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INTERNATIONAL LEADS

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ROUND TABLE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISONS 1999-2000

### IRRT Executive Committee (irrt@ala.org)

- Lucinda Covert-Vail**, New York University, Chair
- Frederick Lynden**, Brown University, Chair-elect
- Nancy R. John**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Past Chair
- Mary Jean Pavelsek**, New York University, Secretary/Treasurer 1999-2001
- Martin Kesselman**, Rutgers University, Member-at-large, 1998-2000
- Edward J. Valauskas**, Chicago Botanic Garden, Member-at-large, 1999-2001
- Michael Dowling**, 91¥' International Relations Officer, *ex-officio*
- Jordan Scepaniski**, Chair, International Relations Committee, *ex-officio*

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- Hospitality -- **Rebecka Lindau** (2001)
- Membership -- **Karen Starr** (2000)
- Nominating -- **Nancy John & Robert Doyle** (2000)
- Orientation -- **Michael Dowling** (2000)
- Poster Sessions -- **Jacquie Sapiie** (2001)
- Program -- **Frederick Lynden** (2000)
- Publications -- **Barbara Kile** (2001)
- IRC/IRRT Joint Committee on International Exchanges -- **Jeannette Pierce** (2000)

### IRRT Publications:

- International Leads Editor -- **Sha Li Zhang**, 2000-2002
- IRRT Web Editor -- **Tracy Lay**, 1999-2001

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- 91¥' International Relations Committee -- IRRT Chair
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- 91¥' Planning & Budget Assembly -- IRRT Secretary/Treasurer
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- 91¥' Publishing Committee -- **Tracy Lay**, IRRT Web Editor
- 91¥' Round Table Coordination Committee -- IRRT Chair & Chair-elect
- ALCTS Committee on Cataloguing Description and Access -- **Laurel Jizba**
- Freedom to Read Foundation Liaison -- **C. James Schmidt**
- IRC/IRRT International Papers Subcommittee, IRRT representative -- **Susan Schnuer**
- New Members Round Table Liaison -- **Hillary Stevenson**



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### Call For Submissions for the Bogle/Pratt International Travel Fund

The Bogle/Pratt International Travel grant is given to 91¥' member(s) to attend their first international conference. If you have never been to an international conference and have found one that you are interested in attending next year please apply for the \$1,000 stipend. The deadline is January 1, 1999.

For an application, please visit <http://www.ala.org/work/international/amopps.html>

**International Leads (IL) (ISSN 0892-4546)**, copyright 1999, is the official publication of the International Relations Round Table (IRRT). Its purpose is to disseminate information about international librarianship and the activities of the Round Table. IL is published quarterly by the International Relations Round Table of the 91¥' in March, June, September and December. The first issue was published in 1957 and it contains news about the IRRT, international library activities, the international work of 91¥' and other organizations, and people and publications in the field. IL is indexed by Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and is sent free to all members of IRRT (dues \$10); non-91¥' members can subscribe for \$12 per year by writing to 91¥' Subscription Services, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL60611.

#### IRRT Officers

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#### WRITERS' GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADS

IL seeks to support Round Table and Association objectives by bringing members news, brief articles and reviews that help them understand recent developments in international librarianship. IL welcomes articles of timely value that reflect the editorial focus of the publication, including: current reports and programs undertaken by the Association and the IRRT; newsworthy items generated by other divisions, units and round tables of 91¥' that are relevant to the interests of IRRT and its members; reports on other international library activities outside 91¥', including organizations, people, and publications; general news releases intended for mass publication vehicles

Manuscripts are welcomed and reviewed for possible publication. Articles should not exceed 1500 words and may be accompanied by appropriate artwork. All manuscripts are subject to editing. Care is taken in the handling of manuscripts and artwork, however, IL cannot assume responsibility for lost or damaged material or for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Send manuscripts, letters of inquiry and other news items of interest to International Leads, 91¥' International Relations Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL, US, 60611; Fax - 312-944-3897; Email - mdownling@ala.org

## IRRT/IRC Meetings 91¥' Midwinter January 14-19, 2000 San Antonio

**IRRT Executive Committee**  
Sunday, Jan 16 8:30am-12:30pm,  
Convention Center Room 207B

**IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting**  
Saturday, Jan 15 8:30am-12:30pm,  
Convention Center-Room 214A

**IRRT Poster Session Committee**  
Saturday, Jan 15 2:00pm-4:00pm, Marriott  
Riverview-Bonham

**IRC Meetings**  
Friday, Jan 14 2:00-5:30pm, Convention  
Center 212B  
Monday, Jan 17 2:00-4:00pm, Convention  
Center 210A

**International Papers Subcommittee**  
Sunday, Jan 16 2:00pm-4:00pm, Marriott  
Rivercenter-Conference Rm 3

**Humphry Award Subcommittee  
(closed)**  
Sunday, Jan 16 2:00pm-4:00pm, Marriott  
Riverwalk- Riverview

**Bogle Pratt Award subcommittee  
(closed)**  
Sunday, Jan 16 2:00pm-4:00pm, Marriott  
Rivercenter-Conference Rm 4



### Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee named 1999 Hall of Fame Librarian (Ohio Library Council)

The Ohio Library Council announced on October 29, 1999 that IRRT member and former chair Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee is one of two winners of the 1999 Hall of Fame Librarian Award. Nominations for this award are made by the 5,000 members of the Ohio Library Council. The press release states that the recipient "has demonstrated consistently outstanding leadership and superior achievement in library service throughout his career." During Dr. Lee's tenure as University Librarian, the Vernon R. Alden Library at Ohio University doubled to over two million volumes. Its endowment rose from less than \$10,000 to more than \$7 million. It achieved membership in the Association of Research Libraries and its Southeast Asia Collection is ranked as one of the best in the world.



