



International Leads

A Publication of the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association

Volume 14

September 2000

Number 3

From Eupatory to Sudak: The Growth and Evolution of the Crimea Conferences

By Lester J. Pourciau

Crimea 2000, held June 3 – 11, 2000, was the seventh of the annual conferences held since 1994 on the Crimean Black Sea coast. The annual Crimea Conference was the brainchild of Dr. Yakov L. Shraiberg, First Deputy Director of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology in Moscow. In 1994, shortly after the first Crimea Conference in Eupatory, this writer became acquainted with Yakov Leonidovich and soon became very much involved in this annual event as a Deputy Chair of the International Organizing Committee. In this role, he distributes the Conference Announcement and Call for Papers in the English language and reviews all paper proposals in English.

The second conference was held again in Eupatory, the third in Phoros and, since 1997, the venue has been the Sudak Tourist and Health Center located on the picturesque coast of Sudak Bay, surrounded by mountains and adjacent to the remains of a 15th century Genoese fortress and castle. The history of Sudak dates to antiquity. It is a small Crimean town on the coast of the Black Sea with a most enjoyable beach some two kilometers long. The Sudak Tourist and Health Center is a complex of twenty buildings in a garden setting. During the Crimea Conferences, the Center accommodates only the Conference participants.

The Conference Organizer

The primary organizer of the Crimea Conferences is and has been since the first, the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology. A variety of other different organizers support the conferences, including the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, The Ministry of Culture and Arts of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Culture of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The General Sponsor of the Conference is the Open Society Institute – Russia (Soros Foundation), and the Official Sponsor is the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The Martinus Nijhoff Subscription Agency, Netherlands, was an official sponsor for four previous conferences. There are additional

interregional co-organizers and additional co-sponsors, all of whom support the Crimea Conferences with enthusiasm.

A Brief History

From a beginning in 1994 with 230 participants from fifteen countries and with 100 papers presented, the Crimea Conference has grown in 2000 to more than 1,000 participants from 32 countries with presentations of 334 papers. The country most represented by participants is the Russian Federation followed by Ukraine. The remainder hailed from various locales in the Former Soviet Union, from the African Continent, from Western Europe, China, Mongolia, several Central Asian republics, the United



The Crimea 2000 Organizing Committee at a post-conference outing. (Photo: Lester Pourciau, June 2000)

Kingdom, and from the United States and Canada. In keeping with the expansion and evolution of Conference activities, various sessions of the most recent Conference were held in Yalta, Alushta, Feodosia, Simferopol, Koktebel, and Stary Krym, in addition to the primary venue of the Sudak Tourist and Health Center. Each of these additional

Continued on page 2

Crimea Conferences

Continued from page 1

locations has some historical significance and points of interest.

The Conference Formalities

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Crimea Conferences are unlike anything the vast majority of Americans has ever seen at conferences in the United States. The opening ceremony for Crimea 2000 was held in the Genoese fortress and castle mentioned above with various personalities dressed in attire appropriate to the site and on horseback. The closing ceremony was

in the Conference title and topic have been its mainstay from the beginning. As the official languages of the Crimea Conferences are Russian, English, and Ukrainian, papers in each of these languages are included in the published *Proceedings* with the majority in Russian. Additionally, each paper in the *Proceedings* is prefaced by abstracts in each of the three languages, regardless of the actual language in which the paper appears. At the Conference presentation of a paper, simultaneous translation is provided to participants in each of the two languages other than the language of presentation.



Entrance of the principal personalities at the Opening Ceremony
(Photo: Lester Pourciau, June 2000)

characterized by an elaborate awards ceremony and by song and dance. The closing banquet was out of doors in the early evening and was nothing less than a sumptuous event.

The formal title of the Crimea Conferences is *Libraries and Associations in the Transient World: New Technologies and New Forms of Cooperation*. The topic of focus for Crimea 2000 was *Libraries, Publishers, Book Distribution, and Education in a Single Information and Sociocultural Environment*. Papers focusing on the topics identified

Crimea 2000

In the opening plenary session of the Crimea 2000, Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities for IFLA, spoke about IFLA's professional activities, outlining current projects and activities and speaking about those proposed for the future. With the world becoming smaller and with political and territorial boundaries becoming increasingly unimportant to library activities, IFLA is poised to play an increasingly active role in various cooperative activities.

