International Librarianship: A Special Issue

By Gwen Gregory, NMSU Library

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as guest editor for this special issue of the NMLA Newsletter. Included are excellent articles on international topics by New Mexico librarians. With our proximity to Mexico and Latin America, internationalism and cross-cultural exchange have always been important to librarians here in New Mexico. Today, international trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and global computer networking are bringing us even closer to our neighbors. We can e-mail or fax information instantly to countries that used to take weeks to contact with regular mail. New avenues are open to us for answering reference questions, ordering library materials, and obtaining bibliographic information about foreign publications. Best of all, we have increased opportunities to meet and interact with librarians from around the world and learn more about ourselves in the process.

Several of the articles in this issue describe meetings of international library groups which may be of interest to New Mexico librarians. I would like to encourage any reader whose interest is piqued to contact these organizations for more information about how they can get involved in international library efforts. Attending a conference, hosting a library visitor from another country, or participating in an international Internet listserv are great ways to find out more about libraries around the world.

As our world becomes ever more connected and our patrons more mobile, we need to develop relationships with librarians all over the world to be able to provide the best and most current information to our users and ourselves. I have found my international experiences to be both personally and professionally rewarding, and I hope this issue will stimulate others to make contact for themselves.

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1995 Mini-Conference

NMLA’s annual mini-conference will be held on Friday, October 20, 1995, at Northern New Mexico Community College in Espanola. Many interesting programs are planned for the conference, which focuses on technology and its uses. Scheduled sessions relating to the Internet include a presentation on Internet policy development strategies by staff from the State Library and discussions of Internet resources for children and for Chicano/Latino/Latin American information. Bob McCannon will discuss media literacy and the New Mexico Media Literacy Project. Other sessions will cover use of the National Trade Data Bank, Native American authorship, and large print materials. Time has been allotted for Special Interest Groups to meet as well.

The cost of the mini-conference will be $20.00 for NMLA members and $30.00 for non-members. This includes morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch. Registration packets will be mailed to NMLA members in September. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please contact Betty Long, NMLA 2nd Vice-President, at (505) 622-3400.

NMLA Internet Listserv

The New Mexico Library Association now has its own Internet listserv! It is a place to post and receive news about NMLA and libraries in New Mexico, including meeting and workshop information, job openings, legislative news, and anything else that New Mexico librarians are interested in. NMLA members and others are welcome to subscribe.

To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@nmsu.edu with a blank subject line and the text SUB NMLA <your first name> <your last name>. For more information about the NMLA listserv, please contact Gwen Gregory at the NMSU Library, e-mail address gggregory@lib.nmsu.edu or phone (505) 646-7488.

Before Applying for a State Internet Grant ...

Ask yourself the following questions:

• Who in your community would use the Internet and Internet information? What kinds of information do they need?
• Which institutions in your community are already connected to the Internet and could they help you to get connected? (Examples: schools, colleges, governmental agencies, private enterprises)
• What Internet access resources are available locally? (Example: La Plaza in Taos)
• What equipment do you have now?
• Do you have a local area network?
• Which level of funding grant should you apply for?

The State Library can help:

• Books about the Internet are available through Interlibrary Reference (1-800-876-2203) or Interlibrary Loan (1-800-477-4401).
• Suggested automation requirement list.
• Technical assistance in your Internet needs assessment and the application of that information to your grant proposal (505-827-3811).

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Peg Knapp

(505) 820-2458 in Santa Fe

New Mexico Library Association Newsletter
**nmla calendar**

1995

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1996

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**Newsletter Submissions Due November 1st**

Submissions can be sent via e-mail, on disk, or printed (preferably laser printed or scannable letter quality). Printed submissions should be double spaced.

Send *Newsletter* submissions, address changes, back issue requests, and requests for a large print or braille edition of the *Newsletter* to:

Donnelly Curtis  
P.O. Box 3358  
Las Cruces, NM  88003  
e-mail: dcurtis@lib.nmsu.edu  
phone: 646-4228

Send advertising requests and copy to:

Carol Myers  
8632 Horacio Place, N.E.  
Albuquerque, NM  87111

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My personal experience with "international librarianship" was accomplished rather surreptitiously and occurred several years ago...

While a graduate student at the University of Illinois in 1974, a rather unique opportunity to travel in Europe and what was then known as the Soviet Union came my way. After great deliberation on the part of the College of Library Science and my saying "yes" to any requests they had, my travel was permitted and my graduation date remained on schedule.

A most memorable experience was a visit to the National Library of Austria. Of course, the chosen visiting day found the National Library closed to the public as a documentary was being filmed. However, due to the graciousness of the director arrangements were made with a cataloger on sabbatical from New York Public Library for a guided tour...cameras were avoided, naturally.

