

International Relations Committee Report to Council

January 9, 2023

Submitted by the IRC Chair, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr.

Committee Members: Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. (Chair), Vivian Bordeaux, Hong Cheng, Karen Downing, John Hickok, Jasmine Kirby, Yan Liu, Mike Marlin, Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts, Raymond Pun, Tina Thomas, Jeannine Berroteran (Associate), Ahmad Ali Shah (Associate) Emily Drabinski, (Board liaison), Michael Dowling (Staff liaison)

International at LLX

As of January 9, there were 53 international librarians from 10 countries registered for LibLearnX or the LLX Digital Experience.

Ukraine Library Relief Fund

Thanks to donations from many members and others during the holiday season, ALA has raised another \$10,000 to send to the Ukraine Library Association. This makes the total donation \$25,000. The funds are being used for repairs to keep damaged libraries open, purchase computers and other equipment, as well as materials and resources to help those traumatized by the war.

IFLA Nominations

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is holding its biennial elections in 2023, with nominations due on February 23. This fall the IRC and IRO have worked with ALA units to have them bring forward for various IFLA committees and leadership roles. The IRC would like to thank all those units. The IRC has reviewed these nominations and has made recommendations to the ALA Executive Board.

New IRC Subcommittee on UN Sustainable Development Goals

To continue the efforts initiated by the ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the IRC voted to create a new subcommittee that will shepherd ALA's global participation during the next seven years towards IFLA's objective to show the power of libraries in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. ALA Past-President Loida Garcia Febo will serve as Chair of this new IRC Subcommittee. This aligns with the IFLA North American Regional Division Committee's Action Plan.

9th Sharjah International Library Conference

At the start of November, ALA President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada keynoted the 9th Sharjah International Library Conference, the annual collaborative partnership with the Sharjah Book Authority and ALA to provide professional development for librarians during the Sharjah International Book Fair. President Pelayo-Lozada was joined by IRC Chair Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. who provided a program as Chair of the IFLA North America Regional Division Committee with his counterpart Emad Bachir, Chair, IFLA Middle East and North Africa Regional Division Committee encouraging librarians and libraries to become more active in their countries UN Sustainable Development Goal efforts.

The conference attracted 250 librarians from twelve countries. A preconference workshop on 'Cataloging Manuscripts & Archival Collections Using RDA' featured the new Arabic version of RDA. ALA's *Libraries Build Business* project was of interest to many attendees as were programs on gamification, student created media, and raising readers and supporting seniors.

National Libraries Summit

Preceding the Sharjah International Library Conference, ALA and the Sharjah Book Authority organized another two-day National Libraries Summit ahead of the Sharjah International Library Conference attracted directors and senior leaders from 30 countries. The Summit has provided new connections for ALA to the national library community around the world.

Guadalajara Book Fair

The ALA-FIL Free Pass Program to Guadalajara Book Fair at end of November bounced back with 129 ALA members traveling to the Book Fair to review and purchase Spanish language materials for their communities. President Pelayo-Lozada led the delegation.

Media Literacy Webinar Series with Kazakhstan

ALA was approached by the Kazakh library community to create a media literacy webinar. With support through a grant from the U.S. Embassy, IRO is working with creators involved in the [Media Literacy in the Library Guide](#) produced by ALA in 2020. The first webinar was held in December with over 800 Kazakhstan librarians participating.

International Webinars

IRRT continued its professional development outreach with two webinars last fall. The "Use of reflective practice as a tool for storytelling and demonstrating impact through the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals" had 246 registrants. And "Engaging in LIS Practice: Impact of COVID-19 on Research, Teaching, and Mentorship" had 149 registrants