

International Relations Round Table Committee Reports

2021 ALA Annual Conference

Compiled by
Alexandra Houzouri Humphreys
IRRT Chair 2020-2021
June 22, 2021

Chair's Program Committee

Members: Laurie Kutner (Co-Chair) , Mary Oberlies (Co-Chair), Virginia Desouky, Bella Karr Gerlich, Karen Ann Holt, Leah K. Howd, Christina Riehman-Murphy, and John C. Sandstrom
Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Alexandra Humphreys

The IRRT Chair's Program Committee's primary function is to develop and host the Chair's Program at ALA Annual. This year's CFP for Annual is centered on IRRT Chair, Alexandra Humphrey's theme and will be called: *Libraries in a Rapidly Changing World*

2020--2021 Timeline

August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Co-Chairs met with Alexandra to discuss the theme for 2021 Chair's program.● Drafted proposal for submission to ALA
November/ December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Notification of upcoming CFP sent out for inclusion in <i>International Leads</i>● Committee met and drafted the CFP for the ALA Annual Chair's Program.● Initial rubric evaluation - minor revisions suggested to adjust for online versus in-person presentation possibilities.● Committee began soliciting proposals through committee member networks.
January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Proposals solicited through the IRRT listserv, IRRT publications and social media, and committee member networks● Proposals due 2/15

March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received 4 proposals by the 2/15 deadline and we decided to extend it to March 12 in an effort to get a few more. Six proposals were received by the new deadline.
April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee met on April 13 to review proposals with the rubric. The IRRT Chair joined our meeting to provide input on proposals. Three proposals were selected surrounding the theme of supporting communities during COVID. Panelists were notified and all accepted.
May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panelists, co-chairs and the IRRT Chair met to discuss organization of the program and answer questions about logistics. Two panelists will be recording their presentation and it will be played ahead of the last two presentations. Program will be a live virtual event on Friday, June 25th from 11:15-12:15 (central) Emailed Delin to determine deadlines for submitting slides and how to have one presentation recorded.
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chairs submitted program titles, presenter names and emails to Delin. Last organizational meeting was held on June 8th with presenters, co-chairs and IRRT chair. A tech rehearsal is planned for June 11th. The details were shared with all parties involved. Presenters will send their slides and the one recorded presentation to the co-chairs by this date.

Our committee for July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021 consists of two co-chairs and six committee members and is supported by ALA staff liaison, Delin Guerra.

Submitted by Mary Oberlies and Laurie Kutner

Endowment Committee

Members: Robin Kear (Co-Chair), John Hickok (Co-Chair), Janet Lee, Teresa Tobin, and Shali Zhang; Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Jim Neal

Report of Activity the past 6 months (January to June 2021)

The 2020-2021 IRRT Endowment Committee is: Robin Kear & John Hickok (co-chairs), Shali Zhang, Janet Lee, and Tess Tobin. The committee did the following:

- **JAN 2021:** Co-chairs Robin & John gave the committee's mid-year report at the IRRT All-Committees meeting, ALA Virtual Midwinter Meeting, Saturday January 23 (report reprinted below)
- **FEB-MAR 2020:** Co-Chairs Robin & John communicated via emails to check the status of grant applications (with Delin). As of March 1, there were still no applications with the March 15 deadline approaching. We recommended a second Call for Applications over the IRRT listserv (which Delin did). Members re-posted the call in their networks, including CALA, REFORMA, APALA, BCALA, and in ALA Connect in various groups including IRRT Members and ALA Members.
- **APRIL 2021:** by April 12, four applications had arrived, and the committee began evaluating and ranking them individually using the Endowment Grant Rubric form. The committee met on April 19, via Zoom, to discuss the rankings. After evaluating strengths and weaknesses of all four applications, the committee reached consensus to award the 2021 [IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant](#), for \$1000, to the "**3D Printing Technology Training in the San Juan del Sur Nicaragua Public Library**" project, submitted by IRRT member Jane C. Mirandette. This project provides training—for library staff and local educators—in operating 3D printers at the [San Juan del Sur Nicaragua Library](#). The library obtained the printers in 2019 through a donation from the [Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All Foundation](#), and put them to preliminary use in 2020 making face shields for the Covid-19 pandemic. The project expands the use of the 3D printers with a week-long training event—by a professional 3D printer trainer in Managua—for library staff members and local high school educators, in both the use and maintenance of the printers. They, in turn, will train local high school students, as part of the library's cooperation with local schools in promoting innovative technology and entrepreneurship. Funds from the [IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant](#) will provide training manuals and workbooks, printer supplies, software, and maintenance tools, and trainer costs.
- **APRIL 2021:** during the April 19 Zoom meeting, the committee also discussed other matters: (1) *Planning the next chair & members*. John will be terming out and Robin will revert to a committee member only; Robin & John will make additional member and chair recommendations to IRRT Chair-Elect Jim Neal. (2) *Recommendations about fundraising*. Robin & John will forward these to Jim and Michael Dowling. (3) *Corrections on the Endowment webpage*. John will send these to Delin. (4) *Final report of 2020 winner, Ray Pun*: Robin & John inquired with Ray and he confirmed he would submit his final report in June.
- **MAY 2021:** on May 6, Co-chairs Robin & John emailed IRRT Exec, announcing the results, and received positive feedback. We then sent the acceptance email to Jane Mirandette, and the rejection emails to the other 3 applicants. Furthermore, we drafted

