

Ethiopia, land of origins: A Fulbright experience

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It is 4:00 a.m. and I hear hyenas whooping in the distance at Haramaya University, outside of Harar, Ethiopia. It is strangely both eerie and comforting; it is a familiar sound yet one that I have not heard in a few years despite frequent trips back to Ethiopia. I am here on a Fulbright Scholar award and based in Axum, a historical city with ancient archaeological treasures: stelae, tombs of kings, Queen of Sheba's palace, and of course, the Ark of the Covenant, housed in the beautiful St. Mary of TSION church. This is not your typical Fulbright post. Ethiopia is not for the faint of heart, but it is my chosen appointment and it is where I belong.

Mid-way through a ten-month appointment, I am pleased to give a status report of accomplishments and challenges for there have been many. But why Ethiopia and why Axum in particular? About eighteen months ago, my son, a Fulbright Scholar in the Philippines himself, saw an announcement on the Fulbright website that Mekelle University (Ethiopia) was seeking information science professionals through Fulbright.

I have a long history of living and working in Ethiopia having first served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the mid-

1970s during the final reign of Emperor Haile Selassie, his disposition, and the subsequent takeover by the Provisional Military Advisory Committee (the Derg), a time period that later became known as the "Red Terror." I have returned several times for library projects and publishing workshops, and worked in Mekelle on a children's library project in 2010 while on sabbatical. So it was natural for my son to think of me as a suitable candidate.

I was under the mistaken impression that Fulbright Scholars were for those academics at the beginning of their careers, not for those mid-career or late career as I am. A number of librarians have been appointed as Fulbright Scholars to various countries in the past, but it is still relatively rare and one that I would like to encourage. Is a Fulbright Scholar award in your future?



Janet Lee (right) in traditional dress, at Meskal, a celebration known for its burning of a large bonfire.

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Although I enjoyed my previous time in Mekelle, I checked out the University of Aksum (note different spelling) and discovered that they were willing to accept Fulbright applications. While I was in Mekelle in 2010, I met Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, the founder of the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) based in Arlington, Virginia. He heard of the library project in Mekelle and sought to see if he could incorporate some of the ideas from the Mekelle library in expanding an existing library in Axum. Axum and Denver, where I work at Regis University, are Sister Cities, just celebrating 21 years as partners. It was added incentive and Axum took on special meaning, especially when walking on Denver Street in Axum. Dr. Tsehaye and I kept in touch and I soon discovered that he was planning the construction of an expansive new building next to the existing library. I knew I had to find a way to return and show my support.



Janet Lee (left) at the sign for Denver Street in Axum, Ethiopia. Denver (Colorado) and Axum are Sister Cities.

Upon further research of the Fulbright process, I realized that the application was due in a month and in addition to three letters of reference, I needed a letter of invitation from the University of Aksum. One month. An invitation. Three letters of reference. A lengthy application. “Mom, we can do this!” and we did. I contacted the President of Aksum University with no introduction and within 24 hours had an official letter of invitation, complete with an official seal, delivered to my email address. Bear in mind, that the Ethiopian government has total control over telecommunications and just a few months later declared a State of Emergency and shut down all communications, including

WiFi and social media for over six months. A letter of invitation in 24 hours was impressive.

I made the first cut in November, followed by a Save the Date for orientation, but did not receive an official invitation until March. In June, I attended the pre-departure orientation and met the six other Fulbrighters who would be stationed with me in Ethiopia: three in Addis Ababa, the capital, and three in Gondar, another major city on the historic route. I was the sole Fulbright in Axum, but I was quite comfortable with that.

My stated objective in the application was exploration of open access publishing in Africa and in Ethiopia in particular. I have had editorial roles in two open access publications: [Collaborative Librarianship](#) and [Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal](#). I am a strong advocate of open access and believe it is a viable option for higher education in Ethiopia.

In addition, on a prior visit to the University of Aksum, I became aware that the ICT department had downloaded Koha (online ILS software). Since I had extensive experience with online catalogs and some experience with Koha, this also became a focal point. I was also committed to developing a library program in the new building with ECDC’s Axumite Heritage Foundation and decided to divide my time between the University and the Foundation. Personally, I wanted to increase my Amharic language skills by mastering the Fidel, the Amharic syllabary, and be able to speak the language as well as learn to read and write.

It did not take long to get settled in Axum. Housing initially was an issue. The University is a bit distant from town, being a relatively new institution of only ten years. I needed to be either near the University (no faculty housing available on campus) or near the Foundation library. Proposed units were either too far from town and isolated or too expensive or both. Ultimately, I was allowed to stay in the top rated hotel, which has actually worked quite well. The University sends a service vehicle twice daily for pick up and drop off of directors, for which I was included, and I can walk to the Foundation library in less than 30 minutes. It also has the benefit of breakfast and WiFi (when available), hot running water, and toilets that flush.

BBC is the only English language television channel available when I want to keep up on international news. A Peace Corps Volunteer is also assigned to Axum and lives a few blocks from the hotel. He is the only other American in town and coincidentally assigned to the Foundation Library. I do not lack for companionship, and have made many friends in the community. I meet with my Amharic tutor weekly, have been invited to homes for major holidays such as Gena (Christmas), Timket (Epiphany), Meskal (The Finding of the True Cross), and Hidar Tsion (St. Mary’s Festival celebrated in November (Hidar)).

Continued on page 3

Communication has also been an issue, and this goes beyond language. Although I speak some Amharic, the local language is Tigrinya. Most people appreciate that I speak Amharic and that has opened many doors. Still I am not included in many communications related to meetings, which are held in Amharic, days off, or updates related to protests and school closings. Early on I was also told there was no place to eat on campus, although there is a vibrant canteen with tea, coffee, egg sandwiches, and local food. I can only assume that they didn't think I would eat there. But I now join my office mates there on a weekly basis.

Access to the internet (and reliable electricity) is problematic at best. I was able to turn my iPhone into a WiFi hotspot and that gave me internet access on the go, until there were a series of protests by university students country wide. All social media were turned off as well as data plans for mobile phones, which made my WiFi hotspot useless. Those who had a VPN installed could work around the social media blockage, but the only solution to lack of data plans was to find WiFi in a few hotels or internet shops. Social media has since been turned on, but the data plans have not. More protests are planned at the time of this writing, hopefully without violence. We are in regular communication with the US Embassy and I have kept my university up to date, usually after the fact, confirming my safety. Never have I felt in danger; an advantage of being in a remote area. I am also very much aware that people, even those whom I do not know, are watching out for me (as well as just watching me).

