

# american libraries

September 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Welcome to*  
**Wrocław**

— IFLA WLIC 2017 —



**Presidential  
Citations**

p. 12

**ALA Visits  
Cuba**

p. 20

**Leadership  
Training in Africa**

p. 27



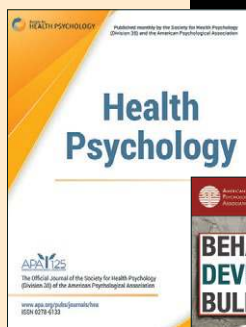
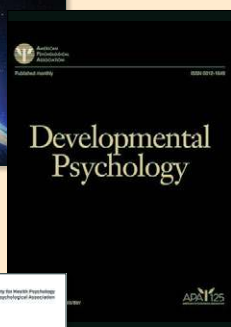
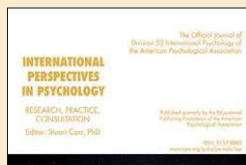


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## 12 **ALA Presidential Citations**

Recognizing innovation around the world

BY Delin Guerra

## 2 **From the President**

We Are Virtual, Virtuoso, and Virtuous

BY Jim Neal

## 3 **Networking and Learning in the Middle East**

The SIBF/ALA Library Conference

BY Michael Dowling and Mary Mackay

## 4 **Welcome to Wrocław**

IFLA's 2017 WLIC, steeped in history, looks to the future

BY Terra Dankowski

## 16 **An American Librarian Abroad**

A Fulbright Scholar's experiences in Ethiopia

BY Joan Petit

## 18 **Changing Perspectives through Exchange**

The IFLA IMLS fellowship and mentoring program

## 20 **ALA in Cuba**

American librarians explore the profession 90 miles from US shores

BY Barbara Conaty

## 22 **Connect with Colleagues from Around the World**

Join these ALA members

## 24 **Project Welcome**

Libraries planning for resettlement and integration of refugees

BY Michael Dowling

## 27 **PLA in Africa**

Collaborating on global library leadership training

BY Mary Hirsh

## 28 **Acceptance and Inclusion**

A library transforming community in Canada

BY Amanda Wilk

## 30 **Building an RDA Region**

The European RDA Interest Group is the first of a proposed six

BY Ahava Cohen and Alan Danskin

## 32 **Join Us in New Orleans**

The 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition

## 34 **New Titles from ALA**

ALA covers everything from design to marketing to youth programming

## 36 **Guadalajara International Book Fair**

The largest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world

BY Delin Guerra

## ADVERTISER INDEX

American Psychological Association Cover 2 | Recorded Books Cover 4 | San José State University 19 | American Library Association *American Libraries* 17  
JobLIST 11 | Resource Description and Access Cover 3

# We Are Virtual, Virtuoso, and Virtuous



**Jim Neal**  
2017-2018  
ALA president

It is a privilege and honor to serve as president of the American Library Association (ALA). I welcome you to the 2017 edition of *American Libraries*' international supplement.

I have advanced the vision: We Dare ... to Be Bold, Courageous, and Challenging. My vision projects that we are: virtual, engaged with users and in communities in ever more rigorous and effective ways; we are virtuoso, experts and always ready to learn; and we are virtuous, radically collaborative, focused on social justice, and always working in the public interest. This vitality and the impact of libraries around the world will require a collective commitment to action and transformation. Now is the time for an outward view and a global perspective.

ALA is advancing four strategic directions under the banner Libraries Transform, Libraries Lead. We share these priorities with libraries and information workers around the world.

**Advocacy:** ALA works with libraries, the library community, and the public to advocate for the value of libraries and public support for libraries of all types at the local, state, federal, and international levels.

**Information policy:** Information policy comprises laws, regulations, court decisions, doctrines, executive orders, and other decisions and practices related to information creation, storage, access, preservation, communication, accessibility, and dissemination.

**Professional and leadership development:** We recognize that professional development is essential to high-quality practice and service and to the future success, impact, and relevance of libraries.

**Equity, diversity, and inclusion:** We are committed to and instrumental in creating a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive world. It impacts all aspects of our work, within librarianship and the communities we serve.

You will read in this issue articles covering a variety of topics, including relations with libraries in Cuba, an ALA member in Ethiopia, our work with immigrant and refugee communities, and the international expansion of RDA.

I look forward to meeting you at the 2017 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Wrocław, Poland, in August. I hope to see you at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver in January and our Annual Conference in New Orleans in June. ALA celebrates its members and colleagues throughout the world. Our work as a global community of libraries helps us to better engage and empower our world. It enables us to be more effective agents of positive change. ■

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better engage  
and empower  
our world.

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# Networking and Learning in the Middle East

## The SIBF/ALA Library Conference

BY Michael Dowling  
and Mary Mackay

Librarians from across the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf (MENA) gathered at the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the third annual SIBF/American Library Association (ALA) Library Conference, November 8–10, 2016. Approximately 350 librarians participated in programs, training, and networking in both Arabic and English over three days, giving them a chance to learn from international experts from both the MENA region and the US.

Then-ALA President Julie B. Todaro opened the conference with an update on ALA's Libraries Transform campaign, stressing library transformation as essential to the communities libraries serve. Miguel Figueroa, director of the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries, provided the second day's keynote on the importance of exploring trends and signals around us and how they point to preferable futures for our work.

"The Sharjah International Book Fair/ALA Library Conference is an excellent reminder of the many futures libraries and information professionals will help create for their communities," Figueroa says.

The conference offered interactive programming, with in-depth facilitated discussions that addressed how to build stronger library associations in the MENA region; the importance of research impact and writing; and successes, struggles, and challenges in school libraries and with reading initiatives. Other conference highlights



The Networking Library Lounge at the Sharjah International Book Fair/American Library Association Library Conference.

included a poster session with 20 participants and a location within SIBF that allowed attendees to combine professional development with acquiring materials for their libraries.

With the tagline "Read More," the 35th SIBF drew a record-breaking 2.3 million visitors who reviewed and bought books and materials from 1,681 publishing houses representing 60 countries. Approximately 1.5 million titles were available for purchase. The Librarians' Lounge (sponsored by SIBF and library-related companies) was a popular spot for informal networking and information about new products and services.

### Looking ahead

The fourth annual SIBF/ALA Library Conference, November 7–9, will feature even more professional develop-

ment opportunities. The conference will offer two full days of productive continuing education, networking with colleagues, and opportunities to share ideas in formal and informal settings with experts.

ALA President Jim Neal and Sohair Wastawy, executive director of Qatar National Library, will each deliver keynotes. Neal's talk is aptly titled, "Libraries Transform—Libraries Lead—Libraries Fight," while Wastawy will map out the road ahead with "Libraries in the MENA Region Moving Forward: From Tradition to Transformation."

Interested in attending the 2017 SIBF/ALA Library Conference? Register at [sibfala.com/registration](http://sibfala.com/registration). ■

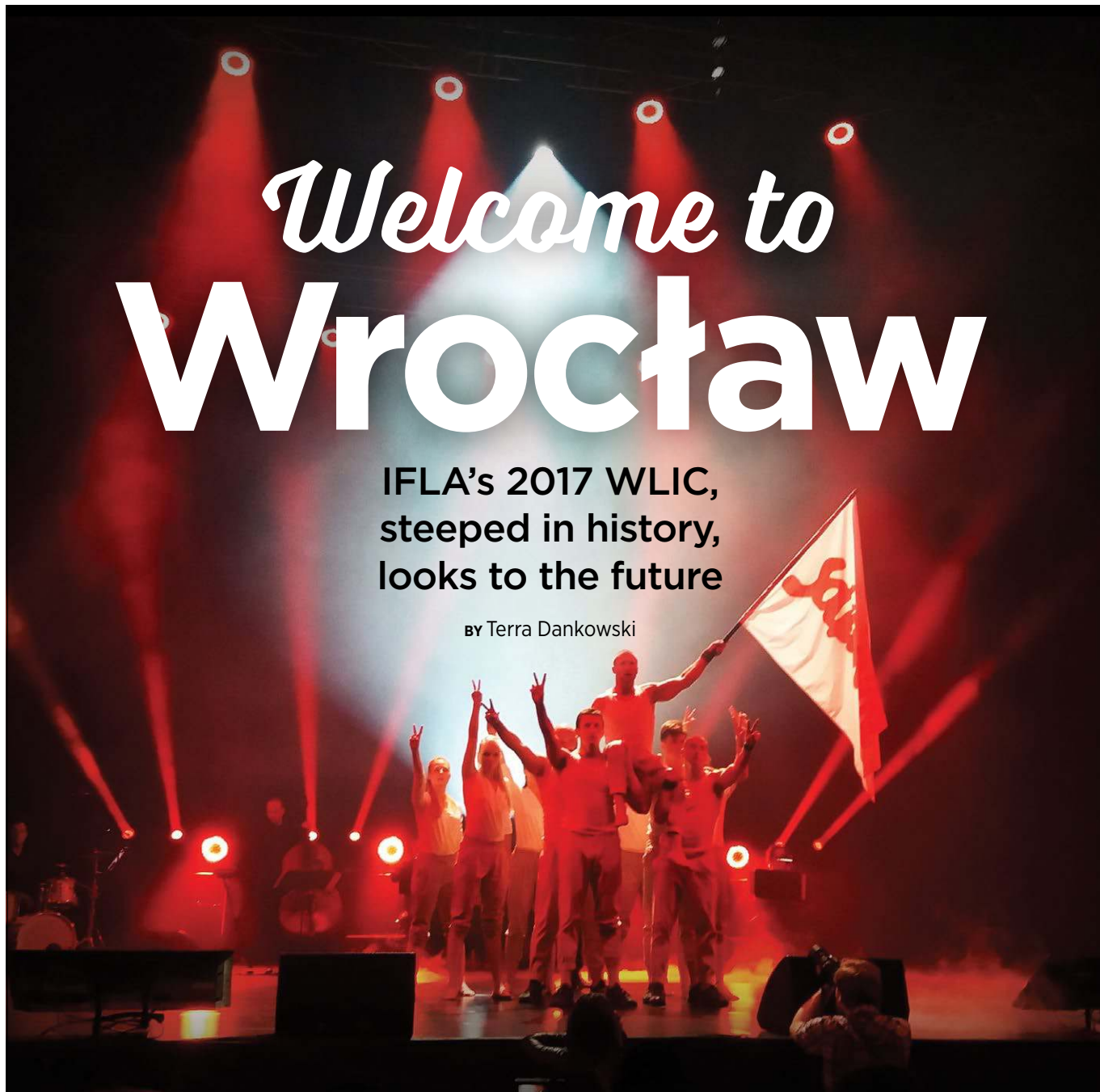
**MICHAEL DOWLING** is director of ALA's International Relations Office. **MARY MACKAY** is ALA associate executive director for publishing.



