



International Leads

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The Changing Role of Shanghai Library

By Weiping Zhang

Shanghai Library is the second largest public library in the People's Republic of China. The library has been serving the residents in the city of Shanghai since 1952. With increased collection, high demands for library services, and a rapid changing pace of the city, a new Shanghai Library was built in May 1997. The new library displays a magnificent architecture piece, a rich collection, and high networking technology. It also represents a new model for public libraries in China.

I paid many visits to Shanghai Library in recent years, conducted my research on Chinese business information, and talked to librarians there. As a Shanghai native, I had visited the "old" Shanghai Library many times before. I was truly impressed by the new library: the role of the library has been shifted from a huge collection storage house to a major information service center.

An Educational Center

Fully equipped with modern technology, Shanghai Library's Teaching and Training Center is a state-of-the-art facility where classes, seminars, workshops and lectures are offered to the public. These instructional programs cover a variety of topics interested to the public: education, art, health, environmental protection, computer technology, economic development, and international affairs. The Library



The newly built Shanghai Library
(Photo: Weiping Zhang, February 2000)

designates a display area where the manuscripts of the Chinese cultural celebrities can be viewed and appreciated by the public. Every year, Shanghai Library holds various exhibitions and sponsors many cultural events. "Paintings from Macau," "Calligraphy of Chinese-Americans," "Arts & Crafts of Shanghai Middle School Students," "Shanghai under Candid Camera-Photo Collections," "Award-winning Works of the National Computer Graphics Competition," "The New Cycle of Chinese Economic Development," and "Current Relations among Major Countries" were just a few of the events

About Shanghai Library

Opened to the Public: 1952
Collections: 40 million volumes
Average daily visits in 1999:

10,000 persons

Library Director:

Mr. Ma Yan-Liang

Address:

1555 Central Huai-hai Road
Shanghai, P. R. China

Phone: 86-21-6445-5555

Fax: 86-21-6445-5001

Website:

<http://www.libnet.sh.cn>

held between 1999 and 2000. These activities may sound common in public libraries of developed countries, but they are indeed new undertakings carried out by a Chinese public library.

An Information Provider

In October 1995, Shanghai Library and the Shanghai Information Institute were merged. Shanghai Library is actively engaged in providing business communities with much needed information and services, including conducting market surveys, collecting and analyzing business information, offering legal advice for patent,

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Shanghai Library

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providing consultation for firms that are involved in joint-venture enterprises or international business, and locating information on Chinese manufacturers for overseas companies. In many occasions, staff of Shanghai Library has been asked by Shanghai business companies to serve as interpreters in international trade negotiations. Since the merger with Shanghai Information Institute, Shanghai Library has been very active in expanding its services to the business community. For example, the library makes contacts with foreign commerce organizations and business firms, organizes product exhibits in China and other countries, and helps arrange business visits to foreign countries for Chinese companies. During my visits, I was told that the Library helped arrange about 25 overseas product exhibits between August 1999 and October 2000. The library is currently pursuing a new activity: designing web sites for Chinese manufacturers and companies and assisting in promoting their products and services. I found these new roles taken by Shanghai Library quite bold and refreshing. It is certainly a departure from a "traditional" public library.

A Database Designer

Shanghai Library is aware of the importance of database design and multimedia publishing. Several information databases with high quality have been built by the library. One good example is the *Index to Article Titles of Periodicals and Newspapers Published in China*. In addition, the library accepts requests to compile databases for government agencies, scientific research institutions, universities and colleges as well as business firms. During my visit, I used the library's Digital Reading Room to conduct my research. The entire experience was fruitful and very pleasant. Most databases are well-designed, user-friendly, and

contain the up-to-date information. Databases such as *China Foreign Investment Enterprises database*, *China Science and Technology News Database*, *Chinese Patent Abstracts*, *Laws & Regulations in China*, and *Guide of Shanghai Enterprises*, are extremely helpful to international companies that are already involved in doing business with China.

A Marketing Consultant

Reference services used to mean "providing documents" in Chinese public libraries. Shanghai Library has been doing a marvelous job to change that tradition. Now, information is marketable; the library offers fee-based services to the public for in-depth information research and retrieval, market surveys, special topic consultations, express delivery of photocopies, reference service by fax, and clipping service for newspapers and periodical articles. One librarian pointed out that many fee-based services were initiated to meet the increased demands of Shanghai businesses and high technology communities. As the center of international trade and commerce in China, residents in Shanghai want information to be delivered at fast pace. They are very willing to pay for good services.