One accomplishment of which I am very proud is collaboration with English lecturer and bookstore/library owner, Mezemir Girma, of Debre Birhan. Mezemir is the Ethiopian expert for the [African Storybook project](#). Mezemir and I delivered a workshop on the project, which was funded by a grant from the International Library Cultural Exchange Interest Group of the Colorado Library Association. African Storybook is a site for publication of children's books in local languages. All books are open access and can be read online, downloaded to device, or printed for distribution. One exercise within the workshop was brainstorming the writing of a children's books for publication on the website. We have a viable story and are contracting with an illustrator for later inclusion on the website.

There has been some progress in my stated goals of open access publishing and configuring an online catalog using Koha. There is more progress at the Foundation library, although a grand opening planned for January has been postponed. Hopefully, it will be scheduled before I leave in June. The building is magnificent, complete with a grand reading room, a computer lab, a children's library, classrooms, exhibit area, a handicapped ramp, and an auditorium. The grounds are expansive. The old library will be turned into a museum once the collection has

been moved. A row of shops line the perimeter of the compound and a small café is under construction, which will provide income to help make the entire operation sustainable. The site is complete with walkways and driveways, large gardens, and an abundance of native plants and trees, a perfect habitat for a family of monkeys that has taken up residence there.

Will my objectives be met by June? Time is fleeting and a certain sense of panic is setting in. Even so, I know much can be accomplished at a distance if need be and I have more excuses to return to a place that has become my home and a people who have become my family.



At the entrance of the Axumite Heritage Foundation Library.

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Stay tuned with the next issue of International Leads for more about Janet's experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Ethiopia.

Find out more about the [Fulbright Scholar program](#) and explore its [catalog of awards](https://www.cies.org/) at <https://www.cies.org/>

Message from the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of 2018! The issue starts with the first of two reports from Janet Lee about her experience in Ethiopia as a Fulbright Scholar; her second report on the end of her time in Ethiopia will appear in June. Other feature articles include a report from REFORMA President Tess Tobin on a visit to libraries in Puerto Rico recovering from Hurricane Maria; the professional development opportunities provided by the AfLIA Leadership Academy with a report from participant Katrina N. Shikuni; and an introduction to the National Digital Library of India by Angjali Gulati.

Our feature section on international libraries offers a glimpse into the lives of two librarians - Yujin Hong (South Korea) and Agnes Namaganda Kanzira (Uganda) - through interviews with Ray Pun.

Last but not least, we have news of IRRT activities, including IRRT committee reports from ALA Midwinter, news about the new cohort of Emerging Leaders, the IRRT webinar series, and IRRT member participation in webinars hosted by other ALA groups.

We are always interested in hearing what you are doing. We would like the opportunity to feature your projects, news, and reports. Send us an email—we look forward to hearing from you!

Meet the Editors



Rebecca Miller

I am an independent library consultant, focusing on libraries in developing countries. I specialize in research, strategic planning, outreach,

administration/management for libraries. I also offer tailored professional development trainings and presentations on these and other topics. I have over 20 years of experience with libraries, as a practitioner and professor.



Florence Mugambi

I am the African Studies Librarian at the Herskovits Library of African Studies,

Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA. I have over 10 years of experience as a librarian, and a very strong interest in literacy & establishment of libraries in rural communities of developing countries.

Call for Submissions

Do you have news or stories about ...

- ◇ **International library activities?**
- ◇ **People in international librarianship?**
- ◇ **Upcoming international conferences?**

Why not submit to International Leads? Email us at ala.intl.leads@gmail.com

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Message from the IRRT Chair



By Loida Garcia-Febo
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The IRRT continues to make progress in all our focus areas including our endowment, new leaders engagement, online professional development, and annual conference programming.

IRRT at ALA Midwinter

We had a very productive Midwinter Meeting in Denver. On Friday, we hosted a Welcome Reception for members and donors at which I had the honor to greet attendees not only as Chair of the IRRT, but also as ALA President-Elect. All IRRT committees met on Saturday. The Posters Committee reported that they will review and notify selected international posters right after the conference.

The Executive Board met on Sunday afternoon. We heard from the Endowment Committee whose members are: Nancy Bolt, Barbara Ford, John Hickok, Robin Kear, Jeannette Pierce (Chair), and Shali Zhang. The Endowment was established by IRRT members and supporters with the mission of providing financial support to enable projects of IRRT. With interest from the Endowment we will be able to award the IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant to fund member-initiated proposals for international activities that contribute to ALA's role in international librarianship.

We are very proud to share that [The Chromebook Lab](#) project at the Axumite Heritage Foundation Library is the first recipient of an IRRT Mission Enhancement Grant. They will receive a \$1,000.00 grant to support a new Chromebook lab in the Foundation Library in Axum, Ethiopia.

New leaders with interest in international relations are a joy to us. Team G from the Emerging Leaders will work on our project *Towards Increasing Engagement of International*

New Professional Leaders in ALA Activities. We look forward to seeing the results of their work at ALA Annual.

IRRT webinars

Online professional development opportunities presented via webinars continue the focus on library services to immigrants and refugees this year. So far we have hosted three webinars with recordings available on the IRRT website <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>. (*Editor's note: a report on the 2nd and 3rd webinar is on page 9.*) The next webinar will be 4 April on the topic of Sister Libraries, and the final webinar under my Chairmanship will be about libraries in Germany serving refugees and immigrants (date to come).

IRRT programming for ALA Annual Conference

Big thanks to each one of the IRRT committee members for working so diligently to coordinate programs focused on the theme of library services to immigrants and refugees for the annual conference:

- ◆ Libraries Saving Lives: Serving Immigrants and Refugees – Chair's Program with speakers:
 - Hannelore Vogt, Director of Cologne Public Library, Germany
 - Torbjörn Nilsson, Director, Malmö City Library, Sweden
 - Sophie Maier, Immigrant Services Librarian, Louisville Public Library, Kentucky, USA
- ◆ Libraries Supporting Social Inclusion for Refugees and Immigrants - Papers and Projects program
- ◆ Support for Services to Immigrants and Refugees through the Sister Libraries
- ◆ Librarians and Libraries Play an Important Role in Serving and Advocating for Immigrant and Refugee Populations – IRRT Preconference
- ◆ How Libraries Abroad Address the Worldwide Refugee Crisis – International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group (ISLD) program
- ◆ International Librarians Orientation
- ◆ International Librarians Reception- BB King Club in New Orleans

We will be updating the list of programs on our communication channels to include meeting rooms when these become available. We hope to see you there!

