

The Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program



The American Theological Library Association (ATLA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and OCLC jointly sponsor the Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship program. This intensive, five-week program provides early career development and continuing education for library and information science professionals from countries with developing economies.

Program highlights

Each year, up to six individuals are selected for the Fellowship program. Four weeks are based at OCLC® headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, USA; one week is based at OCLC's office in Leiden, Netherlands. The program includes discussions with leading practitioners, library visits and mentoring, and gives Fellows opportunities to explore topics including information technologies, library operations and management, and global cooperative librarianship. The program also gives Fellows the chance to share their home customs and cultures with other Fellows, with colleagues they meet during the program, and with their hosts.

The Fellows' travels provide them with other opportunities to broaden their knowledge about issues facing libraries today. They observe portions of the OCLC Global Council meeting, gaining insight into issues affecting global library cooperation and the governance of a global library cooperative. They visit selected North American and European libraries and cultural heritage institutions to meet with leading information professionals and discuss real-world solutions for libraries.

Putting education into action

The Fellowship program emphasizes cooperation and action. The Fellows give formal and informal presentations about their home countries and libraries, and the challenges facing libraries in their home countries. These presentations help others better understand their role in helping libraries around the world. As their program concludes, Fellows translate their program experiences into specific development plans to guide their continued growth and personal contributions to their home institutions.



2009 Fellows representing:
Armenia, Kenya, Pakistan, Serbia, Uganda and Zambia

Reaching across geographic borders

Since its inception in 2001, the Fellowship program has welcomed 44 librarians and information science professionals from 28 countries: Armenia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

*[The] ... Fellowship
is connecting
libraries through
librarians worldwide.*

—Saima Qutab,
2009 Fellow from Pakistan



The application process

The application process begins more than a year in advance of each annual Fellowship program. Fellows for the next year are announced at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in August. Complete details, including program guidelines and an application, are available at www.oclc.org/community/careerdevelopment/fellows/.

Sponsorship opportunities

The three organizations that sponsor the Fellowship program are seeking additional sponsorships from other interested organizations. More information about sponsorship is available from George Needham, OCLC Vice President, Global and Regional Councils: needham@oclc.org.



I am stepping foot in Uganda a renewed, nurtured man with strong belief that change is possible.

—John Kiyaga,
2009 Fellow from Uganda

I enjoyed being part of a well-organized and focused group of people [who hope to ensure] that regardless of religion or location, libraries are linked together and can access and share resources.

—Raymond Sikanyika,
2009 Fellow from Zambia



2007 Fellows representing:
Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica, Philippines and Serbia



2008 Fellows representing:
India, Morocco, Nepal, South Africa and Uganda

General inquiries

More information about the Fellowship Program is available from Nancy Lensenmayer, Program Director, Education and Professional Development: lensenma@oclc.org.