AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting, Monday, June 20, 1977, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Present: H. Vail Deale (chairperson), Mohammad Aman, E. J. Josey, Irving Lieberman, Jean Lowrie, Anne Pellowski, Theodore Waller, Jane Wilson (staff liaison).


Absent: Theodore Welch.

1. Guy Marco, Chairperson of the International Library Education Committee reported. The partnership program between North American and foreign library schools is growing. There will be an article on this shortly.

   The Directory of Country Resource Chairpersons is being revised. The Carl Milam International Lecture Series will host Guadalupe Carrion from Mexico in the fall and Mrs. Noushin Ansari from Tehran in the spring of 1978. A person from Australia or the Orient will be considered for the 1979 series.

   Norman Horrocks will be the new chairperson of this Committee.

2. Emma Simonson gave an excellent report on the Northwestern University Library Venezuela Project outlining in some detail the plans for national library expansion in Venezuela (attached).

3. Robert Vosper, IFLA Vice-President, presented a brief resume of the Brussels program. A pre-session seminar on "Resource Sharing of Libraries in Developing Countries" will be held in Antwerp for English-speaking colleagues from developing countries. Mr. Wedgeworth will be one of the speakers. There will be a UNESCO/IFLA International Congress on National Bibliographies in Paris following the World Congress. The new IFLA structure will be put into effect in Brussels.

4. The AASL/IRL report was given by James Baughman, Chairperson:
   1. More communication between international groups is needed.
   2. The exemplary school visiting list for foreign visitors is being updated.
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3. The 1973 "Books from Other Countries" needs to be revised - possibly a bilingual version.

4. Dr. Patricia Beilke will be AASL representative to IASL, WCOTP.

5. The statement on "Good School Libraries" has been translated into Japanese to add to the German, Spanish, and French copies now in existence.

6. The question was raised on how to involve more actively the foreign students studying in the U.S.

7. AASL is anxious to be involved in the Year of the Child, 1979, anticipating some programs on child development, reading and libraries, perhaps at a general session.

Speaking to the last point for ALSC, Anne Pellowski and Jean Lowrie urged the 1979 ALA Program Planning Committee to support an all association program meeting on the Child. A letter should be sent to Mr. Wedgeworth and the new president-elect Russell Shank bespeaking their cooperation in this emphasis. Ted Waller moved:

"That the IRC urge Council to adopt a resolution at Midwinter urging fuller participation in the Year of the Child". Carried.

Since there is no congressional financial provision for this in the present foreign aid bill, the Washington Office should be urged to give support to retrieving the $800,000 appropriation for this purpose.

5. Jean Lowrie reported on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study the Feasibility of Supporting the Establishment of a Graduate Library School in Tanzania. This was a joint committee with IRC/LED. The recommendation to President Jones in the form of a letter is attached.

6. The letter from the Intellectual Freedom Committee on racism/sexism was again discussed and a statement was presented by E. J. Josey. After editorial changes, it was moved (Lowrie) and seconded (Waller):

"That the statement be forwarded to the IFC chairperson." (attached)
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7. The Resolution on the IFLA 50th Anniversary was presented and passed (attached). It was moved (Aman) and seconded (Josey):

"That a cover letter to IFLA include the statement that this monetary gift is for those countries who cannot pay their own IFLA dues, and that we encourage IFLA to ask for token matching funds from the governments of the countries being helped".

8. A letter was received from the Executive Director regarding the effort to develop a formal proposal for the U.S. national committee to advise the U.S. State Department on matters relating to the UNESCO General Information Program. Ted Waller was appointed to be IRC observer at the August 4th meeting.

9. It was again strongly urged that the International Relations Officer's report with guideline recommendations be implemented. Memos should be sent to divisions and groups within the Association to determine if they have guidelines for priorities in selecting delegates to international conferences. The rationale for these guidelines and the guidelines should be sent to the IRO. If no such guidelines exist, subcommittees should be appointed to work on such statements for Midwinter, 1978.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Office of the Librarian of Teachers College to discuss this matter.

