

**International Relations Round Table of OLA
Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 31 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Multnomah County Library Northwest Branch Community Room and online via
GoToMeeting**

Attending (in person): Jennifer Cox (Chair/Treasurer), Veronica Vichit-Vadakan (Vice-Chair/Secretary), Amy Lee, Nancy Hoover; (online via GoToMeeting): Linda Campillo, Jian Wang, Lori Wamsley, Michele Burke, Christy Davis

1. Meeting called to order at 3:15 PM.
 - a. We started with introductions -- we had four people attending in person and six online.
2. Elections
 - a. Jennifer explained that there are two official leadership positions in the IRRT -- the Chair/Treasurer and the Vice-Chair/Secretary. Her term as Chair will end in August and Veronica will become the Chair for the 2017-2018 term. We are now seeking nominations for Vice-Chair (for the 2017-2018 term). We called for nominations and Linda Campillo (2015-2016 IRRT chair) self-nominated for the position. We will send out one more call for nominations and then open for voting in the summer.
3. Horner Exchange
 - a. Veronica gave a summary of the presentation that she, Richard Sapon-White, and Jian Wang delivered at OLA in April. The presentation consisted of history of the Horner Exchange, a summary of the libraries visited and lessons learned during the trip, some fun travel and sightseeing tales, and finally a discussion of the possible future of the Horner Exchange now that the initial bequest is depleted.
 - b. The OLA, IRRT, Oregon State Library are all committed to continuing the Horner Exchange despite the funding shortfall. Likewise, our colleagues in Fujian are very eager to see the program continue. Possible ideas for making the Exchange more affordable: virtual exchanges (e.g., webinars); shorter stays; asking participants to contribute more money or to do fundraising.
 - c. Michele asked if there were grants we could pursue to fund the program. It seems that it would be a difficult fit to find a foundation that would fund the Horner exchange, but it's worth looking into if anyone has ideas. **ACTION ITEM: find volunteer to investigate grants.**
 - d. Jian announced that the Confucius Institute at PSU is hosting Richard Sapon-White and MaryKay Dahlgreen in the summer. CI is paying them an honorarium for their time which will be donated to the Horner Exchange fund (\$800 total). The event is at PSU on June 29th and everyone's invited!
<https://www.pdx.edu/confucius-institute/experience-in-china-presentations>

- e. OLA is starting a fundraising task force to assist all of the divisions with fundraising. It would be ideal to have a representative of the IRRT on that task force since we have an active fundraising need. **ACTION ITEM: find volunteer for the task force.**
 - f. We discussed the possibility of an annual raffle like OYAN does at OLA.
 - g. The IRRT could also host pre-conference talks at OLA -- for example, a workshop on applying for Fulbright positions (Richard) or how to start an international sister library relationship (Amy). Some of the registration money would go back to IRRT.
 - h. In summary: there's lots of interest and lots of ideas about how to move forward with the Horner Exchange!
4. Sister Cities/Sister Libraries
- a. We looked over a list of Portland's sister cities and discussed the other cities of Oregon and their sister relationships. We would like to diversify the locations we focus on (i.e., not just Fujian) -- and this list looks like a good start. Michele asked if we could consolidate all this info into one shareable spreadsheet and also get some tips on how to approach libraries to start a sister relationship. Amy -- who is establishing a sister relationship with Xiamen Public Library in Fujian -- suggested that you be clear on your goals before you start contacting libraries. Do you want to do professional development exchanges? Do you want to donate books? Do you want your staff to work at the other library or just visit?
 - b. **ACTION ITEM:** volunteer to create a spreadsheet of libraries, possible contacts, tips for communicating with libraries abroad.
5. International Book Fairs
- a. We looked over a list of international book fairs and brainstormed ideas for an IRRT group trip. IRRT probably would not be able to fund the trips, but could match attendees and possibly organize discounted group rates.
 - b. **ACTION ITEM:** Nancy Hoover agreed to put together a survey to send out to OLA to gauge interest.
6. Memberclicks website upgrade
- a. The much-anticipated memberclicks update was released... and is pretty underwhelming. We discussed options for setting up a IRRT website outside of the Memberclicks website (like Wordpress) that could be more dynamic and could serve as a repository for past Horner Exchange information and have resources for future projects.
 - b. **ACTION ITEM:** Michele Burke agreed to get more info at the OLA Executive Board meeting this Friday and report back.
7. Publishing
- a. Jennifer brought up the idea that we should look for ways to increase the profile of the IRRT and that publishing in library journals could be one way of doing that. Articles need not be elaborate -- personal essays about experiencing international librarianship would be great! **ACTION ITEM:** Anyone want to write about libraries abroad?

8. OLA 2018
 - a. It's never too early to consider what we want to present at OLA 2018! Two ideas that have already come up: Richard could present on Fulbright opportunities for librarians and Amy could present on the FVRL-XPL partnership. Those presentations could be either pre-conference sessions or regular sessions. Other ideas for presentations?
9. Open Forum
 - a. Amy asked about the current accounts for IRRT and the Horner Exchange. Jennifer estimated the current accounts at \$1000 for the IRRT as a whole and \$3000 for the Horner Exchange.
10. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.