Accustomed to the miles of card catalog at the University of Illinois, it was a source of amazement to discover the National Library of Austria was just creating a card catalog. And what a monumental project it was! Imagine transferring centuries of information from volumes of magnificently oversized, leather bound catalogs of handwritten entries onto typed cards in a standardized uniform format.

That was the mid-seventies. The nineties find librarians formulating international standards for transferring machine readable records around the globe. Exciting, isn't it?

Thanks to Gwen Gregory, guest editor, for her enthusiasm and hard work!
By Kathy Matter, NMLA Member-at-Large, School Libraries

Land of Enchantment Book Award

The Land of Enchantment Book Award Committee, comprised of members from the New Mexico Council of the International Reading Association and members from NMLA, announced the winner of the 1995 Land of Enchantment Award: Terror at the Zoo by Peg Kehret. Inspired by librarians, 4368 students throughout the state voted for their favorite books from the 94-95 reading list.

Media Literacy

The New Mexico Media Literacy Project has been recognized nationally and internationally for its trailblazing work in developing media literacy education. The Media Literacy Project seeks to promote the tools needed by citizens to analyze, access, and produce media. The media literacy movement represents an exciting new challenge and opportunity for school librarians to serve as the central force in our schools for not simply teaching with media, but also for teaching about media. Reference: Considine, David M. “The media and the message: how librarians can bring them into focus” School Library Journal Jan. 1994

The most recent edition of the New Mexico Media Literacy Newsletter has been sent to NMLA members on the unrestricted mailing list in anticipation of a dynamic media literacy offering at the October Mini-Conference.

“Who ya gonna call?”

Kathryn Sherlock, School Library Consultant
NM Dept. of Education
827-6567
- Grants sources, contests, free programs

Patricia Froelich, Children’s Services
NM State Library
827-3814
- 1995-96 Battle of the Books

Kathy Matter, AASL Affiliate President and NMLA member-at-large, School Libraries
298-7486
- News, Views, and Media Literacy
International librarianship

Internationalize without leaving home

By Mark Pendleton, Branigan Library, Las Cruces

With the passage of the “Collections and Connections” bond issue in November 1994, it is now easier than ever for New Mexico libraries to internationalize our clientele and the “data pool” from which we provide service. State Library grants resulting from this bond issue will finance connecting an increased number of New Mexico libraries to the Internet. (See the June 1995 NMLA Newsletter, pages 1 and 18 for a report and a list of the first round of grants.) New Mexico has always been an excellent place for libraries to “go international” with our location on the U.S.-Mexico border, plus the high percentage of library staffers “que hablamos dos o mas idiomas.” Now, with increased access to the internet, it is even easier. What’s more, it is great FUN!

One simple way to internationalize via the Internet is through a LISTSERV. Sometimes called a “list” or a “server”, this is a program that automatically manages electronic mailing lists. You join by subscribing (sending an e-mail message to the list’s computer telling it to subscribe you to that particular list). The LISTSERV’s computer will then send you a copy of every e-mail message sent to the list. If you subscribe to a great many LISTSERVs, this may produce information overload, as you will receive all the mail from each list. You can easily unsubscribe, though, so overload is only a minor problem. With a LISTSERV, you can contact and exchange information on any subject of mutual interest with people all around the world. This is a reference librarian’s (well, at least my) fondest dream come true.

There are several LISTSERVs of interest to library staff in New Mexico. The list below gives listnames and descriptions plus the listserv (subscription/administrative) address for a few. To subscribe to most lists, send an e-mail message reading SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME to the listserv address. List requirements vary, however, so you may or may not need capital letters or your name in the message. If one way doesn’t work, try the other.

1) NMLA nmla@nmsu.edu NMLA related items and libraries in New Mexico;
2) BRLA brla@nmsu.edu Border Regional Library Association (Las Cruces, El Paso, and Juarez area);
3) REFORMANET reformanet@lmrinet.gse.ucsb.edu Members of REFORMA (ALA affiliate for encouraging library service to Spanish speakers);
4) FORO-L FORO-L Request@listserv.Arizona.EDU International librarianship in USA, Canada, and Mexico and planning of the Trinational Library Forum annual conference;
5) BIBLIOMEX-L BIBLIOMEX-L-REQUEST@ccr.dsi.aunl.mx Library issues and discussion in Latin America;
6) LIBREF-L LIBREF-L-Request@KENTVM.KENT.EDU Issues in reference service;
7) PACS-L PACS-L-REQUEST@UHUPVM1.UH.EDU Public Access Computer Service in libraries.
This gives a brief sketch of some of the resources available for going international via LISTSERVs. You can also locate lists devoted to particular topics, and then internationalize them. Send an e-mail message which says list global/<keyword> to listserv@bitnic.educom.edu. In place of <keyword>, insert the topic of interest. For example, a message reading list global/librarian will get you a list of LISTSERVs (and how to subscribe to them) which have librarian, librarianship, libraries, library, etc. in the listname and/or description.