10. Chairperson Deale again complemented and thanked Miss Wilson for her work. It was urged that the need for continued support for this office be sent to the Executive Director and stating that sufficient secretarial assistance should be made available.

Meeting adjourned, 4:00 p.m.

Jean Lowrie
Secretary
RESOLUTION ON IFLA'S ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions is celebrating its 50th anniversary year; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association wishes to make recognition of this event; and

WHEREAS, there are many developing countries who are unable to pay their Annual IFLA dues; and

WHEREAS, the Library Association (U.K.), the Canadian Library Association, the Dutch Library Association and others are defraying the cost of the dues of several library associations of developing countries, to enable them to participate in IFLA thereby highlighting the importance of library and information service to their respective governments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ALA recognize IFLA's celebration by a gift of $250 which will help defray the cost of membership for library associations from developing countries for one year.

Resolution submitted by
E.J. Josey, Councilor-at-Large

Sponsored by the International Relations Committee
Thank you, Mr. Deale.

The first comment made when the government of Venezuela awarded the Venezuela Project to Northwestern University was that this was a result of oil revenues. However, this is not the case. Venezuela has had oil for many years, and during this period, the library profession had not been making progress and the National Library was not fulfilling its function as a national center for research. It was not oil, but a woman's vision that has benefitted librarianship in her native country. Mrs. Virginia Betancourt, daughter of Romulo Betancourt, an ex-president of Venezuela, lived and studied in the United States during her formative years, while her father was in exile. As a student, she enjoyed the facilities offered by American libraries, both public and academic. Later, when Mrs. Betancourt returned to Venezuela, she became concerned, as the mother of several children, with the lack of books for children in Caracas and in all of Venezuela. She therefore organized a voluntary cooperative children's book bank to supply some of these needs and initiated the first children's library in Caracas. She also began a program in the basic procedures of library work for teachers from other states. The Banco del Libro has now grown to include a staff of three hundred persons and to cover all phases of library activities in the country, with special emphasis on public and school libraries.

When the new president, Carlos Andrés Pérez, took office in 1974,
one of his first concerns was library development in Venezuela. He asked Mrs. Betancourt to become the national librarian and to direct plans for library improvements. After much resistance, she accepted that responsibility and immediately initiated a program of consultation and analysis of existing problems. Her effective leadership has resulted in three important developments. The first was the planning for government approval and subsequent financing of an ambitious library complex in an historic area of Caracas, which will include a new functional National Library building, the National Archives, a science library, and buildings for other cultural activities. Second, she has completely reorganized the inadequate space of the old National Library building, renovating the central portion for use as a public library and moving the non-book materials to a new building where they are housed in an orderly and efficient way. And third, with her political acumen, Mrs. Betancourt was able to interest government leaders in establishing a foundation to provide national bibliographical information which would later serve as a basis for acquisition of Venezuelan materials.

It is under the sponsorship of this foundation that the plan for the Venezuela Project was conceived. It is a result of discussions on the identification of the cultural heritage of Venezuela in terms of its written records. After due consultation with various experts at home and abroad, a consensus was reached that the greater part of the bibliographical material is located in the libraries of the United States. When these plans came to the attention of a former graduate student of Northwestern University, he suggested to the Venezuelan authorities that, since the Northwestern University Library had a comprehensive automated system, it would be well to begin discussions on this matter with the University officials. Consultations were also undertaken in the United States on the extent of
material existing in all forms, on all subjects relating to Venezuela,
written in Venezuela, or by Venezuelan authors. The result was an initial
proposal taken to Venezuela by specialists in the Latin American field and
by the library administrators of Northwestern University for discussion
with local leaders and library specialists in Venezuela. This plan
became a reality on October 2, 1976, when a contract was signed by a
representative of the Venezuelan government in behalf of the new foundation,
and by the president of Northwestern University.

