

Libraries Around the World

Vanuatu Libraries: Promoting ni-Vanuatu Culture

Preservation of knowledge and national identity in Vanuatu is always connected to the libraries. The first public library in the region started only with a small Vanuatu collection in the 1950s when Vanuatu (then New Hebrides) was still an Anglo-French condominium. Great Britain and France cooperated to build the National Cultural Center building where artefacts and other local custom and cultural knowledge were stored. The progress of developing, curating, preserving and sharing information is quite unique in this island nation in the Pacific considering the unique situation – lack of school for library and information studies, low internet bandwidth, an oral culture of transferring knowledge, etc. The Library Services Act was drafted only in 2019 and is still passed through committee review until now. The demise of two pillars in librarianship early in 2022 – the Chief Librarian of the Vanuatu National Library and the Librarian of the Port Vila City Library, also made a major impact on librarians.

While still facing challenges brought about by the pandemic, leadership and direction is also a great concern. Amidst all the struggles, the bigger libraries continue to keep the mission as preservers of knowledge. A positive story is from the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu's (RBV) Kere Library.

Considered to be more advanced, Kere Library continued to deliver services during the pandemic and made a smooth transition post-pandemic.

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The Vanuatu Libraries, continued

Background

Vanuatu achieved its political independence from Great Britain and France in 1980. Five months after the birth of the new nation, the Parliament approved the Central Bank Act, which marked the formal establishment of the Central Bank of Vanuatu, later known as the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. For security reasons, the online presence of library is available only to the members of RBV but the library is open to the public. The services have been affected by the pandemic but in 2021, the library has re-opened again.

For a cultural background, ni-Vanuatu - the indigenous population is mostly made up of Melanesians, though some of the outlying islands have Polynesian populations. In more than 80 islands, more than 100 local Melanesian languages and dialects are spoken. The national language is Bislama, an English-based Melanesian pidgin which is widely spoken and considered as the official language along with English and French. *Kastom* (custom) continues to be an essential part of their daily life. Traditional and tribal practices continue to exist as every ni-Vanuatu take pride of it by showcasing their arts in weaving and *sandroing* or sharing their local dishes.



An invited ni-Vanuatu practitioner in sandroing showing the art as part of the Open Day Program at Kere Library

lished in 1992 but the library collections were started to be acquired in 1985 when it became a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to participate in the World Bank depository Library program. The library is named after the first Ni-Vanuatu governor, the late Frankline Kere; thus, it is now “Kere

Library”. One of the most interesting programs is the exhibit. Every year, the highlight of the activities is a display on various themes related to Vanuatu culture. The most recent program was held in commemoration of 40 years of the Central Bank. In this Open Day exhibit, the history of New Hebrides is featured and invited representatives from indigenous groups shared about their culture. As part of the open-

ing event, *sandroing* or sand drawing was also performed. *Sandroing* as a ritual and art, is on the threat of being lost as only few tribes, mostly older men, continue to practice. At the verge of the tradition being forgotten, the libraries, like Kere Library, keep the tradition by inviting indige-

RBV Kere Library



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Kere Library Exhibits: A Window to the ni-Vanuatu Culture

The Reserve Bank of Vanuatu’s Kere Library was estab-

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Message from the Editors

Greetings to all our readers!

We have now edited a full volume of issues of *International Leads* and it has been a real pleasure to work with my co-editors. I believe we each had curiosity about how this would work out but Michele and Reysa bring such strengths, skills and commitments to this work that it is a joy when we have our planning and review meetings around each issue.

Each of our first four issues contained important content from around the world about how libraries and librarians are coping with and responding to the pandemic. What kind of services, how staff is performing, and what will stick and fade in the new work environment we are now a part of were topics that we addressed. COVID-19 takes on different concerns as new variants emerge with great intensity. We bring to your attention a [special issue of the International Journal of Librarianship](#) where the theme is “Resilience, Reflection, and Innovation: Library Services and Practices During COVID-19 Pandemic” and contributions from around the world share how libraries have responded. This has been an underlying theme throughout each of the issues we worked on.

In addition, the ACRL Distance & Online Learning Section recently released five articles selected for a collection that highlighted “remote work and flexible working arrangements in librarianship.” We share those with you as we think that librarianship has fundamentally changed and these articles may continue to influence some of the programming and arrangements that will continue to drive remote work in libraries. Additional abstracts and discussion of these articles is found [here](#).

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Hosoi, M., Reiter, L., & Zabel, D. (2021). Reshaping perspectives on flexible work: The impact of COVID-19 on academic library management. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 21(4), 695-713. <https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2021.0038>

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Meet the Editors

Reysa Alenzuela

Reysa is the Head Librarian of the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. She has over 20 years of experience as a librarian and has been working as an international librarian for almost a decade. She is a Member of ALA IRRT.



Julia Gelfand

Julia is the Applied Sciences & Engineering Librarian, University of California, Irvine. She has been a member of IRRT most of the 45 years she has been involved in ALA and has been working with international colleagues most of her career.



Michele Fenton

Michele is a Monographs Catalog Librarian, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Michele is active in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the International Relations Round Table, and the Library History Round Table.



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Message from IRRT Chair



Safi Safiullah

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The ALA Conference 2022 in Washington, D.C. was energetic. The IRRT's committees offered a variety of programs including "Library Policies in a Time of Uncertainty and Controversy" and "Global Libraries as Agents of Leadership (chairs program)" among others, as well as the Paper and Projects award ceremony during the reception of international librarians at the Library of Congress. We also had working committee meetings and an executive board meeting. These gatherings sparked important discussions about the challenges that libraries face while operating in the global post pandemic era. The IRRT's International Reception at the Library of Congress gave us the opportunity to meet and greet librarians from all over the world.

This conference was a golden opportunity for me to meet with many IRRT members, friends, and colleagues I have not seen since before the pandemic. I also had the chance to recruit new IRRT members and to fill many committee vacancies. At this point, we have chairs, co-chairs, and members for all 15 committees.

At the IRRT Board meeting, I presented my Chair's theme "The New Normal for Libraries Around the Globe 2022-2023" to the committees. In August, the Executive Board liaisons for the committees began working with IRRT committee chairs and members to organize their meetings. I hope they find my theme useful and relevant to the post-pandemic era.

Since July, in addition to defining the new theme, I have been working with the board on the following initiatives:

1. In July's Executive Board (EB) meeting, a resolution

was passed unanimously to evaluate all the IRRT committee goals and functions. This resolution takes a fresh look at the committees' current operations and makes its functions more time and age appropriate. The Restructuring Committee, composed of 4 EB members, held their first meeting in August. They will meet 2-3 more times before presenting their findings.

2. The EB passed a resolution to publicize the Emerging Leaders report and video to all ALA members through ALA Connect and the IFLA list. The EB also talked about the possibility of preparing a journal article.

3. The EB would like to recruit 3-4 members for the 75th Anniversary Ad hoc Committee. This Ad hoc committee is responsible for organizing the IRRT's 75th Anniversary Celebration that will take place during the ALA Annual Conference 2024 in San Diego. The committee has 4 members who will work with Jim Neal, Mark Mattson, Julia Gelfand and myself. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please let me know (ssafiullah@slcpl.org), or contact any EB member by September 19th. You can find the history of the IRRT [here](#) as well in the *International Lead March 1999, September 1999 (more detailed), and March 2009 issues*.

