

Libraries Around the World

The Life of Ukrainian Libraries in View of Public Challenges

Ukraine is the largest European country with population of about 40 mil people that is actively building European future and renovating libraries. Ukraine has a diversified library system – more than 30 500 libraries of different kinds: about 15 000 school libraries, 180 university libraries and almost 15 000 public libraries.

The main task of libraries in Ukraine is to help people, communities and society to meet challenges and develop possibilities. Libraries are exactly the places where everyone can learn during a whole life.

Besides challenges faced by all countries, dealing with a rapid IT development and COVID-19 pandemic, we are facing the challenges of war having been going on for 9 years in the east of Ukraine, the occupation of the Crimea, hybrid war and recent increased acts of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In that respect our libraries' action is directed to the development of people's information culture, their information, media and digital literacy.



ТРОСТЯНЕЦЬКА ПУБЛІЧНА БІБЛІОТЕКА
**ТИЖДЕНЬ ЦИФРОВОЇ
ГРАМОТНОСТІ**

Media Literacy Week in the library of Trostianets community

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Ukrainian Libraries, continued



Training 'Social solidarity, mobilization of internally displaced persons. Project work and community development' in Ternopil Regional Library for Children

Besides providing free access to information resources, librarians hold consultations and various educational events. It is classes in information and media literacy: how to use library information resources, how to search the Internet, what is cybersecurity, how to detect fakes, disinformation and find true relevant information. Ukrainian librarians have taken an active part in the national project in media literacy called 'Filter' to increase all age groups' level of awareness in the issue of disinformation and manipulation detection skills.

Libraries have digital education hubs, where people, of older age groups in part, are taught how to work with computers, different gadgets, office applications and the Internet. Librarians also help these people to master digital skills: how to use social media, online communication services. Librarians teach and hold consultations for everyone how to use 'Diia. Digital Education' - the national online platform for digital literacy skills development, worked out by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and online administrative services on sites of public bodies, special services, via online governmental platform and mobile app 'Diia - Public e-services'.

Ukraine has a big amount of internally displaced persons from uncontrolled territory of the Luhansk and Donetsk

regions and the occupied Crimea. In that respect, librarians provide the needed assistance with job search and new skills development, organizing courses of foreign languages, programming, assistance with obtaining documents, re-registration for receipt of social payments, house hunting, etc. Libraries are safety places, both physically and psychologically, where you can find services of psychological support, desks of legal advice.

Ukrainian Library Association (ULA), as a public and professional organization, unites librarian community and all those interested in the development of library services for the development of human capital and civil society. During the whole period of its work (since 1995) the ULA asset has been specifically working with libraries, authorities, business, international organizations, supporting the innovative platform of collaboration to develop and implement professional possibilities of librarians and attain a new quality of library services. Librarian community is always on the cutting edge of meeting challenges, which our country, society and every single person faces today.

*Oksana Brui, President of Ukrainian Library Association, Library Director of Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute
Translator: Kristina Galustova, Senior Librarian in Zaporizhzhia Regional Universal Scientific Library*

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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.

Message from the Editors

Greetings to all our readers!

In this first issue of *International Leads* for 2022, we look forward to a fresh start – hoping that our stories are inspirational i.e. about reopening, recovery and what new services librarians are offering in libraries around the world. But, it is sad to say that challenges faced by libraries in other parts of the globe continue. We begin with a brief write up of libraries in Ukraine which we were able to gather before the war started. As their struggles continue, we want to highlight the response of the American Library Association supporting the appeal from the Ukrainian Library Association to provide accurate information, countering and revealing disinformation.

On a lighter note, we have gathered important updates featuring visions of library leaders and highlighting endeavors of libraries and library associations. The regular columns of IRRT Chair Jim Neal and IRRT Chair-elect Safi Safiullah inform us of the great things IRRT is working on. In addition, this issue features diverse and informative topics including: interviews with IFLA President Barbara Lison and IRRT Secretary/Treasurer Erica Saito; ALA naming Jim Neal an Honorary Member; ALA call for presentation proposals for the 2022 ALA Conference; the continuation of the IFLA WLIC 2021 grantees' impressions; the BCALA International Relations Committee; book censorship in the Philippines and Celebrating Reading: World Book Day 2022; featured librarians in Colorado's Trifecta Part II; and a profile of a Greek librarian working in Qatar.

We at *International Leads* encourage libraries around the globe to help raise awareness on how misleading information and media manipulation significantly affects everyone. Being at the frontier of information, we uphold not only the right to free expression but also to ensure that this freedom always comes with responsibility. Share with us your initiatives and involvement countering misinformation in this era of post truth. Submit to us news on events, projects, initiatives, activities, achievements, grants, conferences at: ala.irrt.leads@gmail.com.

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.



ALA Election Site Opens on Monday, March 14, 2022!

“Voting is one of the most important things you can do as a member of the American Library Association. The officers we elect, through their vision and leadership ability, have the potential to make a real difference” – Tracie D. Hall, ALA Executive Director

ALA members in good standing as of January 31, 2022, can cast a digital ballot to vote for association-wide leaders who will shape the future and direction of the association. The ALA Annual Election will close on **Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time** (US/Canada Time Zone).

This is your 2022 IRRT Executive Board slate:

VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT

1. MARK MATTSON
2. FARZANEH RAZZAGHI

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Message from IRRT Chair



Jim Neal
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The theme for IRRT during 2021-22 is: “Global Libraries Are Community Leaders in Our Pandemic World.” There are three subthemes:

- Global Libraries Reopening and Refreshed
- Global Libraries as Advocates for Information Policy Change
- Global Libraries as Agents of Social Justice.

I would like to focus here on the first subtheme. How do we build on the innovations and creative strategies of the past two years, and not just return to the previous normal? How do we share and learn from these experiences and these new approaches to serving our communities around the world?

Libraries have entered a period of gross mutability, a state of constant change, of productive and powerful chaos, of hybrid strategies and maverick structures, of radical shifts in professional staffing, of massive leadership turnover, and of essential creativity in advancing individual and collective visions.

There are, in my view, three essential elements:

1. we must have hope, believe in and aspire to expanding relevance and impact
2. we must achieve power, to have authority, influence and respect
3. we must focus less on ideas and more on action, getting things done.

The two things we must advance are primal innovation, a basic commitment to risk and experimentation, and radical collaboration, deep and systemic partnerships. Renovation is grossly inadequate. Deconstruction is totally es-

sential. This means redefining the physical (where), expertise (who), and intellectual (why) infrastructure, and understanding the psychology, economics and methods of progress.

Samuel Butler tells us: “All progress is based on a universal innate desire on the part of an organism to live beyond its income.”

George Santayana points out: “Those who speak of progress measure it by quantity and not by quality.”

Kahlil Gibran points the way: “Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be.”

The library has always been a fundamental partner in the community learning and research processes. But key changes in the information, technology, economic, social and political environments are challenging this relationship and raising critical questions about the value and impact of the library in the community. Do twentieth century skills still matter? The work of information selection, acquisition and synthesis; the support provided for navigation, dissemination, interpretation and understanding; the tools for use, application and archiving of information...does the community still need this support in the ways that libraries have provided over the last 50 years? And do the new roles that libraries are advancing as aggressive consumers, intermediaries and aggregators, publishers and educators, research and development organizations, creative and maker spaces, entrepreneurs, and policy advocates...do these present a refreshed opportunity for innovation and library centrality in the community? How has the pandemic radicalized these debates? How has library as community hub and resource network expanded in importance?

As we look out over the next decade, libraries will be increasingly defined as convener, enabler, distributor, advocate and archive, and less as infrastructure, platform, repository and portal.

Libraries will systematically apply new knowledge to new resources to produce new goods and new services, that is, develop the market. They will focus on managing the costs and increasing the benefits, that is, add value. They will think deliberately about existing challenges and unmet needs, that is, seek solutions. They will understand the importance of achieving a balance between evolutionary, incremental change, and revolutionary, disruptive

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Message from IRRT Chair, continued

change. Measured transformation. What do I mean by transform? To change in composition or structure, what we are and what we do. To change in outward form or appearance, how we are viewed and understood. To change in character or condition, how we do it. Thomas Kuhn, in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, reminds us that "the transition from a paradigm in crisis to a new one from which a new tradition can emerge is far from a cumulative process." Karl Marx, in his theory of epistemology, his theory of knowledge, points to a pot of water over a flame. Intellectually, we know the temperature of the water is increasing, but only when it reaches a certain point, the boiling point, the tipping point, does a true transformation take place as the liquid turns to gas. The fundamental link between quantitative and qualitative change.

Let's consider for a moment where libraries spend their money. There are four main buckets: content purchase or rental, technology systems and tools, staff expertise, and space. Clearly, investment in most libraries is flowing from content to expanded investment in the other areas.