## 66th IFLA General Conference Jerusalem, 13-18 August 2000

### Information for Cooperation: Creating the Global Library of the Future

For registration and other information --  
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/66intro.htm>

Mark your calendars:

## 67th IFLA Council and General Conference

**Boston, USA  
16-25 August 2001**

## The American Library Association's New Sister Library Program

To promote the concept of a global community of libraries, the American Library Association (91¥') is encouraging libraries from around the world to form relationships with libraries in the United States.

91¥' has created the Sister Library Program that will match libraries in the US with interested libraries around the world. The relationships are flexible and based on the needs and interest of each partner.

If you are interested in forming a Sister Library Relationship with a library in the United States please visit the Sister Library website at:

**<http://www.ala.org/sisterlibraries>**  
for further information, and to fill out an interest form.

Or email the ALA International Relations Office at [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org)



## MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR

### By Lucinda Covert-Vail

Perhaps I am still experiencing post-turkey tryptophane lethargy, but starting this column was difficult. While our midwinter meeting in San Antonio is fast approaching and definitely something to look forward to, I decided to look back for inspiration to the columns, writings and speeches of my predecessors, many drawn from past *International Leads*. And I discovered...



They did not always have a direct forum, i.e., the Chair's column, in which to address IRRT members. Chair reports/columns began appearing in the 1980s. There were years, however, when people served simultaneously as chair and editor of *Leads*, so there were definite editorial opportunities. And at times, chairs had the dubious honor of reminding members about dues, as was the case in 1960 when Laurence J. Kipp wrote

"If the IRRT did not now exist it would have to be created. It would be created because the 91¥ needs an IRRT to publicize the many international programs within 91¥ divisions, and hundreds of ALA members need it for they are - in increasing numbers - entertaining foreign guests, traveling abroad on library assignments, working abroad in American libraries or working in this country for those libraries. and if these men and women had not already found a means of exchanging their professional experiences, a great many other librarians, who are simply interested in what goes on in libraries abroad, would by now be ready to create it."

After that inspirational note he reminded everyone that their 1961 membership dues of \$2 were now due.

Traveling further back to 1957,

Kathleen Stebbins, Detroit Public Library, delivered a keynote speech as incoming chair. She saw the IRRT as the "liaison between the [International Relations] Committee and the ALA membership at large...." and identified the following action areas:

- vigorous membership campaign
- enlarged editorial & publicity committee to issue bulletins and promote articles
- list of grants, scholarships and fellowships offered by library school and available to foreign students.

Fortunately the chair no longer has to deliver a keynote speech and we are actually following quite well along Ms. Stebbins' action agenda.

Almost every Chair at least once in his/her tenure encourages IRRT members to send their suggestions for the Round Table and to participate actively in activities such as the hospitality booth and mentoring. My predecessor, Nancy John, said it well when she invited "you to help your Executive Committee... identify and consider all the ways that the IRRT can enhance 91¥'s many programs and projects by adding an international viewpoint or component." I echo that request.

Of course, my predecessors were also responsible for recognizing those who have played major roles in the round table. At this point I'd like to thank Ron Chepesiuk and Ravi Sharma for their roles respectively as Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor of *International Leads*.

Beginning in 1996, 14 issues of *IL* found their way to your homes and offices through the dedication, diligence and hard work of Ron and Ravi. As with previous editors they brought their own distinctive editorial style to our publication as they provided all of us with news and information regarding international librarianship.

Sha Li Zhang has been named the new editor and she will begin her

tenure with the first post-midwinter issue of *IL* in 2000.

Midwinter is the "meeting" conference for the IRRT. It is at this time that we get under way with our best work and plan for the annual conference. A list of the chairs and liaisons appears on the front page of this issue. You'll see that we have a strong group as usual. We've tried to bring new IRRT members into the subcommittees and issued "calls" for service through both *IL* and our discussion list 91¥World@ala.org.

The committees meet on Saturday, 15 January, in the morning. [See the detailed schedule of international activities on page 2.] This year we have added a liaison from the NMRT, which is an exciting development. And as I mentioned previously, we have formalized the international poster sessions within the IRRT structure to guarantee their permanency and continuing vibrancy. All IRRT members are invited to attend the joint IRC/IRRT subcommittee meetings and speak with the chairs and get a flavor of this event. Of course the Executive Committee meeting on Sunday morning is open to all as well.

I am always energized by reviewing the past copies of *International Leads*. They provide a history of our group, its activities and its goals. And I know I echo the sentiments of all our previous leadership in encouraging each of you to become involved in the IRRT, let us know your thoughts regarding our direction and continue to support the activities of the one 91¥ entity devoted to international activities. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

Lucinda Covert-Vail  
lucinda.covert.vail@nyu.edu



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Table. Send the message:

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to listproc@ala.org

## The International Indigenous Librarians' Forum: A Professional Life-Affirming Event

Auckland, New Zealand/Aotearoa

November 1-4, 1999

**Prepared by Professor Loriene Roy (Anishinabe)**

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

The University of Texas at Austin

Te Ropu Whakahau, the Maori Library and Information Workers, hosted the first International Indigenous Librarians' Forum in Auckland, New Zealand/Aotearoa, November 1-4, 1999, to, in part, commemorate the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 1995-2005. The Forum vision, "affirming the knowledge and values of indigenous peoples in the age of information," was reflected in the program and formed the basis of the facilitated discussion among the 110 delegates.

The Forum was held at the Waipapa Marae, a tribal meeting place on the campus of the University of Auckland. Delegates received a copy of *Issues and Initiatives in Indigenous Librarianship: Some International Perspectives* (Chris Szekely, ed. Auckland, New Zealand: Te Ropu Whakahau, 1999), essays on indigenous librarianship in New Zealand, Australia, Alaska, Sapmi (traditional Sami land), and the United States. Conference proceedings will be published in 2000 with support from the National Library of New Zealand.