IRRT members speak at ACRL webinar on Sister Libraries and the American University of Afghanistan

By Alexandra Humphreys, Associate Librarian, Arizona State University Library

The ACRL webinar entitled “Global Academic Library Partnerships, and Academic Library Experiences in American University of Afghanistan,” which took place on January 31 as part of the International Perspectives on Academic and Research Libraries Forum series, presented us with a great opportunity to learn about successful sister libraries partnerships, global academic services, and experiences of a librarian at the American University of Afghanistan. The speakers were Mark Mattson, the Global Partnerships and Outreach Librarian at Penn State University, and Dr. Rebecca Miller, founder and principal consultant of BiblioDev, LLC, a consulting firm with the mission of assisting libraries in developing countries. Both Mark and Rebecca are active participants in the IRRT Sister Libraries committee.

Mark Mattson talked about his work as a Global Partnerships and Outreach Librarian at Penn State University Libraries, where his main role is to support international students and education abroad. He shared his experiences in developing global engagement in the library system, specifically in establishing and facilitating international partnerships with libraries in foreign countries, involving the broader university community, and seeking opportunities for library involvement in international education. Mark also shared his experiences on how to achieve and promote the global partnerships goals of the Penn State University library system, and he spoke to the importance of International partnerships for both librarians and students, American and international. The Penn State Library has now five

sister library partnerships on four continents and is negotiating with a sixth potential partner.

Dr. Rebecca Miller shared about her experiences with librarianship during her nearly five years in Afghanistan. She had always been open to new opportunities, and experiences with Afghans on Fulbright Scholarships in the U.S. led to an offer with a research association in Kabul, which then led to a position as Library Director at the American University of Afghanistan. During her time in Afghanistan, she participated in several projects to educate and train Afghan librarians, all aimed toward enhancing the level of professional service in that country. Rebecca mainly talked about her rewarding experiences in the university library, the best in the country, with a focus on services and learning opportunities the library provided for its students. On the negative side, a terrorist attack on the university on August 24, 2016, resulting in the deaths of several students and a faculty member, led to her decision to leave Kabul. However, she remains active with her former colleagues and continues to work on projects to improve librarianship in Afghanistan.

This well-attended presentation demonstrated ways libraries can be significant partners in fostering intercultural communication.

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Alexandra Humphreys is Co-Chair of the IRRT Sister Libraries Committee.

Have you presented at or attended a webinar hosted by an ALA division or another professional organization and want to share about it? Send your short summaries to the editors for possible inclusion in the next issue.

Connect with IRRT



ala.intl.leads@gmail.com



<http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt>

<http://www.alairrt.blogspot.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/International-Relations-Round-Table-244416388965473/>

Sister Libraries: Friends meet in Hawaii

By Bronwyn Smith, Newstead Victoria, Australia

In 1998, as America's First Lady, Hillary Clinton headed the White House Millennium Council, which included a Sister Library scheme to match US libraries with interested libraries from around the world. Inspired to participate, Diane Braybrook, the librarian at the Helen Morgan School (elementary) in Sparta, New Jersey, USA, chose as her sister library the Cobar Shire Library, a mining town in far western New South Wales, Australia, where I was then manager.

Although both Diane and I are now retired, we have still kept in touch over the last 19 years via email, Skype, and more recently Facebook. Even though we communicated regularly, we had never met. Early in 2016, Diane had a close encounter with an aggressive form of lymphoma cancer and suddenly it seemed important that we should finally meet up in person.

We chose Hawaii as it is halfway between Australia and



Bronwyn Smith (left) and Diane Hunt Braybrook (left) clutch life jackets for the helicopter ride to view the volcano.

Dark clouds in background are "vog" (volcanic fog); a form of air pollution that results when sulfur dioxide and other gases and particles emitted by an erupting volcano react with oxygen and moisture in the presence of sunlight.

Maine, where Diane now lives. The Big Island with its recent dramatic volcanic activity was a 'must see' priority for Diane. I am amazed at how the internet has simplified travelling. I applied for my US visa and made travel arrangements online, while Diane booked the hire car, made our hotel reservations, and researched daily lava flows.

On February 1, 2017, our 2 weeks together began. In Boston, Diane's plane had to be de-iced prior to takeoff, such a contrast to the tropical delights we encountered. Snorkeling with manta rays at night, a sunset history cruise to Captain Cook's memorial, organic farms home to Kona coffee, waterfalls, banyan trees. Diane tasted passionfruit for the first time. I had never encountered such huge servings of American food, Hawaiian style.

We swooped over the Kilauea Volcano which continues to erupt at the summit and on the very day a lava tube collapsed revealing a fresh flow of lava into the sea. Of course, we visited libraries and bookshops too. We had a marvelous time, taking hundreds of photos for online friends who shared our journey with us. We enjoyed perfect postcard weather whilst dodging heatwaves and blizzards back home. We are now planning for Diane to visit Australia next year, but not in summer!

###

Diane Hunt Braybrook was Librarian at Helen Morgan School, Sparta, New Jersey.

Bronwyn Smith was Librarian Cobar Shire Library, Cobar, New South Wales, Australia.

A Sister Library partnership can spark lifelong friendships. If you are part of a Sister Library partnership, send the editors a message and be profiled in the next issue of International Leads. If you are interested in becoming a Sister Library, please visit the [Sister Libraries webpage](#). Or attend the 4 April webinar—see page 9.



National Digital Library of India: A virtual repository

By Anjali Gulati, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, India
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India's Ministry of Human Resource Development under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), has initiated the [National Digital Library](#) (NDL) project to develop a virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. The repository is being coordinated by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. The objective is to integrate several national and international digital libraries in one single web portal.

