

## Libraries Around the World: Stories During and Post Pandemic

### Introduction

The last 18-20 months have challenged libraries and librarians worldwide since lockdown measures were taken around the world to restrict the transmission of COVID-19. With all levels of instruction directed towards remote learning, and readers relying on digital resources a new dependence on libraries and librarians emerged. Once vaccinations became available and social interactions could resume with caution, libraries began planning how to reopen and serve their communities. The following updates from different libraries demonstrate how plans were made at a number of libraries around the world who shared their strategies for the new post-pandemic environment we have all entered and expect to follow for the near future.

### Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

The Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library is one of the ten libraries on the Indiana University Bloomington campus, in Bloomington, Indiana. Founded in 1972, the NMBCC library is a hub of information, networking, cultural research, library instruction, as well as programs and events. Working remotely for more than a year, the NMBCC Library will be mirroring the pre pandemic services offered. Some Fall 2021 offerings are research consulting with librarians or graduate assistants, Class Reserves, study spaces, cultural programs and events, collaborative exhibits, and of course, a full suite of access services including circulation. The NMBCC Library has returned to pre pandemic operating (60) hours weekly as well. We are excited and looking forward to welcoming back, students, faculty, staff and patrons from the greater world around us during the Fall 2021 semester. Having said that, there are still some Covid restrictions in place such as wearing masks when inside of various campus buildings and on public transportation, but overall returning to the campus is a hopeful endeavor.

*Deloice Holliday, Multicultural Outreach Librarian, Head, Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library, Bloomington, IN USA*

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# Serving people with special needs during COVID-19, continued

## Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, IN, USA

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, The Indianapolis Public Library reimagined how we could provide exceptional service. We expanded our Chromebook and hotspot lending programs, offered hybrid technology and computer classes, and diversified and increased our digital resources to reduce the wait times for individuals who want to acquire more popular items, allowing patrons to explore our vast collection of electronic resources such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, streaming movies, eMusic, a host of research tools, and online courses to build their skills. For children, we offered online storytimes via Zoom, craft-to-go-kits, educational platforms: Axis 360, TumbleBooks, and Kanopy: video read-alongs, educational games to enhance their learning, and tips for talking to kids about the coronavirus, all free with the use of a Library card. In addition, we implemented curbside services, home delivery for homebound patrons, and a fine free policy eliminating “per day” late fines that accrue when materials are overdue.

*Shanika Heyward -- Director, Innovation & Technology, Indianapolis, Public Library*

## Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, MD, USA

Post-Covid, Baltimore County Public Library is committed to continuing our virtual programming. Anti-racist story times for children, adult civic engagement programs such as the Baltimore County Public Library’s Dialogues on Race and the Anti-Racism Book Discussions have enabled us to make meaningful connections with a much broader audience than pre-pandemically. We are reaching audiences locally and as far away as Canada and London. In addition, we are connecting community partners and allowing for resource sharing in dynamic ways. In addition to increasing our online presence, Baltimore County Public Library is re-prioritizing outreach to the community. We just debuted the nation’s first-ever Mobile Library Law Center offering residents free legal assistance on bankruptcy, child custody and support, debt collection, expungement, and other legal matters. In addition to providing one-to-one customer assistance in the branches, a full-time library social worker has been hired to accompany the lawyers on the legal van on scheduled road trips to connect at-risk customers to social services. Baltimore County Public Library is committed to reaching marginalized individuals and families to empower their lives.

*Brenda Johnson-Perkins – BCPL Community Engagement Administrator,*

## Holy Cross Theological College Library, Yangon Myanmar

During the pandemic (in 2020), libraries in colleges were closed. In Holy Cross Theological College Library topics on "

Information Literacy", "Reading Habits", and "Online Resource Sharing" were delivered by the Librarian. Online classes on "Basic Library and Information Studies Short Course" for private sectors is one of the initiatives in a Theological Library which will be continued after the pandemic. After the pandemic, libraries hope to continue buying print books and ordering periodicals which were stopped during the pandemic to reduce library expenses. In the succeeding months, online webinars and lectures from the on "Basic Library and Information Studies Short Course" will continue with the course aimed to set up community libraries in respective dioceses. In Myanmar, it cannot be concluded that the pandemic is over, in fact, the country is still facing a deadly third wave. All the government and private offices, schools, universities, and colleges could not open right now. Aside from the pandemic, the country’s political unrest continues.

*Mercy Soe - Holy Cross Theological College Library, Yangon, Myanmar*

## Libraries in Czech Republic

Czech Libraries were reopened on 12 April 2021 after the last wave of the pandemic. From the beginning they offered only loan services and the stay of visitors in the library was limited to the necessary time. From 17 May, libraries could also provide other services and open study rooms. Educational and community events could be held with a limited capacity of number of participants, first up to ten, then thirty participants. From July the capacity of indoor spaces can be filled up to 75 %. Library users appreciated the possibility of click and collect and electronic services during the lockdowns. Now the public is returning to the libraries and using all the services provided while maintaining all measures. The Library community is looking forward to autumn, when professional conferences are supposed to be held in a physical environment..

*Svaz knihovníků a informačních pracovníků České republiky (SKIP)*

## Conclusion

While some of the countries can consider the situation as the road to post-pandemic, the other part of the work is still in constant struggle. Nonetheless, Libraries around the world continue to provide services amidst the global crises.

###

*Has your library made an extra effort to provide library services during the pandemic? Have your libraries been preparing for the post-pandemic era? We would like to feature your activities in a future issue.*

*Email us.*

# Upcoming International Library Conferences, Meetings & Events

- **16-17 September 2021** – [National Libraries Now 2021](#) – International Perspectives on Library Curation.
- **21-23 September 2021** – [BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2021](#).
- **21-23 September 2021** – [OASPA Online Conference](#) on Open Access Scholarly Publishing.
- **28 September 2021** - [International Day for Universal Access to Information](#)
- **28 September – 01 October 2021** – [15th Berlin Open Access Conference](#): Adapt and Advance (B15). Co-hosted by the University of California and Open Access 2020 Initiative (OA2020).
- **7-8 October** – 4th [I – LISS](#) International Conference 2021
- **7-9 October 2021** – [Core Forum](#) focusing on Access & Equity, Assessment, Buildings & Operations, Leadership & Management, Metadata & Collections, Technology.
- **21-22 October 2021** – The 10th Asia-Pacific Library and Information Education and Practice ([A-LIEP](#)) Conference.
- **25-27 October 2021** – [COAR OA](#) 2021 Virtual Meeting, on Innovation, Growth and Sustainability of Open Scholarship in Asia
- **26-28 October 2021** – [Internet Librarian 2021](#).
- **30 October – 2 November 2021** – [ASIS&T 84th Annual Meeting](#) – Information: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Justice and Relevance.
- **1-5 November 2021** – Charleston [Conference – Hybrid Conference](#)..
- **2-3 November 2021** – [Library Marketing and Communications Group 2021](#) Virtual Conference.
- **9-11 November 2021** – The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa [LIANZA](#) 2021 Conference
- **17-18 November 2021** – [UKSG 2021 Digital November Conference](#): Open Scholarship: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.
- **24-26 November 2021** – [7th International Conference of Asian Special Libraries \(ICOASL\)](#) – Envisioning the Future of the Library in the Post-Coronavirus Era.
- **25-27 November 2021** – [Special Libraries Association, Asian Chapter](#) - International Conference on Libraries of the Asian Countries: The Road Ahead.
- **29 November - 3rd December 2021** – [15th Metadata and Semantics Research Conference](#)
- **1-3 December 2021** – [23rd International Conference on Asia-Pacific Digital Libraries](#) (ICADL 2021) – Towards Open and Trustworthy Digital Societies.
- **6-7 December 2021** – [23rd International Conference on Grey Literature](#) – Digital Transformation of Grey Literature: Exploring Next Generation Grey.

