

NAVIGATOR: COLORADO LIBRARIES AND THE WORLD

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INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE INTEREST GROUP / COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIES

Janet Lee Named Fulbright Scholar

ILCE-IG Chair and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Ethiopia 1974-76) Janet Lee has been named a [Fulbright Scholar](#) and will use the opportunity to take her expertise as a librarian and editor to the University of Aksum in Axum, Ethiopia.

She plans to explore Open Access scholarly publishing in Ethiopia and ensure that faculty are provided an opportunity to share their knowledge, perspectives and values and that students and colleagues have unfettered access to their collective scholarship.

The cost of academic publishing and databases, even when highly discounted, makes research challenging for most university faculty and students. Although not cost free, Open Access typically does not assess fees for subscriptions.

In addition to her work at the University of Aksum, she will work with the Ethiopian Community Development Council's Axumite Heritage Foundation Library's new building that is completing construction. There she will set up a computer lab, reach out to area schools, develop the children's corner, and set up an online catalog. She will also hold children's book publishing with the African Storybook project in local languages.

For Lee, this is an opportunity to return to a country that has come to be part of her life.

She served in Ethiopia as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1974-76, during which time she taught English and helped create a small school library. Follow up trips solidified her commitment to the region and led to her establishing a library in northern Ethiopia during her sabbatical there in 2010. The library in the high school in which she taught still stands as was evidenced by a visit in 2009.

She is an active member of Denver Sister Cities International Axum (Ethiopia) Committee and Aurora Sister Cities International Adama (Ethiopia) Committee.

Lee currently serves as Dean of the Regis University Dayton Memorial Library in Denver. She served as editor of *Colorado Libraries* for nine years, is on the founding board of [Collaborative Librarianship](#), hosted at the University of Denver, and co-edits [Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal](#) at Regis University, the latter two being Open Access publications.



International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group



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Save the dates:

- IFLA. Wroclaw, Poland, August 19-25, 2017
- Colorado Association of Libraries (CALCON) October 12-14, 2017
- ALA Midwinter, Denver, CO February 9-13, 2018
- ALA Annual, New Orleans, LA June 21-26, 2018
- Sister Cities International Annual Conference, Aurora, CO July 31-August 4, 2018

Colorado Librarians Attend the 4th African Library Summit & 2nd AfLIA Conference in Yaounde Cameroon



Janet Lee with Ben Rearick, Peace Corps Volunteer, Ethiopia; Garuma Daba, Director of the African Union Library, and Shimelis Assefa, University of Denver LIS Professor

A Colorado librarian and an LIS faculty were among the 127 attendees at the 4th African Library Summit & 2nd AfLIA Conference held in Yaounde, Cameroon, May 2017. What was the attraction that would draw these library professionals such a distance? For many, the allure went beyond the professional and toward the personal, a return to Africa, an opportunity to network, a starting point for new projects.

Over 45 African countries sent representatives to the conference from Egypt to the north and South Africa to the south, South Africa once again sending the largest number of representatives. The conference was simultaneously translated from English to French and French to English serving the multi-lingual needs of conference attendees.

The University of Yaounde Choir opened the ceremonies with a round of musical selections. IFLA Secretary General Gerald Leitner and IFLA President-Elect Gloria Perez-Salmernon opened

the conference. Both noted the strong presence of IFLA in Africa and its growing role in the development agenda: access to information. Deborah Jacobs, Global Libraries, followed and challenged African libraries to be the model for other regions of the world.

The next three days were filled with plenary sessions, keynote speakers, panels, an unconference, and exhibits. Many excellent presentations covered themes of Development Agenda, ICT in Academic/Research Libraries, Research Data, Role of Libraries in Building Peace and Justice in Africa, Libraries in the Development Agenda, Women, Youth, and Children's Services in the Development Agenda, Preservation of Africa's Culture and Heritage, and Linking the Cape Town Declaration with Africa's Future. Attendees also represented all types of libraries: schools, public, academic, national and international. Each attendee received a CD complete with the full text of the presentations in lieu of a print copy of the proceedings.

