



# International Leads

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

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## Shared values bring different cultures together

By Lesley Farmer

This summer I had the privilege to be invited to teach for the Master's degree in Library and Information Management program at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). I also served as the external examiner for the Diploma for Teacher Librarianship, under the auspices of HKU's School of Professional and Continuing Education: SPACE.

### Hong Kong Education

Hong Kong's education reflects the long occupation by the United Kingdom. The system is basically British in nature, and consists of six primary forms and seven secondary forms. Since the reversion to China, Hong Kong's curriculum has become more Sino-oriented. The main strands include reading/literacy, science, technology, and moral education. Students must meet both English and Cantonese language standards.

In higher education the associate's degree and diploma program usually require two years, and the bachelor's program is set up as a three-year process. The master's degree typically requires a two-year commitment. There has been some talk about changing the educational year divisions to provide more seamless education from primary through higher education.

HKU is Hong Kong's oldest institute of higher education, and



*Lesley Farmer had the opportunity to work with many people during her time in Hong Kong. Farmer taught in the Library and Information Management master's program and served as an external examiner for the Diploma for Teacher Librarianship at the University of Hong Kong this summer.*

began in 1910 as a medical training center. Now it offers bachelor's through doctoral degrees in many subjects, and serves almost 20,000 students. Located mid-level on Hong Kong Island itself, it is relatively close to the central business district and looks over hundreds of high-rise apartments. It offers Hong Kong's only master's

degree in library and information management and only Diploma in Teacher Librarian program.

### Teacher Librarians

Under the direction of the Hong Kong Education and Manpower Bureau

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## Hong Kong

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(EMB), every primary and secondary school is mandated to hire a qualified full-time teacher librarian. These teacher librarians need to be credentialed teachers *and* credentialed teacher librarians. In some cases, a classroom teacher takes the position for a year or two, but others find teacher librarianship to be their real niche. Much of their time is spent in collection management, but increasingly they are working with teachers in reading promotion, information literacy, and technology competency efforts. The EMB has established the mechanism for a union catalog, so it is hoped that teacher librarians will contribute to it. There has also been some movement to push information literacy more substantially; the new emphasis on liberal studies may be the window of opportunity for such integration.

At one point, EMB in-house training provided the basis of academic preparation, but in 1999 a diploma program was established at HKU. Because credentialed programs did not require a bachelor's program, students came with a wide spectrum of experiences and academics. Now teacher librarians need to have a bachelor's degree, although most have already earned such a degree for their first credential. The master's program is open to all types of librarianship, but is not required for teacher librarians. The Education and Manpower Bureau is contemplating the bachelor's degree as a requirement for entering teacher librarians; they also plan to phase out their own training, and require all candidates to take at least one year of graduate courses, which would be paid by the state. The full diploma, however, would require an additional year of training.

The Diploma of Teacher Librarianship program now consists of ten modules (courses) with 36 credits total. Class modules are usually held weekly for eight to ten weeks, followed by the next module. Subjects include collection development and organization, technology, information sources and technology, information

literacy and collaboration. A field experience is built into each year's program. The approach blends theory and practice, and stresses cataloging and instruction. As the external examiner for this program, I found the culminating tasks to be a synthesis of readings, discussion, and site application. Although most classes are held face-to-face, all courses are mounted on HKU's interactive learning network (ILN) so students can retrieve presentations and readings online and can post work to the group digitally. Tasmanian-born James Henri coordinates the program; most full-time faculty are not native to Hong Kong although most part-time faculty are local teacher librarian practitioners; outside adjunct faculty, such as myself, are invited to teach a course or two occasionally. Thus, library science students receive a truly international education.

### International Association for School Librarianship Conference

In early August while I was there, the International Association for School Librarianship (IASL) held its annual conference at HKU. This event marked the first time that IASL had met in China, and the local planning committee worked hard to make the conference special, down to the sequined conference bags.

Over 600 delegates from about 30 countries attended; the Education and Manpower Bureau paid for the registration of Hong Kong teacher librarians, which provided a valuable venue for professional development. Two pre-conferences (Carol Kulthau and I conducted one on assessing information literacy) and over a hundred sessions addressed current issues of resources, instruction, collaboration, research, technology, among others. Probably even more learning occurred in the halls and at meals as teacher librarians from around the world shared their experiences.