The IRRT Nomination Committee, which is composed of Dr. Sandy Hirsh (Chair), Ms. Loida A. Garcia-Febo, Mr. Michael Bailou Huan, Ms. Robin Kear, and Mrs. Laverne Page, has called for 3 IRRT EB officer nominations for next year. These nominations include: Chair Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and members-at-large. The IRRT Nominating Committee seeks people who are passionate about international librarianship and are willing to serve as executive board members. The committee will call for nominations through a post on ALA Connect and other media sites in a timely manner. I hope to see IRRT members come forward to run for the election. If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact Dr. Sandy Hirsh (sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu) or any of the Nomination Committee members.

Keeping the new theme in mind, I have been reflecting on the many new activities and community programs that emerged within library spaces during the pandemic, I see many of these adapting and remaining with us in the post-pandemic era. Even as we move beyond the pandemic, these services are emerging as norms with a sense of permanence. Librarians around the globe have worked tirelessly to add these new resources and programs on top of

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Message from IRRT Chair, continued

their regular activities and library services.

I believe these added activities have stressed librarians psychologically and physically. Aside from adjusting services to meet these new community needs, librarians are facing new challenges involving the socio-economic realities we face today. Librarians and administrations are rewriting library policies to address EDI, social justice, and personal issues. It is imperative that we support one another as we adapt to these dynamic circumstances. Under the heading of a “New Normal,” we will discuss these topics in the upcoming IRRT sessions throughout my 2022-2023 tenure.

I envision that this theme will generate discussions on topics including but not limited to:

1. How have post-COVID policies affected librarians psychologically and physically? How can we most effectively support librarians in their workplaces as library policies adapt, so they can continue to provide services to their communities?
2. How are library administrations creating new policies to transition libraries into a post-COVID era? What obstacles are they facing while creating policies to keep buildings open despite labor shortages, increased demand for improved EDI policies, and calls for greater social justice efforts in their organizations?

I look forward to fruitful conversations about this theme in our conferences and workplaces. Constructive dialogue will result in progress toward better workplaces for us as well as a better world for all.

I am grateful to all the IRRT Committee chairs, co-chairs, and members who responded to my call and accepted their positions. Currently, we have 14 committees and one interest group ISLD. All positions within them are filled. I also thank everyone for accepting my call to come forward and work towards the IRRT’s mission and goals. I am especially thankful to executive board members James Neal, Mark Mattson, Erica Saito, Felicia Chan, Allison Sharp, Barbara Marson, and to our ALA staff liaison Delin Guerra. I also appreciate the efforts of the *International Leads* co-editors, composed of Reysa Alenzuela, Julia Gelfand, and Michele Fenton. We all work together as a team to drive the IRRT forward. Thank you all!

###

Call for IRRT Nominations

Dear IRRT member:

The ALA International Relations Round Table Nominations Committee is looking for members who are passionate about international librarianship and are willing to serve as Executive Board members.

IRRT is pleased to solicit nominations (and self-nominations) for the positions of:

- **Vice Chair/Chair Elect** -- Chair-elect (2023-2024), becomes Chair (2024-2025) and serves as immediate Past-Chair (2025-2026)
- **Member-at-Large** -- serves a two-year term (2023-2025)
- **Secretary/Treasurer** -- serves a two-year term (2023-2025)

According to IRRT bylaws, the position of Chair-elect is a three-year commitment in which one serves as chair-elect, chair and past chair. In the first year, one learns about the work of the Executive Board under the tutelage of the Chair and the past-Chair. The Member-at-Large and Secretary-Treasurer positions are two-year commitments and these positions are responsible for contributing information and wider perspectives from the field.

For a full description of responsibilities of these officeholders, please visit [IRRT website: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection)

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Message from the IRRT Chair-elect



Mark Mattson

Email: mam1196@psu.edu

I am so delighted to have an opportunity to join the IRRT Executive Board in the Chair-Elect role this year! While I have technically been a member of other parts of ALA, IRRT is where I have invested my time, and where I have found a home in such a massive organization. Over the years I have served on, or chaired/co-chaired, many IRRT committees including Sister Libraries, Global Connections, Membership, Endowment, Webinars, International Librarian Networking, and a previous term on the Executive Board as a Member-at-Large. I am now so very excited to serve IRRT in this leadership role over the next few years, and it has certainly been a busy start to my term!

Over the last couple of years, I have been representing IRRT within various Round Table Coordinating Assembly initiatives. I previously worked on the Round Table Bylaws Standardization Taskforce as a representative for IRRT and now that the bylaws template is finished and approved, I am working to ensure our IRRT bylaws conform to the new standards. This work will soon be done, submitted to the full Board for review, and will then be made available to the IRRT membership along with an outline of any changes. IRRT members will be asked to vote on the approval of the new bylaws in our next ALA voting period.

Somewhat related to the bylaws work, I have also been representing IRRT over the last couple of years on two different membership-related groups. One group is the Round Table Membership Taskforce where I have had the opportunity to share some of the innovative ways that IRRT has been working to engage with members and non-members alike, and the other group is the Round Table Membership Dues Working Group. This dues-focused group is in the final stages of its work and

there will be more information out on that in the near future.

Also, while not an official part of my role as Chair-Elect, I do try to promote IRRT any chance I get and at the recent International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) World Congress in Dublin, Ireland I had plenty of opportunities to “talk up” IRRT and our projects! Along with other IRRT folks, who I was glad to see in attendance, I was fortunate to be able to attend sessions that focused on furthering the global goals of our profession. One example of an opportunity to promote IRRT that I was happy to have was during an interactive “Knowledge Café” session focused on coaching and mentoring. I was able to talk about role that international peer mentoring can play and how ALA IRRT was furthering that work by offering the International Librarian Networking Program. The program and the philosophy behind it was well received by our international colleagues and ALA IRRT was praised for taking on this work.

Finally, we are coming up on IRRT’s 75th anniversary and we are starting to plan for our celebration of this important milestone in 2024. If you have ideas for how to celebrate IRRT’s 75th anniversary, stories about IRRT’s impact over the years, or any other suggestions for marking the occasion we would very much welcome your input! Please do send me a message at mam1196@psu.edu. In thinking about this milestone, I am very much aware of the impressive legacy of IRRT, what it has been, what it is, and what it has the potential to be. I look forward to working with the Executive Board, our amazing ALA International Office colleagues, and all of you to live up to that legacy and inspire future work in international librarianship.

###

by Michele Fenton

The ALA Annual Conference returns in-person after three years! The 2022 ALA Annual Conference took place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. from June 23-28, 2022. The conference was held in a hybrid format, allowing people to attend in-person or virtually. The conference drew 14,003 attendees overall with 834 of them attending virtually.

To ensure the safety of in-person attendees due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, ALA officials implemented safety protocols to promote a safe conference environment. Masks were required and social distancing was advised. Additionally, attendees were required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test.

The opening conference session featured a dialogue between ALA President Patty Wong and FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel. Wong and Rosenworcel spoke about digital equity, net neutrality, broadband access, the Emergency Connectivity Fund, and the importance of making the internet accessible for all. Immediately following the opening session, was the grand opening of the exhibits. Attendees visited various vendors, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, and networked with other attendees.

While most of the 2022 ALA Annual Conference sessions focused on libraries in North America, there were programs of interests to international libraries:

- Ethnographic Design: Creating Culturally Centered Library Spaces presented by Joe Huberty and David Vinjamuri.
- Advancing the Asian American Story presented by Patty Wong, Jane Park, Christina Soontornvat, Philip Lee, and Linda Sue Park.
- The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance, and Reawakenings presented by Shauntee Burns-Simpson, Nichelle M. Hayes, Dr. Ana Ndumu, Dr. Shaundra Walker, Andrew Sekou Jackson, Michele T. Fenton, and Shannon Bland.
- Libraries as a Part of the Revitalization of Indigenous Languages and Cultures: Services, Collections, and Initiatives presented by Kathia S. Ibacache, Sarah

Dupont, Alexander Soto, and Melissa S. Stoner.

