

International Relations Committee Report to Council

Submitted by Sha Li Zhang, Chair

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International Librarians at Conference

ALA was pleased to welcome 400 international librarians from over 60 countries to the ALA 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans. ALA was honored that IFLA President Ellen Tise from South Africa was in attendance.

The IRC would like to thank the leadership and members of the IRRT for all of their effort to make this conference a great experience for our international colleagues. IRRT hosted a preconference for 70 international librarians, staffed the International Lounge, provided mentorships and an orientation on Friday afternoon. The conference experience culminated with the IRRT Reception last night to relax, network and solidify friendships with more than 300 U.S. librarians

The ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects

Four library projects were awarded with the ALA Presidential Citations for Innovative International Library Projects at the Conference. They are the RISE Videoconferencing Network project in Alberta, Canada; “Quest” Library Reading Program project by the National Library Board of Singapore; the E-Publication System Platform project of the National Central Library in Taiwan, and the Expanding Information Access for Visually Impaired People project in Vietnam .

The ALA presidential citation began as an ALA Presidential initiative of Dr. Loriene Roy, ALA President 2007-2008 and Notable IRRT Member. The citations recognize innovative contributions to international librarianship. The awarded projects are evaluated on their visibility, originality, service impact, demonstrated positive change, and sustainability. ALA President Roberta Stevens presented the awards to the representatives from these projects at the International Librarians Reception on Monday.

International programs at the Conference

A series of international programs, meetings, and events were organized by various ALA units at the Conference. These programs reflected ALA's goals and priorities from international perspectives. The speakers at these programs were from both U.S. and abroad. With increasingly global connections and interactions in the library communities around the world, the ALA members would find these programs timely beneficial and helpful. Some of the programs were:

- Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Librarianship in the 21st Century: Effective Models in an Age of Globalization (ACRL/AAMES)
- Embracing the Change: Diversity and Global Vision in a Digital Age (CALA)
- Focus in International Children's Book Publishing (AASL)
- Global Technology and Libraries (LITA/EMIERT)
- Literacy Programs in Libraries around the Globe (IRRT)
- UnBound: Making Scholarly Information Digital in Near East and South Asia Libraries (IRC-Near East & South Asia)
- Copyright in Europe and its Impact (IRC-Europe)
- Leading the Way to Knowledge: How African Libraries Are Extending Information Access (IRC –Africa)
- The “S” in International Library Development: Sustainability Issues (IRRT)
- Expanding Service to the Visually Impaired in Vietnam and Developing Countries (IRRT)

Haiti Library Rebuilding Initiative

With continual efforts to carry out the Council's Resolution on Rebuilding Libraries and Archives Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake in Haiti, more than \$40,000 was raised. The relief funds have supported three libraries in Haiti: the Petit Goave Public Library, the Centre Cultural Pyepoudre Community Library, and the Bibliothèque haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit.

At the Conference, a Haiti Library Rebuilding Update was hosted by IRO to provide a progress report with the ALA members. Francoise Beaulieu-Thybulle, Directeur General, Bibliotheque Nationale d'Haiti, and Elizabeth Pierre-Louis, Library Program coordinator (FOKAL), described their efforts in rebuild the libraries in Haiti. Deborah Lazar, Librarian at New Trier High School, also presented to the audience on her efforts to take up changes to help and offered ideas on how librarians could engage their communities to assist in rebuilding Haitian libraries.

During the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, a call for “Help Rebuild Haiti's Libraries” was issued to all conference attendees and asked them to “Text To Donate \$10” by texting “ALAHaiti.” Donation boxes were also provided at Information Booths in the Convention Center. The information on the donations appeared at the registration area, in

Cognotes, and at the Opening General Session. We encourage all ALA members to continue their support to the project of rebuilding libraries and archives in Haiti.

ALA 2015 International Strategic Plan

In following up with the ALA 2015 Strategic Plan, IRC Chair appointed an Ad Hoc Task Force to develop 2015 International Strategic Plan. The taskforce was chaired by Nancy Bolt, an IRC member and former Colorado State Librarian. Three IRC members (Nina Kemps, Leslie McNabb, and Tin Zou), three IRRT members (Elizabeth Cramer, Susan Schnuer, and Joan Weeks), two division representatives (David Miller from ALCTS and Farzaneh Razzaghi from ACRL), and one international member (Chihfeng Lin from Taiwan) are with the taskforce. Since the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January 2011, the taskforce members have worked tirelessly on this project. They made numerous revisions. A conference call and a small group meeting were held for sharing thoughts, comments, and revisions.

