

INTERNATIONAL LEADS

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PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO IMMIGRANTS IN SANCTUARY CITIES

Anna Kozłowska & Gloria Creed-Dikeogu

In 2023, nearly 2.5 million migrants crossed the U.S.-Mexico border (Collier, 2024), prompting yet again the issue of immigration to be on top of the political agenda for the upcoming presidential elections. The political feud between the Republican and Democratic parties was additionally exacerbated by a controversial action by Republican governors of Texas, Florida, and Arizona to drop off thousands of migrants in Democrat-led sanctuary cities. As defined by the Global Refuge (2024) website, a “sanctuary city” is a community with a policy, written or unwritten, that discourages local law enforcement from reporting the immigration status of individuals unless it involves an investigation of a serious crime.”

The purpose of this article is to explore the services that public libraries offer to migrant communities. We interviewed Fred Gitner, Assistant Director of New Initiatives & Partnership Liaison, New Americans Program at Queens Public Library in New York (NY),

Virginia Vassar Aggrey, Plaza Program Manager at Denver Public Library in Denver (CO), and Stephanie Driscoll, Programs and Exhibits Manager at Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg (Chicago suburb, IL). We asked about the services their libraries deliver to refugees/ migrants/ immigrants/ asylum seekers and displaced persons, community partners they cooperate with, the involvement of the community in creating library programs, the most popular library services, the biggest problems and challenges they are facing, and what support do they need to continue with their programming and services to this population.

Services that public libraries deliver to refugees, migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers and displaced persons

Queens Public Library in New York, located in an international borough, serves a population base of

INTERNATIONAL LEADS

about 2.4 million people, with approximately 47% being foreign-born and speaking about 200 languages. To better serve a growing immigrant population, the library started its New Americans program in 1977 as a three-year federal pilot program. The program has been in place for forty-seven years, and it has previously received grants from the federal government due to the creation of a Library Services and Construction Act. The Program was originally created in response to changes in US immigration law in the late 1960s, which ended the immigration quota system and resulted in the mass immigration of people to the US from many nations, with many of these immigrants choosing to settle in Queens, New York. Currently, the library continues its services to immigrants through legislation and grants connected to the Library Services and Technologies Act. The New Americans Program is staffed by four full-time and one part-time library staff member to help with outreach events. Gitner, Director of the New American Program, states that the Program “comprises of collections in languages other than English, English Second Language classes, cultural programming to attract newcomers to the library, informational workshops to help immigrants adapt to life in the US,” and legal and citizenship services offered in partnership with the US Citizenship and Immigration Service.

At Denver Public Library (DPL) in Colorado, the Plaza Program, a hub program supporting immigrants, has been in place at nine library locations since 2008. This program includes a two-hour drop-in program offering services to new immigrants, such as English conversation tables, immigration resources, legal status and citizenship referrals, and information explaining the US asylum process. Programs at the library have had to be expanded to include legal workshops that fit new immigrant needs. Library programming and sheltering programs for new immigrants are funded by state and county budgets and funded by grants such as the Denver Foundation Grant. Recently, property tax funding through ballot measures has created a sustainable fund for the library to aid the city in funding library programs for immigrants.

Schaumburg Township District Library serves about 130,000 residents in Schaumburg Township, including portions of Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, and Streamwood. Each year, more than 1 million visitors come through the doors of their three branches. They offer various services, including story times in multiple languages, job-seeking classes, ESL and Read to Learn classes, and one-on-one tutoring.

<https://www.schaumburglibrary.org/services/literacy>



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If you have questions or need more information, please contact Karla Alba at kalba@stdl.org. You can also check out some of our favorite free sites for



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Karla Alba
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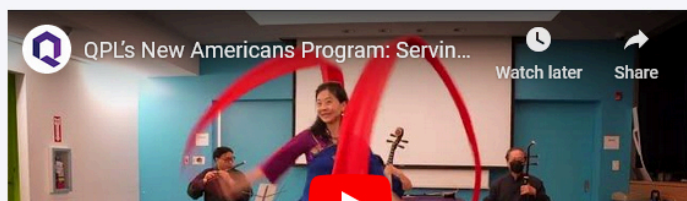
 [Programs & Activities](#) / **For New Americans**

For New Americans

The New Americans Program celebrates Queens residents' cultures and helps newcomers understand life in the United States.



The New Americans Program is a division of Adult Learning. The five Adult Learning divisions provide coordinated formal and informal education, training, information, and supportive services to help customers develop the skills they need for success with further education, work, business, and life.



