

**2021-2022 ALA CD#18.1
2022 ALA Annual Conference**

International Relations Committee Report to Council

June 8, 2022

Submitted by the IRC Chair, Min Chou

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International at ALA Annual

With the continued challenges of the pandemic and travel costs, international participants in the first in-person ALA Annual Conference in three years as was as expected lower than pre-pandemic. As of June 6, there were 225 international librarians from 45 countries registered for Annual or the Digital Experience. ALA is extremely pleased that IFLA President Barbara Lison can join here us in D.C. And Korean Library Association President Nam Young-jun, and other dignitaries. In addition to international attendees there are 39 exhibitors from nine countries outside the United States.

The Annual Conference will still have a robust amount of international programming and activities. Programs include: "Academic Libraries in Asia: An Overview for US Librarians to Better Serve Asian International Students;" "Libraries as a part of the Revitalization of Indigenous Languages and Cultures: Services, Collections, and Initiatives;" and the IRRT Chair's Program "Global libraries as agents of leadership in our post pandemic world: Leading Change, Advocacy, and Social Justice."

The international attendees are welcomed with an orientation, an international visitor's lounge, and are guests at the International Reception on Monday evening in the Great Hall at the Library of Congress. At the reception President Patty Wong will award *ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects* to "La Bulle"- Paris Public Library (France) and "Calligraphy Connections Run Run"- Shaw Library, City University of Hong Kong (China).

Ukraine Library Relief Fund

In partnership with the Ukraine Library Association, ALA created the [Ukraine Library Relief Fund](#) in May to help purchase much needed computers, software, and other equipment, as well as materials and resources to help overcome stress for children and adults. Funds also help make immediate repairs to keep libraries open. And to support for librarians and library workers who are in harm's way, wounded, or displaced and in need of financial support.

Thanks to over 130 donors ALA raised \$7,500 in May which has been sent to the Ukraine Library Association. On Monday morning at Annual there will be 'News You Can Use' session "Ukrainian Libraries on the Front Lines: Updates and How You can Support"
ALA International Focused Webinars

In collaboration with PPA and Megan Janicke, Coordinator of Libraries Build Business, an international directed webinar in March introduced the LBB Playbook and case studies from two cohort libraries. The webinar was held twice to be accessible to different time zones. The two sessions attracted 112 participants.

The IRRT, with support from IRO, organized a webinar for 100 librarians participating in the 2022 International Library Network Program. With strong interest in participating in international conferences, IRRT hosted a webinar where 254 registrants from around the world heard from experienced internationalist- Jim Neal, Loida Garcia-Febo, and others, with tips and advice.

IRO also provided a webinar on the challenges libraries and archives five years after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico.

New ALA-FIL Free Pass Agreement

The IRC is pleased to note that a new three-year agreement, 2022-2024 to continue the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program to the Guadalajara Book Fair will continue to provide opportunities for members who work in Spanish language collection development and services to attend the Guadalajara Book Fair.

IFLA

There is an IFLA Update session on Saturday, featuring President Lison and North American Regional Council Chair Julius Jefferson. There is also an IFLA booth here at Annual where attendees can learn about IFLA and the upcoming IFLA World Library Congress in Dublin, Ireland, July 26-29. Organizers of the 2023 Congress, which will be in Rotterdam, Netherlands will also be available to answer questions. ALA will return with a booth at the Congress in Dublin to feature ALA membership, products, and services. ALA leaders will be joined by dozens of ALA representatives to various IFLA sections and positions in Ireland.

With the resignations of the IFLA President-elect and Treasurer in April as special election is being held this summer. The ALA Executive Board has again nominated Past-President Loida Garcia-Febo for President-elect.

Humphry and Bogle Awards

Haipeng Li, University Librarian, University of California, Merced, is this year's ALA Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award winner, for his librarian or other individual, in the United States or elsewhere, who has made a significant contribution to international librarianship.

Jenna Nemeo-Loise, Director of Library and Information Literacy, North Shore Country Day, Illinois is this year's winner of the Bogle Pratt International Library Fund. She will attend IFLA Congress in Dublin as her first international professional experience and will give a presentation there.

2022 Emerging Leaders Project

This year's ALA Emerging Leaders project focused on ALA Member Participation in International Conferences. To continue to fulfill IRRT's mission, the project's main goal was to explore a way to widen the current EL program to embrace other international conferences of interest to library workers.

This year's Emerging Leaders team, Elizabeth Dawson, Shoshana Frank, Timothy Furgal, Olanike Olaniyi, along with Member Guides: Erica Saito and Grace Liu, created a [survey](#) asking ALA members about their interest, needs, and barriers when participating in international conferences. The group has created a [7-minute video](#) with recommendations on how to expand participation in virtual international events (to be presented at Annual Conference), along with a webinar, a list of virtual conferences (to be posted on the IRRT website). The team will also present a poster on June 24th.