



# International Librarians Networking Program

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## Agenda

- Welcome
  - Opening Remarks (Jim Neal, IRRT Chair)
  - ILNP Liaisons - Brief Introduction
  - About ILNP (Muzhgan Nazarova)
  - ILNP 2021 program experience (Moderator: April Moyo)
    - Elaine Harrington, Arjun Sanyal, Albina Krymskaya, and Carmen Lei
  - Final Poster (Mark Mattson)
  - Q&A session
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INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS  
ROUND TABLE

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## Opening remarks



Jim Neal, IRRT Chair

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## Liaisons



Felicia Chan



Mark Mattson



April Moyo



Muzhgan Nazarova



Jessica O'Neil



Erica Saito



Yongming Wang

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## Brief History and Background

The International Librarians Networking Program (ILNP) is modeled after the International Librarians Network (ILN) Peer Program with the goal of assisting librarians from around the world to network and expand their skills in librarianship through a cooperative and collaborative program.

IRRT worked with ALA's Emerging Leaders (EL) teams in 2019 and 2020 to develop and launch the program:

- EL 2019 Group G - designed a program proposal based on extensive research.
- EL 2020 Group E - did the marketing and launched the program based on the work done by ILNP 2019.

ILNP - IRRT's Subcommittee as approved by the Executive Board in November 2020

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## Program Goals

- Facilitate international exchange and partnerships between library professionals in different countries.
  - Establish and build global networks among information professionals.
  - Support knowledge and information exchange among colleagues around the world.
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## ILNP in figures

Year	# of Applicants	#of Countries of Applicants	#of Participants selected	#of Countries of Participants
2020	450	70	95	46
2021	270	39	62	27
2022	250	56	168	48





## ILNP 2022: Some facts

More than **250** applicants from **56** countries

Final selection: **168** participants total  
from **48** countries:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and Yap FSM

Representing 5 continents: **North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.**

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## What is expected from you?

- Commit to regular communication with your assigned partner
- Establish regular communication guidelines with partners (e.g. Respond to emails from your matched partners within a week or so)
- Remember: communication is conducted in English
- Communicate with program partners and liasons in a  
— respectful, courteous and professional manner —



## What is expected from you?

- Choose a mode of communication which will work for you and your partners: online call, email, or virtual chat
  - Use prompts suggested by ILNP or choose your own discussion topics and/or projects to work on collaboratively
  - Produce an informal poster by the end of the program
  - Share a reflection of the program or the results of a collaborative project on our [blog](#) (optional)
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# Contributing to ILNP Blog

Writing a narrative of any aspect of your experience for our [blog](#):

Blog posts should be a minimum of 500 words. Please send posts directly to us at: [irrt.networking@gmail.com](mailto:irrt.networking@gmail.com) and include the following information:

- Your name
- Country
- Name of your library
- Type of library

Possible Blog ideas:

- What I learned as a participant in the International Librarians Networking Program
  - How does my library compare to my partner's
  - Why you should participate in
-



# ILNP Blog

<https://connectinglibrarians.blogspot.com>

## Welcome to the Connecting International Librarians Networking Program

This blog is a tool for International Librarians Networking Program participants and a place to share their experience in this program.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

### IRRT International Librarians Networking Program: Stories from Participants of 2021 Cohort

The article written by Noorjahan Shaikh, Arjun Sanyal, and Anthony Martinez was published in the International Leads newsletter in December 2021. You can read it [here](#) (pages 18 and 20).

Posted by International Librarians Networking Program at 12:43 PM. No comments.

### International Librarian Networking Program 2021: Collaboration, Sharing Experiences, and Friendship All in One

April Manzbat, Carmen Lef, and Noorjahan Shaikh wrote an article for IFLA Update CPDWL talking about their experience in the 2021 ILNP. You can read the article [here](#) (pages 18-19).

Posted by International Librarians Networking Program at 12:37 PM. No comments.