Continued on page 8

IRRT Officers

Chair

Fred Lynden

Brown University

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

H. Lea Wells

North Carolina State University

Past Chair

Lucinda Covert-Vail

New York University

Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Jean Pavelsek

New York University

Members-at-Large

Mary A. Sherman

Pioneer Library System

Publication Subcommittee Chair

Barbara Kile

Rice University

International Leads (ISSN 0892-4546) is published quarterly by the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association in March, June, September, and December. The first issue was published in 1957. *IL* contains news about international library activities, the international work of ALA and other organizations, and people and publications in the field. *IL* is indexed by Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and is sent free to all members of IRRT (dues \$10); non-ALA members can subscribe for \$12 per year by writing to International Relations Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Materials for *IL* should be sent to *International Leads* Editor, Sha Li Zhang, Wichita State University Libraries, 1845 Fairmont, Wichita, KS 67260, USA, e-mail:

zhang@twsvvm.uc.twsu.edu.

Message from the IRRT Chair

By Frederick C. Lynden

In my first column as Chair of the International Relations Round Table, first, I want to give credit to my predecessor for her programs over the past two years; second, to recap IRRT actions at ALA summer in Chicago, and finally, to outline my goals for this year.

First, I thank Lucinda Covert-Vail for her energy and hard work in strengthening the IRRT. Lucinda served two years as Chair. It was during her tenure that ALA agreed to support the reception; Sha Li Zhang, a new *International Leads* editor, was appointed; Michael Dowling, our excellent Director of the IRO, was also appointed; the Hospitality desk became a Hospitality booth; the more advanced programs of Continuing Education became a reality, and a new Sub-Committee for the Sister Libraries program was inaugurated. All of these actions have really increased service to the membership and foreign librarians who attend ALA. Serving these two groups and promoting ALA's role in international relations is the real purpose of IRRT.

Second, at the ALA summer meeting, several actions were reported on areas where IRRT can expand its programs. The most important of these is that the International Relations Committee Chair, Jordan Scepaniski, and Michael Dowling, Director of International Relations Office, visited Mary Boone, Information Resources Team Leader, the State Department of the U.S., to speak about working on joint programs between ALA and the State Department. Programs of the past, such as the Library Fellows program, have been highly successful and productive. Another action, explored at ALA, was how IRRT could help in promoting IFLA 2001 in Boston. Nancy John, Past Chair of IRRT and IFLA Professional Board member, and Tovah Reis, IFLA Local Planning Committee, suggested ways that IRRT volunteers could help. Volunteers are needed most for meeting people at Logan Airport, manning the information desk, and helping with AV equipment. IRRT received a go-ahead from the National Organizing Committee for the Continuing Education Program to give a "State of U.S. Librarianship Program." It is hoped that the IRRT will encourage U.S. participation in the Poster Session program. Finally, it was suggested that IRRT members act as U. S. liaisons to IFLA divisions and sub-committees.

There was also an excellent program on the Sister Library program on Monday. Presentations by both American and foreign librarians explained how libraries can initiate and sustain sister library relationships. Another area where IRRT can take action is working with the Carnegie Corporation which has a new program to assist libraries in Africa. Gloria Primm Brown, Senior Program Officer, International

Development Program, of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, spoke to the IRRT Board about a new \$100 Million program which aims to increase the capacity of African higher education, by focusing on assisting public libraries in African countries, among them Botswana, Kenya and South Africa, through a five-ten year program to revitalize public library systems. Gloria suggested that IRRT invite major public library leaders from Africa to ALA to speak about issues facing libraries in Africa.

Third, there are a number of programs which I would like to promote during my year as Chair of IRRT. Among these are:

-- Using the Sister Library Sub-Committee to do matching of requests received at the International Relations Office for Sister Library relationships.

-- Encouraging closer contact with the International Relations Committee, including working with IRC on developing programs with the State Department, e.g., Library Fellows program.

-- Continuing to improve the *International Leads* with regular articles on IFLA 2001.

-- Expanding membership through advertising and outreach.

-- Continuing to improve the programs assisting foreign visitors such as Hospitality, Orientation; and Continuing Education.

I am pleased to begin my year as Chair of the International Relations Round Table and hope to meet as many of the members as possible during the Midwinter meeting. I encourage your comments and suggestions.