# *Welcome to* **Wrocław**

**IFLA's 2017 WLIC,  
steeped in history,  
looks to the future**

BY Terra Dankowski



**A**rchitectural landmark Centennial Hall in Wrocław, Poland, has hosted World Games athletes, Pope John Paul II, and the Dalai Lama. Now add to that list 3,000 library professionals representing 120 countries.

"It is time for you, at this conference, to engage and explore," said Donna Scheeder, president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), to the crowd gathered for the Opening Session of the 2017 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) on August 20. "I'm sure among this group is a future IFLA president somewhere."

Speakers seemed to agree that Wrocław and Poland, a city and a country that have seen their share of political upheaval, wartime destruction, natural disaster, reinvention, and recovery, would provide an inspiring backdrop for this type of professional engagement and exploration.

"[It's] a nation undaunted by adversity," Richard

Butterwick-Pawlikowski, professor of Polish-Lithuanian history at University College London, impressed upon the crowd. He began his keynote presentation with a question: "Where were you going, Poland, before you were so rudely interrupted?"

Butterwick-Pawlikowski recounted the many times throughout history (starting with the 16th century) that Poland—often suffering under "the prejudice that democracy 'came late' to Eastern Europe"—was ahead of its time with regard to women's rights, neutralizing the nobility, and governmental checks and balances, but kept getting deterred. "The context always changes after an interruption," he said.

One of those interruptions was World War II, in which Poland lost 70% of all its library collections. "This loss is unequaled in modern history," said Tomasz Makowski, director of the National Library of Poland in Warsaw. Today, Poland has 32,000 public, school, academic, and other types of libraries—about one for every 1,000 Polish residents—but Makowski says it's more important than ever to safeguard cultural materials in their diverse forms.

Underscoring the beauty, sadness, and resiliency of Poland's modern history, a group of local dancers, acrobats, musicians, and vocalists took to the stage at the Opening Session to artistically interpret other catalyzing events, including the Solidarność (Solidarity) social movement that advocated for workers' rights and the flood that devastated and unified Wrocław in 1997.

## IFLA looks to the future

"We will not be successful unless each of us makes an individual commitment to a joint response," said Scheeder. She sees opportunities for library professionals to collaborate on ideas to close the information inequality gap, for ways libraries can



**Richard  
Butterwick-Pawlikowski**



IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner shows a world map indicating the 140 countries that have so far participated in Global Vision discussions.

continue to contribute to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and for feedback regarding IFLA's own Global Vision discussions.

At the plenary session "5 Days in 45 Minutes," IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner launched the Library Map of the World, an online resource that aims to create awareness of the state of the libraries in the world, communicate basic metrics that describe the library landscape, demonstrate evidence of libraries' impact, and inspire more countries to collect and contribute data and stories. The map so far features data from 95 contributors reporting on 1.8 million libraries in 78 countries.

## Libraries overcoming crisis



**Iyra S. Buenrostro**

Day One illuminated adverse times in nations' histories with the session "Libraries in Times of Crisis: Historical Perspectives."

Among the presenters were Iyra S. Buenrostro, PhD candidate at Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and Johann Frederick A. Cabbab, assistant professor in

LIS at University of the Philippines Diliman, who shared with attendees the role that libraries had in fighting for people's freedoms and rights in response to martial law in the Philippines under dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

For instance, the main library at University of the Philippines Diliman served as a safe haven during martial law, circulating underground and antigovernment publications,

pamphlets, and handbills hidden in the “nooks and crannies” of the library or stashed secretly in the rare book section.

Other stories and studies shared included the destruction of the Széchenyi National Casino and its library in Budapest, Hungary; libraries affected by the ongoing Somali Civil War; the National Library of Iran in the War of the Cities during the Iran-Iraq War; and how the Rockefeller Foundation and American Library Association aided in the post–World War II rehabilitation of Asian and European libraries.

### Improving access for marginalized populations

The theme of inclusion pervaded the second day of the conference, with presenters sharing research and case studies framing the ways in which library professionals can improve access to information—especially for marginalized users, including indigenous populations.

“I think it’s very important that users see themselves in the library,” said Richard E. Sapon-White, catalog librarian at Oregon State University. For many, inclusion starts with subject access and bibliography. Sapon-White was on hand to discuss his paper, “Retrieving Oregon Indians from Obscurity: A Project to Enhance Access to Resources on Tribal History and Culture,” and the limitations of Library of Congress Subject Headings when it comes to classifying Indian tribes in the United States.

“There are about 45 or 50 Indian tribes that live or have lived in Oregon. You could search for a specific tribe by looking for topical headings,” he noted, but terminology can be problematic. For example, subject headings may include various misspellings, mispronunciations, or derogatory nicknames that were given to the tribe by other tribes or the government.

Siri K. Gaski and her team at the National Library of Norway are also hoping to give researchers better access to resources on a specific indigenous population: the Sami people, who live in an area of Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden known as the Sápmi region.

“It’s a nation without borders,” said Gaski, who estimates there are between 50,000 and 500,000 people who identify as Sami. “It’s hard to say because of politics and assimilation.”

The National Library of Norway is coordinating a joint bibliography with the Rovaniemi City Library in Finland, the Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library in

Russia, and Ájtte, the Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum, to centralize searching and information. The bibliography, which launched this year in English and the most commonly spoken Sami dialect, is managed on the BIBSYS platform.

“The ideal here would be that we’d be able to present it in all the majority languages and all the Sami languages,” said Gaski. “We decided it’s better to be able to release something that’s good enough now than wait at least another 20 years for something to be perfect.”

### LGBTQ inclusivity

Is your library a safe space for LGBTQ users? Are the stories of LGBTQ people represented in your collections? Are LGBTQ community members getting the information they need the most? These questions were top of mind at “Intersectionality: Libraries and the Intersection of LGBTQ+ Lives,” a session sponsored by the LGBTQ Users Special Interest Group.



Raymond Pun

Raymond Pun, first-year student success librarian at California State University, Fresno, focused his presentation on libraries that are adopting gender-all, gender-neutral, or gender-inclusive bathrooms or bathroom policies at their facilities.

“It’s really important to start having this dialogue with your communities,” said Pun. “Libraries

have a responsibility to provide patrons with a space where they’re not at risk.” He was quick to add, however, that the gender-bathroom issue is layered in cultural, political, social, and economic aspects that may be different for every library and its community.

Going beyond bathrooms, it’s important for members of the transgender community to feel like they have a voice, said Jeannie Bail, director of learning and research services at University of New Brunswick Libraries. Bail presented on the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, formally established in 2011 and the world’s largest and first archive entirely dedicated to material about trans and gender-nonconforming people. She remarked that libraries are underutilized as an information source for and by the transgender community.

“We know, as information professionals, that the deliberate distribution of misinformation existed long before the term *fake news*.”

GERALD BEASLEY, Carl A. Kroch university librarian at Cornell University



Martin Morris, librarian at McGill University in Montréal, addressed intersectionality in his presentation on the sexual health information needs of people who are both LGBTQ and deaf, and how the overlap or intersection of these social identities can exacerbate discrimination.

“Deaf people tend to have much more trust for visual information produced by other members of their own community who may not be experts in the field, who may provide inaccurate information,” said Morris. He says the reason for this is that our culture of audism (discrimination against deaf people) discourages and shames visual communication, and this is especially true when it comes to sexual health information.

A core finding of Morris’s research indicates there is a strong need for information, education, and visibility of HIV resources online and in American Sign Language to increase knowledge and build trust. He thinks that librarians can go beyond mere information requests, such as looking for opportunities to partner with the deaf LGBTQ community or just learning a few words in one of the more than 300 sign languages.

## Call for transparency

Questions of transparency and access were explored on the third day of the conference.

“Prior to 2010, the people of Kenya never used to engage with the government,” said Marale Sande, senior research and policy analyst at the Parliament of Kenya, in “[Parliament and the People: Transparency, Openness, and Engagement](#).”

In 2010, the country adopted a new constitution. Seven years later, the Parliament of Kenya is actively working to communicate governmental information to the public and involve community members through outreach and partnerships. These efforts have included exhibitions and trade fairs, an “open day” for the public during Parliamentary Week, public lectures at universities, and county visits.

Pablo Morales Peillard, economic coordinator at the Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile, spoke about how Chile’s national library created a budget data visualization tool in 2016 to make the national budget more accessible

and transparent to citizens. The tool, which is used both by citizens and legislators, aims to show how taxpayer money is being managed, provide parliamentarians with data for informed decisions, explain functions that government performs, and increase citizen participation in the political process. Morales Peillard said he thinks transparency will further governmental accountability, integrity, inclusiveness, trust, and quality.

## Libraries and fake news

“Are you willing to be the arbiter between what’s fake and what’s real?” asked Gerald Beasley, Carl A. Kroch university librarian at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, at “[Hot](#)

[Topics: Academic and Research Libraries](#).” “We know, as

information professionals, that the deliberate distribution of misinformation existed long before the term *fake news*,” he said. But he said it travels much further and faster now.

Librarians and LIS students had lively discussions as to what duty the library has to preserve false or disproved materials in the collections, what methods it should take to curate or annotate misinformation, and whether the library’s commitment to accuracy and transparency conflicts with a mission to stay neutral.

Beasley drew an interesting comparison: “Perhaps future historians will find fake news is harder to study than silent films are,” he said, as only about one-quarter of the silent films produced in the US have been preserved.

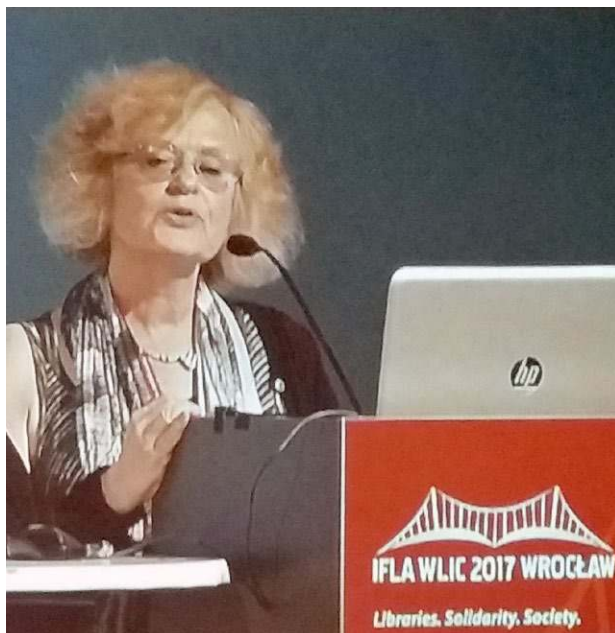


“How to Spot Fake News” poster published by IFLA in several languages.

