

# International Leads

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## **Libraries in Ukraine: A Decade of Independence**

**By Bradley L. Schaffner**

**J**ust over ten years have passed since Ukraine declared its independence from the crumbling Soviet Union. The decade has not been easy for the Ukrainian people as they strive to create a democratic state, a free-market economy, and a civil society. This transition period has been extremely difficult for libraries and librarians who now have far less financial support from the government for collections and general



## *Message from the IRRT Chair*

## Second China/U.S. Conference on Libraries

By Beverly P. Lynch

**S**trategic Policy Directions for China/U.S. Library Cooperation was the theme of the Second China/U.S. Conference on Libraries held in Flushing, New York, and Washington D.C., August 11-16, 2001. The invitational conference, attended by seventy librarians from China and the U.S., was the result of a recommendation adopted by the First China/U.S. conference held in Beijing in August 1996, that a second China/U.S. conference be held within five years. Members of the planning committee, chaired by Gary E. Strong, U.S. and Heping Zhou, China, were: Gary E. Strong, Margaret Yu-lan Chou, Michael Dowling, Hwa-Wei Lee, Beverly P. Lynch, James G. Neal, and Winston Tabb from the U.S.; Heping Zhou, Beixin Sun, Weici Wu, Yingchi Xu, Liping Sun, Yuanliang Ma, Guilan Li, and Dongjiang Qiu from China.

The keynote addresses given by Xiaopu Zhou, Deputy Director, Library Department, Ministry of Culture, China, and Robert S. Martin, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services, set the direction of the conference. Many of the themes presented in their papers were expanded upon by other speakers and in the discussion sessions and were considered at the day-long session at the Library of Congress. Ms. Xiaopu Zhou outlined the remarkable activity in library development in China. She referred to the China

## *From ALA's Internaitonal Desk* by Michael Dowling

Now that the *Global Reach* international participation website is up and active we would like for all IRRT members who have been involved in international activities to visit the site and create your own profile. Please take the time in the next few weeks to visit the site to input your information. To access the site and create your own profile please visit <http://www.ala.org/work/international>, and click on the *Global Reach* link.

For IRRT members planning on going to IFLA 2002 in Scotland, August 18 - 24, 2002, a reminder that the early registration deadline is May 15! Please remember to include the ALA IFLA membership number **US-0002**, on the registration form to receive the IFLA discount rate.

Once again we are looking for **Mentors** to help assist international librarians attending the ALA Conference in Atlanta. We are asking that mentors be available to meet

with their mentees on Friday, June 14 at 3:00 p. m. before the International Orientation. Further details will be forthcoming. If you are interested in possibly serving as a Mentor, please send an email message to [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org)

Joanna Lee will be the new library student intern from Dominican University who will be assisting the office with

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## News and Announcements

## China/U. S. Conference

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build partnerships around the world. Miller commented that cooperative programs must be mutually beneficial to last, and to be successful, global partnerships must be based on mutual trust and mutual interest

**Human Resources** --Jose-Marie Griffiths, member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, described how the WWW is changing the work of librarians, who now are knowledge managers. Participants in the discussion sessions recognized the interest in enabling faculty exchanges, as was proposed by Dr. Griffiths. Areas of collaboration between ALISE (Association for Library and Information Science Education) and the education committee in the China Society for Library Science were discussed and will be followed up, e.g., invitations to Chinese educators to the ALISE conference, identification of suitable textbooks for translation, identification of authoritative websites and free materials suitable for instructional purposes, the development of datasets useful for instructional purposes and available on the web. In the area of distance learning it was observed that a collaborative, distance education course in International librarianship would be very interesting to pursue and a proposal for a joint Chinese/American effort to develop such a course emerged as an important initiative.

**Role of Libraries in International Development** --James Cheng, Librarian, Harvard-Yenching Library, traced the



At the conference site in New York, a reference librarian (middle) introduces user services of the Flushing Public Library to Dr. Robert Martin, Director of IMLS (back), and a group of American participants. (Photo: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)

areas of cooperation between China and U.S. librarians. He urged that continuing programs be "people-centered". Leadership programs such as the UCLA Senior Fellows program and programs for middle managers were recommended. He acknowledged the many valuable opportunities for cooperation but

emphasized that human resources were the most important.