Also, the “welcome message” you get with subscription confirmation to a LISTSERV will usually give you a list of commands you can send to the listserv address. One of those commands will be for getting a list of other LISTSERVs served by that same listserv address. This is a helpful way to find other lists.

USENET is another method of cruising the international librarianship scene. Like LISTSERVs, USENET connects you with people all around the world discussing various topics. Unlike a LISTSERV, though, you don’t get all the messages from a list dumped in your e-mail inbox. USENET is entered via a USENET newsreader such as tin or trn. These UNIX based programs are similar to e-mail in that they allow you to join newsgroups. A newsgroup is similar to a list, but you must “look” via the browser at each newsgroup if you want to get the messages there. The great advantage to this is that it won’t clog up your e-mail inbox. Some lists are posted (sent) to newsgroups as well, so you can read them that way. However, there is no guarantee of overlap, so you will probably want to use both approaches.

I have greatly enjoyed expanding the sources I use to answer reference questions and the clientele I serve by using both LISTSERVs and USENET. Recently, a couple came to Branigan Library looking for information about Manuel Acosta, a Juarez/El Paso muralist. We had nothing in our collection, so I sent a request to the BRLA list. Within three hours, I had five replies, and within a couple of days, six or seven more. As a result, librarians on both sides of the border sent me information. Within two weeks, we were able to the original patrons with copies of newspaper articles about Sr. Acosta and his murder, as well as his obituary. We also received and passed on a list of his murals and paintings and information about their values.

In another case, BIBLIOMEX-L was the vehicle for an international excursion. I saw a request for annual book production statistics for the U.S. from a librarian in Queretaro, Mexico. Using the BOWKER ANNUAL, I found the figures, made copies of the relevant pages, and after several unsuccessful attempts at faxing them, mailed him the pages. More recently, I was able to provide a library in Tijuana with the address of the Library of Congress office for services to and liaison with libraries in Latin America.
These are only a few examples. Hardly a week goes by that I don't either answer at least one international question (and several in the U.S. as well) either on a LISTSERV or via USENET. The same is true of using these two resources to provide answers for local patrons who call or walk into Branigan Library.

I have only been able to touch on two of the ways of going international by means of the internet. Other internet access tools are gophers, the World Wide Web (or WWW or W3), WAIS, Archie, Veronica, and Jughead. Each one searches a bit differently, and so is useful in different ways, but that is the topic for at least one more article.

I have only begun to briefly list the internet tools that can help New Mexico librarians and library staffers to join and contribute to the world of international librarianship. I hope this prompts some of the rest of you to do so. Even more, I hope that when you do, it will be as rewarding, satisfying and just plain FUN for you as it is for me.

Helpful reading and resources

The following books and articles are only a small sampling of the vast amount of literature about the internet. I offer them as being some of the most helpful that I have found.


I once tried to send off a two sentence letter to a Brazilian publisher. It succinctly stated that we hadn't gotten the bill and please send another. A secretary at the Tulane Latin American Library was horrified that I could be so curt. A native of Sao Paulo, she took my letter, made it two paragraphs, then ended it with what I thought was extravagant sentiment. As experience later taught me, she was right. The letter she wrote had the desired results. This was one of my first experiences with the personal and social etiquette and associations that characterize the Latin American book trade. While I was a bit nonplussed at the time, it turns out that the personal touch, while sometimes a challenge to a native of New England, is one of the nicest parts of doing business south of the border.

I guess everyone has heard of a library or academic teaching department that fires off orders for, say 30 books from Mexico or Argentina and never hears another word. Well, when you think about it, why would a publisher send several hundred dollars worth of books to an address in another country and then hope to get paid? Given the way some state agencies in the U.S. pay their bills, they could be out of business before the check arrived. Likewise, why would any U.S. library send $500 to an unknown publisher and hope the books arrive? This is assuming that the titles can be identified in the first place.

There are some wonderful Latin American titles out there, for libraries serving Spanish (or Portuguese) speaking users of public libraries as well as for academic libraries with Latin American collections. In 1956 a group of librarians interested in acquiring these valuable resources met near Brooksville, Florida, to plan ways to discuss mutual problems and to identify solutions. Of course those earlier problems were solved, but new ones evolved. Processing and better user services were addressed. The Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) still meets annually. One of the most compelling reasons that the meetings continue has been opportunity for librarians, bookdealers and publishers to meet, discuss ways to get the best books at the best prices, and talk about the trade and libraries in general. This brings us back to the personal associations that are at once so interesting and so beneficial.