The ALA International Relations Round Table (IRRT) hosted several meetings and programs during the conference. On Saturday, June 25th, the IRRT All-Committee Meeting was held. Chair Jim Neal and Chair-Elect J Safi Safiullah gave updates and remarks. Committee chairs gave reports on committee activities since the ALA LibLearnX 2022 Conference. Also on Saturday was the IRRT Papers and Projects Session Committee Program, "Library Policies in a Time of Uncertainty and Controversy."

On Sunday, June 26th, the IRRT Executive Committee met to discuss plans and activities for IRRT for the upcoming year. Chair-Elect Safi Safiullah shared his theme for 2022-2023, "The New Normal for Libraries Around the Globe 2022-2023." Also, on Sunday was the Global Solutions Poster Session, and the IRRT Chair's Program, "Global Libraries as Agents of Leadership in Our Post Pandemic World: Leading Change, Advocacy, and Social Justice."

On Monday, June 27th, the International Librarians Reception was held at the Library of Congress. Two international libraries received the American Library Association Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects. The Run Run Shaw Library at City University of Hong Kong received the award in recognition for its Calligraphy Connections Project. La Bulle in Annemasse, France, received the award for its cultural community center which includes a toy library, a library, and meeting space. Also on Monday, was the IRRT Sister Libraries Committee Program, "Leaning International: Building an International Sister Library Relationship."

On Tuesday, June 28 was the conference closing general session. The speaker was Luvvie Ajayi Jones, who spoke earlier this year at the 2022 Public Library Association (PLA) Conference in Portland, Oregon. Jones, author of *I Am Judging You: The Do-Better Manual and Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual*, was interviewed by Dr. Nicole A. Cooke, Augusta Baker Endowed Chair and Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science. Jones spoke about microaggression and bias, and the traumatic effects they have on people, especially those from marginalized groups. She emphasized the importance of getting in good trouble and speaking up against and standing up to injustice.

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2022 International Innovators: ALA Presidential Citations honor forward-thinking global libraries

The 2022 ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects was awarded to [Run Run Shaw Library at City University of Hong Kong](#) and [La Bulle](#), a library and community space in Annemasse, France. This award recognizes exemplary services and projects that draw attention to libraries creating positive change, demonstrating sustainability, and providing a model for others to follow.

For more information, you check the article in "[2022 International Innovators: ALA Presidential Citations honor forward-thinking global libraries](#)" in the [July-August](#) issue of the [American Libraries](#) publication.

###

The ALA Emerging Leaders Program

This summer, the American Library Association (ALA) issued a call for applicants for the 2023 cohort of its ALA Emerging Leaders Program. Charged with the development of future library leaders, the ALA Emerging Leaders Program provides leadership training, networking opportunities, and collaboration on group projects for early career librarians. Up to 50 librarians from the United States and Canada are chosen to participate in the program each year. The deadline for applications for the 2023 cohort was September 9th.

Applicants selected for the 2023 cohort will be an-

nounced later this year. Nearly two-thirds of those selected for the program will be sponsored by an ALA round table, ethnic affiliate, division, or state chapter. The sponsoring groups will provide a minimum of \$1000 in funding. These funds will help defray the costs for program participants to attend to the 2023 LibLearnX Conference and the 2023 ALA Annual Conference. To learn more about the ALA Emerging Leaders Program, please visit: <https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders>

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ALA 2022 Annual Conference, continued

The conference ended with the ALA President Inaugural Luncheon also held on Tuesday, as Lessa Kanani'opua Pe-layo-Lozada was installed as the 2022-2023 ALA President. Also present were Peter Hepburn, the new ALA Treasurer, and Emily Drabinski, ALA President-Elect (2023-2024 ALA President), and the newly-elected leaders of the various ALA divisions.

Overall, the conference was a wonderfully happy and spectacular event. Attendees were very ecstatic and pleased to attend an in-person event after two years of virtual conferences. The next ALA Annual Conference will be June 22-27, 2023 in Chicago, Illinois.

###

IFLA WLIC Highlights, Dublin in July 2022

Julia Gelfand

After two years of not holding a WLIC in person, it was clear that everyone who came to Dublin this year was excited and pleased to be there. The National Planning Committee did a fabulous job with logistics and planning to make everyone comfortable and safe in what was likely the first large convention many of us had attended in a long while.

The demographics exceeded expectations when nearly 2300 delegates from over 100 countries registered. For those unable to attend, please visit the Congress' [web-site](#) of videos and conference lore to catch up. Many sections held satellite meetings and workshops both prior to and following the WLIC in metropolitan Dublin and across Ireland. The conference theme, "Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect" captured the efforts to celebrate the diversity of language and expression, differences and harmonies that bring people together to share, cultivate, and preserve knowledge from the past and that which is created in the present. The opening session wove the rich cultural fabric of Irish history reflecting on story, drama, music, dance, and library traditions. Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson devoted her address to discuss the climate crisis with a shout out to librarians to help their users find methods to seriously transition away from fossil fuels.

IFLA President Barbara Lison gave a moving In Memoriam to the late Donna Sheeder, a former president of IFLA who died earlier this year. The situation of the European crisis and war in Ukraine was a focus especially by the Europe Regional Division and an emotional and impactful speech by Oksana Bolarynova, from the Ukrainian Library Association who poignantly shared how hundreds of libraries have been badly damaged or destroyed during the conflict that began in February. Ms. Lison also led her President's session joined by President-Elect Vicki McDonald who was online from Australia and together they explored the 5 key trends for libraries that were concluded at last year's virtual meeting, scaled down from 20 trends listed in the *IFLA Trend Report 2021 Update*. They were:

- Virtual is here to stay
- Diversity gets taken seriously
- An environmental reckoning
- Lifelong learners
- Inequalities deepen



There were numerous honors bestowed on members and libraries this year including the "Public Library of the Year" award that went to the Missoula (Montana, USA) Public Library. IFLA will celebrate its centenary in 2027 and leading up to that milestone celebration was the special session held by the Library History SIG, "Towards IFLA's Centenary: Historical Sources and Themes." The Management of Library Associations Section and the New Professionals SIG called for greater support for leadership by doing things differently or as stated, "we need business unusual." The UN's 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals were a strong message in several meetings as we learned how libraries can direct and respond to the SDGs. Related to this was the IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 2022 that was released with an update articulating the increased role public libraries play in society as part of the 75th anniversary of IFLA's partnership with UNESCO.

The shortened schedule of the WLIC was a more compact timetable and sessions were briefer but not without intensity and much discussion. The Science and Technology Section's theme of "Open Practices: Science Engagement" had an interesting presentation on "Analyzing the Gender Bias in STEM Biographies: The Role of Reliable Information Sources in Wikipedia" presented by David Ramirez-Ordonez that demonstrates a tool created to detect references in the English Wikipedia.

The keynote speakers addressed important themes including Helen Shenton, Trinity College Dublin's Librarian and College Archivist in her session on transitioning an old library redevelopment project into a greater virtual library by sharing the importance of the

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Interview with Mark Mattson, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of IRRT 2022-2023

This interview was conducted over email and conducted by Julia Gelfand in late August 2022.

JG: You have served on the IRRT Executive Board prior to joining this term after the recent election when you were elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Congratulations on your election. Please share what your goals are for IRRT during this three-year term that you just began.