Congratulations To Winners

Robert Wedgeworth was presented the Humphrey/OCLC/Forrest Press Award and Penny Papangelis was a winner of the Bogle-Pratt Award. The presentations were made at the IRRT International Librarians Reception held at the Winter Garden of Chicago Public Library on July 10, 2000 during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

European Globetrotters For Libraries: An Interview

By David Dorman

This interview came about because I wanted to find people who had a great deal of international library experiences, but who had a non-North American perspective, and bring those experiences and perspectives to the attention of American librarians. Based on my own contacts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I found three people who had lots of international library experience and were willing to be interviewed: **Janet Lees**, Managing Director of OCLC Europe, the Middle East & Africa; **Klaus Saur**, the head of K.G. Saur Publishing; and **Borge Sorensen**, Director of the Municipal Library of Copenhagen and an Executive Board member of IFLA. I hope you find their comments as interesting as I have.

Q: In your professional capacity, each of you has chosen a position that brings you into contact with librarians around the world. Was this by accident or design?

K. Saur: Until a few years ago, the situation in Germany was that publishers' children became publishers. My father was at first not a publisher but founded an engineering company in 1948. One day the company received an order to produce a bibliography on "Hydraulic Construction." He took that opportunity to get into the business of providing subject bibliographies in many areas. Following naturally in my father's adopted profession, I started working as a publisher in 1963.

My first product was the "Publisher's International ISBN Directory", at that time still the "Publisher's International Directory." With this product I already got in touch with libraries around the world. This led to my next product, the "World Guide to Libraries," which is by now a standard work and well known by libraries around the globe. In 1970 I got the chance to publish "German Books in Print." I participated for the first time in the IFLA conference in Frankfurt in 1968 and shortly thereafter became the organization's official publisher. Since 1972, I have attended nearly all IFLA conferences that have taken place. Was all this by accident or by dedication? They came together. I like it and I will continue it.

B. Sorensen: In the beginning of my career it was by pure accident, but later on I designed it more carefully. In the 1970's I worked at the so-called "State Inspection of Public Libraries" here in Copenhagen, an office closely related to the Ministry of Culture. It was here I got the smell of it! A lot of visitors from other countries, and a lot of traveling

and studying in other countries too. Mostly the Scandinavian countries, but also Germany, especially the East-German part, and parts of Central and Eastern Europe.

After that I became the Director of the Danish Library Bureau, a semi-official agency that takes care of the Danish national Bibliography, and provides Danish libraries with cataloguing assistance, almost like OCLC in the U. S. A. In that position I got a feeling for libraries in the U. S. and Mexico as well.

Then I went more deliberately for it. My "base" is still public libraries in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. I have given a considerable number of papers in meetings and conferences there; mostly about library policy related matters, such as free library services, European Union influence on libraries, copyright, etc. During my five years in office at the Executive Board of IFLA, I have had the opportunity to visit a number of countries and meet a considerable number of colleagues all over the world. It is during that period, I have been an active part of the opening of a new IFLA office here in Copenhagen, the so-called FAIFE-office (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression). Still, my "base" is Scandinavia and also Europe, through the different EU-connections.

J. Lees: There was an attraction of travel when I first joined OCLC in 1982, but at that time it was limited to visiting the original UK libraries and to the head office in Dublin Ohio. While the UK office was named OCLC Europe and there was always the intention that OCLC would expand into Europe, it was unlikely that anyone in the early eighties would have envisioned the impact of the Internet and the web - or indeed the political changes that would support OCLC services into libraries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South Africa.

Within the OCLC organization, I have actively sought positions that provided the opportunity for travel and meeting librarians and particularly visiting their countries and their libraries. For me there is always a thrill in seeing how collections have developed and been organized in different countries through the centuries. Creating a record of the culture of a country, maintaining it in an era of globalization and making it accessible to others. Looking back, combining professional interests and travel has rewarded me with many long standing business and social relationships with individual librarians that have been an absolute pleasure. (*David Dorman is Library Consultant at Lincoln Trail Libraries System in Champ, Illinois; this report will continue on IL December 2000.*)

From ALA's International Desk By Michael Dowling

At the recent ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, we were able to get approval for a new mission statement for the office. With the funding of the office by ALA a year and a half ago it was felt that a new mission statement was needed to reflect our role within the organization. The mission statement affirms the role of the IRO in promoting and supporting international activities on behalf of ALA and the IRC and the IRRT. Here is the new mission statement.