Libraries are fundamentally rethinking space planning and identity. We are creating the trompe l'oeil library of the future, with many of the superficial trappings of the traditional library. But with expanded understanding of user needs and expectations, and with technology as a catalyst, we are building learning spaces, social spaces, collaborative spaces, creative spaces, all defined by flexibility and adaptability. It is going to take more resources. Libraries are experiencing a rapid shift in their staffing. We are seeing more professionals with diverse academic backgrounds. We are recruiting for a wide range of new professional assignments, as the role and responsibilities of the library have expanded. We are seeing more messy and fluid organizational structures which require a new style of leadership. And we are striving to build organizations characterized by diversity and inclusion, to reflect more effectively the communities we serve. This means more successful recruitment and retention of libraries staff. It is going to take more resources.

Libraries encompass and espouse technological change, often serving as the locus of early adoption in our communities. We have built digital libraries, recognizing that quality is clearly defined as content plus functionality. Multimedia, integrated services and applications are central to our digital futures. We have been so focused on our library

management systems. The need for inventory control persists. And many of us have created new discovery and access tools to support our users. But the real action is in new technologies and platforms: mobiles and tablets, cloud computing, geo-everything, personal web, artificial intelligence, linked data, big data, semantic-aware application, smart objects and spaces, open learning, games as learning tools, visualization and simulation, 3-D printing, augmented reality. It is going to take a lot more resources.

Cooperation is part of the professional DNA of libraries. But we need to move from kumbaya to more radical strategies for collaboration. We know how to cooperate on a significant scale in such areas as cataloging, interlibrary loan and document delivery, and licensing of databases for example. But we need a deeper integration of operations in the areas of mass production, where we have hopeless redundancy, in early co-investment as we build new infrastructures and new initiatives, and in commitment to a shared network of centers of excellence. From the conditions of knowledge scarcity over the centuries to the oppression of information over-abundance in today's and tomorrow's library, cooperation has been and will be a constant for service, success and survival. The future health of the library will be increasingly defined not by sharing resources on the margin, but by new and energetic relationships and combinations, and in innovative entrepreneurial partnerships. The measure of success for collaboration must be quality, productivity, leadership and transformation. Are we producing something new, saving resources, and achieving something better together than working separately? We are in a period of polygamy, of rampant partnering and combinations. We are moving into a period of parabiosis, with deep pairings of libraries and their resources. And we are advancing toward a period of particularism, with powerful disciplinary, service, technology and workflow specializations across the library community. Let's remember that every snowflake in an avalanche pleads not guilty. We own a shared responsibility

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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>

Message from the IRRT Chair-elect



Safi Safiullah

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The IRRT Committees Need You!

The International Relations Round Table (IRRT) is inviting you to serve on its committees to uphold its mission to connect librarians around the world and strengthen global communities. The IRRT can be your home to flourish and grow your leadership skills. It is a space to engage with a community far beyond geographical boundaries and to elevate the world. Joining a committee will give you the opportunity to learn about other libraries' approaches concerning the "new normal" emerging from the pandemic and the unique service models developed to serve adapting communities. Becoming involved with the IRRT team will allow you to sharpen your skills and help create a new library community that will bridge the gap between local and global communities in the virtual era.

As library professionals, we have committed our professional lives to provide services to everyone and we have a commitment to enlighten our communities and elevate society. Patty Wong, the current ALA President, rightly said, "a lot of people are quiet leaders, and that is beautiful, I tend to be quiet myself, but when I need to, and when I remember that it's not just about me, then I feel the voice and elevation pump and it comes a little bit more naturally." Ms. Wong also stated, "it's all about the community that you want to serve and want to elevate." Whether you consider yourself a quiet or vocal individual, I am sure that you have all the necessary expertise and skills to be a leader of the IRRT team.

The IRRT Committee Appointment Process

Let's talk about how the IRRT works. Like other roundtables, the IRRT Executive Board members (composed of a chair-elect and 7 members) are voted in during the ALA elections. The chair-elect works with the current chair and the Executive Board and becomes the chair after the Annual ALA Conference, and the previous chair remains as a voting member on the Executive Board during their last term.

Every spring, the chair-elect recruits 2 co-chairs and 5 to 8 members for the IRRT's 14 committees out of the IRRT's general body membership pool. The IRRT Committee meetings are held at least 3-5 times a year to progress the groups toward their unique goals and plan activities presented during the LibLearnX and the ALA annual conferences. A designated liaison from the IRRT Executive Board will be assigned to each committee to guide and support their activities and coordinate between the Executive Board and the committees. Additionally, a designated ALA staff from the International Relations Office (IRC) will be assigned to help committee chairs align the programs with the ALA's rules and regulations and help with housekeeping tasks. The chairs of the committees also submit their 6 monthly and annual reports to the IRRT's General Body meeting during Lib-LearnX and at the Annual Conference.

I urge our members to visit the IRRT's website to find out how you can get involved in a committee to bring our vision of an inclusive global library community to life. A list of the committees, their webpages, and their goals is attached below so you can see where your interests align. We need help from many of you to make our committees the best they can be and I am sure you and your skills will be a perfect match with at least one of the 14 committees. Committee appointments last for one year or two years (depending on committee), beginning at ALA Annual (July 1 - June 30) and ending at the next ALA Annual Conference. You must be a current ALA and IRRT member to serve on a committee. If you wish to become an IRRT member or renew your membership, please visit the [ALA Membership site](#). Please note, members can only serve up to three committees across all of ALA during any year. Please [fill out the volunteer form](#) and the chair-elect will get in touch with you to bring to the committee of your interest.

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Message from the IRRT Chair-elect, continued

The IRRT Committee Descriptions

[IRRT Chair's Program Committee](#)

Develops and hosts programs at annual conferences for IRRT members and librarians interested in international librarianship.

[IRRT Endowment Committee](#)

The Endowment Committee has the following responsibilities:

- Promotes donations to the IRRT Endowment Fund using the IRRT website, social media, International Leads, and other avenues.
- Manages the disbursement of the IRRT Mission Enhancement Grants by soliciting applications via a variety of communication avenues, evaluating proposals, and selecting project(s) to recommend to the IRRT Executive Board for approval.
- Maintains a list of past winners and completed reports on the IRRT Website

[IRRT International Connections Committee](#)

The IRRT International Connections Committee, formerly Exchanges Committee, has as its purpose to collect information about library professionals and libraries worldwide seeking to establish study visits and exchange programs; to disseminate information to librarians about opportunities to enrich and broaden their career experience and the library profession by developing intercultural perspectives; to share educational and cultural interests, achievements, and developments in libraries and thus assist in the development of the profession and of friendly and peaceful relations with countries throughout the world.

[IRRT International Librarians' Pre-Conference Committee](#)

Develops and hosts an annual pre-conference for international attendees.

[IRRT International Papers and Projects Committee](#)

Founded in 1999, the committee's charge is to encourage the scholarly exchange of ideas on library issues between U.S. librarians and their colleagues from other countries; to develop a venue that fosters discussion and the ex-

change of opinion; to disseminate a global view of the library profession that will enrich and broaden the views of U.S. librarians; and to encourage our foreign colleagues to learn more about our professional associations and concerns.

[IRRT International Reception Committee](#)

Locate, organize and host the international visitors reception at the ALA annual conference. Coordinate the ALA President's Citation for International Library Innovation.

[IRRT Sister Libraries Committee](#)

Promotes Sister Library relationships with libraries and librarians throughout the world. It develops guidelines and other activities, and helps libraries to connect with each other.

[IRRT International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group](#)

The ISLD serves as a clearinghouse of sustainable community-based library projects in developing areas of the world. This group mobilizes the power of ALA librarians to raise awareness of and make significant contributions to international library development. Librarians in developing countries can tap into resources for training and projects in their libraries.

[IRRT International Visitors Center Committee](#)

Responsible for the international visitors center which provides advice and support for all international attendees at the ALA annual conference.

[IRRT Membership Committee](#)

The committee is responsible for developing and implementing all membership activities for the IRRT.

[IRRT Nominating Committee](#)

The Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for the offices of chair, vice-chair, secretary /treasurer, members-at-large and the Round Table councilor-at-large.

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Interview with Barbara Lison



Barbara Lison, IFLA President

This interview with Barbara Lison, Director of the Statsbibliothek Bremen (Public Library), Germany and President of IFLA 2021-2023 was conducted by Julia Gelfand via eMail. Long an advocate for everything related to libraries you can tell her commitment to the profession and to community service.

Can you please introduce yourself and highlight some of the career steps that took you to becoming the Director of the Stadtbibliothek of Bremen and your lengthy engagement with IFLA?