As a librarian and a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Ethiopia, Janet Lee, Chair of ILCE-IG, has had numerous opportunities to return to Ethiopia and work on library projects. Having just been named a Fulbright Scholar, she looked forward to expanding her knowledge of African librarianship and network among future colleagues. The conference more than met her expectations in renewing contacts and developing new professional relationships.

Dr. Shimelis Assefa, Professor at the Morgridge College of Education Library and Information Science Program at the University of Denver and Lee collaborated on a paper "Public Libraries as a Place to Advance Tolerance," which surveyed libraries in Colorado and across the nation on programs and practices that promote tolerance. Dr. Assefa also presented on "Data and Information Literacy." Lee also partnered with newly Returned Peace Corps Ethiopia Volunteer, Ben Rearick, a student in the University of Michigan's Library and Information Science Program, on a poster "A Hyena's Tale: Introducing Children to the Power of Reading in Ethiopia." A version of the Lee/Rearick poster was accepted for the International Poster Session at the American Library Association conference in Chicago in June. In addition, Dr. Assefa presented a poster "The Well-being of Nations and what Libraries can do to Help: The Case for Africa."

There were ample opportunities to network with librarians from across Africa including a cultural evening with traditional dancing and an all-conference dinner closing the conference.

The next African Library Summit will be held in Cape Town and the combined Summit and AfLIA conference in two years at a place to be determined.



University of Yaounde choir

IFLA Global Vision

By Beth Crist, Youth & Family Services

**TOGETHER
WE CREATE
THE FUTURE!**

#iflaGlobalVision

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) – the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users – is undertaking a very ambitious project: to create one global vision for all of the world's libraries. This exciting project closely matches one of IFLA's key beliefs that only a united and connected library field will be able to fulfill one of the true potentials of libraries: to build literate, informed and participative societies.

IFLA's Global Vision discussion is bringing together thousands from the worldwide library field to explore how a connected library field can meet the challenges of the future. Through two-day workshops in North America, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia Oceania, and Europe, library leaders representing dozens countries and types of libraries discussed a vision for libraries, the challenges and opportunities that libraries face now and in the future, and how the field can unite to collaborate in an effort to strengthen the field globally. These discussions, wrapping up in July, are a springboard for further exchanges initiated by workshop attendees to occur through September 2017, the results of which will be provided to IFLA.

I attended the North American workshop, the first of these international workshops, in early May. Twenty-five librarians from Canada and the U.S. (Mexico was represented in the Latin American meeting) met at the Library of Congress for a lively, highly interactive workshop, full of small-group conversations and activities, large group exchanges, thought-provoking questions, and a stimulating idea exchange with a diverse set of colleagues. Most attendees represented a Canadian or American library association, on behalf of all types of libraries. The workshop was well structured to drill down to the core vision and values underlying the entire library field, all in an engaging manner that encouraged active participation by all.

The next step in the project will be an interactive online voting platform, launched in August, on the IFLA Global Vision discussion [website](#) to help prioritize actions. All of this input combined will provide the basis for a comprehensive *IFLA Global Vision Report that will be published in early 2018. Based on the report, the library field will develop concrete work plans on how to put our collective vision of the future into practice.*



Follow the discussion on the IFLA Global Vision website and on Twitter (#iflaGlobalVision), and make your voice heard during the online voting in August!

IFLA Vision Meeting in Athens

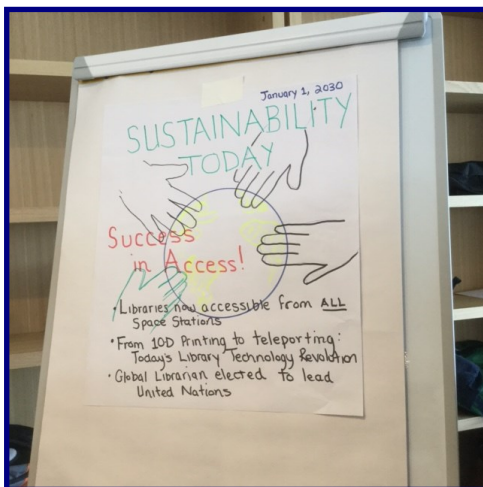
By Nancy Bolt

I was privileged to attend the first IFLA meeting to create a vision in Athens, Greece. I was invited to Athens because I'm the secretary of an IFLA section, Library Services to People with Special Needs. Attending in Athens were representatives from around the world representing all of IFLA's 22 sections and its partners, such as ALA, and the funder of the effort, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

