

INTERNATIONAL LEADS

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INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
ROUND TABLE

Celebrating 75 Years

- 1 Sister Cities International 500 in 5
- 5 Editorial
- 6 Message from the IRRT Chair
- 6 Message from the IRRT Chair-Elect
- 7 IRRT 75th Anniversary Service Award
- 8 IRRT 75th Anniversary Reception
- 10 Maawn Doobiigeng (Gather Together)
- 14 Load Shedding in South Africa:
What Is It and How Does It Affect Libraries?
- 18 2024 Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries (WAL)

500 IN 5

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL 500 IN 5 CONNECTING WITH OUR COLLEAGUES ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Justine Withers
Electronic Resources Librarian
Western New Mexico University
ALA IRC Africa Subcommittee member

In 2023 at its first Africa Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, Sister Cities International (SCI) announced *500 in 5*, a new initiative that focuses on Africa and expands the work they have been doing around the world for almost 70 years. At ALA Annual 2024, Dr. Ricki Garrett, president and CEO of SCI, joined members of the ALA International Relations Committee (IRC) Africa Subcommittee and representatives of successful Sister City connections with Africa to describe the initiative and highlight the possibilities for librarians to get involved.

500 in 5 sets the ambitious goal of connecting 500 American cities with 500 cities across the African continent in the next five years. What this really means is connecting *the people* who live in those cities: SCI's mission is "citizen diplomacy." Ricki emphasized their focus on "volunteers on the ground and not D.C. bureaucracy." Sister Cities are an "alternate route for international relations," leveraging SCI's network of philanthropic organizations, individuals, and corporations to engage leaders from the local to the national levels. Ricki pointed out that Africa has 4 billion people, 1,000 languages, and an average age of 19-20 years. This presents a wealth of opportunities for engagement and long-lasting cultural relationships.

Janet Lee, Dean Emerita of Regis University, and Diane Withers, retired Reading and ESL educator at Western Wisconsin Technical College, presented with Ricki at

ALA Annual and shared two examples of Sister City relationships supporting literacy and information resources.

As co-chair of the Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) Axum (Ethiopia) Committee, Janet used Colorado as an example of Sister City relationships in Africa. DSCI has had partnerships in Africa since 1975, Boulder, Colorado, since 2009, and Aurora, Colorado, since 2014. Janet's Peace Corps experience in Ethiopia makes the Denver-Axum (started in 1995) and Aurora-Adama (2014) connections especially meaningful. Representatives of the respective committees have visited libraries in each city and the Denver Public Library Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library hosts regular events highlighting Ethiopian culture. A significant exhibit at the library showcases a beautiful Ethiopian dress gifted to then First Lady (of Denver) Wilma Webb on the Mayoral visit to Axum in 1995.

Ethiopia has been in civil conflict since 2020 and the city of Axum has suffered a massacre, physical destruction, and looting. The DSCI Axum Committee has been able to take advantage of its strong connections to swiftly respond with humanitarian support for the hospital and to restore library facilities and services at the Axumite Heritage Foundation

Library (AHF). Janet was instrumental in funding and installing a Chromebook lab in 2018 and a replacement e-learning lab at the AHF Library in 2024. The AHF Library was awarded the first ALA IRRT Mission Enhancement grant in 2018. DSCI subsequently won the SCI Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance award this summer.

The connection between La Crosse, Wisconsin, and Kumbo, Cameroon, began with student-teacher relationships at Western Wisconsin Technical College. Developing personal relationships with ESL and international students creates a link for further connections between countries. Diane took a Cameroonian student cross-country skiing, cooked one of her foods at her house, brought some Rotarians for a Cameroon dinner, took her to visit the Amish farms and people, and hosted a graduation party celebrating her completion of her Computer Science Associate Degree. Franciscan nuns from the hospital near Kumbo were brought to WWTC to learn essential skills and take them back to their community. Diane and others at the college formed a non-profit group called Friends of Cameroon and began organizing donations of medical and computer equipment. The Friends then got funding from local, regional, and International Rotary to improve infrastructure at local schools. They finalized a Sister City connection in 2013 and have

Transformation: Nseh Muslim Primary



Nseh exemplifies the project's results:
6 classrooms, a library, and a headmaster office

- A removable wall between two classrooms creates a larger **community gathering space** when class is not in session.
- Space rental for community use will add revenue for ongoing maintenance.
- This Muslim school has opened enrollment to the Christian population the surrounding community. This is important because the school has served as a barrier to humanitarian conflict. The school administration believes it is important to not turn many students away.
- Pride in the school has led to administrative management facility.

Diane Withers with her part of the presentation, Sister Cities for Literacy: Kumbo, Cameroon, and La Crosse, Wisconsin.



At the IRRT International Librarians Reception, members of the IRC Africa Subcommittee and Sister Cities connected with several librarians across Africa to share experiences and spread the word on 500 in 5. From left to right: Diane Withers, Ricki Garrett, Angela Ebele Okpala (University Librarian, National Open University of Nigeria), Justine Withers, and Ify Evangel Obim (Lecturer, University of Nigeria).

continued reciprocal visits. La Crosse's Riverside International Friendship Garden features statues, stories, and native plants of the eight Sister Cities. A large diaspora of Cameroonian friends from out of town come to enjoy the Cameroon garden.

Similar to Ethiopia, Cameroon has experienced civil conflict since 2017, and the area around Kumbo has been in the midst of violence and instability. Despite this—and, in many ways, *because* of this—the Sister Cities projects have withstood technical and political challenges to support the Kumbo community. One example is *Hearts to School Revisited*, a project to refurbish three school buildings, install new libraries within, and train PTA members to manage the libraries and support the reading curriculum. Now the schools have significantly improved test scores and graduation rates, enrolled more students, and provided “peaceful resistance to the conflict,” as the Bishop of Kumbo described it. Another strong connection is that both La Crosse and Kumbo are medical centers for their regions. The Friends of Cameroon and Sister Cities have made considerable contributions to Shisong Hospital in Kumbo, including a new library for the health practitioners and students and a new facility

housing a computer lab for any students to learn reading skills as well as develop computer skills.

