

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 5, 2023

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)*

Annual

As of June 5, three hundred-eighteen librarians from fifty countries were registered for Annual. In addition, forty-nine exhibitors from eleven countries outside the U.S. are here. ALA welcomes all our international colleagues who make this a richer experience for everyone. There are more than a dozen international focused programs, including “Innovative Asian Public Libraries Transforming Services and Communities”; “Making a Difference with School Libraries in Kenya”; and two programs on Ukraine- “Forum on War in Ukraine and Its Impact on

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Libraries” and “Books are A Refuge: Supporting Ukrainian Language Communities through Library Collections.”

IRRT and its members are again providing support with an orientation for international colleagues, staffing the International Visitors Center, and hosting the International Reception.

IFLA

The IRC is pleased that IFLA President Barbara Lison can join us again and will be providing an update to the Committee and with the IFLA North America Regional Division Committee providing a “Getting to Know IFLA Session.” IFLA announced the appointment of a new Secretary General, [Sharon Memis](#), who starts this month and was the Chief Operating Officer for the Association of Commonwealth Universities and held senior posts at the British Council.

IFLA elections were held this spring. Leslie Wier, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, was elected President-elect and will become President in 2025 (a two-year term). Unfortunately, IRC Chair and Past-President Julius C. Jefferson Jr. was not elected Chair of the Regional Division Council. But Past-President Loida Garcia-Febo is now serving on the IFLA Governing Board as Chair of the Management of Library Association Section (MLAS). And three ALA members will be Division Chairs, Lisa Hinchliffe, Ann Okerson, and Russell Lynch. And twenty-one other members will be serving on IFLA Section Committees for 2023-2025.

The North America Regional Division Committee (NARDC), made up of ten U.S. members and ten Canadian members continues to focus its advocating in five primary areas; Sustainable Development Goals, Copyright, Digital Inclusion, Library Map of the World, and Diversity. In March NARDC participated in the first MLAS SDG’s webinar and adopted inclusive terminology in Libraries Archives and Museums to its Diversity Action Plan.

Incoming President Emily Drabinski will represent ALA at the IFLA Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands, August 21-25. ALA will have a booth to engage with attendees, promoting membership, products, and services.

United Nations

ALA is applying for Consultative Status at the United Nations. This 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. Currently ALA participates

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through IFLA as the voice from the United States. Past-presidents Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. and Loida Garcia-Febo will be part of the IFLA delegation to the [UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) in July in New York.

Webinars

IRO completed the six-part collaborative webinar series funded by the U.S. State Department with the American Corners Kazakhstan and the East Kazakhstan Public Library. At least 250 Kazak librarians attended each of the final three webinars- two on Media Literacy and one on Makerspaces. IRC would like to thank all the members who provided their time and expertise as presenters.

IRRT continued its success with three hundred and eighty-nine registering for “Changes and Challenges in Libraries in Latin America” moderated by Past ALA President Carol Brey, on May 19th.

Membership

IRC and IRO working with Member Relations & Services and Chapter Relations have been promoting to previous international members and to students at Canadian LIS program, with good results, including a dozen new student members from Canada. To foster more engagement the IRC regional subcommittees with IRO have created new regional global groups in ALA. Members from the various regions and those interested in libraries in those regions will share knowledge, experiences, and work to develop partnerships.

ALA Ukraine Library Relief Fund

ALA continues to raise funds to assist colleague in Ukraine. Thanks to the generous support from hundreds of members and over \$25,000 has been raised. The Ukrainian Library Association has distributed \$25,000 so far to over a dozen libraries as well as to struggling librarians. “The Ukrainian Library Association expresses our sincere gratitude to the American Library Association, and American library community for the unity and support of Ukraine and Ukrainian librarians,” said ULA President Oksana Brui.

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10th Sharjah International Library Conference

Planning is underway for the continued partnership with the Sharjah Book Authority, and Combined Book Exhibit. The November conference will have a focus on AI in Libraries and Sustainability.

ALA-FIL Free Pass Program -Guadalajara

The application to participate in this year's [ALA-FIL Free Pass Program](#) is open. This will be the 24th year of the initiative. Up to one hundred and fifty members who work with Spanish language communities will receive support from ALA and the Guadalajara Book Fair.