



# International Leads

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Number 4

## Beyond Access: an International Conference on Local Alternatives for Global Development: The Camp

By Janet Lee

There was a cacophony of voices in languages from approximately 35 countries around the world as participants met at the Library Innovators Camp sponsored by Beyond Access, an initiative of IREX, EIFL, IFLA, Makaia, Civic Regeneration, TASCHA, the Riecken Foundation, and READ Global, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Translators followed their assigned delegates, speaking softly into microphones, simultaneously translating conversations, speeches and presentations.

Twenty teams representing nineteen countries were selected to attend both the camp and the Beyond Access Conference Local Alternatives for Global Development: Rediscovering Libraries on October 3. The teams included:

- Jagodina Public Library (Serbia)
- Alay Regional Library (Kyrgyzstan)
- Busia Community Library/Ma-

**MY DIGITAL FRIEND FOR MY HEALTHY LIFE**  **COUNTRY: NEPAL**

**THE PROBLEM:** OVER 60% OF WOMEN WHO HAVE GIVEN BIRTH IN JHUWANI VILLAGE SUFFER FROM UTERINE PROLAPSE & 80% OF PREGNANT WOMEN DO NOT VISIT THE HOSPITAL DURING PREGNANCY.

**DIGITAL EDUCATION SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE UTERINE PROLAPSE IN JHUWANI VILLAGE**

**THE GOALS:**

- CREATE A WEEK BY WEEK PROGRAM FOR PREGNANT WOMEN & U.P. VICTIMS
- CREATE MULTIMEDIA CONTENT TO EDUCATE ABOUT CARE
- REDUCE INSTANCES OF U.P. BY 10%
- INCREASE REGULAR HOSPITAL VISITS TO 95%

**PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES:**

- IDENTIFY SUBJECT
- PARTNERSHIP BUILDING
- TEAM TRAINING

**LOCALIZED IT CONTENT DEVELOPMENT:**

- DEVELOP CONTENT
- U.P. VICTIMS
- UTERINE PROLAPSE VICTIMS

**BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION:**

- TARGETED WOMEN
- CURRENT VICTIMS
- UNRESOLVED COURSES

**COUNSELING SERVICES:**

- WEEKLY COUNSELING HOME VISITS
- GROUP COUNSELING
- HEALTH COACH

**SHARING & PARTNERSHIPS:**

- DISTRICT LEVEL SHARING
- PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

**SUSTAINABILITY:**

- PROJECT EVALUATION
- SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISM IDEA
- COMMUNICATIONS & NETWORKING

**RESOURCES:**

- AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT
- COMPUTERS & EDITING SOFTWARE
- STAFF/TRAINING
- TABLET DEVICES

**PARTNERSHIPS:**

- E-NETWORK
- DISTRICT HOSPITALS
- WOMEN'S CO-OP
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- READ GLOBAL
- FAMILY PLANNING OFFICE

**RESULTS & MEASUREMENT:**

- 95% WOMEN REGISTERED IN LIBRARY
- 95% WOMEN GETTING REGULAR HEALTH CHECK
- 80% WOMEN DELIVER BABIES SAFELY IN HOSPITAL
- 100% NOT USING UNHEALTHY SUBSTANCES IN P.V.
- HEALTHY HOMES
- SPOUSAL SUPPORT LIVES SAVED
- HAPPY & ACTIVE

**BEYOND ACCESS**  
Libraries Powering Development | Library Innovators Camp | 1-2 October 2012 | Washington, DC

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The Jhuwani Community Library (Nepal) was the winner of the People's Choice Award during the Beyond Access Conference in Washington, D.C.