“The mission of the International Relations Office (IRO) is to increase ALA's presence in the global library community, to implement ALA policies concerning international librarianship, to promote greater understanding of international librarianship and international library issues within ALA, and to manage international library activities on behalf of the ALA. To accomplish its mission the IRO coordinates ALA activities in support of official ALA delegations to international events such as book fairs and congresses; promotes international library exchanges and partnerships; recruits international librarians to become members of ALA and attend ALA conferences; responds to international inquiries concerning library issues and activities in the United States; serves as a point of contact for ALA's routine communication with international organizations to which ALA belongs, including IFLA; and provides support for the ALA International Relations Committee and the International Relations Round Table.”

Due to the purchasing power of the libraries in the United States, a number of book fairs around the world are interested in having U.S. librarians attend their fairs. In addition to

involvement in the Guadalajara and Zimbabwe Book Fairs, the IRO has been assisting the LIBER Book Fair in Spain to invite U.S. librarians to attend the fair. The Hong Kong Book Fair has also expressed an interest in a relationship with ALA to help bring buyers of Chinese materials to the fair. This year I was able to attend this very large fair with librarians from Brooklyn, Queens, and New York. The Hong Kong Book Fair provides a huge array and variety of materials from Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and Mainland China. And it's amazing to see the interest in book fair by the public. Over 350,000 people attend the six-day fair! In addition to the book fair, the group was able to visit a number of public and academic libraries, which are very well used. The academic libraries are very advanced in their use of technology, particularly their digitization projects.

Here are a few of the activities and projects that office will be working on in the upcoming year. The office will be involved in during the next year in helping to coordinate the second China-U.S. Conference which will take place in New York City and Washington D.C. prior to the IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston. Speaking of IFLA 2001, the office will also be handling the applications for the fellowship program for librarians from developing countries to attend the conference. The hope is to be able to give out 100 fellowships. The office will also be working with President Nancy Kranich's 'Libraries in Emerging Democracies' Committee to put on a workshop in the Caucuses region next spring. (*Michael Dowling is Director of ALA International Relations Office*)

Welcome New IRRT Members!

Duncan Earl Alford
Mercedes Benitez-Sharpless
Bleue J. Benton
Kathleen M. Best
Ellis B. Beteck
Brigid Cahalan
Bobbie Carr
Diana Chlebek
Derek Chullanandana
Katherine L. Collins
Abdurrazzak Demirhan
Linda C. Dillner
Sako Eaton
Karen S. Evans
Alison Foster

Patricia S. Fratangelo
Carol R. Goldman
Janice L. Greenberg
Junghee Kim
Lisa Kjellander
Madeleine J. Lefebvre
Sarah E. McDaniel
Christine O. Menard
Carol Merrill
Muzhgan I. Nazarova
Kristine K. Ogilvie
Lawrence K. Orr
Justina Osatohanmwun Osa
Marzena Pasek
Lorna Perterson

Iris Rodriguez Parrilla
Krista Pospisil
Baboo Rankisswarsing-Goordyal
Richard E. Sapon-White
Armandina A. Sasin
Emily Kay Stambaugh
Richard F. Sterling
Hillary Anne Stevenson
Yu-Fang Tao
Shelby Tarutis
Ravil Veli
Patricia R. Vince
Ellene L. Welch
Lynn N. Wiley
Lawrence A. Woods

IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston Update

By Michael Dowling and Fred Lynden

During the next four issues of *International Leads*, we will be providing updates for you on the plans for the IFLA 2001 Conference which will be held at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Boston's Back Bay, Massachusetts, August 16-25, 2001. The theme of the conference is "Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age."

It has been 15 years since IFLA was held in the U.S. The IFLA Boston 2001 National Organizing Committee (NOC) is co-chaired by Gary E. Strong, Queens Borough Public Library and Duane Webster, Association of Research Libraries. Roger Parent, American Association of Law Libraries, is Secretary, and Carla J. Funk, Medical Library Association, is Chair of the Finance Committee. The NOC, comprised of six major U.S. library associations (ALA, SLA, MLA, ALISE, AALL, and ARL), is excited about hosting the annual conference of the IFLA Conference. We are anticipating over 3,500 librarians from around the world attending the conference in Boston, which would make it the largest IFLA ever.