Though the scale and service scope of public libraries in China are various, Shanghai Library certainly enjoys better resources and facilities than most public libraries in China. I would predict that Chinese public libraries of all levels will experience similar transformation process as Shanghai Library has gone through. They will have to review their roles, examine their strengths and capabilities, reinvent library operations, better use their resources of collection, staff, and technology. In the near future, international library community will see a new type of public libraries in China, serving the largest population in the world. (*Weiping Zhang is Government Documents Librarian/Assistant Professor at Kent State University*)

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Message from the IRRT Chair

By **Frederick C. Lynden**

The International Relations Round Table Meetings in Washington, D.C. were highly successful as each committee made progress in promoting international activities for the ALA membership. This report will recount the accomplishments of each committee.

The Membership Committee (Chair, Karen Starr) has now set a goal of three hundred more members in three years, and the IRRT Executive Committee approved this goal. The Committee also plans recruiting activity at the IFLA meeting in Boston this summer. At the Executive Committee, the IRRT Chair urged all committee chairs and members to enlist memberships from librarians in their own institutions in the hope of reaching this goal sooner.

The Continuing Education Committee (Chair, Roman Kochan) is not only planning a program in San Francisco, but also in Boston for the IFLA meeting. The San Francisco program will educate visiting foreign librarians on trends in American librarianship. The program in Boston will work with IFLA Fellows from developing countries to orient them to Boston and IFLA and then present an afternoon program on academic, public, children's, and special libraries in the U.S.

The Orientation Committee (Chair, Inga Filippo) has received a donation from SIRS-Mandarin to support their activities in San Francisco and is seeking more funding.

The International Librarians Reception Committee (Chair, Monica Ertel) has secured a place for the international Librarians' reception at the Annual Conference atop the Bank of America building (52nd floor). This reception will be on Monday, June 18 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and the building has a spectacular view of San Francisco Bay and the city.

The Program Committee (Chair, Artemis Kirk) is planning a program for Monday, June 18 in San Francisco on the role of libraries in developing democracies. It will include reports from librarians from the Middle East, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The IRRT Executive Committee thanks Sha Li Zhang for her outstanding editing work on *International Leads* and is contributing the conference registration fee to her for IFLA in Boston. She then will also be able to cover this event for IRRT members.

The Sister Libraries Committee (Chair, Mary Sherman) is planning for a program at the next Annual Conference (2002). They are also looking at enlisting help in matching the requests from foreign libraries with those from American libraries.

The Poster Committee (Chair, Nora Kondratiev) has received close to a dozen proposals from countries as disparate as Vietnam, Mexico and Russia. It is expected that more will arrive so the Committee is well on its way to an excellent program at the annual meeting.

The Past chair of IRRT (Lucinda Covert-Vail) and Member at Large (Marty Kesselman) will be designing a logo for IRRT. They also presented their slate of nominations.

The Publications Committee (Chair, Barbara Kile) continues to work successfully with Sha Li Zhang to produce an outstanding *International Leads* newsletter and it is in the process of updating the IRRT web site.

The Hospitality Committee (Chair, Rebecka Lindau) has already put out a call for volunteers. This committee is actively planning for hospitality at the ALA Annual Conference, including information about San Francisco, the ALA Conference, the International Reception, and IRRT.

The IRC and IRRT continue to maintain close liaison. There was a breakfast at the Midwinter meeting with the IRC Chair, the IRRT Chair and chairs from IRCs in ACRL, LITA, ALCTS, and AASL. These chairs were urged to joint IRRT and to encourage their committee members to do so as well.

Overall, members of IRRT achieved much during Midwinter thanks to their energy and enthusiasm. As usual, Michael Dowling, Director of the International Relations Office, provided total support and encouragement. The annual meeting promises to be full of stimulating programs for international visitors and Americans alike.

IRRT International Librarians Reception in San Francisco

Mark you calendars again for the best reception at ALA Annual! The International Librarians Reception will be held on Monday night, June 18 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the spectacular Bankers Club on the 52nd floor of the Bank of America Building. Please join us for the great views, great company, and wonderful food. International Librarians, including Canadians, receive a complimentary ticket. For U.S. librarians, the tickets are \$20 until May 18, 2001. Tickets purchase after May 18 will be \$25. You may purchase your tickets using the on-line or printed ALA registration forms, or you can send checks to the International Relations Office. Tickets may also be purchased at the conference.