In these times of conflict, when civic structures fail, the interpersonal connections can help communities thrive. And no matter how a Sister Cities relationship begins, its continuation and success depend on personal relationships and the residents' interests to sustain it.

If your area has an existing Sister Cities relationship, Janet suggests considering “embedding yourself” to plant the seeds for library-related projects. You might then leverage these connections to create a Sister Libraries relationship, under the auspices of the ALA International Relations Round Table (IRRT). Although Sister Cities and Sister Libraries are entirely separate organizations, they have been working together to share resources. A group from the ALA Sister Libraries committee is developing a toolkit with SCI for Sister Cities to support library and information projects.

The Sister Libraries website lists requests for connections and provides an alternate starting point. Small projects between Sister Libraries might get other

INTERNATIONAL LEADS

local organizations involved and becoming Sister Cities could be the next step.

An attendee at the ALA session asked a salient question: How do you broach the topic of a long commitment to library leadership? The IRC Africa Subcommittee would love to see libraries forming long-lasting relationships that contribute to *500 in 5*. However, a small, intentional, project can have long-lasting impact, gauge interest, and perhaps lay the groundwork for expansion. In other words, small and iterative projects are another great way to start.

If you are interested in international librarianship, especially in Africa, the Africa Subcommittee encourages you to:

- Think about existing connections in your community, including service organizations, cultural affinity clubs, and international students.
- Look at current Sister City relationships in your area that could be a model. Encourage them to get the Libraries Toolkit when it becomes available.

- See if the Sister Libraries website has a potential match.
- Experiment with small projects that will engage the community and illuminate future possibilities.

There are currently 114 Sister Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa and 81 in the Middle East and North Africa. The Africa Subcommittee firmly believes there is a place for librarians to contribute towards 500 more connections. You and your organization can be the start.

References:

Sister Cities International. <https://sistercities.org>
SCI 500 in 5. <https://sistercities.org/sci-africa/sci-500-in-5>

ALA IRRT Sister Libraries Committee. <https://www.ala.org/irrt/irrtcommittees/irrtsisterlibrary/sisterlibrary/about>

ALA IRC Africa Subcommittee. <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/irc-africa-subcommittee>



Janet Lee talked about how to "Embed Yourself in an African Sister City Committee: The Colorado Experience."

THE EDITORS



Whitney Bevil

Whitney is the Humanities Librarian for Collection Management at Appalachian State University. Her background is in foreign language education and she is active in global librarianship-related committees in ALA.



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of International Leads! This quarter's newsletter continues to celebrate 75 years of international librarianship. We hear about the new 500 in 5 initiative focusing on African and American library partnerships, hear from the new IRRT chair-elect, celebrate Delin Guerra's well-deserved service award, and detail the IRRT 75th anniversary reception. We learn about a new Anishinaabe-influenced library organization system, Maawn Doobiigeng, in tribal libraries and the difficulties of load shedding in South African libraries. Finally, we discover the Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries held in Beijing.

The Editors



ABOUT INTERNATIONAL LEADS

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MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR

Carol Brey

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Welcome to a new IRRT year! It is exciting to build on the wonderful work of our Past Chair Mark Mattson and other IRRT members, particularly under a new committee structure that should help us to do our work seamlessly and effectively. IRRT approved this structure (see facing page) earlier this year, which took effect as of July 1, 2024.

I am also looking forward to rolling out my Chair's Theme for the year, which is: **Connections Worldwide: Librarians Working Together to Improve Our Communities.**

This theme builds well on Mark Mattson's Chair's Program theme at the 2024 Annual Conference of "International Collaborations," as we contemplate the power of libraries around the globe. My own experience as an international librarian – as a library advocate, ALA President, and U.S. diplomat – has helped me to see how powerful the

connections librarians make can be in improving libraries and communities worldwide. I have seen (in 2016) how a Sister Libraries connection between Los Angeles Public Library and the City of Buenos Aires Library helped the Buenos Aires Library Director transform his library system from a traditional 20th century system to a vital segment of the community. Years ago, I saw how ALA's @yourlibrary advocacy campaign brought librarians together from all over the world – in Mexico, Brazil, Greece, and countless other places. Today, the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) are bringing librarians together again, as we find ways to bring these goals to life in our own communities.

Libraries and librarians across the globe face many of the same challenges we have experienced in the United States – financial challenges, intellectual freedom challenges, political challenges, and more. How can we foster improved connections between librarians and libraries around the world – virtually and face to face – to counter these challenges. And better still, how can we communicate our collective successes and stories to strengthen libraries worldwide?

One way to get involved is to join an IRRT Committee – there are still a few slots left, and you can express your interest by completing the [volunteer form](#). If you aren't able to serve on a Committee, make plans to join one of ALA's upcoming [webinars](#), or join us in Phoenix for LibLearnX or the Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Let's continue the international conversation!

MESSAGE FROM THE IRRT CHAIR-ELECT

Sandy Hirsh

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I am truly honored and excited to step into the role of IRRT Chair-Elect this year! Throughout my career, I have been deeply committed to the international impact of libraries and to fostering meaningful global connections within our profession. When considering where to dedicate my efforts within ALA, the choice to engage with IRRT was clear—I have long felt a strong affinity for the vital work we undertake in this roundtable.

My journey with IRRT has been both fulfilling and inspiring. Over the years, I've had the privilege to serve on various IRRT committees—Sister Libraries, Nominations, Membership,

Publications, and International Reception—where I held roles as both member and chair/co-chair. Additionally, I completed two three-year terms as the IRRT Councilor, which provided me the opportunity to contribute to the Executive Board and deepen my understanding of the roundtable's goals and operations.

Witnessing the evolution of IRRT over the years has been remarkable. One particularly exciting development is the new IRRT committee structure we are implementing this year. It exemplifies how our roundtable is continuously adapting to meet our evolving needs. Our celebration of IRRT's 75th anniversary at the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego in June 2024, with its vibrant display of posters from each of our committees, was a wonderful reminder of the rich diversity and far-reaching impact of our work.