We hope that many U.S. and Canadian librarians who are not usually able to attend IFLA in other countries will take the opportunity to attend this international library conference since it will be in Boston.

For information on registration, hotels, volunteering, programming, tours, etc. please visit the IFLA 2001 web site at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/>. At the web site there is an explanation of the types of programs at IFLA: open forums, workshops, poster sessions, discussion groups, and satellite meetings. There are excursions for conference goers to sites in and around Boston.

The site will also provide the most up-to-date information on the conference.

Program Opportunities

Program planning for the conference is now under way, which goes through the IFLA sections. The NOC has designated liaisons to help ensure a good representation of U. S. participation in the programs. In addition to regular programs, IFLA also has the opportunity for people to contribute poster sessions. This will allow librarians and libraries to showcase their projects. Those interested in participating in a program should contact Evelyn Daniel, Chair, ALISE, at the School of Library and Information Science, 100 Manning Hall/CB3360, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. Her e-mail is:

daniel@ils.unc.edu

Fellowships

For librarians from developing countries, the NOC has created a Fellowship program to help librarians from developing countries attend the conference in. The goal is to raise \$300,000 to provide fellowship to about 100 international colleagues who would not otherwise be able to attend the meeting. Barbara Ford and Bob Doyle are co-chairing the Fellowship Committee. The NOC is hoping to raise the money through sponsorships from companies, foundations, libraries, and individuals. The IRRT will be assisting with an orientation program for the fellows. If you and your library, would like to contribute to the fellowship fund please contact the International Relations Office at intl@ala.org or call 312-280-3201.

Please also contact the International Relations Office if you have any other questions about IFLA 2001.

IRRT International Poster Session -- Chicago 2000

For the third year, the International Poster Session attracted many visitors. The event highlighted twenty-two poster displays prepared by librarians from sixteen different countries. They included topics such as children's web sites, a science and technology portal, a library exchange program, American library officers in Occupied Japan, research library services and health information, to name just a few. The participating international librarians expressed how much they enjoyed meeting and sharing ideas with

librarians around the world. In addition to presenting their programs, they attended programs of interest and visited exhibitors to learn about their products first hand. In several cases their acceptance as a participant in the International Poster Session enabled them to obtain funding to attend the conference. For some it was their first time visiting the U. S. The event enriches our conference and we look forward to 2001. International librarians interested in presenting a poster session should contact the ALA International Office. (*Contributed by Jacquelyn Sapiie, International Relations Round Table/International Poster Session Committee Chair*)

Report from the International Relations Committee

By Jordan M. Scepanski, Chair

Following discussion of the draft "International Relations Agenda for the American Library Association" at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio in January 2000, a second version of the document was prepared and placed on the International Relations Office web site for broader review and further comment. Reactions to the piece were received from a number of interested individuals. During the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, ALA members and membership groups provided additional comment. The changes suggested are being reviewed. The International Relations Committee will consider how the planning document will be used to guide its programs and priorities.

In April 2000, Michael Dowling, Director of the International Relations Office, and Jordan Scepanski, Chair of the International Relations Office, met in New York with ALA President-Elect Nancy Kranich, Executive Director William Gordon, and IRRT Chair Lucinda Covert-Vail, to review a range of international relations matters. Among items considered were the draft of the planning statement, how ALA might best respond to calls for action following international incidents, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference developments, international implications of Kanich's presidential theme "Libraries: the Cornerstone of Democracy," and programs at the upcoming annual conference. Later in the spring 2000, a meeting was held with information available for American librarians to work and consult abroad and to determine how ALA might assist the state department in identifying individuals with relevant functional, linguistic, and area expertise. ALA's involvement

with the international visitors program and possibilities for new partnerships with the department also were discussed.

The International Relations Committee met twice at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. In addition to talking about the draft of the planning document, the committee heard reports on the IFLA conference to be held in Jerusalem, ALA's Sister Libraries initiative, book fairs with which ALA has some involvement, planning for the second China-U.S. Library Conference, and the presence in Chicago of an impressive contingent of international librarians participating in the meetings. Rick Weingarten of the Office for Information Technology Policy briefed the committee on intellectual property and other issues of interest to the committee. Nancy John, IRC member and the IFLA first vice president, informed the IRC of current IFLA activities, including the work of its executive and professional board.