ALA Members at the 2000 FIL

Editor's notes: *in November 2000, about two hundred American librarians from academic, public, special, and school libraries attended the Fourteenth Guadalajara International Book Fair held in Guadalajara, Mexico. Barbara Ford, ALA President 1997-1998, has been instrumental in establishing the partnership between ALA and the Guadalajara Book Fair. In this issue, Barbara Ford and Christine McDonald are invited to share their experience with IRRT members.*



Barbara Ford and other ALA members at a Gala Dinner organized by FIL. (Photo: Sha Li Zhang, November 2000)

Barbara has this to say --

If you want to improve library service to a community of Spanish speakers, broaden your knowledge of Latin American authors, develop multicultural programming in your library, increase your cultural knowledge of Mexico, network with other American librarians who are responsible for Spanish language acquisitions and collection development, and find an easy way to purchase Spanish language materials, the Guadalajara International Book Fair is for you.

In 1997, ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair began an exciting partnership to expand the "global reach and local touch" by providing support for American librarians to attend the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL). Since that time, the Free Pass program has provided lodging and registration at the expense of FIL and an ALA contribution toward the cost of airfare. This program has allowed hundreds of ALA members to have firsthand access to the latest publications in Spanish, networking opportunities with thousands of book professionals, and literary and cultural programming with Latin American authors and other experts.

The Guadalajara International Book Fair was founded in 1987 and it is organized by the University of Guadalajara each November. Its goals are: to promote Mexican and Latin American publishing, to be a place for access for information available through books, videos and electronic devices, and

to contribute towards encouraging reading among children, young and adults. Every year, FIL immerses itself in the color, aromas, accents and rhythm of the country guest of honor which included Argentina in 1997, Puerto Rico in 1998, Chile in 1999, and Spain in 2000.

The book fair in Guadalajara takes place each year at the end of November. Brazil will be the country of honor in 2001. Watch for announcements of how you can expand the "global reach and local touch" of your library by being a part of this exciting book fair this year through the Free Pass program and the partnership between FIL and ALA. (*Barbara J. Ford, ALA Past President 1997-1998, is Assistant Commissioner, Chicago Public Library*)

Christine was a first-time FIL goer --

Being bilingual in Spanish made my experience a rich one from the start. Any opportunity to speak Spanish is something I look forward to enormously. The first impression I had of the Book Fair itself was that it was larger than ALA exhibits. From advice I received from veteran attendees, I paced myself and lowered my expectations about seeing most of the Fair. I tried to set goals that were reasonable and realized that I would most likely be returning. The feedback from other attendees was that their navigational skills at the Fair took a quantum leap the second year and thereafter. The materials I did order came through at about sixty percent which was about what I expected. Next time I will remember a clip board for writing down orders while walking through the aisles.

Because the number of attendees from the U.S. is smaller than ALA, I felt I had a real opportunity to get to know people - who also care deeply about Latin America as I do. The dinners with all ALA attendees were very special. Seeing the sights of Guadalajara included trips to restaurants, the local market where the locals shop and to Tlaquepaque and Tonalá. Being immersed in Mexican culture was a real pleasure from talking about politics and film with the cab driver on the ride to the consulate's house to finding beautiful crafts in local markets. If you have ordering responsibilities for your Spanish collections, make an effort to get to the Guadalajara Book Fair and I will see you there. (*Christine L. McDonald is Director of Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, New York*)

From ALA's International Desk By Michael Dowling

Testing on the new ALA International Participation Form will begin in March. This website and database, which will be unveiled at Annual Conference if all goes well, will provide an opportunity for ALA members and others to input information on their international activities. We hope that this will help capture the variety of international library activities that are going on and provide contacts for those looking for country or regional information.

The office is beginning to gear up for the Annual Conference, but we are a bit short-handed right now since Alisha White left the IRO at the end of January to teach English in Spain. 'Tis the budget season at ALA and we are hoping to get some additional funding to hire a library student working part-time to help out with the website and respond to requests for information.

