

# 2010 ALA Conference Washington DC

## Report by Maryanne Rusinak

### Summary of sessions attended:

#### **Libraries in a Time of War**

ALA - IRC ALA IRRT

**Moderator:** Beverly P. Lynch, UCLA, Chair, International Relations Committee **Speakers:** Richard Hume Werking, US Naval Academy, Library Director and Professor of History; Sem Sutter, University of Chicago Libraries, Bibliographer for Germanic Literatures; Corine Wegner, U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, President

Presentations on the effects of war on libraries and other cultural institutions, from ancient libraries and those of the Ottoman Empire to the destruction and confiscation of libraries and museum artifacts in present day Iraq. Discussions included a special emphasis on libraries and book collections in Germany, France and the Netherlands during World War II. Many collections stolen from Germany were permanently given to the Bibliotheque Nationale de France (particularly the Furstenberg collections), and to Jerusalem libraries. Included was information about the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and extensive efforts to return items to owners after World War II. In Iraq, currently about one third of stolen museum items have been recovered. A representative spoke from the Blue Shield National Committee, created in U.S. in 1996 in response to the Bosnian crisis. This organization is the "Red Cross" of culture, working to protect cultural property by providing military cultural property training.

#### **Catholic Library Association--Accessing Religious Materials: A Digital Solution**

AFL – CATHLA

*Patricia Lawton, Catholic Research Resources Alliance, CRRA Digital Projects Librarian; Jon Miller, International Mission Photography Archive, Director of Research, Center for Religion and Civic Culture*

Presentations on the development of the International Mission Photography Archive [www.usc.edu/imp](http://www.usc.edu/imp) including various religious denominations, from 1860-1950. This includes the Basil Mission Archives, one of the earliest to archive material and digitize, and also Scottish daguerreotypes from as early as 1840. A discussion of the ongoing development of The Catholic Research Resource Alliance, <http://www.catholicresearch.net> a collection of global Catholic archives and research resources in collaboration with universities and other organizations.

#### **Librarians Just Need to Have Fun: Utilizing Fun and Humor in the Library Workplace to Enhance Employee Performance**

ACRL – CLS

**Moderator:** Ann M. Watson, Ohio University Lancaster, Library Director **Speakers:** Teresa Doherty, Virginia Commonwealth University, Access Librarian and Head, Circulation and Information Services; Erin L. Davis, Utah State University, Reference Librarian; Patricia Van Zandt, Southern Methodist University, Director of Scholarly Resources & Research Services; Frances Weinstein Yates, Indiana University East, Library Director

Presentations by members of the College Libraries Section on their successful experiences with improving workplace motivation and performance by including opportunities for social interaction and fun activities in academic library environments.

### **The National Women's History Museum Project: Towards a Permanent Presence on the National Mall**

ALA - COSWL ACRL WSS

**Moderator:** Kathleen de la Pena McCook, University of South Florida, Distinguished University Professor **Speakers:** Joan Wages, National Women's History Museum, President and CEO

A discussion of the 15 years of planning and development of a museum dedicated to the accomplishments of women in America, in collaboration with other museums. While it will be located on the National Mall, it will not be part of the Smithsonian. Included was a discussion of women's history in libraries, and highlighting of significant, though often unrecognized, female historical figures.

### **Area Studies Librarianship, Globalization and Interdisciplinary Studies in Today's and Tomorrow's Academic and Research Libraries**

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**Moderator:** Jon Giullian, University of Kansas, Librarian for Slavic and Eurasian Studies  
**Speakers:** *Maria Carlson, University of Kansas, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures; James G. Neal, Columbia University, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian; Dan Hazen, Harvard University, Associate Librarian of Harvard College for Collection Development; Beverly Lynch, UCLA, Professor*

The continued importance and growth of area studies in academics and libraries, including global and interdisciplinary studies. A discussion of the institutionalization of the content, structure, and meaning of higher education, including the loss of a liberal arts ethos in universities, the emphasis of university education as job preparation, and universities as "technocracies" ruled by technology. Recommendation is coordination and radical collaboration in developing research collections across borders as foreign language and international studies are diminished and collection development in these areas is marginalized.

I also attended the opening session with Toni Morrison, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature. I enjoyed meeting other academic librarians at the annual College Libraries Section dinner and attending the Proquest Scholarship Bash at the Newseum.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the ALA Conference.

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