I have spent most of my professional life in libraries and fought for libraries to be recognized as important for the development of society. After my university studies, I passed two years in a training to become an academic librarian. However, I have now been working in public libraries for over 35 years. I have been director of the Bremen Public Library since 1992. In addition to my professional duties in Bremen, I have been involved with library associations for a long time and have held various positions there. I would particularly like to emphasize that at the national level I was both, the President of the umbrella organization of the German Library Associations and the Chair of the German Library Association. For more than 25 years, I have

also been committed to the interests of libraries on an international level. As functions, I would like to mention the two-time vice-presidency of EBLIDA, the umbrella organization of European library associations; and of course my commitment to IFLA, to which I was first elected to the Board in 2011. However, the first time that I was active for IFLA was in 2003, when I volunteered at the IFLA World Congress in Berlin.

You were elected President-Elect of IFLA with many goals back in 2019. Then the pandemic arrived and IFLA had to quickly pivot. Can you please share with us what the most dramatic thing you have introduced toward your goals during your presidency to date?

There are so many things that I had imagined very differently during my Presidency. And now in the Pandemic, I have to act totally differently. I think it's particularly bad that, as the Chair of the IFLA Governing Board, I have only had personal contact with only half of the Governing Board members. Even during my time as President-Elect, the governing board was unable to meet in person due to the pandemic. Of course I feel this as a great loss of human relationships and human contacts. In addition, a meeting of the Governing Board, which currently is usually virtual, is very difficult to manage when individual governing board members are located in different parts of the world. Currently, we have one Governing Board member in Japan and another one in Mexico; this means that we have to consider a time difference of 14 hours for the schedule of the board meetings. Of course, it is easier when all the Governing Board members travel to The Hague, where our headquarters are, and we can then meet without a time difference that significantly affects the meeting. IFLA received new statutes in February 2021, which have been in force since August 2021. One of my most important responsibilities as President is to ensure that these statutes are filled with new life. This has become very complicated because of the pandemic situation. Of course it is a goal of every IFLA President to travel and meet the members in the most diverse countries in the world and to present the IFLA there. In times of a pandemic, this goal is almost impossible to achieve. However, modern technology has given us the opportunity to be digitally present

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Interview with Erica Saito, IRRT Secretary/Treasurer

Can you share with us a little of your background that inspired you to become a librarian? Where did you grow up and attend university, and what kind of library positions have you held both in Brazil and in the US?

After graduating from high school, I decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in Library Science at São Paulo University (USP). I come from a librarian family: my aunt was a librarian, my cousin was a library assistant, my father's cousin is a librarian, and I have librarian relatives in my husband's family!

I completed an exchange program in Spain during my undergraduate studies as an Erasmus Mundus student at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M). I had the opportunity to take classes not offered in Brazil, such as "Business Information."

In 2010 I started my career as a librarian at USP, and since then, I have never stopped working and continued my studies in Library Science. In 2014, I moved to the U.S. to work as a library consultant in Washington, D.C. I decided to apply for the Master of Information at Rutgers University and received my degree in 2019. Currently, I am working as an Information and Library Specialist at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Your early involvement in IRRT has been through the committee structure and most recently in the Emerging Leaders program before you were elected to the Board. Please remind us about your contribution as an Emerging Leader and what your team did and how you engaged with IRRT during that process.

I am an ALA Emerging Leader 2020-21, and I was assigned to work on the project "International Relations Round Table (IRRT)/International Librarians Mentorship Program in Action." My group was in charge of developing a marketing campaign and launching the program with the first cohort of 30-50 collaborating peers based on the successful groundwork performed by another Emerging Leaders Group in 2019. The International Librarian Networking Program was launched in 2020, and later it became an IRRT subcommittee. In 2021, I was volunteering for the program's second cohort, and hopefully, I will help the next edition next year.

You participated as a 2013 Associate at the Morten-



Erica Saito is an Information & Library Specialist at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington.

son Center at the University of Illinois and also attended and presented at IFLA Conferences and published in its network of publications. How did the contributions from those experiences shape your ongoing interests?

These experiences made me realize that international librarianship was a great fit for my passion: working in a multi-cultural environment, meeting people from different parts of the world, and using different languages.

You have worked most of your career in a Special Library. Can you tell us about the nature of that work in the international realm and what it is like to work using many languages, across a number of time zones, and how it prepared you to work during the pandemic? You may have been better positioned to pivot to remote activities than many librarians.

In both special libraries that I've worked in, I had the chance to catalog and disseminate the digital publications of these institutions in institutional repositories, making them available to other researchers, policymakers, donors, and the general public. There are publications available in different languages, so my language skills helped me a lot (I speak Portuguese, English, Spanish, and French). Indeed, I was already dealing with remote interaction with clients in different places across the globe using corporate message tools such as Teams to make video conferences or send messages to the users. Still, it was scary to work 100% of my time from

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The Fourth National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color

After four years, the National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color returns for a fourth round of awesome programming, networking opportunities, and fellowship. Set for October 5-9, 2022, the [Fourth National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color \(JCLC\)](#) will meet in-person at the Tradewinds Island Grand Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. The conference theme is “Gathering for Action: EDI – Where Do We Go from Here?”

Under the auspices of the Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc., the National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color is a gathering of the five National Associations of Librarians of Color (NALCOs) – the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and REFORMA: National Service to Promote Library and Information to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking – for four days of learning, networking, and collaboration.

Conference attendees can choose from a plethora of conference tracks including advocacy, diversity, technology, programming, and leadership. Persons interested in presenting at the conference should submit a proposal at: <https://www.jclcinc.org/conference/2022/proposals/>. **The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at Midnight Pacific Standard Time (US/Canada Time Zone).**

Registration for the Fourth Joint Conference of Librarians of Color opens on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Information regarding registration rates and hotel reservations is available at: <https://www.jclcinc.org/conference/2022/registration/>

Message from the IRRT Chair-elect, continued

[IRRT International Librarians' Orientation/Mentoring Committee](#)

Organizes the orientation for international visitors at annual conferences and works closely with the ALA International Relations Office to develop a mentoring program for annual conferences.

[IRRT Poster Session Committee](#)

The Committee publicizes, solicits, reviews and evaluates all international poster session submissions for annual conferences and oversees their presentation.

[IRRT Publications Committee](#)

The role of the IRRT Publications Committee is to recommend to the IRRT Executive Board policy, as well as steps to identify and implement policy, regarding International Leads, the IRRT website, and any other publishing activity, in any format, originating with the Round Table.

If you have any questions about IRRT's committees or their work, please contact me at ssafullah@slcpl.org or reach out to any of the [IRRT's Executive Board Members](#). I hope you'll join us in our efforts to connect the world through librarianship and community building!

###

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

The American Library Association (ALA) Council elected former ALA President and Treasurer Jim Neal to honorary membership in the association, the ALA's highest honor, during the virtual 2022 Library Learning Experience. Honorary membership is conferred in recognition of outstanding contributions of lasting importance to libraries and librarianship.

Neal was nominated in recognition of significant contributions to libraries and the profession of librarianship and his accomplishments as ALA president and treasurer and a member of ALA Council. He was a member of the ALA Executive Board when the Spectrum Initiative was launched and has actively raised funds on behalf of the program, as well as advocating for the establishment of DEI as a fourth strategic priority for the association.

"His contributions to libraries and the profession of librarianship are myriad and wide-ranging. The people, organizations, and policies his leadership and service have positively affected are countless. His mentorship of multiple genera-

tions of library leaders has had broad influence and impact across the profession," said nominator Damon E. Jaggars, vice provost and dean of university libraries, The Ohio State University.

Neal has received numerous awards and honors recognizing his leadership, service, and achievements, including several from ALA (the Melvil Dewey Medal Award and the Joseph W. Lippincott Award) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) (the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award, Academic/Research Librarian of the Year), among many others.

Neal has made a substantial contribution to the literature of librarianship, having published over 90 papers in a wide range of publications, from refereed scholarship to thought and advocacy pieces to professional columns.

He has also made valuable contributions to the conversation around topics important to librarianship, higher education and society as a whole, having delivered over 550

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Interview with Erica Saito, IRRT Secretary/Treasurer, continued

home at the beginning of the pandemic. Now I have got used to the "new normal," and I am still working from home, and since the pandemic started, I only went to the office twice.

The IRRT Secretary/Treasurer is charged to maintain a record about the workings of the Roundtable and is responsible for serving as a liaison to several committees. In your first term on the IRRT Executive Board what have you learned and what is your favorite assignment so far?

I am learning more about all the work IRRT does and how we need to plan carefully for things that will happen in months to come, such as planning the annual conference program. My favorite assignment is preparing the agenda for the board meeting because I know everything that is going on in IRRT, and I can work closely with Jim Neal. I have always admired him as a leader and person, and it is an honor to work with him. It is a pleasure to work with your role model, and it still amazes me that he knows my name!

Your biographical sketches and entries indicate that you engage in a number of volunteer activities related to animal welfare, children, and health. Can you tell us a little more about what your current extracurricular interests are and anything else you would like us to know about you.