the press release announcement and gave it to Delin. It was posted as an ALA IRO press release on May 10 (viewable [here](#)).

- **JUNE 2021:** the committee will wrap-up final matters via emails, prior to Virtual ALA Annual 2021. Once Ray Pun's final report is submitted, Robin & John will submit it to Delin for posting on the grant [webpage](#).

Submitted by: Robin Kear & John Hickok (Co-Chairs)

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: January 2021 Midyear Report

1. Committee virtual meetings

The Committee had two virtual meetings: one in September and one in December.

2. Payment made to last year's Endowment Awardee

Following a delay in funds disbursement, payment was finally made to last year's Endowment awardee in December, to cover the costs of the awarded project.

3. Advertising/awarding this year's Endowment Grant

The Endowment has \$1900 in its funds, so the committee decided to proceed with awarding the Endowment Grant this year. A "Call for Applications" write-up was prepared to advertise at various locations, and sent to them: IRRT's newsletter, the IRO's listservs, ALA Connect, IRRT's Facebook/blog, ALA World, etc. This has already gone out to several.

4. Change of application deadline

Due to the late start of advertising, the application deadline was changed to March 15, 2021

5. Fundraising efforts

The committee agreed to look into contacting vendors for donations to the Endowment.

6. Endowment page updated

The webpage of the Endowment Grant (<https://www.ala.org/rt/irrt-mission-enhancement-grant>) was updated to include the new date and new wording. A press release of last year's winner is now included, and a preliminary report will be added soon.

Submitted by IRRT Endowment Committee

International Connections

Annual Report

Members: Alison Shea (Co-Chair), Katie Dow (Co-Chair), Amed Demirhan, Ayaba Logan, Sandra C. McCarthy, April Moyo, Jessica Lynn O'Neil, Maureen Rust, and Logan F. Thompson
Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Yan (Grace) Liu

Following the successful model of 2019-2020, we once again decided to split the work of the Committee into two groups: one working on the ALA Annual proposal “Leaning International: Stories from the Field” and the “Best Practices from World Libraries” photo gallery. We began work on these in February 2021 after learning that the 2021 ALA Annual would once again be in virtual format. We also received notice at that time that our “Leaning International” program proposal had been accepted, and Alison began working with Committee member Logan Thompson to plan it. Given that we had solicited and selected three speakers for the same program for 2020, which did not go forward, we reached out to the three speakers – Janet Lee, John Barnett, and Richard Sapon-White – who graciously agreed to participate for the 2021 program instead. Logan and Alison acted as moderators, and we are very pleased with the finished product, which will be available as an “on-demand” program at this year’s conference.

At the same time, Katie and her subcommittee put out a call for photos for the 2021 “Best Practices from World Libraries” photo gallery. This year we focused on the IRRT President’s theme of “Libraries in an Ever Changing World” and we requested photos of things libraries did during the pandemic. We had a smaller return than in years past but understandably with everything that has been going on. Over all we had 11 submissions that including Slovenia, Hungary, Brazil, France, and the US. We are working on putting together the website now and should be able to promote it for Annual.

Goals for the coming year are to review the material on the IRRT International Connections website, as well as continue to support the “Leaning International” program and “Best Practices from World Libraries” photo gallery.

IRRT International Librarians' Orientation/Mentoring Committee

Members: Kate McNamara (Co-Chair), Xiaojie Duan (Co-Chair), Ghaji Abubakar Badawi, Gloria Faith Creed-Dikeogu, Eugene Holland Hayworth, Andrea R. Malone, Erica Saito, and Renan Leite Oliveira Da Silva; Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Julia Gelfand

The committee did not have any activities this year due to the pandemic.