Presentations on the first day provided a foundation for understanding indigenous ways of knowing. Following an evening reception for international visitors at the Old Government House, delegates began discussion by sharing their stories and desired outcomes.

The second day, November 2, covered issues outside of New Zealand; morning sessions were held in the whare wananga, Maori cultural room, in the Auckland Public Library. Speakers provided a history of the aboriginal experience in Australia, sovereignty among American Indian peoples and an overview of tribal library

services. Others described how tribal leaders gather information and the role of tribal colleges. North American delegates described services at the Laguna (New Mexico) Community Library and the Albert Library (Regina, Saskatchewan) and demonstrated Native American websites.

The third day featured sessions on the development of educational resources, including a discussion of cultural issues impacting education, the development of a virtual American Indian museum, and Hawaiian language immersion programs. An afternoon field trip to the Arataki Visitors' Center included presentations on Maori music and weaving. The evening program covered Maori visual resources in the New Zealand Film Archive.

Thursday's agenda included two formal presentations (on preservation of Maori cultural artifacts and intellectual property rights issues) and opportunity for delegates to deliberate. Discussion concentrated on: (1) maintaining contact; (2) supporting intellectual and cultural property rights; (3) creating a vision statement; (4) exploring how indigenous librarianship might be supported by organizations, tribes and nations; and (5) defining indigenous librarianship. Thursday evening's banquet included a graduation ceremony for recent Maori library students.

Friday morning, November 5, brought a summary and poroporoaki (farewells) as delegates departed for their homelands or prepared for the following week's New Zealand national library conference. Forum organizers included Hinerangi Himiona, Bernard Makoare, Hinureina Mangan, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Chris Szekely and

Jock Walker. Sponsors included the National Library of New Zealand, University of Auckland (Library and Maori Studies Department), Library & Information Association of New Zealand, Auckland City Community Planning Department, Te Puni Kokire Ministry of Maori Development, and four public library systems: Auckland City Libraries, Manakau Libraries, North Shore City Libraries, and Waitakere Libraries & Information Services.

The Forum was a self-affirming experience that called for Native librarians to be central to the process of recovering and claiming cultural heritage. A second International Indigenous Librarians' Forum may be scheduled, possibly to coincide with the Barents Libraries Conference in Jokkmokk, Sweden. The four themes for the 2001 Barents Libraries Conference include: (1) cooperation among libraries, museums and archives; (2) indigenous libraries and library services; (3) access to traditional knowledge; and (4) provision of library services to people in rural areas. News of this Conference will be posted at [www.ajtte.com/blc2001](http://www.ajtte.com/blc2001).

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## Thoughts from a recent trip to Thailand

by Sarah Long  
91¥' President

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) held its 65th annual meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, August 20 - 28, 1999. It was my privilege to represent the American Library Association as President. It was only the second time I have attended an IFLA meeting and I had never been to Asia before, so I found the whole experience pretty exciting.

There were 310 of us from the United States. With a total attendance of about 2,200, we were a big but not dominating delegation. The President of IFLA is French, Christine Deschamps. She was elected last year and will serve a four-year term; at its conclusion she will be eligible to be re-elected for another two years. The Secretary General (or Executive Director) is Ross Shimmon. He is newly appointed having been the head of the Library Association (UK) previously. The U.S. does have a presence on the IFLA Executive Board. Nancy John (University of Illinois at Chicago) is finishing her 2-year-term as Second Vice-President of the eight-member body. There is also a Professional Board made of representatives of the eight divisions. Winston Tabb (Library of Congress) represents Division I (General Research Libraries); Chris Wright (Library of Congress) represents Division V (Collections and Services). Wanda Dole of SUNY - Stony Brook represents Division VI (Management and Technology).

An IFLA conference is more structured than a typical 91¥' conference. It has a rather formal opening and closing general session. IFLA is governed by a council that meets every other year, and this was the year I was able to vote on behalf of 91¥'. Typically, IFLA meetings and programs are scheduled on certain days; committees meet on special days. There's also always a day set aside for visiting

local libraries.

This year, the Opening General Session featured a keynote address by Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the Patron of the Thai Library Association. IFLA attendees were advised to be present 30 minutes before the session began for protocol instructions. The Thai hold their royal family in great reverence. We were told to stand when the Princess stood, and to sit when she sat. A golden chair and a red carpet were provided for her. The Princess's address focused on the conference theme, "On the Threshold of the 21st Century: Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World." After the session, the Princess toured the exhibits. The next day, the Princess again demonstrated her abiding interest in libraries by attending some of the seminars. I found this close contact with royalty, the Thai great respect for their royal family, and the Princess's own interest in libraries very interesting. In fact, the Princess has her own library, staffed by seven librarians.

One of the programs I attended featured public librarians from Queensland, Australia; Hagatna, Guam; and Selangor, Malaysia. Each spoke with a great deal of passion about library service. Of course the details of their work were different from each other and different from public library service in this country, but at a mega level, our issues and concerns are very similar--training for library staff, keeping up with technology, dealing with funding bodies, providing service in vast, rural areas, building and maintaining library buildings--to mention a few. In the exhibit area, I spent a lot of time looking at the very impressive exhibit from the public library service in Singapore. They are using an array of electronic automated services including self checkout, smart cards, an automated book sorting scheme, and electronic delivery of information to anywhere.

I could go on and on about my experiences and observations, but I want to close with a brief account of the Thai/U.S. Seminar. It was a meeting held at the U. S. Embassy at the behest of the Thai Library Association.