- ria's Libraries (Kenya)
- Jhuwani Community Library and Resource Center (Nepal)
- Segenat Children and Youth Library (Ethiopia)
- Ghana Library Authority-Tamale (Ghana)
- Kitengesha Community Library (Uganda)
- Biblioteca Nacional de Peru (Peru)
- Biblioteca Pública del Zulia Maracaibo (Venezuela)
- Biblioteca Pública de Niterói (Brazil)
- Lubuto Library Project, Inc./Zambia Library Service (Zambia)
- Davao City Public Library (Philippines)
- National Library of Uganda (Uganda)
- Biblioteca "Arturo Flores Aguiluz" (Honoduras)
- Kherson Oblast Library for Children (Ukraine)
- Biblioteca Comunitaria Rija'tzuul Na'ooj (Guatemala)
- Biblioteca Comunala Melinesti (Romania)
- Red de Bibliotecas Medellín Área Metropolitana (Colombia)

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## Message from the Editor

ALA Midwinter is just around the corner in beautiful Seattle, WA. Interested in becoming more involved in IRRT/IRC committees? Join us on Saturday, January 26th from 8:30 – 11:30, location to be announced. Volunteers are always needed for the International Visitor's Center. Check out the following website for more information: <http://www.ala.org/irrt/front>

In this issue, *International Leads* has a two-part series on the Beyond Access conference held in October in Washington, DC. Beyond Access is an initiative that is working toward making libraries in developing countries hubs for economic and social change. Libraries power development.

Susan Schnuer, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois, is interviewed for her work in Kazakhstan. Learn more about the libraries she was able to visit in Astana.

James Hicks, updates the reader on the distribution of government information to U.S. Citizens following the 3/11 Crisis after the earthquake in Japan. How do U.S. citizens obtain critical information when faced with a crisis in a foreign land?

During a recent visit to the Philippines, I visited the Ateneo de Manila campus only to discover I was in the middle of an International Library conference. The director of the Rizal Library and her staff graciously invited me to attend some sessions. It was a packed conference and I look forward to attending the full conference in the future.

Congratulations to Jane Kinney Meyers for the John Ames Humpry/OCLC/Forest Press Award. Well done!

~ Janet Lee

### Call for Submission

Do you have news about...

International library activities?

People in international librarianship?

Upcoming international conferences?

International partnerships between libraries?

Then why not submit it to *International Leads*?  
Send your news to [intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com](mailto:intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com)  
for consideration.

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Continued from page 1

- Aurbey Sershong Payzothkhang (ASSP) Community Library and Resource Center (Bhutan)
- Moreomaoto Community Library, Kasane Library (Botswana)

Deborah Jacobs, Director of Global Libraries at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, welcomed the delegates to the information-packed, two-day camp. Workshops on the morning of Day One included three tracks: 1. Communications 2. Libraries and the Development Field 3. Spanish-language track. The afternoon workshops included sessions on international development funding, building an online presence, capturing impact, community needs assessment, and library-government policy dialogue.

The lunch hour was paired with a community technology fair that included a variety of technologies that could be used in community projects as well as a number of fabrication laboratories. Delegates were greatly informed by these new technologies and their applications.

Delegates attended two sessions in the afternoon, which included sessions on international development funding, building an online presence, community needs assessment, and library-government relations. Once again, there was a Spanish language track.

The emphasis on the second day of the camp was developing the project and more opportunities for networking.

During the lunch hour, each team had an opportunity to view posters depicting aspects of their organizations. It was a chance to mingle with the other teams and share experiences of successes and best practices.

Finally, the teams were paired with an artist who worked with the team to graphically represent the project in an eye-catching and concise format. Beyond Access volunteers and staff consulted on the design format. The artist provided a rough sketch of the idea and produced the final project that evening for presentation at the conference next day.

A great amount of thought and preparation went into this conference, taxing the skills of even the most seasoned international planner. In addition to arranging for hotel rooms, and transportation, the Beyond Access staff worked with each team in providing them with documentation to meet the needs of U.S. Immigration.

Some team members needed to appear at U.S. Embassies in their own or neighboring countries multiple times before being granted a visa. Some teams were short members, because visas had been denied altogether. This came at great personal hardship for the team members.

The Beyond Access staff also worked with each team on a potential project to be further refined at the conference. This was accomplished despite great obstacles with communication vehicles such as the internet and express mail delivery. Perhaps the greatest disappointment was that there was not funding for all twenty projects. Nonetheless it was a great learning experience for all.