Various learning resources are available in NDL including, books, articles, theses, manuscripts, audio lectures, video lectures, and many more. The NDL integrates content from different Indian Institutional Repositories and hosts content from multiple subject domains like Technology, Science, Social Science, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Agriculture and others. Currently, the user interface for the NDL supports three languages—English, Hindi and Bengali—and will later be extended to several other commonly used vernaculars of India.

NDL has been developed in order to help students to prepare for entrance and competitive examinations, to enable people to learn and prepare from best practices from all over the world, and to help researchers perform inter-linked exploration from multiple sources. The resources are available 24/7 with a single window search box for all users from primary to postgraduate level students and life-long as well as differently-abled learners. Filtered and federated searching is employed in the repository to facilitate focused searching so learners can find the right resources quickly and efficiently.

Featured resources available on the repository include NPTEL (video lectures in Engineering domain), NCERT textbooks (Hindi and English books of different subjects for students from Primary to class 12), KRISHIKOSH (agricultural books, journals, articles and reports), INFLIBNET (theses, syn-

opsis reports by Indian Researchers), and LibriVox (audio books). These collections are displayed under “Featured Sources” while the “News and Events” section shows the host of events conducted by NDL India across the country. The NDL is also searchable through an App [NDL India](#). This app is only available on the App Store for iOS devices and is designed for both iPhone and iPad.

Searching in NDL

After logging in, NDL can be searched through the Search box found on the first page. One can search by keyword, subject, or question paper for a particular board exam (CBSE, etc.). Once the search results are obtained, the documents can be accessed in full-text mode as well as their metadata. There are different document availability levels such as full-text available to all; limited access; part of the text is available but full-text requires authorization by source authority; full-text access requires authorization by source authority; and those that can be accessed in full-text mode by any registered NDL user.

Additionally, by using the advanced search option the user can narrow down a search by source (e.g., ACM Digital library, Bose Institute, etc.), educational level (undergraduate or post-graduate), and learning resource type (e.g., audiobook, book review, case study, etc.). The search can be further refined by choosing options such as author name, subject category, educational degree (PhD, M.Tech, B.Sc), difficulty level (medium, easy, difficult), file format (pdf, MP4, Doc), and language (Indian vernacular languages, European languages etc.).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Digital Library of India. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search box, a language dropdown menu, and a log-in button. Below the navigation bar, the main header features the NDL logo, the text "National Digital Library of India", and a search box with the placeholder "Enter your search key...". To the right of the search box, it says "16,191,332 items hosted in NDL India". Below the header, there is a large banner with a green and yellow geometric pattern and the text "More than 60 types of learning resources are available". On the left side of the banner, there is a sidebar menu with icons and labels for "About NDL India", "Learning Resource Type", "Subject Domain", "Featured Sources", and "News and Events". On the right side of the banner, there is a "Member Log-In" form with fields for "E-mail address", "Enter your password", and "Enter the displayed text". Below the log-in form, there are buttons for "Account recovery" and "Register". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links for "About", "Disclaimer", "Institutional Registration", "Sponsor", "NDL India Video YouTube Link", and "Feedback". There are also social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

IRRT Chair's Webinar Series report: Webinars 2 and 3

The IRRT Chair's Webinar Series has produced three webinars so far, with the last two held in the last quarter. The 2nd webinar, titled *Libraries in the USA serving immigrants and refugees*, was broadcast 25 January 2018. The speakers were Ed Garcia, Director, [Cranston Public Library](#), Rhode Island; Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries, [City of Cambridge](#), Massachusetts; and Teona Shainidze Krebs, Adult Education Division Head, [Pikes Peak Library District](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The three presenters introduced their library initiatives to serve immigrants and refugees in their communities. The common theme was programs to support education and integration. All of the libraries offered English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, citizenship pathway classes, and high school equivalency classes in the library building, but also at cooperative sites in other parts of the cities.

Each presenter also offered something special about their libraries' services to immigrants. Mr. Garcia spoke about the attention given to digital literacy for immigrants and refugees, which has been integrated into ESL classes as well as focused tutoring offered at the library. Ms. McCauley highlighted the role of the genealogy services and archival services to document immigrants' experiences, and also emphasized the library's intent to reduce barriers by offering free drop-in services and privacy protections to facilitate a welcoming and supportive environment to encourage use. Ms. Shainidze Krebs spoke about how events such as Culture Night encourage exposure to cultures in the area and introduce the library to the participants in a friendly and socially inclusive manner.

The 3rd webinar, *Advocacy Resources to Serve Immigrants and Refugees*, was broadcast 6 March 2018. The speakers were Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director of the [Washington Office for the American Library Association](#); Marci Merola, Director of the [Office for Library Advocacy for the American Library Association](#); Dora Ho, President of the [Asian Pacific American Librarians Association](#); and Nicanor Diaz, Immigrant Services Manager at the [Denver Public Library](#).

The four spoke about different resources to help librarians advocate for library services for immigrants and refugees. Kathi Kromer provided six best practices for effectively communicating with elected officials: inform them about who we are and why libraries care; provide specific and relevant examples through stories; keep the conversation on topic; always end with the ask and be direct; and follow up through a thank you email to provide supplemental material and keep the conversation open.

Ms. Kromer encouraged attendees to reach out to the

ALA Washington Office for resources and support, and to follow library policy news on the [District Dispatch Blog](#). Marci Merola introduced the attendees to the Office for Library Advocacy (OLA), which is the ALA office to support libraries at the state and local levels. Most of the issues they help address focus on funding, privatization, and school libraries. Ms. Merola presented highlights of resources from the [Advocacy University](#), the I Love Libraries [website](#), and the Advocacy [Bootcamp](#). Everyone is welcome to take advantage of the free resources provided online by these two ALA offices, and ALA members are welcome to reach out to the offices for assistance with advocacy issues.

The next two presenters focused on local experiences of libraries advocating for immigrant and refugee populations. Dora Ho spoke about services in five public libraries in California for immigrants and refugees in their communities, such as New American Initiatives, and Citizenship Centers or Corners, which provide resources for integration, naturalization, and citizenship services.

Nicanor Diaz discussed the importance of making the library a welcoming place through providing diversity in human resources, tailoring information services based on community engagement and feedback, and nurturing close partnerships with other community agencies and groups. The practical programs presented by Ms. Ho and Mr. Diaz were a nice counterpoint to the governmental advocacy resources presented by Ms. Merola and Ms. Kromer.