The group of about 80 was about half-Thai, half-U.S. librarians. As we introduced ourselves initially, most of the Thai librarians were either academic librarians, library educators or worked in the national library. There was one person who identified herself as a school librarian. Our U.S. group was a mixture of all types of libraries but with a heavy influence of professional association representatives including AALL, 91¥', ALISE, ARL, MLA, and SLA. The Library of Congress participated as well. The Thai librarians were quick to point out that there is only one association of Thai librarians but many associations for U.S. librarians. From their point of view, if U.S. library groups would work together and centralize their information, it would be most helpful.

The message I got from the seminar is that here in the U.S. we enjoy a great variety of library types (academic, public, school, special) but that in the rest of the world, the academic and the national library are about the only constants. Public, school and special libraries are not common. Another difference that was pointed out was that library education in the U.S. is research-based whereas library education in Thailand is training based.

In conclusion, we said:

- 1) Use the Internet as a basis for sharing
- 2) Pursue library to library partnerships as per the Sister Library model
- 3) Work toward association exchanges such as sending someone from the Thai Library Association (a library educator) to the ALISE annual meeting, or Thai library members to Boston in 2001 for IFLA.

Have a look at my web site for IFLA photos (<http://www.sarahlong.org/Scrapbook/page15.htm>). Bangkok was hot, steamy and smoggy but wonderful. The Thai people were absolutely delightful. The food was great and the flowers, especially the orchids, were unbelievable.

*(reprinted with permission)*



### Volunteer in Zimbabwe

Spend the summer of 2000 helping communities get access to the information they need to build a better future. As an Inform the World (ITW) Volunteer Librarian in rural Africa, you could use your professional skills to help rural librarians in English-speaking Zimbabwe. Instead of spending the summer battling with your online catalog, you could teach a class on book repair, help implement a simple cataloguing system, peddle a bicycle-mounted book box to a remote village, or lead a donkey driven "book mobile" to a group of eager children. If living and working in rural Zimbabwe sounds like a challenge you would enjoy, then join us for this exciting service project and help make the information poor a little bit richer.

**Who:** The World Library Partnership (WLP) and the Zimbabwe Book Development Council (ZBDC) will be working with a variety of Zimbabwean organizations to coordinate the ITW 2000 project. WLP supports libraries around the world through exchange projects and produces training materials for librarians in developing countries. ZBDC promotes reading and literacy through its Book Fund Library Project, which serves 600 libraries, and through its National Book Week Campaign, which reaches 6000 schools. It is the umbrella agency for 8 constituent Zimbabwean organizations that work together to "promote a sustainable, literate and informed society."

**What:** The Inform the World Program will train and place 10-15 American librarians in rural libraries in Zimbabwe. The volunteers will conduct practical service projects determined by the needs of their host libraries. Last year's volunteers trained Zimbabwean librarians in basic skills such as how to inventory, weed, repair and catalog books. They also used their knowledge and creativity to paint murals, make display boards, produce publicity fliers and pamphlets and help clean, brighten and re-organize Zimbabwean libraries. After returning to the U.S., the volunteers will also work with WLP to design projects that will continue to help the libraries they visit.

**When:** The pre-departure cross-

cultural and technical training will take place at the School of Information and Library Science of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from July 15-July 17. The volunteers will depart for Zimbabwe following the training and will return to the US on August 12th. When they arrive in Zimbabwe, they will participate in an in-country orientation before spending three weeks working at their host libraries. The trip will also include a visit to the Zimbabwe International Book Fair for both the American and Zimbabwean librarians and a debriefing/evaluation session for all participants.

**Eligibility:** WLP invites professional librarians and library school students from all disciplines to apply. Flexibility, a sense of adventure and the ability to adapt to very basic living conditions are a must. Cost: The maximum cost of the trip is \$3,850. This includes placement, training at the University of North Carolina, materials, in-country orientation and debriefing, accommodations, most meals, site visit by trip coordinator during project, registration for the Zimbabwe International Book Fair, in-country transportation, round-trip airfare from Durham to Zimbabwe. Travel to Durham, NC is NOT included. The final price of the trip will be determined by the amount of funding WLP is able to raise for the ITW scholarship fund. WLP distributes this funding equally among all the volunteers requesting financial assistance. WLP can provide materials and suggestions to help volunteers secure additional funding from other sources.

**Deadline:** The Application Deadline is January 31, 2000. Link to <http://rtpnet.org/wlp> for the application and more trip information, or call (919)479-0163 or email Laura Wendell at [yovo@prodigy.net](mailto:yovo@prodigy.net)



### CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 2000 91<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

The 91<sup>st</sup> International Papers Subcommittee invites submissions for papers for the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference to be held in Chicago, Illinois, USA, from July 6-July 13, 2000. Chosen papers will be presented on Monday, July 10, 2000.

Program Theme - "Libraries Building Community and Building A Worldwide Library Community"

The International Paper Program is designed to encourage the scholarly exchange of ideas among librarians from around the world in regard to issues related to library services. Papers submitted for this year's theme "Libraries Building Community and Building A Worldwide Library Community" should focus on aspects of how libraries have been used to build community locally and or efforts/suggestions to building a worldwide library community. The papers can be practical or theoretical.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

The receipt deadline for proposals is January 15, 2000. Proposals received after this date may be considered if there is still available space for participation. Proposals can be submitted via fax, e-mail or hard copy. Proposals and final papers must be written in English. Proposals should include: proposed title, abstract (400-500 words), name of presenter, position or title of presenter, employer or affiliated institution, mailing address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address.

A maximum of 8 papers will be selected for presentation at the Annual Conference. Papers accepted for presentation at the conference will be published on the 91<sup>st</sup> website. Even if papers cannot be delivered in the conference programs, they will be considered for publication on the 91<sup>st</sup> website. Final notification of selected papers will be given by February 15, 2000. Selected final papers should be submitted in paper (one copy) and in electronic format (on diskette, using Microsoft Word or WordPerfect version 5.1 or higher). 91<sup>st</sup> is not able to provide direct funding for paper presenters to attend the 91<sup>st</sup> meeting, but can assist in locating possible funding sources.