*Janet Lee is editor of International Leads and was a participant in the Beyond Access camp and conference.*

## Call for International Papers and Projects

The American Library Association's International Papers Committee invites proposals for presentations to be made at the next ALA Conference in Chicago, IL. The theme for this year's program is: **Emerging Technologies, Emerging Economies: Transforming International Libraries.**

Proposals should be submitted electronically (as a single Microsoft Word or PDF attachment to the Inter-

national Relations Office via email to [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org) with a copy to [valegal@gmail.com](mailto:valegal@gmail.com) and [Buenaventura.basco@ucf.edu](mailto:Buenaventura.basco@ucf.edu) Deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, December 21st. Guidelines for proposals may be found at: <http://www.ala.org/offices/iro/iroactivities/papersession>

## Beyond Access: an International Conference on Local Alternatives for Global Development: The Conference

By Nancy Bolt

Beyond Access was sponsored by IREX with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It has an impressive list of partners including IFLA, ReadGlobal, and EIFL. I was in attendance representing the International Relations Committee of ALA.

The conference program lists three purposes for Beyond Access:

- “Host a conversation.

By hosting, conferences, salon discussions, and participating in international events we ensure that libraries have a seat at the table during development discussions. We also collect and publish examples of how libraries are already contributing to development goals.”

- “Assemble a community. We seek out and find the world’s cutting-edge librarians and bring them together to share knowledge. Beyond Access does this through funding, travel, and training opportunities.”

- “Provides expertise.

By working with countries, we help them identify ways that public library systems can support development goals. Beyond Access helps plan pilot projects, support training initiatives, and provide technical assistance.”

This conference was called an “Innovation Fair” a three-day event with the first

two days devoted to 20 international teams from 19 countries (Uganda had two teams) planning projects that competed for five \$10,000 grants to actually implement the project. Five grants were to be awarded. The teams received coaching on project planning and had time to develop goals, objectives, activities, and assessment measures. The third day included all-participant sessions with panels and small group discussions. Also on the third day, the 20 teams presented their projects as posters (all done by the same design company so that good artists didn’t have an advantage – good thinking ahead). Judges wandered around and talked to the teams and made recommendations for which four of the grants were awarded. All of the participants on the third day had a chance to vote for who would receive the fifth grant.

As an example of the projects submitted, here are the five winning projects:

- From Nepal, a project to help pregnant women through information, particularly to prevent uterine prolapse, a major problem in Nepal.

- From Bhutan, a project to increase women’s participation in local and national projects and public space.

- From Serbia, a project to help farmers get information to increase the production and sales.

- From Uganda, a project to help pregnant teenagers improve their image of themselves and get information to have successful pregnancies and health deliveries.

- From Kenya, a project to increase the literacy of parents, particularly mothers, and through them to introduce reading to young children.

I only attended the full conference on the third day. Most of the speakers on the third day were not librarians which was good news and bad news. On the good side, these international speakers were keenly supportive of government transparency, civic participation, and access to information. It was inspiring to hear stories of how difficulties in citizen access to information and participation in government were being overcome. While some seemed well aware of and support the role of libraries, others seemed to view libraries as an afterthought. One speaker actually said, “Oh libraries are too poorly supported to help with this.” I hope all of these international leaders in development took the time to look at the innovative projects that were being proposed for grants. Personally I thought all of them should have received \$10,000 grants and I’m curious why so few were awarded.

The sessions were provocative and inspiring. Speakers included such luminaries as Dr.

Rajiv Shaw, the Administrator of USAID; Ricardo Lagos, the former President of Chili; Sangay Khandu, a member of parliament in National Council of Bhutan; Lidia Fromm, Vice-Minister of Social Development in the Honduras; Esther Tyson from EDventure Holdings; and, of course, Deborah Jacobs, Director of the Global Libraries Initiative at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Here are highlights of four sessions I attended:

**Development in the 21st century.** This session put emphasis on access to information and government transparency. They used examples of giving cell phones to pregnant women and sending them SMS messages to remind them of prenatal care and farmers and fishermen going to the library to find out international prices for their products. One really innovative idea here was called “radical transparency” where a brave person started a blog called “I paid a bribe” to bring attention to corrupt public officials. They made the point that an informed citizenry wants participation in government and libraries can play a role in providing access to information.