MM: In this next three-year term on the Executive Board, I would like to see us continue to grow some of the outreach and relationship building aspects of the round table. I feel that IRRT serves such a valuable role with its many engaging conference sessions, online programming, and outreach functions, and I would like to see us build upon some of the momentum that we have going for us. IRRT is already playing this role both within ALA as well as in the global library community, and I feel that IRRT is one of ALA's best tools for engaging international librarians and bringing new voices into the association. I would love to see more of that.

JG: Your position at the Penn State Libraries is Head of Global Engagement Initiatives and International Partnerships Librarian. Please share the scope of activities that fall under this position.

MM: In short, the scope of my department is anything "global" anywhere within the university. Many of the aspects of my work are overlapping and interrelated, but for my own personal organization of the work I break it down into internally-focused functions, externally-focused functions, and research and service. Internally-focused work includes things like work to internationalize our curriculum, promote intercultural learning for our students through programming (events, film screenings, etc.), outreach and services for international populations on our campuses, supporting students and faculty abroad, and further developing the intercultural competencies within the PSU Libraries. Externally-focused work includes initiatives like coordination of international partner libraries at institutions with which PSU has an institutional partnership, representing the PSU Libraries in international forums, and building PSU's reputation in these areas. Being a tenured faculty member at the university, I have a responsibility to develop a research and service agenda as well. In this area, I have focused on international and comparative librarianship.

JG: Not all libraries have such positions. What do you see as some of the key advantages at a large institution such as Penn State to have this role in the library?

MM: I do feel extremely privileged to be at an institution that has prioritized international engagement to such an extent that we can have a library department solely focused on international engagement. One of the advantages of this type of position at an institution like Penn State is the ability to work across our organization to coordinate efforts in this focus area of our strategic plan. The Penn State Libraries have 37 libraries and 35 departments across 22 campuses, and over 500 employees. So, having a focused department which works collaboratively across the organization allows us to better communicate and implement initiatives and projects across all of Penn State.

JG: In 2021, you were named a recipient of the Michael P. Malone International Leadership Awards from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). This award honors individuals who advance international education at public universities in the US. Can you tell us what the programs you worked on at Penn State that were recognized for this honor and how you coordinate this across the large multi-campus system under the Penn State Libraries?

MM: I am so proud to have had the opportunity to represent both Penn State and the field of Librarianship in this way, but I need to acknowledge that the true key to our success in this area has been the willingness of my fantastic colleagues, across both the PSU Libraries and the university, to partner with me on global engagement initiatives. Some of the programs and initiatives that were recognized were: a slate of intercultural learning events, international student and faculty outreach programs, and Libraries international partnerships that contribute to institutional partnerships for learning and research. An illustrative example might be an event that was developed in collaboration with the university's Intensive English Program (IEP) called "The Many Faces of Intercultural Dialogue" which highlighted intercultural conversation partner programs across the university and the benefits of such cross-cultural communication and collaboration.

JG: What motivated you to become professionally involved in international work? Did you travel a lot as a youth and participate in study abroad programs? Or was it a series of totally different experiences that led you to adopt this path?

MM: My gateway into international work was initially languages and film. From a young age I was fascinated with other languages and have worked to learn unfamiliar languages

"IRRT is already playing this role both within ALA as well as in the global library community, and I feel that IRRT is one of ALA's best tools for engaging international librarians and bringing new voices into the association. I would love to see more of that."

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Webinar Report

Virtual International Connections: The Global Librarian Exchange Program

Ophelia Morey, Co-chair IRRT Webinar Committee

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On November 22, 2021, the IRRT Webinar committee hosted a webinar with librarians from Michigan State University (MSU) about their Global Librarian Exchange Program (GLEP). The main presenters were Andrea McMillan, Chicana and Latinx Studies Librarian and Erik Ponder, African and US Ethnic Studies Librarian. Other project members that participated in the webinar were Elisa Landaverde, Special Collections LGBTQ+ Librarian, and Deborah Margolis, Middle Eastern Studies Librarian, and although not present, Zoë McLaughlin, South and Southeast Asian Librarian is also a project member.

The foundation for the project is Michigan State University's longstanding intentional global efforts where it is known worldwide as a top research university grounded in pioneering land grant ideas. The university has evolved from the land grant college of 1855 where the focus was on an agrarian economy to the land grant university of today engaged in Michigan's societal problems, and those worldwide. MSU is the first major US university to establish a dean for international programs, and currently hosts eight global thematic and area study centers and has one of the top study abroad programs in the nation. The MSU Libraries, as a center for academic life provides support for research, teaching, and learning for their local and global communities. In 2019, the libraries embarked upon a strategic plan process to redefine their core values. Out of this process, the libraries' area studies unit selected the core values of expertise, inclusivity, and partnership as the guiding values for developing the GLEP. The GLEP was originally a part of the micro-grant initiative by the MSU Libraries where the librarians proposed to develop a model international library exchange to strengthen global ties amongst academic libraries. Specifically, the MSU area studies librarians had the opportunity to travel to their geographic areas of specialization, however their interna-

tional colleagues were constrained financially from similar visits, thus a goal of the program was to make more equitable exchanges with these colleagues. In addition, the area studies librarians have benefited from their global colleagues in their professional development and outlook as librarians, thus another goal of the program was to share this opportunity more broadly with other MSU library faculty and staff. The initial focus of the grant was to host one or two librarians from overseas institutions during the 2019-2020 academic year for a two-week period with the primary goal to share and exchange respective expertise and experiences within the profession. However, because of the global pandemic the program had to pivot to a virtual-only program where this allowed for more librarians to participate over a five-month period. Although, the virtual program allowed for more participants the intention was to keep the cohort small to foster trust and to develop relationships within the group. The final participant group included eight global librarians from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and the United States, and eight participants from the MSU Libraries. The global librarians had varying roles at their institutions; four served in upper administrative roles including university librarians and directors in academic libraries, two worked in special libraries within the manuscript collection and collection development departments, one was a librarian and archivist, and another did not work in a library but was a faculty in the university's library and archival and information studies department.

The presenters covered in detail their planning process that focused on recruitment, session themes, schedules, and coordination with the MSU and global participants. The program had six sessions that ran from February to June 2021 with four sessions presented by MSU librarians, covering teaching and learning, scholarly communication and data, preservation, archives, and cataloging. The final two sessions allowed for presentations by the global participants on topics such as meeting the needs of

Continued on page 12



Andrea McMillan



Erik Ponder

students with visual impairment in the e-learning landscape, rebuilding memory through contextualizing material documents, zines in the Asia art archives library collection and Covid-19 health protocols.

Despite the flexibility of the virtual platform, difficulties did arise and their expectations for the program did not turn out as planned, but overall, the program was a success where they plan to take what they learned such as the importance of community building and incorporate this, and

other lessons learned into future versions of the program.

The webinar attracted participants from not only from the United States, but Egypt, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Brazil, Romania, North Macedonia, Canada, Ghana, and Mexico. The Q & A session was very active, one key question was “How do you suggest presenting a program like this to someone’s administrators and someone’s institution in order to build global connection with librarians?” The presenters expressed that having a shared vision is important such as MSU has strong international relation programs, therefore you can build upon your interest and strengths and another suggestion focused on proposing a professional development program where there is an advantage of presenting it virtually because of the low cost to expose librarians to people around the world.

For further details about the GLEP you can watch the recording at the [IRRT Past Webinar Webpage](#).

###

Fourth National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC 2022)

The Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. (JCLC) will have its Fourth National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC 2022), October 5-9, 2022 in St. Pete Beach, Florida. The conference will be held in-person at the Tradewinds Grand Island Resort. The theme is “Gathering for Action: EDI – Where Do We Go from Here.”

Held every four years, the National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color is a coming together of the five National Associations of Librarians of Color (NALCOs): the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and REFORMA: National Service to Promote Library and Information to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. The previous conference was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2018.