Submit proposals to:  
International Relations Office - 91<sup>st</sup>  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2795 USA  
Fax: +1-312-280-3256 or  
E-mail: [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org)

## From 91¥'s International Desk:

by Michael Dowling

Midwinter is just a few days away. I wanted to remind you if you haven't signed up to participate in the "Building International Library Communities" program, which will be held in San Antonio from January 14-17, 1999, we are **still looking for U.S. librarians to participate**. If you want to participate, please email me at [mdowling@ala.org](mailto:mdowling@ala.org).

For those of you who can't participate in the whole program you might want to **volunteer some time at the International Lounge** which will be set up in one of the lobby areas. Even if you can't volunteer a large chunk of time, please stop by to say hello to your international colleagues.

On December 9th, members of the ALA International Relations Committee and IRRT Chair Lucinda Covert-Vail met to begin the process of putting together an **International Relations Agenda** similar to the Legislation Agenda 1995-2000 formulated by the Legislation Committee. The Agenda will be discussed at the first IRC Midwinter meeting if you are interested in attending to get an update on the progress. The IRO will continue to provide information on this process as it moves forward.

The 91¥' and the **Zimbabwe International Book Fair** are repeating of their successful joint collaboration to provide support for 91¥' member librarians to attend the Zimbabwe International Book Fair. The 91¥' -ZIB FREE PASS Program to ZIBF2000 will provide three days lodging (bed and breakfast) at a five star hotel, or five days at a three star hotel (applicant's preference), and visitor registration at the expense of ZIBF; plus a contribution of \$200 towards the cost of airfare. Up to 20 librarians may be able to participate in this program.

The 2000 Zimbabwe International Book Fair will take place July 28 - August 5, 2000 in Harare. The theme for this year will be "Celebrating African Books" and the country focus will be Ghana.

The deadline to apply for the Free Pass Program is **April 15, 2000**.

For more information on ZIBF2000 and to apply for the FREE PASS Program, contact:

DAVID BRINE, ZIBF(UK)  
P O Box 21303  
London WC2E 8PH  
Tel/Fax +44 (0)20 7836 8501  
Email  
[zibf.kingstreet@dial.pipex.com](mailto:zibf.kingstreet@dial.pipex.com)  
or visit the ZIBF website at  
<http://www.zibf.org>

If you are looking for a **sister library** please visit <http://www.ala.org/sisterlibraries>. You can now find a list of those international libraries that would like to set up a relationship. The list is not that large but it is growing.

Michael Dowling  
International Relations Officer, 91¥'  
[mdowling@ala.org](mailto:mdowling@ala.org)



**Opportunity to work in Azerbaijan**  
Information Resource and Training Center for Librarians and Information Specialists Co-Director (Six Month Position Beginning Spring 2000)

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the American Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan is opening an Information Resource and Training Center (IRTC) for Librarians and Information Specialists under the FSA (Freedom Support Act) grant from the US Government. Working in close coordination with an Azerbaijani co-director and the board of directors, the IRTC Co-Director is responsible for designing, developing, and conducting training courses for local librarians; providing consultancies to libraries on the use of Internet and other electronic information sources; overseeing the development of the IRTC services and programs and working closely with the library community in Azerbaijan. The position reports to a head of PAS.  
**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** US citizenship; MLS from an 91¥' -accred

ited program; Minimum 5 years increasing responsibility in library positions with supervisory experience; Ability to work and communicate cross culturally with diverse groups; Good managerial, analytical and organizational skills

**BENEFITS:** Salary:\$2,500/month, paid in US dollars; Living allowance: \$500-600/month; International round-trip transportation from U.S. to Azerbaijan; Books and materials allowance:\$500; Basic medical insurance

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** A cover letter, resume and the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails of 2 references are to be either e-mailed or faxed to the PAS at the American Embassy Baku to Muzhgan Nazarova: Fax: 99412-989312; E-mail: [minbaku@usia.gov](mailto:minbaku@usia.gov) or placed with the 2000 ALA Midwinter Conference Placement Service. The interviews will be conducted at the 2000 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio at the Placement Center. A deadline for applications is January 10th, 2000. Beginning date for job is March-April 2000.



### CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTER SESSIONS

The International Relations Round Table (IRRT) invites you to present a poster session at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, July 6-13, 2000. The receipt deadline for proposals is January 15, 2000. Proposals received after this date may be considered if there is still available space for participation.

Submit proposals and inquiries to:  
International Relations Office  
91¥'

50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611, USA  
Phone: +312-280-3201  
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Email: [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org)

(See page 11 for complete instructions)

# THE IFLA POSITION ON WTO TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Prepared for the WTO meetings by IFLA, November 26, 1999

## INTRODUCTION

The future of libraries of all kinds could have been jeopardized by the series of international trade treaties that were being negotiated. The important meeting discussing these trade agreements was the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Seattle November 30-December 3, 1999. IFLA was represented in Seattle, along with other library associations, in order to defend the interests of libraries and promote the value of the public sector. As an active international alliance of library associations, libraries and concerned individuals, IFLA is strategically positioned to advocate at the WTO on behalf of libraries.

Libraries are unique social organizations dedicated to providing the broadest range of information and ideas to the public, regardless of age, religion, social status, race, gender or language. The long library traditions of intellectual freedom and equitable access to information and cultural expression form the basis for assuring that library goals are achieved.

Libraries of all types form an inter-related network which serves the citizenry, from the great national, state and research institutions to public and school libraries. The well being of libraries is essential in ensuring access to the full range of human expression and providing individuals with the skills necessary to access and use this content.