A department here on the University of New Mexico campus had just such a problem as described above. They needed textbooks for several classes offered entirely in Spanish. Time was short and the publisher had never answered any letters or purchase orders. Fortunately, I was able to put them in touch with a jobber in Mexico City. A longtime member of SALALM, the agent was acquainted with several librarians at UNM. Perhaps because of this acquaintance, he felt secure sending books and a bill to a department made up of real persons with names. He wasn't phased by U.S. academic departments who don't get around to identifying titles for courses until the class rosters are finalized. He had many personal friends and associates who would get the textbooks for him pronto, and he could airfreight them. Yes, he had a customs agent. While he was at it, he identified several titles the library needed in support of this academic program. We were at once acquaintances, business associates, and eventually friends.

In many ways this is back to the future. In days past, life and business in North America was much more personal and more in touch with the individuals involved. Many business transactions were based on trust and acquaintance. Now we talk constantly about networking and making contacts, but that is what has been in place in Latin America all along. Some of these friendships and associations span generations. Many of the original or early bookdealer members of SALALM are now retired or semi-retired. However, their sons and daughters are now taking over the businesses, and remain friends with each other and with the next generation of librarians in the U.S. It is interesting to watch this next generation handle book sales in the age of the Internet, and do it with a personal touch, with old friends who continue the tradition of working with people and not account numbers.
Library life in Trinidad: it ain't a beach

By Valerie Horton, NMSU Library

Eight months on a Caribbean island - a dream come true. When I first learned I was selected to be an American Library Association International Fellow to work in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I couldn’t believe I could be so lucky. And, by gosh, it turns out I wasn’t!

My fellowship started in October 1994, one of the hottest months on the tropical, equator-hugging sister islands. Being from Southern New Mexico, I was sure that a mere 35°C would be no problem. Heck, it had reached 116°F of in Las Cruces just four months earlier. Of course, I’d forgotten about the “H” word. My introduction to 35°C and 98% humidity started with the windows fogging over on the plane as it landed in Piarcho Airport. Walking down the gangway onto the tarmac felt like passing into the contents of a bathtub. Live and learn.

In fact, live and learn became my motto for the time I spent in the Caribbean. My job was to advise the Trini’s on library automation for their public library system. Now, I’m a 10 year veteran of academic libraries. How different can public libraries be? How different are San Francisco and Lubbock? They’re both cities, right? Needless to say, I learned a lot about public librarianship. I learned that running a 22 branch library system without the aid of automation is a heroic act requiring Herculean efforts just to maintain the status-quo. And the status-quo in Trinidad is a sad sort of beast. The book budget for the entire nation of 1.3 million people was $300,000 TT Dollars; in US dollars, that’s about $50,000. About half what Branigan Public Library spends to support the City of Las Cruces with a population of 70,000.

Along with no money for books, I also learned how to work with no equipment, no air conditioning, no supplies, no water, and a party-line telephone. I lived and worked in the country’s largest city, Port of Spain. My office was located two miles from the only library with a computer and a printer, two and half miles from the office with the fax machine, and I wasn’t allowed to make photocopies as you had to go to the Office of the Prime Minister to do that. My office was palatial, but equipped with only two broken...
chairs, a World War II-issue desk, a broken window, a waste basket and a jet-engine-loud, on-again-off-again air conditioner. During my second month, they provided me with my first and last set of supplies. These supplies included two pencils without erasers, a ream of legal-sized paper, and two rolls of toilet paper. The toilet paper would have been handy if there had been water. Fortunately, I was located within a half mile of the United States Information Agency.

Trinidad is definitely a developing nation. They jokingly call themselves a second world nation. On the negative side, the crime rate is high, drugs abuse is prevalent, the streets are filthy, and the unemployment rate is staggering. On the plus side, Port of Spain is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the Caribbean. Nelson Mandela called the Trini's the "Rainbow People". When you walk the streets you see a mix of mostly Africa and India descendants. Fewer than 5% of the population were originally from China, Syria, Portugal and to a lesser extent Britain. Americans are quite rare in Trinidad, except in the oil producing regions.

Trinidad is not a tourist destination. It is not a beach island in the way Barbados or Bermuda are. With the exception of one great beach on the North Coast, Trinidad is mostly inhospitable mountains, swamps, cane fields, and ugly oil fields. The largest pitch lake in the world is in southern Trinidad. In fact, Trinidad is probably the only exporter of asphalt which could also win the world's worst roads award. I saw two children fishing out of one of the pot holes - honest!

Tobago is the ultimate in unspoiled tourist islands. It is a small island with about 50,000 people, almost all descendants of African slaves. Tobago abounds in beautiful white sand beaches, great reefs for snorkeling and sailing, and dense tropical forest cascading down picturesque mountain sides. It was only a 20 minute flight to Tobago and I visited there as often as I could.