International Papers and Projects Committee

Members: Felicia Chan (Co-Chair), Mira Nezar (Co-Chair), Brea E. Henson, Nurhak Tuncer, Michael Bailou Huang, Jana De Brauwere, Mary Kathryn Oberlies, and Oluwatosin Fisayo
Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Alexandra Humphreys; Delin R. Guerra served as the committee's ALA Office liaison

Committee Updates:

Mira Nezar will be stepping down as the committee co-chair after the 2021 ALA Virtual, and Brea Henson will take on this new role. Brea has the leadership qualities, skills, and motivation to work with Felicia and the team to continue the good work of the committee. Felicia will focus on the transfer of knowledge and experience so that new chairs can step up in future. Mira will be staying on as a committee member, as she believes strongly in the mission of the committee in bringing the important work of the international librarians to ALA and the American audiences.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank IRRT, in particular Alexandra, for their support and guidance, which has enabled the International Papers and Projects session to continue to be a regular program at ALA Annual.

Year in Summary:

The year started with some uncertainty amid Covid-19. The members exchanged emails on how they and their institutions were coping with the pandemic and how they were helping their communities. Due to the pandemic, the format of the ALA 2021 Annual was not clear at the beginning of the year, and the committee was informed that our session was not going to be automatically included in the conference lineup. We held an online meeting early on to begin planning a strong program. The committee brainstormed ideas and projected forward that 2021 would also be about helping communities recover from the trauma of Covid and wanted a theme that reflected resilience and represented hope. Thus, the title of the program became: ***Strengthening Societies: Libraries as Critical Institutions in Helping Communities Manage Change***. The theme was inspired by Covid but was NOT about Covid.

We were happy to find out that our program was selected for the 2021 ALA Virtual, and immediately went into high gear in preparing a call for proposals. As many libraries around the world were struggling with providing services to their communities during these unprecedented times, we received a small number of proposals. Nevertheless, we were able to select three strong international proposals, representing China, Singapore, and the United State. They showcase projects on how their libraries served as critical institutions in helping communities manage change, stay resilient, and recover after periods of crises. We believe this excellent program will help enlarge the worldview of attendees.

The presentations include:

1. ***Little Free Classes in Rural Non-government Libraries: the Combination of Online Resources with Offline Learning for Left-behind Children***, presented by Zizhou Wang and Xiaofang Zhang, Research Group on the Development of Non-government Libraries, Department of Information Management, Peking University, Beijing, China
2. ***Championing Inclusive Digital Learning at our Libraries***, presented by Pek Seah, Senior Manager (Digital Readiness) with National Library Board, Singapore
3. ***Reimagining Diversity at the Leatherby Libraries: A Strategy for Success***, presented by Essraa Nawar, MBA, MA, MLIS Leatherby Libraries Development Librarian Chair, Arts, Exhibits and Events Committee Chapman University, Orange, CA, and Kevin Ross, Ph.D., MLS Interim Dean Leatherby Libraries Chapman University, Orange, CA.

Committee members Nurhak Tuncer and Jana De Brauwere served as the moderators of the program. Felicia Chan, Mira Nezar, and Nurhak Tuncer served as the moderators of the Q&A Session. The entire session was prerecorded as part of the ALA 2021 On Demand Program.

Challenges and Learning Points:

The uncertainty around the format as well as the late confirmation of acceptance resulted in a crunch towards the end. The committee struggled with getting enough proposals though there were back-up plans in place. Additionally, the removal of video editing support from ALA was also challenging as committee members only had basic editing skills resulting in the final product having some inconsistency in sound volume. Nonetheless, it was a meaningful and positive learning experience as it spotlighted the type of skills needed for the future.

Another challenge was finding a suitable collaborative platform. As the committee does not really log in to ALA Connect, and some members have work restrictions on sharing platforms like google doc, the main communication platform defaults to email which is not the effective medium for managing discussions. At the moment there is no good solution but would be an area for improvement next year.

Another area of focus would be mentorship. The current committee is passionate and diverse and have different opinions on many things. This is good for learning and negotiation and one of the new things that can be put in place would be handover documents and/or mentoring from the chair to ensure all incoming chairs are adequately informed of their responsibilities which may extend beyond delivering the session but also building leadership within the profession across geographical boundaries.

This committee is committed to continuous improvement to ensure that insightful sessions representing global projects can be showcased year after year at ALA Annual.

Prepared by Mira Nezar and Felicia Chan

International Preconference Committee

Members: Barbara Marson (Co-Chair), Gloria Creed-Dikeogu (Co-Chair), Lisa Hinchliffe, Michael Huang, Donna Scheeder, and Katie Spires; Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Julia Gelfand

In November 2020, the IRRT Preconference Committee developed a call for proposals based on the theme *Relevance and Effectiveness of Libraries in a Changing World*. The deadline for submission was February 5, 2021. Thirteen proposals were submitted and were reviewed by the committee members. The committee met on April 27, 2021 and selected five of these which will run as three separate webinars. The dates have been coordinated with Delin Guerra at ALA.

