

International Relations Committee Report to Council

June 29, 2015

Submitted by Loida Garcia-Febo, Chair

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International Participation and Activities at Annual

San Francisco has proved to be an attractive location for international librarians. Almost 600 librarians from 62 countries around the world were registered in advance of the conference. International-focused programs and other events began on Friday with the preconference 'Leading from Any Position' and will end tonight with the International Reception at the San Francisco Public Library. The IRC would like to thank member and Director of the San Francisco Public Library, Luis Herrera, and his staff, for hosting the reception.

IFLA Report

IRC welcomed current IFLA President-elect Donna Scheeder and her newly elected successor, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, President, Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística (FESABID) in Spain.

Scheeder reported on IFLA's efforts relating to the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda. The U.N. released the draft "Transforming Our World by 2030: A New Agenda for Global Action" on June 2. This agenda will be launched at a UN Summit in September 2015. On June 15 IFLA provided its [response](#) to the U.N, with suggestion where insertion language in various sections of the goals should include the importance of 'Access to Information.' The IFLA response is underpinned by the [Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development](#) , adopted at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in August 2014, for which ALA is a signatory.

Scheeder will assume the IFLA presidency at the end of the IFLA WLIC in Cape Town 2015. Her presidential theme will be "Libraries: A Call to Action" building on the IFLA [Trends Report](#) identifying trends shaping the information society, spanning access to education, privacy, civic engagement, and transformation.

IFLA Cape Town 2015 Book Donation Project

The [ALA-IRC Africa Subcommittee](#) is partnering with the Library and Information Association of South Africa ([LIASA](#)) and the IFLA Section Libraries for Children and Young Adults, in a call for books to be donated at the IFLA WLIC. For *Gift a Book and Change a Life* delegates are being asked to bring a book, purchase a book upon arrival at a local book store, or make an advance online purchase. LIASA will distribute the donated books to local public library services, schools, and community centers in the Cape Town area.

IFLA ALA Webinar Series

ALA continues its successful partnership with IFLA's Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and New Professionals Special Interest Group to present "New Librarians Global Connection" webinars. This spring's session was "Making the Lead to Library Leadership." The IRC would like to thank and recognize ACRL for being part of the program.

IFLA WLIC Columbus, OH, August 13-19, 2016

Preparations for bringing back the IFLA WLIC to the United States are moving into high gear. Led by Co-Chairs Carol Diedrichs, The Ohio State University, and Patrick Losinski, Columbus Metropolitan Library, the National Committee met yesterday here in San Francisco. James Neal is spearheading the National Committee's scholarship effort, and was pleased to report that over \$250,000 dollars have already been pledged by 55 library associations, libraries, and library foundations to provide full and partial scholarships for librarians from abroad, as well as those in the North American library community (librarians, library staff, library students.)

Vanuatu Library Relief Effort

On March 13, 2015, Cyclone Pam roared across the islands of the Republic of Vanuatu in the South Pacific, causing major devastation and displacement. June Bela Naviti Vanuatu, Chief Librarian of the [National Library and Archives](#), asked for support to help replenish the collections in school libraries. ALA was pleased to partner with the [Australian Library and Information Association](#) (ALIA) effort by collecting monetary donations in North America. ALA members contributed \$700, which was sent to ALIA.

Nepal Library Relief Effort

The American Library Association is partnering with [READ Global](#) (Rural Education and Development) libraries, other NGOs, and government organizations in Nepal to collect donations to help rebuild and restock the hundreds of libraries destroyed or damaged by the earthquake on April 25, 2015. The IRC would like to thank ALA President Courtney Young for highlighting the initiative at the Opening General Session. Donations can be made through [Give ALA](#)

SIBF-ALA Library Conference

The International Relations Office, with strong support from Mary Mackay, ALA Marketing Director, is working on the upcoming second annual SIBF-ALA Library Conference, which will be held November 10-12th in conjunction with the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF). Registration opened this week.

U.S.-Germany Library Partnership 2016-2019

IRO staff and members of the Europe Subcommittee met with German colleagues in May at this year's German Library Conference to continue planning toward next year's conference in March in Leipzig.

ALA-FIL Free Pass Program Extension

The IRC thanks ALA and Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels for agreeing to sign a new collaborative agreement with the La Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (FIL) to extend the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program through 2017. This long-running partnership continues to be of great benefit to librarians from all types of libraries serving Spanish speaking users across the United States. ALA will continue to provide support for up to 150 members to participate each year.

Pilot International Mentor Mentee Program

The six-month pilot IRC-IRRT Pilot Mentor-Mentee initiative to match experienced internationalists with those new to the profession interested in becoming globally active ended here at Annual. Twenty-seven mentees were matched up with mentors. The IRC-IRRT will be evaluating the pilot during the next month to make recommendations on establishing an ongoing initiative.

American Library in Paris

[American Library in Paris](#) (ALP) Director, Charles Trueheart, provided the IRC with an update on the activities of the ALP, founded by ALA in 1920. The library continues to be a very active cultural institution in Paris. One of its recent big successes is the establishment in 2013 The American Library in Paris Book Award. It is given to the best book of the year in English about France or the French-American encounter. ALA Past-President John Berry serves as the ALA representative on the ALP Board.

Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza in 2014

The IRC discussed but did not endorse the new resolution.

ALA International Strategic Plan

The IRC will be spending most of its 2nd meeting, later today, discussing and developing the new ALA International Strategic Plan.