacies and understandings, offering equal opportunities and fair access to all.



Evi Tramantza, Chair of the OCLC Global Council

These libraries must work to support youth on job quests, families seeking financial stability, and ensure world peace, good citizenship, critical thinking, library staff diversity, the provision of relevant services that enable library stakeholders, openness, fair access of information for everybody and democracy for all.

I would like to see OCLC continue to support us with research, and with events accommodating ongoing global discussions among librarians in our areas of interest. I would like to see them continue as a strong partner, because this organization is deeply rooted in the heart of the library world. I would like to see OCLC continue their role as good players, supportive of the mission of libraries.

Technology today allows us to be knowledgeable about new developments, and where we can, provide opportunities for staff and stakeholders to share and learn about new technologies together. I represent libraries that are beyond the West, not just in the US or Canada, UK, and Australia, but everywhere, in my country but also other countries I work with in our consortium. We represent communities that are beyond the West. Technology provides us with opportunities to share and learn together, and this is of great importance for these communities. I hope that the international community of libraries and librarians fully supports this. The consortium is given access to important keynotes and conferences online, and to important content that can be shared so that they can participate in the discussion. If libraries in the world are strong, then they will massively impact their communities.

I would like to see large foundations in the US support libraries beyond the West. I know they have done so in the past, but I would like to see them supporting these libraries in the future, so that we can save capacity in our communities, because if this is not in our focus, the divide will continue and deepen. I would like to see librarian-leaders of important libraries in the world be prepared academically, being active, confident to participate, and have a strong voice in the discussions around teaching, learning and research, working closely as partners with their institutional leaders.

What will happen when this is actualized is that there will be more work to be done. Our strong focus of service will strongly affect those institutions, communities, environments; where it is important to collaborate and conduct stakeholder discussions. Libraries are privileged to have strong networks, so that we are immediately in the loop of development and can translate what is happening in other places in

the world into our landscapes, or into other entities within our institutions that do not have the networks we have, so they can benefit from this.

OCLC is important as a powerful partner. Their support for libraries is so important because it allows library-related conversation to continue on a global scale.

Is there more that OCLC can do beyond what you just mentioned? You did mention the role of OCLC in the Global Council, but is there more that they are not doing that they should? Or that we could help with moving forward in this Global Council that we are in?

There are so many good things going on at OCLC. OCLC is a complex landscape, but it needs to continue translating what is happening in the organization, so that when OCLC delegates participate in discussions about library services, research, and professional development opportunities have a better understanding of the role that OCLC might play in these. Thus, there is a lot of benefit in receiving feedback and input regarding OCLC services and products. I am not saying this is not done, but I am sure there are always ways that communication can improve, since communication is at the heart of everything that we do, and especially with complex, cooperative entities like OCLC. Communication is so important, and delegates can play a major role to improve that.

Why should librarians consider serving on OCLC Global Council in the future? Why should librarians consider this opportunity at all?

Becoming a delegate is a dual opportunity and responsibility. We are asked to represent members worldwide. We ensure that information exchange happens between OCLC and their members globally, around opportunities, developments, products, events, challenges, and needs.

The delegate's role is to become the bridge, helping members they represent connect with OCLC better and advise them on directions they should branch into.

I think the opportunity is clear, as a delegate, one participates in a global discussion. The discussion happens across different types of libraries, and different regions. I have been privileged to listen to multiple insights and know knowledgeable colleagues' perspectives, from experienced colleagues from different countries and different regions on different topics, to their approaches and solutions to similar problems. This offers delegates a fantastic

opportunity to gain confidence and act when they see their community requires it, and at the same time contribute to the ongoing discussion. Delegates offer expertise and professional knowledge, together imagining possibilities for library institutions, while gaining from the experiences of others and contributing their own experiences.

I am impressed by how well-structured the OCLC processes are; and being a part of this Global Council, I am amazed and very happy with how these processes work and how planning is immaculate every time when events and meetings are delivered. Everything is respectfully organized and supported. I have enjoyed getting to know OCLC staff. They have been caring and supportive, and I would like to continue to see this from OCLC. They listen and respond to member needs, and I would like to see more of this in the future. For me it has been a wonderful experience, and an opportunity for which I am super grateful.

OCLC has an amazing network of people in its leadership, staff, and serving on the Global Council. The delegates are a group of very intelligent, thoughtful people, and I have enjoyed getting to know them personally. There is so much power in these meetings and connections because you learn together and reflect afterwards. We have managed to bring some positive change to the library world.

To sum up, I would say that being a delegate, one represents the regional libraries, one participates in a superb network of OCLC people and libraries. It is an opportunity to build relationships of openness, and trust. It is a community that acts as a sounding board: bringing ideas from global libraries for discussion. While the feedback given aids OCLC to improve its services and products to its members, we are provided with the opportunity to participate in important discussions that we need to have, and that will engage the global community of librarians and lead to improved library services. Why is it that we engage? Because it matters.

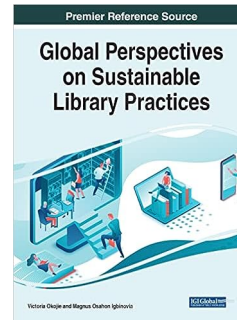
References:

OCLC. (2023). *Get involved with OCLC*. <https://www.oclc.org/en/membership/councils.html>.