<https://www.queenslibrary.org/programs-activities/new-americans>

Community partners

Gitner explains that the library partners with “the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, American Affairs, the Borough President’s Immigration Taskforce in Queens, and the New York Immigration Coalition, providing the library with “access to opportunities to participate in and host resource fairs with information about health library services and legal services,” of dire necessity to immigrants. Since the bussing from Texas occurred, local and federal departments and community organizations in New York have collaborated to create different types of shelters in hotels, unused office spaces, and psychiatric and camp facilities to house immigrants in Queens, Long Island, and Manhattan. The library offers housing information to immigrants and often provides outreach activities and programs for children and adults at these facilities or library branches in these neighborhoods.

At Denver Public Library, in collaboration with non-profit agencies, such as Catholic Charities and Lutheran Family Services, volunteers work alongside library staff to provide new immigrants in Denver

with immigration resource navigation and English discussion groups. Vassar stated that the library partnered with the DMV to process undocumented immigrants. Staff is aware that new immigrants will encounter barriers to services and eligibility when it comes to receiving specific state and county services, but the Plaza Program’s primary navigation role has no eligibility requirements and does not turn immigrants away but offers them resources and referrals.

Schaumburg Township District Library collaborates with local high school districts and community colleges to bring ESL, literacy, HSE, and citizenship classes to the library. They also expand services with a conversation English Club and programming to help them learn a second language. They work with welcoming centers such as Partners in Our Communities (POC) and other community organizations to keep informed of when and where refugees are settling and what their immediate needs may be, i.e., clothing, food, and housing. They host immigration clinics to help with simple immigration matters, complete immigration forms, and apply for U.S. citizenship. They host legal aid community



Photograph from the
Carol M. Highsmith Archive,
Library of Congress,
Prints and Photographs Division.

organizations to learn about legal rights. Finally, they also work with nonprofit groups like Upwardly Global to assist immigrant job seekers to restart their professional careers in the U.S.

Involvement of the community in creating library programs

The Queens Public Library provides monthly legal clinics on immigration. It works with community leaders of smaller, newly arriving immigrant communities, such as members of the Nepali community, which, according to Gitner, has recently been growing in New York to create cultural and musical performances and presentations. These are presented during information workshop sessions and are tailored to the members of that specific community, along with information about how these Nepali immigrants might best connect with legal counsel about their immigration needs. Similarly, Fulani and Wolof-speaking immigrants from Africa have recently impacted language translation services at the Queens Public Library's branches, requiring the acquisition of a state-contracted live language interpretation service, like the one used at DPL, so library staff "can call an 800 number and get an interpreter on the line" when providing immigration information to non-English speakers. "Each library has at least one telephone that has an extra handset attached to the regular telephone so that they can pass the handset to the person, so there can be a three-way conversation between the library staff member, the interpreter, and the customer" and so, staff would be able to answer these immigrants' questions much easier and/or make their needed referrals. Since questions posed by immigrants are very specific, the Queens Central Library location provides an information service, IDNYC, to immigrants by appointment. This service aids them in acquiring a New York City ID if they have a New York address and specific documentation.

Gitner explains that library staff working in the New Americans Program are kept current regarding immigration issues and changes through outside training because "we want our staff, you know if someone walks up to the desk and starts talking about, I'm an asylee, we want the staff to understand what they're talking about." Thus, training from lawyers and organizations working with asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as internal training focused on areas of common requests, were periodically arranged during the year for program staff. Staff created asylum-seeker kits to be used by the library's Marketing and Volunteer Services Departments and guides for enrolling children in

school in Colorado, which have since been translated into several languages so that these can be offered to immigrant families.

DPL's Plaza Program is staffed by a team of part-timers trained to extend the library's reference services to families of walk-in immigrants requiring immediate assistance with accessing immigration resources organized so that they can be found and shared as needed. Team members meet monthly to network, hear about new immigration tools and resources, and share updates. They are trained using asynchronous units and short informational videos built around the knowledge required for immigrants to navigate the US immigration system.

Schaumburg Township District Library has a committee called the Program Advisory Group, which has librarians from all different departments working towards shared programming goals. One of their current programming goals for this year is to get the community more involved in the program planning process. This could be from having open calls to the community to submit programming ideas, working with different community members to make their ideas come to fruition, and also highlighting the different talents that they have in the community.