As we move forward, I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated Chair, Carol Brey, and the entire IRRT Executive Committee. Together, I am confident that we will build on our collective strengths, foster new international collaborations and initiatives, and continue to champion the essential role of libraries and library workers/librarians worldwide.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to IRRT and the important work we do. I look forward to working with you all this year and welcome your ideas and comments. Please feel free to reach out to me at: sandy.hirsh@sjsu.edu.

NEW PROPOSED IRRT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



IRRT EXECUTIVE BOARD



MEMBERSHIP, RECRUITMENT, & ENGAGEMENT

- MEMBERSHIP
- INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIAN'S ORIENTATION
- INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' CENTER

NOMINATING

ENDOWMENT & FUNDRAISING

CHAIR'S PROGRAM

PRE-CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS & PROJECTS

INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS & NETWORKING

- INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS' NETWORKING PROGRAM
- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES PROJECT

SISTER LIBRARIES

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

LED BY A STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

MEMBERS:

- INTERNATIONAL LEADS EDITORS
- IRRT WEBSITE & BLOG EDITOR
- SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM
- WEBINAR CHAIR

***WEBINAR**

*WEBINAR IS A COMMITTEE BUT THE CHAIR WILL ALSO SIT ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE



SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT INTEREST GROUP

KEY PRINCIPLES

1. ORGANIZE BY FOCUS AREAS FOR CLARITY
2. COMMITTEE TITLES TO BE INDICATIVE OF SCOPE, AND MINIMIZE CHANGE IF STILL RELEVANT
3. INTEGRATE NEW AREAS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

Jun – Jul 2023
Presentation of proposed structural changes and membership feedback.

Sep – Dec 2023
Officers' Manual updates for the new structure in coordination with the IRRT bylaw standardization work.

1st Jul 2024
New structure is implemented.

Aug 2023
IRRT Executive Board votes on the proposed new structure.

Jan – Jun 2024
Chair-elect makes appointments into the new committee structure.



The IRRT 75th Anniversary Service Award was presented to Delin Guerra on June 29th, 2024.

In commemorating its 75th Anniversary, the International Relations Round Table commends Delin Guerra for her tireless commitment to the organization. Her invaluable contributions and steadfast guidance throughout the years have been instrumental in shaping our success and fostering our growth. With profound gratitude, we extend our deepest appreciation during this time of celebration.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ROUND TABLE

Celebrating 75 Years

The International Relations Round Table celebrated 75 years on July 1st, 2024 at the Shiley Events Suite at the San Diego Central Library. The anniversary reception was a lively event, attended by around 350 librarians. The presence of numerous international librarians and advocates for international librarianship made the event truly special. The atmosphere was filled with networking opportunities, and the celebratory mood was enhanced by the sultry samba and blissful Bossa Nova music played by the fantastic Brazilian duet [Os Sofisticados](#).

Emily Drabinski, ALA president, presented the awards of the evening. Presidential Citations were awarded to *Tech Central: NUS Libraries' Integrated Technology-Enhanced Facility for Teaching and Learning*, National University of Singapore Libraries, Singapore.

Dr. Raymond "Ray" Pun's significant contributions to international librarianship were recognized this year with the prestigious Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award.

The IRRRT Mission Enhancement Grant award winner was *Towards an Innovative Future: Driving Library Transformation through Collaboration, Inter-American Symposium of Libraries on Access to Information and Literacy*.

The 75th anniversary of IRRRT was a perfect time to make new plans for the future. Mark Matteson unveiled a new fundraising campaign with a goal to raise \$75,000 to create LIS student engagement grants, enabling domestic and international LIS students to attend the ALA Annual Conference each year and engage with international librarianship and the profession. Individuals interested in donating to the endowment are encouraged to see the official

website available here <https://www.ala.org/irrt/irrtcommittees/irrt-endowment-committee> or via the QR code.

Former ALA President and Notable IRRRT Member James Neal led the group in a heartwarming rendition of "Happy Birthday", uniting all attendees in a joyous celebration of IRRRT's 75th Anniversary. As Co-Chair Bosch aptly put it, "Let's carry the positivity and global connections we've experienced tonight and keep sustaining productive partnerships with libraries around the world!"





MAAWN DOOBIIGENG GATHER TOGETHER

Melissa Isaac, Guadalupe Gonzalez, Kehli Henry, Winnay Wemigwase, and Anne Heidemann

Over years of cataloging items in the Tribal Libraries collections, it became clear to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann that the existing systems of organization were not working well for the community in the three libraries operated by the Tribe, which include a public library and the libraries at the elementary school and tribal college. Dewey Decimal Classification and Library of Congress Classification, as well as many of the subject headings that are officially part of Library of Congress Subject Headings are both damaging to Indigenous people and insufficient to accurately describe and provide access to Native topics. As a settler, Heidemann recognized that the small fixes she had been attempting were like too-small band-aids, and she knew that it could not be up to her to determine what a better system might look like. This led Heidemann to write an application for the Institute for Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant, which the Tribe was awarded in 2019. This grant provided funding and resources necessary in order to convene a workgroup of community members to do the work of creating what became Maawn Doobiigeng [pronounced maw-n doh-bee-geng], a new system of library organization now being implemented in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries. As the Libraries staff, Heidemann and two library assistants, now work to reclassify the over 20,000 items in the Libraries' collections using Maawn Doobiigeng, it is exciting to see this expression of sovereignty in action, being used by community members to find the books they are looking for.

The project was led by a core team consisting of Heidemann, then-Tribal Education Director Melissa Isaac, Central Michigan University professor emeritus and language speaker Dr. Benjamin Ramirez-Shkwegnaabi, and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Native Studies faculty Dr. Adam Haviland. This core team met and identified key people in the community who might be interested in working on the project, representing various roles, departments, organizations, and viewpoints. A Project Facilitator was hired and joined the core team, which then identified experts in the field who could share about various aspects related to this project, including existing systems of library organization, history of Indigenous libraries, cultural knowledge, and so forth. Experts included Anton Treuer, Cheryl Metoyer, Miranda Belarde Lewis, Jessie Loyer, Lorie Roy, and others. After receiving background information from these experts, the workgroup held discussions to determine the process for what to do next. After considering existing systems such as Brian Deer and ways that these existing systems could be used or adapted, the workgroup decided instead to come up with a wholly new system that would be 100% tailored to this community and the people who use these libraries.