And many book fairs around the world are taking place virtually, in-person and hybrid. A list, calendar and details can be found [here](#).

# Message from the Editors

Greetings!!!

We extend a hearty hello and welcome to readers of the September 2021 issue of *International Leads*. You will discover that this is an issue of firsts- the first column written by Jim Neal as the new chair of IRRT, the first column written by Safi Safiullah as the new chair-elect, and our first issue as editors.

Also, in this month's issue, you'll read stories of how libraries around the world are managing and adapting library services to meet the needs of patrons post-COVID. In addition, this issue features news of the 11th National Conference of African American Librarians, the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects, the Mission Enhancement Project, the IFLA Grant Recipients, and other features of interest.

We want to make *International Leads* an informative newsletter and we welcome your feedback and suggestions. We are introducing some new columns and content. And as always, if you have stories, news, and events to share, please do not hesitate to send them to us.

Happy reading!

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## Meet the Editors

### Reysa Alenzuela

Reysa is the Head Librarian of the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Czech Republic. She has over 20 years of experience as a librarian and has been working as an international librarian for almost a decade. She is a Member of ALA IRRT.



### Julia Gelfand

Julia is the Applied Sciences & Engineering Librarian, University of California, Irvine. She has been a member of IRRT most of the 45 years she has been involved in ALA and has been working with international colleagues most of her career.



### Michele Fenton

Michele is a Monographs Catalog Librarian, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Michele is active in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the International Relations Round Table, and the Library History Round Table.



## The 2021 ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects Recipients

On Tuesday, June 29th, five libraries were honored for their outstanding work in library service during the ALA Presidential Citation Award Ceremony and Happy Hour! The citation is awarded annually at the IRRT International Librarian's Reception held during the annual conference. The citation recognizes libraries exhibiting exceptional and extraordinary efforts in providing programs and services to better serve their communities. Because of the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this year's ceremony was held virtually via Zoom.

The citation recipients for 2021 are:

1. Run Run Shaw Library, City University of Hong Kong
2. Nazarbayev University Library, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
3. South Shore Public Libraries, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada
4. Vancouver Island Regional Library, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada
5. Red River College Library, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

You can learn more about the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects and this year's recipients at: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2020/07/01/international-innovators-2020/>

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## Message from IRRT Chair



*Jim Neal*  
*jneal0@columbia.edu*

The theme for IRRT during 2021-22 will be: Global Libraries Are Community Leaders in Our Post Pandemic World. There are three subthemes: Global Libraries Reopening and Refreshed, Global Libraries as Advocates for Information Policy Change, and Global Libraries as Agents of Social Justice.

I would like to focus here on the third sub theme. The pandemic has raised our awareness and understanding of the rampant injustice in our communities, nations and world. This is expressed in so many ways. Where should libraries focus? Where can we make a positive difference? Consider the complexities of: racial justice, gender justice, health justice, environmental and climate justice, information justice, economic justice, voting justice, justice for the incarcerated, food and water justice, education justice, LGBTQ+ justice, age justice, religious justice, mental or physical ability justice, worker justice. Where do libraries around the world fit into the battle for human rights?

What is social justice? The United Nations: “Social justice may be broadly understood as the fair and compassionate distribution of the fruits of economic growth.” National Association of Social Workers: “Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities.” It is all about human rights, access, participation and equity.

Libraries at a practical level advance social justice through their inclusive collections, innovative services that break down barriers, educational programs that inform and embrace the issues, facilities that support diversity in all of its expressions, staff recruitment and advancement policies and practices, and in many other ways. How do we explore and engage power and privi-

lege in our communities?

We are Virtual, engaged with our users and with our communities in ever more rigorous and effective ways. We are Virtuoso, smart but always ready to learn. And we are Virtuous, radically collaborative and always working in the public interest. These are times of severe disruption and turmoil, of acute threats to social justice but great opportunities for action. Let us recall what is said in the Autobiography of Henry Adams: Order breeds habit, while chaos breeds life. Libraries transform is our consistent message to communicate and celebrate the value and impact of libraries and library workers. We bring essential expertise and leadership to our work. We advance our core values, championing the dignity of all individuals, and fighting against hate in all of its bigoted manifestations. Transformation is thinking about what we are, what we do, how we are seen and understood, and how we do it. We are about truth. We are trusted. We are safe spaces. We are exciting places. How can we bring these strengths to our work for social justice?

I am hoping that over this course of the year, libraries and library workers will share through the many programs and publications of the International Relations Round Table their thoughts, experiences and initiatives in support of social justice.

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*For more information about 2021-2022 IRRT Chair's Theme, you can visit the page - <https://www.ala.org/rt/irrt-2021-2022-irrt-chairs-theme>*

### Connect with IRRT

Email: [ala.intl.leads@gmail.com](mailto:ala.intl.leads@gmail.com)

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

Blog: <http://www.alairrt.blogspot.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/International-Relations-Round-Table-244416388965473/>

## Message from IRRT Chair-Elect



Safi Safiullah

ssafiullah@slcpl.org

Libraries are key places for civic and community gathering. Whether at the local or global levels, they hold an irreplaceable place in any healthy society. It is my honor to serve on the IRRT's Executive Board and continue my life pursuits working with library professionals, local community groups, and various boards to create awareness on educational and social issues both in the USA and around the world.

The current global pandemic has revealed many hidden issues that our local and international communities are facing, which previously went unnoticed. Whether underfunded libraries are unable to provide their patrons with digital resources and support for finishing school, or whether individuals are feeling overwhelmed with economic and mental health hardships, we find ourselves in a point of time that requires immediate action. Libraries across the world must stand strong to vigilantly serve our patrons in the backdrop of dynamic, rapidly evolving community needs.

Librarians are learning new ways to adapt and redefine their profession to best serve their communities. In response to the pandemic, librarians have strengthened their partnerships with IMLS and the ALA along with forging new relationships with local community organizations. Through this teamwork, they have successfully expanded digital navigator programs, taught college faculty how to produce videos for virtual classes, created online story time programs, provided curbside pickup services, and distributed Chromebooks and hotspots to provide wifi access. While these services are now availa-

ble in most libraries in developed countries, libraries in other countries are not able to provide similar services due to limited availability of technical knowledge and financial resources.

During my tenure on the IRRT Executive Board, I will create a call to action to further engage our colleagues on worldwide issues of social justice, education, poverty, and access to information. I invite you to join one of IRRT's online committees [here](#), where we explore solutions to the barriers that prevent people from accessing information and resources. I look forward to working with current chair Jim Neal, the executive board members, and other committee members of the IRRT and IFLA in order to uphold our goals and mission.

###

## Third Co-Editor of *International Leads*: Julia Gelfand



Julia joins Michele Fenton and Reysa Alenzuela as co-editors of *International Leads* and is excited to be part of the team that will promote the work of IRRT and librarians globally through different content covering the international library community. Julia has been a member of IRRT most of the 45 years she has been involved in ALA and has been working with international colleagues most of her career. She attended the former International Graduate Library School in Aberystwyth, Wales, UK, (now part of the University of Aberystwyth) and enrolled in post-graduate classes at the Department of Information Studies, University College London while serving as a Thomas J. Watson Fellow studying national library systems in Europe. Her career in academic research libraries promoted many international activi-

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## Introducing new IRRT Executive Board for 2021-22 – Welcome!