The webinars are recorded and can be found along with other past [webinars](#) at <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>.

Upcoming Webinars

4 April 2018 ~ Making Connections and Making Changes: The Sister Libraries Program

Are you interested in partnering your library with a library in another country? Find out some of the best methods for seeking a partner library, the steps in planning your partnership, and suggested activities.

To join the webinar:

<http://ala.adobeconnect.com/r88zaz09j6fi/>
(2:00-3:00 pm Eastern time zone)

May 2018 ~ Libraries in Germany serving immigrants and refugees (as part of the ALA partnership with the German Library Association)

Puerto Rico recovery efforts: Our help is still needed

By Tess Tobin, President, REFORMA
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The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to the Latino and Spanish speaking populations, [REFORMA](#), had planned to have its 6th REFORMA National Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico in September 2017. REFORMA members had spent the year planning the conference, working closely with the REFORMA Puerto Rico Chapter, but the conference was cancelled due to the arrival of Hurricane Irma. The island did not experience too much damage from this first storm. However, the scenario changed a short time later when Hurricane Maria hit the island on 20 September. A Category 5 hurricane with 150 mile hour winds caused catastrophic damage throughout Puerto Rico and is documented as the worst natural disaster on record in Puerto Rico.

The news about the damage, the loss of power, and the lack of water and resources was so devastating that I knew I needed to help in some way. So, when ALA President-Elect Loida Garcia-Febo told me she was planning to visit libraries there in January, I told her I would accompany her. I too wanted to meet my Puerto Rican colleagues, hear their stories, and see how we could offer support and provide aid to them and their libraries.

On our first day, we met with library directors from all kinds of libraries along with local and regional library associations at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) at Rio Piedras. Thanks to Elizabeth Borges-Ocasio, Reforma Puerto Rico Chapter President, for organizing this gathering. Loida led a spirited discussion with the participants on what their top concerns were. Among the challenges mentioned were preservation, conservation, clean up, and how to evaluate and assess collection damages. Due to the lack of electricity hence lack of air-conditioning, mold in moist areas was a big problem. Some libraries however were able to plan before the storm and had found alternative storage for their collections. Other smaller libraries were less fortunate, losing collections and suffering severe building damages. Additional issues included how to deal with carpets that were drenched during the storm in the midst of lack of funds for removal and replacement.

The rest of the week was spent meeting with librarians and visiting various libraries in Gurabo, Bayamon, Humacao, and Ponce. The smaller municipal libraries were closed with no word on when they would be reopened. It was unclear if there would be funding to make repairs to these buildings, so their future was uncertain. Although classes had resumed on the University of Puerto Rico

(UPR) campuses, many libraries were not open.

The UPR in Bayamon had not experienced too much damage, but the library was closed for cleanup. Nevertheless, the dedicated campus librarians were offering library services out of a small classroom, keeping service delivery disruptions to a minimum for students and giving them a place to study. These makeshift libraries were happening on



Tess Tobin (far left) and Loida Garcia-Febo (second from left) with colleagues at Gurabo Municipal Library.

other UPR campuses as well.

Electricity has still not been restored in many parts of the island five months after Hurricane Maria. Dr. Sandra Toro, a Senior Program Officer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, traveled to Puerto Rico in February and offered two grant writing workshops. Libraries are asking for help in creating a national emergency plan since hurricane season is again fast approaching, starting in June. They are also looking to develop a national “Love Your Library” campaign to raise awareness about the need for libraries throughout the island since literacy is so important.

Puerto Rico still needs our help. A lack of preservation and emergency planning preparedness, cleaning supplies, and electricity, along with a lack of funding for repairs, are still affecting libraries. Many U.S. libraries and librarians have made contact with Puerto Rican library professionals and are working on relief efforts in various communities. REFORMA is connecting with these groups so

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IRRT welcomes the Emerging Leaders!

By *Loida Garcia-Febo*

Joi Jackson has been named IRRT's participant in the Emerging Leader program of ALA. What is an Emerging Leader?

"The American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders (EL) program is a leadership development program which enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations."

The IRRT has provided funds for Jackson to attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting and the ALA Annual Conference.

Divisions and Round Tables are invited to submit potential projects for the Emerging Leaders to work on for the benefit of the association. IRRT's submitted project *Towards Increasing Engagement of International New Professional Leaders in ALA Activities* has been selected as the project for Team G from the 2018 Class of Emerging Leaders. Team G members include: Lindsay Inge Carpenter, Twanna Hodge, Joi Jackson, Gina Kromhout, and Yan

Liu. We are very happy that they selected our project!

The project team had its first face-to-face meeting on Friday, 9 February 2018 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Elizabeth Cramer, IRRT Immediate Past Chair, attended a working lunch with the Emerging Leaders and met with them to provide initial guidance.

Our Emerging Leaders will be working online with IRRT Chair Loida Garcia-Febo and IRRT Membership Chair Kate McNamara until June. This team is expected to do a poster presentation to disseminate the results of the project at the ALA Annual Conference in June.



Loida Garcia-Febo with Team G and other 2018 class of Emerging Leaders at Midwinter.

Puerto Rico recovery efforts

... continued from page 10

that others can hear about their work. The American Library Association (ALA) has established a [fundraising page](#) to help rebuild libraries in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico. ALA is partnering with REFORMA on an [Adopt a Library Program](#) to match damaged or destroyed libraries in the region with libraries in the United States and elsewhere that would like to assist in their recovery.

Thanks to the REFORMA Puerto Rico Chapter, ALA's Chapter Relations and Public Awareness Office for coordinating Loida's and my visit to Puerto Rico. We met very resilient librarians who are very positive about the future even though not sure what that will be.

Interested in serving on an
IRRT Committee?

Please fill out the [Request for Appointment form](#) on the ALA website.



A check in with Librarians from around the world

Raymond Pun is an IRRIT member and the first year student success librarian at Fresno State. He supports first year students and their research and information literacy. He is an active member in ALA, ACRL, SLA and IFLA. He interviewed two international librarians for this issue of *International Leads*.

An Interview with Yujin Hong of Kyung Hee University in South Korea



Ray: Thanks for interviewing with us! Can you briefly tell us about your role in the library?

Yujin: I am currently a public services librarian at the Kyung Hee University, Seoul, South Korea.