## BACKGROUND

The WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle began the Millennium Round of negotiations. The Ministerial Conference was to set the agenda for negotiations which are expected to last three years. The previous Uruguay Round ended in 1994 after seven years of negotiations. The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) implemented at that time

exempted services supplied in the exercise of governmental authority but ambiguously excluded from the definition of governmental authority any service supplied on a commercial basis, not in competition with one or more service suppliers. As part of the current Millennium Round, there were proposals to expand the GATS from a bottom-up agreement which requires all services covered to be listed in the Agreement to a top-down agreement where all services are included unless specifically exempted. Libraries are not included in the current GATS Agreement and will most certainly be included in the new Agreement unless specifically exempted. Libraries, museums, and archives, as well as health services and education, are potentially affected by the World Trade Organization Millennium Round, specifically relating to the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

The following areas are of concern:

- a) Proposed changes to GATS will open up all aspects of the economy to foreign competition, including libraries.
- b) Privatization of libraries may result from the proposals for expansion of the GATS Agreement.
- c) Possible guarantee of the right of foreign, for-profit library services and suppliers to set-up in any member state and compete against publicly-funded libraries. The country would then have to offer them national treatment, i.e. foreign corporations would have to be treated as well or better than any national supplier. Since the Agreement will cover subsidies, these corporations might be able to argue they should receive equal funding from the government.
- d) Sub-Central governments, state/provincial, municipal, regional governments and their various management boards would be included in any agreements agreed to by the member state. (Part I, Scope and Definition, Article 1, Clause 3a of the existing agreement).
- e) The Market Access (Part II, Specific Commitments, Article XVI) has two

clauses that ban (e) measures which restrict or require specific types of legal entity or joint venture through which a service supplier may supply a service; and (f) limitations on the participation of foreign capital in terms of the maximum percentage limit on foreign shareholding or the total value of individual or aggregate foreign investment. These two clauses could prevent local communities from keeping their library services in the public or non-profit sector.

f) Professional standards could come under challenge as a trade barrier. Article VI of the GATS deals with how domestic regulation could have to be changed to accommodate the overarching goal of trade liberalization in services. The Council for Trade in Service is empowered to set up review panels to assess whether qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services.

## IFLA POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen opposition to those WTO policies which will adversely affect the public sector internationally including, but not limited to, libraries, archives, museums and education. The WTO meetings in Seattle afford an opportunity to build links with other organizations at both the national and international level who support libraries and a strong public sector.
2. To force a delay of the Millennium Round until there has been a sufficient evaluation of the myriad implications of the Uruguay Round.
3. To promote the importance of libraries as the central public institutions for the collection and distribution of the historical, cultural and intellectual record of civilization in the service of the public and their educational institutions. Libraries enrich and inspire through providing access to the broadest possible range of information and ideas while encouraging democra-

*continued on page 9*



*WTO ...continued from page 8*

tic discussion and social participation.

4. To promote the coordinated development of library and library association policy on trade issues and education and lobbying efforts.

5. To make links with other organizations, particularly, but not restricted to, the cultural sector in recognition of our common interests in the promotion of libraries and cultural institutions as central to the enrichment and democratic foundations of society.

### IFLA POLICY POSITIONS

1. IFLA supports and joins with other public sector organizations such as museums, archives and public education institutions in declaring the importance of our services to the health, richness and level of equity so far established in our society. The WTO is one dimension of a multitude of efforts to enrich corporations by forcing public services into the private sector through privatization, budget reductions or international trade agreements. This trend should be resisted.

While discussing the process in terms of allowing "competition" appears benign, the eventual outcome of permitting the private sector to compete with libraries and educational institutions will be to undermine their tax-supported status.

The liberalized trade treaties force equal, or national, treatment, which requires that all "competitors" be treated equally. Tax subsidies for services for which there is private sector competition are likely to be found to be in violation of this requirement. Without tax support, the library's role as a democratic institution, making available the widest range of material reflecting the diversity of society, will be compromised.

IFLA's fundamental position is opposition to the WTO/GATS as presently outlined in the WTO documents.

2. Publicly funded libraries are part of the cultural sector. They are involved in encouraging the development and

promotion of cultural products, particularly literature, and the preservation and dissemination of those products. Libraries should be part of protections proposed for culture and should support and be part of any possible separate treaty which allows special consideration for cultural goods and services in international trade.

IFLA should work with national and international cultural groups to create alliances for achieving recognition and protection for the development of regional and domestic cultural products. The objective of such an alliance is the creation of cultural diversity and the encouragement of multiple voices rather than homogenized and globalized cultural products which dominate by virtue of financial or corporate strength.

While supporting the right of WTO member states to promote and nurture national culture, IFLA opposes any obstacles to the free flow across international borders of legally produced information and cultural content normally collected or distributed by libraries. IFLA opposes tariffs or other duties or taxes on the importation of print on paper or digital content. Such measures have the potential to stifle intellectual freedom.

3. IFLA is opposed to the expansion of the GATS agreement but should it go forward, it will concentrate on a separate agreement/exemption for libraries and cultural organizations while continuing to push for protection of the broadly defined public sector.

Note: Mr Paul Whitney (Chief Librarian of Burnaby Public Library, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada) was IFLA's accredited representative at the WTO Ministerial conference in Seattle. The American and Canadian Library Associations also had accredited representatives.



### Librarians and Hungarians at the Frankfurt Book Fair by James P. Niessen

The largest of all international book fairs held its fifty-first postwar gathering October 13-18. This is primarily a trade fair, with the focus on works

available for translation and republication. Most countries publish many more translations than do American publishers, and although much of the translation is of American works (which says a lot about the worldwide influence of American scholarship and popular culture), many more deals are made in Frankfurt than at the much smaller North American fairs. German, French, and other publishers and agents of American writers tout their appearance at the book fair to help sell the translated titles.