I have saved the best for last - CARNIVAL, CALYPSO AND PAN!!! There is a saying in idiomatic and fascinating Trini-English - WE MUSIC! And they be music, boy. Ah say so! Everywhere in Trinidad music resounds. Trinidad is the birthplace of limbo, calypso, soco and PAN. Calypso is a lyric music with a brassy beat which tells stories of daily life, political corruption, sexual double-entendres, and other tales of life's misadventures. For instance, the most popular song of 1994 dealt with a woman who was homing on her husband (having an affair). Every day she went out to the sugar cane fields, or in Trini English, she
Calypso as a national institution is followed only by PAN or steel drum music. During Carnival season, bands of up to 150 people with 500 steel drums make music that compels you to get on your feet and dance (dancing with lots of pelvic gyrations and grinds). Soco is a combination of soul and calypso and tends to be a harder edged music with a heavy dance beat.

Which leaves the best pre-Lenten festival in the world - Carnival. It is said that Mardi Gras is owned by parade bands where you have to inherit a position to join, while Rio de Janeiro's Carnival is not open to foreigners. So that leaves Trinidad's where foreigners are welcome and anyone can play mas or join a one of hundreds of masquerade bands comprised up to 7000 players dancing and drinking as they following behind hundreds of soco-blaring sound trucks driving all through Port of Spain. A half million people pour into Trinidad for Carnival and spill out into the streets for dancing, singing and generally raunchy partying. Trinidad's Carnival is so popular that many Caribbean islands have started their own versions as well as large Carnivals in Toronto, New York, and Miami.

Carnival season starts the day after Old Year's Night (New Year's Eve) and continues with growing intensity until Lent. Several Calypso Tents open with hundreds of local performers singing their own calypso and soco compositions. The best calypso musicians are Lord Kitchner, Mighty Sparrow, Superblue, and my favorite, David Rudder. PAN competitions also start, with groups such as Desperadoes, Renegade and PAN Invaders fighting for the PAN crown in competitions that easily turn into near riots. Add to that the Queen and King of the Masquerade competitions, where celebrants wear costumes weighing hundreds of pounds on their backs that resemble nothing so much as a US parade float. Everyone goes mad starting on the Friday night before Lent and continues to party through Sunday at Midnight when Demarche Gras officially opens Carnival and the Mas Bands hit the streets in their outlandish and often sensual costumes. It all ends on Tuesday at midnight for Last Lap - one last dance in the dark.

If you have a chance, visit Trinidad for Carnival, then plan on spending a week in Tobago to recuperate! If you do go, bring a gift book. The librarians will be grateful.

Chinatown Branch Library is Unique

By Jeanette C. Smith, NMSU Library

Two imposing marble lions guard the entrance to the library as I approach. No, I am not visiting the New York Public Library, but the Chinatown Branch of the Chicago Public Library! The library opened in a rented storefront in 1970, and moved in 1990 to its new building at the end of a busy street filled with Chinese restaurants, bakeries, and gift shops. Although the only Asian touch on the exterior is the marble lions imported from Tibet, the interior contains specially designed furniture and fixtures with a Chinese accent. Commissioned art work decorates the walls.

The Chinese Heritage Room contains a decorative rock garden and a display case featuring Royal Chinese costumes from various dynasties. The room also houses the Chinese Heritage collection, an extensive English language collection on Chinese culture, history, and the Chinese-American experience. In addition, the library holds the largest Chinese language print and multi-media collection in the Chicago library system, including materials in Cantonese and Mandarin. Especially noteworthy is the large contemporary Chinese videotape collection. While the library's primary users come from Chicago's Chinese-American community, it receives visitors from all walks of life: tourists, visiting ALA librarians, and residents of other areas of Chicago who come to borrow videotapes of Jackie Chan action movies, cult favorites in and beyond the Chinese community.

This unique branch library combines an appreciation of the cultural heritage of its community with modern library services such as computers and a summer reading program. The next time you are in Chicago, come for a visit, and then walk down the street for some great Chinese food! ©
IFLA: The International Federation of Library Associations
By Judith R. Bernstein, UNM Library

In the last few years, U.S. library associations and their members have become much more interested in and visible on the global scene. While we have always been active and contributed to political activity in the United States, particularly in the area of freedom of information, we are just beginning to address professional concerns on an international scale. One of the organizations through which we can do this is the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

IFLA was founded in 1927 in Edinburgh, Scotland, by delegates representing 15 countries. It was one of the first non-profit, non-governmental global organizations developed specifically to further the cause of librarianship. IFLA has grown especially rapidly since 1971 and currently has 1265 members from 135 countries, 85 of which are in the Third World. Headquartered at the Royal Library of the Netherlands in the Hague, IFLA also has regional offices in Dakar (Senegal), Bangkok (Thailand), and Sao Paolo (Brazil). IFLA cooperates closely with many other international bodies. It has consultative status with UNESCO through which members of IFLA contribute to UNESCO programs. IFLA also consults with other international organizations concerned with information issues, including the Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), the International Congress of Archives, the International Standards Organization (ISO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

IFLA is organized into two kinds of units: the Core Programs, and the professional groups consisting of 32 sections and 14 Round Tables grouped in 8 major divisions. The IFLA Core Programs focus on major issues: Universal Bibliographic Control and International Marc (UBCIM), Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), Preservation and Conservation (PAC), Universal Data Transmission (UDT), and Advancing Librarianship in the Third World (ALP).