**Responding to Citizen Needs.** This session focused on how government can respond to citizen needs, and to some extent, the role of libraries in doing this. One of the speakers made the point that in some developing countries, innovations must be started by the national government before local gov-

ernments are willing to take the chance. Another said that libraries can play a role in any community issue by providing information and knowledge; monitoring community indicators; and empowering community development. Another disagreed slightly by saying that libraries should provide access to information but not knowledge since knowledge has a point of view and citizens should make up their own minds.

**Innovation Spaces.** This concept has multiple names including innovation labs, creative spaces, connection spaces, and ideas stores. These physical and intellectual spaces allow people to explore and create in ways that intrigue them. One speaker said they grew out of 18th’ century men’s clubs that allowed discussion among friends. In the modern form, business and government make resources available for research and development. The Philippines, for example, made 500,000 pesos (41 PHP= \$1USD) for training in business development and 5 million pesos available for implementation. At the library level, these spaces allow both physical activity (Fayetteville New York has resources for 3D printing, sticker cutters, sewing machines, duct-tape classes, and other technology) and intellectual connections (community members get together to discuss issues of their choice, including finding solutions to community problems.)

**The Future of Innovation and Development.** This general session focused on the rapid growth of technology as part of innovation and sustainability of development. Two interesting facts are that there are more mobile phones in Uganda than light bulbs and more mobile phones in India than toilets. Panelists made the point that sustainability of development has to be beyond one person and have community and government support; that libraries can help communities be “self-aware” by collecting basic data about communities and make that available for community leaders to make decisions.

It was a fascinating day and I’m glad I was invited. The projects showed the value of libraries to solve real problems in a community and the panelists made us think. All in all, a stimulating day.

*Nancy Bolt is the 2012-2013 Chair of the International Relations Committee*

## Message from the Chair

By **Loriene Roy**

Each day, people are making a difference in the world, differences that, when totaled, are expressions of the deepest emotions of humanity. From the darkest moments of life rises the gentle, healing balm of love and forgiveness. In September, I was privileged to join that journey to the center of oneself by attending the Global Gathering (GG): The Pilgrimage to Love and Forgiveness, in Assisi, Italy. Over the past eighteen months, I have worked with nearly 200 other advisors with the Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo, Michigan to identify exemplars of love and forgiveness from all corners of the globe. Our tasks extended to conceptualizing how these exemplars could move forward to creative next steps. These steps would result in learning outcomes that would explore the motivations of the leaders

involved in these exemplary cases, as well as their continuing impact.

And each day we walked the stone paths in the shadow of the Basilica of St. Francis, heading toward a remarkable day's program of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, deliberation, and sharing. We learned about Peacemaker, a video game that simulates negotiating peace between Israelis and Palestinians. We learned about the role of nurses in responding to requests for forgiveness by those at end of life. My working group was the Information and Communications Fetzer Advisory Council (FAC) one of sixteen councils of advisors reflecting disciplinary interests. Our FAC supported the creation of a Fetzer Index of data elements identified through a literature search for facts such as the number tweets with the hashtag “#forgive-

ness” and the number of titles published in the U.S. that began with the word, “love.” Two LibGuides introduced sources for other FACS, the Business FAC and the FAC on Sport and Embodied Spiritual Practice. These products were produced by graduates of the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin. Like the others, our FAC invited several special guests. Ours were Marco Williams, a documentary filmmaker, Krista Tippet, host of the radio program, OnBeing, and Roy Boney, Jr., Cherokee artist. Boney created a graphic novel of the event. Details on the Global Gathering are shared on the Fetzer Institute Facebook group and on the Fetzer.org website.

And, like the other FACs, the Information and Communications FAC issued a call to the world:

We call on professionals in media, library and information science,  
and telecommunications to join us  
in fostering awareness of the power of love and forgiveness through our work.

