



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS
OF THE BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA
Connecting Bibliotheca Alexandrina Globally

We aim to connect Bibliotheca Alexandrina globally as we work to enhance global reach.

Second Edition

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

July - August 2021



From IFBA Chairman/Editor
THARWAT ABOURAYA

Converting Good Intentions into Good Accomplishments

The nonprofit industry is not delivering a service. It wants the end user to be a *doer*, not a *user*. It uses a service to bring about change in a human being. It creates habits, vision, commitment, knowledge. It attempts to become a part of the recipient rather than a supplier. Until this has happened, the nonprofit industry has had no accomplishments - only good intentions.

In nonprofit you need five things. You need a plan. You need marketing. You need volunteers. You need money and development. And you need innovation.

Today, I will focus on innovation. There is no lack of new ideas in nonprofit organizations. What is more often lacking is the willingness and the ability to convert those ideas into effective accomplishments. A successful strategy can refocus and change the organization. When everybody says, "Don't rock the boat. It ain't broke, don't fix it," you can hope that someone in the organization is willing to be unpopular by saying, "Let's improve it." If you don't improve, you go downhill very fast. The great majority of major institutions that have gotten into trouble are successes that rested on their laurels.

I will leave you with a great story about Brown University and how it used innovation in the early 1960s to compete with Harvard and other Ivy League colleges by focusing on young female students who aspired to become scientists and engineers. Brown made its women's school - Pembroke College - fully part of the University.

Watch for IFBA for Tomorrow podcast
spotlighting women of influence in
Latin America, following Sweden,
Germany, South Africa.

AMERICAS

California
Canada
Chili
Maryland
Mexico
Minnesota
New York

EUROPE

Cyprus
France
Germany
Greece
Italy
Latvia
Netherlands
Norway
Order of Malta
Romania
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

AFRICA

South Africa

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt

ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia

**Stavros Strouzas, Cyprus Chapter
Cyprus Alexandria A Continuous Relationship**



The distance from the Island of Cyprus to Alexandria is **545 kilometers**.

This allowed the people from Cyprus and Egypt to cooperate, to exchange cultures, to find solidarity in each other in difficult times throughout the long history of those countries.

The distance never stopped them from being in continuous cooperation in various issues such as culture, history, economy, politics.

Nowadays, the bond is even closer and stronger, and we admire the initiatives as well as the numerous visits between State officials either from Egypt or from Cyprus.

For instance, a high-level Cypriot delegation visited Bibliotheca Alexandrina Wednesday 24 April 2019 and bonded the people of Cyprus and Bibliotheca Alexandrina even more.

Another example is the initiative of Nostos and the launch of the 4th edition of Nostos-The Return initiative between Egypt and Cyprus.

If the pandemic did not slow down the communication globally, we are confident that there would have been more opportunities for Cyprus and Alexandria to come even closer and build a bridge of close communication.

Alexandria, and especially Bibliotheca Alexandrina during its whole history of existence, always embraced all the people without any discrimination from all the countries and especially from the Island of Cyprus.

Thousands of Egyptians visit Cyprus every year and thousands of Cypriots visit Egypt and especially Alexandria. From some of them it brings back memories since they used to live there, and they always feel happy to go back and see the place where they grew up.

The Cyprus Chapter exists since 2019 and makes baby steps to transmit the glory of Bibliotheca Alexandrina to the Cypriot Friends of the BA.

It has been proposed from the Cyprus Chapter to host any future event of Bibliotheca Alexandrina since Cyprus is and feels so close to Egypt and its Bibliotheca and can act as a hub to host the honourable Members of IFBA from all over the world.

Annica Dahlstrom, Chair, Swedish Chapter
The Rest of the Story...



The recently recorded Living IFBA podcast with Annica Dahlstrom was shortened for its public audio version, but Annica shares some additional ideas here about the future of the Bibliotheca

Alexandrina. By listening to the podcast [here](#), you will learn the history of the Nobel Collection at the BA, believed to be the largest collection in the world from winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature. The collection represents 44 countries, six continents and 24 languages.

Tharwat: Will traditional libraries survive in the digital age?

Annica: Yes, I do indeed think they will. You know, you are able to digest books and imagine a book in your own mind. You don't need electricity or functional WIFI and we don't what will happen with climate change and so forth, so I think books are always valuable. They will always be there. It may vary from time to time if books are in demand more or less, depending on the world around us, but they will always be there, unless they are burned down of course as in the original Library.