## Sustainability and libraries

“[More Than Green](#)” was the theme of a community-of-practice session presented by the Environment, Sustainability, and Libraries Special Interest Group. The program explored what it means for public libraries to be sustainable and how their efforts can further the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In her session “[A Few Things Libraries Can Do about Climate Change](#),” Veerle Minner Van Neygen, a Madrid, Spain–based district manager for the [Climate Reality Project](#), warned of the environmental impacts of a warming Earth and highlighted a handful of mitigation efforts that libraries should pursue: reducing the library’s carbon footprint, building green collections, conserving energy, and being proactive about educating colleagues and patrons on climate change.



Plenary session speaker Ewa Bartnik, biologist and researcher at University of Warsaw, explained how librarians can fight science misinformation in the media.

Aside from a lack of awareness, she said misinformation and denial are also prevalent. Libraries can turn the tide by hosting programs and events to educate the community. The organization that she volunteers with, Climate Reality Project, offers live presentations free of charge, available in more than 100 countries. Many environmental films, such as Leonardo DiCaprio's *Before the Flood*, can be screened for free.

"I hope you will be convinced, when you get out of here, to start doing something," said Van Neygen.

One of the libraries out there "doing something" is the Vaggeryd Public Library in Sweden. The library installed a Green Corner with the purpose of providing information on sustainable development, said Library Manager Lo Claesson.

Vaggeryd is particularly creative in its approach to education. The library has hosted events where children make toys from recycled materials, educated patrons about superbugs, planned activities for Earth Hour, suggested alternatives to the waste created by Christmas decorations, and introduced the community to vegetarian and sustainably produced food.

The session closed with the announcement of IFLA's 2017 Green Library Award. First-place honors went to the Stadtbibliothek Bad Oldesloe in Germany, for its "Harvest Your City" program, a three-year sustainable library commitment that combines urban gardens with makerspaces and community building efforts.



Chris Hartgerink, PhD candidate at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, at the "Being Open About Open: Academic and Research Libraries, FAIFE, Copyright, and Other Legal Matters" session.

## Science misinformation in media

"Science reporting is very popular," Ewa Bartnik, biologist and researcher at University of Warsaw, told attendees at her plenary session, "True or False: Science in the Media." But with that popularity comes exaggerated discoveries, stories that overpromise findings, and the confusion between correlation and causation, she said.

Bartnik—who was awarded the Polish Association of Journalists' distinction of "most media-friendly scientist"—gave lighthearted, ripped-from-the-headlines examples of lurid claims and misinformation that even high-profile media outlets like *The Economist* and *Wall Street Journal* are guilty of publishing.

What can libraries do, Bartnik asked, in an era where everyone thinks they're a scientist thanks to the "University of Dr. Google"? Direct patrons to credible science blogs and videos, and recommend good, simple books on science for patrons—including children.

## Making scholarly research accessible to all

Chris Hartgerink, PhD candidate at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, wants to upend the current system of academic publishing.

"The legacy of the paper era is two opposing forces: what's good for science and what's good for the people who commu-



nicate science,” he told attendees at the “Being Open about Open: Academic and Research Libraries, FAIFE, Copyright, and Other Legal Matters” session.

“The paper era is done for; it’s been dead for several years,” and the problems with scholarly research are many, declared Hartgerink—paywalls and inaccessibility, nontransparency, redundancy, and impact score, to name a few. “We have these duct-taped solutions, we have all these elements inside the paper that want to break out,” he said. “If we reshape how we communicate we can make science much more efficient.”

Hartgerink was calling for no less than a revolution—not just open access but a remodeling of the academic publishing process, so that each part of the paper is “seen as a bigger network,” everything is made accessible to everyone in the world via peer-to-peer networks, and the stages of research initiate the research of others.

“Publish or perish has not lost much momentum,” said Reggie Raju, deputy director of user services at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, who stressed the practical applications of accessible resources. Expensive textbooks are a barrier to education in South Africa, a nation where 54% of people live below the poverty line and 60% of college students drop out of school, mostly because of cost.

“Open access textbooks address the challenging issue of decolonization,” said Raju.

## Spaces designed for everyone

The “Public Libraries as Place Makers in Today’s Cities: Urban Development, Resiliency, and Social Equity in Metropolitan Libraries” session discussed a different kind of openness and accessibility—making sure the library’s physical space is one that welcomes all.

For Steve Dickson, senior director at FaulknerBrowns Architects, the firm that designed *The Word: National Centre for the Written Word* in South Shields, UK, that accessibility started when it was decided to plan the town’s new layout around a centrally located library.

“People thought we were mad leading with a library as the main building,” said Dickson. “It was a great and visionary approach.”

The idea behind the National Centre for the Written Word was to create a “democratic space” that promoted community connectivity and content creation. The library contains spaces for sharing, gathering, meetings, and contemplation, as well as a fab lab, play area, IT studio, local history section, Skype room, TV and sound studio, and terraces.

“It’s the sense of belonging that makes you come back, and we call that humancentric design,” said Dickson. “When you get a 13,000% increase in teenage membership, you’re doing something right.”

The Free Library of Philadelphia is another example of a library transforming its space to make facilities and services



Steve Dickson, senior director at FaulknerBrowns Architects, showcases the National Centre for the Written Word in South Shields, UK, at “Public Libraries as Place Makers in Today’s Cities: Urban Development, Resiliency, and Social Equity in Metropolitan Libraries.”



The Malaysia delegation, who will host the World Library and Information Congress next year in Kuala Lumpur, takes the stage alongside IFLA President Donna Scheeder and Secretary General Gerald Leitner at the Closing Session.

more accessible and equitable—in this case, for the younger set. Data Strategy and Evaluation Administrator Joel Nichols and Chief of Youth Services Christine Caputo presented “*Making Space with Play: Designing and Evaluating Early Childhood Library Playspaces*,” an initiative their library is piloting at three branches.

“In Philadelphia, we don’t have a lot of free spaces where kids can play,” said Caputo. “Play is the work of children. This is how they engage with the world, this is how they learn.”

At each library, both children and parents were asked what they envisioned for the play areas. Kids were asked to construct their ideas by building them with cardboard and fill out Mad Libs–style story prompts to describe their ideal space. Adults were asked to respond to a survey. Much of what kids and parents wanted aligned: a bright, big, and active area with sections for art, reading, storytelling, and pretending.

### Countdown to Kuala Lumpur

“There is no truly sustainable development without access to information, and no meaningful, inclusive access to information without libraries,” Scheeder told the delegation at the Closing Session.

Scheeder, addressing the crowd for the last time as president before Glòria Pérez-Salmerón’s term begins, emphasized the organization’s commitment to supporting the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strengthening regional strategy during her term.

“I never imagined we would travel so far together, so fast,” she said. “You create the kind of change that you want to see for your libraries and yourselves.”

Datuk Rashidi bin Hasbullah, deputy secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture for Malaysia, was on hand to promote the 2018 IFLA WLIC, to be held in Kuala Lumpur. “It is exactly one year from today,” he said to applause. “I’m very positive that the WLIC in Malaysia will continue the same tradition, and we’ll show you that Malaysia can offer the best meeting experience to all delegates.”

The location for the 2019 IFLA WLIC was not announced at the Closing Session. The IFLA governing board is giving candidates more time to develop their bids, and an announcement is expected by the end of 2017.

### Do widzenia, Wrocław

Leitner announced that the conference was attended by more than 3,000 people, and more than 23,000 tuned in to the livestream.

The Polish National Committee thanked the delegation for making the trip. Wrocław Mayor Rafał Dutkiewicz professed his own commitment to multiculturalism and the importance of organizations like IFLA. “I deeply hate everything that is connected with nationalism,” he said to a crowd representing 120 countries, to a standing ovation.

See our full coverage at [bit.ly/alwlic2017](http://bit.ly/alwlic2017). ■

**TERRA DANKOWSKI** is an associate editor for *American Libraries*.



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# ALA Presidential Citations

Recognizing innovation around the world

BY Delin Guerra

Three libraries have been awarded American Library Association (ALA) Presidential Citations for Innovative International Library Projects for 2017. Presented by the International Relations Round Table (IRRT), the awards recognize exemplary services and projects that draw attention to the potential for library services to create positive change, demonstrate sustainability, and provide a model for others.

The winners are:

- University of Alberta's Augustana Campus Library and the city of Camrose, Alberta, Canada
- Bibliotheekservice Fryslân in the Netherlands
- Wellington County Library in Ontario, Canada

The recipients were selected by a team of IRRT members in consultation with then-ALA President Julie B. Todaro, who recognized them at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago during the IRRT International Librarians Reception.

According to Buenaventura "Ven" Basco and Bill Teichert, cochair of the selection committee, "These projects, nominated by members of the international library community, demonstrate innovative and sustainable approaches of libraries worldwide."

The ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects began as an initiative of former ALA President Lorlene Roy (2007–2008). IRRT is an ALA round table with a mission to develop the interests of librarians in activities and problems in the field of international library relations. ■

**DELIN GUERRA** is program officer in the ALA International Relations Office.

The University of Alberta's  
Augustana Campus Library and the  
city of Camrose, Alberta, Canada

## Augustana Human Library

Putting a human face to prejudice and discrimination challenges people to think differently and to therefore, hopefully, support and advocate for the most accepting environment possible for all. The Augustana Human Library, a collaborative project between the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus Library and the city of Camrose, seeks to address all forms of intolerance rooted in sexual, gender, racial, cultural, or religious differences to inspire empathy and care for all persons.



Photos: University of Alberta's Augustana Campus Library

### NOMINATE A PROJECT

Interested in nominating a project for 2018? The deadline for nominations is **January 1. Nominations must be submitted online at [bit.ly/2go5xBf](http://bit.ly/2go5xBf).**





## A Human Library provides opportunities for people to talk with those who have been recipients of hate-filled and hurtful behaviors.

A Human Library provides opportunities for people to talk with those who have been recipients of hate-filled and hurtful behaviors. These “human books” share their firsthand experience with “readers.” At the Augustana Human Library, one human book may speak about racial intolerance and the isolation of being a minority. Another may speak to the transphobia experienced by a transgender athlete in community sports. An atheist may speak about what it is like to live in a Christian community, under the quiet, or perhaps not so quiet, feeling of judgment.

The Augustana Human Library has been designed and modified to be sustainable and can serve as a model for libraries of all types. While Human Libraries are becoming more popular, it is rare that any one library or institution does more than one or two events. The Augustana Human Library is now considered part of the Univer-

sity of Alberta’s Augustana campus’s culture and is highly anticipated. The library has received requests from libraries all over the world asking for assistance in planning a Human Library

event, and it is committed to the free sharing of planning documents, promotional materials, registration, and orientation of human books.

Karlyn Crowley, professor of English and women’s and gender studies and director of the Cassandra Voss Center at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, says, “The Human Library and Augustana head librarian Nancy Goebel were instrumental in us starting our own Human Library.” Crowley says it is “a model for others.” ●



Top: “Human books” are displayed at Augustana Campus Library. Bottom: Human book “Dancing on the Sun” (second from right) converses with readers on the experience of being intersex.