As indicated in its contract, the Venezuela Project, which began on
September 1, 1976, would fulfill three objectives in a two-year period.
The first is a compilation of titles in United States libraries, repre­
senting all formats dealing with Venezuela, published in Venezuela, and
by Venezuelan authors. A preliminary estimate on a worldwide scale is
that there exist about 200,000 monographs and untold numbers of other
titles in varying forms. The second objective is that the bibliography be
compiled in machine-readable form, using the Northwestern On-Line Total
Integrated System (NOTIS 3), which is based on MARC. A third objective
is training six Venezuelans in these bibliographic and computer processes
and increasing their knowledge in certain specialized fields.

The basis for the bibliographic compilation is the printed catalogs
of the major research libraries with large Venezuelan holdings. However,
since there are many such research libraries with no printed catalogs, a
second approach was planned to permit examination and compilation of
Venezuelan materials at other libraries. Later, we shall use the extensive
bibliographies available for research on many topics concerning Venezuela.

A staff of twenty-one persons was recruited to implement these
requirements. Although a library degree was not necessarily a condition
for employment, the project has seven librarians, as well as six Ph.D. candidates with experience in and on Latin America, and other staff members with computer experience and knowledge of Spanish. Each staff member was trained in the revised Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Chapter 6, and in using the NOTIS 3 system as adapted for the bibliographic project. In addition to an assigned subject on Venezuela, each staff member has additional office responsibilities.

At present, the staff has also been increased by four Venezuelans, whose interests represent computer applications, cataloging, bibliography, and the impact of libraries on the community. These four trainees are taking intensive English lessons at the Berlitz school, a requirement which was set by the National Library for their apprenticeship in the United States. Also included in their orientation are studies in the new cataloging rules, in correct bibliographical citation, and in computer terminal operations. Since these four trainees will return to the National Library in leadership roles, each is to travel in the United States to observe libraries and organizations in his field of interest. As an example, we hope to have Roberto Lovera De Sola, a bibliographer of Venezuelan literature, visit two types of institutions: centers of rare books, such as the Lilly Library and the Beinecke, and libraries with a strong reference department, such as the New York Public Library. All of the trainees will visit the offices of the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC), the MARC offices of the Library of Congress, and University Microfilms International.

After a period of six months of planning, organization, and adaptation of methods, we are attempting to solve two major problems. The foremost of these is the conciliation, adaptation, revision, and correction, wherever possible, of the differing versions of the cataloging entries representing
the work of several decades. The second major problem is the translation of the subject headings into Spanish for, while there are many guides in Spanish for different subjects, there is no excellent general guide, even though there is in preparation a revised edition of subject headings by Sra. Carmen Rovira of the Organization of American States.

The original intent was first to provide a bibliographic list for the acquisition of materials and then to acquire the materials which are not in the National Library and unavailable in Caracas. However, consideration is now being given to conducting the acquisition phase concurrently with the compilation of the bibliography. The methods to be used for this phase have not yet been determined.

A question has been raised concerning the implementation of such an ambitious project under the conditions existing in Venezuela for research. A pessimistic view is that the library profession and the general researcher are not yet ready for this new approach. Another view is more positive for these principal reasons: business, industry, and university personnel are conducting computerized research in Venezuela. Moreover, the government has established, as a high priority, a national commission on library matters. One of its initial programs is the improvement of library education on a graduate level, with special emphasis on library management and on new computer technology. Another most important factor for consideration is that this project, when successfully completed, will serve as a stimulus for similar ventures in other Latin American countries who wish to record their national heritage.

Emma C. Simonson
Venezuela Project Supervisor
July 15, 1977
May 18, 1977

Ms. Clare Jones  
Director  
Detroit Public Library  
5201 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Clare:

The ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of supporting the concept of a library school in Tanzania has had several meetings, discussed the situation with various people cognizant of the Tanzania situation both orally and through letters.

The consensus of the committee is:

1) that the student population which would be needed for such a graduate school in all of East Africa, let alone in Tanzania, is not actually available; (Dean Report)

2) that if a school is developed it should be on a regional basis, not a national one;

3) that to be strong such a school must have external support as well as national for an extended period of time.

