

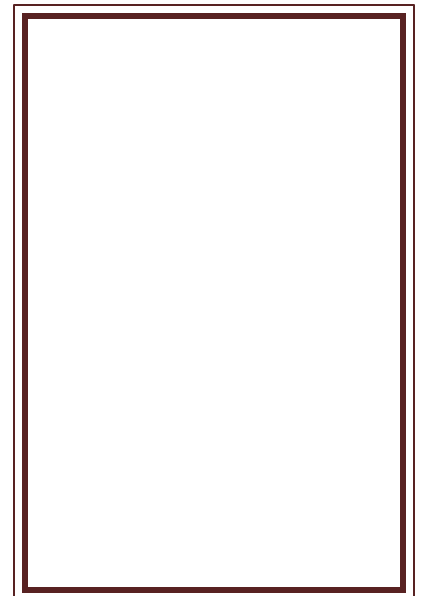


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# **Libraries in Cuba: A Report from a U.S. Librarian Delegation**

**By Rhonda L. Neugebauer**



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## *Message from the IRRT Chair*

By Lucinda Covert-Vail, Chair

This issue's column will be short and sweet for the following reasons:

- International Leads is filled with interesting articles that should pique your interest.
- A draft of the ALA International Relations Agenda is available for comment.
- Annual conference in Chicago is coming soon.
- International Visitors Reception sponsorship.

Just a few words about the draft agenda and Chicago. The draft of the ALA International Relations Agenda for 2000-2005 is available for your review on the ALA web site. The agenda was developed by a working group that included IRC and IRRT members and was convened by IRC Chair Jordan Scepaniski. Comments were invited from the IRRT at midwinter. The agenda lays out the international action areas for the IRRT, IRC and other internationally focused ALA groups for the next five years. Our hope is that it is broad enough to encompass the varied and inspired international activities of all in ALA working in the international arena yet specific enough to give members a more focused idea of the association's international commitment. Please take the time to review it and we welcome your comments about the draft text. It may be viewed at: <http://www.ala.org/work/international/agenda2000-2005.html>

The IRRT and its various subcommittees are continuing to develop programming for you and our international attendees in Chicago. The list of activities is included in *IL* and also available on our web site. One pitch though, the International Visitors Lounge and the International Visitors Mentoring – they are both opportunities for you to be actively involved with your colleagues from abroad and I encourage you to volunteer for one or both.

Finally, the Gale Group is generously sponsoring the International Visitors Reception this year at the Winter Garden of Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library. As you know, this is the culminating international event of the annual conference which all of our international visitors -- and I hope you -- will attend. Gale Group has supported IRRT activities in the past and continues to be a strong supporter of international librarianship and their support of the reception reinforces this commitment.

So that is it, short and sweet as promised. I look forward to seeing you at ALA in Chicago, encourage you to participate in IRRT activities, take the time to attend the international poster sessions and papers presentation and, of course attend the IRRT program on Sister Libraries and the International Visitors Reception.

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### **Sister Libraries: Making the Connections that Build International Communities and Services**

Monday, July 10, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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## Programs

### ***Preconference “The State of American Librarianship”***

Friday, July 7, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
University of Illinois-Chicago

### ***Orientation for International Visitors***

Friday, July 7, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
McCormick Place Convention Center-S103

### ***“European Initiatives in Library Cooperation and Technology”***

Saturday, July 8, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Hyatt-Columbus I/J

### ***International Poster Session***

Sunday, July 9, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Exhibit Hall (near the Placement Center)

### ***International Papers: “Libraries Build Community and Building a Worldwide Library Community”***

Monday, July 10, 8:30 a.m -12:00 noon  
Hyatt-Columbus C/D

### ***“Going Global: Preparing for an International Job Exchange”***

Monday, July 10, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Hyatt-Stetson E

### ***“Sister Libraries: Making the Connections that Build International Communities and Services”***

Monday, July 10, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Hyatt-Regency A/B

### ***“Reception for International Librarians”***

Winter Garden of Harold Washington Library  
Monday, July 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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## **Libraries Build Community and Building A Worldwide Library Community**

Monday, July 10, 8:30a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Hyatt-Columbus C/D

Elizabeth M. Gericke, University of South Africa, South Africa, “A New Paradigm for Public Library Service in a Multicultural Society”

Fred Guy, National Library of Scotland, United Kingdom “East West Co-operation in Europe: The Role of the National Library of Scotland in Helping to Create a Modern Information System for the Russian State Library, Moscow”