Like many librarians, I wear many hats. I manage the circulation of all library

materials including ILL/DDS services and handle many types of questions related to library since my desk phone number is the main service number. Additionally, I serve in several other roles: 1) events coordinator, where I plan, organize and promote book talks once a year and emcee on the day of the event; 2) curator, where I pick and display 20 subject books online or offline four times a year; 3) lecturer, teaching information literacy classes in Korean and English for undergraduate and graduate students; 4) assistant manager for training and supervising temporary librarians.

Ray: Very interesting, I also agree that librarians often wear many hats! How did you get into librarianship and what (if any) formal education or training did you receive?

Yujin: As a graduate in the field of education, I've always wanted to be a school librarian where I can have the opportunity to teach classes and interact with students directly. For my first librarian job, I worked at a competitive high school. I truly enjoyed teaching and being with students, but I realized that the school administrator didn't have any interest in improving the library. Later I happened to get a temporary university librarian position, so that made me change my career path to be an academic librarian. After many interview trials I finally got to work at my current job as a public services librarian since 2013.

Ray: Your experiences certainly paid off! What is a library trend/library hot topic in your country currently?

Yujin: Changing the library space or renovating the library is currently the hot topic. Consequently, existing spaces like the group seminar room and book cafe space have been created in the library. In addition, the library space is transforming from the simple physical space of the past to

a complex cultural space. To provide a better library experience, librarians are required to have in-depth understanding and planning capabilities of the space. The popularity of makerspaces has a great influence on the configuration of the library space. Thus the role of the library is changing and expanding to include local community partnerships, job creation, and multicultural education etc. Moreover, due to increasing interest in the humanities, it is important for the library to plan programs that provide diverse cultural and reading programs. Public libraries have largely made successful programs connecting the public to access to humanities resources.

Ray: I also see those similar trends happening in the U.S. as well. Why is international librarianship important in your work as a librarian?

Yujin: Korean and foreign libraries have some differences, so joining international activities will broaden my perspective and help keep me informed of the latest global library trends. In addition, to deal with rapid changes happening in the higher education scene, librarians need to keep an eye on international education and library issues. I strongly believe that having librarian net-



Kyung Hee University Library, South Korea

works beyond my home country will bring more innovation and inspiration to my work. I want to act as the bridge between Korea and the world to create this international librarianship community. As a matter of fact, I would like to represent Asia Pacific region, especially northeast Asian countries and motivate other librarians.

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Ray: Thanks for speaking with us! One last question: if you are working on research projects, can you tell us more about it?

Yujin: I have an interest in using library circulation data for building institution's own book recommendation system. It will attract more user's attention towards library and leads to many scholarly opportunities. From a librarian's perspective, building an institution's own book recommendation system is more empowering and preferable than relying on the implementation of the methods that are built by corporations. Right now I am pursuing a master's degree in Educational Information System while jug-

An Interview with Agnes Namaganda Kanzira of Makerere University, Uganda



Ray: Thank you for speaking with me! We met at UKSG Conference in 2016 at Bournemouth and I found your work to be interesting. Can you tell us about your job and institution?

Agnes: I am an Academic Librarian working at Makerere University, Main Library. Currently I am also

pursuing a PhD in Information Science.

Uganda's Makerere University was established in 1922, making it one of the oldest public Universities in Africa. Initially, it was a University College of London, then a University of East Africa, and later became a national university. Earlier in 1958, an Act of Uganda's Legislature made Makerere University Library the first legal deposit unit in Uganda. In 1972, Makerere University Library (Maklib) became the National Reference Library in addition to its primary role of serving the highest academic institution in the region. Maklib comprises the main library and eleven branch libraries. As the National Reference Library, Maklib extends its services to users from outside the University community such as politicians, extension staff and practitioners in the various fields. It is important to note that Maklib has been instrumental in promoting civic literacy in Uganda.

I am involved in professional library work such as: information literacy instruction, engaged in research and publications, writing and winning grants in contribution to the university's research/development funds, mentorship of library and information professionals, membership to professional organizations, among other duties, which contribute to the academic and scholarly growth of the university.

gling my daytime work. Researching for book recommendation system would be my thesis subject.

Dealing with library's severe budget cuts and watching student's financial burden of course materials, I've started to have profound interest in Open Access and the Open Education movement in higher education. I would like to develop a deeper understanding of the research life-cycle and embrace new librarian roles to engage actively in scholarly communication. Therefore, I would like to learn more about OA and OER as a librarian and consider how I can contribute to this growing open trend.

As the head of the acquisitions department/book bank, I perform the following duties: provide leadership for the formulation of policies and procedures related to ordering and receiving of materials for the University Library, and manage the acquisitions unit and also maintain relationships with vendors.

Ray: Your work experiences sound extensive! What about marketing/outreach strategies and opportunities to your academic communities?

Agnes: Various marketing activities have been undertaken to publicize the work of Maklib. These include hosting workshops, creating newsletters, and organizing university exhibitions to showcase Maklib's work.



Makerere University Library, Uganda

For outreach activities, here are some examples: The Uganda Health Information Digest, is a community outreach health information program that was initially funded by the Dreyfus Health Foundation (DHF) of the United States until 2003. DHF funded a similar project in Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Tanzania and Zambia in Africa as well as other developing countries.

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In Uganda, the publication is an important resource to health workers especially in upcountry areas. Makerere University Medical Librarians conduct information literacy outreach sessions in upcountry health units and paramedical training institutions on how to access health information, as well as sharing the resources available at the Medical library.

For workshops, Maklib has been involved in capacity building through sharing knowledge, skills and experience with other universities, colleges and other higher institutions in Uganda and beyond. Some of the institutions in the region that have gained from Maklib's expertise include: University of Juba (Sudan), various universities in Nigeria, Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), and various institutions in Uganda.

Ray: That's a lot of activities. It is similar to where I work at Fresno State in California, U.S. We also showcase faculty publications and research in several events. We are also engaged with our communities by partnering with public libraries and other organizations to promote new opportunities for students, faculty and staff. Can you describe some of the challenges in providing out-

reach services to your students and faculty? Please discuss the cultural context as well as institutional context?

Agnes: Makerere University is faced with growing student numbers and yet some of the library facilities and budget do not increase accordingly. Library spaces and facilities are stretched and strained leading to wear and tear and the need for replacements, which are sometimes not adequately provided for in the budget.