Most sought library services

The Queens Public Library's New Americans Program has grown over the years, with English classes now part of its Community Learning Division and New Americans corners in all the library's branches and adult learning centers. The library provides information workshops to immigrants and computer classes in different languages, with the top offerings in Spanish, Bengali, Mandarin Chinese, and Korean. Staff also provides immigrants with referrals to information about available English classes at the library's branches or elsewhere in the city and to legal, medical, and health insurance resources, job and housing assistance, and school enrollment services. Gitner further explains that "If you're talking about new migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees coming under current government programs, there are special programs for the Ukrainian, Afghan and Haitian immigrants, where people do have to have a sponsor but with the help of several government organizations, there is an opportunity that they can obtain a visa to work for two years in the US and live "under a temporary protected status" while finding probable solutions to solve their immigration issues.

According to Stephanie Driscoll, new arrivals are focused on housing, enrolling children at school, finding a job, and more immediate needs. The library is where they come to print, access wifi, and copy and



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Catalog

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Collaborating with Denver's multicultural community to create equitable opportunities for learning and connection.

Plaza programs create inclusive spaces for people from all over the world to connect with resources. Come to practice a language, prepare for citizenship, pursue your goals, and create your future. We can help!

See the [Plaza Schedule](#) to visit a program.

Questions? Call 720-865-2362 or email plaza@denverlibrary.org or [request more information](#).

Work in Plaza! [Apply to work with us](#). We do 2-3 rounds of hiring each year, so it may take up to 4 weeks for a response. You must have advanced fluency in a language other than English to be considered.

VOLUNTEER! Plaza is not currently accepting new volunteers.

The City and County of Denver is in high need of volunteer support for city-wide migrant and refugee services. [Request more information](#) and sign up.

[Events, Classes and More](#) [Cultural Inclusivity Blog](#)

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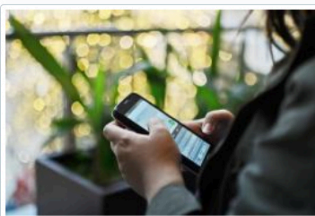
[What is Cultural Inclusivity at DPL?](#)



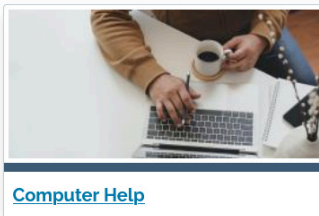
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scanning services. Once those things are settled, they come to the library for ESL classes and to ask about getting a job. Although they had seen people in the library within weeks of their arrival, parents are focused on helping their children to enroll in school and to support them.

The biggest problems, challenges, and support libraries need

Gitner suggests that the greatest challenge for the Queens Public Library has been to fund and staff the New Americans Program. In the past, three New York Library Systems were part of a New York Citizenship Program that was then incorporated into an Action NYC Program, which offered special funding and legal services. When that funding failed, community organizations such as Catholic Migration Services, Immigration Justice Core, and the New York Legal Assistance Group stepped in to provide immigration support and services to immigrants at the library. Currently, the New Americans Program has been funded and sustained by library foundation fundraising, individual donations, and a two-year Immigration Innovation Grant from US Citizenship and Immigration Services acquired by the Community Learning Division. The grant will support three centers of the Division over the next two years to “do outreach to assist migrants in certain categories women with families who might need more support such as children for them to be successful in our English classes and move ahead.”

At Denver Public Library, the team’s greatest challenge when providing resources to support immigrants is when these are unavailable, and extra navigation is needed to discover what is available and who can apply for what. Even when resources are available, there often are no referrals, making it difficult to help. Sometimes, it may be difficult for staff to help some immigrants acquire basic needs, especially when the resources they require may not exist, referrals may not work, or when there is a large waitlist for what is needed. Vassar states that offering language translation for immigrants is a challenge. The team speaks seventeen languages, but recently, when the library began to serve Mauritanian immigrants speaking Berber, it was difficult to cross the language barrier since the team faced a language they had not encountered before. Translation services on the phone are also used to meet people’s needs. Alongside these challenges, team members are met with psychological challenges when they work with large groups of immigrants, e.g., Spanish-speaking immigrants from Venezuela who are faced with continual crises.

Vassar explains that these challenges are not easy for her team to handle, especially when there is a need to strengthen the team and do what is best to protect them from mental strain and burnout.

The biggest challenge for the Schaumburg Township District Library is that demand for free ESL classes always outstrips supply. Before, wait lists for classes were manageable. Now, people have to wait weeks/months for services. They need easier ways to get people to work - said Driscoll. Some refugees and certain groups receive temporary legal status so they can get jobs right away, but without sufficient English, jobs are hard to come by.

Conclusion

We would like to thank our interviewees for their time and generosity in describing services offered to refugees/ migrants/immigrants/ asylum seekers and displaced persons by their libraries. The librarians interested in expanding their knowledge on how to serve this library user population are encouraged to explore the resources created by the ALA’s Services to Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons (SRIDP) Sub-Committee and IFLA’s International Guidelines for Library Services to Displaced Persons.