Bibliotheekservice Fryslân, Netherlands

# FryskLab

**F**ryskLab is an initiative of Bibliotheekservice Fryslân (BSF) in Friesland, a rural province in the Netherlands.

Europe's first mobile library fabrication laboratory (fab lab), FryskLab started in January 2014, after BSF noticed that libraries, especially in the US, were having success with fab labs and makerspaces.

FryskLab uses the fab lab model to bring 21st-century skills to primary and secondary schools. Fab labs are intended to be open but structured creative communities of fabricators, artists, scientists, engineers, educators, students, amateurs, and professionals of all ages. There are currently more than 1,000 fab labs worldwide.

Housed in a former bookmobile truck, FryskLab provides technology, training, and support for users. It is equipped with digital fabrication tools including a 3D printer and scanner, laser and vinyl cutters, a



FryskLab is a makerspace housed in a former bookmobile.

3Doodler pen, and assorted tools. FryskLab can comfortably host groups of 10–12 adults or 15–20 kids or teens.

“With our mobile lab, we want to contribute to the innovative capacity of the province,” explains Aan Kootstra, digital domain specialist and lab manager at BSF.

“Machines are becoming more affordable and available to citizens. Libraries can play a major role in familiarizing them with this technology.” ●



“With our mobile lab, we want to contribute to the innovative capacity of the province.”

**AAN KOOTSTRA**, digital domain specialist and lab manager at Bibliotheekservice Fryslân



Wellington County (Ont.) Library

# The Rural Internet Hotspot Lending Programme

In March 2016, the Rural Internet Hotspot Lending Programme was launched to provide internet hotspots to residents served by 14 branches within the rural Wellington County (Ont.) Library system.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) estimates that around 18% of the Canadian population does not have access to high-speed connections. While internet access is widely available in most towns and villages, those living in rural areas have limited or no access to a high-speed connection.

Wellington County Library received a two-year, \$175,000 grant from the Ontario Libraries Capacity Fund for Research and Innovation from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. The library system leveraged the county government's internet agreement with an ISP to fund 70 hotspots that adult library members across the



Around 18% of the Canadian population does not have access to high-speed connections.

system can borrow for seven days. The hotspots allow for the connection of 15 devices to one hub.

The library regularly has a six- to eight-week waiting list for the hotspot devices. The program's popularity led the library to acquire 28 more for \$17,000.

The project has garnered public attention and interest from the media, politicians, and other institutions. Wellington County Library staffers regularly provide advice to neighboring libraries on how to institute such a program.

"Libraries continue to explore ways to introduce or expand this service in their communities," says Jessica Veldman, an information services librarian who leads the program at Wellington County Library.

"The success of our program here and the growing discussion of issues of access is all indicative of the continued need for this service in our communities." ●





Joan Petit's first-year information science graduate students at Jimma University in Ethiopia.

## An American Librarian Abroad

A Fulbright Scholar's experiences in Ethiopia

By Joan Petit

Ethiopia is one of the world's oldest countries, with a manuscript tradition centered on the Ethiopian Orthodox Church that dates back centuries. Ethiopia is also one of the world's poorest countries, with a literacy rate of about 40%. But in recent years the economy has been booming, and the government has been making significant investments in higher education. In the late 1990s, Ethiopia had 20,000 students on two university campuses. Today there are more than 780,000 students on dozens of campuses throughout the country.

Over the past year, while on sabbatical from my position at Portland

(Oreg.) State University Library, I had the privilege of serving as a Fulbright Scholar in the department of information science at Jimma University in Jimma, Ethiopia. I had contacted a few different Ethiopian universities hoping to garner an invitation to join their faculty, and Jimma University was enthusiastic about welcoming an experienced librarian to teach.

Jimma is a regional capital with a population of about 178,000 and is a



Joan Petit

major center for coffee production. Jimma University has 50,000 students and counting. With this growth comes opportunities for young Ethiopians, but it also presents significant challenges for universities, especially regarding staffing classrooms with qualified instructors. Currently

there are no PhD programs in information or library science in Ethiopia, and bachelor and master of science classes are taught primarily by instructors with master's degrees, supplemented by

My primary responsibility was teaching 18 first-year information science graduate students whose aspirations included earning PhDs, teaching, and working in libraries.

instructors from India, Nigeria, the Philippines, and elsewhere.

My primary responsibility was teaching 18 first-year information science graduate students whose aspirations included earning PhDs, teaching, and working in libraries. They came from throughout Ethiopia, and many have worked as teachers and in libraries; about half were working full time at the university when I was enrolled in school. I was able to travel to other campuses to present guest lectures on librarianship, open access, and open educational resources, and participate in programs at Jimma Public Library.

My family and I arrived in Jimma in September 2016, just a few weeks after major protests throughout the country disrupted daily life and delayed the start of classes. The political and social

upheaval created a great deal of tension and uncertainty. As part of the state of emergency, the government, which runs telecommunications, limited social media access and cut off internet access via mobile phones for several months. Bandwidth is quite limited in Ethiopia; without mobile data, the only way to access email and the internet was on a university campus (limited only to students, staff, and faculty) or in hotels (prohibitively expensive for most Ethiopians).

After a few weeks' delay, I began teaching advanced information science. Higher education in Ethiopia is conducted in English, with British textbooks supplemented by articles relevant to Ethiopian library and information science. I also taught research methods, using a book from the Open Textbook Network, and advanced management,

using an American textbook. With the exception of the online textbook, I brought my classroom materials with me from the US.

The department shared syllabi with me and encouraged me to update them and add insights. I spent hours reading textbooks and articles and preparing lectures and assignments. I learned a great deal about teaching and about librarianship. I received my MLS in 2006 and have worked in libraries since 2004, but teaching at Jimma University renewed my appreciation for our field and its principles.

My professional life in Ethiopia was quite fulfilling, but daily living could be a challenge. Power and water outages were frequent. Most Fulbright Scholars are traditional teaching faculty with PhDs, but I would encourage American librarians interested in spending time overseas to review the awards catalog and requirements and consider applying. It was an incredible privilege to live in Ethiopia and teach its future library leaders. ■

**JOAN PETIT** is associate professor and communications and outreach librarian at Portland (Oreg.) State University.

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# Changing Perspectives through Exchange

The IFLA IMLS fellowship and mentoring program

**T**hanks to a \$50,000 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 50 US librarians were able to attend their first IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, in August 2016. A mentor-mentee program was created following the congress to help the fellows build on their experience by sustaining and amplifying their global professional engagement.

## A mentor and mentee case study

IFLA IMLS fellow Elizabeth Jean Brumfield, distance services librarian at Prairie View (Tex.) A&M University (PVAMU), has been mentored by Denice Adkins, associate professor at University of Missouri's School of Information Science and Learning Technologies. Through their interactions, they were able to view librarianship from each other's perspective.

Adkins's wealth of international experience includes a Fulbright scholarship to teach at the new master's degree program at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and presentations on information literacy, reading promotion, and school librarianship in Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua. She

has led study-abroad trips to Ireland, St. Lucia, and the UK, and visited LIS programs in Japan, Scotland, Spain, and Turkey.

A past president of Reforma, Adkins also presents research on information literacy, public libraries, and library service to Latino and underrepresented populations.

Brumfield obtained an MLIS and certificate of advanced studies after spending many years working as support staff in libraries. She is currently a librarian at PVAMU, one of nine historically black college and universities (HBCUs) in Texas. Prior to PVAMU, she worked at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She has been active in the American Library Association (ALA) and an executive board member of the Black Caucus of the ALA.

Brumfield works at PVAMU's Northwest Houston Center, a satellite campus where her primary responsibilities involve serving graduate and nontraditional students. To welcome students into the library, she hosts programs and guest speakers, book sales, and liter-



**Denice Adkins**



**Elizabeth Jean Brumfield**

acy sessions, and designs apps to help students and faculty explore PVAMU history and resources. Brumfield is also pursuing her PhD in educational

leadership at PVAMU. Her dissertation will focus on technology, educational gaming, and library anxiety among African-American students.

## University visits

Mentors and mentees were expected to connect at least once a month during the program, which lasted from November 2016 to September 2017. Adkins and Brumfield decided early on to look at diversity in the library profession and to discuss ways to improve disparities.

Brumfield shadowed Adkins at the University of Missouri while she performed various professional activities. Adkins, faculty, staff, and students were gracious with their time and shared valuable information on programming, curriculum development, and cultural activities. Brumfield lectured in Adkins's leadership for diversity in public libraries class, participated in library and information science curriculum committee and university faculty course evaluation meetings, and attended a student government speaker series on Latinos in higher education.

Adkins visited PVAMU during National Library Week in April, where

Through their interactions, Adkins and Brumfield were able to view librarianship from each other's perspective.

she was the guest speaker for a librarianship career panel presentation. Raquel Williams, reference and instruction librarian at PVAMU's Coleman Library, coordinated the session to introduce students of color to a career that is not taught in many HBCUs. More than 75 students attended. Adkins also visited Northwest Houston Center where she met Gin Chong, director of the executive MBA program, which includes a study abroad opportunity for students. She was impressed by the close connections between librarians and faculty and the strong student support throughout PVAMU's library facilities.

### Continuing the partnership in Poland

Adkins and Brumfield plan to share their experience during a poster session at the 2017 IFLA World Library and Infor-



Denice Adkins (left) and Elizabeth Jean Brumfield (far right) at an LIS curriculum committee meeting at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

mation Congress in Wrocław, Poland, August 19–25. Their poster, “IFLA Congress Mentorship Program: Reflections, Rewards, Future Goals,” will provide pictures and lessons learned, as well as the benefits of mentoring programs,

meeting new people, shared learning, and an opportunity to see librarianship in a new light. ■

*Denice Adkins and Elizabeth Jean Brumfield contributed to this story.*

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# ALA in Cuba

American librarians explore the profession 90 miles from US shores

BY Barbara Conaty

Thirty librarians from across the US traveled to Cuba February 10–17 to visit the Feria Internacional del Libro de La Habana (Havana International Book Fair) and other sites throughout the country. Former American Library Association (ALA) President Leslie Burger (2006–2007), who serves as chair of ALA's International Relations Committee, led the delegation. Asociación Cubana de Bibliotecarios (ASCUBI) and ALA organized the tour.

Cuba's Ministry of Culture administers the public library system, which includes Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí and about 300 provincial and municipal public libraries that serve a population of 11 million. Another 1,300 school libraries are administered by the Ministry of Education.

The group convened at the host library: the Biblioteca Pública Rubén Martínez Villena, housed in a centrally located building that held the US Embassy until 1960. Starting with an aperitif of mojitos, the group spoke with Library Director Regla Perea in a small garden outside the library where two magnolia trees, gifts from former US First Lady Michelle Obama, had been planted. Perea said that the greatest challenge facing the library today is acquiring and learning how to use appropriate technology while also integrating it into the community.

