

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

**TO:** ALA Council

**DATE:** January 3, 2025

**RE:** *(select one)*

- ACTION REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- REPORT

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** *(add below)*

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** *(add committee name)*

**CONTACT PERSON:** IRC Chair, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr.

**STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:** Michael Dowling

**BACKGROUND:** *(add information)*

11<sup>th</sup> Sharjah International Book Fair

In November, IRO organized with our partners, the Sharjah Book Authority and the Combined Book Exhibit the 11<sup>th</sup> Sharjah International Library Conference. The conference attracted 250 attendees from ten countries. ACRL President Leo Lo provided the keynote on the hot topic of Artificial Intelligence. Presenters were from six countries and included ALA Editions authors and award-winning school librarians from the U.S and the region. Topics ranged from “The Experimental Library: How to Take Risks, Fail Forward, and Create Change” to “Storyliving: The Power of Cinematic Virtual Reality to

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

Promote Empathy.” The Emirate Library and Information Association (ELIA) has expressed interest in translating ALA books into Arabic and setting up more continuing professional development opportunities with ALA for ELIA members.

## ALA-FIL Free Pass Program

IRO coordinated another successful ALA-FIL Free Pass program to the Guadalajara Book Fair at the end of November. One hundred and forty-three ALA members took advantage of the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the program to spent three days reviewing and selecting materials at the largest Spanish language book fair in the world. Members were from twenty states, the District of Columbia, and four Central American countries. ALA’s booth was a popular destination for those interested in learning more about American libraries and ALA products and services.

## IFLA

With no IFLA World Library and Information Congress last August, a number of focused IFLA events took place over the late summer and fall. ALA and its member were active participant in these events.

ALA President-elect Sam Helmick and other ALA members attended the IFLA Information Futures Summit in Brisbane, Australia, September 30 to October 3, 2024, hosted by IFLA President Vicki McDonald. President-Elect Helmick joined colleagues from Sweden and Mexico for the panel “Free Futures? Open Panel on Intellectual Freedom.”

ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom presented at the session “Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship” at The Mexican Information, August 6-8, 2024. ALA members, including PLA Past President Carolyn Anthony and Executive Board Member Nick Buron helped in organizing “Culture, Knowledge, and Community: An International Library Conference” in Barcelona, October 6-10, 2024.

## IFLA Elections and ALA Nominations

In 2025 IFLA in holding it biennial elections. The IRC and IRO have been working with various ALA units to bring forward recommendations for representatives to IFLA

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

Sections for the 2025-2029, representatives to the North America Regional Division Committee 2025-2027, and other various leadership and advisory committee posts to bring to the ALA Executive Board. The IRC thanks the ALA divisions, roundtables, and committees for their efforts and the ALA Executive Board for reviewing and selecting ALA members to serve in a global capacity.

## Sustainable Development Committee

The ALA IRC United Nations SDGs Subcommittee participated in the 79<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in September, hosting an in-person event together with the New York Public Library Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library. On Saturday, September 21, leaders and experts in government, academic, public and school libraries converged to present "[Libraries Powering the United Nations Global Digital Compact](#)," an event highlighting how libraries are committed to the goals of the [Global Digital Compact](#) from the United Nations. The Global Digital Compact is an inclusive global framework to overcome digital, data, and innovation divides. Libraries are harnessing the opportunity to join a global effort that will benefit local communities.

## China Library Conference

In September, a delegation of the Chinese American Library Association participated in the China Library Conference in Yiching. The delegation presented a half day of on session on multiple topics. The IRO Director traveled with the delegation and organized an ALA booth in the exhibit hall. The conference provided an opportunity for ALA to reconnect with the Library Society of China for the first time since the pandemic and to promote ALA membership, attendance at Annual and other conferences, and ALA products and services.

## ALA Ukraine Library Relief Fund

Thanks to donations at the end of 2024 ALA is sending another \$7,500 to the Ukraine Library Association. ALA thanks members and others who have contributed to the Relief Fund. \$30,000.

## International Games Month

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

The IRC would like to recognize and thank the Games and Gaming Round Table for another successful International Games Month in November. The International Relations Round Table partners with GameRT to promote to libraries around the world.

## American Library in Paris

Maggie Farrell, ALA representative to the American Library in Paris (ALP) reported that the American Center for Art and Culture, formerly the Mona Bismarck Foundation, has closed and the sale of its property has been donated to the ALP to expand cultural activities and exchanges. For the past few months, ALP and the Board have outlined strategic initiatives that expand ALP's programming. New positions are being developed to increase engagement activities and to provide more programming. The goal of the new endowment funds is to develop new services while existing operations are maintained by current membership fees, donations, and grants. In addition, ALP is exploring the idea of a librarian exchange or visiting fellowship. Maggie has offered to assist with mentoring or introductions for IRC and IRRT for any librarian that may participate.