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Library 2.015: An international conference for an interconnected profession

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Library 2.015: An international conference for an interconnected profession

By Dr. Sandra Hirsh,
Member of the IRRT Executive Board and IRRT Representative to Council, and Director, San José State University School of Information

On October 20, thousands of information professionals around the world came together—without leaving their home countries. Together we had a global conversation about the future of libraries at the fifth annual Library 2.0 Worldwide Virtual Conference, a unique opportunity to learn from colleagues around the globe, and a celebration of librarianship in all its forms.

As in previous years, the fifth annual Library 2.0 conference was held entirely online, in multiple languages and across time zones, at no charge to participants. Some attendees chose to join Library 2.015 for just one or two sessions, while others stayed with us for the full day. Still more are absorbing the material through archived recordings, which are available anytime, from anywhere.



The Advocacy Approach: Networking and Online Volunteering

By Dr. Bhakti Ranjan Gala

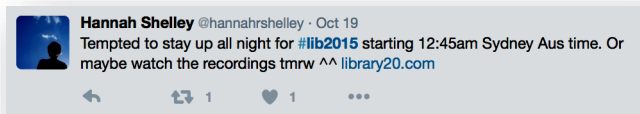


The author (second row, 3rd from R to L with ALA President Barbara Stripling (2013-14) and other 2014 Mortenson Associates, June 2014)

Gujarat, India

In this article, I am sharing my experience of how the membership of the American Library Association inspired me to participate in online networking and volunteering events.

In the summer of 2014, I participated in the 2014 Mortenson International Library Program. Interacting and networking with sixteen (16) participants from twelve (12) developing countries became my first experience of dealing with networking and advocacy. There were two highlights of this program which changed my approach towards these concepts specifically and the profession in general. The first was a visit to the American Library Association Headquarters (ALA) in Chicago as part of the program itinerary. I was amazed at learning about the international scope of work done by ALA, when we heard Barbara Stripling the President of ALA (2013-14) speak about how *Libraries Change Lives*.



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IRRT partners with International Librarians Network to offer global peer-mentoring opportunities

By Jacqueline Solis
ILN USA Ambassador
IRRT/ILN Liaison

IRRT has joined forces with the [International Librarians Network](#) (ILN) to provide global peer-mentoring opportunities for its members. IRRT strives to promote interest in library issues and librarianship worldwide and provide its members with international mentorship opportunities. However, setting up and maintaining a mentorship program is difficult and time-consuming. The

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IFLA – BibLibre Marketing Awards Expand for 2016

The 2016 IFLA – BibLibre International Marketing Award will honor libraries that have implemented creative, results-oriented marketing projects or campaigns. Up to 10 finalists will be chosen for their outstanding achievement and three winners will be selected.

Administered by the IFLA Section on Management and Marketing, the award will give prizes of 2000, 1000, and 500 euros to the top three winners. The first and second place winners will also receive registration and travel to the August 2016 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

The deadline for applications is 10 January 2016; winners will be announced in March 2016 and will participate in the IFLA WLIC Awards Ceremony. For information about the award objectives, guidelines, selection criteria and application forms, go to <http://www.ifla.org/node/6922>.

New Library Connections (Continued from page 5)

very well: we each brought previous experience working in a variety of international settings, and we were comfortable and energized by the uncertainty of working within a different cultural context. The inherently team nature of all our work produced a level of information in which the whole was truly greater than the sum of its parts. As a team, we feel better prepared for our next visit, and to focus more intensively on areas identified by our colleagues at PUCP as being of primary importance.

We would like to acknowledge and express great gratitude and thanks for the kindness and graciousness that so naturally flowed from our Peruvian hosts, who also introduced us to many aspects of Peruvian culture and made us feel extremely welcome. And to both PUCP and the University of Vermont, who believe in the value of expanding the initial affiliation focus to include a partnership with the libraries.

We look forward to returning in March, when we will build upon initial conversations and relationships to provide more focused, in-depth workshops and presentations particularly in the context of an international gathering of university librarians across Latin American borders

LIBRARIES OF ALL KINDS ADD VALUE IN FIVE KEY AREAS: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EMPOWERMENT AND ENGAGEMENT.

GOAL: LIBRARIES TRANSFORM (<http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/>)

IRRT partners (Continued from page 1)

International Librarians Network, which was started by three Australian librarians (Clare McKenzie, Kate Byrne and Alyson Dalby), was designed as a peer-mentoring program that encourages both partners in the matched relationship to learn from and teach each other. The ILN Directors developed a sophisticated application and matching process to help participants grow their international networks and share ideas.

Each year, the ILN offers two rounds of peer-mentoring partnerships in which applicants are matched with an information professional from another country for a four-month program. Matched partners are given suggested discussion topics to guide their communications. This helps them learn about each other's professional environment and keep the conversation flowing. Topics cover a range of professional issues that affect different kinds of libraries, different communities, and differing roles of information professionals. Participants are free to share ideas about any topics they wish, but the suggested topics really help spark conversations. At the end of the four months, the formal peer-mentoring relationship is dissolved, and each individual partnership decides whether they want to continue their relationship independently of the ILN.

ILN offers opportunities to participate in worldwide Twitter chats on specific topics. Participants converse in real-time with colleagues who share their interests. The ILN also has very active [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) accounts as well as a [blog](#) that features contributions from members around the world.

Since its first round in 2013, the ILN facilitated partnerships for over 3500 participants in 120 countries. It's a truly global mentoring program, offered entirely free and online. Participants generally contact each other by email, but also use Skype or social media to communicate.

I have participated in four rounds of the ILN program, with partners from Nigeria, Indonesia, Botswana, and Australia who I never would have met without the program. It has been a real pleasure to get to know librarians who teach me about libraries in their countries, share challenges and suggestions, and learn about their lives beyond the library. I even got to meet my Nigerian partner, Ayodele John Alonge, at ALA in Las Vegas in 2014! We are still in contact through Twitter and Facebook, and I am so happy to be following his career. He has also introduced to me other members of the Nigerian library community with whom I communicate.

IRRT members are invited to start growing their global networks by [applying](#) for the next round of ILN partnerships, Round 2016A, which will begin in March 2016. The program is conducted in English, and is open to anyone involved in libraries or the information professions, including LIS students. All participants require regular internet access, and should expect to devote one hour a week communicating with their partner.

Get your applications in early – if more than 20% of applicants in a given round are from the same country, ILN places a cap on applicants from that country. Those who apply first will be accepted and those who apply after the cap is placed will have to wait until the next round, so don't delay!