Currently, I am volunteering for the food pantry of Saint Philip Parish. Since I work for a research institute that aims to reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition, food security became close to my heart. I am also volunteering for City Dogs Rescue and City Kitties. I already worked in different roles, such as adoption counselor, but now I am fostering a 17-year-old cat. I need to use all my creativity and take good photos to post on social media and make the cats more appealing to find their forever homes. I believe everybody needs to find something that they are passionate about and start volunteering. It is rewarding to see we can make a difference in this world..

###



IFLA - WLIC 2021: Impressions from ALA IRRT Grantees

Compiled by Julia Gelfand

Our last issue contained experiences shared by some members of the IRRT cohort who received awards to attend and participate in the IFLA World Library Information Congress 2021 held virtually due to the pandemic. This continuation of shared experiences adds to the convincing spirit that this IRRT initiative provided in realizing the power of global librarianship and the value of international community building among professionals in a range of public services, educational provisions and literacies directed at all population sectors. We hope that you have found these impressions genuine and from the heart.

Tuba Akbaytürk Çanak, Director of Koc University Library in Istanbul, Turkey compared the 2021 WLIC to the only other one she attended in 2016 when it was in Columbus, Ohio, USA and concluded that it was very US centric and “this virtual congress however was organized with a different mindset embracing the diversity and caring about the inclusions. The timetable accommodating different time zones alone can be seen as the visualization of this attempt.” She continues, “The nice thing about the virtual congress is that the access to the full e-Library of streamed sessions was enabled for the delegates. Asynchronous opportunity to watch the sessions is a great add-on and really takes away the usual pressure of missing parallel sessions which is something that we all have experienced with on-site conferences.”

Concerning the program, “the nice thing...is that there is something for everyone, for any librarian from any interest groups with any job description. The top three sessions that she found particularly interesting were: 1) “Safe and Open: post-recovery library design” by the Library Buildings and Equipment Section; 2) “Power of transformation: Open Access and Library Collections” by the Acquisitions and Collection Development Section; and 3) “How can we create surveys that capture hidden value?” by the Statistics and Evaluation Section.

Her takeaways and conclusions affirmed that “involvement in IFLA by joining the volunteer activities is an eye-opener and helps to be part of the global dialogue. My participation in WLIC and the opportunity to listen to the world library leaders and observe the efforts made reinforced by decision to join IFLA and made me feel proud about my new role as a member-elect of the Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Standing Committee.”

Liladhar R. Pendse, Librarian for East European and Central Asian Studies, Caribbean and Latin American Stud-

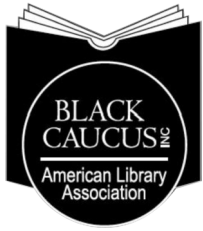
ies and Armenian Studies Collections at the University of California, Berkeley, USA writes “the theme “Let us work together for the future” was essential and appropriate. The conference’s grand opening was necessary; however as a professional librarian, the different workshops and professional presentations in the sections like the Caribbean & Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa were more critical.” She particularly benefited from the “Expanding the Global Digital Access through Controlled Digital Lending” program and learned many practical skills about pivoting to future opportunities without losing sight of our current situation, in the workshop “Resilience Over the Pandemic and the Pivot to Future Opportunities.”

“shared experiences adds to the convincing spirit that this IRRT initiative provided in realizing the power of global librarianship and the value of international community building among professionals in a range of public services, educational provisions and literacies directed at all population sectors.”

Marcia Ericson, Librarian at Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, USA shared that “Attending the IFLA 2021 Virtual WLIC was an amazing and perspective-widening experience for a junior high school librarian who would never have the funds or opportunity to attend such a global event in person. I am grateful and appreciative to have received the IFLA 2021 Registration Grant from the American Library Association International Relations Round Table because I was able to attend over a dozen live sessions, in addition to regularly exploring the Exhibition Hall and ePosters.” She continued with closing comments that were echoed by nearly all the award recipients from whom reports were submitted, “The Congress’s theme, “Let’s work together for the future,” was not only a call for attendees to come together and collaborate, but, for me, it was also a unifying statement that has strengthened my resolve to advocate for libraries and the safe and vibrant spaces they create for all.”

The co-editors want to thank everyone who submitted a report for sharing their experiences. At the time of going to press, IFLA is planning the next WLIC as an in-person conference in Dublin, Republic of Ireland July 25-29, 2022.

###



BCALA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Vivian Bordeaux

The BCALA International Relations Committee's charge is to develop, promote, and support international relations efforts and activities through engagement with international members, conferences, and programs. The committee also identifies new partnerships, fosters collaboration, and maintains existing relationships with other countries, groups, and organizations. To accomplish the above, we present webinars and coordinate educational travel relating to international relations for members.

Committee members are interested in knowing the impact of libraries on the lives of people. Libraries can and do transform the lives of all ages. From those in primary schools, and secondary schools and those fortunate to attend the universities. Whether they lived in the cities or in the country many claimed that libraries and their resources open their eyes to possibilities beyond their community.

Committee members for the past two years have had a chance to watch a community center library in Nigeria, change from an empty building to a nearly full to capacity school and library despite the challenges; limited internet services, funding and politics. Despite these challenges the teachers and library staff are excited about their community center and the ability to provide the best service possible and knowing the community appreciates their efforts.

The International Relations Committee believes that we should strive to promote understanding and awareness of international concerns and one way we can do that is to be aware of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. It provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. These 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

We might not be knowledgeable of all 17 goals but there might be some goals that we have had conversation about, that we have read about or have or a working on with others. In some form or fashion, we should take the time and learn more about these goals and how they affect the world. Below are the list of the United Nations 17 goals.



GOAL 1: No Poverty; GOAL 2: Zero Hunger; GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being; GOAL 4: Quality Education; GOAL 5: Gender Equality; GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality; GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; GOAL 13: Climate Action; GOAL 14: Life Below Water; GOAL 15: Life on Land; GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions; GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal. For more information about this important United Nation initiative visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

###

IRRT Webinar Report

Truth and Reconciliation: Decolonizing Approaches Within Social Memory Institutions

Aditi Gupta, aditig@uvic.ca

On October 13, 2021 the IRRT Webinar committee invited Ry Moran, Canada's inaugural Associate University Librarian, Reconciliation to deliver a webinar to the ALA IRRT community.



Credit: Nardella Photography

Ry Moran is Canada's inaugural Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation at the University of Victoria. Ry's role within UVic Libraries' focuses on building and sustaining relationships to introduce Indigenous approaches and knowledge into the daily work of the Libraries and more broadly across the campus community. In so doing, Ry plays an active role in advancing UVic's strategic goal of being a globally recognized leader in areas of reconciliation. Ry is a member of the IFLA Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage (2021-2023).

The talk was highly popular and garnered 240+ participants who attended the session. Ry engaged the audience about his work in Canada at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the impact of the recovery of 215 unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Canada. Ry has shown great leadership in guiding the library community in the work of reconciliation. Ry discussed his role and the library's role and response in building and sustaining relationships to introduce Indigenous approaches and knowledge to decolonize our collections, spaces as well as campus community as a whole.

Ry spoke about United Nations' "Declaration on the



WEBINAR SERIES

Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (UNDRIP) providing the framework for affirming a human rights frame on the

inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples that prevents atrocities against them. Ry highlighted that "knowledge is an ecosystem" and there is so much being done in this area in libraries at the moment where Indigenous people can help with knowledge keeping and ways of unlearning from our past practices. In expressing his views to questions, Ry discussed how elders and knowledge keepers have been trying to uphold the knowledge in the form of indigenous writing, literature, art, culture, and the revitalization of Indigenous languages. There is a resurgence of Indigenous laws and the creation of new legal order in Canada through civil and common law. However, there are fundamental steps required through reconciliation, and the need for federally funded initiatives that will always be deficient. Ry drew from a newly published article by Deborah McGregor on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and that you can't extract a piece of indigenous knowledge in the context of knowledge keeping, production and maintenance or dissemination but it should be inclusive of the land, ceremony and spaces, teachings, community wellness as well as the language of Indigenous peoples. Hence, the transmission and dissemination of knowledge should be suited to the needs of the Indigenous people for true reconciliation to occur. When asked what would be the one thing he would change, he mentioned that he would try and do everything he could to avoid early childhood trauma as he has seen the societal impact of trauma and the effects on intergenerational transmissions because of this trauma through his work at the National Truth and Reconciliation commission. Ry stressed on the importance of the work libraries and museums are undertaking in ensuring libraries are safe and inclusive spaces and fundamentally working to diversifying our collections, and whose knowledge is seen.

Recordings of this webinar and past webinars, may be accessed at the [ALA IRRT Webinar Website](#).

###

The ALA LibLearnX Conference Makes Its Debut



From January 21-24, 2022, the American Library Association held its first ever LibLearnX Conference. Formerly known as the ALA Midwinter Meeting, LibLearnX is a reimagining of the conference experience, with a stronger focus on networking, learning, and collaboration. Initially scheduled as an in-person event at San Antonio, Texas, LibLearnX pivoted to virtual due to the state's increase in COVID cases and out of concern for the safety of conference attendees.

