



# International Library and Cultural Exchange Annual Report 2022

Submitted by Nancy Bolt, January 3, 2023

The ILCE-IG has had another very successful year. Our members have participated in a number of activities, locally, nationally, and internationally. We have served on committees and boards and given generously of our time. We have published and presented. Members were recipients of awards. We had many successes, and a few disappointments that we turned into opportunities.

**Steering Committee Meetings.** The ILCE-IG board met twelve times, monthly then bi-weekly for conference planning: January 24, February 16, April 6, May 11, June 1, July 13, August 23, September 22, October 6, November 2 November 30, and December 14. Steering committee members at the beginning of the year included Nancy Bolt, Janet Lee, Jane Mirandette, Shannon Brennan, and Jen Yadav. We were joined by Linda Tillson, District Director of the Eagle Valley Library District. Kathleen Robertson, Arapahoe Library District, joined after CALCON 2022. CAL liaison Nancy Bolt attended CAL board meetings regularly and reported back to the board.

**CALCON 2021 Conference Program.** ILCE-IG submitted a program to the annual CALCON conference, and it was turned down. In its place, the steering committee submitted a Lightning Talk and it was accepted. Nancy Bolt exhibited at the conference and sold international jewelry on ILCE-IG behalf.

The Lightning Talk, *Two Truths and a Lie*, was delivered by Jen Yadov and Linda Tillson, and presented two truths about ILCE-IG and one fabrication. Audience participation was required!

Links to presenters' PowerPoint can be found at:

[ilce-lightning-round-2022-w-lt-added-slide-1.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#)

**The Navigator: Colorado Libraries and the World** ILCE-IG published two newsletters in 2022, which are available on its website:

March 2022: <https://ilceig.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/ilce-ig-newsletter-issue-13.pdf>

September 2022: <https://ilceig.files.wordpress.com/2022/08/ilce-ig-newsletter-issue-14.pdf>

Highlights of the newsletter include:

- Shannon Brennan Named Littleton Employee of the Year 2021
- Laptops to Lesotho Sponsors Palang Book Festival
- HJH Libraries for All Foundation Gifted with Books in Spanish
- RACHEL: A Dream Come True (Installation of computer system in Nicaragua)
- Laptops to Lesotho Sets up Library in Kokobe
- Shannon Brenna Selected for CAL Leadership Institute

**ILCE-IG webpage and Facebook** Both the webpage (<https://ilceig.wordpress.com/>) and the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ilceig>) have been active with steering committee input highlighting many professional and service activities.

**Fundraising/Jewelry sales** As restrictions to COVID-19 were gradually lifted, Nancy Bolt, was able to ramp up jewelry sales, including multiple events at conferences, meetings and fairs.

**Grant Awards** The grant committee issued a call for applications but received none. Upon reflection, this may be a fallout from two years of COVID lockdown or a short deadline. But from this disappointment, the board decided to repurpose these funds to an international conference, which is in the planning stage.

**International Conference** Extensive planning has commenced on an international conference, **Better Together: The Power of Global Library Connections**. We have selected a keynote speaker and a range of international presenters for the two-day conference to be held March 7 and 8, 2023. The conference will be hybrid, the first day online and the second in person.

**International Leads** (a publication of the International Relations Round Table of ALA)

The second and third installments of a three-part article recognizing three librarians receiving the John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press award:

<https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org.rt/files/content/intlleads/leadsarchive/202203-rev.pdf>

- “There Must be Something in the Water: Colorado’s Trifecta (pg. 18) focuses on Nancy Bolt.

<https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org.rt/files/content/intlleads/leadsarchive/202206.pdf>

- “There Must be Something in the Water: Colorado’s Trifecta (pg. 7) focuses on Janet Lee

**Awards** Shannon Brennan, steering committee member, was selected to the 2022 CAL Leadership Institute (CALLI). Shannon has been a valuable member of the steering committee, taking over updating ILCE-IG marketing materials and providing organizational support for the upcoming international conference.

**International Travel:**

**Laptops to Lesotho sets up library in Kokobe.** Janet Lee, Nancy Wood, and Kathy Plath (Laptops2Lesotho president and former steering committee member) set up a small library at an elementary school in Kokobe, Lesotho. They were able to deliver over 200 children’s books, two SolarSpell servers complete with educational content, and over a dozen Kindle Fires loaded with educational apps, children’s books in the local language and educational videos.

**HJH Foundation installs RACHEL at two sites.** Janet Lee joined Jane Mirandette, HJH Libraries for all Foundation, and HJH board members in establishing a pilot project of installing a RACHEL server at two locations in San Juan del Sur, Escuela Adelante and the HJH Biblioteca. RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) provides open access educational resources to remote areas without internet. Initial reactions are very promising.

**CAL Library Adventure Tour** Nancy Bolt and Jane Mirandette led a CAL-sponsored library tour of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua and surrounding areas. Joining them were State Librarian, Nicole Davies, and other librarians from Colorado and beyond. The group volunteered at the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of the HJH Foundation and SJDS Biblioteca and led a literacy workshop in nearby Granada. Partial proceeds from the tour were donated to CAL.

**Hasheba School and refugee camp in Sudan** Janet Lee contributed her expertise and partially funded the installation of two RACHEL servers and five Kindle Fires to the Hasheba School in Sudan through the International Society for Better Health Access. The school was formed when conflict broke out in November 2020 in neighboring Ethiopia, forcing up to 60,000 Tigrayans, mostly women and children to flee to neighboring Sudan. In addition to the standard open access resources and the Ethiopian Ministry of Education curriculum, Janet installed Arabic language resources since Arabic is one of four languages used in the schools. The Kindles were configured to include books and short stories in English, Tigrinya, Amharic, and Arabic as well as a set of texts to learn the Tigrinya/Amharic script.