

## **International Relations Committee Report to Council**

January 22, 2017

Submitted by Leslie Burger, Chair

Committee Members: Leslie Burger, Chair; Mustafa Abdelwahid, Vivian Bordeaux, Karen Gavigan, Valerie Gross, Brian Hart, Luis Herrera, Allan Kleiman, Amber Lannon, Haipeng Li, Alexandra Rivera, Janice Welburn, Kenya Flash (intern) Naomi Wolfson (intern), Michael Dowling (staff liaison)

### **IFLA Report**

Donna Scheeder, President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), provided the IRC update on IFLA programs and activities. IFLA is currently working with partners to fight efforts of the European publishing community to add remuneration rights for publishers, as well as impose burdensome rules on libraries in the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

IFLA updated its Trends Report in fall 2016. The update takes a broader approach and identifies five, high-level trends shaping the information society, spanning access to education, privacy, civic engagement, and transformation. The initial release in 2013 was translated into 14 languages and has triggered over 60 discussion events in 30 countries.

IFLA is one of the Gates Legacy Grant partners with PLA and Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington Information School. IFLA will be working toward a stronger globally connected library community.

### **IFLA Columbus Wrap-Up**

Though the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Columbus last August did not quite reach its goal of 3,500 attendees, 3,100 librarians from 140 countries attended for a week of programming and networking. This included over 1,200 U.S. librarians. The IRC would like to thank U.S. National Committee Co-Chairs Carol Deidrich and Patrick Losinski, and the hundreds of colleagues in and around the Columbus area for all their hospitality.

### **IFLA Columbus Fellows Mentor Mentee Effort**

In the second phase of the grant from IMLS to provide scholarships for U.S. librarians from diverse communities to attend the IFLA Congress in Columbus, the International Relations Office has matched the 50 Fellows with internationally experienced mentors to help them continue their effort to become more involved in the global library community.

## **ALA Supports 150 Members for ALA-FIL Guadalajara Free-Pass Program**

ALA continued its collaboration with the Guadalajara Book Fair, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year in late November. This year 150 members from 26 states participated in the ALA-FIL Free-Pass Program to review and purchase Spanish-language materials for their communities.

ALA again partnered with the General Direction of Libraries (DGB) within the Ministry of Culture, the Mexican Library Association (AMBAC), and the Benjamin Public Library of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico in a collaborative binational project to donate books to the Mexican Public Library System. This year over 200 books were collected and will be [donated](#) to a Mexican center for Central American refugee children in Tapachula, Chiapas.

## **ALA Nepal Library Relief Fund Donates \$2,500**

Thanks to contributions from ALA members and other supporters of libraries, ALA donated \$2,500 to the READ (Rural Education and Development) Global Center in Tukche village in the Mustang district of Nepal. A community library and resource center, the READ Global Center is being rebuilt after sustaining significant damage during the 2015 earthquake.

## **ALA Representatives to IFLA**

During November and December, numerous units put forward members as nominees to represent ALA on various IFLA sections for the 2017-2021 term. The IRC reviewed nominations and forwarded recommendations to the ALA Executive Board. The IRC would like to thank the units for their assistance, and to those members willing to make a four-year commitment to IFLA.

## **ALA Cuba Tour**

Following a successful first tour to Cuba last year, ALA's [second tour](#) to Cuba will take place in a few weeks, February 10-17. IRC Chair Leslie Burger will be leading the group of 28. The tour will again coincide with the Havana Book Fair. The delegation will participate in the *Evento Científico Bibliotecológico* to share with and learn from Cuban colleagues. The tour members, in addition to visiting numerous libraries, will also volunteer one morning to help a library in need.

## **U.S.–Germany Library Partnership**

ALA's three-year partnership continues this year with the International Relations Office and the Europe Committee coordinating with colleagues in Germany to plan four German-focused programs at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, including one on serving refugees.

In October 80 librarians from the U.S. and Germany participated in a Sister Library webinar featuring the Indianapolis Public Library and the Cologne Public Library and their very successful partnership. The IRRT Sister Libraries Committee is following up with participants to assist in matching libraries.

An additional U.S-German collaboration taking place is the [New Directions for Libraries, Scholars, and Partnerships: An International Symposium](#), which will take place next October at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

### **SIBF-ALA Library Conference Continues**

ALA held its third successful [SIBF-ALA Library Conference](#) in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, in partnership with the Sharjah International Book Fair and Combined Book Exhibits. Three hundred and fifty participants from 15 countries attended. ALA President Julie Todaro provided the opening keynote address and also presented the program “Integrating Continuous Learning with Work.” Miguel Figueroa presented the second day keynote “Thinking about the Future.” Both presentations were very well received

In addition to the two-day conference, three all-day workshops were held. The UAE Ministry of Education sponsored 100 school librarians to attend the preconference on teacher-librarians promoting independent reading through collaboration and creativity. The other two preconference topics were RDA and creating an institutional repository.

IRO and Marketing staff met with their Sharjah partners here in Atlanta to discuss the next conference, scheduled for November 7-9, 2017.

### **RDA Grows Internationally**

The IRC would like to recognize ALA Publishing and its staff for continuing to grow the participation from outside the United States. In FY16 subscriptions to the RDA Toolkit exceeded \$500,000 in revenue.

### **Libraries Transform – International**

ALA’s public awareness campaign—Libraries Transform—continues to attract interest from outside the United States. Three-hundred and fifty libraries from 65 countries (from Argentina to Zambia) have signed up.