The opening conference session features keynote speaker Qian Julie Wang. A civil rights attorney, Wang is the au-

thor of *Beautiful Country: A Memoir*. Following the opening session is the Grand Opening of the Exhibits, where attendees can meet vendors, enjoy free refreshments, and collect swag for their conference bags. In addition, there is an online store where conference themed merchandise is available for purchase: <https://jclc-online-store.creator-spring.com/>.

The conference features a wide variety of programs, panel discussions, and poster sessions on topics such as outreach, leadership, advocacy, inclusion, technology, and much more. In addition, attendees can participate in tours of Ybor City, the Carter G. Woodson Museum, and the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg Library. Other events include the Sunset Meet and Greet, the All-Conference Reception and Cultural Night, and the Awards Gala.

There are also two author luncheons scheduled. The Youth Author Luncheon with S.K. Ali, Hana Khan, Ebony LaDelle, Andrea Wang, and Kelly Yang takes place

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Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. Leadership Convergence 2022

Ma. Lindie Masalinto

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Ana Mae B. Cantel

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Collaboration and teamwork are vital nowadays. "If everyone moves forward together, success takes care of itself," Henry Ford said.

The PLAI Leadership Convergence, with the theme "Looking Back." Moving Forward: Working Together for a Stronger PLAI was held on July 15-16, 2022, at the National Library of the Philippines in Manila. This convergence aimed to learn from previous PLAI presidents and officers as they shared their knowledge, expertise, and experience, equip current PLAI leaders/officers with the information, skills, and competencies required to perform their mandate, roles, and responsibilities, assess and identify priorities for the Association to pursue and consider that concern not only its membership but also the profession in general, and provide an avenue to build a relationship.

The conference began with a warm welcome from the Director of the National Library of the Philippines, Mr. Gilbert Cesar Q. Adriano, and words of wisdom from the country's Chair of the Professional Regulatory Board for Librarians - Hon. Yolanda C. Granda. This event was attended by 36 delegates from PLAI Regional Council leaders from various regions, as well as the immediate past presidents, librarians with significant researches and the country's Distinguished Librarian awardees.

LOOKING AT THE PAST

Many of us in our generation are looking forward to advancement. But we sometimes neglect to recognize the beauty of our organization's former efforts. The remembrance of the PLAI's history, the consequences of its membership and benefits, its programs and activities that were put into action, and the organization of its committees are the cornerstone of the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

The Philippine Library Association (PLA), the oldest and mother of all library associations, was founded on October 22, 1923, by thirty-three librarians and library em-



ployees at a meeting held by Dr. Trinidad Hermenegildo Pardo de Tavera, Director of the Philippine Library and Museum. The Association's mission was to speed the public library movement in the Philippines toward various stages of library service and librarianship, as well as to launch a state-wide marketing campaign for library service. This included the following activities: a system for recruiting library workers; raising the standards of the library profession, an annual convention of librarians, recommending to the Legislature and encouraging closer cooperation between schools and libraries; and establishing inter-library loans on a larger and scientific scale. The Association planned to produce an annual or a bulletin, as well as additional publications of library interest, in the future.

According to Philippine Libraries historian Dante Perez, PLAI is also a founding member of the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL), which was founded in 1970. Other significant achievements of the PLAI include: the formulation of the Code of Ethics on January 27, 1978, the establishment of a Welfare Fund on September 10, 1983, and the drafting of a Five-Year Library Development Plan. The Golden Jubilee Convention in 1973 was held in conjunction with the other celebrations, and the 75th Diamond anniversary in 1998. It also hosted the national conference of academic libraries in 1970, as well as yearly conventions and conferences on Filipino librarian identity, library administration, library standards, and librarian professionalization and

Continued on page 14

PLAI Leadership Convergence, continued



remuneration, and charted the new paths of Philippine librarianship. Other events included three seminar-workshops on cataloging and information marketing, a symposium on library standards, and five national library development conventions.

Mr. Perez concluded this retrospect of the PLAI by asking the attendees the question raised 87 years ago by Professor Gabriel A. Bernardo, "Is Librarianship a Profession?" Many Filipino librarians, he claims, are still baffled by this question. Prof. Bernardo demonstrated how to be a professional librarian by using his three H's: Hand, Head, and Heart. "A true professional librarian must be disciplined in all aspects of his life," he says. The HAND represents technical skill; the HEAD represents the "well-ordered mind, the thinker who plans, organizes, and administers the proper utilization of his library's materials and human resources"; and the HEART represents "his humaneness, his ethical relations not only with his public but with his superiors, equals, and subordinates."

Hon. Lourdes T. David, Member, PRBFL in her topic Revisiting and Moving Forward PLAI Professional and Research Agenda, presented her thoughts about possible research questions that PLAI can include in its research agenda based on the 10-point action agenda and the factors that impact library service. She further explained that the library's facilities, collections, staff, and services could motivate library users. Some terms that are vital in doing research were defined as to their usage to clearly understand the concepts. Hon. David emphasized that our users are our focus. They are always changing. They have become technology savvy, and we are now into artificial intelligence. Research on staff development includes how designing a

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program can meet the industry's needs and what learning outcomes students must achieve in LIS education to meet the needs of a fast-changing LIS practice. As to PLAI challenges; membership, development of libraries, and intangible benefits were among those identified; possible research solutions were also cited. Lastly, Hon. David points out that we librarians must keep abreast of changes in our field. It is also our duty to conduct research, write articles, and publish to keep our discipline alive lest we be left behind or overtaken by other professions.

###

Call for Submissions

Do you have news or stories about international library activities, people in international librarianship, upcoming international conferences?

Submit to International Leads?
Email us at ala.intl.leads@gmail.com

Has your library made an extra effort to provide library services? We would like to feature your activities in a future issue.

Email us.

Very Welcome News for Open Access

Julia Gelfand

It has been a long time since Open Access as a concept was introduced. The 1990s launched great interest in open access due to widespread availability of the Internet. Scholarly journal articles were among the first publications to test the open access horizon while a new crisis was brewing concerning journal subscription costs especially for institutional subscribers such as libraries. Today open access is central in the lexicon of all publishing and research efforts and as this issue goes to press, we are celebrating a major milestone in the US and other parts of the world. By December 31, 2025 all federal agencies in the United States will update their public access policies to make publications and research funded by taxpayers publicly accessible, without an embargo or cost and fully implement these updated policies. Called a “game changer for scholarly publishing” as it establishes a “zero embargo” for the first time after efforts to propose this have been made for over a decade.

These actions will likely promote a wider range of subjects bringing content to readers as soon as information is released reducing any barriers along with the data that accompanied journal articles. Coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), this policy guidance memorandum, known as the “Nelson Memo” ends the current optional embargo that allows scientific publishers to charge subscriptions for access to taxpayer-funded research. Earlier releases, such as the “Holden Memo” from 2013 had a 12-month embargo still making readers wait for a free and open access copy. In action, this news means agencies will ensure that peer-reviewed work from their grantees will be made available in an agency-approved public repository without delay immediately after publication.

By December 31, 2025 all federal agencies in the United States will update their public access policies to make publications and research funded by taxpayers publicly accessible, without an embargo or cost and fully implement these updated policies.

The near decade between memos suggests the different landscape in scholarly research. The expansion of more open access opportunities, initiatives and venues with global presence and the connotation of “born OA” following the “born digital” moniker that defined the change in formats. The increasing number of repositories made



By art designer at PLoS, I converted a pdf into svg - Own work using: <http://www.plos.org/>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5069452>

open content more visible and findable. Analytics emerged to describe and analyze open access content in journals adding to the value of citation counts, overall usage and other data that defined the distinctions between open content and subscriptions causing concerns for publishers and scholarly societies.