I'm not sure who learned more: my student or myself – probably the latter. Experiencing a different culture while sharing common values of librarianship provided a rich learning environment. I encourage more library educators to cross-fertilize their profession.

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## Message from the IRRT Chair

By Jeannette Pierce

### Thank You!

I would like to personally thank the committee chairs and committee members who conducted the work of the IRRT at the Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio. Our membership will learn about some of the IRRT's upcoming activities in this issue of IL and there will be more to learn in the June issue that will come out before the Annual Conference in New Orleans. We are a busy Round Table and we want all of our members to be aware of our many activities and to share them with others. Check our web site (<http://www.ala.org/irrt>) for updates between now and June.

### Upcoming ALA Elections

I encourage all IRRT members to vote in the upcoming election. You will find information about our IRRT candidates in this issue of IL. Another ballot item that I would like to bring to

your attention is a proposed change to the ALA Bylaws.

### Proposed Bylaw Change

At present, only the five largest Round Tables are entitled to elect their own ALA Councilor. The remaining Round Tables are represented by a single councilor. The difference in membership numbers among the largest nine Round Tables is not significant. With the current system, Round Tables are continually concerned about their comparative membership numbers year to year.

At the Midwinter Meeting, the Round Tables Coordinating Committee (RTCC), voted to support a proposal to change the apportionment of Round Table representation on ALA Council to allow for each Round Table with a membership equal to or greater than one percent of the entire ALA membership to elect a councilor. A "yes" vote on

this issue will have the immediate effect of increasing the number of Round Table councilors from five to nine by 2007. The IRRT Board voted to support the proposal at the Midwinter Meeting. ALA Council approved the proposed Bylaw change. Now the ALA membership must vote.

### Vote Yes!

I will be voting yes because I think the proposal allows for a fair, consistent, and non-competitive means of representing the diverse interests of our Round Tables in the larger ALA organization. I extend my particular thanks to the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) for preparing the proposal and to Jordan Scepanski, the current Councilor for all of the smaller Round Tables (including the IRRT), for his efforts on behalf the proposal.

## IRRT Member Profile

**IRRT member since:**  
1970

**Most enjoyable international library project/projects:** My theme as the 1997-1998 ALA president was, "Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch."

Working with ALA members, we expanded the types of and visibility for international projects in our association. As Director of the Mortenson Center, I have a dream job that combines my interest in libraries and international issues including the promotion of peace, education, and understanding.



**Barbara J. Ford**

([www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson)). I now serve on the Governing Board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)) and am pleased to work with

colleagues from around the world in representing the interests of library and information services and their users.

**Three words to new IRRT members:** Get involved! Enjoy! Help expand ALA's global reach!

Compiled by Sha Li Zhang,  
IRRT Membership Committee Chair

**Remember to Sign Up  
for the Annual IRRT  
International Librarians  
Reception**

**Monday, June 26, 6-8 p.m.**

**Welcome and Mingle with  
Librarians from Around  
the World**

**Have a Great Time at  
One of ALA's Most  
Important Events**

**The Reception is Free to  
International Librarians  
Outside the U.S.**



# A Bulgarian's View of American Libraries

By Diana Velkova

The American Studies Library at the Sofia Central Library was founded in 2001 as a donation by the American Center at the American Embassy in Bulgaria. It contains most of the original American Center Library's collection which became available when the American Center at the Embassy closed.

Sofia City Library participates in two American-Bulgarian Projects. The first one is as a Partner Library with the Jefferson County Public Library in Colorado. The aim of Partner Library Project is the exchange of information resources and professional help, and the enrichment of cross-cultural understanding and communication. Some of the activities of the partnership are regular e-mail communication between the partners, a pen pal club between children and teenagers from both countries, and exchange of books, other information resources and cultural materials.