As professionals, we're in a privileged position to influence the global conversation —  
to set the tone and spotlight the subjects.  
We invite you to consider these questions with us:

Can we put aside cynicism and turn up the volume  
on the positive?  
Can we ask, Where is the love?

Our work should connect people rather than divide  
them,  
heal fractures rather than widen them,

Share with me how you,  
as library workers, are responding—or would like to respond

to this call! You can send your comments to [loriene@ischool.utexas.edu](mailto:loriene@ischool.utexas.edu).

inspire rather than pander,  
kindle hope rather than despair.  
Can we be kind without losing the edge of truth?

While technology increasingly democratizes media,  
we, as professionals, have a special responsibility  
to be compassionate witnesses,  
to document and share knowledge,  
to create an information commons accessible to all.

We call on our colleagues to work with us  
to change the lens through which people see the  
world,  
a world where communications build a global community  
held together and healed by love and forgiveness.

*Loriene Roy is the chair  
of the International Relations  
Roundtable.*

## The Astana Alumni Association Welcomes Susan Schnuer

Susan Schnuer is the Associate Director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois in the United States. The Mortenson Center provides professional development programs for librarians around the world.

Several librarians from Kazakhstan have participated in its programs. Susan is a librarian with years of professional development experience working in many countries.

### Why were you in Kazakhstan?

As part of a Muskie Alumni grant program I was invited to spend a week in Astana, Kazakhstan in July 2012. My Muskie contact was Aliya Sarsembinova, current director of the Nazarbayev University Library in Astana. Director Sarsembinova invited me to speak at a Forum on Building Civil Society in Kazakhstan and US: Lesson Learned and to offer a two-day workshop to librarians from all over Kazakhstan. It was a great experience.

### What did you discuss at the Forum?

The Forum brought together speakers who spoke about civil society from many different perspectives: financial, NGOs, social media and mass media. It was an honor to be part of such an interesting and exciting panel.

Usually when people think about libraries, they think about books and reading in a building that encourages quiet and studies. While libraries in the United States are still about books and reading, they also offer much more. Librarians in the United States realized that they needed to change to become more attractive to their users by offering needed services. Several libraries, public librarians in particular, have reorganized their space to look more like bookstores, a place where users can wander and

easily see and pick up materials that are of interest. University libraries are also clearing bookshelves off of their floors to create more user-friendly space with state of the art technology and places for groups to meet and talk.

Libraries that engage their users can contribute to a strong civil society, not only by offering open and easy access to information and knowledge, but also by providing space for groups to meet and discuss issues of concern.

### Did you visit any libraries in Astana?

I was very fortunate to be able to tour three libraries and to speak with several librarians. My first visit was to the National Academic Library, a new facility. The director met with me to discuss the library and its projects. I was very interested in hearing about the current digitization program.

My second visit was to the Eurasian National Library. I had a full tour and, then over a wonderful lunch that the librarians prepared, we discussed libraries. They are in the process of planning for a new library and it was interesting to talk about options and ideas.

My final visit was to the Nazarbayev University Library. I was impressed with the facilities and the library space was very inviting. This is a library that looks very much like a library that you would find in the United States.

### You spent two days with the librarians, what happened?

I was delighted to hear that over 70 librarians from all over Kazakhstan had signed up to participate in two days of workshops. The workshops were graciously hosted by the National Academic Library and Nazarbayev University Library.

Well first of all we had fun. It was wonderful to meet so many

committed and enthusiastic librarians. In the two days we covered current trends in U.S. public and academic libraries, the need for action plans, becoming better library communicators, and understanding the different learning styles of users and library staff.

I used a variety of teaching strategies to talk about these different subjects from lectures, to group discussions, to role-playing, and even puzzles. The librarians were wonderful, they stayed engaged and interested during the two days, and we had many discussions about similarities and differences between libraries in Kazakhstan and the United States.

