

**THINKING OUTSIDE THE BORDERS:
LIBRARY LEADERSHIP IN A WORLD COMMUNITY
Phoenix, Arizona -- February 18-20, 2007**

The Arizona State Library began plans for *Thinking Outside the Borders* in spring 2006 in discussions with two partners: the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs of the University of Illinois and the Illinois State Library. A sub-grant of \$53,000 from these two partners provided funding for the program. The Phoenix program was scheduled for February 18-20, 2007 to leverage the *Transborder Library Forum*, another international library conference, beginning the evening of February 20 in the Phoenix metro area.

Participant Selection Process:

Non US Applications Received: **47** (a record high over previous programs in Illinois)

AZ Applications Received: **18** (all were accepted as either participants or alternates).

Participants:

International Librarians	Arizona Librarians
Rebecca Davies (Cardiff, UK)	Janet Fisher
Chansy Phuangsooketh (Lao PDR)	Scott Muir
Marta Viragos (Hungary)	Mary Hartz- Musgrave
Pilar Pacheco (Chile)	Marlene Forney
Stefka Ilieva (Bulgaria)	Dana Braccia
Priscilla Hidalgo (Costa Rica)	David Gunckel
Flor Cubero Venegas (Costa Rica)	Jeff Scott
Symphrose Ouma (Kenya)	Brian Doherty

Mavis Belasse (Jamaica)	Eileen Chalfoun
Mila Ramos (Philippines)	Tom Wilding
Gerry Burger-Martindale (Canada)	Sarah Wisdom
Susan Taiwo Odeyemi (Nigeria)	Robert Shupe
Karen Barton (Jamaica)	Nancy Ledeboer
Christine Goodair (United Kingdom)	Elizabeth Saliba
Chiku Mnubi Mchombu (Namibia)	Ralph Gabbard

Program objectives:

- ▶ Learn cross-cultural communication strategies
- ▶ Develop an understanding of librarianship and the world community
- ▶ Focus on leadership issues affecting librarians regardless of country
- ▶ Build mutually-beneficial global professional relationships

Feedback From AZ librarians:

... WOW!! Thank you for a putting together such a wonderful program - it was like the Oscars in training. My brain has been recharged :)

...the extent to which we all deal with serving diverse communities was an eye opener for me. I enjoyed hearing about the successes of librarians from other countries. Many were more advanced than I had thought. Possibly a session on how different libraries are governed would be interesting. I would like to see if any one type of governance allows faster ability to adapt and add new services.

... It was very thoughtfully organized and the information was immensely useful, and all the special efforts you and the state library staff made to make us feel welcome and comfortable were greatly appreciated. The speakers and workshop leaders were superb. I'd say it was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. Give my thanks to everyone who helped organize.

Feedback From Non US librarians:

... Colleagues, I hope you are all doing something base on our encounter. I arrived on 4th March and started work on 5th. I was told there is a workshop from 6th to 8th March on Library and Information Service Sector Strategic Planning Workshop. I have decided to use the platform to share some ideas with colleagues. We used world café method today, it was great although there were no goodies!!!!

... I will be back in Bulgaria after March 10th and I will prepare my action plan. Thank you very much for your wonderful organization during the conference. This conference has a big profit for development of librarianship in the world.

Feedback From a speaker:

... Thank you for your tremendous work and efforts at the Thinking Outside Borders Institute last week. It was clear that you are a team and this models for all of us - what interdependency should look like organizationally and globally.

I went to my first FORO conference afterward and re-met some of the participants as well as 2 of your colleagues from another dept. within the State Library. The great energy continued.

As a speaker and presenter, I felt tremendous support at your institute. Thank you for having every detail ready. It was a relief to go in and not worry about details - from the CD player to the colors of pens.