The opening general session, "Voices of Asian Americans in History and Today," featured ALA President Patty Wong, Professor Catherine Ceniza Choy of the University of California-Berkeley, and author/journalist William Gee Wong in a panel discussion on the Asian American experience in American, both past and present, and expectations for the future.



Most LibLearnX sessions focused on libraries in North America, however, there were programs of interests to international libraries:

- Putting the International in International Games Week: Diverse Programming Ideas for Gaming by Megan Wilson.
- Language Access for All by Jessica Caloza, Adriana L. Garcia, and Madeline Pena
- Sustainability 101 for Libraries: Digging Into the Triple Bottom Line by Casey Conlin and Uta Husong-Christian.

- Women in Librarianship and Their Role in Climate Change by Adjoa Boateng, Loida Garcia-Febo, Beatrice Calvin, Lisa Kropp, Sherri Aldis, and Tina Chan,

There were also several pre-conference meetings, including the IRRT General Membership Meeting held virtually on January 19th. Chair Jim Neal and chair-elect Safi Safullah gave updates and remarks. Attendees were introduced to the executive board and the committee chairs gave reports on committee activities since the ALA Annual 2021 Conference. In addition, ALA presidential candidates Emily Drabinski and Kelvin Watson were also present and spoke briefly on their vision for ALA and answered questions from the audience.

Besides attending programs and meetings, conference attendees visited exhibitors in the virtual exhibit hall, picked up swag for their virtual tote bags, participated in a virtual mystery hunt, and enjoyed the Weston Woods Animated Film Festival. Moreover, conference goers attended the I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony, the RUSA Book & Media Awards, the ALA Youth Media Awards, and the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration.

Closing the LibLearnX was "Voices of Change", featuring activist, athlete, and author Colin Kaepernick, ALA President-Elect Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, and ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall.

Overall, LibLearnX was a wonderfully joyous event.

###

Connect with IRRT

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

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

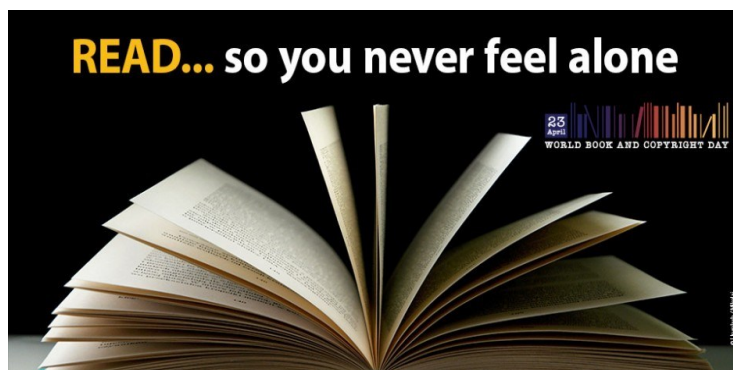
Celebrating Reading: World Book Day 2022

Celebrating its 27th anniversary this year in many parts of the world, **World Book Day** was created by UNESCO on April 23, 1995 and has rolled out since then to encourage everyone but especially young people to discover the pleasure of reading, or for established readers, perhaps in a new language. It also celebrates copyright and publishing as well as reading. Currently over 100 countries worldwide are engaged in some form of celebrations. Events often take place during the first week in March in Great Britain or in the United States during National Library Week on April 23. This date has significance as a symbolic date for world literature because it's the date when many well-known authors died, including William Shakespeare (also his birthday), Miguel de Cervantes, William Wordsworth and many others from around the world making it a truly international day of recognition.

UNESCO has identified a World Book Capital City each year since 2001 and for 2022 it is Guadalajara, Mexico and Accra, Ghana was just named for 2023. These cities are designated to carry out activities throughout the year to encourage a culture of reading and diffusing its values in all ages and population groups in and out of the national borders. Guadalajara was selected for its comprehensive plan for “policies around the book to trigger social change, combat violence and build a culture of peace.”

Often promoted by charities, School Libraries, Public Libraries and bookstores, World Book Day is defined by this observation and goal, **Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.** Amazon, along with other retailers and booksellers are offering free eBooks for World Book Day and the list of ten free eBooks from around the world that are on offer is listed [here](#). Another aspect is to make sure that economic disparities don't restrict the joys of book ownership and collection and sponsorships by different charities contribute to creating distribution channels of special books to children to cherish and keep.

Creative ways World Book Day is celebrated includes story



From en.unesco.org (poster from 2021)

times in primary school classrooms and libraries, inviting students to dress up in costume of their favorite characters from a book they have read, having reading competitions, book fairs, reading or book clubs and anything else that promotes reading. There are many resources and programming guides for different ages and genres available online to assist with ideas about how to incorporate authors, illustrators, characters and other kids to inspire another generation of readers. Related to World Book Day is **World Read Aloud Day** celebrated in some countries in February and with a growing presence on numerous social media channels. Founded by [LitWorld](#) in 2010 it advocates for “access to literacy and diverse stories as well as the power of reading aloud, an activity that has an immensely powerful impact on children's development.”

World Storytelling Day is another way to promote the power of tales that inspire readers, audiences and create community. It is celebrated every year on the March equinox near March 20 to create community by “telling classical tales, local stories, glorious, horrendous, happy, challenging, spooky, romantic and dramatic epic stories. Some wrapped in music, some staged and others intimate - but every story is told in a unique and compelling way, by a storyteller whose heart is full of great tales to bridge our divides and remind us what it is to be human.” And, there are other days that promote reading such as the **International Children's Book Day** on April 2, and **National Read a Book Day**, often held on September 6.

If this year passes you by, it is not too soon to begin planning for 2023 and see how many genres and formats you can introduce a young person to as they develop the lifelong love of reading and the pleasures of books and promote reading within your community.

###

Book Censorship in the Philippines



Lourdes David

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Libraries are places where students, faculty and the general public avail of information resources that provide them knowledge to use in daily life and/or academic life. In the Philippines, censorship of books was practiced during the Spanish Regime. The Spaniards wanted the “Indios” to remain unlettered. During the American Period, books about communism were also censored. Martial Law years saw the arrest of people owning such materials and the purging of “subversive” materials from libraries. Currently, the government has again confiscated so-called “subversive” books in libraries.

In September 2021, the government’s anti-communist task force, the NTF-ELCAC entered the Kalinga State University Library and removed “subversive books.” According to the school officials, however, the books were not forcibly removed because the NTF-ELCAC and the University had an agreement about the confiscation of books which might radicalize students. A week later, the Isabela State University Library “voluntarily turned over its collection of radical books to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

On October 21, the Commission on Education-Cordillera Administrative Region (CHED-CAR) issued a memorandum encouraging HEI institutions to remove “subversive” materials from their libraries. Students and academics reacted negatively to the action of the NTF-ELCAC, NICA and the CHED-CAR.

Asst. Prof. Mary Grace Golfo-Barcelona, Dean of the University of the Philippines School of Library and in-

formation Science said that “Removing materials from libraries which are deemed subversive is an assault on our students’ right to read and right to information which are all components of intellectual freedom and are essential components of a democratic citizenry.”

The UP System-wide university council expressed their opposition to the banning of subversive books. According to the Council, “insurgencies are contained by addressing their root causes, not by banning books that explain how and why they happen.”

The Book Development Association of the Philippines criticized the CHED-CAR memo. The Association said that the memo discourages critical thinking which “will raise a future generation that is ignorant and subservient.”

Lawmakers, specifically the *Makabayan Bloc* also called for a probe into the removal of subversive books in libraries. Senator *Leila De Lima* filed a resolution to investigate government policies censoring book contents.

On November 1, 2021, the Academics Unite for Democracy and Human Rights launched the “*Aswang sa Aklatan Website*.” In *Philippine mythology* “*Aswangs*” are creatures that feed on human blood at night but are ordinary humans by day. The website contains an archive of “endangered books and materials” that includes materials deemed subversive by the government. These include peace talk documents, Martial Law references, and other books “radical” books.

The University of the Philippines—Baguio which is located in the Cordillera Administrative Region released this statement CHED “should assist universities in the pursuit of unhampered discourse instead of undermining freedom and restraining the capacity to think and act.”

It seems that the reaction of the academe has put a stop to the censorship of radical materials in libraries. Since November 2021, no library has reported entry of the military to remove subversive materials.

###

There must be something in the water: Colorado's Trifecta, Part II

Janet Lee, Nancy Bolt, Jane Mirandette

This is the second of three excerpts that define the trifecta noted in the title – the December 2021 issue, pages 19-20 contained the first segment and the last one will be in the June 2022 issue.