You also asked if we have ideas about how to get young people interested and I would suggest that all universities could have a rule that every topic, when young people start at university, should include one or two hours of short history of the library, because it is such a fundamental historic basement for the development of our culture. I think that would begin to make young people interested. I also think it would be important to open up scholarships for young people, not only for library students and students of literature. Young people like to travel and even more so now when the pandemic ends. I think the money for the fund could be raised by Chapters.

Karen Leggett, Maryland Virginia Washington, DC Chapter
Keeping IFBA Alive for the Future



As we seek ways to sustain our Chapters and our IFBA and inspire young people to remain interested in libraries, Andris Vilks, Chair of our Latvian Chapter, reminds us that it was young people who surrounded the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 2011 because they cherished what it had to offer.

"The doors are all glass. There is nothing that prevents anybody from destroying this building with all its treasures, except the will of the people," said BA Director Ismail Serageldin at the time.

Andris believes young people can be inspired again to protect the treasures of the BA for the future – and those are the people who must learn about IFBA. IFBA leaders who spoke during Tharwat’s recent podcasts had several ideas and I have a few more to share here.

It is critical to establish a personal and emotional connection between young people in our own countries and Egypt/Alexandria/Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Personal visits do that in uniquely powerful ways. It can also be useful to draw younger people into your Chapter by offering them responsibilities or tasks related to their career interests so they can gain experience or expand their professional networks. A member of our Maryland Chapter is a school librarian who worked in Cairo and now teaches at a high school in Baltimore, Maryland. She is seeking international exchange and higher education opportunities for her students and is co-leading a Chapter collaboration with the Egyptian environmental organization Greenish; we want this to become an opportunity to collaborate with the BA as well.

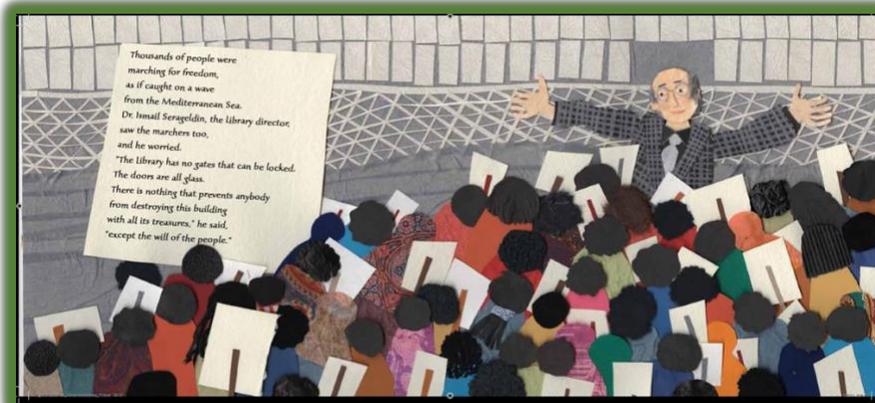
Universities and Libraries

- Every subject taught at the university level could include 1-2 hours on the ancient library in Alexandria because it is “such a fundamental historic basement for the development of our culture.” (Annica Dahlstrom, Swedish Chapter)
- Scholarships could be offered to library students and others to spend a term at the BA (Annica). IFBA chapters could raise funds for these scholarships. Individual chapters could also invite students from the University of Alexandria to their own cities, to meet other students and “promote” the BA. Our Baltimore Luxor Alexandria Sister City Committee/Friends of the BA Maryland, VA, DC hosted several Egyptian students years ago, including the former head of the BA Library Sector, Lamia Abdel Fattah. Wolfgang Schaefer in the German Chapter also recommends encouraging local universities and libraries to arrange student exchanges.
- Promote the availability of specialized digital resources at the BA – multimedia for the visually impaired, specialized mathematical libraries, rare books and special editions (Her Excellency Andri Anastasiades, First Lady of Cyprus)
- Sponsor visits by Egyptians to major book fairs in your own country (Fahima El Nokrasche mentioned that the German Chapter has been doing this with the Frankfurt Book Fair, the largest in the world). Visiting Egyptians can have the opportunity to meet with local students in their fields.