As Beth's, my experience was also very positive. In Athens the participants were from around the world and represented all kinds of library services and individual country cultures. It made for very interesting discussions as we discussed questions such as:

- What are the core values of libraries?
- What are libraries exceptionally good at?
- What should libraries do more of?
- What should libraries do less of?
- What are the main challenges facing libraries?
- How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified?
- What could be the focus of a united library field?

To start participants thinking about the future of libraries, participants were asked to prepare a one-minute statement on the future of libraries, speaking from their own perspective and finishing this sentence: ***The year is 2022 and libraries have changed so much. Now they do.....***



Poster prepared by group participants on their library vision for 2022

Nancy Bolt Appointed to United Nations Committee

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and its Section on Library Service to People with Special Needs (LSN) has been asked to participate in an important United Nations project on serving people with disabilities.

The UN General Assembly has requested a report on the “national policies, programs, best practices, and available statistics” about progress for persons with disabilities in relation to the [United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) to be achieved by 2030 and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([CRPD](#)). The report is due in 2018. IFLA was asked to appoint two people to participate in a network of experts to contribute to this report, called [MEDD](#), (Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development.)

Nancy Bolt from the US and Dolores Carnugui from the Philippines, both members of the LSN Steering Committee, have been invited to be part of the MEDD.

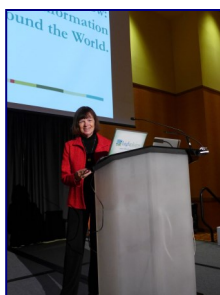
Bolt participated in two meetings of MEDD; the first in New York, in November, 2016, and the second in Geneva, Switzerland in May of 2017. The group divided into task forces based on the UN 2030 SDGs. Bolt and Carnugui are on the Access Committee. While there are 17 SDGs, Bolt feels that libraries can offer the most in SDG 4 on Quality Education, SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 which includes access to information, and SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities. Bolt and Carnugui feel that contribution of libraries to these goals is not fully recognized. To provide more data on the role of libraries, Bolt, with the help of IFLA, is preparing a survey that will go to libraries around the world, asking them for information on any programs that they have on serving people with disabilities. The survey will be available in mid-July, 2017.



CALCON 2016

Keynote Speaker, Donna Scheeder

Donna Scheeder, IFLA President, was a keynote speaker at the MPLA/CAL conference in Loveland Friday, October 21, 2016. Donna was sponsored by the International Library and Cultural Exchange-Interest Group. She spoke on "So People May Know: Access to Information Around the World" and on the importance of libraries in the provision of access to information. Thank you, Donna, for being a continuing source of inspiration. Thank you, also to Nancy Bolt for being the driving force and chief fundraiser for ILCE-IG.



Donna Scheeder, IFLA President



Nancy Bolt with Donna Scheeder

Library Globetrotters: Library Experiences in Five Countries

A panel of four international traveler/librarians reflected on libraries from around the world to a packed audience of approximately 70 attendees.

Lisa Priebe spent the past three years in Whitehaven, Cumbria, England, described libraries in and around Whitehaven where she lived for three years.

Nebeyou Nunamo compared and contrasted his experiences working in libraries in his native Ethiopia with those of his adopted home in the U.S. He received his MSIS degree from the University of Denver.

Nancy Wood serves as Branch Manager of Park County Public Library at the Fairplay branch. For the past twelve years she has been establishing the first public library in Liberia. She shared her adventure through a style of storytelling that she witnessed in Liberia.

