



International Leads

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

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University of Havana Library Looks to the Future

By Bob Seal, Texas Christian University

“Our greatest challenge is transforming the University of Havana libraries into the leading knowledge management system in Cuban higher education,” said Library Director Bárbara Susana Sánchez Vignau in her office in the Central Library of Cuba’s most prestigious university in April 2004. Higher education in Cuba is undergoing a major transformation in which the government hopes to provide educational opportunities of some type to citizens in every town. “We have to adapt our methods of providing information and be prepared to serve a much greater number of users than ever before in this new environment,” she observed.

The even greater challenge is to do all this in the face of a lack of fiscal resources, limited technology, and increased user expectations and needs. Sánchez is determined to have her library take the lead in this transformation and she and her staff are working on a strategic plan and writing new mission and vision statements. She contends that a new non-traditional organization chart is needed and all processes and staff need to be re-oriented towards a new direction.

She considers the staff their greatest resource and will focus future efforts on training and retraining, especially in the use of technology. Librarians are already involved in the educational process at the University, teaching classes, working with faculty, and earning additional degrees. Sánchez herself regularly teaches a class in the library school.

Despite the inherent difficulties of pulling off this transformation, Sánchez is optimistic, having led the Library through major changes in recent years. As in many developing countries, technology has been used to overcome a lack of print resources, minimal operating budgets, and increased user demand for information. At the University of Havana’s Biblioteca Central, a web site (<http://intranet.dict.uh.cu/>) provides access to the library’s

online catalog (acquisitions since 1987), to full-text databases, and other electronic resources. While the Library has only a handful of public access computers, it is nevertheless forging ahead with plans to modernize the provision of information access. University researchers can have librarians do database searches or in some cases have access themselves from departmental machines. The Library’s systems staff maintains the website, the library catalog (using UNESCO software), and the internal network. A number of locally developed databases are offered, too, including higher education articles and books, a bibliography of Jose Marti, the history and development of the city of Havana, and rare books.

A staff of about 60 is currently organized into more or less traditional divisions and departments. The largest is Information Services which includes reference, collection management, and translation services, four specialists who translate scholarly and technical papers for faculty and researchers to and from English, German, French, and Russian. Reference service is provided in three reading rooms: general reference, higher education, and science and humanities periodicals.

A small special collections staff oversees a modest but important collection including rare items from the early days of printing in Cuba. Patrons may consult such items in an adjoining reading room. There is also a small collection of videos with its own viewing area. Other library services include email access for five dollars a month, mostly utilized by foreign students; in-person and telephone reference; group study rooms; bibliographic searches, traditional and online; interlibrary loan; online chat; and library instruction. The reference staff also maintains a card catalog of a collection of unpublished local theses, dissertations, and technical reports.

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Featured article

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Because book funds are limited, technical services (acquisitions, collection development, and cataloging) primarily processes gifts and exchange items. In fact, the University of Havana central library has a very active exchange program and trades numerous university publications (books and serials) with libraries around the world including the U.S. Most of the library's small book budget is used to purchase print reference works and online databases.

The semi-classical (with Art Deco influences) library building, dedicated in 1937, is at the center of campus on the Colina Universitaria (University Hill) facing a quadrangle that includes the colleges of law and mathematics as well as the administration building. Named for poet and revolutionary Rubén Martínez Villena, the library has three publicly accessible levels with most services on the second floor. The building is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and has a book collection of approximately 300,000 volumes for use in the main reading room adjacent to the circulation desk.

The library administration, Dirección de Información Científica Técnica (DICT), reports to the Vice Rector of Research. The DICT provides support for, but does not administer, additional libraries in fourteen colleges and nine of the eleven research institutes. These "branch" collections are built with departmental funds though the main library does receipt and processing. Librarians in the central library also help these autonomous libraries with reference service, staff training, translation services, and online research.