“Sure, Why Not” Nancy Bolt and the founding of ABLE

In 1994, Colorado State Librarian, Nancy Bolt, received a phone call that she says changed her life and the lives of hundreds of Bulgarian and U.S. librarians. The director of the ALA International Relations Office, Bob Doyle, asked if she would be willing to take on a Bulgarian librarian to work at the Colorado State Library for five months. She replied, “Sure, why not?” At the time, ALA participated in a program with the United States Information Agency called ALA Fellows program, which brought librarians from various countries to the United States. In the fall and spring of 1994-95, Colorado State Library hosted Iskra Mahilova, a librarian at the Bulgarian National Library. The visit was the beginning of a partnership between two countries that had a significant positive benefit on libraries in both Colorado and Bulgaria. Soon thereafter, Nancy visited Bulgaria and conducted lecture tours. With her were other American librarians who also presented and attended lectures and conferences.

It was evident from this initial experience that a more formal arrangement was needed, which led to a proposal to form the American-Bulgarian Library Exchange Project (ABLE). It was submitted to and approved by both the Colorado Library Association and Bulgaria's Union of Librarian and Information Science Officers and in 2000 registered with the Sister Library Millennium Project sponsored by the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Services. The Project encouraged Sister City partnerships and other forms of exchanges such as book donations, exhibits, cultural exchanges, pen pals, and visits. Over the years, several of the partnerships thrived.

The project was self-funded through individual donations of books and travel, but subsidized in large part by Nancy's substantial efforts of international jewelry sold in library venues in the U.S. Of significant note was the receipt of a grant of \$198,000 from the U.S. Department of State to bring Bulgarian librarians to the U.S. to develop additional partnerships, and train librarians in Bulgaria in setting up Community Information Centers. Twenty-two Bulgarian



Nancy Bolt in ALA

librarians visited Colorado and Iowa for a month and 18 American librarians visited Bulgaria for two weeks. American librarians met with library and government leaders, stressing the important role that libraries can play in a community. ABLE trained 12 librarians who went on to train 1500 Bulgarian librarians in this concept.

The work that ABLE accomplished in Bulgaria led, in part, to a Global Services, multi-million dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Fulfilling Kennedy's three goals. Janet Lee in Peace Corps Ethiopia

While teaching 7th grade English in a small village in southern Ethiopia as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1974-76, Janet was approached by school officials and the community to help set up a library in the school. Since the school had appointed a librarian and since Janet had worked in libraries since she was fourteen, it made perfect sense and became a summer project. Years later (2010) she had an opportunity to return to her old village and both the librarian and the library were thriving.

Ethiopia was in turmoil during her second year of service, or she would have stayed a third. Emperor Haile Selassie had been deposed and a military government took command. It was years later before she would return, but each day she thought about her experience in Ethiopia, and it always remained in her heart. She would go on to graduate school, find employment, travel, write, and volunteer.

Since funding at her institution was limited for professional

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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 Paschalia Terzi, Instructional Librarian at Georgetown University, Qatar

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

Paschalia: Hello and thanks for including me in your newsletter! I am currently the Instructor librarian here at Georgetown University in Qatar. I teach library research skills and information literacy concepts to students, faculty and staff members. Before the pandemic I taught face to face in the classroom, but since then I had to move most of the content in the digital space. Now I conduct classes via Zoom, or record tutorials to upload on the GU-Q LMS or YouTube. Another important part of my role as a librarian in GU-Q is to provide one to one consultations. I help students with their assignments, usually when they are at the stage of crafting their literature review or with citing their sources.

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

Paschalia: When I was small, I used to go to the public library in the city closest to my village. I loved reading, so I thought if I became a librarian I would get to read all those books as part of my job! It didn't turn out this way, of course... I studied Archives and Library Science for my undergraduate degree in Ionio University in Greece. After working for some years in an academic library, I decided to pursue a master's degree in Digital Library and Information Services at Boras University in Sweden. Getting a master's degree actually enabled me to pursue a career outside of Greece since having a masters is usually a requirement for a librarian position in the US and UK, which was not the case back then in Greece.

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

Paschalia: I think the same as everywhere in the world right now: fake news and misinformation. Here, Qatar is not so much about political issues but medical misinformation. For example, the issues of vaccine hesitancy and conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 virus. For this



Paschalia Terzi

reason, the library teamed up with the First Year Experience program in GU-Q for a workshop on how to fact-check fake news and conspiracy theories. The response from our community was great and maybe we will expand our efforts and try to reach out to other stakeholders for next year, as this issue is something the students are interested in.

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

Paschalia: I think when you work in different countries, you learn a lot. On the institutional side, universities work with different standards and always try to grow. For example, when I changed countries, I also changed what I was doing as a librarian. In Greece, when I left, information literacy was not a big part of the services in academic libraries (although this might be changing) but I had the opportunity to learn so much in my current position. Working

Continued on page 23

Interview with Barbara Lison, continued

everywhere. That's why there are many lectures I give in different parts of the world without really being there. Of course, I very much regret that all this has to happen without personal contacts and personal meetings.

IFLA cancelled the WLIC in 2020, held a virtual conference in 2021 and is hoping for an in-person congress in Dublin in July 2022. What is your plan to reunite its members and the global library community after COVID changed the work landscape so dramatically?

My urgent goal is to be able to hold a face-to-face event in Dublin that shows the great human potential of the international library field and also revitalizes it. I hear from many colleagues that they found the virtual meetings on the various platforms very useful, that of course this was better than not meeting at all, but I also hear the greatest wish from all sides to be able to experience a face-to-face meeting. All capacities of IFLA and also my energy are geared towards carrying out this face-to-face meeting. We all hope that Dublin can bring about a reunification of our community. I am sure that the sections and other professional units are also extremely looking forward to seeing each other again and not only doing the work in a two-dimensional space, i.e. on the screen, but being able to continue the work a three-dimensional space.

Librarians around the world have demonstrated incredibly creative ways to remain meaningful in their communities, on their campuses, in their companies, to their governments and developed a passion for resilience and fortitude during these challenging times. What do you think this says about the profession and service of libraries to the public at large and how does IFLA promote this?



Yes, it's great how our community presented themselves to the public with services and tasks during the pandemic. I think that there are few professions that have so quickly understood what is important in times of a crisis: namely presence, communication - even if it is only digital - and the continuity of the understanding of service. The libraries have shown themselves to be resilient; their primary goal was to show that they were ready for their clientele, even under difficult conditions. Also the imagination with which the libraries mostly organized contactless services is admirable!

From the beginning, IFLA has supported the libraries in their practical work, but also helped them with all their practical uncertainties. Both the IFLA Headquarters and many professional units have given their colleagues around the world support and maybe even hope with blog posts, online seminars and other formats during these pandemic times. IFLA Headquarters has invented very special formats to keep colleagues up to date in terms of content and expertise, but also to open up new insights and new horizons for them. Here I would just like to mention the series #IfIa from home or the "10 minute Internet librarian", which have a high number of clicks and briefly and concisely present current topics in a motivating and interesting way.

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Interview with Barbara Lison, continued

As I have observed your work in IFLA I pick up on your passion, if you will, for diversity, equity and inclusion. How do you work that into your professional practice and the work that you currently lead with IFLA?

Diversity, equity and inclusion have always been very important to me personally and professionally. That's why we have established the topic of diversity and inclusion as one of our main themes at work in my library in Bremen for several years already. We try to integrate diversity and inclusion in all areas of our library and to live it as a matter, of course. Of course, this is a process that doesn't happen overnight and it basically is not over at all. That's why we decided to consider these two topics as binding decision criteria for all areas.

The new IFLA statutes are also geared towards living diversity and inclusion at IFLA even more strongly than has already been the case. I would particularly like to emphasize that, in addition to its professional topical work, IFLA now wants to take greater account of the interests of the world regions in its decisions and actions. In addition to the Professional Council, a Regional Council has now also been set up to strengthen the connection to the strategic decision-making level at IFLA, the Governing Board. And it should also work together with the Professional Council to synchronize on important topics in the library field and bring about solutions.

Our profession continues to evolve with more technology, concerns about climate change, privacy and surveillance, and many other critical influences. What message do you want the profession globally to understand about such issues and how can IFLA channel those most effectively?

All the points you have raised are really vital for our planet and therefore also of the highest relevance for the work of the libraries. My message on this is that we should approach all issues with a constructive, critical attitude, that we have to assess dangers as well as or threats, and that on the other hand we have to look at developments and trends with the intention of adapting and using them for our work and our purposes. Criticism alone doesn't help, it can rather lead to despair - that's why my goal has always been to take a critical look at developments, but to derive possible solutions for my own personal and professional activities from them. This is the attitude of a critical optimist, if you will! IFLA incorporates all these phenomena and external impact scenarios into its work and develops projects and support offers for colleagues in all countries. Here I would particularly like to mention the activities that IFLA has been under-

taking for almost ten years now in connection with achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the UN SDGs. Firstly, IFLA managed to ensure that the libraries, with their positive impact on the achievement of these goals, were included in the description of the 17 UN goals - I am referring specifically to goal 16.10. Then IFLA embarked on an extensive multi-year program to introduce the SDGs to the world's libraries and to give them ideas on how they can take action themselves. These suggestions were taken up by many libraries and those were able to position themselves well within their countries or municipalities in the political context of the respective national sustainability strategies.