**Jim Neal**

*Chair*



**Alexandra H. Humphreys**

*Past Chair*



**Safi S.M. Safiullah**

*Chair-Elect*



**Erica Saito**

*Secretary/  
Treasurer*



**Grace Liu**

*Member-at-  
Large*



**Allison L. Sharp**

*Member-at-  
Large*



**Barbara Marson**

*Round Table  
Councilor*

We are pleased to announce the following professionals who will be joining the IRRT Executive Board, starting at the ALA Annual 2021 convention and continuing through 2023.

Chair: Jim Neal ([jneal0@columbia.edu](mailto:jneal0@columbia.edu))

Past-Chair: Alexandra Humphreys ([Alexandra.humphreys@asu.edu](mailto:Alexandra.humphreys@asu.edu))

Chair-Elect: Safi Safiullah ([ssafiullah@slcpl.org](mailto:ssafiullah@slcpl.org))

Secretary/Treasurer 2021-2023: Erica Saito ([ericaizumisaito@gmail.com](mailto:ericaizumisaito@gmail.com))

Member-at-Large 2020-2022: Grace Liu ([yliu@wcupa.edu](mailto:yliu@wcupa.edu))

Member-at-Large 2021-2023: Alison Sharp ([asharp9@utk.edu](mailto:asharp9@utk.edu))

Councilor 2021-2024: Barbara Marson ([marsonb@ecu.edu](mailto:marsonb@ecu.edu))

### Third Co-Editor of International Leads continued

academic research libraries promoted many international activities. She was a UK/US Fulbright Fellow based at the Imperial College/Science Museum Libraries in 1992-93 and lectured widely in the UK, Sweden and Poland. Recent IRRT service included serving as Member-at-Large and most recently as Secretary/Treasurer in 2019-2021. Active in Grey Literature for nearly 30 years, she has participated in many international conferences through that focus, editing a journal, exploring the changes in grey literature (needs parallel verbs). Involved in IFLA since 1993, Julia currently serves as a member of the Science & Technology Section's Standing Committee. Julia has lectured and published widely on different aspects of scholarly communications, scholarly publishing, diversity in collections and is committed to community engagement, and was recently recognized as the 2021 ACRL Academic Research Librarian of the Year and was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advance of Science in 2020. She is excited to be in this role to promote the global work of librarians and libraries through IRRT.

###

**Are you interested in participating in IRRT leadership, but not ready for an Executive Board position yet?**

There are many other opportunities to serve in IRRT Committees.

IRRT Committee Opportunities: <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/irrtcommittees/committees>

Committee volunteer form: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/volunteer/frm\\_vol](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/volunteer/frm_vol)



## Interview with New IRRT Councilor

Barbara Marson was elected the new IRRT Councilor effective July 2021. This brief interview will allow you to get to know her as she takes on this new role.



**Julia:** You have been a library educator for many years and are associated with the College of Education at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, USA where you are the program director and teach in the MLS Program. Can you please tell us a bit about your current administrative, teaching and research responsibilities and what trends you see in library science education?

**Barbara:** I've been at ECU since 2003. My position is fixed term, so has been focused primarily on teaching and service. My two primary courses are foundations and organization of materials, although I've taught others such as collection development, information literacy, and digital libraries. I assumed the director's position in the 2020-21 academic year but continue to teach as well. Libraries have always adapted to changing times. Certainly, in the past year, librarians have demonstrated resilience amid a global pandemic. I think the trends of libraries serving the myriad needs of their communities and being involved with issues of inclusivity and diversity will continue.

**Julia:** How, when and why did you become involved in IRRT – had you lived, worked and travelled internationally that seeded such an interest or was another set of reasons that brought you to IRRT?

**Barbara:** I have always enjoyed traveling internationally

and have had the good fortune to be able to do so over the past years. During my travels, I began to visit libraries as well. These visits led to ECU's partnership with the American Library in Paris in placing interns as well as my leading two study abroad initiatives in Paris and Florence. Along the way, I became involved with IRRT and felt that I had found my home within the ALA structure.

**Julia:** International librarianship is an increasingly vital part of our profession as librarians collaborate a lot and share practices around the world. What does it mean to you?

**Barbara:** The term "global village" has been used quite a lot, but it does ring true in our profession. The ease of communication and virtual connections have allowed us to interconnect in ways that were science fiction not so many years ago. However, what has struck me is the commonality among library communities. I remember attending IFLA in Kuala Lumpur a couple of years ago. As I interacted with professionals in the convention center, it struck me that I felt completely at home although I was in an entirely different continent and culture. Our professional interests and values connect us first. Collaboration among cultures only strengthens us and the profession to provide broad perspectives of what libraries can accomplish worldwide.

**Julia:** You have been engaged the past three years with the IRRT Preconference Planning Committee. Since the last two ALA meetings were held virtually, you helped transition those sessions into webinars. Can you share how you planned for that and what your committee's goals were?

**Barbara:** The preconference committee experience has been so rewarding. In 2020 the committee put out a call for proposals and selected three presentations from those. We were moving forward when ALA Annual moved to virtual. The preconference was not included in the annual conference. The committee and the presenters had invested so much work and believed that the presentations were of significant value. This led to the presentations being held later in the summer in a series of webinars. We were fortunate to have the support of Richard Sapon-White and Delin Guerra. This pattern has continued for 2021.

**Julia:** Becoming an ALA Councilor for IRRT is a

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**new responsibility and can you share what motivated you to seek this elected position and what it means to you? What would you like to accomplish?**

**Barbara:** I wanted to continue to serve. Being a councilor allows me to connect IRRT to the larger organization. I have so much to learn, so my first year will be to absorb everything and understand possible changes for the future. I want to represent the interests of IRRT to Council.

**Julia: What do you like to do for fun and relaxation? Is there is anything else you would like us to know about you.**

**Barbara:** I love musicals! I tend to think of song lyrics to fit various circumstances, especially pop and rock lyrics from the '60's and Broadway musicals. My daughter and I share this love. We had the wonderful good fortune to see Hamilton with the original cast on Broadway and meet them afterwards! I was totally blown away.

Thank you for your time in participating in this interview and your service to IRRT.

###

## Interview with New IRRT Chair-Elect

Safi Safiullah was elected as the new IRRT Chair-Elect and will assume the role of Chair in July 2022. This brief interview will allow you to get to know him as he takes on this new role.