Three divisions are by type of library: General Research (includes National Libraries, Parliamentary Libraries, and University and Research Libraries), Special Libraries, and Libraries Serving the General Public. Four divisions reflect types of activities: Bibliographic Control, Collections and Services, Management and Technology, and Education and Research. The Division of Regional Activities spans the spectrum of IFLA activities but is particularly concerned with Third World activities with sections for Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

U.S. librarians have become increasingly active in IFLA in the last decade. Since 1985, when the IFLA Conference was held in Chicago, the number of U.S. librarians in IFLA has almost doubled. U.S. interest has been sparked by our increasing international awareness, by the greater use of English at international conferences, and by the stimulating conference sites since '85 (Tokyo, Brighton, Sydney, Paris, Stockholm, Moscow, Delhi, and Cuba.)

The first U.S. president of IFLA, elected in 1931, was William Warner Bishop, University librarian at the University of Michigan. Bishop was honored during the 1993 "Rome reborn" exhibit at the Library of...
Congress (a loan of rare materials from the Vatican) for his efforts in laying the foundation for the classification of the materials in the Vatican Library according to the Library of Congress system. It was not until 1992, when Robert Wedgeworth became President of IFLA, that another U.S. librarian served as IFLA president.

How does one become active in IFLA? Each section has a standing committee of up to 20 representatives who are nominated and elected by members of the section for four year terms. These elected members in turn elect their chair and secretary/financial officer. These officers then form the Coordinating Board which governs the Division. The Division Coordinating Board elects its own chair who then serves on the Professional Board which supervises the overall program and budget of the organization. The Professional Board is responsible to the IFLA Executive Board which consists of eight elected officers, the president, vice presidents, treasurer and directors. Two division chairs and 87 section members of a possible 610 are currently U.S. librarians. Round tables and discussion groups also allow active participation in library issues. The most recently formed Round Tables are the Round Table on Women’s Issues and the Round Table on User Education.

Membership in IFLA is open to individuals, associations, and institutions. Associations of librarians (such as the American Library Association and the Special Libraries Association, ); institutional members,(such as the General Library of the University of New Mexico and the Research Libraries Group); and personal affiliates pay an annual fee and may join one or more sections. Associations and institutions are permitted to nominate a specified number of members for section Standing Committees depending on their annual dues payments. Individual members may be nominated by two or more institutions to serve on the standing committees. Active participation in one of the U.S. associations is an excellent means of attaining nomination to a section Standing Committee.

Even without Standing Committee member status the IFLA Annual Conference is a marvelous opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world and participate in IFLA programs. Since only some 2000 people can attend the conference, IFLA also sponsors a large number of regional and national meetings, workshops, and seminars each year to reach a much wider audience. Information about IFLA activities is now available on the IFLANET homepage at http://www.nlm-bnc.ca/ifla/home.htm.

Participation in IFLA is a serious commitment of both time and money. Many librarians must pay their own expenses to the conferences as well as annual dues of about $125 U.S. The conference fees for the last few years have been $350 U.S. which does not include airfare, lodging or meals. Standing Committee members are required to attend at least three out of four Annual Conferences. The Sections are also seriously involved in programs, projects, and workshops and one must be prepared to give substantial time to this activity. Fortunately, with the increasing use of telefacsimile transmission, electronic mail, and better telephone connections, it has become much easier to keep in touch with one’s global colleagues.

Every Annual Conference seems to have its politically exciting moments. In 1992 we were in Moscow when the tanks rolled in and signaled the beginning of the end of the Cold War. In India we were present when old feuds erupted between Muslims and Hindus over the repair of an ancient temple. In Cuba we witnessed the rafts sailing from the shores while dedicated librarians brought in paper, medicines, and other items to help their colleagues weather the economic crisis. This year we met in Istanbul, Turkey, where the conference theme was “Libraries of the Future”. Conference Proceedings are available on IFLANET.

In 1996, IFLA will meet in Beijing from the 25-31 of August with a conference theme of “The Challenge of Change: Libraries and Economic Development”. In 1997, Copenhagen will be the site of the conference from 31 August - 5 September; and in 1998, the host country will be the Netherlands.