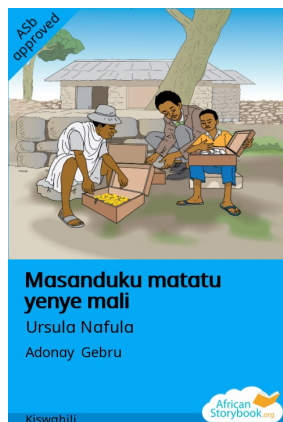
The library user-computer ratio is still below Makerere University's institutional target of 1:5, and the overall University ratio of 1:20. Inadequate connectivity and bandwidth hinder the full utilization of online resources and affect the pace of implementing digital initiatives in Uganda.

Ray: Those are similar challenges in many universities: we are constantly working with limited resources and finding ways to justify our services and values to the academic communities. Our university libraries are all different. We also all focus on teaching, learning and research needs and it's been an important service! Thank you for speaking with me and sharing your experiences!

Children and young adult books with a focus on Africa

Interested in reading a good book or introducing one to your library with a focus on Africa? We highlight some places to look.

- ◆ [Africa Access](#) expanding perspectives on Africa book by book .
- ◆ [African Storybook](#)—users can find, create, translate or adapt stories for early reading, download and copy the stories without having to ask for permission or pay a fee.
- ◆ [Zongo Story Project](#)—using story as the primary learning, teaching and engagement tool, the Zongo Story Project strives to elevate proficiencies in oral, written, and visual forms of literacy among other things.



It's Election Time!

Remember to vote in the 2018 ALA elections beginning on March 12, 2018 through April 4, 2018.

The slate of candidates:

VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT

01. RICHARD SAPON-WHITE

02. _____
(WRITE-IN CANDIDATE)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

03. LAURA EVANS

04. FLORENCE NTHIRA MUGAMBI

05. ALEXANDRA HUMPHREYS

06. MARTHA A. PARKER

ROUND TABLE COUNCILOR

07. SANDY HIRSH

08. _____
(WRITE-IN CANDIDATE)

The polls will close on Wednesday, April 4 at 11:59 p.m. CDT, and the Election Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 11 at the ALA offices to certify the election. Election results will be released following that meeting.

ALA Midwinter 2018 roundup

By Richard Sapon-White, IRRT Member-at-Large, and
Ida Joiner, IRRT Publications Committee

IRRT Meetings

As happens at every ALA Meeting, the IRRT conducted a sharing session on Saturday morning with most of the executive board, many committee chairs, and various members and visitors present. The meeting began with Peter Hepburn, one of two candidates for ALA President, making his pitch to our membership. Committee chairs then shared the latest information from their committees, which was followed by breakout meetings for IRRT and IRC committees.

The IRRT Endowment Committee reported that the IRRT endowment reached its \$50,000 goal last year. This year, \$1,300 is available for distribution for the IRRT Mission Enhancement Grants. The committee received numerous applications and, with board input, will select one or more to receive funding. (*Editor's note: The Chromebook Lab project at the Axumite Heritage Foundation Library is the first recipient; see Chair's Message in this issue.*) The Endowment Committee plans to raise more funds for the endowment in future campaigns.

The Sister Libraries Committee will be conducting a webinar on 4 April and are also planning a program at ALA Annual. They have finished preparation of a flyer to promote sister library relationships. It will be distributed on discussion lists and be available at a variety of locations at Annual.

The Reception Committee has received nominations for citations to be presented at the international reception to be held in New Orleans.

The International Posters Committee will be making decisions around mid-February on submitted poster proposals.

The International Visitor Center Committee is gearing up for the annual conference. All are encouraged to



IRRT Chair Loida Garcia-Febo (center) leads the IRRT All Committee meeting at ALA Midwinter.

sign up to volunteer.

The IRRT Pre-Conference Committee will announce the panel and program soon.

IRRT Publications Committee reported that IRRT has maintained an active social media presence throughout 2017. Facebook followers grew steadily from 582 on January 1st to 824 on December 31st. In 2017, IRRT had daily Facebook posts and 63 blog posts, averaging 5 new posts each month. They have refined the IRRT website; posted links to recorded IRRT webinars; and *International Leads* is now including bilingual articles. The new responsive [website](#) was launched at the end of 2017, thanks to Joan Weeks for her work on the migration and ongoing troubleshooting and tweaking. A website team lead by Joan has undertaken further refining of the website content and user experience.

Loida Garcia-Febo reviewed the **ALA board highlights**. ALA Council is discussing the structure of organization with an interest in making some changes. More details will be shared soon.



IRRT Board members (from left to right): Richard Sapon-White, Sandy Hirsch, Loida Garcia-Febo, Muzhgan Nazarova, Julia Gelfand.



International Relations Roundtable (IRRT) Sustainable Library Development Subcommittee meeting.

Midwinter Sessions of interest

Introduction to Public Librarianship book talk at the ALA store

Ida Joiner attended the exciting and engaging book talk on **Introduction to Public Librarianship** by the authors Kathleen de La Pena (Distinguished University Professor, School of Information at the University of South Florida in Tampa) and Jenny S. Bossaller (Associate Professor at the University of Missouri School of Information Science & Learning Technologies). Now in its third edition, this book is the definitive guide on public librarianship. The authors discussed how their book covers every aspect of public libraries including equitable access, technology, public library buildings, youth services, global perspectives, and more. They mentioned how Loida Garcia-Febo, Chair of IRRT, and the incoming President of ALA (2018-2019), wrote a short piece on public libraries in Puerto Rico. Several of the book advisory members and a few



Authors Kathleen de La Pena McCook (right holding book) and Jenny S. Bossaller (left). Standing: book Advisory committee

members of the audience gave comments on some of the content in the book.

LITA Top Tech Trends panel

In spite of being held on a Sunday afternoon and at the same time as other competing technology events, the LITA Top Tech Trends forum was very well attended. The panel included Felton Thomas, Jr. (Moderator), Lisa Janicke-Hinchliffe, Bohyun Kim, Ida Joiner, Ken Chad, and Kathryn Harnish. As the moderator, Felton kept every speaker to 5 minutes for each trend and every panelist spoke on two trends.

Ida Joiner, former IRRT Co-Chair and current member, discussed drones in libraries and how to keep abreast of emerging technologies. Some of the additional topics from the panelists included: artificial intelligence, social entrepreneurship, merging of library and educational technology, the rise of the platforms, the importance of diversity, inclusion and equity.