The five presentations are:

July 22, 10-Noon EDT (two presentations)

Libraries Adapting to the COVID World: The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Library Practice Thriving or Just Surviving?: A Multifaceted Look into Libraries during the Covid-19 Pandemic

July 26, 2-3:30 EDT (one presentation)

Insta-Library: Connecting to Youth Through Instagram during COVID Times

August 6, 1-3:00 EDT (two presentations)

Opening a Digital Door to Our Campus Users and Libraries' Community during Global COVID-19 Epidemiology Outbreak
Build Your Own Digital Collections

International Poster Session Committee

Members: Richenda L. Hawkins, Co-Chair, Michele T. Fenton, Co-Chair, Andrea A. Wirth, Buenaventura Basco, John H. Barnett, Karen Holt, Karin Suni, and Diane Robson
Liaison to IRRT Executive Committee: Richard Sapon-White

Annual Report

No activity for the poster session committee in July and August 2020.

In September 2020, co-chairs Richenda Hawkins and Michele Fenton communicated via email to decide the best time for the Poster Session Committee to meet. Wanted to pick a date that would accommodate the academic librarians on the committee since most would be back on contract by mid-October and past the first week of class.

On November 3, 2020, Richenda created a Doodle Poll with possible dates for the committee's first meeting and sent the link out to committee members.

Committee members met via Zoom on November 18, 2020 to discuss updates, share ideas, and to ask and answer questions.

On November 20, 2020, co-chairs Michele and Richenda submitted a list of questions asked by committee members to Delin Guerra:

Call for Posters

- When will the call for posters begin?
- Will the call for international posters coincide with the general call for posters?
- Is there a theme for posters for ALA Annual 2021?
- Can presenters whose posters were accepted for last year's annual conference but were unable to participate, re-submit their posters for consideration for ALA Annual 2021?

If the ALA Annual 2021 Conference is Held Virtually

- If the ALA Annual 2021 Conference goes virtual, would it be possible for the presenters to submit a pre-recorded video to accompany their posters? The video would allow presenters to talk about their posters (research process, purpose, findings, etc.). The video could be YouTube like and last maybe three or 4 minutes.
- If the conference goes virtual, would we still have to limit the number of presentations to 22 to 24? Or would we be allowed to accommodate more presentations since the conference is virtual? We could have breakout rooms for each of the poster presentations.

If the ALA Annual 2021 Conference is Held In-Person

- Can presenters register for an exhibits-only pass and still present their posters --especially since the posters will be in the exhibit hall?
- If registered presenters aren't able to attend in person, would it be possible for them to still submit their poster and include a pre-recorded video to accompany their poster? The purpose of the video would allow the presenter to talk about their poster. Committee members mentioned how this was done at other conferences. This would be especially helpful if the presenter(s) can't secure a visa.

Delin and Emily Day (ALA Conference Services) replied:

- The call for international posters and deadlines coincide with ALA's deadlines.
- ALA expects to announce the format of the ALA Annual 2021 Conference in early February. Specifics regarding programming including posters, will be announced soon after.

The mid-year report for the poster session committee was submitted to IRRT Chair Alexandra Humphreys on January 15th. Poster Session Committee Co-Chair Richenda Hawkins read the

poster session committee's mid-year report at the IRRT All-Committees Meeting at ALA Midwinter on January 23rd.

On January 28th, ALA announced that the ALA 2021 Annual Conference initially scheduled to be held in Chicago, will be virtual due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic.

Call for posters sent to IFLA email list, IRRT ALA Connect, and other email lists starting in February. The original deadline was March 8th; it was later extended to March 21st.

Committee members received access to the poster submissions evaluation portal on March 22nd. A total of 16 poster session submissions were received. The review period was from March 22-April 16th.

Committee met via Zoom on April 14, 2021 to discuss choices/decisions of which posters to accept, reject, or designate as maybe. Co-Chair Michele Fenton submitted the selected posters to Conference Services on April 16th.

On April 19th, a question was received from a presenter regarding conference fees. All presenters are required to register for the conference. The presenter is co-presenting with two other presenters, but the two other presenters can't afford to attend the conference as non-members even at the discounted rate. The presenter asked if there is any kind of waiver on the registration offered to presenters from developing countries. The question was forwarded to Emily Day of Conference Services. Emily Day replied:

- The co-presenters may register for the Library Marketplace option. At the current advance price, it is \$69 dollars. They may also redeem the code MARKET for an additional \$10 dollars off that price.

