



International Leads

A Publication of the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association

Volume 16

September 2002

Number 3

In May 2002, I visited Kabul, Afghanistan, as a team member of my husband's reconstruction project. This is the first of several visits that I hope to make in the coming years. My husband is in weekly contact with those in Kabul and travels there regularly. The recent death of the Vice Minister in June 2002 has further de-stabilized the country.

Recent estimates of Kabul's size were placed at fifteen million, though with refugees returning daily that number

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New Mexico State Library

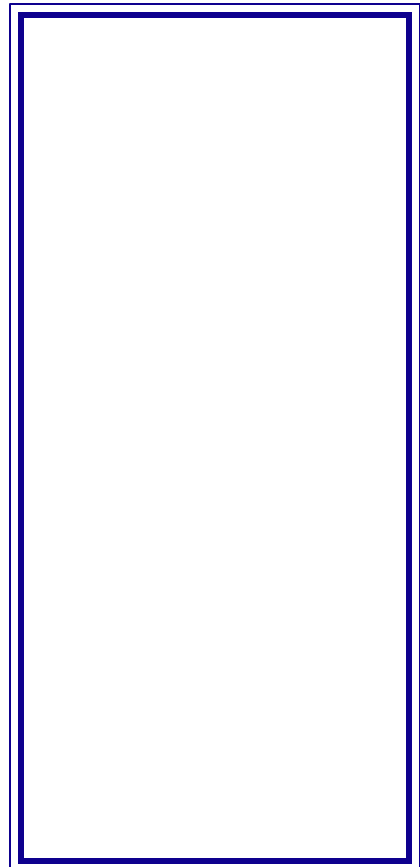
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Message from the IRRT Chair

By **Karen J. Starr**

A year ago, all of us were at our desks conducting business as usual when the September 11 event occurred that changed lives and brought home the message that indeed this is a global world in which we live. What does all of this mean to us as librarians and, specifically, as Americans? How are Americans perceived by others in the world? What can we do as librarians to create an atmosphere of collaboration and understanding that changes perceptions and opens up healthy dialogue? The IRRT membership of nearly 1,000 American and international librarians provides us with opportunities to become involved in our global society as peers and colleagues.

At each ALA meeting, the IRRT Program Subcommittee sponsors an open program on international issues for the ALA membership. During this past year, the chair of the subcommittee, Aremis Kirk along with the subcommittee members, asked themselves just these questions about September 11, how do people view Americans and what are the experiences of American librarians working in areas of the world rift with conflict. At the ALA Annual in Atlanta, the subcommittee invited Ambassador Robert Gallucci of Georgetown University (read by Aremis Kirk), Fiona Hunt and Jane Birks from Zayed University of UAE, and Donna Switzer from State Department, to speak on international opportunities for librarians. They shared their observations and experience in the international arena.

A group of returned Peace Corps volunteers who are librarians are currently working together to create a sustainable library development interest group under the auspices

At the International Librarians reception held at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, Nancy R. John, immediate past-chair of the International Relations Committee, was presented the John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award. OCLC/Forest Press donated the cash award of \$1,000 that is given to an individual for significant contribution to international librarianship.

John is now Acting University Librarian at the University Library of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She received her MLS from UCLA and a B.A. in psychology from Stanford University. She became a faculty member at UIC in 1978. During her twenty-seven years as a member of ALA, John served as a chair of the International Relations Committee, past-president of the Association of Library Collection and Technical Services, chair of International Relations Round Table, and many other ALA committees. At the international arena, John served as a member, secretary, and chair on the IFLA Standing Committee on Cataloging, chair of Division of Bibliographic Control, the IFLA Professional Board, chair of the IFLA Committee on Copyright, member of the IFLA Executive Board, second vice-president in 1997-1999 and the first



vice-president in 1999-2001, and chair of the Conference Planning Committee. John is the first North American

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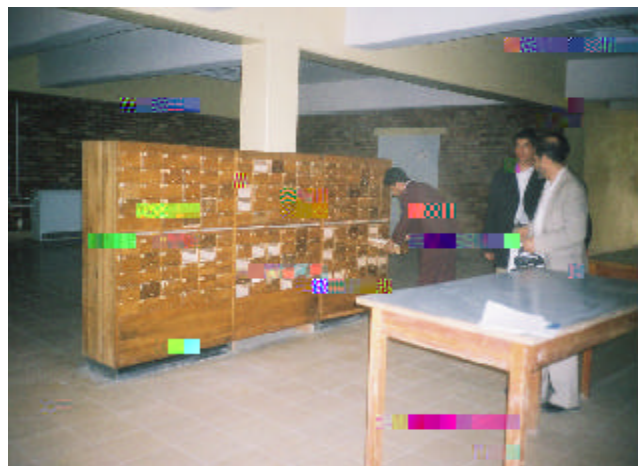
From ALA's International Desk **By Michael Dowling**

Changes at ALA

I wanted to let you know of some changes that have taken



“Mr. Nadshah’s greatest need is for catalogers to help him in getting materials cataloged and processed to go out to both the main library and satellite libraries.”



Report from the International Relations Committee

By Nancy John, Chair

The library has made about 1,600 identification cards for students for the incoming class of fall 2002. They will be free. Each student must have four identification cards: 1. the name of the student, first name only, since there are no family names; 2. one with the last name or if no last name, then 3. a

Bombed building in Kabul
(Photo: Rosemary Talab, June 2002)

International Relations Office

American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611 USA

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PERMIT NUMBER 3226
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