The libraries have shown themselves to be resilient; their primary goal was to show that they were ready for their clientele, even under difficult conditions. Also the imagination with which the libraries mostly organized contactless services is admirable!

***International Leads* is read by not just members of the American Library Association in the US but by members and their friends and colleagues around the world, many of whom are actively engaged in IFLA activities. How can we best combine those commitments and focus on building a successful global community for libraries and their workers?**

As I have already stated, it is important that we as a library community stand together in our values, our goals and in our vision of the value of our work. Here I recall IFLA's fundamental project, The Global Vision. This project, in which around 30,000 people contributed their opinions on libraries, their goals, values and challenges, is highly relevant in this context. In the 10 points that are highlighted in The Global Vision we present ourselves as a truly united library field, and at the same time we challenge ourselves for action, because the vision contains not only highlights, but also challenges to be successful in the future. For me, this Global Vision is something like a universal declaration of the library profession. And I recommend every colleague to take note of it and integrate it into their professional self comprehension.

###

Upcoming International Library Conferences, Meetings & Events

- 17-20 March 2022 – [Leipzig Book Fair](#), Leipzig, Germany
- 20-23 March 2022 – [International Coalition of Library Consortia \(ICOLC\) Meeting](#), Columbus, OH, USA
- 21-22 March 2022 – [Coalition for Networked Information \(CNI\) Spring 2022 Membership Meeting](#), Virtual
- 21-24 March 2022 – [Bologna Children's Book Fair](#), Bologna, Italy
- 23-25 March 2022 – [Public Library Association \(PLA\) 2022 Conference](#), Portland, OR, USA
- 28-29 March 2022 – [CNI Spring 2022 Membership Meeting](#), San Diego, CA, USA
- 28-30 March 2022 – [UKSG 45th Annual Conference](#), Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- 29-30 March 2022 – [Library Leaders Summit](#), Virtual
- 5-7 April 2022 – [London Book Fair](#), London, UK
- 5-7 April 2022 – [Fiesole Collection Development Retreat](#), Athens, Greece
- 25-26 April 2022 – [Digital Libraries Symposium](#), University of San Diego Virtual, USA
- 25-29 April 2022 – [The Web Conference](#), Lyon, France
- 27-29 April 2022 – [Association for Intelligent Information Management Conference](#), Denver, CO, USA & Virtual
- 27 April – 1 May 2022 – [Salon du Livre de Geneve](#), Geneva, Switzerland
- 3-6 May 2022 – [Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials \(SALALM\)](#) – Bogota, Columbia
- 4-6 May 2022 – [Medical Library Association Annual Conference & Exhibition](#), New Orleans, LA, USA
- 16-19 May 2022 – [Australian Library and Information Association National Conference](#), Canberra, ACT, Australia
- 16-18 May 2022 - [2nd International Online Conference on Digital Transformation in Culture and Education \(DTCE22\)](#), Belgrade, Serbia
- 17-18 2022 – [Data Summit](#), Boston, MA, USA
- 18 May 2022 – [CILIP Copyright Conference](#), Virtual
- 23-25 May 2022 – [US Book Show](#), Virtual
- 25 May – 21 June 2022 – [Mortenson Center Associates Program](#), Urbana, IL, USA
- 30 May – June 1 2022 – [UKSG Annual Conference and Exhibition](#), Telford, UK
- 1-3 June 2022 – [European Association for Health Information and Libraries \(EAHIL\) Conference](#), Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 1-3 June 2022 – [Society for Scholarly Publishing Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, USA
- 2-7 June 2022 – [Taipei international Book Exhibition](#), Taipei, Taiwan
- 5-9 June 2022 – [NASIG Annual Conference](#), Baltimore, MD, USA
- 13-16 June 2022 – [17th edition of the International Digital Curation Conference \(IDCC22\)](#), Virtual
- 15-18 June 2022 – [ATLA Annual Meeting](#) (Theological Libraries Association), Baltimore, MD, USA
- 22-23 June 2022 – [The Art and Practice of Managing Digital Media \(DAM Europe\)](#) – London, UK
- 23-28 June 2022 – [American Library Association \(ALA\) Annual Conference & Exhibition](#), Washington, DC, USA

Interview with Paschalia Terzi, continued

with users from different countries is also a valuable experience. A librarian needs to adapt their services to the circumstances they encounter, and this teaches you a lot about being flexible and willing to listen.

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?

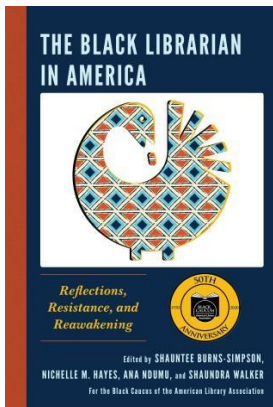
Paschalia: I am not currently as I am very busy trying to finish one more master's degree!

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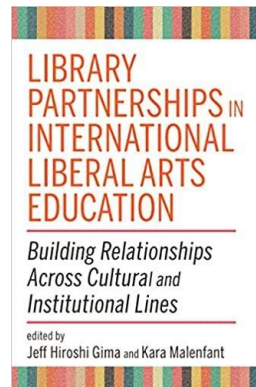
Bio: Paschalia Terzi completed her "Archives, Museum and Library Science" bachelor's degree at Ionion University, Greece. She worked for 8 years at the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Library in Aristotle University, Greece. She earned her master's degree in "Digital Libraries and Information Services" from the University of Boras in 2015 and in the same year started working at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan as a Reference and Subject Librarian for the Humanities and Social Sciences. During her studies, she also received an Erasmus Scholarship for an internship at the Dunbuang Project in the British Library, UK. She is now working at Georgetown University in Qatar as an Instructional Librarian, while studying towards a Media and Communications in the Creative Industries master's degree from Malmo University, Sweden.

New Resources

This column focuses on professional development & recent book releases of interest to global community about librarianship.



Burns-Simpson, Shauntee, Nichelle M. Hayes, Ana Ndumu, and Shaundra Walker, eds., (2022). *The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance, and Reawakening*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

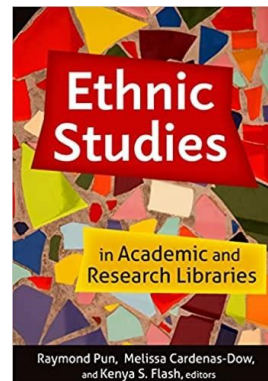


Gima, Jeff Hiroshi and Kara Malenfant, eds., (2020). *Library Partnerships in International Liberal Arts Education: Building Relationships Across Cultural and Institutional Lines*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries.

SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE
STRATEGIES FOR
OPTIMIZING DIGITAL
STEWARDSHIP
A GUIDE FOR LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS
ANGELA FRITZ



Fritz, Angela I. *Sustainable Enterprise Strategies for Optimizing Digital Stewardship: A Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. (2021). Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.



Pun, Raymond, Melissa Cardenas-Dow and Kenya S. Flash, eds., (2021). *Ethnic Studies in Academic and Research Libraries*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries.

Colorado's Trifecta, continued

national conferences, she served on numerous committees within the Colorado Library Association/Colorado Association of Libraries, including serving as editor and writing for Colorado Libraries from 1994-2005. In 2003, she was selected as the shipboard librarian for the Semester at Sea for the fall voyage. For an entire semester, about 100 days, she literally traveled around the world embarking in Vancouver, Canada, and debarking in Fort Lauderdale, FL. When the ship was out to sea, classes were in session, even during holidays. When in port, students and staff could travel freely or avail themselves of guided tours. Ports of call for this voyage included: Kobe, Japan; Hong Kong; Bangkok, Thailand; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Chennai, India; Dar es Selam, Tanzania; Cape Town, South Africa; Santiago, Brazil; and Havana, Cuba, where the students and staff had an audience with President Fidel Castro. She wrote about the experience in Colorado Libraries.

In 2006, after several trips to New Orleans, post-Katrina, Janet attended the ALA annual conference, the first major conference to return to New Orleans. Searching through the conference program, she noted an event calling out for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) and attended the International Sustainable Library Development session, where, you guessed it, Jane Mirandette was one of the two featured speakers. But Jane and Janet did not connect quite yet. Rather Janet found a place within ISLD and has attended ALA annual ever since, frequently as a presenter.

