

International Relations Committee Report to Council

Submitted by Sha Li Zhang, Chair

Members: Buenaventura B. Basco, Nancy M. Bolt, Ms. Maggie Farrell, Eric Gomez, Nina M. Kemps, Beverly P. Lynch, Leslie E. McNabb, Heleni Marques Pedersoli, Carla A. Southers, Blanche Woolls, Tim Zou, Liladhar Ramchandra Pendse (intern), Christine Sharbrough (intern), Michael P. Dowling (Staff Liaison)

International participation at the Midwinter Meeting

75 international librarians from 18 countries participated in the 2011 Midwinter in San Diego. IRRT hosted a small-scale cocktail reception to welcome these international librarians and the donors of IRRT Endowment Fund. Many thanks for Roberta Stevens, ALA President, for offering her presidential suites as a host site for this event. The event was well attended by the international guests attending.

Haiti and Chile Library Relief

At the 2010 Midwinter Meeting, the Council passed the Resolution on Rebuilding Libraries and Archives Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake in Haiti. The one-year anniversary of the earthquake is tomorrow, January 12th. ALA's relief efforts to date have raised and distributed more than \$25,000 for three libraries in Haiti: the Petit Goave Public Library, the Centre Cultural Pyepoudre Community Library, and the Bibliothèque haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit. Much more is needed, as the cost to just rebuild the Petit Goave Public Library is \$350,000. Therefore, the IRC encourages all ALA members to continue to contribute to this effort.

On February 27, 2010, one of the most powerful earthquakes in history devastated a large part of Chile. Many libraries have been damaged or destroyed. ALA's Chile Library Relief Fund was established subsequently to help the damaged libraries. So far, \$1,500 has been raised to help relief efforts.

To assist in rebuilding collections in Chile, Reforma is soliciting for Spanish language books which will be sent to Chile after the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The IRC's Americas Committee is planning a program for New Orleans on recovery efforts in Haiti and Chile.

Traditional Cultural Expressions Task Force

IRC passed a motion to express its gratitude to IRC member Maggie Farrell, and Vivian Pisano; from the Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) Advisory Committee; for serving as co-chairs and the rest of the task force members for their outstanding work on the final report. And for their efforts in informing the members on the issues, the taskforce has explored. Former IRC member Brad Schaffner for also serving on the Task Force.

IFLA Update at the 2011 Midwinter Meeting

Ms. Ingrid Parent, incoming IFLA President, attended the Midwinter Meeting. Ms. Parent gave reports and updates at the IRC meetings and at the IFLA Updates Session. In 2011, she will focus on implications of digitization on user communities; leadership roles from library and information communities to cultivate younger generation of the professionals; outreach and advocacy efforts from library communities; preserve cultural heritages in disastrous areas such as Haiti; multilingual aspect of IFLA publications, and effective and efficient operations of IFLA.

U.S. librarians consist of 19 percent of IFLA members. Ms. Parent praised the contributions from U.S. librarians, which has helped shape the policy development and programs of IFLA.

The [2011 World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly](#) will be held on August 13-18, 2011, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Because of the short distance between San Juan to the U.S. continent, Ms. Parent encouraged U.S. librarians to take advantage of this proximity of the conference site to attend this international annual conference.

An ALA Representative to the U. S National Commission of UNESCO

In May last year ALA was again invited by the U.S. State Department to be a member of U.S. National Commission of UNESCO. The IRC developed criteria in selecting an ALA representative to the U.S. Commission. A call to serve as the representative to the Commission was sent in December 2010. IRC received a strong pool of nominations. At the IRC Monday meeting, the Committee reviewed all nominations and made recommendations according to criteria. The recommendations will be sent to the Executive Board for an approval.

ALA Nominations to IFLA Standing Committees

The year of 2011 is the IFLA election cycle for representatives for 2011-2015. The calls for nominations were sent out to their membership by ALA units in spring 2010. IRC has reviewed all nominations recommended from these units and presented the approved list to the ALA Executive Board for approvals in October and November 2010, and in January 2011 respectively. As of this writing, more than 30 ALA members were recommended to serve on IFLA standing committees.