In 2002, I traveled with 7 other Bulgarian librarians on a study trip about librarianship and information management in the USA. The trip was part of "Program for International Visitors", financed by the American Embassy in Bulgaria. We visited many libraries, met people whose work area is in some way related to libraries – foundations and educational institutions — and we visited our Partner Library in Colorado. The aim of this trip was not only to gather more professional information, but also to understand better American life and culture. This travel to America has changed my idea for a library model.

As a part of the Sister Library Project the new one was started - ABLE /American Bulgarian Library Exchange. One of its goals is to help libraries explore additional functions appropriate to the information age. It is also designed to create six model community information centers in six Bulgarian libraries, including ours. Another goal is to increase the visibility of libraries in a positive context; to

develop tools and materials to help libraries and librarians promote their value to their users and reach their specific audiences; to increase funding and support for libraries.

My colleague Kameliya Koneva from our Reference Department visited USA for a 6-week internship. All Bulgarian librarians who have visited the US are members of an association called "American Experience for Libraries." It is part of the Union of Bulgarian Librarians and Information Service Officers (ULIS), our national library association.

As a member of this association and as a person who really likes the American library System, I began to wonder what I could do to promote the

*We decided to start a free conversational English course at the library--a discussion group, open to everyone.*

American experience, and to be of real help to our patrons. Then I met Judith Hansen, a former librarian from Los Angeles. She asked me how she could be in help as a volunteer.

Volunteerism is typical American practice, but not very popular in Bulgaria yet. We decided to start a free conversational English course at the library--a discussion group, open to everyone.

I began to search for people who would support us. I wrote 300 letters to people from business, non-government organizations, media etc., looking for sponsors or for volunteers - native English speakers. We wanted the program to have two parts. The first - discussion groups once a week. The second--about 10 computer

workstations at the American Studies Library, where our patrons could use sample materials for TOEFL, SAT, educational software and free Internet sites for self-learning. We also would like to have DVD and video collection with classical films and music.

The results from my letters so far are three. One company has donated a computer and a printer. Our Partner Library has donated a laptop. BlueLink, a site for non-government organizations, put me in touch with Pat Palmer from the Peace Corp. Her help for the project has been essential.

I have several reasons to hope that this program will be completed. It will benefit our patrons. There are many people who speak some English and need to improve it but cannot afford to pay for language courses. At the same time they understand fully well that they need better English for their work and in their every day life. Another goal is to overcome the language barrier and the embarrassment of their mistakes when they communicate with foreigners. The idea is for these discussion groups to be held in a very friendly and informal atmosphere. There is a great possibility for social contacts as well because our low income affects our social life. I'm sure that for some of the participants it will be their first visit to our library. So it is a good way to make our resources and our work more popular.

We held the pilot program between the end of May and the beginning of July last year. We wanted to see how many people would visit the meetings, at what level of English, and what they liked and didn't like, so that when we started the real program, we would be able to correct our mistakes.

The first person to lead the discussion groups was Ann Cress from our partner library.

In my opinion the pilot program was successful. I was impressed that some of the American volunteers not

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# Indigenous librarians gather in Canada

By Lorie Roy, Sandra Littletree, and Robert L. Yazzie, Jr.

Since fall 1999, indigenous library workers from around the world have been gathering every two years to exchange information, make contacts, and deliberate on policy and planning documents. The Fourth International Indigenous Librarians Forum recently took place in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Hosted by the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples, Inc. and the Albert Community Library Committee, Forum sponsors included the Regina Public Library, University of Saskatchewan Library, and other donors.

The Forum offered two events: a two-day preconference open to anyone interested in indigenous information services and the two-day Forum gathering for indigenous peoples only. Pre-Conference and Forum agendas included indigenous observances including an opening prayer and the singing of "O Canada" in the Cree language and honoring knowledge arriving from the four cardinal directions. Key note speakers from these four directions/doors opened each day's session. Keynote speakers included Diane Hill (Mohawk), Maria Campbell (Metis), and Sharon Shorty (Tlingit/Northern Tutchone/Norwegian). Delegates from the East represented the place of renewal and new beginnings. They spoke about public library initiatives in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario, a book distribution service for indigenous publications, services available from Library and Archives Canada, and the role of tribal college libraries.