For those of you wishing to serve as mentors to international librarians at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, please send an email to intl@ala.org

The office is also working on preparing for the "Strengthening Library Associations in The South Caucasus: A Regional Workshop" which will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, May 5-8, 2001. Part of the outcomes of the workshop will be a bilingual website of materials in English and Russian that can be utilized by libraries throughout the region.

The office is assisting in helping to translate "Read" and "@ your library" for use in graphic materials and in the new ALA public awareness campaign. I want to thank all of the "expert" librarians who have helped in the translations. (*Michael Dowling is Director of ALA International Relations Office*)

News and Announcements

Date and Time changes of International Papers Session at ALA Annual --- This years International Papers session "Libraries in Society: Essential Links to Knowledge" will be held from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2001. The preliminary announcement in *American Libraries* lists it on Monday morning, June 18. Please find time in your schedule to drop by to hear some remarkable presentations from colleagues around the world. The location for the program will be listed in the June issue of *International Leads*.

ALA-ZIBF Deadline --- The deadline for the ALA - Zimbabwe Book Fair Free Pass Program is April 15 2001. If you are interested in the program which provides three free nights (five star hotel) or five free nights (three star hotel) plus free registration and a \$200 travel stipend. Information and application forms can be found at <http://www.ala.org/work/international>

Theme Issue in 2002 --- *Public Libraries*, a professional library journal focusing on public libraries, is planning on a theme issue of January / February 2002 and looking for submissions within the next few months on articles about public libraries in foreign countries that contain ideas that American librarians could benefit from. Other aspects of international librarianship (articles about libraries that serve multiple countries, returned Peace Corps volunteer librarians, etc.) are also welcome. Author Instructions are available at the PLA web site at <http://www.pla.org>

New Fulbright program --- The Fulbright Senior Specialist Award program, a new start-up program to send librarians/

scholars to international posts has been created by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. Awardees will be posted for two to four weeks, not six to twelve months, making the commitment more manageable at one's institution and home. Those librarians interested in participating in this short-term international consultation program may contact Martha McPhail for additional information at mmcphail@mail.sdsu.edu or by phone at (619)594 - 6736.

NIT 2001 --- The 12th International Conference on New Information Technology will be held on May 29 - 31, 2001, in Beijing, China, in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Tsinghua University. Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Professor of Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, is chief organizer of the conference. Sample topics of the conference include national information infrastructure and policies, digital libraries and systems, multiformat and multilingual problems and issues, distributed digital library development in the world, intellectual property and right protection, etc. More information on the conference is available at <http://www.simmons.edu/~chen/nit/nit2001.html> or <http://www.lib.tsinghus.edu.cn/NIT/>

NCAPAL --- The first National Conference on Asian Pacific American Librarians will be held on June 13 - 15, 2001 at Grand Hyatt on Union Square in San Francisco. The theme of the conference is Shared Visions: Heritage, Scholarship, Progress. Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association and Chinese American Librarians Association co-sponsor the conference. More information on the conference is available at <http://bioac.uky.edu/ncapal>

Library Conferences Around the Globe

LIBCOM - 2000 -- The Fourth International Conference and Exhibition, "Information Technologies, Computer Systems, and Publications for Libraries" was held at Yershovo Resort Center, about forty km. west of Moscow, Russia on 13 - 17 November 2000. Seventeen different countries were represented, thirteen of which were republics of the former Soviet Union. The other four, represented by one person each, were England, Finland, Germany, and the United States. The dominant language of the conference was Russian with four of the presentations given in English with translation into Russian.

The Organizers of LIBCOM - 2000 were the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, the International Library, Information, and Analytical Center, the International Association of Users and Developers of Electronic Libraries and New Information Technologies, and the "Sigla" Sci-Tech Information Center. The primary focus of papers was on the state of the art and perspectives of information systems, computer and Internet technology development, and applications for libraries, research, educational and publishing institutions, and book trading companies as well. The major emphasis was on problems of electronic libraries, corporate systems, and the integration of information resources. Information about LIBCOM - 2001 can be obtained from Dr. Yakov Shraiberg at Shra@gpntb.ru or at Pourciau@alumni.Indiana.edu (Contributed by Lester Pourciau, retired Director of Libraries at the University of Memphis)

AHILA 7 -- The Seventh Biennial Conference and General Meeting of the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA) was held on December 11-15, 2000, at the University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni Campus. The theme of the conference was "The Challenges of the New Millennium and the Role of Health Information Disseminators in the Fight Against HIV in Africa." Over one hundred librarians and information professionals from twenty-two African countries participated in AHILA 7. Presentations were made by both experienced, "seasoned" AHILA members as well as by bright, energetic librarians just starting their careers.

