

For Immediate Release
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USIA and ALA seeking U.S. libraries to host overseas librarians

The United States Information Agency (USIA) and the American Library Association (ALA) are seeking U.S. libraries to host overseas librarians for three to 12 months under a new program.

In an effort to broaden the Library Fellows Program, the USIA approved additional funding for "reverse exchanges" to place international library professionals at U.S. libraries.

The current Library Fellows program places 10 to 14 U.S. library professionals each year in institutions overseas for periods of three to 10 months.

"The program's success has given us a strong foundation upon which to begin this new effort," said Robert P. Doyle, program director. "We hope incoming fellows will have the opportunity to enhance their understanding of contemporary librarianship as practiced in the U.S., develop new areas of expertise and establish contacts with American colleagues that will lead to enduring professional and institutional relationships."

It is anticipated that the first international library fellows will begin work assignments in the fall of 1993 after completing an orientation program. The assignments will vary depending upon individual interests and the interests of the U.S. host-institutions. Assignments might include provision of reference or technical services, library administration, or community outreach.

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The criteria for selection of the U.S. host-institutions are appropriate match of professional interests, assurance of a staff-mentor to assist the fellow with orientation and on-the-job questions, availability of non-credit educational opportunities and no- or low-cost housing. U.S. staff-mentors must attend an all-expense paid orientation session.

Fellows will be provided an annual salary of \$32,000 prorated for the fellowship length. Travel expenses to and from the U.S. and some in-country travel will be covered by the program. Health insurance is provided as well as facilitative assistance with visas, social security and taxes.

USIA criteria for selection of incoming fellows are library science degree (or accepted local equivalent), appropriate library experience, fluency in English, quality and feasibility of proposal and potential value of the exchange to support program goals.

U.S. libraries interested in hosting an international fellow should contact: Robert P. Doyle, Director, Library Fellows Program, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 3200.

The Library Fellows Program, which began in 1986, is funded with a grant from USIA under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act. To date, 63 U.S. librarians have participated.

The ALA is a private, nongovernmental educational organization. Founded in 1876, it is the oldest and largest library association in the world with more than 55,000 members representing all types of libraries.

The USIA, an independent agency within the executive branch, is responsible for the U.S. government's overseas programs, including 156 libraries in 98 countries, the Fulbright scholarship program, the Voice of America and the WORLDNET satellite television system.