**Julia: Congratulations on your election to Chair-Elect of IRRT. You have demonstrated a commitment to education and libraries for most of your life.**

**Please share with us your background of growing up in Bangladesh, the importance you place on education and life-long learning and your efforts at community engagement, and giving back so that the next generation benefits.**

**Safi:** I was born in a Bangladeshi village where we had no schools or libraries. Every morning, I walked from my home to the nearest school, around 3 miles each way. I was always curious and sought out new books to read. It wasn't until I was in 7th grade that I saw a library for the first time, when I went to Comilla, the nearest large city to my village. I devoured every book and newspaper I could get my hands on. By the 10th grade, I took an initiative to establish a library, where I served as a volunteer student librarian and cared for around 10 dozen books. Some of the books were deemed inappropriate by the school administration and were confiscated. This reminds

me of the term "banned books" that we now celebrate in our libraries. To overcome this barrier, I rented a village mud house along with some friends and re-established the library, where we began circulating our books. Later, my friends and I expanded our efforts and established the first elementary school in our village, where we began teaching kids. This school is now known as Shimarkanda Primary school, managed by the Board of Education under the Secretary of Education of the government of Bangladesh. The school now has over 250 students and my family remains active in its affairs. We still help to purchase books and school supplies for those kids to improve education in the village. Most recently my three children fundraised for and promoted different educational and social outreach programs there. We are thrilled to see that the village now has more educated people, but so much work is left to be done. My dream is to establish a more permanent library there, along with a clinic. It is my hope to foster an environment that readily encourages youngsters to read books and newspapers, develop computer literacy, and empower themselves to have better futures. I also hope to see better access to this clinic, which can serve as a space for midwives to help women during their pregnancies and childbirth. I hope that by presenting this community with these resources, they will continue to become educated, take care of their health, and learn new skills.

**Julia: You left home very young. You lived in Libya for your undergraduate education, in Canada for your Master's degree in Manitoba and finally settled in Salt Lake City, Utah where you obtained your PhD in History at the University of Utah and joined the Salt Lake City Public Library staff in 2002. What lessons can you share about being a newcomer in a new environment that has contributed to your service orientation? How do you continue to mentor and inspire new international students who come to your library and community?**

**Safi:** My father worked in public service and was a community leader. He taught me to prioritize serving the community and to always find objective solutions to the issues that rise along the way. I do my best to follow in his footsteps. I learn to adapt wherever I go, be it as a young student in Libya or a librarian here in Utah, and I never give up my own identity or forget where I have come from.

My student life in Libya was fun yet challenging. I had to adapt to a new culture and learn a new language. I lived in El-Beida and Benghazi, where I ate spaghetti for the first time. I did not like it much but later grew to enjoy it. Learning Arabic was not easy and learning about a new culture was even harder. But I was determined to complete my schooling, and knew that in order to achieve

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## Interview with New IRRT Chair-Elect, continued

my goals, I would need to master the language. Along the way, I learned about the many different colloquial dialects across the Arab world. I saw the differences between Egyptian and Syrian Arabic, when faculty members from those two different regions taught us in their distinct accents.

I appreciate the Salt Lake City's Library administration and staff for having faith in my staff and me. As a team, we address the issues the globe is facing from a local perspective, and serve the community from within. It is my belief that divisions in the community weaken when people gather in an environment that nurtures celebration, knowledge, and empathy. We as a team work with the community to celebrate our cultures and pursue better futures. We don't shy away from discussing tough topics like police brutality, gender discrimination, Black Lives Matter, and fake news, and other issues by engaging with each other to hear different perspectives and opinions that bring the global community together. The aim is to create a better understanding across the communities in the Salt Lake Valley to know and respect each other, and avoid perpetuating bigotry and erasure of the past.

**Julia: How, when and why did you become involved in IRRT? What activities would you like to see continued or new ones you hope to introduce during your tenure in a leadership role?**

**Safi:** I have always wanted to be involved in a community forum at ALA, where I can simultaneously address local and global issues. My involvement in the IRRT has happened in a few phases. First, I served in ULA, which prompted me to become involved with ALA. Second, my involvement with APALA opened my door to the IRRT and the EMIERT. Prior to serving as chair of the EMIERT, I also worked with IRC. After three years as the chair of the EMIERT, I committed myself to becoming involved in the IRRT.

During my tenure with the IRRT, I hope to continue the projects that Jim Neal, the current chair, is working on. I would like to expand the IRRT's involvement with other roundtables and ALA affiliates, increase their membership, and strengthen the committees. I would like to work with the IRRT team to bring more international libraries under the banner of our sister libraries committee. I also plan to discuss opportunities to connect the libraries in the USA, Canada, and Europe with libraries from other corners of the world. Developing a global network of libraries is imperative to establishing community welfare communities such as sewing clubs, comput-

er classes, and health & hygiene programs. We have seen how impactful these programs have been in our local libraries and I hope that with support from the IFLA leadership, we can expand these into a global context.

**Julia: Diversity plays an increasing role in library planning, staffing, programming and community engagement. As you reflect on the equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice impact and challenges this has for libraries, how does this translate into positive actions that individuals and communities can take?**

**Safi:** At the SLCPL, we recently hired a talented EDI Administrative Manager. They are working to transform our library policies, hiring practices, and internal promotion processes to include EDI and create a more equitable environment for all members of the library system. Many other library systems are following suit. The current IRRT Board, under the leadership of Jim Neal, ALA President Patty Wong, and President-elect Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, are strong proponents of social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. I would like to work with them on expanding inclusion and diversity in libraries. I hope to see some more positive changes within the ALA and libraries both in the USA and around the world.

**Julia: When not working, what do you like to do for fun and relaxation? Is there anything you would like us to know about you?**

**Safi:** My family and I go for walks every evening - it is our favorite part of the day. When my three adult children are all at home, we love chatting the night away and spending quality time together on hikes and car rides. I also enjoy doing yoga, maintaining my garden, and exchanging my vegetables with family and friends. I love traveling across the USA and around the world and volunteering for community events. Like many others, I love drinking a good cup of tea and reading the newspaper. Cooking is my secondary hobby, but cleaning the kitchen is my primary responsibility in the kitchen, one I am still learning how to master.

Thank you and I appreciate your reaching out to me.

###

# ALA Black Caucus holds 11th National Conference of African American Librarians

*Michele Fenton, Co-Editor International Leads and is active in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association,*

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) held its 11th National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) virtually from July 28-August 1, 2021, with a special pre-conference session on July 27th. The conference theme was “Culture Keepers XI the Sankofa Experience: Inspired by Our Past, Igniting Our Future”.

Most of NCAAL’s conference sessions focused on U.S. libraries, however, there were several sessions devoted to international topics. On Saturday, July 31, Vivian Bordeaux and Fayrene Muhammed of the BCALA International Relations Committee; Rev. Dr. Sylvester Nnaso, founder of the Seat of Wisdom Library; and Dr. Kanayo K. Odeluga, M.D., MPH of Rotary International presented a session “Abatete, Nigeria’s Seat of Wisdom Library Project”. Located in Abatete, Nigeria, the Seat of Wisdom Library was founded by Rev. Dr. Sylvester Nnaso to provide library and information services to the community. Members of the BCALA International Relations Committee are assisting Rev. Dr. Nnaso and Dr. Odeluga with the project.

BCALA International Relations Committee chair Vivian Bordeaux said this about the project: “The thing that is very important about the Seat of Wisdom project is the excitement of having a library in the Abatete community. But with this excitement also comes the realization that there are many barriers that are blocking the completion of this project, such as reliable electricity. We need people, not only those who work in the library profession to help in many areas, especially in fundraising. Money raised will be used to pay for computers, buy a generator to supply electricity, train staff, purchase an ILS system and other much needed equipment and supplies, things that will help improve the quality of life for the families in the community.”