### Recommendations from the Conference

--The conference papers be placed on the conference web site so they will be available to the larger community; and that press releases about this conference contain the web

site address: [http://www.worldling.org/us\\_china\\_conf2001/](http://www.worldling.org/us_china_conf2001/)

--The organizers of first and second conference are American Library Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, The Library of Congress, The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, The China Society for Library Science, and The National Library of China. They continue the very successful series; and organize a third conference in China no later than 5 years from now. (There was strong interest in two or three years, but also it was recognized that it is difficult to organize international conferences and to fund them.)

--The American Library Association and the China Society of Library Science establish a bilateral working group to continue to advance cooperation between China and the United States, seeking collaboration from the various interested agencies in China and the U.S. in such efforts. And the ALA and CSLS establish a secretariat to provide information on various collaborative activities.

--The conference recommended the development of collaborative research projects between colleagues in China and the U.S.

--The conference supported the development of a course in international librarianship, with specific emphasis on China and U. S.; the development of such a course should be a joint effort between China and U.S. educators.

Finally the conference adopted a RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE SOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS for Transmittal to the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters. The full text of the conference summary is available at [http://www.worldling.org/us\\_china\\_conf2001/Summary.htm](http://www.worldling.org/us_china_conf2001/Summary.htm) (Beverly P. Lynch is Professor and Director of Senior Fellow Program at UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. She was the U.S. Conference Planning Committee member for both first and second China-U.S. Library Conferences)

### Welcome New IRRT Members!

Ghulam Ahmad  
 Lisa Allen  
 Donald Balley  
 Josephine Banks  
 Kitti Canepi  
 Clara Chu  
 Joyce Dabielson  
 Helen Dunn  
 Deva Eswara – Reddy  
 Rosemary Franklin  
 Doris Gebel  
 Jason Hannawalt  
 Dick Kawooya  
 Sean Knowlton  
 Rhonda Lorenz  
 Angela Margerum  
 Judy Marsh  
 Kristin McDonough  
 Rebecca Rhodes  
 Marlene Rotunda  
 Lora Shinn  
 Jayme Spencer  
 Candace Vasquez  
 Linda Whitaker  
 Joseph Wojtowicz

## *Report from the International Relations Committee*

By Nancy John, Chair

**ALA IRC Planning.** The International Relations Planning Document, 2000-2005 was reviewed by the new IRC International Relations Planning Group which consists of IRC representatives from ALA's other divisions. The group identified from the planning document a couple of priorities for the upcoming year that would have impact across the association: 1) identifying publications, mainly standards and guidelines from ALA that can be translated into other languages; 2) publicizing the Global Reach database; and 3) Reviewing the planning document.

**Afghanistan.** The Near East and South Asia Subcommittee is considering what ALA should be doing. Those with interest in helping Afghanistan to recover its lost libraries and to strengthen its collections can contact the IRO.

**Cuba.** Also at IFLA, ALA signed the Protocol to Cooperate with ASCUBI (the Cuban Library Association) – a document that Council saw last summer. The IRC Subcommittee on Latin American and the Caribbean is developing the detailed action plan that will improve libraries, librarians and library education in both the U.S. and Cuba. Regular contact with ASCUBI has been established.

**Mexico.** Despite the widespread reluctance of Americans to travel, 165 ALA members attended the Guadalajara Book Fair in November 2001, with \$100 travel grants from ALA matched 4-1 by the organizers of the Feria del Libro, Guadalajara. 103 libraries, primarily public and academic, from twenty-eight states were represented. Nearly \$900,000 will be spent buying approximately \$1.6 million worth of materials, given the attractive on-site discounts.

**Zimbabwe.** The financial situation at ALA as well as the political situation in Zimbabwe means that ALA participation in the Zimbabwe Book Fair is unlikely in 2002. This program has had enormous impact on the diversity of U.S. library collections, increased availability of materials, and the number of libraries participating in the program.