There were many relevant and thought-provoking questions and answers in both sessions. ALA Midwinter is not only about business meetings!



The LITA Top Tech Trends panel (from left): Felton Thomas, Jr. (Moderator), Lisa Janicke-Hinchliffe, Bohyun Kim, Ida Joiner, Ken Chad, and Kathryn Harnish

ISLD panel at ALA Annual: World-wide refugee crisis and how libraries abroad are addressing it

Recognizing the profound crises of forced migration the International Sustainable Library Development (ISLD) interest group will sponsor a panel on How Libraries and information Centers are Helping to Build Capacity for Refugees at ALA Annual on 25 June.

Panelists for this program will be Clara Chu, Director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs and Distinguished Professor at the University of Illinois,

who will relate the work of the IMLS-funded Project, *Welcome: Libraries and Community Anchors Planning for Resettlement and Integration of Refugees and Asylum Speakers*; and Rebecca Miller, Principal Consultant, BiblioDev, LLC, and Karen E. Fisher, Professor, Information School, University of Washington and Consultant, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR Jordan) will share reports on local library-associated refugee service programs within refugee camps in countries such as Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Germany, Sweden and Denmark that provide models for action and assessment. The moderator will be Peter V. Deekle, Advocacy Chair, Peace Corps Community for the Support of Refugees, National Peace Corps Association. ISLD invites everyone to attend.

AfLIA Leadership Academy (AfLAc)



By Katrina N. Shikuni

Namibia Library and Archives Services

African Library and Information Associations and Institutions's (AfLIA) Leadership Academy (AfLAc) seeks to create a group of experienced, well-connected library leaders with vision and skills to engage with other public

librarians and their communities to attain the development agenda.

AfLAc is a leadership enhancement program for African public library leaders at middle management level. It has been developed in partnership with the Public Library Association of the USA and modeled on the PLA Leadership Academy. The program is funded by the Global Libraries Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The objectives of the Academy are:

- ◆ To build the knowledge, skills and confidence of library leaders to act in innovative ways in meeting community needs
- ◆ To foster partnerships between libraries and government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, civil society and faith-based organizations to work together to improve the lives of community members
- ◆ To renew approaches to library services, tangibly improving the value libraries add to communities.

Although I have worked in the library profession for six years, this training was a major eye opener. My leadership skills were challenged. Despite attending a variety of leadership courses throughout my career, this was indeed one of a kind where I got a clear understanding of how to apply theory to practice. Emphasis on team work and the community were put forth as the guiding principles of innovative services.

The first cohort of the Academy has 12 participants and 3 coaches from seven African countries: Namibia, South Africa, Nigeria, The Gambia, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda. AfLAc held its first convening from 16-19 January 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was well attended by all expected participants and coaches, with experienced facilitators from different countries.

The first convening held at Laico Regency Hotel in Nairobi kicked off with the official opening remarks from representatives of different organizations and associations. Topics discussed included: effective leadership, change management, asset based community development, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, innovation and transformation, community engagement paired with a visit to Kenya national library service, and project development. These topics were presented through lectures, group discussions with coaches and role-plays. Every participant had a chance of sharing information.

Despite this being the first part of the program, I learned a lot from presentations and networking with colleagues from other countries. Overall sessions were well organized. I scored 49% in an online leadership assessment before the training and 74% after the training, evidence that the training had an impact.

The assignment of developing and implementing a project in the community is positively stretching the skills and knowledge of all the participants. As required by the academy all participants are expected to develop a project of their choice to address their community needs through libraries. Thus far, this activity is achieving great results as participants are meeting with and listening to various members and stakeholders in their different communities. These projects are in progress and participants are eager to present them at the African Public Libraries Summit in July 2018 in Durban, South Africa. Clearly, every participant is working hard to ensure that their project is worth reporting at the summit.



AfLAc participants, coaches, and facilitators at Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi Kenya

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AfLAc has shared the projects on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Google+ with the hash-tag #LibrariansWhoDare, triggering the interest of other librarians and even our community members who all cheer us on to implement our projects. My project is titled *Keep fit and stay healthy through the Library Fitness Club*. The project's goal is to improve community health and increase health information sharing. The project is targeting women of all ages to learn to live healthy lives.

Participants are working in different areas including agriculture, health information, bibliotherapy, environmental issues, access to information online, economic empowerment, and improving the reading culture in their different communities.



Participants learn leadership skills at the AfLAC training.

Participants have learned a lot from the training as they express their thoughts and share their experiences on different social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp). Teamwork has been a major component of the academy as participants and coaches interact daily on an online platform. Motivation from participants, coaches and AfLIA leaders play a major role in encouraging participants to go forward.

AfLAc is poised to raise public librarians in Africa that will bring change to the continent one community at a time.

Katrina N Shikuni is Senior librarian for User Services and Outreach, Outapi community library, Namibia Library and Archives Services, Namibia, Africa; and an AfLAc participant.

Have you participated in a workshop or training that excited and inspired you? Please consider sharing your experience with your colleagues worldwide by submitting a report—don't forget photos!—to International Leads.



EBSCO's \$100,000 Solar Grants available to libraries worldwide

In 2016, EBSCO introduced the Solar Grant. To date they have given nearly half a million dollars to libraries looking to install solar arrays on their campuses. This year, EBSCO Solar will fund three \$100,000 grants.

If you are looking to add to your current sustainability plans, consider applying for an EBSCO Solar Grant. Learn more about the 2018 grants at www.ebsco.com/solar.

Applications will be accepted through April 30th, and winners will be announced June 23rd online and at ALA's Annual Conference.

Visit <https://ebsco.fluidreview.com/> to apply.

American University of Paris receives 1.1 million USD Mellon Grant

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a USD\$1.1 million, three-year grant to The American University of Paris (AUP) for "Building Leadership and Capacity for Digital Liberal Arts across AMICAL." Founded and hosted by AUP, AMICAL is a consortium of 27 American-style liberal arts institutions in 21 countries across Europe, Central and Southern Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The grant uses digital scholarship and pedagogy as a focal point for bringing librarians, faculty and technologists to work together on their shared teaching and learning missions.

For more information, [press release](#) and grant goals check [AMICAL's website](#).