Day two brought knowledge from the south, the place

of the heart, with presentations on health information, policies and protocols created for work with aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in Australia, contemporary themes in children's books, and services from the New Mexico State Library and the Institute of American Indian Arts library. Day three brought reports from the west, the place of sacrifice, with a panel on graduate education for indigenous librarians and a presentation on First Nations library services. Panels from Alaska led the program on day four, focusing on knowledge from the north, the drawing place of true wisdom.

Darren Okemaysim, Cree language professor at First Nations University, served as the Forum master of ceremonies. The First Nations University of Canada hosted a welcome reception on Tuesday, September 13. The reception featured contemporary indigenous cuisine and a session on indigenous place names by Dr. Neil McLead.

Brian Deines, illustrator of *SkySisters*, a picture book about the northern lights, was the luncheon speaker on Tuesday, September 13. Patty Lawlor, coordinator of First Nations Community Reads, a storytelling/family literacy event, read this picture book as part of this feature event.

The Forum closed with a banquet with entertainment from aboriginal comedians/storytellers Gramma Susie and Cash Creek Charlie (Sharon Shorty and Duane Aucoin), hoop dancer Terrance Littleent and the Kawacatoose Drum group, and the Riel Reelers, a Metis dance troupe.

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## News in brief

### Thinking Outside the Borders – 2006 IRRT Pre-Conference

This International Relations Round Table (IRRT) pre-conference welcomes international librarians and librarians from the United States. Using modules provided by the Mortensen Center for International Library Programs, it seeks to establish working relationships among librarians of different countries.

This session will explore strategies used in South Africa and in the U.S. for making our libraries, services, and workplaces more effective in a multicultural and global environment. The speakers will be Ujala Satgoor, Head of the Business Library at the University of Pretoria, and Sandra Rios Balderrama, Consultant; Former President, REFORMA & Former Director, ALA Office for Diversity.

Hector Marino, chair of the Sister Libraries Committee of the IRRT, will

provide an overview of the Sister Libraries program. Heleni Pedersoli, from the University Libraries, University of Maryland, will present an inside look at the Sister Libraries program highlighting the nuts and bolts of getting involved and keeping a Sister Library relationship.

The 2006 IRRT Pre-Conference will be held in conjunction with ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The \$40 registration includes lunch and light refreshments.

### Volunteers sought to meet and greet international visitors in New Orleans

The IRRT IVC Committee is looking for volunteers to staff the International Visitors Center at the ALA conference in New Orleans. IRRT sponsors the IVC for international librarians attending the

conference. The IVC will be located near the exhibits and will be open Friday, June 23 through Monday, June 26.

IVC Volunteers assist international visitors by answering questions and giving directions at the conference (don't worry, we provide all the information you need to help the visitors!). In addition to information, the IVC offers international visitors computers for email/Internet and a place to meet with friends and relax.

Working at the IVC is fun and a great way to meet people from around the world. All you need to be a successful volunteer is a smile and a helpful attitude! Please consider volunteering for a 1- to 2-hour time slot (or more!). To volunteer, please contact Liz Cooper at [liz.cooper@emory.edu](mailto:liz.cooper@emory.edu), 404-727-0115, or Emory University/Woodruff Library/540 Asbury Circle/Atlanta, GA 30329.

# eIFL.net: Sharing E-resources globally

By Isabel Bernal

eIFL.net is an international network of library consortia dedicated to providing services to transition and developing countries. In only five years of existence, eIFL.net has developed an enviable record of success advancing the information needs of fifty countries on three continents.

eIFL.net was born in October 1999 as an Open Society Institute Initiative within its Information Program. The purpose was to address technological, economic or information awareness barriers that education and research institutions in the former Soviet Union and East European countries were facing regarding access to online scholarly documentation. To achieve its goal, eIFL.net has encouraged the creation and built the sustainability of national library consortia in these transition countries. At the same time, eIFL.net deemed that it could use its purchasing power to negotiate with commercial publishers on behalf of eIFL.net member countries to enable them to obtain electronic resources at highly discounted subscription rates and under fair terms and conditions.