Immediate actions include how OSTP will work with federal agencies to update their public access and data sharing plans by mid-2023 and then to fully implement those plans by the end of 2025. There will be some flexibility about how all stakeholders, agencies, researchers, publishers and scholarly societies will adapt and function under these new policies. Around the world this has already been hugely encouraged by efforts such as Plan S, that promotes zero-embargo open access led by European funders.

The impact on libraries, subscriptions, authors, publishers and other stakeholders and outputs is still uncertain but the overall impact on society and readers who need medical, environmental and current information that applies to citizens' daily lives will be hugely beneficial. This OSTP action advances and impacts federal policy and the open movements in many significant ways including shared metadata, research usability, data sharing, equity among public agencies and timeliness with immediate access showcasing another new stage in scholarly publishing that will change roles for information sharing and knowledge creation.

###

Interview with Mark Mattson, continued

as a hobby. It started at seven with finding a Spanish/English dictionary in a closet that my mom had from her time at university and then purchasing a “Norwegian in 10 Minutes a Day” book. Throughout high school in working at coffee shops and in a dental office I would meet international folks and talk with them about where they were from and how they found themselves in Minnesota. Then in high school I found international film, and I was hooked. I did my undergraduate degree in French and did two study abroad programs during that time. My wife did her MA in TESOL and so we spent a year abroad teaching English as well. For many years I have been floating around the international education space and when the experimental, globally-focused position was developed within the PSU Libraries I jumped at the chance merge two important aspects of my life and work.

JG: Your professional development activities, research and scholarship dovetail directly with your current position. How do you separate and focus on what is most relevant to work as opposed to other related activities? Is there a difference? What are some of your current extra-curricular or research projects?

MM: I am quite lucky in that I don't really need to separate my day-to-day job and my research interests too much. Those two aspects of my work do dovetail very nicely. As I mentioned previously, I do feel that I am extremely privileged to have the opportunity to focus fully on international librarianship. There is a small, but dedicated community of people in international librarianship, and they have been doing this scholarship work for years because it is their passion; but many folks have other professional obligations in their work as subject librarians or metadata specialists, or any other area of library work. Given that I don't have those other duties, I do feel a responsibility to the community to prioritize research work that the community would find valuable but might not have had the time or resources to complete yet. I do have some totally unrelated research interests (historical linguistics, Viking-age Scandinavia, and mythology and folklore), but those are now more hobbies than any-

thing serious.

JG: You attended IFLA in Dublin this summer. What were the takeaways there after two years of no in-person meetings?

MM: I really enjoyed the World Congress in Dublin and the opportunity it provided to learn about what is happening and what colleagues are talking about in other parts of the library community. Some of my favorite parts of the congress were sitting in on regional caucus meetings to hear what librarians in those regions were focused on. I also appreciated the opportunity to get some further clarity on where IFLA is headed in the future given some of the recent changes made there. But the main take away I had from attending the Congress was just how much IRRT has to offer in terms of helping to achieve global goals within our profession.

JG: Back to IRRT – it will soon celebrate its 75th anniversary. How do you want to grow the programming, membership, and engagement of its members in anticipation of this milestone celebration?

MM: I think IRRT has really done some great work in the recent past toward increased outreach and engagement and rather than pushing for new initiatives and work I see more value in further strengthening the great work we are already doing. Some of the new programs that have been developed recently (IRRT Webinars, International Librarian Networking Program, IFLA Attendance Grants, etc.) in combination with some of our more long-running outreach strategies (*International Leads* being a prime example) put IRRT in a great position for moving forward. We have a lot to offer, and I think we can do more to promote IRRT to both international and domestic audiences. I would like to see IRRT continue to move forward toward a more year-round engagement model as opposed to a conference-focused model.

###

Are you interested in participating in IRRT leadership, but not ready for an Executive Board position yet?

There are many other opportunities to serve in IRRT Committees.

IRRT Committee Opportunities: <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/irrtcommittees/committees>

Committee volunteer form: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/volunteer/frm_vol

The Vanuatu Libraries, continued



A Library Assistant at RBV Kere Library explaining about the exhibit *An invited member of an indigenous group engaging with students*

nous practitioners and conducting trainings.

While taking pride of culture has been ingrained, ni-Vanuatu have limited avenue to learn how to preserve and share this to the world. At present, there is no established continuing professional development program. Participation in professional activities outside the country is also a challenge due to lack of funding. The last training conducted by a librarian was in September 2019 through the ALA Diversity grant. This made librarians, not only in RBV, but all other participants realize that we are doing well in promoting our culture which we will continue in the future.

Betty Williams, Librarian at RBV Kere Library

###

Editorial, continued

Virello. M. (2022). *Working remotely: Practical guide for librarians*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Press. <https://books.google.com/books?id=HZ1kEAAAQBAJ&lpg=PA1&dq=remote%20librarians%20work&lr&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q=remote%20librarians%20work&f=false>

This issue of *International Leads* highlights several themes that come from conferences returning to in-person attended events and how ready we were. Michele attended ALA and shares observations and coverage from that meeting in Washington, DC with a special focus on IRRT activities and recounts the Fourth National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color and the ALA Emerging Leaders Program. We introduce you to a new comic strip artist/illustrator, Professor Johann Frederick Cabbab, known as Igor, who is a professor at the University of the Philippines School of Library & Information Studies who is an accomplished cartoonist in his free time and we hope that you enjoy his creativity. I went to IFLA and tried to capture the substance and spirit and offer highlights from those meetings. It is always about the people and it is hard to describe the connections one makes and renews on the scale that IFLA allows through this opportunity.

There is new leadership in IRRT and we offer that transition with a new column from Safi who defines his working theme for the year, and welcomes Mark with his Chair-Elect's column and an interview that introduces him to readers. We look forward to another year of service to IRRT as we get ready to celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2024. We urge you to get involved, and respond to the calls issued by IRRT leadership.

Julia Gelfand

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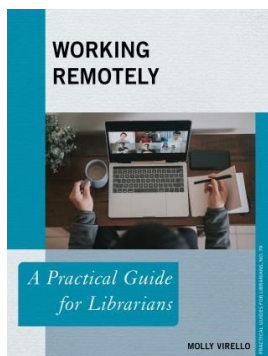
Upcoming International Library Conferences, Meetings & Events