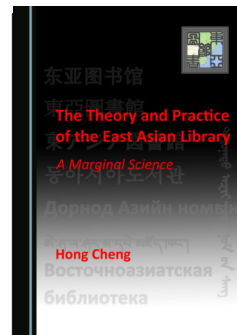
Disclaimer: Please be aware that this interview was transcribed verbatim. Then the interviewee's comments answering each question was summarized and edited.

Thank you to Christina Rodriguez, OCLC Senior Program Manager & ARC Liaison, Member Relations, for your support and for helping to make this interview happen.

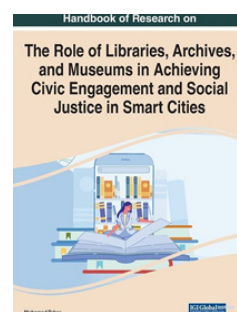
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Interview with the Executive Director of the House of Wisdom in Sharjah, UAE
 The 2023 ALA Emerging Leaders Project with the IRRT
 The 2023 ACRL Conference
 The 43rd IATUL Conference

The Meet the National Libraries Series: Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)
 IRRT Webinar: Library Changes and Challenges in Latin American Libraries

The Association of College and Research Libraries' Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) 2023 Conference

New Publications in Library and Information Studies

The 51st Annual Conference of ARLIS/NA (Art Libraries of North America)

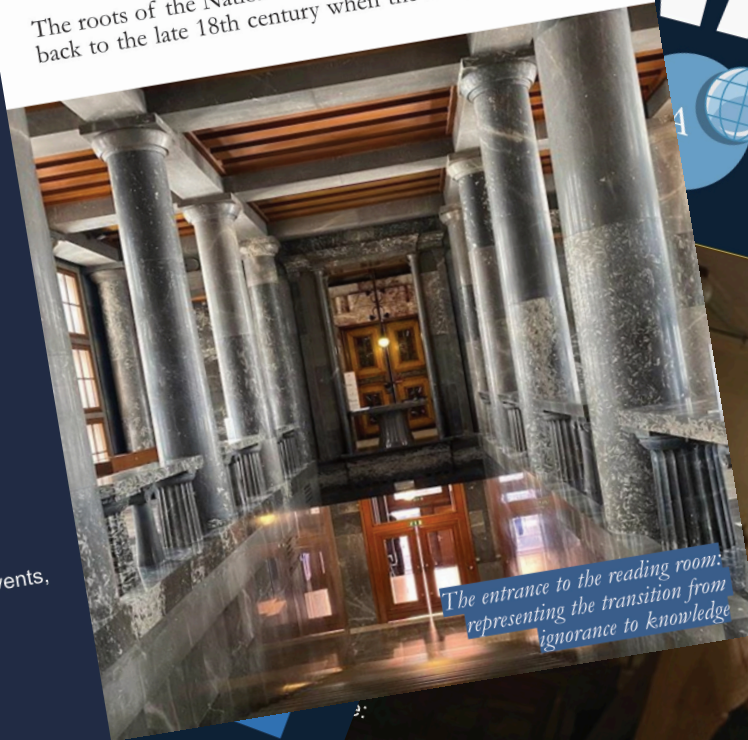
Colorado Association of Libraries Holds Second International Conference

Selective Upcoming International Library Conferences, Meetings, Book Fairs & Events, June 2023+

Comics: iLead

heritage collection of books, manuscripts, and the library serves as a space for lifelong intellectual stimulus for scholars, students, and the public.

The roots of the National and University Library dates back to the late 18th century when the Enlightenment



The entrance to the reading room: representing the transition from ignorance to knowledge

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ROUND TABLE

THE NICOLA MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, COSTA RICA
DIAG VIDAURRE

The Nicoya Municipal Public Library opened its doors in the 1950s, where it was the schoolteacher Felipe Diaz Vidaurre who began providing his library services to the community from his home for at least two years. Together with him, two more people were present as collaborators, reaching out to the community. After that time, Don Felipe Diaz Vidaurre presented to the Municipality of the Canton of Nicoya, the proposal that the municipality be in charge of continuing the service of lending books to the community, since the space in his house was becoming smaller and smaller. This is how, for more than 65 years, the Library has been called the Municipal Public Library of Nicoya Felipe Diaz Vidaurre.

Nicoya, a Special Place in Costa Rica
 When the Spanish arrived in Nicoya in 1522, it was governed by the Nicoya cacique, who had a constant fight with Chirra, cacique of the islands in the Gulf of Nicoya, in the Pacific Ocean. Nicoya was a town in



FOR VICTORY: IN UNIVERSITY RING THE WAR

Oksana Bruil
 Library Association,
 KPI Library Director

Yuliia Korian
 Manager of the KPI Library

Ukrainians have been in 2022 is "How are you?" The Ukrainian libraries. But it is to describe everything we ne. Inside our KPI Library de: "We work for Victory."

we all had plans and dreams dly changing and keep up

Online meeting with the Sheffield University in the KPI Library shelter during

ПРАЦЮЄМО НА ПЕРЕМОГУ: ЖИТТЯ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ УНІВЕРСИТЕТСЬКОЇ БІБЛІОТЕКИ ПІД ЧАС ВІЙНИ

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Найчастіше запитання, яке чує українець від 24 лютого 2022 року, — «Як ти»? Те саме запитання адресують і українським бібліотекам. Тільки час, не просто. Усередині, чим усе мішкують.

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