In 2002 eIFL.net built upon its success and became an independent incorporation (as a foundation under Dutch law) and enhanced its scope both geographically and thematically, while maintaining its dedication to build and support library consortia in developing countries. Today, it is the largest library consortium network, comprising 50 member countries in Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. The membership encompasses about 4,000 local libraries and 800 million users. Current country members include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uganda,



*Forty-four eIFL country coordinators, along with the eIFL team, attend the 2005 General Assembly, which took place at the National Library in Vilnius, Lithuania, on October 27-28.*

Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. New Members in 2005 included Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine (both West Bank and Gaza), Syria, and Mozambique.

With its main office in Rome, Italy, eIFL.net provides multiple programs for its members, including: electronic resource licensing; advocacy and support to provide access to quality scholarly e-resources for library, education, research, and professional communities; and educational services related to library consortium management and sustainability. As a result, eIFL.net has become a leading multi-country negotiator for securing affordable commercial electronic information services for transitional and developing countries, as well as a key player in the international community to improve access electronic resources. While maintaining these activities at its core, eIFL.net continues to diversify its services. In 2005, eIFL.net embarked upon programs to advocate and support fair intellectual property legislation, established partnerships with several open access communities and initiatives, and launched a technology advancement programme.

eIFL.net continues to seek opportunities to close the digital divide in content access in developing countries by:

- endorsing strong and sustainable library consortia;
- negotiating and lobbying for the wide availability of electronic resources, including the adoption of a model license and contract now used for eIFL.net-negotiated agreements with commercial publishers;
- motivating the development of local electronic material;
- engaging in strong central business relationships with commercial and open access content providers;
- providing top quality educational and consulting services;
- working for the adoption and advancement of effective information distribution models;
- supporting the use of Open Source Software for libraries in member countries

The organisation of training sessions and workshops for library staff within the eIFL.net network of countries is an essential method to help

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## Bulgarian

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only agreed to spend time with us but also were active in searching for new participants. They were trying to publicize the program and encouraging me not to give up.

I'm glad that the program gives an opportunity to Americans to meet other people from their country here, at the library, and to make new personal friendships or business contacts.

In the beginning, I thought that the focus would be on English learning. But actually the focus is on communication--in the very broad meaning of this word. We often talked about cultural differences. I'm sure that we Bulgarians can learn a lot from Americans--from their optimism, pragmatic way of thinking, willingness to be of help, easiness, and workaholicism. I believe that for the Americans this communication was interesting too. When someone is trying to explain themselves to other people, it is a good way to understand better their character and to think again about their good and not so good qualities. So when we compare ourselves with other people, we get to know ourselves better.

Because some of the American participants worked for different NGOs, we often talked about how we can be of help to the community as a whole. We Bulgarians are still too focused on our problems and it seems that we don't believe that our efforts could make some

change. The Americans talked so passionately for the joy to be of help that they changed part of our way of thinking. I'm glad that this happened. One of the things that I like in the program is that we can communicate in an informal and free way. It's a great opportunity for meetings between people, different in age, profession, nationality, and education.

One of the directions of our work is to communicate more closely with high school teachers because students from English language schools are our potential patrons. We invited students from the four most popular language schools in Sofia. There was a short lecture, we saw the film, and everyone received a free copy of the book. We hope to continue such programs.

One of the problems is that the computer services we can provide our patrons are very limited. We have one donated computer without speakers, headphones, and CD recorder, and one laptop, donated by our Partner library in Colorado, which also needs headphones. At this time we have only one connection to the Internet through a terminal without CD, floppy, or sound. Our other two computers are not connected because we have no money for antivirus programs.

My dream is for our library to become a modern community center for information, education and entertainment, where the whole community comes together. That makes our work much more difficult and responsible, on one hand, and much more creative and interesting, on the other.

## Sofia 2006 invites participation

By **Herbert Achleitner**

You are invited to participate in *Sofia 2006: Globalization, Digitization, Access and Preservation of Cultural Heritage*, to be held November 8-10, 2006, at the Hotel Rodina, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Sofia 2006 is sponsored by the School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University, Kansas; the Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Sofia; and Seton Hall University Libraries, New Jersey. The series is designed to explore the impact of globalization and change on the development of libraries, information infrastructure, and society. Students are invited to participate in a parallel conference. Visit the Sofia 2006 website: <http://slim.emporia.edu/globenet/Sofia2006/Index.htm>.

