

ALA International Relations Report

Submitted by Michael Dowling-Director, IRO
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ALA Annual Conference, Washington D.C.

In the end, five hundred and thirty-one librarians from sixty-nine countries joined U.S. colleagues in Washington, D.C. in June. Their participation contributed over \$150,000 in registration revenue. In addition, there were fifty exhibitors from fourteen other countries.

IFLA WLIC Congress Athens, Greece

The 85 IFLA World Library and Information Congress was held in Athens, Greece, August 24-30th. The total attendance was around what was expected, with 3,300 delegates from 130 countries. Athens was an attractive location for the U.S. library community, with 350 delegates (most ALA members.) Included was a delegation of twenty-seven library school students from St. Catherine University. In addition, dozens of ALA international members also attended.

At the Congress, the new IFLA Strategy, 2019-2024 was unveiled. It has four areas:

- Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries
- Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice
- Connect and Empower the Field
- Optimise our Organisation

IRO again coordinated the U.S. Caucus, and Reception on behalf of the seven U.S. Associations of IFLA. With a very good location the ALA Exhibit Stand saw steady traffic throughout, promoting ALA membership, publishing, conferences, and resources. IRO would like to thank all the ALA members and staff who volunteered at the Stand, especially ALA leadership: President Wanda Brown; Past-President Loida Garcia-Febo; President-elect Julius Jefferson; Treasurer Maggie Farrell; and Executive Director Mary Ghikas.

In addition to many ALA members making presentations, ALA staff contributed as well. Project Outcome was a hot topic at IFLA. Emily Plagman (PLA) and Sara Goek (ACRL) presented the keynote "Project Outcome for Academic and Public Libraries: Outcome Measurement Made Easy" at the Statistics & Evaluation Section Satellite Meeting. Plagman followed up with another session in Athens for the public library community. ACRL's Kara Malenfant's poster on "Academic librarians accelerating change in systems of scholarly communications and the research environment" drew a lot of interest. And Mary Ellen Davis and Mary Jane Petrowski from ACRL served as coaches for librarians from other countries looking for guidance and advice.

Forty-two members nominated by ALA that will be serving on IFLA Section Committees for the next two years. Past-President Loida Garcia-Febo has begun a four-year term on the Management of Library Associations Section.

ALA members Pat Losinski and Ann Okerson finished terms on the IFLA Governing Board at the Athens Congress. Michael Dowling has begun his second two-year term on the IFLA Governing Board and was elected to its Executive Committee. He is the only U.S. member of the Board for 2019-2021.

U.S. Russia Dialogue on Civic Role of Libraries

Collaborating Past-President Nancy Kranich, and Ellen Knutson at the Kettering Foundation, ALA received a grant from the U.S. Russia Foundation to continue the dialogue between U.S. and Russian librarians on civic role of libraries in the 21st century. The '3rd Meeting' took place on September 24-26 at the University of Champaign-Urbana. Among the ten U.S participants were President-elect Julius Jefferson and Past-President Loida Garcia-Febo and staff members Mary Davis Fournier and Michael Dowling. A follow-up meeting in Russia will take place in 2020.

South Africa Library Conference

Michael Dowling will be providing the keynote the 20th Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Conference, Sept 30-Oct 4. The keynote will look at creating and maintaining a healthy library ecosystem. Dowling will also be meeting with LIASA staff and leadership to strategize on their organizational change efforts, and to discuss opportunities to increase use of ALA's products and services in South Africa and neighboring countries.

Sharjah Library Conference

Planning continues for the 6th Sharjah International Library Conference, which will take place November 5-7 in conjunction with the Sharjah International Book Fair. The conference attracts academic, public, school, and special librarians primarily from the Middle East region. IRO creates the program for the conference. President Wanda Brown will be the keynote. Other presenters include ALA authors, plenary presenter Jason Griffey, and Ken Varnum.

This year's conference has three full-day preconference workshops. One is the ACRL Roadshow "Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action." Another is on the new designed-RDA toolkit, and the third is for school librarians on using augmented and virtual reality.

20th Year of ALA-FIL Free Pass to Guadalajara Book Fair

IRO Program Officer Delin Guerra is coordinating the 20th year of the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program to Guadalajara Book Fair, which will take place November 30 - December 4, 2019. The 150 ALA

members who will participate this year, and receive a \$100 travel stipend from ALA, were selected at the end of the summer through an application process.

ALA International Membership

Current international membership remains relatively steady, with 1,851 from 96 countries. The top ten by country are: Canada 969; Australia 70; United Kingdom 46; Japan 44; Germany 35; Nigeria 30; China 29; United Arab Emirates 28; Singapore 24; and Mexico 20.

International Membership Marketing Group and FY19 Revenue

The staff International Marketing Group, which looks at ALA's international footprint, shares data and contacts, and looks for potential opportunities, met in July to discuss the Canadian market. They will be meeting in early October to look at Asia (East and South-East). With FY19 being finalized, IRO has begun collecting reports from these various units of ALA to compile the annual report of international revenue brought in throughout the association. This report will be sent to the Board by the end of November.