To learn more about the Seat of Wisdom Library, please visit: <https://www.seatofwisdomlibrary.org/>

Other sessions of note included “Engaging Islamic Communities Through Special Collections” presented by Shahadah Abdul-Rashid; “Sankofa as Black Diasporic Awareness: Perspectives from Librarians of Afro-Caribbean Heritage” presented by Kelsa Bartley, Sony Prosper, Jean Rene and Simone Clunie; and “Diversity



## IFLA Honors and Awards

On August 25th, the International Federation of Library Associations, and Institutions (IFLA) named the winners of this year’s IFLA Honors and Awards during the IFLA 2021 General Assembly:

### IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

- Ann Okerson
- Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi
- Petra Hauke
- Raissa Teodori
- Stephane Ipert

### IFLA Honorary Fellow

- Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

Congratulations to all the awards and honors recipients!!!

If you missed the IFLA 2021 General Assembly, you can view it on [IFLA’s YouTube channel](#)

Programming for Children and Families: Latinx Programming” presented by Stephanie Huaman and Amairani Perez Chamu.

Conference attendees also heard from Nigerian poet, playwright, novelist, and professor Wole Soyinka. The 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature awardee spoke of his work and shared his thoughts and observations on humanity and society with the audience. Some of Soyinka’s works include *You Must Set Forth at Dawn*, *The Lion*, and *the Jewel*, and *the Chronicles of the Happiest People on Earth*.

Overall, the 11th National Conference of African American Librarians was an inspiring and rewarding experience. The next conference is expected to take place in 2023, with the date and place to be decided next year.

### *About BCALA*

*The Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation’s African American community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians.*

###



## IRRT Announces Grants for the 2021 IFLA Congress

With the 2021 IFLA Congress being conducted virtually, IRRT's Executive Board launched a pilot program to promote and enable support for IRRT member attendance and participation in international library conferences, specifically the IFLA World Library Information Congress (WLIC) held August 17-19, 2021. A competitive call was issued to invite IRRT members both in the US and abroad to have a chance to attend and participate in the IFLA WLIC, with the theme, "Let's Work Together for the Future," and the five subthemes: Libraries Enable, Libraries Inspire, Libraries Include, Libraries Innovate and Libraries Sustain.

The brain child of Jim Neal, IRRT Chair, he proposed the program to encourage IRRT members to explore the potential of attending an international meeting when they did not have the expense of travel yet could attend the conference online from the comfort and convenience of their office and home. They could get a sense of the IFLA culture, the programming, structure, governance and determine if this is something in which they want to become more engaged in going forward. Common themes from the applications confirm how librarians in all areas of librarianship, public, school, academic, research national and special libraries seek out networking opportunities to share with and learn from each other.

Funding for this initiative came from the following sponsors: [Sage Publications](#), the publisher of the [IFLA Journal](#) and [OverDrive](#), the eBook platform readers in libraries around the world have come to depend upon and several private donors.

Eighteen awards were made. Recipients are:

1. Marcia Erickson, Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School, PA, USA
2. Jalesia Horton, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, USA
3. Aditi Gupta, University of Victoria, BC, Canada
4. Rebecca Keenan, Dunedin Public Libraries, Dunedin, New Zealand
5. Liladhar Pendse, University of California, Berkeley, USA
6. Carolyn Casenas, Simon Fraser University, Central City BC, Canada
7. Doris Mirella Agurto Yngunza, ICPNA Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano, Lima Peru



8. JiHye Lee, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, USA
9. Jensen Adams, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, MO, USA
10. Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, Kent, OH, USA
11. Boutsaba Jentvilay, California State University, Fresno, CA, USA
12. Ophelia Chapman, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, NC, USA
13. Oluwatoyin Oyeyemi Obinyan, Ambrose Alli University, Edo State, Nigeria
14. Fagdeba A. Bakoyema, Alabama State University Montgomery, AL, USA
15. Flor Cubero, American University of Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan
16. Tuba Akbayturk Canak, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey
17. April Moyo, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC, USA
18. Samantha Hyve, Brown County Public Library, Bloomington, IN, USA

Congratulations to all the recipients.

The next issue of *International Leads* will share experiences from some of the awardees.

###

# Mission Enhancement Project Webinar Series Report

Ray Pun, Education and Outreach Manager, Hoover Institution Library & Archives (USA)

raypun101@gmail.com

As a member of the IRRT webinar committee (2021-2022) and the Mission Enhancement Grant recipient for 2020, I co-organized three webinars focusing on specialized topics in linked data. In collaboration with Dr. Dijana Machala from the Croatian Library Association (CLA) and Dr. Philip Schreur from LD4 and Stanford University Libraries, we hosted three webinars that aimed to support CLA members and librarians in Croatia interested in linked data discussions. In this report, I'll provide brief updates on the webinars.

In June 2020, three webinars were launched as part of the Mission Enhancement Project. If you missed any of the webinars, the recordings and their slides are available in the IRRT Webinar page. The three webinars were the following: 1. Linked Data and Rare Materials; 2. Linked Data and Ethics; 3. Linked Data and Discovery. Each webinar had over 170 registered attendees, and over 70 attendees came to each webinar to hear our expert speakers on these important topics. Attendees came from Croatia, Sri Lanka, Senegal, Venezuela, Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Sweden and across the United States. We were very happy to see such global participation and engagement. Each webinar started with an introduction, an acknowledgment of the ALA IRRT and Mission Enhancement Grant support, and opening remarks from Dr. Dijana Machala and Dr. Philip Schreur, followed by each speaker.

In the first webinar on Linked Data and Rare Materials, Paloma Graciani-Picardo, the Metadata Librarian from University of Texas at Austin and Tim Thompson, Librarian for Applied Metadata Research from Yale University Library shared examples on how linked data could improve patron access to rare materials. Tim Thompson stated, "linked data is promising to make the richness of rare materials more visible to users." Both speakers offered important thoughts on how linked data can enhance discovery processes for special collections. The second webinar focused on Linked Data and Ethics: An Online Discussion.