U.S. librarians have much to offer the international community, particularly in the areas of technological advances in librarianship, book donation programs, and assisting in the training of Third World staff through workshops and exchange programs. We can also learn much from librarians from other countries in setting up successful global programs which will address preservation, library education, intellectual property rights, and international standards.
FORO V: the Trinational Library Forum

By Gwen Gregory, NMSU Library

Ed Erazo and I were fortunate to be able to represent the NMSU Library at the V FORO Trinacional de Bibliotecas, held in Mexico City on February 23 - 25, 1995. This annual meeting brings librarians from Mexico, the United States, and Canada together to discuss issues of mutual interest, and also facilitates cultural and information exchanges. The FORO began in 1989, when librarians from Arizona and Sonora met in southern Arizona, and has been held in various locations in the United States and Mexico since then. Programs at this FORO included general sessions on international exchanges and professional accreditation of library and information science and small group discussions of cooperation and interlibrary loan, professional exchanges, new information technologies, and integrated automation systems in libraries. We also saw exhibits of Mexican books and library products, including CD-ROMs containing Mexican statistical and legal data. Simultaneous translation was provided for the meetings, but in personal conversations everyone got a chance to practice their foreign language skills.

I met and talked with many interesting people at the FORO. Alfredo Burciaga, who was an intern at the NMSU Library last semester, was there and introduced me to several of his Mexican colleagues. I was particularly interested in meeting technical services librarians and catalogers from Mexico and working with them to plan for a technical services-oriented program at FORO VI, which will be held next spring in Tucson. One topic of interest was the cataloging of Mexican federal and state government documents, which I catalog for the NMSU Library.

It seems that the FORO is becoming a bit more formalized and permanent. Robert Seal, library director at Texas Christian University, suggested that a North American Library Association be formed, including librarians from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. No action was taken on this suggestion, but for the first time, permanent action groups were formed to work on certain important issues during the time between FOROs. Groups were formed in the following areas: interlibrary loan, professional internships and other exchanges, and reading promotion and literacy programs in public and children's libraries. I attended several sessions where important issues about relations between Mexican and U.S. libraries were discussed. Several
librarians from Canada were also present, and were speakers in the general sessions. My feeling is that Canadian librarians will continue to participate in the FORO, but that the vast majority of participants will continue to be from the U.S.-Mexico border area, with increasing participation from other parts of these countries. In the interlibrary loan meeting, discussion of the U.S.-Mexico project already underway was heated. U.S. librarians made the point that Mexican libraries would sometimes rather exchange materials with U.S. libraries than with each other, and that Mexican libraries may want to explore way to increase resource sharing within their country. I also participated in the discussion on integrated library systems. Many Mexican libraries use DYNIX, but, on the whole, seem disappointed with its performance. Several libraries have purchased other systems, including UNAM. Mexican librarians were quite interested to hear about U.S. automation and retrospective conversion, and I shared some of my experiences from several libraries with them.

Attending the FORO has enabled me to expand my horizons professionally and personally while providing concrete benefits to my library. I was able to discuss with Mexican librarians the cataloging and corporate name entries for Mexican federal and state government documents, for which I frequently contribute original cataloging to OCLC. I also collected information on Mexican CD-ROM products which would be excellent additions to our library’s collection. I learned that in Mexico, many publications are issued in CD-ROM format because of the unreliability of telephone lines for online services and the cost of producing print materials. Most of all, I met many Mexican and U.S. librarians who are interested in how we can work together and what we can do for each other. I am happy to be serving on the publicity committee for next year’s FORO, so that I can let librarians in New Mexico know about the pleasures of meeting their colleagues from across the border. The next FORO will be held in Tucson, Arizona, February 15 - 17, 1996. For more information on the FORO, contact Charlotte Cohen, program chair for FORO VI, email cohenc@mhs.t-bird.edu or phone (602) 978-7231.
1995-96 NMLA Interest Groups

Government Information
Liaison: Kathleen S. Le Febre, NM Tech Library, Socorro
  ph: 835-5740 email: klefebrev@nmt.edu
Purpose: To promote awareness of government information and political issues affecting dissemination of government information
Objectives: Provide current information on government information sources and formats to all interested members
  Keep abreast of political issues affecting dissemination of government information

Local & Regional History
Liaison: Peter B. Ives, UNM, Parish Library, Albuquerque
  ph: 277-9243 email: pives@unm.edu
Purpose: To get interesting speakers on a variety of topics that have not been well-covered
Objectives: To bring to NMLA members historical topics that can further their interests in the collections of their libraries

LUISA - Spanish Language Services
Liaison: Molly Molloy, NMSU Library, Las Cruces
  ph: 646-6931 email: mmolloy@lib.nmsu.edu
Purpose: LUISA promotes library services and works to expand access to resources of interest to Spanish-speaking communities in New Mexico
Objectives: Promote communication among librarians and library workers serving Spanish-speaking communities in New Mexico
  Plan program for the annual conference in March 1996
  Write articles of interest to NMLA members who serve Spanish-speaking communities for the NMLA Newsletter

Native American Libraries
Liaison: Teresa M. Naranjo
  ph: 753-7326
Purpose: To promote library services to Native Americans in the state of New Mexico
Objectives: Hold periodic meetings to promote informal and formal networking
  Cooperate with Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committee efforts to begin to plan and implement lobbying efforts