- 3-5 October 2022. – [Dublin Core Metadata Initiative \(DCMI\) Conference](#), Virtual
- 5-9 October 2022 – [Baku International Book Fair](#), Baku, Azerbaijan
- 10-12 October 2022 – [Digital Library Federation Forum](#), Baltimore, MD, USA
- 13-15 October 2022 – [CORE Forum](#), Salt Lake City, UT, USA
- 11-14 October 2022 – [International Conference on Information Literacy \(ICIL\)](#), Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 13-14 October – [6th I-LISS International Conference 2022](#), Teleangana, India
- 17-20 October 2022 – [Australian Society of Archivists National Conference](#), Canberra, ACT, Australia
- 17-21 October 2022 – [eResearch Australasia Conference](#), Brisbane, Australia
- 18 October 2022 – [International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers \(STM\) Autumn Conference](#), Frankfurt, Germany
- 19-23 October 2022 – [Frankfurt Book Fair](#), Frankfurt, Germany
- 21-22 October – [5th I-LISS International Conference 2022](#), Daegu, South Korea (Online and Offline)
- 25 October 2022 – [Virtual International Conference on Library & Information Science](#)
- 25-27 October 2022 – [International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries and Museums](#), Temecula, CA, USA
- 27-28 October 2022 – [Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference - 2022](#), Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan
- 27-30 October 2022 – [Helsinki Book Fair](#), Helsinki, Finland
- 28 October – 2 November 2022 – [Association for Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting \(ASIS&T\)](#), Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- 31 October – 4 November 2022 – [Charleston Conference](#), Charleston, SC, USA and virtual 14-16 November 2022
- 1-2 November 2022 – [Entrepreneurship & Libraries Conference International](#), Virtual
- 10-12 November 2022 – [International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics](#), Bangkok, Thailand, Hybrid
- 10-12 November 2022 – [International Conference on the Infrastructure, Information & Innovation](#), Delhi, India
- 15-17 November 2022 – [Access Services in Libraries \(ASiL\)](#), Atlanta, GA, USA
- 22-25 November 2022 – [Philippine Librarians Association Congress](#), Iloilo City, Philippines
- 25-27 November 2022 – [International Conference on Libraries of the Asian Countries: The Road Ahead](#), Bangkok, Thailand
- 30 November – 2 December 2022 – [International Conference on Asia-Pacific Digital Libraries](#), Hanoi, Vietnam
- 3-4 December 2022 – [Taiwan Reading Festival](#), Taipei City, Taiwan
- 5-6 December 2022 – [International Conference on Grey Literature](#), Virtual
- 8-9 December 2022- [11th International Summit of the Book & Western Balkans Information and Media Literacy Conference](#), Bihać, Bosnia & Herzegovina (Online and Offline Participation)
- 25-27 January 2023 – [BOBCATSSS 2023](#), Oslo, Norway
- 27-31 January 2023 – [LibLearnX \(ALA\)](#), New Orleans, LA, USA
- 9-10 March 2023 – [Empirical Librarians Conference](#) (Hybrid with attendance), Richmond, VA, USA
- 13-17 March 2023 (virtual), 27-29 March 2023 – [iConference](#), Barcelona, Spain
- 15-18 March 2023 – [ACRL National Conference](#), Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- 18-21 April 2023 – [Art Libraries Society of North America](#), Mexico City, MX

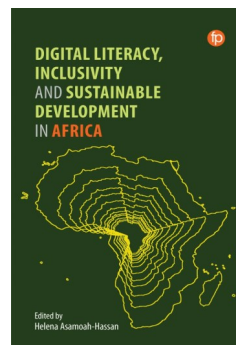
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New Resources for Librarians

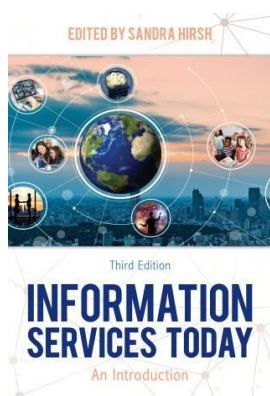
This column focuses on professional development & recent book releases of interest to global community about librarianship.



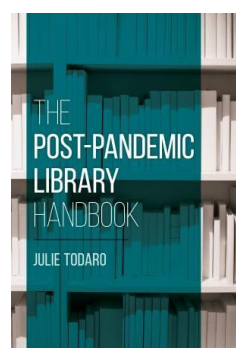
Virello, Molly. (2022). *Working remotely: A practical guide for librarians*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.



Asamoah-Hassan, Helena, ed. (2022). *Digital literacy, inclusivity and sustainable development in Africa*. London: Facet Publishing.



Hirsh, Sandra, ed. (2022). *Information services today: An introduction*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.



Tadaró, Julie. (2022). *The post-pandemic handbook*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

Call for 16th EIFL Public Library Innovation Award

The 16th EIFL Public Library Innovation Award Call for public and community libraries enabling learning through play - is now open for applications. The theme of the call is Public libraries enabling learning through play. This year the award is supported by the LEGO Foundation, as part of the Foundation's Build a World of Play campaign.

- The call is open to all public and community libraries from developing and transition economy countries.
- The prize is US\$1,500, an invitation to participate in NEXT LIBRARY® 2023 (14 - 16 May 2023) in Aarhus, Denmark, and wide publicity through EIFL's international network.
- The deadline for applications is Monday, 14 November 2022.

Further details are here - <https://www.eifl.net/news/apply-now-eifl-public-library-innovation-award-3>

Call for IRRT Nominations, continued

Executive Board of the IRRT meets monthly through virtual meetings to discuss IRRT-related issues, which include those that arise through the various committees and the ones related to international aspects of ALA work as a whole, and to work on solutions. Face-to-face meetings take place whenever the ALA Annual conference is held in person, and the vice chair/chair elect is expected to attend these meetings.

Requirements:

1. Candidates must be current ALA and IRRT members.
2. Candidates need to provide their CV and a short statement of interest (approx. 100 words) by **October 14, 2022**.

Nominate yourself or someone you know by sending an email to the Nominating Committee Chair, Sandy Hirsh, at sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu.

Preference is given to candidates with prior committee experience within IRRT and a track record of contributing to the IRRT mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Nominating Committee

Fourth JCLC 2022, continued

on October 7th. The Adult Literature Luncheon with Valerie Burns, Hitomo Goto, Michelle D. Hord, Mia P. Mansala, Karen Tei Yamashita, and Ann Xu takes place on October 8th.

Closing the conference is award-winning author Jason Reynolds. A prolific writer of books for youth, Reynolds' books include *Long Way Down*, *The Boy in the Black Suit*, and *As Brave as You*.

Online registration for the Fourth Joint Conference of Librarians of Color closes on September 30th. To learn more about the conference and to register, please visit the conference website at: <https://www.jclcinc.org/conference/2022/>

###

Upcoming International Library Events, continued

26-29 April 2023 – [Evergreen International Conference](#), Worcester, MA, USA

4-5 May 2023 – [International Conference on Library and Information Science](#), Rome, Italy

14-16 May 2023 – [Next Library 2023](#), Aarhus, Denmark

23-24 May 2023 – [Digital Transformation and Inclusiveness of the Higher Education Institutions in the Time of Crisis Situations](#), Osijek, Croatia

24-27 May 2023 – [LIDA Biennial Conference](#), Osijek, Croatia

12-15 June 2023 – [18th Open Repositories Conference](#), Stellenbosch, South Africa

22-27 June 2023 – [ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition](#), Chicago, IL, USA

###

IFLA WLIC Highlights, continued

“experiential and sensory effect of libraries in the post-pandemic world.” Michael Peter Edson, strategist, consultant and thought leader at the forefront of digital transformation in the cultural sector delivered an eloquent talk that wove culture, society and change together leading the audience to ponder how librarianship and libraries can leave a greater impact on humanity. His call for global activism in response to the climate crisis led to a greater discussion of the reaffirming of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The usual IFLA activities were very visible and important at this Congress. The exhibits from library vendors, suppliers, publishers and libraries around the world showed the commitment to service, creativity, users’ needs and how to best preserve and promote the written word. There were nearly 170 posters on display and the Best IFLA Poster was awarded to Ejla and Adnan Curovac from Bosnia and Herzegovina for their poster “Gazi Husrev-beg Library Book Museum.” The cultural evening took place at Dun Laoghaire – Lexlcon Library on the outskirts of Dublin where this public library after opening seven years ago still appears fresh and exciting with its wonderful views, focus on performance and studio arts and a MakerSpace lab where a variety of STEAM events are held. Everyone had a grand time enjoying music, dancing, a great dinner and ice cream trucks supplying dessert. Irish libraries across the Republic and in Northern Ireland opened their doors to site visits and tours showing wonderful hospitality and showcased a special array of user services and rich collections.