The poster session committee is currently awaiting next directives from Conference Services.

International Reception Committee

Members: Katie Spires (Co-Chair), Laverne Page (Co-Chair), Elise Aversa, Lizzy Boden, June M. Garcia, Amanda Harrison, Romyana Yordanova Hristova, and Tiffany Messer-Bass;
Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Yan (Grace) Liu

The Reception Committee began its busiest part of the year after the Midwinter Meeting. After a few deadline extensions, the committee had eight nominations to evaluate. Members individually ranked each nomination according to the previously decided criteria, then discussed the results together to determine the awardees: five from Canada, Hong Kong, and Kazakhstan.

The reception itself is planned as an online event on **June 29, 2021, at 6:00 pm Eastern**. After the awards are presented, there will be social time that includes icebreakers and a library-themed trivia game.

International Sister Libraries Committee

Members: Mark Mattson (Co-Chair), Colleen Wood (Co-Chair), Nicole Renee Almanza, Adrienne Keane, Shuyu Lu, Ophelia T. Morey, April Moyo, Jessica Lynn O'Neil, Diana Rochelle Price, and Carolyn West; Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Mark Mattson

Objectives of the committee for the past year included:

- Continuing to promote Sister Library partnerships to American libraries
- Follow up with early 2020 Promotional Campaign advocating sister library partnerships
- Submit a Conference Session Proposal: Libraries in a Rapidly Changing World
- Outreach to NAPLE Sister Libraries:
 - Learn about what NAPLE sistership does and how we can collaborate with them
 - Co-sponsor with NAPLE if accepted for ALA Annual IRRT Conference Program or Webinar Program
- Review Sister Libraries website and provide feedback and updates
- Transfer Sister Libraries documents, minutes, and notes to ALA Connect
- Introduced Regional Liaison Roles & Communication Liaison Role

Planned activities:

- Committee members were allocated a section of “Libraries Seeking Sisters” and emailed a drafted message to each library,
 - Encouraging them to look at the list of libraries on the website and reach out to form a partnership with one that matches their requirements
 - Encourage libraries who have an established partnership to share their success stories on the website
- Invite Diego Garcia of NAPLE Sister Libraries to join a committee meeting and share their matching process and successes
- Determine possibility of hosting a joint webinar with Diego Garcia of NAPLE Sister Libraries
- Select committee members volunteered to add new articles and update the website “Resources” list
- Regional Liaisons to reach out to reciprocal IRT Regional committee chairs for future collaboration

Accomplishments:

- Feedback from the mass email activity identified a library interested in sharing their Sistership success story as part of our proposed ALA Conference Program panel.

Otherwise limited feedback with a few libraries who could not match themselves and asked for assistance in forming a sistership

- Mark promoted Sister Libraries as a global project and collaboration during an international presentation
- Our website “Resources” list was updated with new articles. This is now in MLA format as per International Leads’ suggestion.
- Due to active interest in different areas, committee members selected roles and regional areas they would like to oversee:
 - Communication Liaison – 1 member to collaborate with International Leads and other publications to promote the benefits and goals of Sister Libraries
 - Regional Liaisons – members assigned to different world regions, to help “Libraries Seeking Sisters” match and form sisterships.
- The committee have tentatively considered a webinar, showcasing:
 - Who & what Sister Libraries does
 - Positive experiences from sister library partners
 - Mark’s success stories at Penn State
 - NAPLE Sister Libraries presentation (Diego Garcia)

International Visitors Center Committee

Members: Farzaneh Razzaghi (Chair), Rachelle M. Brandel, Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, Michele Hjorting, Elizabeth Jarcy, and Patience Emefa Dzandza Ocloo:
Liaison to IRRRT Executive Board: Yan (Grace) Liu

The International visitors committee did not meet to plan for ALA conference meetings since the conference is going to be virtual due to COVID.

Membership Committee

Members: Katherina Yoke Peng Lee (Co-Chair), Angela Kinney (Co-Chair), Boutsaba Janetvilay, Anna Kozłowska, E. M. Roublow, Elizabeth Alison Sterner, and Yongming Wang
Liaison to IRRRT Executive Board: Jim Neal

Name of person submitting this report: **Katherina Lee and Angela Kinney**

Email of person submitting this report: lee_katherina@yahoo.com and anki@loc.gov

Report submission date: ____midwinter ____x____annual

Name of committee: **IRRT Membership Committee**

Name of committee chair (indicate if acting chair): **Katherina Lee and Angela Kinney**

Committee chair e-mail address: lee_katherina@yahoo.com and anki@loc.gov

Date of meeting(s): April 28, 2021, February 24, 2021, January 11, 2021, October 22, 2020

Members present: **All committee members (including Delin Guerra and Jim Neal) were present on October 22.**

1. Committee Set Objectives and Work Plan (July 2020 to June 30 2021)

1.1 Initiatives to increase membership in U.S. and abroad

The committee submitted our recommended proposal at the ALA Midwinter Conference 2021 and to the IRRT Executive Board to request consideration of a fee waiver of the IRRT membership for U.S. citizens. Our recommended proposal is pending ALA and IRRT Executive Board support and approval.