Some librarians go to Frankfurt too, for obvious reasons: this year's fair recorded 6643 exhibitors from 113 countries displaying 385,275 titles. An American selector of foreign materials can see many exhibitors who never appear at North American meetings and do not blanket the landscape with their book catalogs either. Only in recent years have librarians had much visibility, however. The fair featured many meetings and presentations, especially in its International Centre on the second floor of Hall 9 where a continuous program of roundtables and readings by publishers and authors took place: there were major forums for Iranian and African authors, and writers from the former Yugoslavia announced the formation of an anti-nationalist "Group 99." The growth of the book fair has spawned sections for art, travel, children, scholarly, international, and electronic publishing, for literary agents and the press, and now finally for formerly "boothless" foreign visitors and librarians, in the International Booksellers and Librarians Centre, or IBLC. While members of our profession would otherwise disappear among the 290,000 attendees, this year they again were able to call home one corner of the third floor of the huge Hall 9.

The forty exhibitors in the IBLC were mostly vendors specialized in the European market, but also included a number of Central European research libraries and librarian associations, the United States Information Resource Center (Amerikahaus) of Frankfurt, and for the first time representatives of the 91¥'

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## SCHOOL LIBRARY MANIFESTO RATIFIED BY UNESCO

The IFLA School Library Manifesto was ratified by the 30th UNESCO General Conference.

This Manifesto argues that school library services are so vital that they should be provided equally to all members of the school community, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language, professional or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those who are unable to use mainstream library services and materials.

"I am delighted by UNESCO's ratification of the Manifesto; this is a major step to ensure that the role of the school library in the new information environment is understood and agreed upon worldwide", said Ms. Glenys Willars, Chair of IFLA's Section for School Libraries and Resource Centres, and member of IFLA's Professional Board.

The IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto urges governments, through their ministries responsible for education, to develop strategies, policies and plans that implement the principles of this Manifesto. Plans should include the dissemination of the Manifesto to initial and continuing training programmes for librarians and teachers

Effort will now be put in the promotion of the IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto, including the translation and publication in as many languages as possible. Additional information is available from

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Rothley Crossroads  
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### IFLA / UNESCO School Library Manifesto

The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and

develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens

### The Mission of the School Library

The school library offers learning services, books and resources that enable all members of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media. School Libraries link to the wider library and information network in accord with the principles in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

The library staff support the use of books and other information sources, ranging from the fictional to the documentary, from print to electronic, both on-site and remote. The materials complement and enrich textbooks, teaching materials and methodologies.

It has been demonstrated that, when librarians and teachers work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problem-solving and information and communication technology skills.

School library services must be provided equally to all members of the school community, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language, professional or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those who are unable to use mainstream library services and materials.

Access to services and collections should be based on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Freedoms, and should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, or to commercial pressures.

### Funding Legislation and Networks

The school library is essential to every long-term strategy for literacy, education, information provision and economic, social and cultural development. As the responsibility of local, regional and national authorities, it must be supported by specific legislation and policies. School Libraries must have adequate and sustained funding for trained staff, materials, technologies and facilities. They must be free of charge.

The school library is an essential

partner in the local, regional and national library and information network.

Where the school library shares facilities and/or resources with another type of library, such as a public library, the unique aims of the school library must be acknowledged and maintained.

### Goals of the School Library

The school library is integral to the educational process.

The following are essential to the development of literacy, information literacy, teaching, learning and culture and are core school library services:

- supporting and enhancing educational goals as outlined in the school's mission and curriculum;
- developing and sustaining in children the habit and enjoyment of reading and learning, and the use of libraries throughout their lives;
- offering opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment;
- supporting all students in learning and practicing skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community;
- providing access to local, regional, national and global resources and opportunities that expose learners to diverse ideas, experiences and opinions;
- organizing activities that encourage cultural and social awareness and sensitivity;
- working with students, teachers, administrators and parents to achieve the mission of the school; proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are essential to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in a democracy;
- promoting reading and the resources and services of the school library to the whole school community and beyond.

The school library fulfills these functions by developing policies and services, selecting and acquiring

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*Manifesto... continued from page 10*

resources, providing physical and intellectual access to appropriate sources of information, providing instructional facilities, and employing trained staff.

### Staff

The school librarian is the professionally qualified staff member responsible for planning and managing the school library, supported by as adequate staffing as possible, working together with all members of the school community, and liaising with the public library and others.

The role of school librarians will vary according to the budget and the curriculum and teaching methodology of the schools, within the national legal and financial framework. Within specific contexts, there are general areas of knowledge that are vital if school librarians are to develop and operate effective school library services: resource, library, and information management and teaching.

In an increasingly networked environment, school librarians must be competent in planning and teaching different information-handling skills to both teachers and students. Therefore they must continue their professional training and development.

### Operation and Management

To ensure effective and accountable operations:

- the policy on school library services must be formulated to define goals, priorities and services in relation to the school's curriculum;
- the school library must be organized and maintained according to professional standards;
- services must be accessible to all members of the school community and operate within the context of the local community;
- co-operation with teachers, senior school management, administrators, parents, other librarians and information professionals, and community groups must be encouraged.




*Librarians ... continued from page 9*

through the West European Studies Section of the ACRL. I helped staff the booth with Marcia Pankake of Minnesota, Mike Olson of Harvard, and the official WESS representatives, Barbara Walden of Wisconsin and Jeff Garrett of Northwestern. Visitors to our booth included many German library school students who seemed well informed about aspects of American librarianship. I spoke to one who was fascinated by the controversy over Internet censorship (it took me awhile to realize that by "ahlah" he meant the 91¥' !). Two celebrities at the booth were the director of the National Library of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Enes Kujundzic, who reported on efforts to reconstitute his collection that had been devastated in the recent war, and the American Ambassador, John Kornblum. The IBLC compound contained an enclosure where presentations took place throughout the fair. On Saturday, October 16 the WESS contingent gave seven well-received, computer-assisted talks on aspects of American academic librarianship.