Michael Dowling brought to the committee revised mission statement for his office. The committee adopted the new statement which subsequently was approved by the ALA Committee on Organization. Reports were made by representatives of the National Commission on Library and Information Science, by the IRRT chair, by Gary Strong, on behalf of the IFLA 2001 planning committee. Strong detailed developments with the conference to be held in Boston in August 2001, and by Ann Symons who chairs a special presidential committee looking at libraries and emerging democracies. Subcommittee summaries included announcement of Robert Wedgeworth as winner of the Humphrey / OCLC Forrest Press award and Penny Papangelis receiving the Bogle travel grant.

IRC International Papers at ALA

This year, International Relations Committee sponsored an outstanding program: Libraries Build Community and Building a Worldwide Library Community. The contents of the program traversed the continents of the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Fred Guy of the National Library of Scotland, U.K., gave an impressive example of East-West cooperation in Europe by describing the role his Library played in helping to create a modern information system for the Russian State Library in Moscow. Sarah Ormes, of the Office for Library and Information Networking in the U.K., described the progress of "Stories from the Web." This site (www.storiesfromtheweb.org) was developed in order to support the reading programs of three English public

libraries but unexpectedly turned global with contributions from children around the world. Eugene M. Rooney, S.J., Director of Libraries, Chilean Province, Victor Zwerevich of International Library, Information, and Analytical Center, Justina Osa of Nigeria, Loriene Roy of New Zealand, also presented excellent papers on library building community in their respective countries. The most moving presentation was given by Lorraine Mangones and Elisabeth Pierre-Louis of the Fondation Connaissance & Liberte (FOKAL) in Haiti. Their grass roots efforts to establish a democratic society based on the concept of individual and collective responsibility were a much needed reminder to U.S. librarians of how privileged and pampered we are. (Contributed by Mary-Bess Halford, Library Director at Bethany College, West Virginia)

Crimea Conferences

Continued from page 2

Following Mr. Koopman's remarks, Evgeny Kuzmin, Deputy Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, detailed the background, state of the art, trends, problems, and tasks that Russian libraries are facing in the context of national information strategy development. Mr. Kuzmin's remarks were most appropriate and outlined those questions and problems facing not only Russian libraries in the new information age, but also facing libraries everywhere.

A third plenary session speaker, Tatiana Kiseleva, addressed the topic of "Woman in a Changing World," reviewing and commenting on the array of problems and difficulties faced by women today in their efforts to achieve professionally. Ms. Kiseleva is especially qualified to make such remarks as she is the Rektor of Moscow State University of Culture and Arts and has experienced first hand the attainment of success in the academic culture.

Apart from the opening and closing plenary sessions, paper presentations were organized into sections according to topics and these not only overlapped in time, but also were held in different locations requiring travel by buses for the day to this or to that one. This presented no difficulty, however; it merely meant that one had to pick and choose among papers given, an experience common at most conferences. Among the eleven different sections was Worldwide Information Infrastructure and Interlibrary Cooperation.

In the context of this section, Vadim K. Stepanov of the Moscow State University of Culture and Arts presented "Real and Virtual Libraries in the Age of Digital Communications," outlining the prospects of library evolution and development in a digital world. He discussed various implications of the impact of digital information on libraries and concluded that libraries as social institutions are to undergo dramatic and significant change as a result of increased utilization of electronic information communication systems.

In addition, there were fourteen separate workshops focusing on specialized topics. Modern Computer Technologies for the Blind, The Ethics of Electronic Information, Theory and History of Librarianship, and Children, Computers and the Internet were among these.

The annual Crimea Conference has evolved into one of the largest international conferences. It provides an excellent opportunity and format for the exchange of experiences and knowledge to international participants. It addresses modern, up-to-date questions and problems of interest and importance to librarians everywhere. Plans are underway for Crimea 2001 to be held again in the Sudak Tourist and Health Center, on June 9-17. A Call for Papers can be found at [Http://www.ilic.org](http://www.ilic.org) and additional information may be obtained from this writer at pourciau@alumni.indiana.edu or from Dr. Yakov Shraiberg, Chairman of the Organizing Committee as shra@gpntb.ru (*Lester J. Pourciau is Vice President of the International Library, Information, and Analytical Center*)

International Relations Office

American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611 USA

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 3226
CHICAGO, IL