- Amended IRRT Membership letters twice for contact with new, soon to expire members, and those needing to be re-instated.
- The Membership Committee issued the Facebook post below, which included the benefits of joining IRRT. The post was in multiple languages including English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.
- Held 4 meetings during the year and posted minutes to ALA Connect

Are you interested in joining a dynamic organization that can broaden your professional connections well beyond local and national boundaries? Then consider becoming a member of the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association. IRRT promotes librarianship worldwide through a variety of professional committees, projects, and exciting educational activities. Read about how IRRT supports relationships between librarians across the globe through its Mission Enhancement Grant, International Sister Libraries initiative, and Webinar Series. For more information on how to get involved, visit the IRRT website at: <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt>.

- The committee has proposed a social media plan to advocate for IRRT membership on LinkedIn and Instagram, to leverage a strong ALA/IRRT presence on these social media platforms.
- The committee has also promoted IRRT Membership to these professional associations via their listservs: Chinese American Library Association (CALA), ACRL Science & Technology Section, and the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials.

1.2 Collaboration with ILNP on Emerging Leaders Program

- Yongming Wang volunteered to join the IRRT sponsored International Librarians Networking Program (ILNP) 2021. The program will run from May to August

2021. The preparation work started in March 2021. This year the program will recruit about 70 librarians from around the world to participate in professional information exchange and network development.

Publications Committee

Members: Lindsay Inge Carpenter (Co-Chair), Christina Riehman-Murphy (Co-Chair), John Carey, Barbara Marson, Karina Sarah E. Ostrach, Fatima K. Perkins, Raymond Pun, Elizabeth Alison Sterner, and Joan S. Weeks; Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Richard Sapon-White

The publications committee is a working committee that ensures the IRRT's communications are reflective of the round table's activities and priorities while promoting greater awareness of the international library landscape.

The pandemic has resulted in additional professional and personal commitments affecting committee members; as a result, the committee has met infrequently this year and has focused on maintaining our current social media channels, rather than expanding or taking on new projects.

The Publications Committee has maintained an active social media presence throughout 2020. As of June 14, 2021, our Facebook page has 1, 292 followers, up from 1,283 followers in January 2021. The IRRT blog has also continued to be active, with 56 posts shared in 2021 so far. Joan Weeks continues her excellent work managing the IRRT website.

International Leads continues to produce excellent content, under the capable leadership of Rebecca Miller & Florence Mugambi, whose two-year term as co-editors of the publication ends this year. The committee is extremely grateful for their thoughtful stewardship of this publication. The most recent issue of *International Leads*, released June 2021, is available here: <https://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/intlleads/internationalleads>

In spring 2021, the Publications Committee recruited new editors for *International Leads*. Members reviewed applications independently, then discussed and ranked applicants as a group. We were impressed by the strength of all 3 applications, and recommended to the Executive Board that all 3 be invited to serve as co-editors. Given the heavy workload of the editor position and the diverse experiences of the applicants, the committee felt that *International Leads* would benefit from this team-based leadership. We are pleased to share that Julia Gelfand, Michele Fenton, and Reysa Alenzuela all accepted positions as editors of *International Leads*. The Publications Committee Co-chairs will host a meeting in June for the outgoing and incoming editors to meet and discuss transitioning leadership.

On a personal note, this is the conclusion of my (Lindsay's) term as Publications Committee Co-chair. I am so grateful to Christina for being a wonderful co-chair. She has gone above and beyond this year to provide consistent leadership to this group, and I greatly appreciate her efforts. Thank you to all of the Publications Committee members and IRRT members for making this a wonderful experience!

Submitted by Lindsay Inge Carpenter, Co-Chair, Publications Committee

Webinar Committee

Members: Gina de Alwis (Co-Chair), Ophelia T. Morey (Co-Chair), Dorcas Hand, Laila Hussein Moustafa, Raymond Pun, and Aditi Gupta; Liaison to IRRT Executive Board: Mark Mattson

1. Number of committee meetings (virtual)

The Committee held two virtual meetings on January 29, April 20, and June 16, 2021.