Like libraries around the world, the Biblioteca Rubén Martínez Villena faces the uncertainties of funding and rapid technological change, but in an environment of extreme economic scarcity. Nevertheless, Bárbara Sánchez is excited about the future,

and is committed to strategically preparing for it. "We transform ourselves from information managers to knowledge managers," she says, "in order to survive the changes happening in today's library environment." The same could be said about academic libraries in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Info 2004, Havana

For the eighth time since 1988, Cuban librarians hosted the International Congress of Information in Havana in April 12-16. More than 340 delegates from Cuba and 16 other countries attended INFO 2004 which had as its theme "Multidisciplinary, Social, and Technological Integration of Information: Questions and Answers." The Cuban delegation accounted for about two-thirds of the attendees. As usual, the conference took place in the Palacio de Convenciones in the Miramar section of Havana, an attractive area which is home to many foreign embassies and multinational corporations.

Sponsored by the Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica (IDICT), INFO 2004 focused on a variety of themes in the areas of information science and librarianship. At the opening session, conference organizers presented four lifetime achievement awards to librarians from Cuba, Brazil, and Germany. Keynote speeches were given by Dr. José Rincón Ferreir of the Brazilian Ministry of Industrial and Comercial Development, and Dr. Roberto del Puerto of the Cuban Ministry of Informatics and Communication. An opening reception at the Club Havana Monday evening allowed delegates an opportunity to meet and renew friendships with colleagues.

The conference included seminars, workshops, roundtables, contributed papers, and poster sessions. Topics included bibliometrics, university libraries, the role of the information professional, library education,

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leonhardt@libr.stedwards.edu

IRRT Election Results

Pierce and Hunt Elected

During the spring 2004 IRRT elections, 244 ballots were cast. Jeannette E. Pierce of Johns Hopkins University was elected Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and Judith Lin Hunt of Montclair State University is the new Member-at-large. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to the others who offered their services to IRRT and who continue to serve in other capacities.

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Cumiskey, Kurt H. —53

Pierce, Jeannette E. —150 ELECTED

Member-at-large

Veli, Ravil —72

Hunt, Judith Lin —126 ELECTED

The International Relations Round Table Executive Committee's recommendation for changes in IRRT membership dues was approved by the membership in the spring 2004 elections. For ALA personal members, the dues are now \$15 up from \$10.

The IRRT Executive Committee also recommended that student members pay dues for the first time but that International members be allowed to join for free. Student will now pay \$5 to join IRRT. The fee increases passed by a large majority as shown below.

Yes, I support changes in IRRT membership dues: **163 PASSED**

No, I do not support membership dues changes: 53

IRRT Mentors Sought

Want to meet and help out international colleagues at the ALA Annual Conference? The International Relations Office will once again be matching up librarians who would like to mentor an international colleague to make the ALA Conference as rewarding experience for international attendees. If you are interested in being a mentor in Orlando, please contact the International Relations Office, 1800-545-2433, ext 3201. Email: intl@ala.org

IRRT Conference Events

International Librarian's Orientation

ALA-IRRT

Friday, June 25, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Peabody Orlando, Plaza International BR A/B

An introduction to the ALA Conference and the city of Orlando for International librarians and other attendees from abroad. ALA members will provide an overview of the conference, including recommended programs and social activities. Learn about conference transportation, the ALA's Exhibit Hall and the meanings of the ALA's many acronyms. Meet your mentors and representatives from ALA's many divisions and round tables who will help international librarians get the most from the conference experience.

International Librarian's Reception

Monday, June 28, 2004 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Café Tu Tu Tango, 8625 International Drive, Orlando

Open to all conference attendees, this reception offers a unique opportunity to network with hundreds of information professionals from around the world. Join us for a mixing of cultures and ideas, regional cuisine, hors d'oeuvres and open bar.

Fees: Onsite: \$30; Free to International Librarians outside the U.S. Tickets are available at the conference registration area and at the door.

The IRRT wishes to thank the following sponsors of the International Librarian's Reception:

Corporate sponsors:

Blackwell's Book Services

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For more information, contact ALA's International Relations Office at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 3201 or send an e-mail to intl@ala.org.