#### Translate

#### About Me

##### [International Librarians Networking Program](#)

This blog is a tool to help guide International Librarians Networking Program (ILNP) participants and share their experiences.

[View my complete profile](#)

#### Blog Archive

▼ 2022 (2)

▼ January (2)

[IRRT International Librarians Networking Program: ...](#)

[International Librarians Networking Program 2021: C...](#)

► 2021 (7)

► 2020 (15)

► 2019 (2)



# ILNP Blog

<https://connectinglibrarians.blogspot.com>

Thursday, October 14, 2021

## Anissa Medjahed's testimonial

Being chosen to participate in ILNP was really a great opportunity for me. It was wonderful and beneficial as it allowed me to meet new librarianship professionals around the world and to share librarian issues with them.

This great program gathered colleagues from different backgrounds all over the world and gave them the opportunity to communicate and discuss different issues that concern librarianship.

I encourage librarians to apply in this program, because it'll give them the chance to discover how libraries around the world work, meet new people, get notified by different international events and have the opportunity to attend them.

I'd like to thank the whole ILNP team for this unique experience and for the great work they do to gather all these people from different time zones and different backgrounds. I also want to thank my partner Lily for the discussions we had, and Jessica O'Neil our liaison for her support and her regular follow-up.

PS: A special thank to my classmate and friend Nadjiba who told about this program.

Anissa Medjahed

Librarian at UBMA library, Algeria

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▼ 2021 (7)

▼ October (4)

[Anissa Medjahed's testimonial](#)

[Win Shih's testimonial](#)

[Carmen Lei's testimonial](#)

[Aieda Mustafa Salman's testimonial](#)



## **ILNP 2022: About the program**

- Inaugural webinar and zoom meeting(s) with all participants
  - Working in trios and some pairs
  - Duration - 3 months (starting March 1st).
  - “Final project”- Poster at the end of the program on a topic of your choice
  - Information and invitation to different IRRT and ALA events
  - Information about other professional events and activities
  - Information about grant opportunities for you and your library.
  - LIS readings and research that you can discuss with your partners.
  - Certificates of completion presented at the end of the program
  - Final survey to get feedback from participants.
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## How do we see ILNP engagement?

- ILNP participation and collaboration with your partner should be fun and not a burden! Make the best of it!
  - ILNP provides a lot of flexibility and independence, and lets partners decide for themselves how they want to build this collaboration, as long as you communicate at least once in two weeks and commit for 3 months to complete the program.
  - While producing a poster at the end of the program is mandatory you are free to choose any topic of interest to you and your partners
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## How do we see ILNP engagement?

- Each participant should set up her/his own goal on what they want to accomplish within the program
  - We provide prompts for discussion topics but you are free not to use them and come up with your own topics and themes
  - Liaisons are there to assist you and serve as resource persons, and only if needed and if one of the partners requests, or facilitate the discussion
  - Following all the guidelines of the program is based on the honor system
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## Possible Outcomes of INLP Participation

- This experience can drastically change your careers and lives.
  - Unique opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills.
  - Collaboration with a partner from a different country and being able to apply newly gained knowledge in your day-to-day work.
  - Through gained knowledge being able to provide a better service to the communities you serve.
  - Being able to contribute to development of the field in your own country.
  - Being able to share your knowledge with the colleagues in your country..
  - Get connected and engaged with IRRT and ALA.
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## Ways to get engaged with

### IRRT & ALA

- If you or your library can afford to pay a membership fee - join ALA and IRRT as a international member to enjoy full membership benefits
  - Any ALA/IRRT member can be invited and /or approached to serve on a committee. Volunteers are always needed!
  - Choose a committee based on your interests (<http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/irrtcommittees/committees> and look for the opportunities to join
-



## **No ALA/IRRT membership required**

To submit a paper or a poster as a response to the calls for submissions of the following IRRT committees:

- **IRRT International Librarians' Pre-Conference Committee**
  - **IRRT International Papers and Projects Committee**
  - **IRRT Poster Session Committee**
  - **IRRT International Connections Committee**
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## **No ALA/IRRT membership required**

To apply for different IRRT grants (personal and for your organization)

### **ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects**

<http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/alapresintlbraryaward>

### **IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant**

<http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt-mission-enhancement-grant>

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Of possible interest  
<https://sites.google.com/sit>

**IRRT Free Links**

**Navigation**

- Home
- About IRRT
- ▼ Disaster Planning and Recovery
  - International Agencies and Organizations
  - National Agencies and Organizations (U.S.A.)
  - Planning
  - Response
- ▼ Library Advocacy
  - International Library Advocacy
  - How to do it?
  - Presentations & Articles
  - Other Resources
  - Academic & Special Libraries
  - School Libraries
- ▼ Technology Links
  - Tutorials
  - Free Downloads
  - Cataloging Resources
  - Web 2.0 Tools
  - Professional Tools
- Open Access
- Research Data Management

**Home**



**IRRT Free Links: A Project Providing Access to Free Professional Development Opportunities for ALA Members around the World**

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## A piece of personal advice ....

- Take advantage of this program.
  - You really can not even imagine where all this networking and communication can take you professionally.
  - Use the information you receive for your own professional benefit and share with your colleagues.
  - Don't be scared to ask questions and try new things.
  - Try to make the best of your collaboration with your partners.
  - Feel free to contact your liaison if needed and he/she can be another important contact in your future professional network.
  - All big things start with small encounters.
  - Try to have fun and enjoy.
  - Don't be stressed out if the things don't work the way you expected them to.
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## **ILNP 2021 program experience**

- Elaine Harrington
  - Arjun Sanyal
  - Albina Krymskaya
  - Carmen Lei
-



# Final Poster Project

The final poster project is ...

- A collaborative project to be prepared with your partners
    - Each group will create 1 poster
  - An online, **asynchronous** poster session at the end of the program
  - **Does Not** include a spoken presentation component
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## Poster Project Goals

- Provide participants with a project that allows for collaborative work
    - This is an opportunity to reflect on the partnership experience and talk with your partner(s) about what they, and you, have learned
  - Provide a summative “product” that illustrates what the partnering experience' has looked like for you
  - Provide an opportunity to share about libraries within your country with the group as well as an opportunity to learn about libraries in other parts of the world
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# What to Include in Your Poster

This is your poster, and you get to decide how to represent your experience!

But please do include content related to:

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## What to Include in Your Poster

- A short description of your library contexts (for all partners)
    - Where are you coming from?
    - What kind of library do you work in?
  
  - A comparison between your library experiences
    - Is there something that you found that is very different?
    - Are there ways that your work is similar?
    - Are there cultural expectations of libraries that were uncovered through the partnership?
-



## What to Include in Your Poster

- How your view of librarianship may have been influenced by this partnership experience
    - Did you learn any new practices or ideas that you might incorporate in your own work in the future?
    - Did you gain a deeper understanding of your own work by seeing it through somebody else's eyes?
    - Was there anything that surprised you in talking with your partners?
    - Was there anything that you thought you knew about your partners culture or country that turned out to be different?
-



## Steps You Might Follow to Create the Poster

1. Identify the themes that arose out of your conversations or new awareness for you and your partner(s)
  2. Decide together which of those themes you want to display to communicate what you gained from the partnering experience and how you might show this
    - a. You may not have the same ideas on this, and we assume that the process of working together on this poster may include some negotiation and back and forth discussion
  3. Work collaboratively to create a poster that features these themes
-



# How to Create a Poster

- There are many free poster templates available online and within software such as Microsoft PowerPoint that make creating a poster presentation easy
- If you would prefer, feel free to create your own poster layout from scratch
- – OR – use the template provided by the ILNP program
- There are also many online resources that provide tips and tricks for creating posters such as:  
<https://guides.nyu.edu/posters/poster-basics>

\* Please note that, however you choose to produce the poster, we will need the posters to be submitted as PDF files.