### What did you learn about librarians in Kazakhstan?

They are very similar to librarians in the U.S. They are passionate about their work and determined to make changes that will better serve the needs of their users. They came up with very interesting projects that they intended to implement in their home libraries. Just to give a few examples: one group had a vision of starting a summer library to engage youth; another wanted to create a more user-friendly space in the library; a third group focused on developing a digitization project that would network several libraries in order to share their work and avoid duplication.

### What will you remember about Kazakhstan?

First of all the incredible hospitality of the Kazakhstani people, everyone made me feel so welcome. I will never forget the fabulous experience of spending two days with a great group of librarians. Finally I also returned home with many pictures of beautiful Astana. My family and friends now want to visit!

# The Distribution of Beneficial Government Information to U.S. Citizens in Japan Following the 3/11 Crises

By James Hicks

On March 11, 2011 a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the coast of northern Japan (US Department of the Interior, 2011). The earthquake unleashed a destructive tsunami, which devastated the coastal region of northern Japan causing serious damage to three reactors at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant complex. The damage from the huge tsunami resulted in structural damage, explosions, and core meltdowns at the plants, which continue to threaten the safety of the residents of Japan to the present day. In the weeks and months following the accident fears of widespread nuclear fallout and radiation exposure grew and the desire to receive accurate and timely information was on the minds of many, including the foreign residents of Japan. Whether hindered by insufficient Japanese language skills, or concerned over the strict control of information under the Japanese media's kisha press club system, foreign residents of Japan may have had difficulty accessing quality information during this critical time period. The internet buzzed with speculation and rumor about the deepening nuclear crisis, which only worked to heighten many legitimate fears. Some residents, foreign-

ers and Japanese alike, chose to leave the country rather than risk exposure.

It was during this time that the author, an American citizen, MLIS student, and long-time resident of Japan, benefited from unexpected contact from a highly credible source of quality information. Using an email address provided during a previous visit to the local Fukuoka consulate, and without any prompting, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo's American Citizen Services (ACS) section began sending emails with extensive information and links related to the ongoing nuclear crisis. The Tokyo ACS section sent four email messages immediately following the disasters in March of 2011 and the local consulate's Fukuoka ACS section sent one in May of 2011. These emails included information and helpful links to credible, government sources of information on a variety of issues related to the crisis. This unexpected assistance from the US embassy provided all recipients with information necessary to make a rational calculation of the potential risks to themselves and their family. It also reminded all recipients of their status as valued members of an overseas community of U.S. citizens.

Below is a list of the valuable information from credible government sources provided to U.S. citizens during this critical time period.

- U.S. Department of State – travel warnings for the region
- United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission – evacuation recommendations for the immediate area around the nuclear plant complex in Fukushima (exceeding those recommended by the Japanese government)
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Centers for Disease Control - information about nuclear radiation exposure risks
- Centers for Disease Control - guidance on the use of potassium iodide (KI) in the event of a radiological emergency
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – information on Iodine-131 contamination in drinking water
- Local US Consulate – information on a Town Hall meeting to address the concerns of US citizens with regard to the crisis
- World Health Organization - information on food safety
- Information on evacuation options and procedures for US citizens
- General advice on how to respond in the case of a strong aftershock and where to get information on future tsunamis
- Japanese government websites providing information in English on radiation levels throughout the country and other valuable links

The information sent out to U.S. citizens during the crisis was distributed under the warden system, which “pro-

vides a reliable way ... to reach U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency, disaster, or threat” (U.S. Department of State [USDS], 7FAM 070, 2012).

Voluntary wardens, recruited from among the local U.S. citizen community, contact other citizens in their area, which is authorized “for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property” (31 USC § 1342, 2012). Many embassies around the world use these emergency warden messages to alert U.S. citizens of safety issues in their region. It is generally the case that a citizen must sign up for the system in order to receive the alerts, but in the case of the nuclear crisis in Fukushima, the U.S. embassy provided information to U.S. citizens under the “No Double Standard Policy”. This policy states that “if a post issues information to its employees about potentially dangerous situations, it should evaluate whether the potential danger could also affect private U.S. citizens/nationals living in or traveling through the affected area” (USDS, 7 FAM 050, 2012). If such a situation exists, the overseas mission will contact the State Department and request approval to disseminate information to local U.S. residents, regardless of whether or not they had registered with the embassy for emergency alerts (USDS, 7 FAM 050, 2012). The implementation of this policy was greatly appreciated as it led to the distribution of valuable information and

encouraged further exploration of the information resources and services provided by the U.S. embassy and consulates in Japan.