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THE EDITORS



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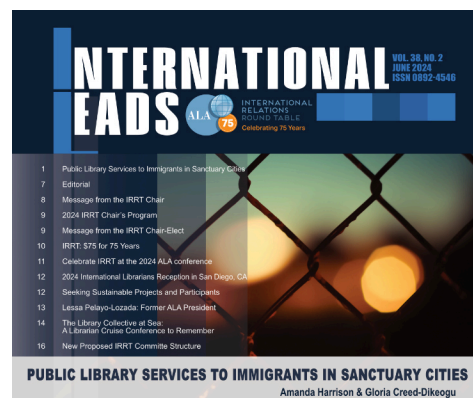


Johann Frederick Cabbab
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EDITORIAL

We continue to celebrate 75 years of IRRT in this issue. Please note the many IRRT events that will take place at the ALA conference in San Diego. We have included a calendar of these events as well as information on the Chair's program. The \$75 for 75 campaign has kicked off, and information on that is included this month. We also are sharing a graphic of the newly proposed IRRT committee structure, an article on public library services to immigrants in sanctuary cities, an interview with former ALA president Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, an article on The Collective conference at sea, and a call from ISLD for sustainable projects. Happy 75th anniversary and have a great summer!

The Editors



PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO IMMIGRANTS IN SANCTUARY CITIES
Amanda Harrison & Gloria Creed-Dikeogu

In 2023, nearly 2.5 million migrants crossed the U.S.-Mexico border (Collier, 2023), prompting yet again the issue of immigration to be on top of the political agenda for the upcoming presidential election. The political feud between the Republican and Democratic parties was additionally exacerbated by a controversial action by Republican governors of Texas, Florida, and Arizona to drop off thousands of migrants in Democratized sanctuary cities. As defined by the Global Refugee (2024) website, a "sanctuary city" is a community with a policy, written or unwritten, that discourages local law enforcement from reporting the immigration status of individuals unless it involves an investigation of a serious crime.

The purpose of this article is to explore the services that public libraries offer to migrant communities. We interviewed Paul Giner, Assistant Director of New Virginia Vassar Aggrey, Plaza Program Manager at Denver Public Library in Denver (CO), and Stephanie Ditcoll, Programs and Exhibits Manager at Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg (Chicago suburb), IL. We asked about the services their libraries deliver to refugees/immigrants/ asylum seekers and displaced persons, community partners they cooperate with, the involvement of the community in creating library programs, the most popular library services, the biggest problems and challenges they are facing, and what support do they need to continue with their programming and services to this population.

Services that public libraries deliver to refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers and displaced persons

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL LEADS

International Leads (ISSN 0892-4546) is published quarterly by the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association in March, June, September, and December. IL is indexed by Library Literature and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and ProQuest. The IRRT mailing address is: International Relations Office, American Library Association, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601.

MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR

Mark Mattson

Email:

mam1196@psu.edu



As my tenure as the Chair of IRRT draws to a close, and I reflect on the work of the round table over this past term, I am filled with a deep sense of satisfaction and gratitude for what we have accomplished together over the past year. In addition to the many fantastic customary programs and initiatives that the round table worked on throughout the year, we also accomplished some novel and significant milestones for our organization. The approval and upcoming implementation of the IRRT Committee Reorganization Plan, the revision and approval of the new IRRT Rules (previously called bylaws), the updating of the Officer's Manual, and the establishment of an IRRT Code of Conduct are some of these achievements. These foundational changes not only modernize our work but also position us to be more agile.

Throughout the process of developing these new foundations, your engagement and feedback have been invaluable. Whether participating in committee work, providing feedback on draft documents, contributing to open discussions, or voting on ballot initiatives, each of you has played a crucial role in shaping the future of IRRT. The collaborative spirit and dedication of our members have been the driving forces behind our success in the past, and it is what positions us for success in the future.

In addition to the important administrative work of this year, our round table has excelled in delivering impactful programming and initiatives. Our webinars, outreach campaigns, and international networking programs have enriched our professional community and strengthened global connections. Thank you to those of you who have worked as members of planning committees to make these programs possible and successful, and a special thank you to the Committee Chairs for leading these efforts.