Bri Watson, a PhD student at the iSchool at the University

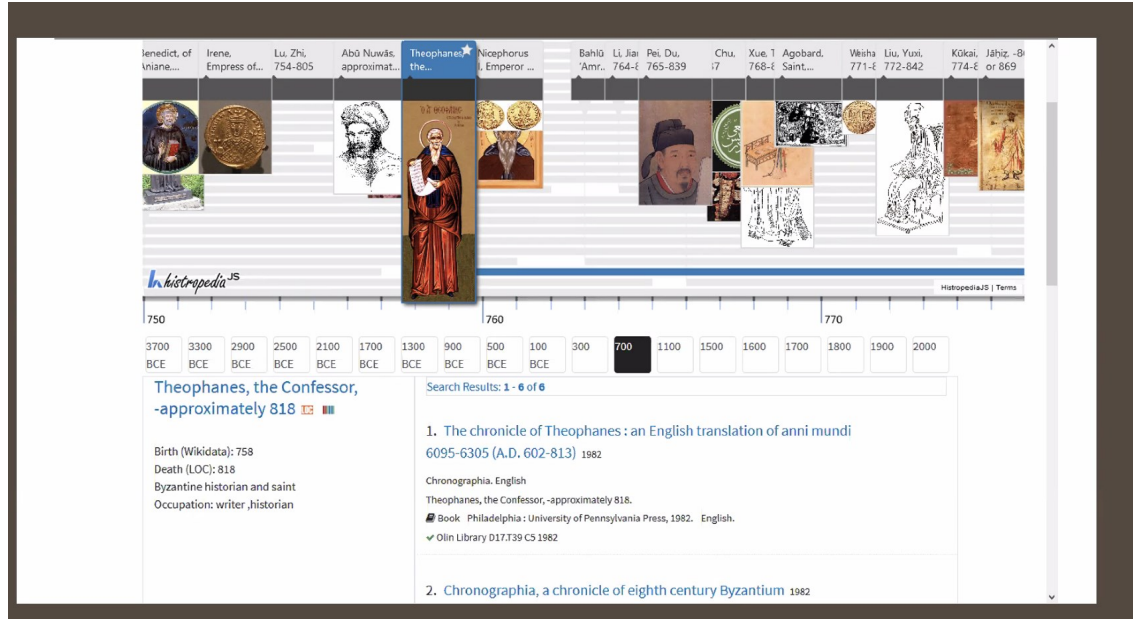


Figure 1: Screenshot of a chronological slider demonstration by Huda Khan

of British Columbia and the Director of HistSex.com examined the process on how we describe people in the catalog and its ethical implications. Devon Murphy, the TARO Metadata Analyst at the University of Texas at Austin, spoke about the ethics of linked data and cultural heritage workflows and covered linked data ontologies, models, and issues with the use of multiple thesauri. The third webinar, Linked Data and Discovery featured Huda Khan, a software developer at Cornell University, and Astrid Usong, a University Experience Designer at Stanford Libraries. They demonstrated the benefits to patrons through the use of emerging discovery techniques such as knowledge panels, chronological sliders, and other unique research functions, all rooted in linked data. At the end of each webinar, there were many questions from our attendees.

We are very pleased with the attendance for each webinar and how participants engaged with the speakers with their thoughtful questions. This webinar series demonstrates how ALA International Relations Round Table can focus on innovative projects such as linked data which engages with the global library community. These technical discussions on linked data are often held in CORE or the Digital Library Federation (DLF) and ALA IRRT can also facilitate these important conversations with global partners such as the Croatian Library Association. I am thankful to Dr. Dijana Machala for sharing the webinar series with CLA members. By building these networks, it is our hope to strengthen such partnerships for more engagement between ALA IRRT and CLA.

###

# IRRT Webinars: Reports

## Out of the Ashes, Beyond Buildings and Books: Rebuilding of the Reading Room at the Lubuto Model Library in Lusaka, Zambia

### Out of the Ashes, Beyond Buildings and Books: Rebuilding of the Reading Room at the Lubuto Model Library in Lusaka, Zambia

*Gina de Alwis Jayasuriya (ginadealwis@gmail.com) and Ophelia Morey (otmorey@buffalo.edu), Co-Chairs, IRRT Webinar Committee*

The IRRT Webinar Committee hosted a webinar on May 27, 2021 with presenters *Jane Meyers*, President, Lubuto Library Partners (LLP) and *Given Besa*, Library Manager, Lubuto Model Library, Lusaka, Zambia sharing the tragic story about the recent fire that devastated the Lubuto Model Library.

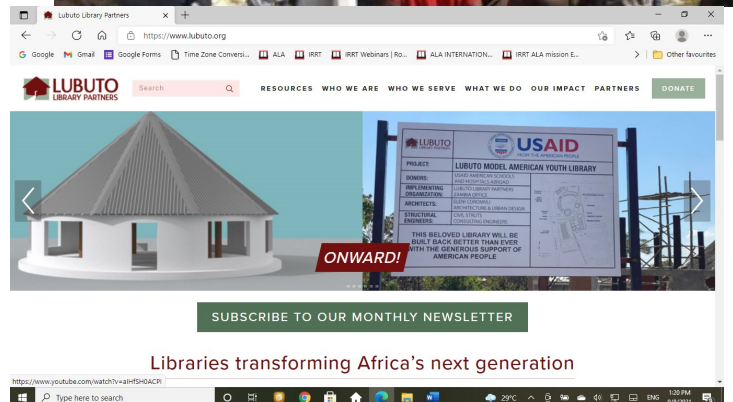
Jane in her opening remarks stated that the library opened on November 10, 2010 was a welcome hub and a beacon of hope for the children. With an average of 2,500 visits per week the Lubuto Model Library was the most visited public library in Zambia. Jane and Besa showcased the library services offered by the Lubuto library, which are comparable to the best of public libraries and was evidence of why the children had visited the facility even during the closure due to the pandemic. It was a success story...



Beyond the buildings & books webinar



... and the presenters then fast forwarded 11 years to April 11th, 2021 when tragedy struck the very same flagship model library when a fire destroyed most of the roof and all interior furnishings of the reading room, and most of the 4000+ collection. Besa, describing the tragedy, commented that the devastation shattered the children and the overall community the library serves. She further shared the kid's words and art that conveyed how heartbroken they were. Fortunately, no one was injured during the incident but the community has become poorer. Eventually around 500 books were salvaged, some with the help of the kids, and were found to be in good condition. The



Continued on page 15



presenters shared their plans for reviving library services at the affected Lubuto Model Library. Besa and staff had already resumed some programs such as story time in spaces created outdoors in the library compound and have plans to offer more activities in the near future. The good news they shared was that coincidentally around the time of the fire LLP was already aware that they had received a grant from USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) to transform the Lubuto library. Plans included renovating existing buildings and constructing new facilities such as an early childhood programming centre, a teen empowerment centre, a space for community meetings and training, and an extension of the library's perimeter wall. The funding would also be utilised to renovate the reading room to accommodate new programming. The ASHA grant also provided for purchase of a completely new book collection and technology, early learning supplies and equipment to support disability programming, etc. Jane elaborated that the customised collection of books, the computers and early learning supplies had already been purchased with ASHA funds and were already enroute to Lusaka with shipping sponsored by World Vision. Thankfully, help was already on the way. Jane then went on to explain their next move which was to consult with ASHA to determine if it was possible to revise the renovation and construction budget to accommodate the rebuilding of the reading room and to improve safety and security to the rest of the library. The major adaptations made were changing the roofing, better securing of the perimeter wall on the library grounds and installing a fire alarm and security system. Although the fire was a setback, the ASHA grant helped "Build Back Better". Jane affirmed that "Lubuto's goal is to have the library come back to serve Zambia's young people better than ever". However, most importantly, she further explained that Lubuto Libraries urgently need support to sustain library operations, specifically staff salaries, in order to extend more programming and services for the benefit of the children.

A majority of the queries submitted via the Q & A session and chat revolved around how one could help sustain the Lubuto Libraries.



*The late Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in a celebratory mood at the Lubuto Model Library opening in Lusaka on November 10, 2010.*

IRRT offers several webinars every quarter on a variety of topics. The recording of the webinar and other webinars presented by ALA IRRT may be accessed at the ALA IRRT Webinar Website.

###

*"I am convinced that the Lubuto Libraries are a one-time investment whose returns will multiply over generations."*

President Kenneth Kaunda

# A check in with Librarians from around the world

*Raymond Pun is an IRRT member and a librarian from the Bay Area, California, USA. He coordinates interviews with international librarians for International Leads*

## Interview with Carmen Lei, an Acting Librarian at Macao Institute for Tourism Studies

**Ray:** Thanks for interviewing with us! Can you briefly tell us about your role in the library?

**Carmen:** Thank you Ray for giving me the opportunity! I am currently an Acting Librarian at Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) Library. Like many librarians I wear many hats. My job includes sustaining a balanced budget, developing the library collection, managing library staff, liaising with departmental academic heads in support of their teaching and research. I also manage the library budget and resources, promote library activities, provide information literacy classes, introduce professional development support for library colleagues and I also run library events and workshops; and overall ensure the library services meet the needs of our users.