Sue Keefer, retired Director of the Learning Resource Center of Otero Junior College reflected on a recent ILCE-IG library-focused trip to Nicaragua.



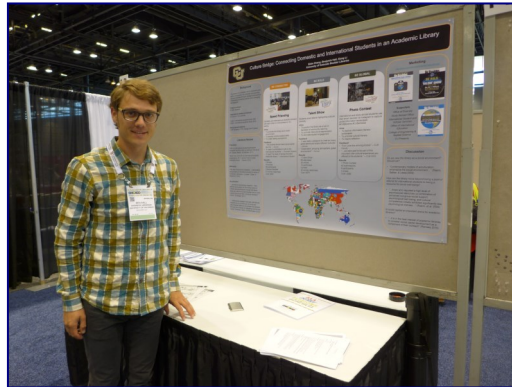
Lisa Priebe, Nebeyou Nunamo, Nancy Wood, Sue Keefer

ILCE-IG at ALA in Chicago 2017

Two librarians from Colorado represented ILCE-IG during the International Poster Session at the American Library Association Annual conference in Chicago June 2017.

First, on behalf of the University of Colorado Boulder Libraries (Ben Hall, Bebe Chang, Xiang Li), Ben Hall presented the poster "Culture Bridge: Connecting Domestic and International Students in an Academic Library." The poster described a program undertaken by the libraries to promote intercultural understanding and inclusivity. The university library collaborated with the Office of International Education, the Office of Diversity Affairs, the International Student and Scholar Services, and the Cultural Unity and Engagement Services, and the cultural Unity and Engagement Center.

The program included Speed Friending, a Talent Show, and a Photo Contest. This program was the recipient of one of two ILCE-IG Grants awarded in 2016.



Janet Lee, ILCE-IG Chair, joined fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Ethiopia Ben Rearick in their poster, "A Hyena's Tale: Introducing Children to the Power of Reading in Ethiopia." Although Janet and Ben served in Ethiopia decades apart, they "met" on Facebook when they discovered that they shared mutual interests in libraries and literacy. Their first presentation together was at the 4th African Library Summit & 2nd AfLIA Conference in Yaounde Cameroon. Janet is the Dean of Library at Regis University and Ben is a Master in Library Science student at the University of Michigan. Their poster describes the work they have in common with the African Storybook project (<http://africanstorybook.org>) in varying parts of Ethiopia. African Storybook is a platform that hosts over 4,500 children's books in African languages. Authors are free to upload new stories or translate existing stories using a Creative Commons license. Picture books may then be downloaded to a device, read online, or printed and distributed for all to read. Ben and Janet plan to continue promoting ASb and its valuable collection in the future.



STEERING COMMITTEE:

Janet Lee, Chair, janet.lee35@gmail.com
Nancy Bolt, Board Liaison, nancybolt@earthlink.net
Barb Thorne, Secretary, BarbThorne@aol.com
Jane Mirandette, At large, janem101@aol.com
Kathy Plath, At large, plathkathy@gmail.com
Sue Keefer, At large, Sue.Keefer@ojc.edu

Who We Are

The International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group (ILCE-IG) grew out of the American-Bulgarian Library Exchange Project (1996-2011), which sought to create connections and cooperation between American and Bulgarian libraries. The ILCE-IG has extended its scope to encourage projects that foster relationships between Colorado Libraries and those of other countries, to help build and maintain libraries in communities overseas, and to celebrate non-dominant cultures across Colorado.



Be Social: Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/ilceig>

We're on the web:
ilceig.wordpress.com/

Update on a Project: Aurora Sister Cities/Adama, Ethiopia

Although long in coming, the container from Aurora Sister Cities has arrived complete with books for its public libraries and medical supplies for a nearby clinic.

Adama, Ethiopia, is Aurora's second Sister City, and their partnership was formalized in 2014. Efforts are currently underway to establish ties between the Aurora Public Library and the Adama City Youth Center No-1 Library, a combination recreation center and library in Adama.



National and local flags adorn the celebration site.



Welcome celebration



Unloading boxes of books