Children

- The Dialogues for Peace virtual conversations between children at the BA and children in IFBA member countries were initiated by Cynthia Milani, French Chapter, and Dalia Elkony, Head of the Children and Young Adult Libraries at the BA. We can hope for a revival of this excellent avenue to interest young people in Egypt and the BA at a very early age.
- I would further encourage IFBA members to look for interested authors/libraries in local chapters of IBBY – the [International Board on Books for Young People](#). There are [national sections](#) in many of our member countries, each with contact information and local addresses. There are also [international chapters](#) of [SCBWI](#) – the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators - in the UK, France, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland and a BeNeLux/Europolitan branch. You never know when a children’s author or illustrator in your own country might be very excited about Egypt and learning more about its amazing library!

Don’t hesitate to send your own Chapter ideas about engaging young people to me for inclusion in future issues of our newsletter.



from Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books, by

Karen Leggett Abouraya, Illus by Susan L. Roth (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012)

German Chapter's Cultural Contribution



Encore by Alexander Preiss Displays "emotional elegance"

IFBA Cultural Pianist Concert Introduced by our Vice Chair Gloria Perez, Mexico Chapter Chairwoman & Prof. Dr. Lev Natochenny one of the world-leading professors for piano music on 20 July 2021.

- L.v. Beethoven Sonata Op. 27 Nr. 2, Moonlight 3rd Movement, Presto Agitato
- F. Chopin Ballade No. 3 Op. 47 and Ballade no. 1 Op. 23

Alexander Preiss' website is under construction: www.alexanderpreiss.de



https://www.dropbox.com/s/wlgz3a0jdojriv4/Yannakoudakis_IFBA_2021-07-20.mp4?dl=0

Recorded via Zoom by Emeritus Professor E. J. Yannakoudakis
Department of Informatics - Athens University of Economics & Business

Aida Khalafalla, Chair, Minnesota Chapter Minnesota Chapter Contributions



Dr Sohair Wastawy, the previous director of the BA library sector, invited Dr. Khalafalla to chair a USA chapter within the IFBA in 2009. Since then Dr. Khalafalla and several members of the chapter attended every single meeting of the IFBA either in Alexandria, the Webinar in 2011 & Zoom meetings during the epidemic shutdown.



The Minnesota Chapter participates in efforts of other chapters all over the world e.g by attending the magnificent Gala celebration of February 2013 held in Mexico City by the Mexican chapter, along with Professor Rosalie Amer of the California Chapter.



The Minnesota chapter also carried donations from the Cyprus chapter. Catherine Nikita, then Cyprus Chapter chair was Traveling to the IFBA meeting in Alexandria. Mona El Nashar arranged for the Cyprus Ambassador of Egypt to view the display.

IFBA SCRIBE/SECRETARY VOLUNTEER JOB POSTING
26 JULY TO 8 AUGUST 2021

IFBA Mission: IFBA aims to connect Bibliotheca Alexandrina Globally as we work to enhance its Global Reach.

IFBA SCRIBE/SECRETARY OFFICER. This is an exciting opportunity to join the Executive Officers team and be responsible for delivery of notes from our virtual bimonthly 30-minute Business Meetings and a yearly 4 hour in-person conference.

Responsibilities of this role include:

- Delivery of notes from our virtual bi-monthly 30-minute Business Meetings and a yearly 4 hour in-person conference
 - Development of dynamic reporting processes and maintenance of supporting documentation for IFBA Members' updated information lists
- Support for additional programs and projects as determined by the Executive Officers team

Critical Knowledge and Skills

- Expertise in MS Excel such as knowledge of spreadsheet functionality including charts and graphing
 - Demonstrated ability to use social media and computer applications
 - Excellent English written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to manage multiple projects; partner with multiple global stakeholders to facilitate communication; and a willingness to be a deadline-driven team player.

- Working knowledge of PowerPoint is beneficial. Minimum Qualifications Bachelor's Degree or 4 years work experience Minimum Experience Requirement:12+ months of experience with clear understanding of communication etiquette and protocols
- Volunteer eligibility to work with IFBA Executive Officers Team and Chapter Chairs in 19 countries with 21 Chapters High integrity and personal accountability
- Must be member in good standing of an existing IFBA Chapter

IFBA is an equal opportunity nonprofit organization and makes selection decisions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, age, or any other status protected by international law. Posting accepted from Monday, 26 July to 8 August 2021 ... **Nominate Yourself Now.**

Submit Your CV/Resume & 200 words note indicating your motivation (letter of intent), including your present home address & occupation to: mdarwiche@velizydarwiche.cl IFBA Nomination Coordinator/Representative, Maryem Darwiche, Lawyer/Chile Chapter Chairwoman.



LIVING IFBA GOES PUBLIC

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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT [BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA](#)