IRRT and IRC Meetings at the 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando

International Relations Committee I

Friday, 6/25/04, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Orange County Convention Center -Room 312C

International Relations Committee II

Tuesday, 6/29/04, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Orange County Convention Center -Room 208 B

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting

Saturday, 6/26/04, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
The Peabody Orlando-Florida BR III

Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, 6/27/04, 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Rosen Centre Hotel-Salon 12

International Programs

“State of American Librarianship” (Preconference)

Friday, 6/25/04, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World

International Librarian’s Orientation

Friday, 6/25/04, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Peabody Orlando Hotel - Plaza International BR/AB

“Library Associations Worldwide: Breaking Down Barriers and Making Connections” (Paper Session)

Saturday, 6/26/04, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Sheraton World Resort-Caribbean Room

International Poster Session

Sunday, 6/27/04, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Orange County Convention Center-Exhibit Area

From Timbuktu to Toledo: How International Travel Can Make You a Better Librarian

Monday, 6/28/04, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Orange County Convention Center-Room 312A/B

IRRT-Program Committee

“International Library Collaborations in a Digital World”

Monday, 6/28/04, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
J.W. Marriott Grande Lakes-Marbella 4

International Librarian’s Reception Monday, 6/28/04, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Café Tu Tu Tango

John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award winner announced

Nasser Sharify is this year’s recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) International Relations Committee’s John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award, donated by OCLC/Forest Press, of \$1,000 for his outstanding contributions to international librarianship.

Sharify founded and was the director of the International Library Information Center in Pittsburgh and was one of the first librarians in the United States to promote the teaching of international librarianship. Sharify worked as a UNESCO consultant to the Moroccan government to design and help create Morocco’s first school of information science in 1973. He also headed consulting groups preparing master plans for five Iranian universities and a national network of information for Iran.

“I am very pleased to announce this year’s Humphry/OCLC Forest Press Award winner, Dr. Nasser Sharify, who has made significant contributions to international librarianship, classification and subject analysis and library work in developing countries,” said Chair Frederick Lynden. “Dr. Sharify is most deserving of this award since in his long career he organized and promoted the teaching of international librarianship; published numerous articles in the field; consulted with and advised librarians in many countries; and wrote a key work on the cataloging of Persian works published by ALA.”

Sharify is a retired dean and emeritus professor of the Pratt School of Library and Information Science in New York. He has served as a leader, consultant, speaker, author, and mentor in many countries, including Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, and Turkey.

He will be recognized during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla.



Dr. Nasser Sharify

From ALA's Information Desk By Michael Dowling

Fulbright Scholar Program 2005-06 Professional Librarian Award in the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom Fulbright Commission has again announced an award for an assistant librarian to help provide professional library services for the Second Air Division Memorial Library, located within the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. The Second Air Division Memorial Library has three purposes:

- * to act as a war memorial to the 6,700 US airmen and women stationed in East Anglia who were killed in the Second World War;
- * to provide a current library and information service on U.S. culture and history;
- * to provide an archive of Second World War memorabilia.

Norfolk County's libraries have 1.2 million volumes, service the inhabitants of Norfolk and are administered by the Norfolk County Council. Service is provided through 46 libraries and 17 mobile libraries which deliver services across Norfolk. The service also has libraries in two prisons and in one village shop. All libraries are connected to a DS Galaxy 2000 system and enable public access to the internet and to ICT facilities through broadband technology.

Visit <http://www.2ndair.org.uk> for more information about the Memorial Library.

GRANT ACTIVITY:

- * To help provide professional library services for the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, working as an assistant librarian with the Trust Librarian and library assistants
- * To contribute to managing the stock at the Memorial Library
- * To maintain and develop the Memorial Library web site
- * To develop links with schools, colleges, and universities and maintain links previously established
- * To develop the role of the Library and the four branch collections, in supporting formal and independent learners of all ages
- * To promote the Memorial Library and its purpose throughout the community through public talks, promotional activities, and liaising with the

Norfolk Library and Information Service, other services and organizations

- * The award is for 12 months, beginning September 2005.

There is a possibility the grant may be renewed for an additional year.

BENEFITS:

Stipend is approximately 23,500 pounds sterling for 12 months plus round-trip travel for grantee, accommodation aid, and a leased car (for which a contribution will be required for private travel).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- * U.S. citizenship
- * Masters degree in library science* Minimum of three years of recent experience in providing a public library service, including the delivery of inquiry services and, in particular, support for education programs to young people
- * Experience with library stock management
- * Public speaking experience
- * Experience with Web site development and maintenance
- * An interest in U.S. culture and history
- * Advanced knowledge of the internet as an information source
- * Ability to drive, a clean driving record, and willingness to take the U.K. driver's test