As we prepare for the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego, I am excited about the various opportunities to

celebrate our 75th anniversary. The lineup of events, including a preconference program, an orientation session for international attendees, a Chair's program, a globally-focused poster program, an Executive Committee meeting and open Q&A session, an IRRT all-committee meeting, and a "leaning international" session all incorporate an exciting slate of speakers and topics, which all lead up to Monday night's International Reception and 75th Anniversary Celebration. The program of events promises to be a fitting tribute to our legacy and a springboard into the future, and I would like to thank, in advance, those IRRT committees and Committee Chairs who have worked hard to make our programs and events at Annual possible.

One final announcement related to the Annual Conference that I am excited to make as IRRT Chair is that we will be officially launching a new fundraising campaign to establish an LIS Student Engagement Endowment! The new endowment will fund travel grants each year for LIS students (one domestic and one international) to attend ALA Annual and engage with ALA and IRRT. You can learn more about this new and exciting initiative, as well as how to contribute, in the included article by Julia Gelfand and Shali Zhang. I hope that you will join me, and the rest of the Executive Committee, in supporting this initiative and ensuring globally-engaged librarianship lives on in future generations of librarians.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering support, hard work, and commitment to the IRRT. It has been an honor to serve as IRRT Chair this term, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such passionate and talented individuals. I would like to personally thank the hard-working members of the Executive Committee for going "above and beyond" this year with a heavy slate of administrative projects. I also would like to recognize IRRT's unfailing MVP, our staff liaison Delin Guerra. Her commitment and passion keep IRRT moving along in top condition, and she has done more for the organization than perhaps any other single individual in our 75 years.

As we look to the next 75 years, I encourage you to continue to embrace growth, foster connections, and champion the values of cultural exchange and understanding that are at the heart of our round table. Thank you for a remarkable year and for making the IRRT a vibrant and wonderful community. See you in San Diego!

2024 IRRT CHAIR'S PROGRAM

As IRRT celebrates its 75th anniversary, the IRRT Chair's program highlights the impact of collaborations among libraries worldwide. A variety of speakers will discuss progress toward digital inclusion, equity, and advocacy as advanced through international collaborations. With the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, they will highlight examples of libraries and library workers impacting the lives of their own communities and contributing to the overall betterment of the global community.

The program includes remarks from:

- IRRT Chair Mark Mattson, with remarks to celebrate 75 years of IRRT impact
- Clara M. Chu, with an overview of the Libraries for Sustainable Development project to advance the UN SDGs
- Representatives of collaborations between the U.S. and Afghanistan, and the U.S. and Malaysia, with a discussion of their projects
- Members of the IFLA North American Regional Division, with a synopsis their collaborative work

A lively question and answer session with the audience concludes the program.

Please join us on Sunday, June 30 from 4 to 5:30 in the San Diego Convention Center - room 32A/B!

MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR-ELECT

Carol Brey

Email: cbrey@lascruceres.gov

We live in such a complex world today, with war, conflict and unrest in so many areas. Yet in my travels as a diplomat for the U.S. State Department (2010-2022) and previously as ALA President (2004-2005) I discovered one constant around the world – the valuable work of librarians across the globe. We continue to provide learning and information resources for our communities, even in times of conflict. For example, public libraries in Ukraine are still doing their best to function despite the war there – some housing American Spaces which are cultural centers affiliated with the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. I hope to provide more details on this in a future column.



Librarians worldwide face challenges that are often similar to those we face in the U.S. – including intellectual property challenges, book banning, media literacy, and financial challenges. Please help IRRT and ALA continue our work to support libraries and librarians around the world by giving, and getting involved! If you are looking for a way to become more involved in ALA, and specifically IRRT, I urge you to consider one of the many Committee positions we have available starting at the end of this year's Annual Conference. Following IRRT's recent reorganization, we have streamlined the number of Committees and there are many exciting opportunities to serve! Please take a look at the reorganization information [here](#) to learn more. A formal call for volunteers to serve on IRRT Committees has gone out, and you can volunteer to serve by going to this [link](#) and filling out the form.

Involvement in IRRT, and ALA, not only strengthens your individual professional resume and experience, but fortifies our national and international library networks as well. As we look forward to our conference in June when we will host hundreds of international librarians, I invite you to join me in supporting libraries and librarians worldwide!