In addition,

1) a letter from Unesco indicates that their money will only be used to support the school in Makerere;

2) Unesco's choice does not appear to be Tanzania;

3) a recent letter (3/3/77) from the Ford Foundation representative, David R. Smock, indicates that "no follow-up to the Dean report, either financial or in terms of assistance with project development, is anticipated."

we have no problem with the arguments that there is a need for a library school in East Africa. We do question whether national ones are the answer.

We do not see any evidence of the Tanzania government offering financial support for library education even though they give support to the concept of libraries and service in their Five Years plan.
We do not under any circumstances recommend that ALA become financially involved in establishing a School at Dar Es Salam.

We do recommend that Mr. Kaungambo write a specific proposal to present to Unesco for a feasibility study to determine if and where a school should be established, cost analysis and potential student body. We believe that in view of the uncertain situation in Uganda that Unesco would look favorably upon such a proposal. Mr. Kaungambo could amplify his statements of needs in his 1976 and 1977 letter to you and develop quite easily such a proposal for assistance to make the study.

We do not believe that any organization, CLR, Unesco, Ford Foundation or IFLA would at this time consider funding such a study, let alone a library school, without further documentation.

Sincerely,

Jean E. Lowrie
Director

JEL/sm/1

Encl.

cc: J. Wilson
H. Stuart
M. Aman
G. Marco
A. V. Deale


Letter from Mrs. C. R. Zaher, Division of Documentation, Libraries, Archives, and Book Provision. Unesco, 6/22/76

Letter from J. P. Danton. 12/14/76

Conversations at IFLA, 1976 with Ken Harrison following recent visit to East African counties.
The ALA International Relations Committee will continue to mount a vigorous and a more aggressive action program to ensure the elimination of racism and sexism in the policies and programs that it promulgates and fosters. While over the years, there has been some participation by minority members in the work of the Committee and there has been work with developing nations, and the utilization of women in programs sponsored abroad, the Committee will actively seek the participation of women and racial minorities in the development of policies and programs, as well as to develop programs with the help of persons from developing nations rather than programs for them. In working with persons from developing nations, the Committee will be ever mindful of their culture and tradition, and will not impose upon them the standards of the dominant western nations.

In the development of policies and programs, the Committee will establish guidelines that will assure the greater participation of women and minorities in many library programs abroad. Further encouragement of all of the units of ALA to develop meaningful guidelines that will give all of their members an opportunity to participate in international affairs will be a step in the right direction. Furthermore, when the Association is approached by U.S. government and foundations, foreign governments, or foreign library associations to aid in the development of library programs, the Committee, its evaluation of requests and/or proposals, will discard all aspects of the proposals that fosters or encourages racism and sexism.
MEMORANDUM

TO: H. Vail Deale, ALA International Relations Committee
FROM: Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director
DATE: June 20, 1977

On 30 June 1977 an ad hoc committee representative of several library and information services organizations and government agencies will meet in Washington, D.C., to develop a formal proposal for a U.S. national committee to advise the U.S. State Department on matters relating to the UNESCO General Information Program. This will be a small working meeting, consisting of those persons who have advised the State Department during recent years and whose organizations are actively involved in various international activities.

On 4 August 1977 a general meeting, by invitation only, will be called in Washington, D.C., to consider the formal proposal of the smaller group.

ALA has been represented by its Executive Director, who called the original meeting to consider this idea, and who has since then been elected as Chairman pro tem of the group. However, the International Relations Committee should move to appoint someone to monitor the larger meeting on August 4. In the meantime, the proposed documents produced at the 30 June 1977 meeting will be circulated to all members of the International Relations Committee in order to instruct their representative.

It is not clear that ALA will be able to have more than one voting delegate to the 4 August 1977 meeting, since the Chairman pro tem would normally be considered a voting representative. However, this question will be pursued at the smaller meeting on 30 June.

RW:bt
cc: Members of the IRC