Lorraine Mangonès and Elisabeth Pierre-Louis, Fondation Connaissance & Liberté (Soros Foundation-Haïti) Haïti “Haïti: Community Libraries and Community Empowerment”

Sarah Ormes, UK Office for Library and Information Networking, United Kingdom, “Stories from the Web: Developing a Global Children’s Library Resource”

Eugene M. Rooney, S. J., Chile, “Thirty Years of Joint Library Ventures in Chile and Uruguay”

Yakov Shrayberg and Victor Zverevich, International Library, Information, and Analytical Center, Russia, “ILIAC as an Example of a New Type of Interlibrary Integration within the Process of Building of a Worldwide Library Community”

Jagtar Singh, Punjabi University, India, “India and the Worldwide Library Community, Problems and Prospects”

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## *From ALA's International Desk* By Michael Dowling

The International Relations has been busy the last few months handling the registration and hotel arrangements for the over 300 international librarians who will be coming to Chicago for the ALA Annual Conference. I would like to thank Alisha White, IRO Administrative Assistant and Troy Swanson, a recent graduate of Dominican University School of Library and Information Science, for all of their hard work and making it a smooth process.

Please remember to support and assist international colleagues at conference by volunteering for the International Lounge, by being a mentor, and by attending the international papers program, international poster sessions, and the International Librarians Reception.

The draft of new ALA International Relations Agenda for 2000-2005 is up on the IRO website at <http://www.ala.org/work/international/agenda2000-2005.html>. We would like your input before and at Annual on this since it will guide the direction of ALA international activities during the next five years. The plan is to have it approved in Chicago.

### **Call for Volunteers --**

The Hospitality Committee of the IRRT needs volunteers to staff the International Visitor Lounge at the upcoming Annual ALA Conference in Chicago. Volunteers are needed from noon on Friday, July 7 to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10. Volunteers assist international visitors in answering questions and giving directions at the conference. Typically, a volunteer will staff the Lounge for a two-hour period. This is a wonderful opportunity to greet colleagues from around the globe! If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact the Chair of the Hospitality Committee, Rebecka Lindau, at [rebecka.lindau@nyu.edu](mailto:rebecka.lindau@nyu.edu) phone: (212) 998-2515.

### **The Global Village: Poster Sessions by International and U.S. Presenters**

Sunday, July 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Exhibit Hall

Louise Rodger (Australia), Gercina Angela Borem Lima (Brazil), Ana Cecilia Torres (Costa Rica), Luis A. Mourellos Rodriguez (Cuba), Phoebe Marshall-Raimbeau (France), Vijaya P. Rajhansa (India), Assuna Arte (Italy), Yuriko Nakamura and Taro Miura (Japan), David Unger (U.S.A.) around the6Tj T\* 0.1gio 66287 Tw Olgivae Mciaes Mexican),Sveplaa Shevkun

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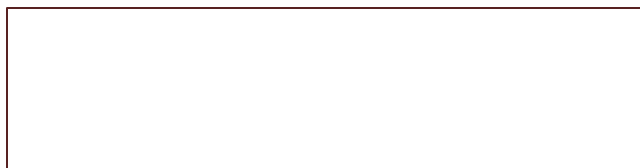
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**Welcome New IRRT Members!**

*Libraries and Archives in Kosovo (Continued)*

By Andras Riedlmayer



## *News and Announcements*

**H. Lea Wells** was newly elected Vice-Chair of IRRT. **Mary A. Sherman** was elected Member-at-Large for a two-year term.

**The Shanghai Municipal Library** in P. R. China is spearheading an InterCity Digital Library Project to promote the development of digital libraries in the Asia-Pacific region, including the United States. If your library might be interested in this project, please contact Stephen Lesce at Pudong, U.S.A., (212) 432-0002.

**The Association for the Support of Individual Charity (ASIC)**, a non-profit group involved with the support of libraries in Guatemala, is looking for Spanish speaking librarians to volunteer to help provide training to individuals for a new library in Guatemala. ASIC in conjunction with The Godchild project, a private non-denominational project that provides educational, social, and health services to over 1200 children and their families in Guatemala, have received a Rotary grant of \$10,000 to create a library. Since there are no librarians nor people with library experiences in the area, the ASIC is helping with the selection and organization of the books for the new library. One of the biggest problems that is encountered with

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## Libraries in Cuba:

appreciate receiving any discarded copies of American Libraries, Library Journal, School Library Journal, Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index (they currently work with the 17<sup>th</sup> edition), encyclopedias, thesauri, or software manuals. Even English language editions of reference works are

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