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS AUGUST 1, 2004

APPLICATION and QUERIES:

Visit the Web site of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) at www.cies.org to download the application form and guidelines. (Click on the Fulbright Traditional Scholar Program Link). You can also request a hard copy of the application by sending an email to apprequest@iie.org

For specific queries, please contact one of the following:
Daria Teutonico, 202-686-6245 teutonico@cies.iie.org or
Ilana Kurtzig, 202-686-6232 ikurtzig@cies.iie.org

WESS International Conference in Paris

By Beverly Lynch

“Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library” was the theme of the second international conference sponsored by the Western European Studies Section of ACRL. (The first conference was held in Florence, Italy in 1988.) Held in Paris, March 22-26, 2004, 120 participants from 11 countries heard and discussed the policies and politics of migration in Western Europe. Over 35 papers were presented on the broadly defined concept of “migration”, including in the content the transformation of materials libraries acquire and the tools they use to provide access and storage.

Among the papers was “Integration and Integration Policies in Germany and Europe,” by Friedrich Heckmann, Director of the European Forum for Migration Studies, University of Hamburg. Reporting on a series of comparative studies of migration outcomes in various European countries, Heckmann observed that all countries adhere to basic democratic values and human rights, noting that all subscribe to family reunion rights; that all countries open core institutions to migrants; that the policies of temporary migrant employment now found in some countries will not be upheld (“workers are needed; human beings arrived” is how he put it); and that access to citizenship has been eased. He discussed the European Union policies to accelerate convergence among countries and noted there is a strong affection for local context, less affection for a national context. He observed that the concept of nation is getting increasingly obsolete in Europe.

Roger Chartier, cultural historian and Directeur, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and Visiting Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, considered “Books, Reading, and Libraries from Print Culture to Digital World”. Chartier commented that the digital environment presents fragments, a new technique and new form of organization of text. The digital technology brings the revolution in the structure of the medium, forcing the contemporary reader to abandon old forms. The reader is not constrained to trust the author, for the reader can construct the argument for himself or herself. Chartier also observed that written copyright is now gone but that image copyright is growing.

Other keynote speakers were Jean-Claude Guedon, Universite de Montreal, Canada, Jans-Jurgen Lusebrink, University of Saarbrucken, and David Seaman, Director of the Digital Library Federation, Washington D.C. The Conference Planning Committee was chaired by Jeffrey Larson, Yale University Library.

Copyright, preservation, and standards were mentioned in various papers, but not much direct attention was devoted to these topics. The user was at the heart of all presentations. Publishers informed the audience how teaching and learning, carried out in the university, is important to them as they plan their product development and do strategic planning. Mark Holland of Gale observed that two revolutions are upon us: the first, the technical revolution, is done; the second, the revolution in user behavior, is much more difficult to assess. The work of Ed Ayers of the University of Virginia, who is directing the Valley of the Shadow Project, was commented upon. Ayers has written about unexpected consequences of students using the results of the project.

The papers on migration and meaning in digital resources, resources for migration studies, new projects on the migration of information, art, collections, literature, microforms and data migration, raised important issues and led the conference to adopt two resolutions. One, growing out of a paper presented at the conference by Thomas D. Kilton of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “A French-American Resources Project: Needs and Potentials in a World of Migration,” recommends that WESS investigate the feasibility of initiating such a project. The project’s purpose would be to facilitate cooperative programs between French and North American libraries that would benefit libraries and their users on both sides of the Atlantic. The other is to initiate planning activities leading to a third international conference to be held in Europe within five to seven years.

Given the richness of the content of the Paris conference, the rapid change in user behaviors about which little is yet known, the need for change in collecting strategies, and the increasing globalization of all aspects of scholarship, WESS has provided leadership in defining these issues in academic librarianship.

Library Leaders from Russia Visit Kansas

Mirah Dow, Emporia State University

“Of the seven programs I have facilitated, this was the best!” said Lyudmila Guseva of Open World Leadership Program (OWLP). Lyudmila and four other librarians from Russia spend October 5-12, 2003 engaged from early morning until bedtime in a theme-based visit called, “The Information Universe: A Midwestern Perspective”.