## Visiting the National Library

After a stop at a public library in Habana Vieja, the group visited Biblio-



Left: The ALA tour group listens as Nancy Coradin (center) translates the narrative about the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí in Havana (top).

teca Nacional de Cuba José Martí, an imposing structure on the Plaza de la Revolución. With a staff of 320 and 17 floors of space, the library has 4 million titles in its collection. Authors deposit copies of their works there, and government publishers are required to include one copy of all publications in

the library's collection. Among its array of services, the national library has a reading room devoted to services for the visually impaired, where staffers can scan and print any document and convert it to Braille or to audio format.

Because of Cuba's long reliance on the former Soviet Union for economic



support, there is a prominent Russian-language collection at the national library sponsored by Russkiy Mir Foundation, which promotes Russian culture and literature. With attractive exhibits and open shelving, this collection can be compared with the American Spaces program designed by the US State Department to provide foreign citizens with a window into American culture and values.

Margarita Bellas Vilariño, assistant director at the national library and president of ASCUBI, noted that the association has 3,400 members and is the largest library association in Latin America. ASCUBI was founded in 1986 and has chapters in many areas of the country. The chief goal is the professional development of its members, so it schedules its annual meeting to coincide with the book fair. Though relations with the US are strained, Cuba has many international partners. In 1994, Cuba was the first country in Latin America to host an IFLA World Library and Information Congress.

### Other libraries

The group's next stop was at Biblioteca Municipal de Trinidad, about 224 miles from Havana in the small city of Trinidad. The library is housed in a decaying mansion. Several rooms are unusable, including the children's room, which has been merged into the main reading room. The collection is not the strong point at Biblioteca Municipal de Trinidad; rather, it is the library's role as a community center. The library offers programs for public health, assistance to tourists, and



A hand-drawn poster promotes children's activities at Biblioteca Municipal de Trinidad.

children's story hours. There are 22 trained librarians working at the Biblioteca Municipal de Trinidad, but they work with limited resources. The US embargo prohibits delivery of books and educational material, even from willing donors, which severely affects the library.

The last stop on the tour was the town of Cienfuegos, affectionately called the Pearl of the South, and the home to French settlers in the 1800s. Biblioteca de Cienfuegos, located in a handsome 1879 building that once housed a lyceum, was established in 1962. The library is noted for its strong

local history collection, which includes a copy of every book published in or about the province. Library Director Neify Castellon Vega said that the bound newspapers in the collection are soon to be digitized to assure their survival for researchers. As at the national library, Biblioteca de Cienfuegos has a special reading room for patrons with visual impairments, a service initiated in Cuba at the library.

The ALA-sponsored tours to Cuba have allowed librarians from the US to learn about libraries in Cuba, the professionalism of their colleagues, and the challenges they face. It has also provided opportunities to create long-lasting connections that span wider than the 90 miles separating the two countries. ■

The ALA-sponsored tours to Cuba have provided opportunities to create long-lasting connections that span wider than the 90 miles separating the two countries.

**BARBARA CONATY** is a retired librarian who worked at the Library of Congress and with the US Foreign Service.



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Reference librarian at  
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**HAMAYOUN GHAFORI**

Deputy director of the American University of Afghanistan Library in Kabul

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# Project Welcome

## Libraries planning for resettlement and integration of refugees

by Michael Dowling

We are in the midst of the largest global migration since World War II. Sixty-five million people have been displaced worldwide, including more than 21 million considered refugees by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Images of refugees from Syria and various African countries risking their lives to escape to Europe flash across television and computer screens across the world. What has been less visible is the work that community anchors, individuals, and nonprofit organizations accomplish to assist new refugees and asylum seekers. Libraries worldwide play a significant role in welcoming and assisting these people.

Since 1975 the United States has accepted more than 3 million refugees. Despite current restrictions, more than 45,000 arrived between October 2016 and June 2017. The American Library Association (ALA) recognizes America's immigrants as strong and valuable members of the social fabric of this nation, and the Library Bill of Rights ([ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill](http://ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill)) states that a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

### Project Welcome

Project Welcome is a joint effort by ALA and the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Two ALA offices were involved in the project: the International Relations Office and the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services. The project was made



The North York Central Library branch of Toronto Public Library hosted a Syrian newcomers event to welcome its newest patrons.

possible with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Project Welcome is developing recommendations and an action agenda for libraries on information resources, services, training, and research needed to support the resettlement and integration of refugees and asylum seekers in the US. The project assesses current capacities and gaps in services by learning from others, including international colleagues and international and national governmental agencies.

The underlying principle of Project Welcome is that all are welcomed by and in libraries. Armed with an informed and strategic plan that includes the voices of refugees and asylum seekers, Project Welcome will strengthen the collective impact of libraries, community anchors, and refugee agencies to support resettlement and integration.

From May 2016 to January 2017, ALA and Mortenson Center staffers organized webinars, Twitter sessions, and in-person opportunities at conferences and meetings to share information about Project Welcome. The sessions helped to identify a focus and presenters for the Project Welcome Summit held on February 6 in Chicago.

### The summit

Seventy participants from the library community, UNHCR, refugee settlement organizations, and national and state-level refugee coordinators participated in the summit. This was the first national event that brought members of the library community together with those from the refugee service community. The summit could not have been held at a more apropos moment, as President Trump's first executive order prevent-

## Kansas City Reaches Out to Its Immigrant Population

Julie Robinson spent years working in community outreach as manager of Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library's (KCPL) Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas branch in the city's Westside neighborhood, which is home to a large immigrant population. Immigrants and refugees make up almost 7% of the city's population. When KCPL created a new division of its outreach department in 2014 to engage this community, Robinson was a natural choice to lead the department.

In her new role as Refugee and Immigrant Services (RIS) manager, Robinson helps the library serve immigrants and refugees from Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Mexico, Myanmar, Somalia, Vietnam, and Central and South American countries. Robinson initially faced challenges connecting with people with limited or no English-speaking skills, so she partnered with resettlement agencies, medical facilities, Kansas City Public Schools, social service agencies, and community groups to gain access to these populations. An advisory board was established to help reach immigrants and refugees and guide the programming and outreach activities.

Robinson was joined by two AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers in July 2015 to improve services and programming. KCPL's Immigrant Heritage



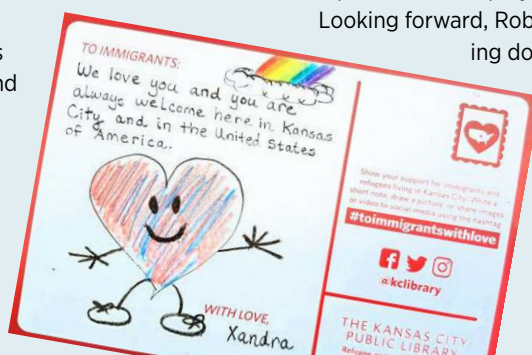
Julie Robinson

series began with a lecture on the H-1B non-immigrant visa, which allows US employers to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations. That was followed by immigrant restaurateurs who showcased their food at a reception. The final event that first year was a panel discussion among immigrants who came to the US by different paths and for different reasons. A January 2016 screening of the documentary *Refugee Kids: One Small School Takes on the World* drew 325 people—half of them immigrants. The final event in November 2016 was a naturalization ceremony for 110 applicants who became US citizens before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 600 people.

After rebranding RIS to RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment) to stress the library's commitment to refugee and immigrant rights, Robinson and the AmeriCorps volunteers implemented citizenship classes at two KCPL branches, offered digital storytelling programs for immigrant teens, and hosted a *#toimmigrantswithlove* event where more than 1,100 people wrote welcoming postcards, listened to stories about the immigrant experience, and promoted the event on their social media accounts using the hashtag. They also provided cultural competency training for library staffers and created a video that is now part of new employee orientation at KCPL.

Looking forward, Robinson is working on a welcoming document to assist KCPL staff in

ascertaining immigrants' and refugees' library needs. By 2018, KCPL will offer assistance to immigrants on their path to citizenship by having citizenship advocates in the library. ●



ing refugees from entering the US for 120 days and immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering for 90 days had just been halted by a federal judge.

### Learning from libraries outside the US

The summit began by looking outward to gather insight and perspectives from librarians in countries that have received

large numbers of refugees to see how they assist the newcomers to their communities. Sulekha Sathi, library service manager for the Agincourt branch of Toronto Public Library, and Anne

Barckow, manager of the department of intercultural services, languages, and education, at Hamburg Central Library in Germany, provided insights for their colleagues in the US.

Fifty-one percent of Toronto residents were born outside of Canada, and nearly 40,000 refugees from Syria have arrived in Canada, many of them settling in Toronto. To help connect with the new Syrian refugees, Toronto Public Library staffers visit refugees at hotels and other temporary housing locations to welcome them. The library has also created an introduction video to the library in 10 languages, including Arabic.

Hamburg, the second largest city in Germany, currently has 50,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Most are from the Middle East and West Asia. The Hamburg library works closely with the city's refugee office to help refugees settle, acclimate, and integrate. The library staff has implemented a working group for refugee projects. Among the many services the library provides are German-language classes called Dialog in Deutsch. The library also creates networking opportunities for refugees through group outings, exhibitions, and lectures.

### The US as resettlement destination

The sharing of information and knowledge between the refugee service community and the library community was the most important part of the summit. Librarians need to know more about the refugee resettlement process and what support refugees receive from other organizations. Anne-Marie McGranaghan, UNHCR associate resettlement officer, provided an overview of how the agency's global refugees program works. Ngoan Le, state refugee coordinator at the Illinois Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services, explained that in the 1980s

and 1990s, refugees came from only a few countries—today's refugees to the US come from more than 60 countries. Most of the librarians in the audience were unaware of how limited the US government support provided to refugees is. Reception and placement support lasts only 90 days. After that, refugees are essentially on their own.

### Support organizations

Presenters from resettlement agencies discussed the information needs of refugees and how libraries can help. These suggestions were familiar: books, including audiobooks in English and languages spoken by the refugees; computers; meeting spaces; English-language classes; job- and work-skills assistance; and guidance and orientation to community resources. And of course, a library card.

### A Project Welcome guide

Summit collaborators are creating *Project Welcome Guide: Public Libraries Serving Refugees* ([bit.ly/2v16NOx](http://bit.ly/2v16NOx)),

## A Refugee Becomes a Librarian

**T**ouger Vang is programming and outreach librarian at Yolo County (Calif.) Library. He was one of thousands of Hmong refugees who came to the US from Laos in the 1980s in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Vang told his story about how the library became an important part of his new life. Choosing to become a librarian, he is now helping other refugees. He emphasized that each culture is different, and libraries need to work to understand them as well as possible when creating and delivering services. What may work for one community may not be as successful with another. ●



Touger Vang speaking at the Project Welcome Summit in February.

which will provide ideas and resources for public libraries to serve refugees and inform all community members on issues affecting refugees. The guide will have sections on how to become knowledgeable about refugees, collaborate and partner, create community awareness, and provide services.