The ALA logo consists of the letters 'ALA' in a white, serif font, centered within a light blue circle.The number '75' is displayed in a white, sans-serif font, centered within an orange circle.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ROUND TABLE

Celebrating 75 Years

\$75 x 75 years

Julia Gelfand & Shali Zhang

ALA's International Relations Round Table (IRRT) is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2024. A series of events is scheduled to commemorate this diamond milestone. Fifteen years ago, for the 60th anniversary, IRRT held a "\$60 for 60 years" fundraiser and raised money for the Mission Enhancement Projects and we are proud to share that the IRRT Endowment has supported many awards that allowed U.S. librarians to go overseas and lead a project that enhanced library and literacy services or allowed for a foreign librarian to partner with IRRT members to accomplish a mutually beneficial global initiative. Also, Sister Library relationships were developed and nurtured, and different projects have been funded to increase the scope of international librarianship and to foster various international collaborations. Each year, we think we have the best proposal yet, only to welcome new submissions each year that take us to different parts of the world and highlight the libraries and librarians of that region. Many of these projects originally thought to be a one-time event or activity have matured into ongoing projects that continue to inspire and work their magic in communities around the globe promoting international librarianship.

This year, the launch of "\$75 x 75 years" will raise money for an endowment that will provide travel grants each year for two LIS students (one domestic and one international) to attend the ALA Annual Conference and participate in general and IRRT-related sessions. The travel grants aim to encourage new library professionals to affiliate with IRRT, ALA, and international librarianship while providing an opportunity for professional growth. We also hope that the success of this campaign will allow the IRRT membership to grow and diversify by

attracting librarians and future librarians residing on all continents to identify as new active members of IRRT and join our commitment to global collaborations in our work, be it in school libraries, public libraries, academic libraries, governmental or special libraries. The exchange of information, library resources, the multilingual aspects of our work and the ability to transform libraries into meaningful places for learning, recreation, civic pride and public discourse through planning, programming and the circulation and use of information resources is a lasting social impact.

This campaign has been in a soft launch until now and will go live and public at the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego, California June 27, 2024. Please consider joining your friends and colleagues in supporting the next generation of IRRT members as they embark on some amazing relationships. If you can contribute \$75 or multiples thereof, this campaign will reach its goal of \$75,000 all that much faster. Contributions in all amounts are welcome. We hope that you will participate in this special opportunity to join our many friends and colleagues who have found much value and friendship in their IRRT relationships. Thank you so much for your consideration and support.

Payment can be made by simply donating at <https://ec.ala.org/donate/projects> and choose Roundtables > IRRT > IRRT 75th Anniversary for your donation. Checks can also be addressed to ALA or American Library Association noted with FOR IRRT 75x75, 2024 and sent to ALA, 225 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601 USA.

Celebrate IRRT at the 2024 ALA conference

FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2024

Diamond Moments of International Librarianship and Its Impact-IRRT Preconference

Time: 8:00am – 12:30 pm Pacific
Location: San Diego Convention Center,
Room 06 D
Ticketed Session

Libraries around the world continue to make significant impacts on individuals, societies, and cultures through services and programming. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the International Relations Round Table (IRRT), this pre-conference session aims to showcase the important work of international libraries and communicate the lasting impact of librarianship around the globe. Highlighting international relationships and their influence on the work within libraries, the session will include presentations, round table discussions, and activities that will engage attendees in thoughtful and meaningful dialogs, bring together shared experiences, influence development of new programs and services, and foster the beginning of international connections.

International Librarians Orientation

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm Pacific
Location: San Diego Convention Center,
Room 30 A B C D E
Programs and Services

IRC Committee I
2:00pm– 3:30pm

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH, 2024

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am Pacific
Location: Marriott Marquis,
Pacific Ballroom Section 18
Open to everyone

Meeting of the International Relations Committee and International Relations Round Table subcommittees.

Librarians Without Borders Poster Session

Time: 9:30am – 11:00am Pacific
Location: Sails Pavilion

Poster Presenting Author: Jahala Simuel – ALA
Poster Author: Michael Harris – ALA, BCALA, and IRRT
Poster Author: Kimberly Bugg – ALA, ACRL

Poster Author: Vivian Bordeaux – ALA, BCALA
Poster Author: Eboni Henry – ALA, BCALA
Poster Presenting Author: Michele Fenton – Indiana State Library

IRRT Executive Board Meeting

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am Pacific
Location: San Diego Convention Center,
Room 14 A
Open to Everyone

International Collaborations: Strengthening Library Global Impact-IRRT Chair's Program

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm Pacific
Location: San Diego Convention Center,
Room 32 A B

Presenter: Vivienne Byrd – Exploration & Creativity Department, Los Angeles Public Library

Presenter: Lisa Hussey (she/her/hers) – Simmons University School of Library and Information Science

Moderator: Mark Mattson – Penn State University Libraries

Moderator: Barbara Marson

Moderator: Clara M. Chu, PhD (she/her/hers) – Mortenson Center for International Library Programs

Presenter: Nurfarawahidah Badruesham – Senior Librarian, Al-Bukhari Library Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Pahang Branch, Malaysia