2. Activities

- **Webinar Committee documentation**

Since the Webinar Committee was formally confirmed in 2020, the focus has been on preparation of documentation. During the period under review, a document detailing the ***"Roles and responsibilities of the chairs and committee members and processes for planning/presenting webinars"*** was completed. This document will eventually be submitted for inclusion in the ***IRRT Officers Manual***.

- **Webinars planned and presented**

Four webinars, one a series of three, were planned and presented.

May 27, 2021: Out of the Ashes, Beyond Buildings and Books: Rebuilding of the Reading Room at the Lubuto Model Library in Lusaka, Zambia

Presenters: Jane Meyers, President, Lubuto Library Partners

Given Besa, Library Manager, Lubuto Model Library, Lusaka, Zambia.

A fire on April 11th, destroyed the Reading Room which houses the book collection at Lubuto Library Partners' Model Library in Lusaka, Zambia. The presenters shared about the nature of assistance the library is receiving to rebuild and expand the physical infrastructure, and the organization's ongoing need for support to strengthen the human resources that will revive and sustain the library services that are so sorely missed by the children – beyond the buildings and books. Lubuto's goal is that the library will come back to serve Zambia's young people better than ever.

June 10, 2021: Webinar 1: Linked Data and Rare Materials

Presenters: Paloma Graciani-Picardo, Metadata Librarian, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin; Tim Thompson, Librarian for Applied Metadata Research at Yale University Library.

June 17, 2021: Webinar 2: Linked Data and Ethics

Presenters: Brian (Bri) Watson, PhD Student, iSchool, University of British Columbia and Director of HistSex.com; Devon Murphy, TARO Metadata Analyst at the University of Texas at Austin.

June 18, 2021: Webinar 3: Linked Data and Discovery

Presenters: Huda Khan, Software Developer, Cornell University; Astrid Usong, User Experience Designer, Digital Library Systems and Services at Stanford Libraries.

This series of three webinars from ALA International Relations Round Table (IRRT) Webinar Committee and the Mission Enhancement Project support Croatian Library Association's interests in linked data projects and work. This presentation will focus on linked data and discovery.

All the webinars were recorded and are available at <https://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>

3. Committee membership

Dorcas Hand will be stepping down from the Webinar Committee effective July 2021 as she has been appointed Texas Chapter Councillor to ALA which is also a seat on the Texas Library Association Executive Board. Also, effective July 2021, Ray Pun will no longer serve as a committee member.

Submitted by IRRT Webinar Committee

International Librarians Networking Program (ILNP) Subcommittee

(FEBRUARY-JUNE 2021)

FEBRUARY 2021

Call for IRRT volunteers to join the subcommittee was sent out early February. Five volunteers joined the subcommittee: Mark Mattson, April Moyo, Jessica O'Neil, Marsha Crawford, and Yongming Wang

MARCH 2021

Call for 2021 ILN Program applications opened –early March 2021. Decision was made not to advertise as aggressively as last year because less pairs compared to last year's 47 pairs +1 trio

from 46 countries was planned to be selected and managed with more engagement of participants with liaisons. Special tactics were used to wait for couple of weeks before a deadline (April 1) to see how many people applied and depending on the number strategize additional advertising. That approach worked: unlike last year's 450 applicants from 70 countries, only 270 applications from 39 countries were received this year.

Final selection: 28 pairs and 2 trios - 62 participants total from 27 countries were selected to participate this year:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, India, Iraq, Ireland, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Bosnia-Republic of Srpska, Russia, South Korea, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States representing 6 continents: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

The pairs will be managed by five liaisons 6 pairs each. During a first month of the program, few dropouts have been expected. A present number of participants is 53.

CHANGES IN INLP 2021 BASED ON FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM INLP 2020 PARTICIPANTS

- Inaugural webinar and zoom meeting(s) with all participants added
- More interaction with liaisons
- Smaller number of total pairs and pairs per liaison
- "Final project"- Poster at the end of the program
- Inform and invite to different IRRT and ALA events
- Provide information about other professional events and activities

TIMELINE OF THE PROGRAM

The start of the program was delayed for a month because additional time was required for participants' selection and pairing, and preparation for and launching of an inaugural webinar. Highlighted in pink are the dates planned originally, highlighted in green are the new dates changed from the original ones. They will be followed till the rest of the program.