An inclusive and sustainable approach is the cornerstone of the guide. Libraries don't need to act alone. They can better serve and understand the needs of refugees by working with ethnic organizations and refugee community members. Project Welcome recommends an integrated service approach to address the needs of refugees and nonrefugees. This approach should strive to be multilingual and work with community engagement librarians; share information with relevant community organizations using email and diverse and appropriate media; and be inclusive, interactive, and engaging. ■

**MICHAEL DOWLING** is director of ALA's International Relations Office.



# PLA in Africa

## Collaborating on global library leadership training

BY Mary Hirsh

The Public Library Association (PLA) builds leaders through training and professional development opportunities. One primary way PLA supports these leaders is through the PLA Leadership Academy ([bit.ly/2uB8bKP](http://bit.ly/2uB8bKP)), a cornerstone training and professional development opportunity at the Association. Currently entering its fourth cycle, the academy was developed with support from an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant and in partnership with the International City/County Management Association. It offers an intensive, empowering, in-person event that focuses on small-group mentorship. Past participants have successfully introduced new services, received promotions, and integrated a community-focused mind-set into their work.

PLA recognizes that a connected library field is a strong library field. By sharing effective practices and working together to address common issues, libraries can leverage their resources for exponential impact. PLA provides training for leaders to make these connections through the academy and other networking opportunities.

All leadership activities are based on a leadership model ([bit.ly/2uBiJK7](http://bit.ly/2uBiJK7)) that emphasizes the library's role in addressing community issues and goals. To work in this way, libraries must have innovative and successful leaders who are able to place the library at the center of the community.



Above: African librarians at a leadership training event in Mahé, Seychelles. Right: Mary Hirsh (left), PLA deputy executive director for programs, meets with librarians at the training event.



Public libraries in the US are not unique in emphasizing a community-focused, networked orientation. Over the past year, PLA has partnered with an international coterie to explore these issues globally. With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, PLA is working with the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) to build public library leaders in Africa. Along with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), these organizations leverage knowledge, expertise, and existing assets to grow a pipeline of leaders across career stages. AfLIA is working

with each organization to develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to build leadership skills for librarians at various career stages, from entry to management level.

EIFL's Initiative for Young African Library Innovators (IYALI) introduces emerging leaders to experiences and ideas from other developing and transition-economy countries and provides opportunities to connect with the global library community. After site visits to libraries in Lithuania and Poland, 19 IYALI participants will attend the 2017 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Wrocław,

Continued on page 29 ▶



A scrimmage day featuring the Special Olympics Burlington team—and open to people of all abilities—was held in May.

## Acceptance and Inclusion

A library transforming community in Canada

BY Amanda Wilk

**B**urlington (Ont.) Public Library (BPL) is using engagement tools from the American Library Association's (ALA) Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change initiative to engage youth and community partners and empower them to create positive change. The initiative, which gives libraries the tools to bring disparate voices together to effect change, has allowed BPL to take a lead role in increasing acceptance and inclusion within Burlington and beyond.

After the 2016 US presidential election, BPL heard from teens who were

frightened, shaken, and without the agency to act. For many who were from a diverse culture or ethnicity, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, or simply had inclusive worldviews, this change in leadership created a deep sense of fear for themselves and those they knew living in the US.

Despite feeling powerless, the teens wanted to respond in a manner that would create positive and proactive change. In partnership with Jess Kiley, program coordinator at the Positive Space Network (PSN)—a Halton, Ontario-based agency that supports

LGBTQ+ youth, individuals, and families, and works to create a welcoming and supportive community—BPL planned an initial meeting among teens, library staff members, and key community partners.

Thirty people attended the first meeting, held less than two weeks after the election, including community representatives from the City of Burlington, the Burlington Inclusivity Advisory Committee, Halton Multicultural Connections, and PSN, and local high schools, as well as teens and library staff. Discussion was cofacilitated by BPL and PSN using

Photo: Special Olympics Burlington

## ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change initiative has allowed Burlington (Ont.) Public Library to take a lead role in increasing acceptance and inclusion within Burlington.

the Libraries Transform Community Conversation Workbook. Over the course of two hours, the beginnings of an action plan emerged.

A guiding focus of the meeting was creating a connected, friendly, diverse community that welcomes and reflects the views of everyone in Burlington. The five key strategies to accomplish this were:

1. encouraging conversation
2. modeling and marketing inclusion
3. sharing through culture and sport
4. sharing through experiential learning
5. increasing information literacy and awareness of world issues

Two additional meetings have been held since that first gathering, and more community partners have joined the collaborative, including the Halton Regional Police Service, Community Development Halton, North BurLINKton, the YMCA, and the Art Gallery of Burlington. The group added action items for achieving these strategies. Some key ideas emerged:

- a community festival for all ages and backgrounds, with hands-on activities that highlight diversity, such as how to wear a hijab or sari and paint a mehndi design
- creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and share their abilities and similarities
- starting a Humans of Burlington social media account to humanize

everyone in the community, tell their stories, and challenge stereotypes

- hosting a Special Olympics sports day where everyone of all abilities plays together
- focusing on improving world knowledge at a community level by highlighting the humanity of individuals in the community; for example, Syrian refugees could give firsthand perspective and insight to their experiences

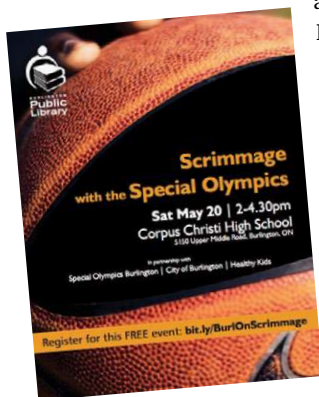
The group has already acted on many of these ideas, and the actions have not been limited to those run by the library. Two teens have developed a Humans of Burlington Instagram

account; Community Development Halton has started planning for an intergenerational diversity showcase event; the Special Olympics sports day took place on May 20; experiential, community hands-on activities are being organized in conjunction with Halton Multicultural Connections; and Commu-

nity Development Halton offered four multicultural sport and food events this summer.

Moving forward, BPL will continue to work with community members to engage and empower, allowing them to guide how the library will increase acceptance and inclusion in Burlington and beyond. ■

**AMANDA WILK** is community librarian for youth, at Burlington (Ont.) Public Library.



◀ Continued from page 27

Poland, in August. Participants are eager to hear different perspectives and engage with congress attendees formally and informally.

IFLA has a long history with AfLIA, supporting its strategic development and planning for the continent, including the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI). INELI participants are a bit further along in their careers than IYALI, and the program is centered on public librarians who can introduce innovative services to their communities. Currently, an INELI cohort of 32 librarians from sub-Saharan Africa is halfway through the two-year program. A new cohort will convene in June 2018.

Finally, PLA and AfLIA are partnering to bring leadership training ([bit.ly/2u1YeVvk](http://bit.ly/2u1YeVvk)) modeled on PLA's Leadership Academy to midcareer librarians. Staff and member-leaders from the two groups have been working together to identify sharable content elements, gaps, and modifications required for a successful training in Africa. AfLIA plans to launch a weeklong residential program for 12 leaders guided by three coaches in January 2018.

Through these partnerships and programs, AfLIA will build its capacity to serve its members, while increasing the level of public library service in Africa. The opportunity to work with AfLIA, EIFL, and IFLA on a global leadership portfolio has proved fruitful for PLA as well, providing an exciting opportunity to practice connecting with others to achieve greater impact, learn, and bring lessons back to PLA members. ■

**MARY HIRSH** is deputy executive director for programs, at PLA.



# Building an RDA Region

The European RDA Interest Group is the first of a proposed six

BY Ahava Cohen and Alan Danskin

**T**he European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) is the first of six proposed RDA regions to be constituted. It was established to:

- promote the common professional interests of all users and potential users of RDA: Resource Description and Access in Europe
- provide a forum in which current and prospective European users of RDA can participate
- encourage and promote cooperation, communication, and the exchange of experience among current and prospective users to facilitate implementation of RDA in Europe
- disseminate information and coordinate development of RDA according to the bibliographic needs of European libraries and users by working closely with the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)
- encourage and promote cooperation in the translation of RDA into European languages by the exchange of experience

EURIG is a light-touch membership organization that does not charge a membership fee or have any power over members. At the time of its inaugural meeting in 2011, EURIG had 26 members from 16 countries; membership now stands at 42 members from 26 countries.

## Membership

Geographically, EURIG spans Europe from Portugal to Turkey and from Iceland to Israel. From its inception, EURIG's ethos has been inclusive: Members come mainly from national

libraries and bibliographic agencies, but there are no restrictions against how many institutions can join from any country. Membership does not depend on implementing RDA, but there is an assumption that members will eventually adopt it.

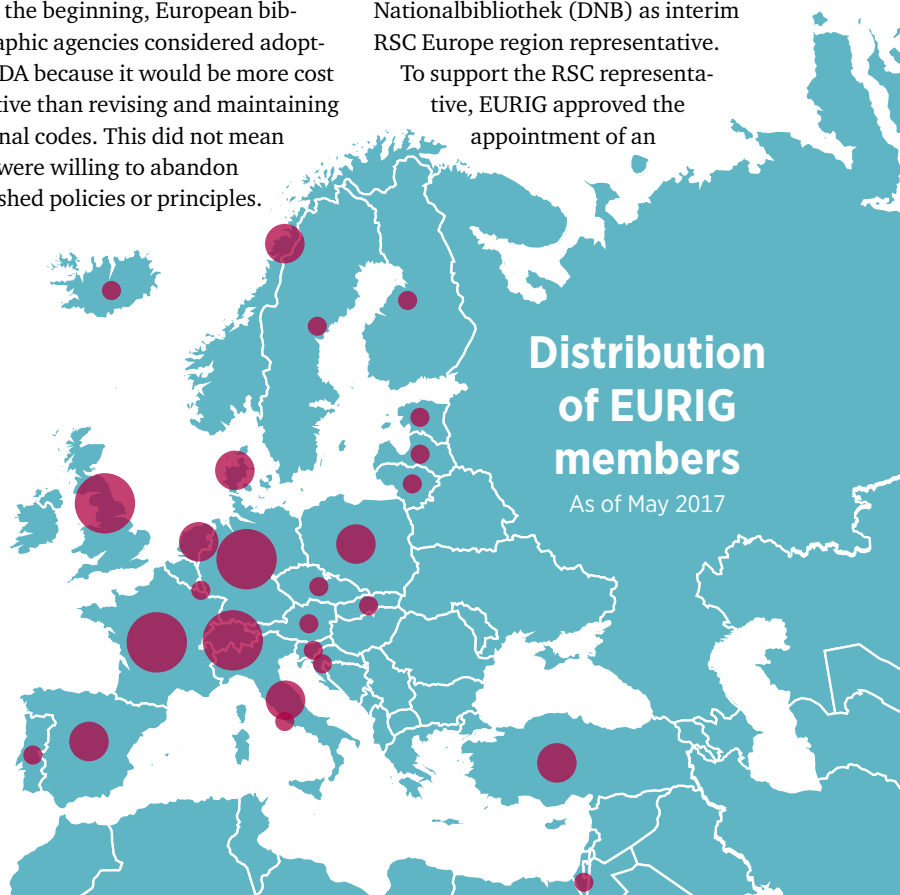
## Representing Europe

Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity is manifested in its many established national cataloging traditions. Attitudes toward RDA vary between and within national communities. From the beginning, European bibliographic agencies considered adopting RDA because it would be more cost effective than revising and maintaining national codes. This did not mean they were willing to abandon cherished policies or principles.

