

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 10, 2024

RE: *(select one)*

- ACTION REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

ACTION REQUESTED BY: *(add committee name)*

CONTACT PERSON: IRC Chair, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr.

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT: Michael Dowling

BACKGROUND: *(add information)*

international Participation at Annual

As of June 10, there were 334 colleagues from forty-eight countries registered. The IRC welcomes our international members and colleagues. The IRC is especially pleased that International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) President Vicki McDonald from Australia and President-elect Leslie Weir from Canada are attending. And a special recognition for the Korean Library Association (KLA) who has organized a delegation of twenty-two members led by KLA President Kwak Seung Jin. Besides Canada, countries with more than ten registrants are China, Japan, Mexico, and Singapore.

ALA Council Committee Report Form

In addition to library colleagues, there will be 42 exhibitors from twelve countries outside the U.S. taking part in The Library Marketplace.

International Activities at Annual

The IFLA North American Regional Division Committee, made of ten U.S and ten Canadian members, is taking advantage of ALA Annual to host its meeting and provide a “Fighting Misinformation and Affecting Policy Change” Seminar on Friday afternoon. The IRC thanks ALA President Emily Drabinski for her support for IFLA activities at ALA. IFLA has a stand in the lobby and there will be “Get to Know IFLA: Your Questions Answered” on Saturday and CORE is hosting a session “What’s it like to serve on an IFLA Section Committee?” on Sunday.

The International Relations RoundTable (IRRT) is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year and continues to provide support for international colleagues through the International Librarians Orientation and the International Visitors Lounge. IRRT’s preconference will focus on its accomplishments, “Diamond Moments of International Librarianship and Its Impact.” The IRRT’s Chair’s program is “International Collaborations: Strengthening Library Global Impact.”

Other international focused programs include those curated by IRC subcommittees such as “Building Partnerships with Communities in Africa: Sister Cities 500 in 5 years”; “Syncopating Wisdoms: Libraries as Spaces for Collecting Differences and Enhancing Knowledge; and “Libraries supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.” IRRT’s other programs are “Leaning International: The Benefits and Impacts of Librarians Working Abroad” and “Beyond Borders, Beyond Basics: the value of International Resource Sharing.”

This year there are a record forty-seven posters for the Global Solutions Poster Session on Sunday morning. The IRC encourages Councilors to visit with our international colleagues as they share innovative ideas and practices.

The international programming will end on Monday night with the International Librarian’s Reception, held at the San Diego Public Library.

IFLA

With no IFLA World Library and Information Congress this August, a number of IFLA Sections are creating collaborative sessions around the world. The largest is will be at the [Mexican](#)

ALA Council Committee Report Form

[Information Forum](#) August 6-8, with eight sections of IFLA discussing topics from AI to Indigenous Matters to Library Censorship. The Office for Intellectual Freedom will be presenting at “Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship.”

IFLA President Vicki McDonald is convening the [IFLA Information Futures Summit](#), September 30-October 2 in her home city of Brisbane. And the Public Libraries, Metropolitan, Buildings and Equipment, and Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Sections will gather in Barcelona October 7-10.

The Management of Library Association’s Section, chaired by ALA Past President Lodia Garcia-Febo, collaborated with colleagues in Kazakhstan to create the 13th Eurasian Academic Library Conference [Connect, Collaborate, Create: Advancing Library Associations and Partnerships to Future-proof our Profession](#), May 29-31. ALA President Emily Drabinski was one the keynoters, speaking on financial sustainability, and PPA Associate Executive Director Alan Inouye provided a remote presentation on advocacy.

This spring IRC initiated a call for nominations to ALA units for recommendations for representatives to IFLA Sections for the 2025-2029 term. The IRC will review nominations in late fall for final approval by the ALA Executive Board in December and January.

United Nations

ALA will be applying for Consultative Status at the United Nations by the end of this summer. The application submitted last year as expected due to challenges interacting with the UN. Consultative Status will allow ALA official recognition as a non-government entity to attend forums and other meetings, provide commentary on UN policy, and interact/participate in UN initiatives.

On May 21, in advance of the [AI for Good Global Summit](#) on May 30-31, The ALA IRC UN Sustainable Development Committee organized a three-hour global webinar with the UN Library, ‘Generative AI supercharging the mission of libraries: risks and opportunities.’ Library experts from different regions of the world provided the most recent updates about AI and recommendations for all types of libraries.

More IRRT Activities

ALA Council Committee Report Form

IRRT continues its effort to raise \$75,000 for its endowment to create MLIS student engagement grants. To donate, please visit: <https://ec.ala.org/donate/projects>
One of this year's Emerging Leaders Project created a member survey to current and past IRRT members to get a better understanding of IRRT membership needs, benefits, and potential barriers.

The International Librarians Networking Program (ILNP) connects librarians around the world to share knowledge and experiences and build their peer network. In 2024, over 270 applications were received with 80 applicants accepted for the program.

The IRRT, with support from IRO Program Manager Delin Guerra, organized eight international related webinars from February through May. Five were part of the IRRT's Mission Enhancement Grant series coordinated by Dr. Gina de Alwis Jayasuriya, ALA member in Singapore, to support capacity building of non-professional library employees. Presenters for the series were from Türkiye, Malaysia, Australia, and the U.S. Each webinar had around 500 registrants.

ALA Ukraine Library Relief Fund

ALA continues to raise funds to assist colleagues in Ukraine. Thanks support from members and others ALA recently sent another \$5,000 to the Ukraine Library Association. The total support to date is \$30,000.

Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions in Gaza

The "Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions in Gaza" passed by Council at LibLearnX in Baltimore was sent to U.S President Joseph Biden, U.S Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Herzog. ALA did not receive a response from them.

Fall Conferences and Programs

Planning is underway for the 11th Sharjah International Library Conference, which will take place November 9-10. And IRO is coordinating with the Guadalajara Book Fair on the selection of 150 ALA members to participate in this year's ALA-FIL Free Pass Program at the end of November.

ALA Council Committee Report Form