Registration information can be found at <http://slim.emporia.edu/globenet/Sofia2006/Registration.htm>. Registration fees include the conference and pre-conference materials, meals during the conference, and pre-conference lunch and banquet. The Hotel Rodina is offering a special conference rate when booked through the conference registration.

We do hope that you will be able to join us in Sofia, Bulgaria, on November 8-10, 2006.

## Meet your 2006 IRRT candidates!

### VICE CHAIR/CHAIRELECT

*Martin Alan Kesselman*  
Life Sciences Librarian, Rutgers  
University Libraries

*Joan S. Weeks*  
Sr. Instruction Librarian, Library  
of Congress Instructional  
Design and Training Division

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE

*Sarah C. Beasley*  
Manager, Film & Audio  
Department, Carnegie Library of  
Pittsburgh

*John T. Furlong*  
Director, Brentwood Public  
Library

### ROUNDTABLE COUNCILOR

*Johan Koren*  
Library Media Coordinator,  
Murray State University

*Hector Marino*  
Coordinator of Computer and  
Technical Services, Des Plaines  
Public Library

For more details on the candidates, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/irrt/irrtlections2006.htm>.

## eIFL

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make participating institutions aware of cutting edge trends and latest news in the field of information and technology services. Educational topics have included the management of library consortia, the use of statistics, the evaluation of e-resources, and the open access movement. Knowledge and information sharing within the eIFL.net community is also achieved through electronic means, such as listservs, discussion groups, the eIFL.net website ([www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net)). An annual meeting (the General Assembly) also is held to bring together representatives from around the world to receive the latest information.

Two major current initiatives are on Intellectual Property (IP) and Open Access (OA) advocacy services. The eIFL-IP service intends to build capacity and expertise amongst the eIFL community concerning intellectual rights by providing tools, resources and training. The program also lobbies with great success in key international fora against the current “one size fits all” copyright protections by supporting more equitable conditions for developing countries and by making their voices heard. Partnerships are in place with IFLA, and alliances with

NGOs, civil society organisations and other stakeholders have been established to campaign for the Treaty of Access to Knowledge and the WIPO Development Agenda. eIFL has been granted a permanent observer status at the WIPO Member States Meetings, which demonstrates the public recognition of eIFL contribution to the discussion of issues at stake.

The eIFL-OA program draws attention to the potential benefits that open-access models of scientific publishing can offer to developing and transition countries. eIFL-OA collaborates with the OSI Open Access program to provide training and organize workshops on open access-related issues throughout the eIFL.net network. This new eIFL service is supplemented with the provision of manuals and guidelines especially adapted to the particular needs of developing and transition countries. In addition, eIFL.net actively supports the advancement of digitally produced local content in member countries, such as through the organising of pilot institutional repositories projects. In 2005, efforts along these lines took place in South African and Zimbabwean University libraries, and similar activities will be replicated in other eIFL countries this year. This is a promising new section that seeks to make the wealth of scholarly and

cultural e-resources from developing countries globally accessible. What is more, in the pursuit for an ever greater access and sharing of material, eIFL.net is exploring partnerships with other open content service movements such as the Creative Commons, Wikipedia and Open Content Alliance

eIFL.net is currently expanding its technology activities, first by assessing the needs and preferences of member countries to acquire library software – with a special emphasis on open source options. At the same time, eIFL has begun to collaborate closely with Google Scholar to provide member countries with direct links to full text resources that they have licensed. Google is also enabling access through the free hosted link resolver, ScholarSFX. These first steps are expected to pave the way for a greater visibility and access of both international and local educational and cultural material.

Within five years, eIFL.net has become a complex international network of library consortia whose ultimate target is to eliminate the many barriers that developing and poor countries encounter to access educational resources online by addressing all the different facets that libraries need consider today to become the modern agents of the knowledge society.

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### International Relations Office

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