What was most striking about the AHILA conference and the conferees is that these librarians and information professionals see themselves on the "front line" of the war against HIV/AIDS. The only real defense is education and education relies on information – delivered to the target audience in ways and modes in which it can be most effective. African librarians are assuming this role of intermediary, helping to deliver information in ways and modes, and in languages that are most appropriate to target audiences.

African medical librarians know that their communities' survival depend in part on their ability to be effective disseminators. The next Congress (AHILA 8) will be in Bamako, Mali, in September 2002. AHILA welcomes anyone with an interest in African medical libraries to join in their online discussions (by subscribing to AHILA-NET) and also welcomes opportunities for collaborative activities and research projects. Please contact: Regina Shakakata, WHO AFRO Regional Advisor Health Literature (and AHILA Secretariat), P.O. Box Be 773, Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe or send e-mails to shakakatar@whoafr.org (Contributed by Ione Auston, Librarian at National Library of Medicine)

Help is Needed to Rescue the Biblioteca Gallardo

The recent devastating earthquakes in El Salvador have seriously damaged libraries, including the Biblioteca Gallardo. The Biblioteca Gallardo collection includes volumes published as far back as the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries, miniature books, autographs, ex-libris, and manuscripts. The collection has no less than 80,000 volumes, making it one of the two most important libraries in the country alongside the National Library of El Salvador. The Biblioteca Gallardo, a private institution unique in its kind in El Salvador, is one of the key centers that protect the historical documents of El Salvador and of Central America. Its destruction would be a loss to the heritage of all Central Americans and structural damage has put its collection in serious danger.

The first priority is to stabilize the structure so that the staff can safely enter the building to put the books in boxes for their removal. A suitable storage place has already been identified to keep the books safe during the building's reconstruction. It is urgent to raise funds to begin the stabilization work. The next steps will be to repair the books damaged by roof debris and fallen walls, and the development and implementation of a reconstruction plan.

At the request of the Gallardo Foundation, whose staff is dedicated full time to the emergency, the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) will help with accounting and raising funds (CIRMA's accounts are audited yearly). It will not charge overhead. Please make checks payable to: CIRMA – Fondo Gallardo. Mail checks to: CIRMA – Fondo Gallardo, CIRMA A-0022, Box 669004 Miami FL 33266-9004

International Relations Committee Report

By Jordan Scepanski, Chair

The ALA's International Relations Committee (IRC) is a standing committee of the ALA Council and meets regularly at the association's midwinter and annual conferences and at other times as necessary. At the midwinter meeting in Washington, DC in January 2001, the committee held two sessions. Reports were provided on International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) activities, ALA Office of Information Technology Policy issues having international implications, and plans for a conference in the South Caucasus related to president Nancy Kranich's theme of "Libraries as Cornerstones of Democracy." The committee continued consideration of its planning agenda, agreed upon a process to guide ALA participation in IFLA nominations and elections, and made recommendations for ALA nominations of individuals wishing to stand for IFLA offices. It also received a report from its Latin American and Caribbean subcommittee on a request to take up the issue of reported repression of certain "independent libraries" in Cuba.

The Caucasus conference will have as its focus the role of libraries in strengthening democratic institutions and will involve librarians and governmental policy makers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The event will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia May 5-8, 2001. President Kranich and selected ALA members will make presentations and lead discussions on advocacy techniques that might be used in the three countries. One goal of the conference is to promote regional planning on issues of mutual interests among the three library associations.

With the IFLA statutes having been amended at its Jerusalem conference in 2000, a new governance structure has been put in place and nominations and elections procedures have changed. Therefore the IRC was asked to suggest a process under which requests for nomination by ALA would be considered and association support for nominated candidates determined. The committee recommended to the ALA Executive Board a process to be used for the 2001 IFLA elections.

The committee agreed its "2000/2005 Planning Document," first introduced at the 2000 midwinter meeting, should be deemed a "working document" subject to further refinement, but that implementation of specific elements in it should proceed. To that end, a draft paper was presented detailing areas of emphasis and suggesting groups and individuals who might take responsibility for realizing the stated objectives. A number of activities suggested in the plan already have been accomplished and additional items

will be acted upon in the coming months. It is expected that implementation will involve not only the IRC, but also its subcommittees, divisional IRC's, and the International Relations Round Table.