Representing this range and diversity is a challenge. Changing RDA instruction across all the languages and nations of Europe will have unforeseeable implications.

Initially the British Library performed a liaison role, gathering feedback and incorporating EURIG's collective view into its own constituency responses. However, EURIG's need to have its own voice and the internationalization of the RSC resulted in the January 2016 appointment of Renate Behrens from Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) as interim RSC Europe region representative.

To support the RSC representative, EURIG approved the appointment of an



editorial committee in 2016. The role of the committee is to:

- discuss issues referred by the executive committee and propose recommendations for RSC
- prepare RDA proposals and discussion papers with EURIG members' recommendations
- respond to RDA proposals and discussion papers with EURIG members' comments

EURIG also nominates experts to RSC working groups, and the experts themselves have a support network within EURIG that acts as a sounding board. In 2016 EURIG also formulated guiding principles for collaborative work to unify members, give them a voice in the development of RDA, and share responsibility for discharging tasks.

EURIG has influenced RDA development by preparing change proposals and participating in working groups. It has also encouraged the internationalization of RDA content and played a particularly important role in the discussion of aggregates.

## Outreach

EURIG holds its annual meeting in a different city each year. What began as a simple business meeting for members has evolved into a significant event. The seminar "RDA in the Baltic and Eastern Europe" and its satellite workshops in Riga, Latvia, in 2016, attracted more than 90 delegates. This number was exceeded by "RDA in Europe: A Reality and a Challenge" and workshops in Florence and Fiesole, Italy, in 2017. Outreach efforts will continue with events in Poland in 2017 and Istanbul in 2018.

## Challenges

EURIG aims to be inclusive. The cooperation agreement is designed to ensure that no single institution or clique can exert undue influence or bear an unfair burden. To this end, the

executive committee's terms of office were kept short and a limit was set on the number of consecutive terms for members. However, we failed to consider the different speeds with which members would engage with RDA. With a relatively small pool to draw from, it has been difficult to get commitments to serve on the executive committee. The varying sizes and resources of European national libraries must be considered, as well. What may be a relatively small commitment by the British Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, or DNB may represent a substantial cost to a smaller institution or company.

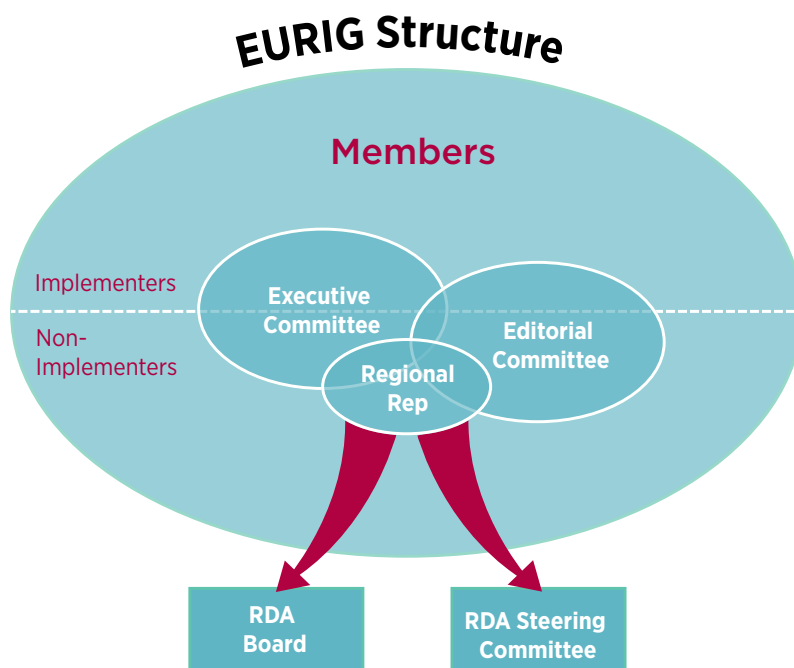
Effective communication is also a challenge. Time zones and geographic separation are manageable problems within Europe, but translation is a substantial overhead. English is the working language of EURIG and the RSC, but EURIG representatives often need to arrange for documents and proposals to be translated into their national languages.

These difficulties are exacerbated by RDA's publishing schedule. Documents issued on August 1 require responses by October 1 for RSC to discuss them in November. But because translation and consultation with national committees is needed and because many EURIG experts attend IFLA or are on holiday in August, there is little time left for discussion before November.

## Stronger together

There is no manual on how to build an RDA region, but EURIG has nevertheless grown into a strong and sustainable community. RDA development is difficult and intensive. We have learned that we are stronger together; we must be tolerant of our differences and try to understand the reasons for them. We have to remember that much more unites us than separates us. ■

**AHAVA COHEN** is head of the Hebrew Cataloging Department at National Library of Israel in Jerusalem. **ALAN DANSKIN** is metadata standards manager at the British Library in London.



# Join Us in New Orleans

## The 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition

One of the largest and most exciting library events in the world, the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference and Exhibition offers an opportunity to learn, connect with library professionals, and share ideas with colleagues from around the world. Attendees participate in events, hear inspiring speakers, and learn from thought leaders and

colleagues at more than 500 programs and in-depth sessions. Topics covered include digital content, innovation, the library of the future, emerging trends, best practices, community engagement, and leadership.

### The Big Easy

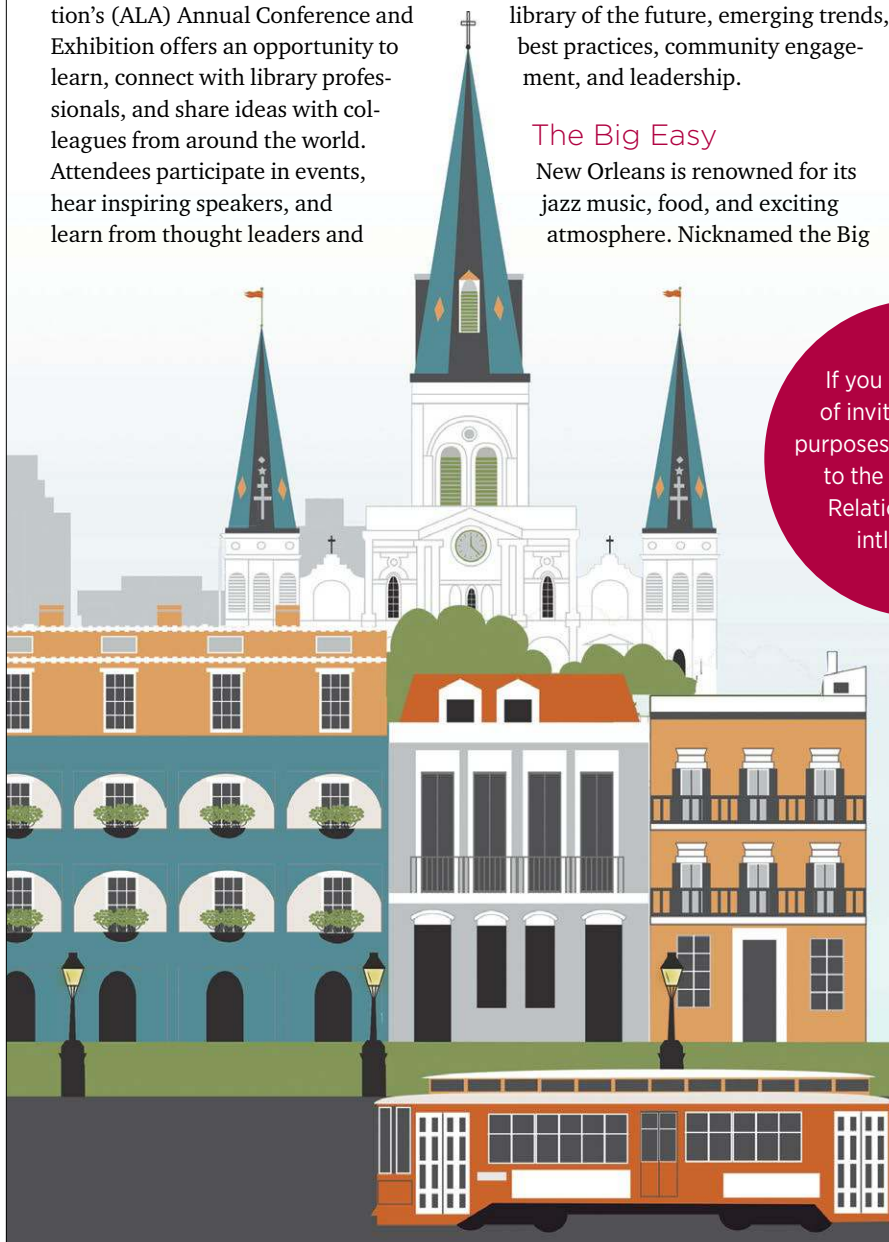
New Orleans is renowned for its jazz music, food, and exciting atmosphere. Nicknamed the Big

Easy, the city prides itself on its welcoming and friendly attitude. Its unique culture mix of African, Cajun, Creole, French, Haitian, and Spanish influences is not to be missed—especially when New Orleans hosts the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 21–26, 2018.

Many historical and multicultural tours are available throughout the city. Take a walking or carriage tour of the French Quarter, located adjacent to the convention center area, or the beautiful Garden District with its stately mansions. Visit the famous above-ground cemeteries, the bayous, or old plantations. Ride a steamboat on the Mississippi River or the new Canal streetcar that runs along Canal Street from the City Park to the French Market.

After your tour, you can enjoy a multitude of dining options. From seafood po' boy sandwiches, gumbo, and jambalaya to the more elegant Oysters Rockefeller, New Orleans has a plethora of unique dishes that reflect its history and culture. Don't forget to visit the Café du Monde for a café au lait and fresh

If you need a letter of invitation for visa purposes, send a request to the International Relations Office at [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org).





## Top Five Reasons to Attend the ALA Conference

1

Gold-standard networking and new connections, and limitless opportunities to engage with the most committed and imaginative people in the field.