Librarians and Hungarians? That other small, forgotten people also had a remarkable presence at this book fair. For twenty years the book fair has spotlighted the writers and publishers of a region or country. The Latin American theme at Frankfurt in 1976 helped create the resurrection of narrative and sentimentality in the Latin American literary movement now known as the "Post-Boom." This year an East European country, Hungary, was the Gastland for the first time. Hungarian librarians were among our neighbors in the IBLC. The ground floor of Hall 3 was turned over to the focal theme "Hungary without Boundaries" (a playful reference to Hungarian culture in neighboring countries and elsewhere!), with stands for eighteen publishers, music, dancers, panel discussions, and eight special exhibits including Books on Hungary displaying 1500 titles. German publishers produced one hundred new Hungarian books for the fair and marketed them aggressively. Hungarian theme issues of newspapers and handy guides to Hungarian writers

were distributed for free in Hall 3. The fair's celebration of Hungarian writers and books, and of the now largely successful marketization of Hungarian publishing, appears likely to give both a significant boost.

James P. Niessen [lijpn@lib.ttu.edu](mailto:lijpn@lib.ttu.edu) is Librarian for History & Foreign Languages at Texas Tech University 

### CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTER SESSIONS: WHAT IS A POSTER SESSION?

This is a forum for librarians from around the world to highlight their libraries and to share their successful ideas with colleagues by presenting a research study, a practical problem-solving effort or an innovative library program. Poster sessions are displayed on bulletin boards (1m 20cm x 2m 40cm). Pictures, graphs, data and text are used to illustrate the presentation. Poster presentations provide other conference participants an opportunity to quickly and easily become acquainted with your topic. An effective poster presentation highlights, with visual display, the main points or components of your topic. Poster Sessions can cover any project or program.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A POSTER SESSION. The receipt deadline for proposals is January 15, 2000. Proposals received after this date may be considered if there is still available space for participation. Proposals can be submitted via email, fax, or hard copy. Proposals and presentation of poster sessions must be in English. Proposals should include:

- Title of poster session.
- Author's or Authors' name(s).
- Employer or affiliated institution.
- Contact information for author, including phone number, fax number, email, and mailing address (if there is more than one author, choose one person to be the contact).
- Abstract of no more than 150 words.
- A one or two word subject description.

Proposals will be reviewed during the 91¥' Midwinter Meeting in January 2000. A limited number of poster sessions will be selected for presentation at the Annual Conference. Final notification of selected poster sessions will be given by March 1, 2000 for those proposals that were submitted by the January 15th deadline. Submit proposals and inquiries to:

International Relations Office  
91¥'

50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611, USA



### **Cuba Library Program Announced for March 19-29, 2000**

91¥´ and IRR members are invited to participate in an educational experience and professional seminar in Cuba for librarians and scholars as part of a Library Program to be held March 19-20, 2000. Participants will learn about and experience one of the most fascinating countries in the world, and will meet with Cuban library professionals, scholars and educators.

The program will consist of visits to libraries, archives, universities, cultural institutions, and other places of historical and cultural significance. Participants are also invited to contribute to a series of "professional exchanges" at several Cuban libraries, including the National Library, the Institute of History and the Academy of Sciences. These exchanges are designed to explore issues of mutual interest to Cuban and U.S. librarians and scholars and to examine various aspects of U.S. and Cuban librarianship, skills, professional tools and practices, philosophy and values.

The cost of the program will be \$1200-\$1500 (final price will depend on airfare and hotel availability). The price includes airfare from Miami and within Cuba, two meals per day, hotel accommodations (single room extra), and local transportation to events/locales. To reserve a space or to obtain more information, contact the Program Organizer, Rhonda L. Neugebauer, Wichita State University,

(316) 651-5744 (H); (316)978-5079(W); or email rhonda@southwind.net.

### **REFORMA TO HOST EVENING OF SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTERTAINMENT DURING MIDWINTER**

REFORMA San Antonio, a grass roots nonprofit organization, presents an evening of scholarship and entertainment during the annual midwinter meeting of the American Library Association, to be held in San Antonio, Texas in January 2000.

The event, entitled "Libraries for a New World and Millennium/Biblioteca Para El Mundo y Milenio Nuevo," will take place at the San Antonio Central Library Auditorium, 600 Soledad, on January 15, 2000 from 5 PM until 8:30 PM. This program is an extension of REFORMA's commitment to the promotion of library services to Spanish-speakers and Latinos, as well as all traditionally under-served groups in diverse communities such as San Antonio.

Gifted poet, artist, and author of "Recuerdos De Una Nina/ Recollections of a Young Girl," Enequina Casarez Vasquez, will be Master of Ceremonies. The highlight of the evening's events will be a presentation by Christine Miller Koontz. and Dean K. Jue of Florida State University entitled "How Any Library Can Change to Meet the Needs of a Minority Population."

Traditional conjunto and salsa music will be provided as will a finger buffet of traditional Mexican-American antojitos to complete the festive event. Admission is \$5.00 for REFORMA members and \$10.00 for nonmembers. All profits from the event will be used for local, community-based events designed to promote library services to Spanish-speakers and Latinos in San Antonio. Additional tax deductible contributions will be welcome.

### **Donate Books: Get A Tax Deduction**

Universities in Sudan desperately need recent American textbooks and reference works for use by faculty and students. You can help by donating books you no longer use: The Sudan-American Foundation for Education, a nonprofit organization in Arlington, VA, will ship them to Sudan for distribution among university libraries there. For further information, visit our Web site at <http://www.sudan.com/safe> or the site for our partner in Sudan, The Ahfad University for Women <http://ahfad.org>. Ahfad receives our shipments and arranges for distribution of donated books among 25 Sudanese libraries. To arrange a donation, please contact:

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