2006 was a turning point for Janet, because it was her first opportunity to return to Ethiopia, as a faculty mentor on a service-learning trip with nursing students to visit Project Mercy in southern Ethiopia. She was returning home. It was then she discovered that a local Denver restauranter was supporting both Project Mercy, an NGO supporting education and health, and another NGO that was planting libraries. This led her back to Ethiopia six times in various capacities and on her own to work on library and literacy projects throughout Ethiopia, including her most recent stint as a Fulbright Scholar for ten months at the University of Aksum, in Axum, Ethiopia, 2017-18.

It was through ISLD that Janet and Jane began to collaborate, Janet's first trip to Nicaragua was in 2013 to work with noted storyteller, Anne Pellowski, who had conducted a cloth book workshop in Ethiopia in October 2011. Being in Nicaragua and working with Anne were exhilarating experiences. Janet and Anne collaborated on several cloth book workshops in Ethiopia in 2012, where Janet had enlisted the support of current Peace Corps Volunteers, Peace Corps having returned to Ethiopia in 2008.

International Library & Cultural Exchange Interest

Group (ILCE-IG)

In January 2012, Nancy Bolt sent out an invitation on the Colorado Association of Libraries listserv to prospective members of a new interest group. It had formally been approved by the board of the CAL at its December 2011 meeting. Janet attended with about a dozen librarians from public libraries (Boulder, Louisville, Longmont, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver) and other organizations. Several became core members of the steering committee.

Organization

The first year was spent on the nuts and bolts of committee governance: developing a mission statement, taking minutes, exploring partnerships with other professional organizations (ALA) and service organizations (Sister Cities). Of paramount importance was establishing a mechanism for monitoring funds contributed by Nancy Bolt's jewelry sales and other donations received and the distribution of funds for expenses and grants. This was accomplished within the CAL. The steering committee developed a logo, a brochure, a newsletter, a webpage <https://ilceig.wordpress.com/>, a newsletter, Navigator <https://ilceig.wordpress.com/navigator-colorado-libraries-and-the-world-ilce-ig-newsletter/> and a social media presence <https://www.facebook.com/ilceig>

The main goals centered around international partners/exchanges and serving the people from other cultures that are living in Colorado. The mission: Supporting cultural understanding and acceptance through library projects. The formation of the committee was promoted in the CAL newsletter and IRRIT's International Leads, where Janet Lee was editor.

Project Grants

The steering committee also proposed project grants to CAL members to put toward an international or domestic project within Colorado. The grant program was approved by the CAL board. A subcommittee was formed and guidelines for the grant application were drawn and approved. Over the next few years, awards of up to \$1500 were granted to:

- **2016 CSU-Pueblo:** La Cucaracha, a traveling exhibit highlighting key stories and issues in the Colorado Chicano Movement
- **CU Boulder:** "Speed friending," photo contest, talent show for international and domestic students encouraging social interactions

Continued on page 26

ALA Names Jim Neal Honorary Member, continued

presentations at conferences and meetings over 35 years

Neal has assumed leadership roles over several organizations that advance libraries and leadership. For ALA, he has served as president and treasurer, as well as six terms on the Council and four terms on the Executive Board, among many other leadership roles and committee assignments for ALA and its divisions. He also spent many years on the board of the Freedom to Read Foundation, receiving its Roll of Honor Award. Currently he is the Chair of the International Relations Round Table.

He has also served three terms on the OCLC Board of Trustees, on the board and as president of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), on the board and as chair of the Research Libraries Group (RLG) and on the board and as chair of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO).

His leadership has extended to such organizations as the Digital Preservation Network (DPN), CrossRef, the Digital Library Federation (DLF), the HathiTrust Research Center, the New York Center for the Book, the Open Knowledge Commons, the Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP), the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) and the Library Advisory Board for the University of the People.

It has also reached across national boundaries - he has represented the U.S. library community for eight years on the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Section Committee on Interlending and Document Delivery, for 12 years on the Section Committee on Academic and Research Libraries, and for 16 years on the Committee on Copyright on Other Legal Matters, among several other leadership roles and committee assignments. For the IFLA Annual Conference in Boston in 2001, he served on the National Organizing Committee and chaired the fundraising program. For the Annual Conference in Columbus in 2016, he headed an extremely successful scholarship fundraising program and was awarded the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation. He is the current chair of ALA's International Relations Round Table.

As a voice for libraries, Neal has traveled in 92 countries throughout the world and has spoken at over 80 international conferences, including keynote addresses in 22 countries.

He has also played an influential and wide-ranging role in the arena of information and public policy over four decades, addressing such areas as government information and the Federal Library Depository Program, copyright and fair use, government surveillance and the USA PATRIOT Act,

intellectual freedom and civil liberties, federal funding of library programs, an open internet, net neutrality, and improved telecommunications in rural and tribal communities. He currently serves as a senior policy fellow at ALA focusing on copyright issues and was recently appointed to the Copyright Public Modernization Committee (CPMC) by the Librarian of Congress. He led the development of the ALA Policy Corps and the National Advocacy Network.

Neal has also provided active leadership in the areas of scholarly communications and publishing throughout his career. He has served on the boards of university presses at Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University and Columbia University. At Johns Hopkins, he was part of the team that developed and implemented Project Muse, as well as on editorial advisory boards for several scholarly journals, including College & Research Libraries, Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances, Journal of Library Administration, Library Administration and Management Journal and portal: Libraries and the Academy.

As an early advocate for open: open access, open research, open data, open monographs, and open educational resources, he was a member of the working group that organized the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and later served on its Steering Committee and as chair. He has also served in leadership roles for scholarly communications committees for both ACRL and ARL.

Over the course of his career, Neal has championed leadership development as a core priority for the profession. He was a founding director for the ARL Library Leadership Fellows Program and actively engaged and supported ARL's Leadership and Career Development Program for 17 years. He has provided formal and informal mentorship for many participants of these programs and other colleagues, many of whom have advanced into positions of administrative and professional leadership.

Always an ally for diversity, equity, and inclusion and an advocate for social justice, he has served on and led committees promoting diversity and intercultural awareness at the University of Notre Dame, Penn State University, and Indiana University, including drafting the Bloomington Imperative, a campus plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Neal will receive an honorary membership plaque in June during the Opening General Session of the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

###

The Meet the National Libraries Series

Have you ever wanted to visit a national library without having to leave home? Well, you're in luck! The [Slavic Reference Service of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) hosts an extraordinary webinar series, "Meet the National Libraries." In this series, national libraries around the world are profiled, providing viewers with a glimpse of their collections, programs, and services. In addition, viewers can hear from staff of these libraries, learn the history of each library, and ask questions. Most recently, the National Library of Finland and the Russia State Library were spotlighted.

The "Meet the National Libraries" series is free, but registration is required. If you've missed an episode or you want to re-watch, please visit the [Slavic Reference Service's YouTube channel](#).

Colorado's Trifecta, continued

- **2017 Janet Lee:** African Storybook Project. While in Ethiopia as a Fulbright Scholar, Janet facilitated workshops on publishing children's books in local Ethiopian languages
Jimena Saga, CSU-Fort Collins and Rita Puig, Regis University: Colorado Librarians Touch the World, an international colloquium, showcased librarians from Mexico, and a wide range of international topics
 - **2019 Mesa County Libraries, Grand Junction:** Culture Fest, an annual signature event created to enrich the community and reflect the diversity and cultural heritage of its residents
- HJH Libraries for All:** A full day workshop for Nicaraguan educator librarians including early childhood programming, craft sessions, geared toward reading materials, book cleaning and repair, and internet safety.

###

2022 ALA IRRT International Poster Session Call for Submissions

The 2022 ALA IRRT International Poster Session Committee invites everyone to share your best ideas and work with the international library community by presenting a poster at the 2022 ALA Annual Poster Session.

The deadline for submitting an application is March 30, 2022.

Following a double-blind peer review process, applicants will be notified by late April if their submission has been accepted for presentation at the conference. Start your application and view more information about the submission process now at: <https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/login.asp?EventKey=HMNXBRRT>. You do not have to be an ALA member to create an account! **Poster proposals should be submitted under "Global Solutions Poster Session"**.

Additional questions regarding international poster sessions can be directed to: Michele Fenton, IRRT International Poster Session Committee: mfenton@library.in.gov to "Additional questions regarding international poster sessions can be directed to: Delin Guerra, ALA International Relations Office, dguerra@ala.org

For more information about the ALA Annual Conference, please visit: <https://2022.alaannual.org/>

ALA Election, continued

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

1. FELICIA CHAN
2. CHRISTINA RIEHMAN-MURPHY

Guide to the ALA Elections

Members can learn more about this year's candidates by reviewing "[Your Guide to the 2022 ALA Elections](#)." The guide contains general information about the ALA presidency and candidates, recent ALA presidential initiatives and council information.

For more information, please visit the ALA Election Website: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection>

Call for Submissions

Do you have news or stories about international library activities, people in international librarianship, upcoming international conferences?

Submit to International Leads?