In a pivotal moment in the workgroup's discussions, group member Winnay Wemigwase posed the question: if all the books in the library were on a truck and you backed that up to the Lodge, where would you put each book? The workgroup started with lists of the seven original clans and their



responsibilities, and worked through piles of books from the library's collections. A workgroup member would read a book's description and the group would then sort it into one of the clan piles through discussion and deliberation. The workgroup created a list of subcategories for each clan in the system, based on clan responsibilities. Throughout the process, workgroup members would speak up with a reminder that the new system need not (and should not) be a one-to-one revision of existing western systems like Dewey. What became Maawn Doobiigeng originated from an Anishinaabe worldview, which differs in important ways from others.

The workgroup's process was driven by community values and priorities, centering Anishinaabe understandings and Anishinaabemowin, including consensus based decision making. Kehli Henry expressed, "The development of the new Maawn Doobiigeng system was a truly group defined process, which in my experience is pretty unique, since most committees or workgroups are driven by the organizer(s)/organization. The way that Anne, Arionna, and Summer provided information and then left things open for the group to make decisions and set next steps was crucial to our work, and even more impressive because we had a fairly large group of contributors. Sometimes it was challenging or took extra time to make decisions or choose our direction, but what we created is definitely better because everyone contributed in their own important ways and we took time to listen, reflect and discuss."

There were several ways in which the workgroup wanted to differentiate this system from the ones that the Libraries were using before. Workgroup member Kehli Henry expressed, "I have always been an insatiable reader, and as an Anishinabekwe, a number of the ways in which libraries categorize things has always bothered me." For example, it was important to create a system that wasn't just a series of numbers and letters, yet another code that didn't have deeper meaning or was disconnected from Anishinaabe ways of knowing. Important aspects included intergenerational teaching and learning, respect for different views, the clan system and understandings of roles and responsibilities, acknowledging Anishinaabe and Indigenous contributors, and emphasizing that Indigenous culture and stories are not myths and fairytales.

Artistic aspects and symbolism are important in the culture, so it was crucial to include them in what the workgroup created. The workgroup requested proposals from local artists for artwork for each of the seven original clans, to be used on the spine labels and throughout the Libraries. Maawn Doobiigeng is a visual system with words in the language, as opposed to a secret code that has to be learned. Local artist and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College student Tristan Green's work was selected and can now be seen on individual library books and throughout the libraries.

Through the discussions, the workgroup also decided that the new system should be a learning tool in



and of itself, completely in Anishinaabemowin, and a way to further the community's goals for language revitalization. Kehli Henry reflected, "I think one of the reasons for our success is that everyone seemed to be invested in centering learning and Anishinaabe culture and values. This was evident in our process. Our group members stepped up as teachers at different times, and offered humor, direction, wisdom, and cultural knowledge toward our shared vision."

The Tribal Libraries staff are currently working to reclassify all items in the collection as well as classifying new incoming items using Maawn Doobiigeng. The Tribal Librarian uses the Maawn Doobiigeng system along with knowledge learned during this project to add local subject headings and determine call numbers for each item. Each book also receives three designations including a designation of the age group: Binoojiinhik (children) [pronounced bin-oh-jee-nik], Eshkniigid (teen) [pronounced esh-kuh-nee-gid], or Nitaawgid (adult) [pronounced nit-awe-gid]; a designation of the type of book: Aadizookaan (things we know to be true and traditional teachings) [pronounced ah-dih-zoh-kahn] or Dibaajimowinan (embellished works) [pronounced dib-ah-jih-mow-in-un]; and a designation of the authority of the author: Anishinaabe authors (those who are Ojibwe, Odawa, or Bodawodami) [pronounced uh-nish-uh-nah-bay], Mayagi Anishinaabe authors (those who are Indigenous but not Anishinaabe) [pronounced my-ah-gee uh-nish-uh-nah-bay], and Kaawii-Anishinaabe-aawsiiwok (those who are not Indigenous) [pronounced k-awe-wee uh-nish-uh-nay-bay awe-see-wahk]. The library staff are learning

the words in the language as they use the system and guide library users by showing them works on the shelf, referring to Maawn Doobiigeng posters on display, and sharing brochures that library users can take home with them.

Project Facilitator Arionna Crispin expressed, "The entire process of creating Maawn Doobiigeng was enlightening. I was given the opportunity to facilitate this project and aid in the creation of this brand new system, where I also learned about how harmful the previously utilized classification systems are. Each week, I worked with truly amazing people as we shared cultural ideology, brainstormed ideas, and built Maawn Doobiigeng from the ground up. I'm grateful to have been a part of something so incredible and revolutionary, and I hope this work inspires others to make similar changes."

The Libraries and workgroup members celebrate their accomplishments and how much more welcoming Maawn Doobiigeng makes the Libraries. They continue to share with the community, as well as sharing with other libraries and library workers. The Libraries also emphasize that Maawn Doobiigeng was created by and for this specific community, and other communities will likely want to do their own process rather than trying to adopt Maawn Doobiigeng. The Libraries encourage other libraries and communities to do this type of work to deliberately consider creating systems of organization that work for their specific communities and are connected to the land they occupy.