New Mexico Preservation Alliance
Liaison: Cheryl Wilson, NMSU Library, Las Cruces
  ph. 646-3238 email: chwilson@lib.nmsu.edu
Purpose: Promote preservation and conservation of library materials, archives, and public records
Objectives: Disseminate information relating to the preservation of library materials, archives, and public records

Forming an NMLA Interest Group

The procedures for establishing interest groups are defined in Article XIV of the NMLA Bylaws:

Section 1. An interest group may be formed by members whose common interests reflect the Goals of the Association. Members wanting to form an interest group submit a proposal to the Executive Board for recognition. The proposal will include the name of the member who will serve as Executive Board liaison, a statement of purpose, and objectives related to the Goals of the Association.

Section 2. Once formed, an interest group will annually submit a proposal for recognition. The Executive Board shall authorize continued recognition of existing interest groups at the first Executive Board meeting following the close of the annual conference.

Section 3. Each interest group will select an Executive Board liaison who shall represent the group and submit the group's objectives, proposed activities, and budget requests to the Executive Board.

Section 4. Interest groups may request a program or meeting time during the Association's annual conference or other general meetings.

Section 5. Each interest group liaison shall submit a written annual report to be published in the post-conference issue of the Association's official periodical and shall submit this report to the Secretary at the close of the annual conference.
Public Libraries

Liaison: Jae Luree King, Grants Public Library
Phone: 287-4793

Purpose: Support public libraries and librarians in the areas of development, improvement, education and extension of public library services in New Mexico

Objectives:
1. Provide leadership to initiate, maintain, and enhance library legislation and act on political issues affecting library interests
2. Foster an awareness of and support the activities of the New Mexico Library Foundation
3. Provide and support educational opportunities for library personnel
4. Possibly sponsor a program or workshop coordinating with another interest group exploring innovative methods of resource sharing
5. Provide a program at the annual conference
6. Promote and communicate the role and value of libraries and librarians
7. Encourage members to work with the New Mexico Municipal League Librarians subsection, jointly promoting library objectives to city and state officials
8. Support and assist planning efforts for networking in New Mexico
9. Work towards coordinating technology in public, school, academic, and special libraries

Services to Young'uns

Liaison: Patricia Froehlich, NM State Library, Santa Fe
Phone: 827-3814 E-mail: patricia@unm.edu or patricia@stlib.nm.us

Purpose: Improve library services to children and youth

Objectives:
1. Survey current services
2. Develop competencies in children & youth in accessing, evaluating, and using information
3. Develop behaviors in children and youth that lead to life-long learning

Southern New Mexico Libraries

Liaison: Mark Pendleton, Branigan Library, Las Cruces
Phone: 526-1048 E-mail: mpendle@lib.nmsu.edu

Purpose: Provide support network for all librarians in Dona Ana, Otero and Luna Counties

Objectives:
1. Provide both formal and informal support and training
2. Begin a program of needs assessment for Southern New Mexico libraries prior to resource sharing

Technical Services

Liaison: Gwen Gregory, NMSU Library, Las Cruces
Phone: 646-7488 E-mail: ggregory@lib.nmsu.edu

Purpose: Provide programs, documents, and services relating to technical services in libraries

Objectives:
1. Sponsor and organize programs at annual meeting and mini-conference
2. Provide technical services information to librarians in New Mexico
3. Work with other interest groups to integrate technical services themes into activities
Two Year College Libraries
Liaison: Melinda Bako Dermody, NMSU Alamogordo
ph: 439-3628 e-mail:mdermody@lib.nmsu.edu
Purpose: Focus on the interests of two year college libraries
Objectives: Provide a forum for addressing issues and problems unique to the two-year college library
Encourage programs which will promote interaction among interest group members
Encourage submission of articles and programs relating to two year college libraries for NMLA publications and conferences

White House Conference
Liaison: Susie Sonflieth, New Mexico Coalition for Literacy
ph: 982-3997
Purpose: Keep up with national and state events, trends, and legislation which affect libraries and librarians in New Mexico with relationship to tracking results and planning activities of WHCLIS
Objectives: Track and disseminate information about the 1991 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services and to participate in the planning process for the 2000 WCHLIS Conference

New Interest Groups
Two new Special Interest Groups were approved at the June 12th NMLA board meeting. More information on the Friends and Trustees SIG and the Land of Enchantment Award SIG will be published when available.

Current NMLA Goals
• Provide leadership to initiate, maintain, and enhance library legislation and act on political issues affecting library interests.
• Foster an awareness of and support the activities of the New Mexico Library Foundation.
• Provide and support educational opportunities for library personnel.
• Promote and communicate the role and value of libraries and librarians.
• Plan, direct, and evaluate the growth and effectiveness of the organization.
• Support and assist planning efforts for networking in New Mexico.

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