Date	Action
02/20/2021 - 02/28/2021	Update application form and content page (ILNP page - How to apply); Update the ILNP page saying applications will be open from first week of March (date to be determined) to March 31st, plus requirements of 2021 program; Activate application form to receive responses
03/01/2021 - 03/31/2021	Promote the program in social media, discussion lists, International Leads
04/01/2021	Application form closes. Update ILNP page saying the applications are closed
04/01/2021 - 04/24/2021	Selection and pairing participants process

04/01/2021 - 04/24/2021 05/01/2021 - 05/24/2021	Organize a webinar for participants to be hosted in the first week of May
04/26/2021 05/26/2021	Send email to selected participants + Prompt 1.
05/01/2021 - 05/07/2021 05/01/2021 - 05/07/2021	Program starts. Webinar launching the program for selected participants Webinar took place on 05/28 Program started the next day
04/26/2021 - 05/07/2021 05/26/2021 - 06/07/2021	Make changes to participants or take action in case if it is needed Re-pairing because of the drop-outs completed mid-June
05/17/2021 06/17/2021	Send prompt 2
06/07/2021 07/07/2021	Send prompt 3
06/14/2021 07/14/2021	Send Mid-program evaluation
06/14/2021 - 07/05/2021 07/14/2021 - 08/05/2021	Analyze survey responses. Try to accommodate participants suggestions to improve the current program
06/28/2021 07/28/2021	Send prompt 4
07/19/2021 08/19/2021	Send prompt 5
07/26/2021 08/26/2021	Request testimonials
08/02/2021 09/02/2021	Send a reminder about testimonial and send a final survey

08/02/2021 - 08/31/2021	Update blog with participants' testimonials, and analyze survey responses
09/02/2021 - 09/31/2021	

MEETINGS HELD

Since February 5 meetings were held by ILN group and one webinar was conducted.

03/09 – first meeting

- Introductions
- Planning of an inaugural webinar in May (agenda items, discussion topics, panelists)
- Discussion of the final number of applications to be selected and how many pairs can each volunteer handle.
- Finalists selection and pairing process
- Program promotion and marketing (Last year as a result of aggressive marketing - 500 applicants from under 70 different countries. 100 participants were planned to be selected. Should we be less aggressive this year so that we get less applicants? It was a lot of work to work with 500 applications)
- How to continue to record the program happenings throughout the program (last year because of the big number of pairs to handle as well as spending a lot of time on running the program smoothly the IL Group E members did not have enough time to keep up with reflecting the developments on the program's blog as well as sharing the information on IRRT social media sites; it would be great to do it more consistently this year)

04/06 – meeting

- Pairing process and division of pairs between liaisons. Final number of applicants: 300 original applicants and after clean up eliminating duplicate entries and applications lacking important entries final number - 272.
- Preparation to webinar and agenda.
- Draft template for the poster we are requiring the participants to send us at the end of the program.
- Survey/form to be sent to all participants for mini bio information to be compiled in one file to be shared among participants.

04/21 – meeting

Communication with the participants.

[Participation inquiry email](#) to check if the person is still interested including the form <http://bit.ly/irrt-part-21> to make sure that they are still interested to participate and their plans have not changed. Do some re-pairing and re-match based on the responses, and then send the "[you have a match](#)" email.

05/07 – meeting

- Results of the survey responses
- Re-matching of the participants in the pairs when one partner dropped out

- Webinar: discussion of details; things to do list; scheduling a specific date with Delin.
- Discussion of the order of things (sending emails to participants, announcing a start of the program, etc.) to be done before webinar.

05/20 - webinar preparation

Date confirmed – May 28th

Confirmation of agenda

Planning a quick run before the webinar starts

05/28 – webinar

Agenda

- Welcome
- Opening Remarks (Alexandra Houzouri Humphreys, IRRT Chair)
- ILNP Liaisons - Brief Introduction
- About ILNP (Erica Saito, Muzhgan Nazarova, ILNP subcommittee Co-Chairs)
- ILNP 2020 program experience (April Moyo and Eugenia Ortega)
- Final Poster (Mark Mattson, IRRT Member At-Large)
- Q&A session

Program is continuing to follow an updated deadline with 53 participants total.

The group is planning to approach IRRT Executive Board to see when they can apply for changing into a separate IRRT committee to be able to support a sustainability and provide a permanent infrastructure of this important for the international library community exchange program

Submitted by Muzhgan Nazarova and Erica Salto (Co-Chairs)

IRRT ALCTS Liaison Report

“In votes on Tuesday, June 23, and Saturday, June 27, the ALA Council voted to approve Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures as a new ALA division beginning September 1, 2020, and to dissolve the **Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)**, the Library Information Technology Association (LITA) and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) effective August 31, 2020.”

<https://alcts.ala.org/news/2020/ala-council-approves-core-dissolves-alcts-lita-and-llama/>

Irina Stanishevskaya, ALCTS International Relations Committee Liaison