An unusual meeting at this Congress was an open session, “Out in the Open: Recent Governance Developments at IFLA” moderated by Winston Tabb to reassure IFLA members of the changes that have taken place at IFLA Headquarters, with the termination of the Secretary General and other personnel and administrative related issues. Members of the Governing Board, including the President, Acting Secretary General known as Delegate, Acting Treasurer who each tried to provide a clarification of what is happening under their watch, be informative about the two investigations that were conducted and where IFLA is headed as it is engaged in a lawsuit that will be heard in The Hague with Dutch Law prevailing scheduled to commence in October about how to settle the termination agreement. What was clearly stated is that the investigations to date found no financial mismanagement, no fraud, no harassment by Secretary General.

The reason for the Secretary General’s dismissal was due to the Governing Board’s distrust of his management style and the question remains, who steers IFLA without a leader? Upon the termination, a member of the governing

board was appointed Delegate to lead the IFLA staff until very recently when the Deputy Secretary General, Helen Mandl was named Acting Secretary General. Legal advice indicated that a search for a new Secretary General can’t take place until the court case is settled. Explanations about the relationship with SIGL, a separate Dutch entity established as a foundation that has supported IFLA to execute certain functions and tasks and [a joint statement by IFLA and SIGL](#) was issued immediately following WLIC. The goals going forward are to restore trust, increase transparency and continue the work that IFLA members and program achieve around the world.

IFLA usually holds its [General Assembly](#) during the Congress, but this year being respectful that not everyone could be in Dublin, and by changes to its governance structure, it was held post conference virtually on 25 August allowing votes from those present in The Hague and located remotely. It was reaffirmed by a motion that passed with a 95% vote in favor that a roadmap for making IFLA a more communicative and transparent organization would emerge the end of the year.

The closing session, always bittersweet as delegates get ready to bid farewell, but also uplifting as one finds joy in looking forward to the next congress which will be in August 2023 in Rotterdam. IFLA has an ambitious program to rebuild its administrative structures and offer confidence and an infrastructure to its members that it is there as President Lison noted, “to support emerging leaders and for new ideas to thrive.” WLIC 2022 Online Sessions are available at <https://2022.ifla.org/wlic2022-online-sessions/>

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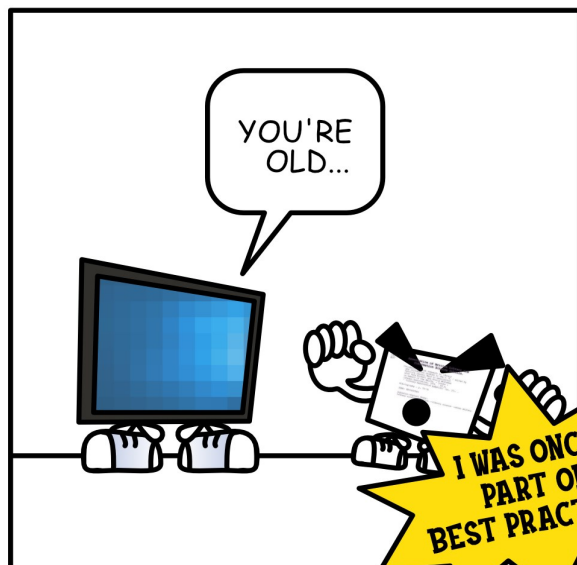
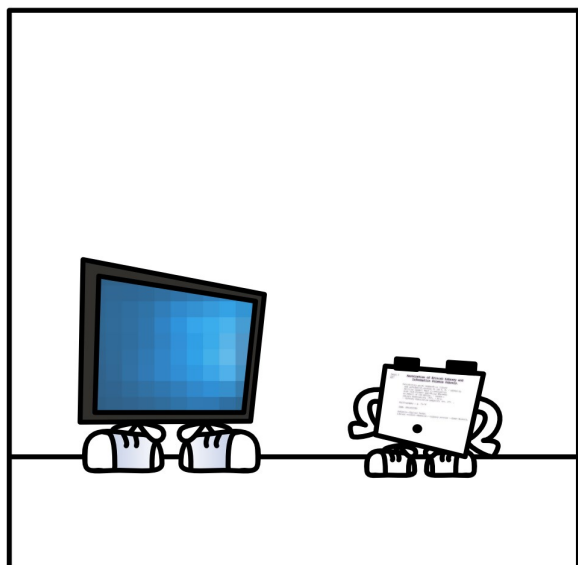
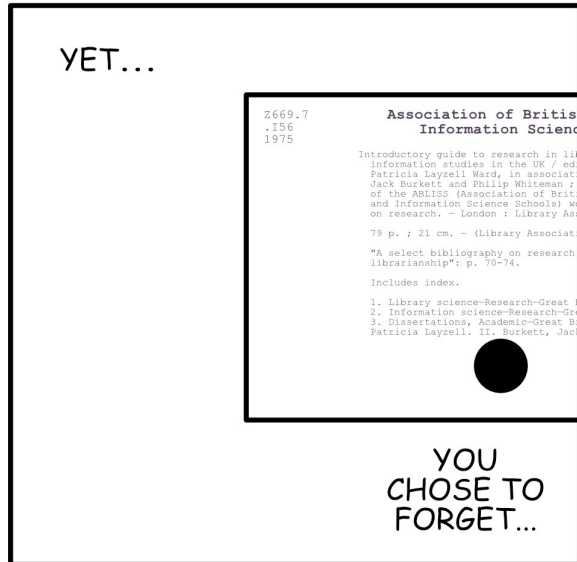
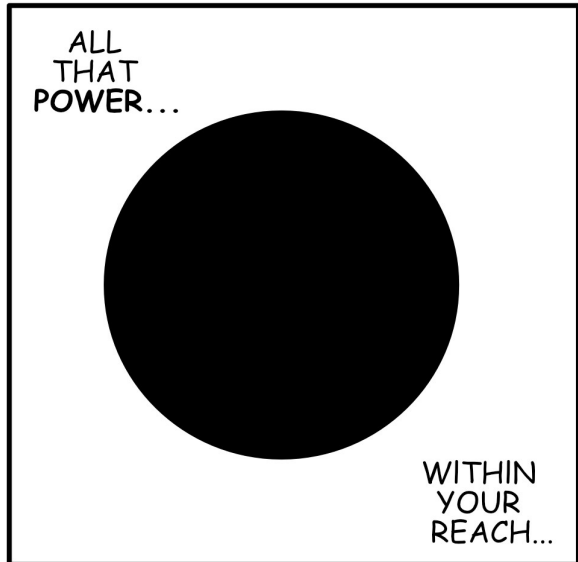
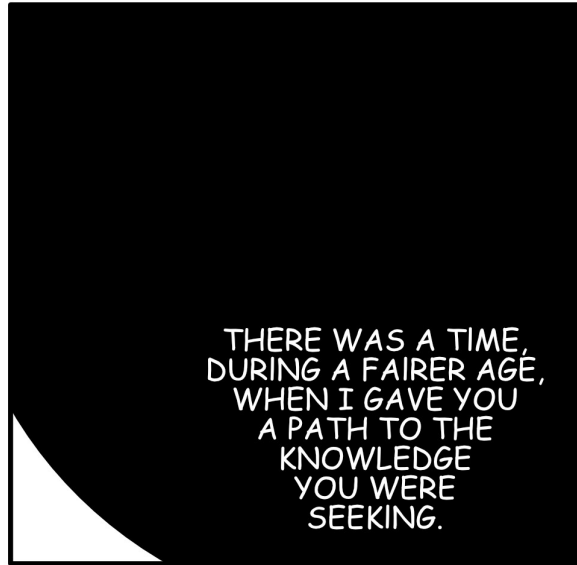
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