The IRC would like to thank all the units of ALA for their effort to select highly qualified candidates to represent ALA. A list of the ALA representatives to IFLA Committees is attached to this report, CD 18.1.

Guadalajara Book Fair

Led by ALA President Roberta Stevens, 115 ALA members attended the Guadalajara Book Fair at the end of November through the 12th year of the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program. Despite the current economic conditions, these librarians continue their efforts to collect valuable materials for their Spanish-speaking communities. President Stevens presented at the annual Coloquio coordinated by the University of Guadalajara. Her presentation, "*Protection of Cultural Works*," drew a packed audience of over 200.

Campaign for World's Libraries

The IRC is pleased to report that two more countries joined the Campaign for the World's Libraries this fall, Barbados and Taiwan. IRO Director Michael Dowling provided presentations on the Campaign at both countries Annual Conference.

A successful program on the Campaign was held at the IFLA Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden last August, with presentations from Jamaica and Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. At the upcoming IFLA Conference in San Juan, these two new countries will provide presentations on their activities, along with Argentina.

ALA Advocacy Coordinating Group

Chair Sha Li Zhang joined the ALA Advocacy Coordinating Group to help connect ALA's domestic and international advocacy efforts. She participated in the discussions and action items of the group via conference calls and Midwinter meetings. The Group is also interested in working with IRRT and IRC for an international snapshot day in April each year.

China-U. S. Collaboration

Chair Sha Li Zhang participated in the China – North American Library Conference, held in Beijing, September 2010. The bilateral conference was organized by the Library of Congress, National Library of China, and Library Society of China, with a theme of Sharing Digital Resources: Challenges and Opportunities. The sub-themes include Resource Sharing Policies and Perspectives, Digital Infrastructure and Repository Technology, Research data Sharing, Sharing Digital Preservation Methods, and Shared Digital Access, Retrieval, and Use. A U.S. delegation of more than 50 librarians and information professionals participated in the Conference.

The China-U.S. Librarians Professional Exchange Project, *Think Globally, Act Globally*, received additional funding of \$250,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for extension through August 31, 2011. The project will continue its educational programs between the two countries and concentrate on further development of a web portal of Chinese resources. The granted Project is collaborative efforts among the Chinese American Library Association (CALA), the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign's Mortenson Center, and the Library Society of China. The project promotes the exchange of personnel and information between the library community in China and the United States, and a web portal development on cultural heritages from Suzhou Library and Northeast Normal University Library in China.

ALA 2015 International Strategic Plan

IRC, IRRT, and other ALA units have begun to develop the new 2015 International Strategic Plan, which will guide international initiatives, programs, and priorities of the Association. A working group was formed at this meeting. The time table is that the final version will be developed by the ALA Annual Conference in June 2011. Input and comments are welcome.

Preparing International Programming at the Annual

A series of international programs from IRC subcommittees, IRRT, and other ALA units are in planning and will be presented at the Annual Conference in New Orleans. With increased interests in global issues, information sharing, and exchanges from U.S. librarians, these programs and events will be very appealing to all ALA Annual Conference attendees.

Losses of the international community

The IRC and IRRT shared the sadness with the Council of the passing of Mr. Norman Horrocks, an international advocate and Notable IRRT member. Norman will be missed by all of us.

The ALA international community lost another advocate, Mr. Edward Swanson whose passing also saddened the IFLA community.

Finals words

The Chair wishes to take this opportunity to express a gratitude to Mr. Michael Dowling, IRO Director and his staff for his excellent assistance to the programs, initiatives, and events of IRC and IRRT.