2

Fascinating and fun spaces and events such as the exhibit hall's PopTop, Book Buzz, What's Cooking @ ALA, and Graphic Novel and Gaming stages; the Diversity, International, Artist Alley, Mobile App, Zine, and Gaming Lounge pavilions; the Now Showing @ ALA film showcase; and the relaxing ALA Play area.

3

The top exhibits at any library event in the world, with more than 900 expert exhibitors highlighting the latest products, titles, technology, and services.

4

Updates on the latest in technology and associated policy implications in a wide range of sessions and events, including top tech trends from the Library and Information Technology Association.

5

Lively exploration of the possible futures for libraries, your work, and your spaces, with hundreds of peer-driven topics and formats, thought leaders, experts, and innovators making for the best possible professional development. ●



hot beignets. After your meal, dance or relax to the sounds of live jazz, blues, or country in any of the clubs and dance halls around the city.

There's much to do in the Big Easy while you're not attending Annual. So *laissez les bon temps rouler* (let the good times roll), and join us at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition.

### For international visitors

We want all our international members and attendees to have a memorable and

outstanding experience at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition. Here are some unique opportunities and support you'll find to help make that happen:

■ **International librarians' orientation.** This is a special introduction to ALA, the conference, exhibits, and the city of New Orleans and a chance to meet other attendees. ALA members will recommend programs and social activities to help you make the most of your conference experience.

■ **International poster session.**

Promote your library's activities, showcase innovative programs, and share ideas with colleagues. Whether or not you create a poster, visiting the session offers a chance to be inspired by work that is shaping libraries globally. Contact the ALA International Relations Office at [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org) to learn more.

■ **International papers and projects.**

Submit a proposal for a presentation on how your library or country is addressing a selected topic. Contact the ALA International Relations Office at [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org) to learn more.

■ **International librarians reception.**

At this special evening reception, attendees meet and mingle with librarians from more than 80 countries and enjoy a mix of culture and ideas, awards presentations, and regional cuisine.

■ **International visitors center.**

A place to relax, review the conference program, or hold small meetings with new colleagues and friends. Computers with internet access will be provided, and ALA volunteers can answer questions about the conference, related events, and New Orleans.

■ **International pavilion in the exhibit hall.** The International Publishers Pavilion, with suppliers from around the world, is the perfect place to find multilingual and multicultural publications and library materials.

### Registration opens in January 2018

Information on hotels and registration will be available in January 2018. A preliminary schedule of programs will be available in April 2018.

Keep abreast of Annual news on Twitter at [#alaac18](https://twitter.com/alaac18). We look forward to welcoming you to New Orleans in June 2018. ■

# New Titles from ALA

ALA covers everything  
from design to marketing  
to youth programming

To help you keep your skills and knowledge up to date in this rapidly changing global environment, the American Library Association (ALA) offers a variety of books and professional development resources for all areas of library and information science and for every type of library. This brief selection is just an introduction; for the full range of titles, additional details, and purchasing options, visit [alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org).

All prices in US dollars.

## ALA Publishing International Distributors

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### AFRICA, EUROPE, AND ISRAEL

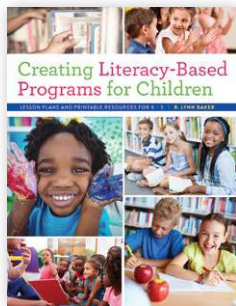
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## Creating Literacy-Based Programs for Children: Lesson Plans and Printable Resources for K-5

By R. Lynn Baker



This all-in-one resource is a comprehensive package of literacy-based public library programming ideas designed for children in kindergarten through the early tweens. Full of strategies and best practices for promoting literacy and reading skill development, it features numerous planning templates and other materials ready to print and adapt as

needed. With specific guidance for improving and streamlining each step of program planning and implementation, this resource is a valuable tool for children's librarians and other programming staff. **ISBN: 978-0-8389-1500-4; \$48**

## Fundamentals of Library Supervision, 3rd Edition By Beth McNeil



Mentor, creator, monitor, and negotiator are some of the roles a library supervisor must play, and wearing those many hats is a challenge that requires discipline and organization (and a healthy sense of humor). This newly updated and revised edition of a classic text gives readers the grounding to supervise, manage, and lead with confidence.

A perfect handbook for those just moving into a supervisory position and a welcome refresher for current managers, this resource focuses on daily, real-world issues. From tactics for leading productive, focused staff meetings and methods for achieving deadlines through backward planning to guidance on how to develop shared accountability and other strategies for building successful teams, this handbook addresses fundamental issues facing those taking on this position.

**ISBN: 978-0-8389-1554-7; \$59**

## Renew Yourself: A Six-Step Plan for More Meaningful Work

By Catherine Hakala-Ausperk



Unplanned careers affect everything and everyone. They can lead to frustration, negativity, and apathy when we need to be focused, energized, and motivated. Though your library career might have started accidentally, you can overcome organizational restructuring, changing job titles, and shifting responsibilities by cultivating a mindful existence in the

library workplace. Building on the simple, fun approach that has made her previous books bestsellers, Hakala-Ausperk presents a do-it-yourself program for revisiting personal values, understanding your options, identifying skill gaps, and creating plans for growth. Whether you're a library veteran who's feeling burned out, a young librarian just starting out, or somewhere midcareer, this six-step plan will help you renew yourself, your career, and your organizations.

ISBN: 978-0-8389-1499-1; \$50

## 50+ Fandom Programs: Planning Festivals and Events for Tweens, Teens, and Adults

By Amy J. Alessio, Katie LaMantia, and Emily Vinci

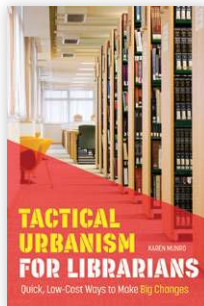


This book of ready-to-go programs and events will help public libraries give fans who are passionate about genres, characters, games, and book series plenty of reasons to visit the library. Fandom programming can require planning across departments, tie-ins to collections and community partnerships, and targeted marketing. The fun content

cooked up by these three authors makes it easy to stay organized every step of the way, with events broken down into components that streamline planning and facilitate coordination. Adaptable for a wide range of ages, this resource covers the basics of how to host a fandom event, including prep time, length of program, number of patrons, budget, and supplies needed. Suggesting an age range (tweens, teens, millennials, and older adults) for each program while also offering ways to tailor it to different groups, the authors present such imaginative and engaging programming ideas as 50 Shades of Hot Books, Old-School Video Games, Women in Comics, Creating Steampunk Outfits, and Superhero School. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1552-3; \$49

## Tactical Urbanism for Librarians: Quick, Low-Cost Ways to Make Big Changes

By Karen Munro



Tactical urbanism, a global grass-roots movement to improve cities by and for the people who live in them, has applications that are tailor-made for libraries. Tactics like “start small,” “value intangibles,” and “bundle pragmatics with delight” can help libraries engage with users while also solving immediate problems. Best of all, these projects can be

lightweight, inexpensive, and quick to realize. Munro offers plentiful examples from cities and libraries that show where tactical urbanism is making a difference. A quick-start guide that shows libraries how to launch their own tactical library projects, this book addresses useful urbanism concepts such as placemaking, pink zones, design thinking, and optical leverage; 12 steps to becoming a tactical library interventionist; five case studies that demonstrate how libraries can apply tactical urbanism concepts; and ways that library leaders can cultivate a tactics-friendly organization. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1558-5; \$57

## Collaborating with Strangers: Facilitating Workshops in Libraries, Classes, and Nonprofits

By Bess G. de Farber, April Hines, and Barbara J. Hood



Interaction with strangers cultivates creativity and provides opportunities for joining forces to achieve great ends. However, most people tend to avoid talking or working with people they do not know—whether in the library, classroom, or academic and non-profit settings. This short-circuits much of the creative potential nec-

essary for innovation that organizational stakeholders crave. Enter the CoLAB Planning Series Workshop. Developed and presented by de Farber at libraries across the country and used by the authors to successfully spur collaboration at the University of Florida, the book showcases the power of these face-to-face conversations. Leading readers through a unique framework that breaks down barriers to collaboration while also kindling long-lasting enthusiasm, this manual shows how organizations can include the talents and assets of community members through successful group collaboration. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1542-4; \$55 ■





The 2016 Guadalajara International Book Fair

# Guadalajara International Book Fair

The largest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world

BY Delin Guerra

The Guadalajara (Mexico) International Book Fair (Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara), or FIL as it's widely known, is the most important publishing gathering in Ibero-America. More than 800,000 visitors attended the event in 2016. The 2017 event will be held November 25–December 3.

Created 31 years ago by the University of Guadalajara, the fair caters to professionals and the public, setting it apart from other book fairs around the world. For nine days, 2,000 publishers from 44 countries set up across more than 34,000 square meters, bringing to the fair a diverse selection of literary, cultural, scientific, academic, and professional programs. Visitors can find more than 400,000 volumes in 23 languages, as well as comic books, ebooks, and books in Braille.

Madrid, Spain, will be the city of honor for 2017. Activities that celebrate the city and enhance FIL's international and multicultural character

will take place throughout the fair, day and night.

## The world of books

The American Library Association (ALA) and FIL are partnering once again to support ALA members attending the book fair.

The ALA-FIL Free Pass Program provides access to 150 librarians who work in Spanish-language acquisitions or are building a Spanish-language collection to better serve their patrons and community. Applicants must be ALA personal members.

The pass offers:

- three nights of lodging and three continental breakfasts (six nights if you share with another ALA member)
- free registration and a badge to enter FIL
- \$100 (US) airfare reimbursement, courtesy of ALA
- an additional \$100 (US) or \$1,900 (MXN) of airfare support for the first 100 librarians who have been

accepted in the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program and purchase their ticket before October 2.

## Book donations for Mexican libraries

Since 2010, ALA, the Mexican Library Association, and the Mexican Secretary of Culture have participated in a collaborative project to donate books to the Red Nacional de Bibliotecas Públicas México. ALA members are encouraged to donate children's and young adult books in Spanish or bilingual Spanish-English as part of their FIL attendance. Last year, almost 200 books were donated and distributed to centers for Central American refugee children in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico.

For more information about FIL and to apply for the Free Pass Program, visit [bit.ly/2rA4m7Q](http://bit.ly/2rA4m7Q). Visit FIL on Twitter @FILguadalajara. ■

**DELIN GUERRA** is program officer in the ALA International Relations Office.

# T R A N S F O R M I N G RDA

**The RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign Project**, also known as the 3R project, will bring about a major transformation to both RDA and RDA Toolkit. The project aims to significantly improve the functionality and utility of RDA Toolkit and will include the implementation of the IFLA Library Reference Model. The new Toolkit is expected to roll out in late Spring 2018 with . . .

- a responsive design,
- improved site accessibility,
- an integrated display of Toolkit documents,
- enhanced search and navigation,
- and a whole lot more.

FOLLOW THE PROJECT AT  
**[RDATAKIT.ORG/3RPROJECT](http://RDATAKIT.ORG/3RPROJECT)**

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