Clans and subcategories



Maang (Loon)

Gimaakewin (Leadership - Internal)
Mnomaajishkaang (Community and Nation Building)
Kchi-naaknegewin (Constitution)



Mkwa (Bear)

Gnowendaming Aki (Land management)
Ezaakiigen (Plants)
Emshkikiiked (Herbalists)
Mshkikiin (Plant medicine)
Zhaabwiing (Survival)
Mjidoorameng (Law enforcement/crime)
Kowaabjigeng (Protection)



Waabizhiish (Marten)

Ezhishiiying (Skills and strategies)
Wiidookaagewin (Sports)
Mnisekweng (Cooking)
Zhimaaknishak (Military/warriors)
Naasaab Ezhi-gnowaamdeng (Social Justice)
Aki Gwek-naaknegeng (Environmental Justice)



Giigoonh (Fish)

Enweying (Language)
Enendamaang (Self-expression)
Maanjiinaang (Arts)
Kinoomaageng (Teaching)
Daakenjigeng (Research)
Kinoomaadzeng (Developing skills)
Naanaakdowendameng (Mediation)
Dibaajimowinan (Storytelling)



Waawaashkesh (Deer)

Mnomaadziwin (Community health)
Mnowangozwin (Entertainment)
Ngamwinan (Poetry and songs)
Enendimeng (Psychology)
Ngododewziwin (Family)



Bineshiinh (Bird)

Naadmaadsaang (Self-help)
Mnidoo'aadziwin (Spirituality)
Mnomaadseng (Well-being)
Maamwi-noojimaang (Holistic Care)
E'jiiskijik (Spiritual Leaders)
Waanezhiwebak (What the Future Brings)
Aangwaamseng (Prevention)
Zhitwaawin (Religion)



Jijaak (Crane)

Gimaakewin (Leadership - External)
Kina Ezhwebak (Intergovernmental Affairs)
Gabe-zhiwebak (International History)

Author authority



Aadizookaan

Factual, what we know to be true, and traditional stories and teachings.



Dibaajimowinan

Embellished, creative stories

Aadizookaan or Dibaajimowinan



Anishinaabe(k)

One or more of the contributors identify as Anishinaabe



Mayagi Anishinaabe(k)

One or more of the contributors identify as Indigenous, but not Anishinaabe



Kaawii Anishinaabe-aawsiwok

The contributor(s) do not identify as Indigenous

Age groups

Binoojiinhik

Children

Eshkniigid

Teen

Nitaawgid

Adult

Navigating the new system

Each book is labeled with several spine labels. The holdings code and call number indicate the age group, clan, and subcategory. Local subject headings are added indicating author authority, Aadizookaan or Dibaajimowinan, and age group.

Saginaw Chippewa Shkwangan Mzinigan-gamgoong miinwaa Shkwanganeng dibendaksidjik gii maamwii naakiwok wii shitoowad shkiyii wa zhindowaamdang mziniganan niying nekiying Anishinaabe ezhikendamiing.

Maawn Doobiigeng” zhinkaademigad. Mii nangwa kina gego ezhi maawndooseng. Mooshkin Anishinaabemowin aawan “Maawn Doobiigeng”.

Nishin maanda “Maawn Doobiigeng” wii kinoomaageng enweyying miinwaa ezhi maadziying.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal libraries and Tribal members worked together to create a new way of looking for books based on Anishinaabe ways of knowing.

It is called “Gather Together”. This is how everything is together now. “Gather Together” is all in Anishinaabemowin.

This “Gather Together” is good to teach our language and our way of life.

HOW ARE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES COPING WITH LOAD SHEDDING LEADING TO WATER SHORTAGES?

PART 1

Gloria Creed-Dikeogu

What is load shedding?

When I call to check in with family in Cape Town, South Africa, they always tell me about load shedding. If you're wondering what load shedding is or why it's important, then you first need to know that load shedding is a daily occurrence in South Africa.

Load shedding in South Africa, started in 2007 and is ongoing, occurring with frequency due to government provider power station insufficiencies causing consistent rolling blackouts. "Load shedding is conducted at any time that generating units are taken off-line for maintenance, repairs or refueling (Inglesi-Lotz, 2023). It also occurs when "the demand for power exceeds supply...attempting "to maintain continuous production and voltage authorities" by "deliberately switching off certain part of the grid on a rolling and scheduled basis" (Metivier, 2023).

The effects of Blackouts due to load shedding

The scientific literature defines this load shedding phenomenon "as a last resort measure to balance the demand and supply of electricity across" a country's national electricity grid. "Load shedding" refers to a common problem of strategic blackouts in African countries such as South Africa, Lesotho, Angola, and Malawi, "where citizens are left without power between six to twelve hours a day" (Metivier, 2023; Garrison, 2023).

Load shedding happens throughout South Africa because there is damage or an electricity generator failure at Eskom, a major power station in the Western Province, due to criminal negligence. Since South Africa's infrastructure is poorly maintained, power blackouts have directly affected small businesses since internet connectivity losses have led to consistent payment processing disruptions, broken equipment, and ultimate small business closures across the country.

Electricity blackouts have caused decreases in South Africa's GDP of 0.7% (2022) and 2.3% (2023), costing the country between R204 and R899 million (\$11-49 million) per day, directly affecting

underprivileged households in South Africa who have no access to backup resources. Impoverished householders suffer continual food spoilages and daily activity disruptions, because of their limited financial resources, thereby exacerbating their income gathering abilities, and limiting their ultimate access to available education, social services, and healthcare (Inglesi-Lotz, 2023).

These blackouts have worsened the inequality within the country, with higher-income areas reportedly not receiving as many rolling blackouts as other lower-income areas. Higher-income households are also more resilient to the effects of power outages. Load shedding is also leading to high South African unemployment, and wage freezes as companies cut costs to stay afloat and deal with the inevitable drops in productivity (Eagan, April 4, 2023). Middle- and high-income South Africans are overcoming loadshedding, by purchasing appliances, such as gas stoves, generators, inverters, uninterruptible supply TV, routers, solar equipment, and surge protectors to protect appliances from damage during load shedding.

In a short opinion piece about the effects of load shedding on education in South Africa suggests that load shedding threatens to have a long-term influence on the country's education growth, especially for learners, schools, and higher education institutions with little resources, inhibiting their "capacity to fully engage in digitally enabled educational development. In July 2022, South African President, Cyril Ramaposa presented a South African Energy Plan and Roadmap for load shedding, created by the National Energy Committee. Ramaposa reached out to American companies, encouraging them to compete and take advantage of opportunities to seek solutions for South Africa's energy crisis. The roadmap suggests that South Africa, with help from world entities, can "fix Eskom and improve the availability" of its existing energy supply, through the enablement and acceleration of "private investment...generation

capacity,...to “accelerate” the “procurement of new capacity from renewables, gas and battery storage” and “unleash businesses and households to invest in rooftop solar and transform the electricity sector to achieve long-term energy security” in the future (International Trade Administration, 2022)

South African Libraries and load shedding

In response to this opinion piece and the growing literature about load shedding in South Africa, for librarians outside South Africa, the question must be:

How is load shedding affecting South Africa's libraries?