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# Example Poster Using the Template

**LIBRARIANSHIP – CULTURE OF MAKING FRIENDSHIP**  
**Get to know through books**  
Jelena Kaladžija, "Filip Vitić" Public Library, Bijeljina, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Martins Lagzdons, Kursi's library-information center, Saldus, Latvia

**"Filip Vitić" Public Library**  
The public institution "Filip Vitić" Public Library has been the most important bearer of cultural activities in the area of Semberija since its founding in 1912 until today. The library is the main library of the region and is responsible for the work of school, faculty and public libraries in the region. It is defined by law as the main library and has two public libraries, 25 school libraries, 2 faculty libraries and 2 university libraries. Currently, the library has a fund of 113,575 units, which are processed partly in WOPOL and partly in the COBI5 platform, and there are currently 9,338 registered users.

**Kursi's library-information center**  
The Kursi library was founded in 1920. It has changed its premises several times. The library offers a variety of services for children, young people, adults and seniors.  
The library is a place of culture, education, social, leisure and local history. There is one employee in the library. Every year, about 280 readers are registered in the library, who visit the library about 6,000 times a year. In total, about 15,000 publications (books, newspapers, games, videos) are distributed to users per year. The library organizes various events and exhibitions, lectures, seminars, competitions, participates in projects.

**BOOK CLUB FOR ADULTS  
EXCHANGING CULTURE THROUGH NOVELS**  
Library Readers' Club - we read and discussed works by Latin and Serbian authors translated into each language.

**BOOKS FOR BABIES  
THE WORLD OF ILLUSTRATION - "READING" CULTURE THROUGH NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION**  
5 picturebooks in the original language for babies to read and watch. Think of a story based on pictures and then compare it to the original.

**Bijeljina**  
The city of Bijeljina is a city in the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The east of the city is the town of Bijeljina. The city covers an area of about 284 km². According to the final data of the Record of the Population of BiH in 2013 for the Republic of Srpska, which was issued by the Republic Statistical Office and should be taken into account and published by the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 105,877 (1) (1,460 persons were written in the City of Bijeljina).

**Kursi**  
Kursi Parish is located in Saldus District, 20 km from Saldus City. About 800 inhabitants live in the parish. There is a parish administration, a kindergarten, a sports center, a culture center and a senior day center in Kursi.  
Business is related to agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, provision of various services. Part of the population works in Saldus and other cities.  
We have beautiful nature - forests, swamps and waters.

**Questions and answers**  
**How did we work together?**

- Communication by email
- Following on social networks
- Getting acquainted with library websites on the Internet

**What topics did we discuss?**

- About literature in generalities
- About working in the library
- About library problems in our countries
- About cooperation and planned activities
- About the activities of the Readers' Clubs
- About services for adults and children
- About problems caused by COVID-19 in library work

**Difficulties and the future**

- Organize planned events and activities
- Consequences and health problems of Covid-19
- Contingencies and volumes of work
- Working together in the future
- Realization of plans in libraries
- Exchange of experience
- It is possible to visit in person

**Contact**  
Jelena Kaladžija  
"Filip Vitić" Public Library  
Email: [jela.kaladzija@gmail.com](mailto:jela.kaladzija@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://biblioteka.bijeljina.ba>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/bibliotekabijeljina/>

Martins Lagzdons  
Kursi's library-information center  
Email: [martins.lagzdons@gmail.com](mailto:martins.lagzdons@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://kursi.lv>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/kursi.lv/>



# Thank you!

For additional information and questions  
please feel free to contact us at ILNP  
email [irrt.networking@gmail.com](mailto:irrt.networking@gmail.com)  
or write to your liaisons.

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## To learn more

- [International Librarians Networking Program page](#)
  - [International Leads article - September 2020](#)
  - [International Leads article - March 2020](#)
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