Upon further investigation, the author was surprised to discover many other valuable information resources provided through the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, Japan / American Center Reference Service (ACRS), which provides “specialized, accurate, and authoritative information about the United States” and its “government, economy, society, and culture” (Embassy of the United States – Tokyo, Japan, Library, 2012). The ACRS has four locations across Japan at which users can access both print and electronic versions of publications produced by all three branches of government, a variety of periodicals, and valuable subscription databases that include thousands of scholarly journals spanning a range of academic subjects. These resources are available for free to “government officials, journalists, researchers and others who have professional level interest in the United States” (Embassy of the U.S. –Tokyo, Japan, Research & Reference, 2012). The ACRS Library Catalog is available online and can be searched for relevant print items before contacting reference services. In a case where the print version is not available at the nearest ACRS location, items can be delivered to other centers in the same manner as an interlibrary loan network. In addition,

reference interview services are provided for anyone verified as having a “professional level interest” in the United States. These interviews may even result in the ACRS staff locating and emailing relevant articles directly to the individual in need of information.

It is likely that the majority of U.S. citizens are not fully aware of the full extent of the information resources and reference services available through Information Resource Centers (IRC) and American Corners affiliated with U.S. embassies and consulates across the globe. American students, journalists, scholars, and businesspeople in need of quality information would be well served by investigating an individual mission’s policies on public access and the scope of the information resources and services available. The response of the U.S. mission in Japan to the 3/11 disasters illustrate the fundamental value of these resources and services, but the variety and scope of resources available merits their continued utilization beyond the rare crisis situation.

*James Hicks,  
Kitakyushu, Fukuoka,  
Japan*

*San Jose State University  
School of Library and Information  
Science*

## Rizal Library (Manila) 5th International Conference

The Rizal Library at the Ateneo de Manila sponsored the Rizal Library 5th International Conference during October 2012 on its beautiful campus in Manila, Philippines. The theme for this year’s biannual conference was *Libraries, Archives and Museums: Common Challenges, Unique Approaches*. This internationally recognized event drew paper submissions from thirteen different countries.

The sub-themes of the conference included: Marketing and Promotion; Preserva-

tion and Conservation: Practices and Procedures; Disaster Planning and Management; Libraries and Research; Digitization; and Cultural Heritage Preservation.

Twenty-seven final papers were accepted and ranged in topics as: LibRadio, Librarians sa Radyo: Marketing UP Dillman University Library from Online to On Air (Philippines); P4AC: a Refined Marketing Mix Ratio for Academic Libraries (India); Perceptions and Use of Web 2.0 of Thai Academic Librarians (Thailand); Roles of

Academic Libraries in Facilitating Students’ Research (Malaysia).

Two poster sessions were on exhibit: Reflection of the Future Collaboration (Indonesia) and Hospitality-oriented Libraries (Philippines).

Ms. Lourdes T. David, Director of the Rizal Library, said of the conference, “The conference provides not only a venue for exchanging information and ideas but also in developing linkages among colleagues in the profession both in the national and international arena.”

### Meyers receives 2012 John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award

Jane Kinney Meyers is this year’s recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) International Relations Committee’s John Ames/Humphry/OCLC/ Forest Press Award.

Meyers received this award for her significant contributions to international librarianship. Meyers’ 35 years of experience include consult-

ing, teaching and working with libraries throughout the African continent.

Meyers is the founder and president of the Lubuto Library Project, which is dedicated to the development of libraries for children in Africa. The first Lubuto Library opened in Zambia in 2007. Meyers was recognized during the International

Librarians Reception on Monday, June 25 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA



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