The drafted version was shared with IRC members and IRRT Executive Committee in mid-May 2011. Prior to the ALA Annual Conference in June 2011, the final drafted version was widely distributed to the ALA units for comments. The feedback and suggestions were incorporated in the final version. During the Annual Conference, IRC and IRRT Executive Committee adopted the 2015 International Strategic Plan (CD 18.3 attached), with five international goals and 30 international objectives. This Plan will help guide priorities, programs, services, and resource allocations of the Association on its international endeavors. IRC, IRRT, and other ALA Units will continue their work on implementations of this Plan.

A special thank-you note goes to Nancy Bolt and the taskforce members for their hard work in accomplishing this project in a short timeline, and for all those who reviewed this document and offered their thoughts and suggestions. The International Strategic Plan document is attached to this report.

Earthquakes-affected libraries in Japan and New Zealand

In February 2011, the city of Christchurch in New Zealand was hit by a major earthquake of 6.3 magnitudes. In March 2011, the Tohoku region in Japan was hit by an earthquake of 9.0 magnitude and subsequent tsunami which took the lives of tens of thousands and damaged or destroyed buildings. Libraries and library staff were affected by the natural disasters in these regions. Roberta Steven, ALA President and Keith Fiels, ALA Executive Director, sent out letters to the library associations in both countries and offered condolences and support to our colleagues in both countries. Thank you, Madam President and Executive Director Fiels, for your timely action on behalf of the Association and its members.

At the Conference, a call for donations to support affected libraries in Japan was also issued, along with the support to relief efforts for tornado-affected libraries in Alabama and Missouri, and continual donation to rebuild Haiti libraries.

The IRC awards

This year, Ms. Sally C. Tseng, former Head of Cataloging at the University of California Science Library and CALA Honorary Executive Director, was awarded with John Ames Humphrey OCLC Forest Press Award. This award recognizes an individual for significant contributions to international librarianship. The Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund was presented to Ms. Madeline Mundt to support her travel to an international conference to present a paper at the Universidad del Pais Vasco in Bibao, Spain.

IFLA Update

Ms. Ellen Tise, IFLA President, came to speak at the IRC Meeting I on Friday and at the IFLA Update Session on Saturday. Ms. Tise outlined IFLA's five key priority initiative (2010-2015) which focus on programs of digital contents, library outreach, leadership development, protection on cultural heritage materials during natural disasters, and multiculturalism. Ms. Tise highly praised ALA members' contributions to and strong presence at IFLA. The United States will be engaged in IFLA through the 125 representatives on IFLA committees, including Donna Scheeder who was re-elected to a second at-large term on the IFLA Governing Board.

ALA at the IFLA 2011 Congress

Many ALA members have registered for the IFLA Conference to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 13-18, 2011. ALA members are encouraged to take advantage of the proximity of the conference to attend an international event.

A new International Supplement of *American Libraries* will debut at the IFLA Conference, and will be distributed at other international events in the coming year. The publication highlights the international activities and initiatives by all ALA units. ALA will again also have an exhibit booth at the conference.

International Book Fairs

The International Relations Office is very busy coordinating three book fairs for ALA members who are responsible for selecting and acquiring library materials in Chinese and Spanish languages. The Hong Kong Book Fair will be held in July and the Guadalajara International Book Fair will be in November. The newest book fair is the America Reads Spanish Program, collaborated between ALA and LIBER International Book Fair, in October 2011. These are the excellent opportunities for ALA members to gain access to materials in the needed languages for their users.

ALA Representative to the U. S National Commission of UNESCO

At its spring meeting, the ALA Executive Board voted for Barbara Ford, ALA Past President, as an ALA Representative to the U. S National Commission of UNESCO. Ms. Ford is Director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Program at the University of Illinois. She will represent ALA well in that capacity.

ALA Representative to American Library in Paris

The IRC placed a call for the ALA Representative to the American Library in Paris this spring, and provided a recommendation to the ALA Executive Board at this conference.

ALA President's International Engagements

The IRC would like to recognize and thank ALA President Roberta Stevens continued international outreach efforts. Since Midwinter President Stevens made presentations at the Alberta Library Association Conference, the Association of Slovakian Librarians in Stara Lesna, Kosice, and Bratislava, Association of Hungarian Librarians in Budapest, the School of Information Management in Wuhan, Early Careers in Libraries Conference in Suzhou, and Finish Library Association Conference, and Helsinki University Conference. Through these international events, President Stevens presented ALA's core values and strategic priorities to our international colleagues.

IRRT Endowment Fund

IRRT launched an Endowment Fund campaign two years ago on the 60th anniversary of the roundtable. As of this Conference, the roundtable has raised \$25,000 for its first endowment. The funding generated from this endowment will be used to support international speakers at the ALA annual conferences. Many thanks for the donors who contributed to this endowment fund.