I have been a Board Member in the Macau Library and Information Management Association since 2012 and a Standing Committee Member in the IFLA Continuous Professional Development Workplace Learning (CPDWL) section since from 2019. I also represent my library in the Macau Academic Library Alliance (MALA) since its 2013 inauguration and sit as a board member in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Library Alliance (GHMULA). Projects there include the consortium purchase of materials, resource development and sharing, document delivery services, exchange and training of library personnel, attending academic conferences and professional seminars, etc. All these tasks are challenging yet rewarding.

**Ray:** How did you get into librarianship and (if any) formal education or training did you receive?

**Carmen:** I started my career when I first worked as a management trainee in the library during my undergraduate studies. It was a 10-month programme in which I need to work in different areas in the library. My duties ranged from working the circulation counter, receiving users at the library, conducting orientation programmes and promoting library resources to students. Gradually with the support of my superior, I decided to pursue formal training in the library sector and I earned a post-graduate diploma and then a Master Degree in Information and Library Studies in the United Kingdom. Time flies and I've been working in the library field for 17 years now and I'm still en



*Carmen Lei*

joying my job and find my day-to-day mission interesting and challenging.

**Ray:** What is a library/information trend/hot topic in your country currently?

**Carmen:** There are so many topics ongoing especially during COVID 19 when we are very much focused on providing digital resources and virtual services. The hottest one I assume would be the establishment of our [New Central Library in Macao](#). The winning design company was released in March 2021 and the architectural firm from Holland was chosen from the four choices. The 15,000 sqm library that will cost 500 million patacas (US \$62M) is expected to be finished in 2026 and I really look forward to the completion of this project. Although there are around 79 public libraries and reading rooms within an area of just 32.9 km<sup>2</sup> in Macao, we are hungry for a place that fits different communities and can nurture cultural engagement. So, the New Central Library will probably serve as a new icon for Macao that can provide for diversity and inclusiveness for the population and beyond.

**Ray:** Why is international librarianship important in your work as a librarian/information specialist?

*Continued on page 17*



**Carmen:** I think it is very important because we need to ‘think globally and act locally’. If we want to keep moving forward, we need to know worldwide perspectives and have a global vision! We need to know the best practices that are implemented internationally and expand collaboration across different sectors and stakeholders so that we can work on universal goals TOGETHER.

I’m interested to learn and talk with librarians around the globe, because I believe that “Power of Dialogue” will pull us closer together, there are always different angles to see the same issue, so if we are more open to ideas and readiness to learn from others, we will have a more global mindset to see things. I would like to share an African Proverb here, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together!’.

**Ray: Thanks for speaking with us! We appreciate your responses! One last question: if you are working on research projects, can you tell us more about it?**



*Magazine corner at Macao Institute for Tourism Studies Library*

**Carmen:** I have been accepted in the International Librarians Networking Program (ILNP) 2021 and expect to bridge up network and build friendships with librarians across the globe. I’m also involved in the coaching initiative project under the IFLA CPDWL Section; it is my third year in the group, the coaching project will run from 9-13 Aug and 23-27 August this year, one week before and after the IFLA WLIC 2021. One of the goals is to provide coaching support for participants that help to develop their individual’s career and professional development, in addition, the IFTM library that I’m managing is going to renovate this Summer, all these projects keep me enriched and motivated.

###

*Bio: Carmen Lei is an Acting Librarian at Macao Institute for Tourism Studies and member of MLIMA, CALA, CILIP and IFLA. She holds a BSc in Tourism Business Management and a Master in Information and Library Studies. She likes travelling and plays piano and violin for leisure, she finished her first International 10K run this year and set goals to finish a half marathon in the future. She can be reached at leicarmen@gmail.com*

## New Resources

This new column will focus on recent book releases and citations of New Journal articles in the next issue.



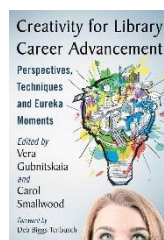
Bombaro, Christine (2020). *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Action: Planning, Leadership and Programming*. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions.



Dalrymple, Prudence (2020). *Growing Community Health Literacy Through Libraries: Sharing Global Perspectives*. Berlin: De Gruyter Saur.



Douglas, Veronica Arellano and Joanna Gadsby, eds (2020). *Deconstructing Service in Libraries: Intersections of Identities and Expectations*. Sacramento, CA: Litwin Books & Library Juice Press.



Gubnitskaia, Vera and Carol Smallwood, eds., (2020). *Creativity for Library Career Advancement: Perspectives, Techniques and Eureka Moments*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.



# IRRT Councilor Update—ALA Annual 2021

**ALA ANNUAL**  
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION  
JUNE 23–29, 2021 **VIRTUAL**  
ALA American Library Association



By *Sandy Hirsh, IRRT Councilor*  
([sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu](mailto:sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu))

It has truly been an honor to serve as the IRRT Roundtable Councilor for the last six years. This report on what happened during ALA Council at the 2021 Virtual ALA Annual Conference is my last report. Going forward, you will be in the capable hands of Barbara Marson who will assume the role as your IRRT Councilor and IRRT Executive Board member.

The Virtual Conference was well attended, with more than 9100 attendees. There was a lot of excitement about the historic virtual inauguration where Patty Wong became the first Asian American to serve as president of the American Library Association. You can see the list of retiring and councilors and executive board members who were recognized (ALA [CD#48](#)). Memorials and Tributes were given at the start of ALA Council III.

Here are some of the highlights from the ALA Council meetings at the 2021 Annual Conference.

## **Forward Together: Proposed Governance Restructuring**

One of the major streams of change over the last several years in ALA has been the proposed restructuring of ALA governance. There have been several stages to the governance review, with recommendations initially proposed

through the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE), which then transitioned into the Forward Together Working Group (FTWG), and most recently transitioned into the Forward Together Resolutions Working Group (FTRWG) as well as the Forward Together Fiscal Analysis Working Group (FT-FAWG).

FTRWG, co-chaired by Jack Martin and Christina Rodrigues, was tasked with preparing resolutions that were to be brought to ALA Council for a vote at the 2021 ALA Annual Conference. There were six sub areas for these resolutions: 1) ALA Core Values; 2) Roundtables; 3) ALA Standing Committees, 4) ALA Council, 5) ALA Executive Board, and 6) Assemblies. ALA Council members participated in a series of virtual feedback sessions on these draft resolutions prior to the ALA Annual Conference. While there were a couple of resolutions which appeared to be less controversial, many ALA Council members expressed concern about the proposed elimination of ALA Council, the size and representation of the expanded Board of Directors (which was to replace the Executive Board), among other concerns.

There were also questions about the fiscal implications for the new governance structure, which is what the FT-FAWG, chaired by John A. Lehner, was tasked with working on. The FT-FAWG had to work in a very compressed timeframe, and despite their best efforts, were not able to determine the complete fiscal impact of the proposed governance structure because several of the resolutions were written at a more conceptual level rather than with complete implementation details. See the report from the FT-FAWG, ALA [CD#37.1](#) for more details. See also the proposed Standardized Dues Structure for ALA Divisions and Roundtables, ALA [CD#37.1a](#).