Last year, acting upon a request by an ALA member representing an organization called Friends of Cuban Libraries asking the committee to have the issue of "Cuba's independent libraries" placed on the agenda of the IRC, the chair sought the guidance of the Latin American and the Caribbean Subcommittee. The subcommittee subsequently reviewed extensive documentation provided by interested parties, examined numerous other materials, and consulted with individuals knowledgeable about the current Cuban library environment. At the midwinter meeting, the opportunity was provided for individual comment on reported incidents of censorship and of suppression of access to information. The subcommittee discussed at length what it felt to be an appropriate association stance. In its report, the subcommittee said "data presented on both sides of the issue are inconclusive." It went on to deplore "any restrictions by the government of Cuba or the government of the United States that inhibit the free flow of information" and strongly endorsed "the policy objective of the American Library Association to promote and support human rights and intellectual freedom worldwide." It recommended that the IRC "take no further action with respect to the current question of the 'independent' collections of books and other printed materials in Cuba." (A copy of the subcommittee report was submitted to the ALA Council as an attachment to Document 18.1. Anyone interested in seeing the complete report can contact the ALA International Relations Office.)

In receiving and accepting the subcommittee report, the International Relations Committee took note of the conflicting accounts of the situation in Cuba and the difficulty of determining the facts. Committee members suggested that ALA might best encourage and foster intellectual freedom and access to information by pursuing contacts and collaborations with professional library and information associations in Cuba, by promoting visits and exchanges of librarians, and by seeking to eliminate barriers erected by both Cuba and the United States to the free flow of information between the two countries. The committee saw its newly adopted planning agenda as offering a number of areas where progress can be made in advancing the development of libraries in Cuba and in furthering freedom of inquiry.

IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston Update

By Michael Dowling

Less than six months until Boston! If you haven't registered, the early registration deadline of May 15, 2001 is coming up soon! You can register online at <http://www.ifla.org> As an ALA member, remember to use the ALA IFLA Membership Number, **US-0002**, to save \$50 on the registration fee.

For The Latest News

As you might expect, the conference is really starting to shape up. For the latest on programs and activities just visit the website. IFLA Express, which is IFLA's Cognotes, will have a new update in May 2001 as well. The IFLA Express early issues are only being published online, so click on the "IFLA Express" link at the website.

Support the Fellows

Support is still needed for the IFLA Fellows program to bring 100 librarians from developing countries to IFLA. Around two thirds of the \$300,000 had been raised as of January. You and your library still have the opportunity to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Click on the website to see how you can help. The International Relations Office is handling the applications and we have already received over seven hundred applications for the one hundred slots.

If more money is raised, we can definitely bring more librarians.

Fundraising

At the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January, it was reported that over seventy percent of the exhibit space had already been sold and that Boston has already set the record for the largest IFLA Exhibit. The Fundraising Committee reported that it was well on its way to reaching its target of \$1,500,000. \$900,000 had been raised.

Speakers in Boston

Information on specific programs, workshops, and discussion groups will begin to appear on the website in March or April 2001. Following the theme "Libraries and Librarians: Making A Difference in the Knowledge Age," the U.S. Organizing Committee has put together a great list of speakers.

Keynoting the conference will be educator Jonathan Kozol. One of the leaders in "knowledge management," Lawrence Pruzak, will be one of the guest speakers, as will be Peter Jazi, an expert in "intellectual property and copyright in the digital age." Deanna Marcum, from the Library of Congress, will discuss issues of preservation

and access in the 21st century. We are thrilled that James Billington, Librarian of Congress will be able to join us for a presentation to the international library community.

Call For Volunteers

The Hospitality Committee of IRRT needs volunteers to staff the International Lounge at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. The Lounge is located in the Moscone Convention Center and is staffed from noon - 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 15, and from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday-Monday (June 16-18). Volunteers assist international visitors in answering questions and giving directions at the conference. Typically, a volunteer will staff the Lounge for a two-hour period. This is a wonderful opportunity to greet colleagues from around the globe! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paul Belloni at University of Chicago, e-mail: plb4@midway.uchicago.edu, phone; (773) 702-8699.

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