Public Libraries across South Africa have been proactive when facing the challenges brought by load shedding to their communities. Public Library Systems particularly, such as the Cape Town City Libraries, located in the Western Province, consisting of 102 libraries, offers the SmartCape Program, a partnership between local government, public libraries and private enterprise that provides free Internet (50 MB of Wi-Fi access) at its library branches and connects Capetonians to vital information resources, sidestepping load shedding (Bishop. 2003).

A recent article on *TWeb* (March 4, 2024) suggests that this 2024/5 financial year, this Wi-Fi footprint will continue to provide public library patrons with online educational and recreational resource access during load shedding, thereby allowing students to continue their research and access to many more digital platforms, that were not previously available to library patrons before.

Western Cape public libraries have received UPS Units and laptops loaded with library management system software, allowing easier check in and out of library materials by staff during power outages. Thirty-two libraries have received sets of Wi-Fi tablets installed with educational applications, and e-books to aid lagging patron critical and digital literacy skills.

Library staff at Cape Town City Libraries, shared their libraries' posters that are regularly displayed about the services available to patrons at their branches during load shedding. Load Shedding Checklist and Paperwork describing the security check that is required for all library patrons using the Cape Town City Libraries can be viewed on the next page.

Cape Town City Libraries Posters

Please
This library
be open during
load shedding
at a limited
capacity

Please note:

This library will
be open during
load shedding
at a limited
capacity

LIBRARY & INFORMATION
SERVICES
Libraries: Connecting Information,
People and Spaces

LIBRARY & INFORMATION
SERVICES

Libraries: Connecting Information,
People and Spaces



Services
during load
shedding:
- Drop and collect
- Browsing
- Issuing and
returning of
library materials

Services on offer during load shedding:

- Drop and collect
- Browsing
- Issuing and
returning of
library materials

LIBRARY & INFORMATION
SERVICES
Libraries: Connecting Information,
People and Spaces

LIBRARY & INFORMATION
SERVICES

Libraries: Connecting Information,
People and Spaces



Please
By using the library
during load
shedding,
you consent to a
security check
upon entering and
exiting the library

Please note:

By using the library
during **load
shedding**,
you consent to a
security check
upon entering and
exiting the library

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CAPE TOWN CITY LIBRARIES

Load shedding – library housekeeping checklist

Purpose: The load shedding library housekeeping checklist is to be used before each load shedding occurrence to ensure the library space, ablution space, hall and administrative space are safe and risk free for people to walk about.

Aim: The aim of the checklist is to respond to the set of questions related to housekeeping. All questions must be rated a YES to ensure the library is safe and risk free for people to walk about the spaces. Checklist must be kept in a dedicated file at source.

Responsible persons: All staff are required to ensure the library is safe and risk free. Two staff are required to verify and complete the checklist once all staff have made the library safe and risk free. Verification can only be done by an actual walk about and observing all spaces listed in the purpose.

Cape Town City Libraries Load shedding – library housekeeping checklist

Library:

Date:

Time:

Completed by:

First checker:

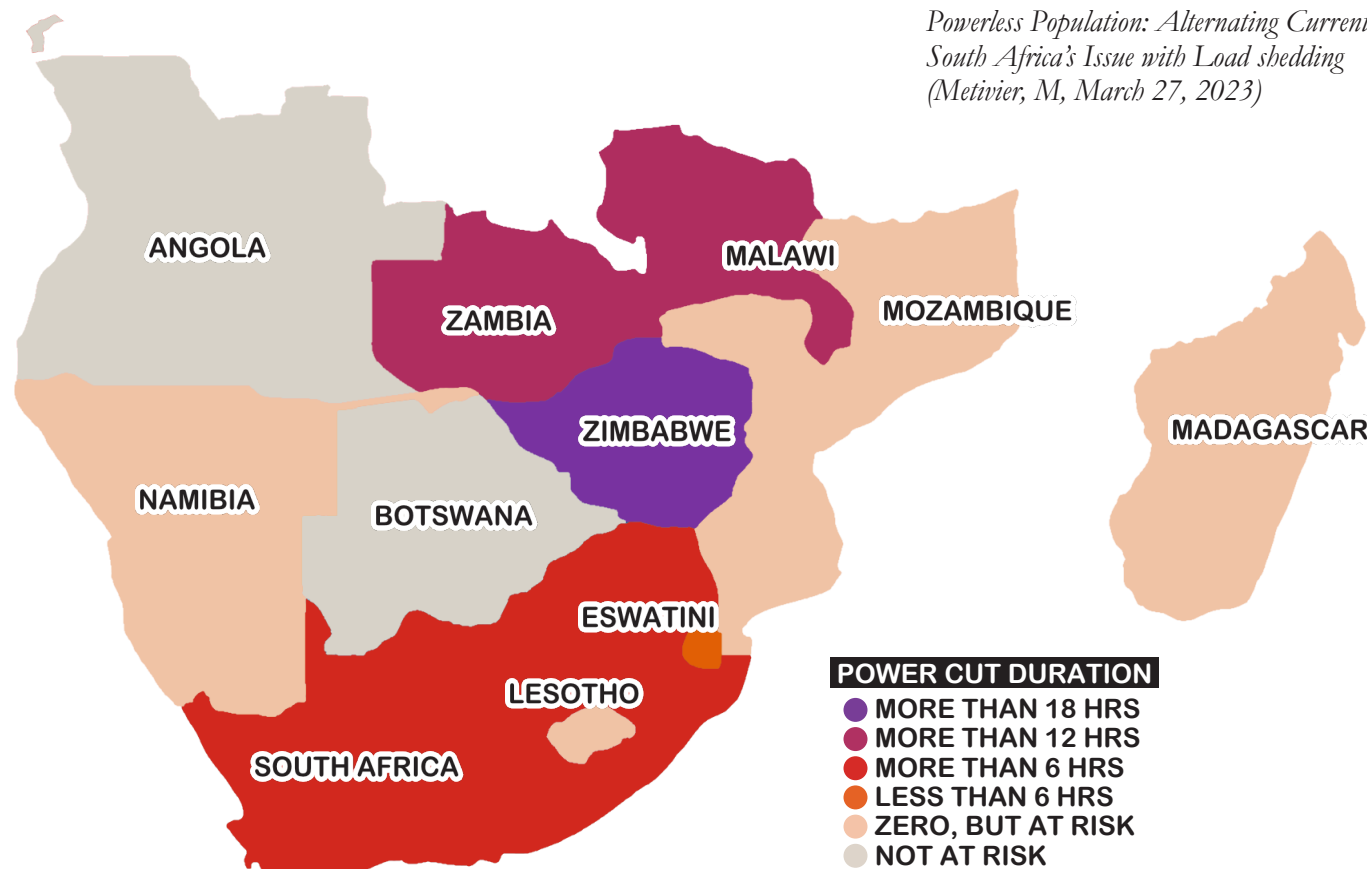
Second checker:

Question	YES	NO
Foyer		
Are the foyer walkways and standing spaces all clear of any obstacles?		
Are furniture stowed in such a way that it does not obstruct people from moving about?		
Are the floors clean and clear of waste?		
Are floors dry and clear of slippery waste?		
Are floors in good condition (no holes, worn or loose planks or carpet sticking up)?		
Hall		
Are the floors clean and clear of waste?		
Are floors dry and clear of slippery waste?		
Are floors in good condition (no holes, worn or loose planks or carpet sticking up)?		
Is the furniture stowed in such a way that it does not obstruct people from moving about?		
Floors		
Are floors clean and clear of waste?		
Are floors dry and clear of slippery waste?		
Are floors in good condition (no holes, worn or loose planks or carpet sticking up)?		
No protruding objects such as nails, sharp corners, open cabinet drawers, or trailing electrical wires?		
Aisles and Stairways		
Are ALL aisles unobstructed and clear from any obstacles, footstools, books trolleys, chairs, tables, and electrical cabling?		
Are all poorly lighted corners and sections completely clear from any obstacles, footstools, book trolleys, chairs, tables, and electrical cabling?		
Are ALL book trolleys stowed away?		
Are there any books and other library materials cleared from the floor and on top of the shelving?		
Are stairways clear from any obstacles? (if any)		
Are all rags and dust trap mats flattened and trip free?		
Are bins moved out of the way?		
Ablution		
Are ablutions clear and free of any items obstructing the walkways?		
Are floors dry and clear of slippery waste?		
Service desk		
Is the service desk clear of any items that might fall over and from the desk?		
Study and seating spaces		
Are all chairs neatly stowed under tables?		
Are all seating adequately placed and not obstructing general walkways?		
Emergency exits		
Are all emergency exits clear of any obstructions?		
Are walkways up to all emergency exits clear from obstructions?		
Are all aisles well lighted?		

Signature checker 1

Signature checker 2

*Powerless Population: Alternating Current:
South Africa's Issue with Load shedding
(Metivier, M, March 27, 2023)*



This in-house checklist is used daily at each library branch before each load shedding occurrence, to make sure that library patrons and staff are safe in the library during any occurrence. Most load shedding times are scheduled so that businesses and organizations are aware when the blackouts in their area will occur. The City of Cape Town, and other cities in South Africa, provide links to the date and time when daily load shedding will occur. See the link to this local government website at in Cape Town listing load shedding occurrences: <https://www.capetown.gov.za/Family%20and%20home/Residential-utility-services/Residential-electricity-services/Load-shedding-and-outages>

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2024 Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries (WAL)

The Future Library with Digital Intelligence, Openness, and Connectivity

June 24-27, 2024

Beijing, China



The 2024 Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries (WAL) was held in Beijing from June 24 to 25. Since its inception in 2020, the Forum has been jointly organized annually by the International Association of University Libraries (IATUL), Tsinghua University Library, The University of Hong Kong Libraries, and Tongfang Knowledge Network Digital Publishing Technology Co., Ltd. (CNKI). This year's theme is "The Future Library with Digital Intelligence, Openness, and Connectivity." Over 700 librarians, experts and scholars from 17 countries and regions gathered to exchange ideas and share experiences. Nearly 30,000 people have watched and interacted through live video streaming online.

The Forum's opening ceremony featured speeches by Wang Hua, Senior Inspector of the Import and Export Administration Bureau, Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee; Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative to UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia; and Anna Walek, President of International Association of University Libraries (IATUL). Wang Hua said that in the context of digital intelligence, openness, and connectivity, we can accelerate the innovation and dissemination of scientific knowledge and maximize the use of scientific research results through open access, open data and open collaboration. Shahbaz Khan expressed that initiatives such as open access repositories and collaborative research platforms have greatly facilitated knowledge sharing and mutual learning, playing a vital role in South-South

and North-South cooperation. Anna Walek emphasized that libraries of the future must be grounded in the present while actively adapting to ongoing change.

On June 24, the Forum's plenary session was divided into five parts, during which 19 librarians and experts engaged in thoughtful discussions and provided valuable insights and guidance for the future development of academic libraries.

Development Trends of Libraries in the Future
Song Yi, Senior Inspector of Department of Higher Education of Ministry of Education, proposed in "Accelerating the Building of the Future Learning Center and Exploring the Creation of a New Paradigm for Learning in the Digital Age" that the building of the future learning center should focus on enhancing the abilities to cultivate talents. This involves building a smart learning space that integrates information services, learning support and teaching support, and ultimately meets the diverse learning needs of students, such as self-directed learning, collaborative learning and research-based learning.

Vicki McDonald, President of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), pointed out in her speech "Continuing the Transformation: Libraries and AI" that a key role of libraries is to understand and interpret the potential and limitations of AI.

Consuella Askew, Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian of Rutgers University, addressed in her presentation "Building Capacity for the Future Needs of Academic Libraries: One Public Research Libraries' Experience" that as libraries transform into learning organizations, they need to focus on capacity building, including data informed, enrichment activities, and partnerships.

Diversified Development of Future Libraries

JIN Jianbin, University Librarian of Tsinghua University, stated in his speech "AI-Driven Innovations in Library Services: The Exploration of Tsinghua University Library" that the most significant change from a digital library to a smart library is the transformation and redesign of library services through AI.