ALA Representatives to IFLA Committees

IFLA Section Standing Committee	ALA representative	Term
Academic and General Research Libraries	Carol Hughes, University of California - Irvine, Libraries	2009-2013
Acquisition and Collection Development	Sha Li Zhang, UNC Greensboro	2007-2011
	Judy Jeng, Clarion University of Pennsylvania	2009-2013
Art Libraries	Edward Teague, University of Oregon	2007-2011
	Mary Choquette, Catholic University of America	2009-2013
Audiovisual and Multimedia	George Abbott, Syracuse University	2009-2013, 2nd term
	Howard Besser, NYU	2007-2011
Bibliography	Glenn Patton, OCLC Library	2007-2011
	Charlence Chou, Columbia University Libraries	2009-2013
Cataloguing	William Garrison, University of South Florida	2007-2011, 2nd term
	John Hostage, Harvard Law School	2007-2011, 2nd term
Classification & Indexing	David Miller, Curry College	2007-2011, 2nd term

	Edward O'Neill, OCLC	2009-2013, 2nd term
Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning	Susan Schnuer, Mortenson Center	2009-2013
Copyright and Other Legal Matters	Janice Pilch, University of Illinois- Champaign Urbana	
Document Delivery & Resource Sharing	Robert Krall, University of Penn.	2007-2011
	Robert Seal, Loyola University	2007-2011
	Melissa Trevvett, Center for Research Libraries	2009-2013
Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression	Lodia Garcia-Febo, Queens Library	2007-2011 2 nd term
Education and Training	Clara Chu, University of California-Los Angeles	2009-2013
Genealogy and Local History Section	No Representative	
Geography & Maps Libraries	Joseph Aufmuth, University of Florida	2009-2013
Government Information and Official Publications	Marcy Allen, Penn State	2007-2011
	David Oldenkamp, Indiana University-Bloomington	2009-2013
Government Libraries	Beacher Wiggins, LC	2007-2011
Health and BioSciences Libraries	Win Shih, University at Albany-SUNY	2007-2011
Information Literacy	Alison Ernst, Northfield Mount Hermon School-Library System	2007-2011
	Sharon Mader, University of New Orleans	2009-2013

Information Technology	Frank Cervone, Northwestern	2007-2011
Knowledge Management	Lois Chan, University of Kentucky	2009-2013
Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities	No Representative	
Libraries for Children and Young Adults Libraries	Barbara Genco, Brooklyn Public Library	2007-2011
Library Services to People with Special Needs	No Representative	
Library Buildings & Equipment	William Sannwald	2007-2011
Library and Research Services for Parliments	No Representative	
Library Services to Multicultural Populations	Tess Tobin, NYCC Tech	2007-2011
	Stephen Stratton, CSU-Channel Islands	2009-2013
Library Theory & Research	Lynn Connaway, OCLC	2007-2011
Literacy & Reading	Dr. Virginia Walter, UCLA	2007-2011
	Lesley Farmer, California State University-Long Beach	2009-2013
Management and Marketing	No Representative	
Management of Library Associations	Keith Fiels, American Library Association	2007-2011, 2nd Term
Metropolitan Libraries	Kathleen Imhoff, Lexington PL	2007-2011
National Libraries	No Representative	
Newspapers	Sue Kellerman, Penn State	2007-2011
Preservation and Conservation	Jeanne Drewes, Library of Congress	2007-2011

Public Libraries	Lorraine Jackson	2007-2011
	Barbara Gubbin, Jacksonville PL	2009-2013, 2nd term
Rare Books and Manuscripts	Richard Clement, Utah State University	2007-2011
	Edwin Schroeder, Yale University	2009-2013
Reference and Information Services	No representative	
School Libraries and Resource Centers	Linda Veltze, Appalachian State University	2007-2011
	Gail Bush, National-Lois University	2009-2013
Science and Technology Libraries	Maxine Schmidt, University of Massachusetts	2009-2013
	Janet Webster, Oregon State University	2007-2011
Serials and Other Continuing Resources	Jina Wakimoto, University of Colorado	2007-2011
	Stephanie Schmitt, Zayed University	2009-2013
Social Science Libraries	Elizabeth Cooper, Emory University Libraries	2007-2011
	Lynne Rudasill, University of Illinois	2009-2013, 2nd term
Statistics and Evaluations	C. Colleen Cook, Texas A&M University	2007-2011, 2nd Term
	Wanda Dole, University of Arkansas at Little Rock	2009-2013