Presenter: Clara M. Chu, PhD (she/her/hers) – Mortenson Center for International Library Programs

MONDAY, JULY 1ST, 2024

Leaning International: The Benefits and Impacts of Librarians Working Abroad

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm Pacific
Location: San Diego Convention Center,
Room 11 B

Moderator: Michele Fenton – Indiana State Library

Presenter: Tatiana Usova (she/her/hers) – Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

Presenter: Michael Courtney (he/him/his) – Indiana University Libraries

Presenter: Danilo Baylen (he/him/his) – University of West Georgia

International Librarians Reception

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm Pacific
Location: Off Site
Ticketed Event

2024 International Librarians Reception in San Diego, CA

International Librarians Reception
July 1, 2024, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: San Diego Public Library
330 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101

Mark your calendars and join the ALA International Relations Round Table (IRRT) in welcoming and celebrating with librarians from around the world at the ALA Annual Conference! This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Round Table and the reception will celebrate this milestone. Open to all conference attendees, the reception offers a unique opportunity to network with hundreds of information professionals from around the world. Join us for a mixing of culture and ideas, music, regional cuisine, *bors d'oeuvres*. ALA President, Emily Drabinski, will announce the recipients of the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Projects and the Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for International Librarianship.

Seeking Sustainable Projects and Participants

The International Sustainable Library Development (ISLD) Interest Group recently added some features to their webpage with IRRT.

We encourage anyone interested in our mission to promote sustainable library development globally to sign up for our MailChimp newsletter which will inform you of our meetings and lunches during conferences.

Do you know of a library project that is not already included in our list of projects? Please fill out the Google form on our ISLD Library Projects page and let us know! Access our site using the following short url: <http://tinyurl.com/irrt-isld>.



LESSA PELAYO- LOZADA

FORMER ALA PRESIDENT

Whitney Bevill



Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, former ALA president, has been Assistant Director of Glendale Library, Arts, and Culture since January 2024. She came to the world of librarianship as an undergraduate, while working at Borders Books. “A group of librarians came in to spend their end-of-the-year slush fund and it looked like so much fun! They walked out with carts and carts of books and I immediately went to find out how to become a librarian!” she says. The profession furthermore combined her love of teaching, children, literacy, and research.

Her present library, the Glendale Library, Arts, and Culture, founded in 1907, is composed of eight neighborhood libraries, including a music library, galleries, and a performance venue, and serves a diverse community. In fact, Lessa notes, Glendale is forty percent Armenian and has one of the largest Armenian populations outside that country. The community also includes large Korean, Latinx, and Filipino members. With such a varied population to serve, the library ensures there are resources and programming that reflect that diversity. “It is important for us to make sure we have materials, resources, and marketing in multiple languages to reach

everyone and make them feel included,” Lessa says. “The benefits our patrons bring are rich diversity and cultural perspectives to help the library and the Glendale community continue to grow and become more inclusive, helping us work towards supporting all of our community members. We seek out feedback from the community and adjust our programs and services to that feedback using a co-design model -- something many libraries could benefit from utilizing as well!”

One of Lessa's favorite memories as ALA president was, surprisingly, a four-hour meeting. During that Bylaws Convention at LibLearnX in New Orleans in 2023 (more information can be found at <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/ala-council-forges-ahead-liblearnx-2023>), difficult decisions were made to change the ALA's governance structure and representation on the ALA Executive Board and Council. The convention was the product of six years of work by various committees and served to help modernize the bylaws.

We appreciate Lessa's service to ALA and to her community!

THE LIBRARY COLLECTIVE AT SEA A LIBRARIAN CRUISE CONFERENCE TO REMEMBER

Gloria Creed-Dikeogu

Have you ever wanted to combine work and vacation in a subtle getaway? The Collective at Sea 2024 Conference for librarians did exactly that. It provided them with the ultimate vacation-professional development experience.

The Library Collective, founded in 2014, by its president, Corey Halaychik, is an “independent non-profit organization, dedicated to education and innovation for better librarianship” (The Library Collective Website, 2024). Its management team views librarians as innovators and is focused on providing them with opportunities for “learning” and “networking”, with an aim to “kickstart new ideas among next-generation librarians, library workers, and library stakeholders.” Over the past ten years, The Collective actively provided librarians with “fun, affordable, and useful” professional development conferences in “inclusive and supportive spaces.”

Corey Halaychik explained in an interview why the Library Collective was started. He said that four years into librarianship, he and several friends had attended many library conferences, but they were not receiving

the professional development they needed. They found that they wanted to start a conference for practitioners where a sense of community was developed, and one where librarians were active in program sessions that gave them a chance to relax and reflect. They wanted to build a conference that was affordable, and able to provide others with new/novel ideas from which to start and build on in the field.