Flora Ng Lai Kuen, Chief Information Officer and University Librarian of The University of Hong Kong Libraries, in her speech "Library Smart Space and Service Transformation at the University of Hong Kong", shared the strategic transformation at the University of Hong Kong from aspects such as library smart space transformation and library service transformation. Her presentation provided insights and guidance for university libraries on how to better integrate resources and create a shared learning and collaborative environment.

Anna Walek, President of IATUL, highlighted in her speech "In the Service of Academic Libraries - IATUL Strategy as a Response to the Challenge of the Libraries of the Future" that IATUL has set strategic directions for the period 2025-2030: strengthening practice, engaging and inspiring networks, empowering connected learning, and innovating solutions. IATUL will continue to support all librarians in preparing to deliver high-quality services that meet the needs of university research and education.

LIU Changxin, Chairman of CNKI, delivered his speech "Future Learning Center: CNKI's Thoughts and Practices." He reviewed the evolving role of libraries and shared CNKI's practices in building the future learning center from three aspects: data, platform, and space.

The Best Practice for Strategic Transformation of Libraries

WU Jianzhong, University Librarian of University of Macau, emphasized in his speech "The Exploration and Practice of the New-Generation University Library: The Case of University of Macau Library" that the key to building knowledge infrastructure is collaboration with academics and administrators. The

university library must collect the academic achievements of scholars and experts as comprehensively as possible, including doctoral dissertations, master's theses, journal articles, and other research outputs.

HUANG Xianjin, University Librarian of Nanjing University, shared his thoughts on building a high-quality reading mechanism in his speech "High-Quality Reading and New Quality Knowledge Production." Firstly, he proposed to promote high-quality reading through a high-quality knowledge system. Secondly, he advocated for building future learning laboratories that support high-quality reading. Thirdly, he suggested using educators' insights and perspectives on technological innovation to better support quality reading and knowledge production.

Benjamin Meunier, University Librarian of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, in "Roles of the Library in Facilitating the Transition to an Open Scholarship Culture", pointed out that there are three roles of the library in facilitating the transition to an open scholarship culture. The first is an enabling role, working in partnership for mutual progress. The second is a leading role, inspiring our community. The third is a supporting role, embedding the culture.

WANG Qiong, University Librarian of Beijing Normal University, in "Data Empowerment: Exploring Value-added Services with Research Data", shared her insights on value-added services with research data, including strengthening top-level design, enhancing source involvement, improving communication and collaboration, promoting activation application, implementing accurate policies, and increasing technological sensitivity.

Building Library's Capacity for the Future

WANG Xuemao, Dean of Libraries and Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian of Northwestern University, shared several thoughts on the future strategy of libraries in "Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) as a Key Pillar of the Library's Strategic Future". Firstly, to identify a clear and well-defined overarching objective to serve as a building principle driving the adoption of AI. Secondly, to build flexible and scalable infrastructure. Thirdly, to integrate AI into daily workflow for both back offices and public services. Lastly, to set a leadership example with commitment from top leadership and a dedicated leader to be in charge.

Caroline Pang, University Librarian of Nanyang Technological University, in "Future States of Library Being", shared several trends that will affect libraries, including wearables, digital twins, and future librarians. Roxanne Missingham, University Librarian and Chief Scholarly Information Officer of the Australian National University, suggested in "Libraries: The Role of Collections in Supporting Research in a Complex Environment" that with the advent of the artificial intelligence era, libraries should consider how to help scholars ethically use collections in complex environments and integrate AI technologies into these collections.

HUANG Ruhua, Deputy University Librarian of Wuhan University, in "Collection Development in Academic Libraries in the Era of Open Science," pointed out that with the promotion of open science practices, more and more publishers and database providers are joining in to share their results. Within the open resources collected by libraries, there is a significant amount of AI-generated content, making quality control increasingly difficult and posing significant challenges for content selection and evaluation.

Transformation of Library's Value in the Age of Digital Intelligence

Magdeline NG, Vice University Librarian of National University of Singapore Libraries, in "Reimagining Education and Research Through NUS Libraries' Culture of Innovation: A Case Study at the National University of Singapore Libraries," shared that fostering a culture of innovative should follow the 3P principle, namely Platform, Programming, and People. As an enabler of innovation, the library provides collaborative spaces and leverages on technology to bring the collections to life.

ZHAO Xichen, University Librarian of Macao University of Science and Technology, proposed in "Library Capacity Building - Integration and Innovation" that library capacity building primarily focuses on six aspects: first, collection development, infrastructure and space planning restructure; second, collaboration and partnerships; third, staff development; fourth, promotion of library resources and services, technology integration; fifth, assessment and continuous improvement; sixth, financial sustainability.

ZHANG Hongwei, General Manager of CNKI, in "Huazhi LM and the Future Library," introduced Huazhi LM, the first knowledge service and research industry large model in China. Based on the Huazhi LM, CNKI is building a new ecosystem for the development and application of large models, and has collaborated with partners in education, law, medicine, culture, think tanks, and other fields to co-create a series of industry models.

On June 25, four parallel panels were organized by IATUL, Tsinghua University Library, the University of Hong Kong Libraries, and Wuhan University Library respectively. These panels focused on hot topics such as "The Application and Challenge of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries," "Open Science and Practice of Libraries," "Smart Space Building and Service Transformation of Libraries," and "Future Learning Center Building and Library Innovative Service."

The Forum on Future of World Academic Libraries (WAL) has created a high-level platform for exchange, providing academic libraries worldwide with valuable theoretical and practical experience for their future development. The Forum 2024 can be viewed on the following website: <https://oversea.cnki.net/index/marketing/wal/en/Agenda-2024.html>

The Future Library with Digital Intelligence, Openness, and Connectivity

- The Application and Challenge of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries
- The Application of Data in Library Management and Innovative Service
- The Role and Practice of Libraries in Open Science
- Collection Building and Sharing in Academic Libraries
- The Value of Libraries in Building the Ecology of Academic Communication
- Future-oriented Capacity Building and Promotion for Librarians