Campaign for World's Libraries

IRO has continued efforts to support the development of the Campaign for World's Libraries. The IRO is pleased to report that the Library Association of Barbados just finished its first Campaign project, a very successful poster contest for children across the island. And the Latvian Library Association is gearing up for its second activity in partnership with the Latvian National Commission of UNESCO. The IRO is organizing a program at the IFLA Conference in San Juan that will feature presentations from Argentina, Barbados, and Taiwan.

Staff Thanks

Many thanks to the IRO Office, Michael Dowling and Delin Guerra, for their support.

ALA 2015 International Strategic Plan

(Adopted by IRC- June 27, 2011)

Goal Area 1: Advocacy, Funding and Public Policy

International Goal: ALA is a leader in international activities advocating for libraries, library issues, and the library profession and plays a key role in formulating international policies and standards that affect library and information services and the people they serve.

International Objective 1: Increase international public awareness of the value and impact of libraries, librarians, and library staff and help sustain grassroots efforts.

International Objective 2: Promote an increase in research and evaluation documenting the impact of libraries worldwide.

International Objective 3: Increase resources and training for international advocates seeking funding and support for libraries.

International Objective 4: Provide leadership in international arenas advocating for crucial library issues such as literacy, intellectual freedom, privacy, fair use, preservation, cultural heritage, information literacy, equity of access, and free public access to government information.

International Objective 5: Increase international cooperation and alliances with organizations at all levels to advance legislation and public policy issues affecting libraries, librarians, and information services.

International Objective 6: Raise awareness of and solicit funds for relief efforts around the world in order to rebuild libraries.

International Objective 7: Increase awareness in the U.S. library community of libraries and library services in other countries and highlight the ongoing US library projects in other countries to gain support for ALA's international efforts.

International Objective 8: Promote the use of new technologies to increase understanding of international issues affecting library and information services.

Goal Area 2: Building the Profession

International Goal: ALA's units will work to facilitate the delivery of professional development opportunities to librarians around the world, coordinate with international organizations to promote quality education for librarians everywhere, and support cultural diversity in libraries.

International Objectives 9: Advocate for the inclusion of international librarianship and global library issues in LIS course offerings.

International Objective 10: Work collaboratively with ALA units to adapt and promote their professional development opportunities to international librarians.

International Objective 11: Seek and promote opportunities for international librarians to work in the US and for US librarians to work abroad.

International Objective 12: Increase the diversity of the library workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse national and global community.

ALA Goal Area 3: Transforming Libraries

International Goal: ALA provides leadership in the transformation of libraries and library services in a dynamic and increasingly global digital information environment.

International Objective 13: Increase opportunities to share innovative practices and concepts across the profession, nationally and internationally, and among all libraries.

International Objective 14: Promote and recognize experimentation with innovative and transformational ideas from outside the U.S.

International Objective 15: Help libraries around the world make use of new and emerging technologies by promoting and supporting technological experimentation and innovation.

International Objective 16: Increase international leadership development and training opportunities designed to support the ongoing transformation of libraries.

Goal Area: 4 Member Engagement

International Goal: Increase the number and involvement of international ALA members and to promote international activity among U.S. members through increased awareness and opportunities.

International Objective 17: Increase attendance and participation of international librarians at ALA conferences, both in-person and virtually.

International Objective 18: Increase international member engagement by identifying and eliminating barriers to participation through technological innovation.

International Objective 19: Expand and promote opportunities for ALA members to be involved in international library activities.

International Objective 20: Improve communications within ALA to international members.

International Objective 21: Develop new models to recognize member participation, for both international and U.S. librarians.

International Objective 22: Develop strategies for involving library science students and new professional in ALA's international activities.

Goal Area 5: Organizational Excellence

International Goal: ALA operates effectively, efficiently, creatively, and in a socially responsible fashion to accomplish the international mission.

International Objective 23: Allocate sufficient resources to support the international activities and programs of the International Relations Office and other ALA units.

International Objective 24: Increase revenue from international sources.

International Objective 25: Seek funding for international activities from governments, foundations, corporations, members, and others to fund new initiatives or to leverage resources for current international programs and activities.

International Objective 26: Increase and improve communications, participation, and collaboration on international activities throughout ALA.

International Objective 27: Improve ALA's technology infrastructure to meet international member needs more effectively.

International Objective 28: Enhance cooperation with and support of international library organizations.

International Objective 29: Foster opportunities for chapters and affiliates to participate in international activities and recognize their importance.

International objective 30: Evaluate the impact of ALA international activities.