OWLP, administered by Academy for Educational Development, Washington, D. C., enables young Eurasian elected officials, political candidates, and emerging political and civic leaders to observe firsthand the American democratic system. This Kansas program addressed OWLP topics including federalism and representative government, women as leaders, rule of law, health, environment, economic development, educational reform and youth.

Distinguished Russian guests were: Mariana Andryushkina, Deputy Director for Scientific Work and Publishing, Chuvashiya Republic National Library; Tatyana Bragina, Deputy Director for Scientific Work, A.M. Gorkiy Scientific Library, Vladimir Region; Irina Eydemiller, Head of Reference Library Stock Department, Russian National Library, St. Petersburg; Natalya Mitrofanova, Head, Pskov Region Scientific Library, Consulting Information Center, and Lyudmila Guseva, Research Librarian, American Information and Resource Center, Nizhniy Novgorod Linguistic University. Asya Papinako, Kansas City, KS, and Tatiana Pachkova, Portland Oregon served as interpreters.

Joyce Davis, Dean of Libraries, Emporia State University, was lead sponsor for the visit, along with Janet Anderson-Story, Director of Flint Hills Technical College Library; Sue Blechl, Director of Emporia Public Library; and Mirah Dow, Assistant Professor and Director of Student Services, School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University.

The eight day schedule of activities included visits in Emporia to: Flint Hills Technical College; Emporia High School; William Allen White Elementary School; William Allen White Library, the School of Library and Information Management, and other ESU campus locations; Emporia Public Library; Emporia Civic Auditorium, Chamber of Commerce, and Convention and Visitors' Bureau; Emporia Public Library; Lyon County Courthouse; the Emporia Main Street Project; and Newman Memorial Hospital. Topeka locations included: Topeka Public Library; Kansas Capitol and State Library; and, a visit to the historical Grand Central Hotel in Cottonwood Falls. Shopping as often as possible and college football in ESU President Kay Schallenkamp's "box" at Welch Stadium were special attractions.

Local issues of special interest to the guest librarians were collection development and management; personnel issues; library science education; library administration including finance, human resources, personnel training; and technology. The visit also highlighted library interactions with the community, city and county government, as well as business, industry, and the recreational function of libraries. Principals of accountability, governance, and the role of citizenry in government were illustrated throughout the visit. Home stays with Emporia area families provided a lively exchange of culture, lifestyle, and traditions.

Cuban Libraries

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knowledge management, copyright, information technology, virtual reference, resource sharing, information for business competitiveness, metadata and more. Exhibits included commercial and professional products and publications. The congress concluded with a roundtable on publishing industry trends featuring speakers from EBSCO, Springer-Verlag, Blackwell, and Wiley.

Although there was no formal ALA delegation at this meeting, the author participated in an informal lunch discussion with colleagues from ASCUBI (Cuban Library Association) and SOCICT (Cuban Society for Information Science). Cuban librarians remain greatly interested in working with ALA on any number of cooperative projects.

INFO 2006 is scheduled for April 17-21, 2006.

Bob Seal, University Librarian, TCU

Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund Winner Announced

Steven Shadle is this year's recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) International Relations Committee's *Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund*.

The Bogle Memorial Fund and the Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science provided a \$1,000 cash award for Mr. Steven Shadle to attend his first international conference in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The award is in recognition of Sarah Comly Norris Bogle, a prominent U.S. librarian who made notable contributions in international library service.

Steven Shadle is a Serials Cataloger at the University of Washington Libraries. He provides original and complex copy cataloging of serials in all subject areas and in all formats (print, nonprint, and electronic) using AACR, LC and NLM classification, LCSH and MeSH,

CONSER guidelines and OCLC/MARC tagging. Contributes names, series and subject authority records to the national authority file using NACO and SACO standards. Serves as a staff resource in the area of serials and electronic resource cataloging. Trains and revises serials catalogers. Responsible for the development of policies, procedures and new initiatives in the cataloging of electronic serials. Represents the Serials Cataloging Section and Serials Division on library planning, decision-making groups and other systemwide groups as appropriate

Mr. Shadle is planning to attend the Electronic Information Resources in the Caribbean: Trends and Issues in Trinidad and Tobago, where he will present a paper called "AACR 2002 Revisions and the Aggregator-Neutral Approach: Recent Changes to Electronic Resource Cataloging".

Steven Shadle will be recognized during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.



Steven Shadle

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