This time, The Library Collective’s conference attendees were provided with a rare treat. They left Miami, Florida, with colleagues, friends, family and significant others in tow to visit CocoCay, Royal Caribbean’s private island and Cozumel, Mexico. They participated in delectable meals and onboard activities, signed up for off-ship excursions and attended the Collective Conference from 8am to 5pm, on the days that the ship was at sea.

Attendees were presented with conference information prior to boarding the ship. They created online portfolios and connected with other attendees and presenters interested in harnessing onboard talent. Registration for the Conference was available



on arrival, and on either day that the conference was presented. On Tuesday, May 14, the conference opened at 9pm, with a Welcome Reception, where attendees were provided with the chance to enjoy a glass of wine and meet each other.

From the first night of the cruise, conference attendees were encouraged to embrace community. Librarians from different library settings were seated together and that way friendships were developed. Each evening, the same librarians met at dinner and had the chance to get to know one another, connect with their peers, and talk about their job experiences. This was a very positive arrangement, as it helped them to feel more at ease with new friends and be more comfortable, enjoying the cruise atmosphere.

On day one of the Conference, Wednesday May 15, the Kickoff was an active learning session about culture. Attendees were divided into two groups, alpha and beta, and taught about their specific culture and how to communicate with their cultural group. Twice, members of the opposing group visited and reported on what they had learned about the other group's culture. At the end, there was a report back that provided librarians with input on how to teach students about understanding culture. This learning session was particularly useful to college librarians, since they often work with students who need to learn about the culture of their new college and how best to interact with international students.

On both days, five sessions with four to five program choices were provided. Topics presented on the first day ranged from shadow CV creation, library space planning, and innovative strategy, to using makerspaces in academic libraries, exploring library challenge stories, using games in libraries and teaching librarians how to create crochet programs for their library patrons.

On the second day, librarians explored topics such as librarian burnout, library strategic planning, salary negotiation, creative commons licensing and ChatGPT, to using art for professional development, managing employee relationship building and teaching knitting to library patrons. Several presentations made use of board games and art creation to gain librarian participation and added elements of group learning and fun to the presentations.

Creative art presentation activities provided in different presentations ranged from discussing mood boards for working with neurodivergent users when creating sensory spaces at the library, to poster



creation about librarian career journeys and their future plans to the resurrection of a surreal parlor game, the Exquisite Corpse. For this art game, attendees were divided into groups of three and were presented with blank pages folded into thirds. Then, the first librarian drew the creature's head, while the second was not allowed to see the head before drawing its body and the third similarly created the creature's legs without seeing its head or its body. An example of an exquisite corpse created at the Conference is included in our picture gallery.

The Library Collective's Conference ended with a wrap-up party on May 17, in the Theatre, where earlier that week, attendees had brought friends and family to see an ice-show and the musical Grease.

This library cruise conference was the very first cruise for many, and thus, an unusual, outstanding experience to remember.



NEW PROPOSED IRRT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

IRRT EXECUTIVE BOARD



MEMBERSHIP, RECRUITMENT, & ENGAGEMENT NEW

- MEMBERSHIP
- INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIAN'S ORIENTATION
- INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' CENTER

NOMINATING

ENDOWMENT & FUNDRAISING

CHAIR'S PROGRAM

PRE-CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS & PROJECTS

INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS & NETWORKING NEW

- INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS' NETWORKING PROGRAM
- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES PROJECT

SISTER LIBRARIES

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

LED BY A STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

MEMBERS:

- INTERNATIONAL LEADS EDITORS
- IRRT WEBSITE & BLOG EDITOR
- SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM
- WEBINAR CHAIR

***WEBINAR**

***WEBINAR IS A COMMITTEE BUT THE CHAIR WILL ALSO SIT ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT INTEREST GROUP

KEY PRINCIPLES

1. ORGANIZE BY FOCUS AREAS FOR CLARITY
2. COMMITTEE TITLES TO BE INDICATIVE OF SCOPE, AND MINIMIZE CHANGE IF STILL RELEVANT
3. INTEGRATE NEW AREAS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

Jun – Jul 2023
Presentation of proposed structural changes and membership feedback.

Sep – Dec 2023
Officers' Manual updates for the new structure in coordination with the IRRT bylaw standardization work.

1st Jul 2024
New structure is implemented.

Aug 2023
IRRT Executive Board votes on the proposed new structure.

Jan – Jun 2024
Chair-elect makes appointments into the new committee structure.