It became clear that ALA Council was not ready to vote on several of these resolutions and that more information was required. As a result, ALA Council passed a motion (CD 46.1 – Motion to Refer Items 3-6) to refer the proposed resolutions prepared by FTRWG related to ALA Standing Committees, ALA Council, ALA Executive Board, and Assemblies to a task force of a size, composition, mandate and reporting schedule to be determined by ALA's President and subsequently confirmed by the ALA Executive Board. ALA Council then voted on resolutions

*Continued on page 19*

related to ALA Core Values (CD 46 – Item #1 – ALA Core Values) and Round Tables (CD 46 – Item #2 – Round Tables); both of these motions passed.

As a roundtable, IRRT will be particularly interested in the resolutions related to Round Tables. Here are the resolved clauses that were approved for Round Tables:

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

affirms Round Tables are a vital part of the ALA structure; requires Round Tables maintain a minimum of 150 members. A Round Table unable to meet the minimum membership within one year may become an Interest Group, join with another roundtable, or disband; requires that all Round Tables adhere to a common template of core By-Laws while maintaining the flexibility of their own operating principles; and

### Additional Actions Taken

- Committee on Organization ([CD#27.1](#)), chaired by Jim Neal, brought forward several motions for approval, including the expansion of the Policy Monitoring Committee and Council Orientation Committee, creation of the ALA Code of Conduct Committee, disbanding the Committee on Membership Meetings, and adding a charge to the Membership Committee. Council passed all of these motions.
- Constitution and Bylaws (ALA CD#25-25.1), chaired by Dr. Ann Ewbank, brought forward a motion to approve a Constitution Amendment by adding language to the Constitution which clarifies that both Council and membership meetings may be held electronically and that voting through electronic means may take place at those meetings. This motion passed.
- Committee on Professional Ethics (ALA CD#24.1-24.2), chaired by Stephen L. Matthews, brought forward a motion to adopt a Ninth Principle to the Code of Ethics to bring into better focus our profession's commitment to racial and social justice. The Ninth Principle states:

“We affirm the inherent dignity and rights of every person. We work to recognize and dismantle systemic and individual biases; to confront inequity and oppression; to enhance diversity and inclusion; and to advance racial and social justice in our libraries, communities, profession, and associations through awareness, advocacy, education, collaboration, services, and allocation of resources and spaces.”
- This motion passed unanimously. Intellectual Freedom Committee (ALA [CD#19.4-19.7](#)),

chaired by Martin Garnar, brought forward two resolutions. The first, CD # 19.4, was a Resolution on U.S. Enterprises' Abridgement of Free Speech; this resolution passed. The second, which was brought forward by both the IFC and Committee on Legislation, moved the adoption of CD # 19.7 Resolution in Support of Open Educational Resources; this motion passed unanimously.

- Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences (ALA [CD #53](#)) was brought forward by Matthew Bollerman, SustainRT Councilor. The resolution directs ALA, working with the ALA Council Committee on Sustainability, to pursue a goal of carbon neutrality for ALA conferences by 2025. This motion passed.
- Resolution on Greater Transparency in the Library of Congress Subject Headings Revision Process (ALA [CD#55](#)) was brought forward by Hannah Buckland, MN Chapter Councilor. This resolution included a request for greater openness and transparency in the Library of Congress Subject Heading approval process. There was robust discussion on this motion; the motion was defeated.
- Resolution on Replacing the Library of Congress Subject Heading Illegal Aliens Without Further Delay (ALA [CD#56](#)) was brought forward by Roberto Delgadillo, Councilor-at Large. This resolution included a request that the Library of Congress change the subject heading Illegal aliens without further delay. There was also robust discussion on this motion. While some felt we needed to act now on this issue, others were concerned that, while in agreement with the sentiments raised in this resolution, this was not the right approach for ALA to take. The result was the approval of a Motion to refer CD #56 to the Committee on Legislation for further analysis and report back to Council with recommendations at the January 2022 Council Meeting.
- Election Results for Committee on Committees (CoC) and Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA) was presented in the Tellers Report (ALA [CD #12.2](#)) by Matt Beckstrom who was Head Teller. Four councilors were elected to the CoC: K.C. Boyd, Oscar Baeza, Binh P. Le, Regina Beard. Two councilors were elected as PBA At Large Councilors: Edward Sanchez, Alanna Aiko Moore. Three councilors were elected as PBA Chapter Councilors: Sharrese C. Castillo, Jos N. Holman, Patricia (Trish) Hull.
- ALA Treasurer's Report/Budget Update/Approval of the Annual Estimates of Income for FY 2022 (ALA [CD#13.3](#)), was presented by Maggie Farrell, ALA Treasurer. Maggie Farrell recognized outgoing BARC Chair, Peter Hepburn, for his outstanding leadership. She moved for approval the Annual Estimates of Income of FY22 Annual Estimates of Income of \$73,068,000. The

*Continued on page 20*

motion passed. requires that all Round Tables align with nominal, annual membership dues to be recommended by the Round Table Coordinating Assembly.

was shared as a written report to Council.

## Reports

- Operating Agreement Workgroup (OAWG) Update (ALA [CD#40.1](#)), was presented by OAWG co-chairs Maggie Farrell and Andrew Pace. The workgroup needed more time to complete their work. Executive Board has extended their charge for an additional year to Annual Conference 2022.
- Review of Executive Board Actions since the 2021 Midwinter Meeting (ALA [CD#15.1](#)) and Implementation of the 2021 ALA Midwinter Meeting Council Actions (ALA [CD#9.1](#)) were presented by Tracie D. Hall, ALA Executive Director.
- Resolutions Committee Report (ALA [CD#10.2](#)), chaired by Mike Marlin, shared a resolution to express sentiments of gratitude by the outgoing resolutions committee chair.
- Nominations for the 2021-2022 Council Committee on Committees and 2021 Planning and Budget Assembly Election (ALA [CD#12-#12.1](#)), chaired by Patty Wong, were presented.
- Committee on Legislation (ALA [CD#20.3](#)), chaired by Joseph A. Thompson, Jr., presented information about many important legislative activities as documented in the report.
- International Relations Committee (ALA [CD#18.1](#)), chaired by Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, gave a detailed report about international activities. A few things of note included that there was stronger international registration at this annual conference (likely due to the ability to attend virtually). ALA nominated 49 candidates to IFLA positions. Dr. Abdullahi mentioned the IRRT pilot program to promote and enable support for IRRT member attendance and participation through competitive grants to cover the early bird registration for the virtual IFLA Congress to be held August 17-19, 2021.
- Digital Content Working Group Update (ALA [CD#51](#)), co-chaired by Leah McGinnis Dunn and Kelvin Watson,

- Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) (ALA [CD#22.1](#)), represented by Barbara Stripling, FTRF President, shared a detailed report.

Protecting Privacy and Safety in Coronavirus Related Library Policy Update – Guidance to Libraries (ALA [CD#49](#)), lead by Tamika Barnes and Maria McCauley, ALA Board Members, shared an update.

*Complete notes to this report can be requested from Delin Guerra Email: [dguerra@ala.org](mailto:dguerra@ala.org)*

See also:

**Council Documents:** <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-council-meetings>

**Council I: Forward Together Work Begins:**

**Reorganization resolutions passed, deferred**

**Council II: Restructuring and Sustainability: ALA to aim for carbon-neutral conferences**

**Council III: Resolutions and Updates: Subject heading decisions moved to January**

### Call for Submissions

Do you have news or stories about ...

- ◇ International library activities?
- ◇ People in international librarianship?
- ◇ Upcoming international conferences?

Submit to International Leads?  
Email us at [ala.intl.leads@gmail.com](mailto:ala.intl.leads@gmail.com)