



Information Hubs in Crisis Times

Saleh Zamani / Today, in the modern world, we all, whether intentionally or unintentionally, face many political, cultural, economic and natural crises.

Bloody wars, local, ethnical, and domestic violence, destruction of the environment, water crisis, earthquakes, floods, fires and thousands of other social crises are only few examples of such crises which have covered the entire world and to which more ones are added every day. Even it seems that both modernism waves and the modern life based on the social agreements have failed to alleviate mankind's suffering or to play a role to control crises. Accordingly, in the world where everybody, given their role, occupation and responsibility tries, to play a role in controlling crises, the main question is that what supportive roles librarians and libraries would play in times of crises or even before that? We know that it is not a new question and has plagued minds of librarians for many years. However, in some countries, there are serious doubts about the role of librarians during times of crisis.

These doubts are rooted in improper understandings about the profession of librarianship. So, it must be kept in minds that librarianship is a profession to make people informed, which is one of the most important needs of modern mankind.



Aq-Qala Public Library

In other words, librarians are a bridge between information and the society. Another point must be considered more seriously is that we cannot draw any restriction or border for information dissemination. Librarians' field of work is not only

in the libraries, but also in the societies. Librarians do not only live among researchers, authors and academic users, but they live mostly with people and the society. Librarians are obliged to enhance and extend the range of information as far as possible. In fact, the service field of Librarians is not limited to the "space" of libraries, and is more extended than what we all thinking about. Therefore, two types of responsibilities would be defined for the information hubs; first includes "preventive responsibilities, which are important before occurrence of crises. Libraries can inform the society on various dimensions of crises through offering necessary information about the upcoming incidents, both on natural crises and social harms such as poverty, illiteracy, drug addiction and even political crises such as social riots. This mission helps either to restrain crisis or to reduce its severity. The second includes responsibilities of information hubs in crisis times and afterward. In this area, while disseminating information, ... [continued to Page 4]



iBulletin off-site

Second *iBulletin* off-site was held on March 13, in the Iran National Library hall. At this meeting *iBulletin* board and collaborators became more familiar with each other, made friendship stronger, and also were brain storming for offer novel ideas to go forward. All this while we were experiencing the moments of joy together and helped us to keep continuing with much more energy!

Can you find our colleagues in the photo? Parisa, Ameneh, Khadijeh, Soodeh, Fatemeh, Mostafa, Fariborz, Mohsen and Saleh...



The 56th Anniversary of The CBC

The 56th Anniversary of Children's Book Council (CBC) foundation was held on March 10, 2019.

In this ceremony, the Vol. 18 of The Encyclopedia for Young People (since 1980) was unveiled. Also winners of "The Little Black Fish" And "Abbas Yamini-sharif" Awards and CBC volunteers were honored. The Children's Book Council (CBC) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1962.

CBC carries out its cultural and research activities in the field of children's literature on a non-profit basis relying solely on voluntary contributions of time and labor. It joined the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in 1964 and represents the Iranian National Section.

CBC is active in introducing and promoting Iranian children's literature in other countries. It enjoys close ties with IBBY as the Iranian National Section; it has concluded agreements with both BIB and IYL; it implements projects with UNICEF and UNHCR, as well.

The CBC anniversary motto: *56 Years Hand in Hand With Children & young adults through the shining light of books*



Iran National Archive Fans Festival

The first student festival of Iran National Archive fans was held through cooperation between NLAI and Tehran City Education Department General Jan. 28, 2019. The festival's main objective was increasing cooperation between education system and NLAI and increasing knowledge of the current generation. Holding two workshops about how to keep and maintain documents and how to recognize and read documents, a visit to the main Iran National Archive Building weekly for three months were among the schedule of visitors of this festival. After holding the predetermined schedules of this festival, the visitors were tested and the top ones were appreciated. In this festival, Ashraf Broujerdi, director of NLAI said that the education organization is an entity which can be used to deepen the culture of paying attention to documents in the society. She also emphasized the necessity of more cooperation between education organization and NLAI in order to enhance and encourage the current generation.



Book of the Year Award

The winners of the 36th course of Iran's Book of the Year Awards and 26th course of the international Book of the Year Awards were introduced and appraised through a ceremony, attended by the President of Iran, in Vahdat Hall on Feb. 5, 2019. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Book of the Year Awards is an Iranian governmental award which every year in January is awarded to the selected writers in various sections such as general, Islamic philosophy, West philosophy, religion, social sciences, languages, applied sciences, arts, literature, and history; the awards would be awarded after verification of the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance. In this ceremony, 43 works in the Book of the Year section and 9 works in the international section were introduced as the selected works. The selected works are as follows:

1. Thematic-historical bibliography;
2. A discussion between Hegel and Muslim philosophers;
3. Mind virtues, a research about virtue and behavioral principles of epistemology;
4. Iran-Iraq War Timeline;
5. Baluchi-Farsi Glossary; And etc.



Farsi Department of Munich Library

Explaining about her activities in the Munich Library & also participation in the international section of "Book-Reading Promoters Festival", Leila (Roya) Maktabifard [Persian Department expert of Munich International Children and Young-adults Library], said, "We conduct our activities somehow to realize a bigger purpose, "i.e. promoting book reading". In fact, people who are working in various languages departments try to introduce and present their own children literature to the international society. Such activities finally would result in promotion of the literature in question across various nations. Relying on this, we hope to find more readers for our books and literature." They bring children to visit the library and organize various programs such as tale-telling, games, book-reading, visiting writers, etc. She also referred to the "White Ravens Festival" as one of the most important activities of this library on promoting reading and added, "This festival is held biennially in August. Generally, 10 to 12 writers and illustrators, whose works have been translated into German and German children know them, from different countries are invited to this festival." She pointed to publishing "White Ravens List" as the most important outcome of the library. Emphasizing the fact that all activities of Munich Children Library follow an international and cultural approach, Maktabifard pointed to some of these activities, including publishing calendars containing childish poems in various languages, holding book fairs with various issues, tale-telling and book-reading in various languages on different occasions and in the framework of multi-lingual programs.

Cabs Reading Promotion

Tehran Taxi Management and Supervision announced about launching “Lantern of Road” initiative to promote book reading culture among Tehrani citizens. This initiative, which is aimed at distributing books in the cabs of Tehran City, has been started concurrent with the 26th course of Iran’s Books Week. “A cultural package



containing four books has been put in the cabs. Books are in two languages (Persian and English) and fares can study and/or buy them, if they want”.

Mahdi Mahmoud-Aghdam [Cultural-educational Deputy of Tehran Taxi Management and Supervision Organization] said. “In the second phase of this initiative, besides print books, the audio books and also books proper for children and young-adults will be added.”

He also said that people welcomed the initiative considerably and it is hoped that this initiative would encourage citizens to read and to love books more.

Nominees for Noofe Award

Supporting by Peydayesh Publishing House, Noofe Literary Award has been launched in 2018. The jury of the award is composed of real entities of publishing industry, speculative fiction writers and literary activists.

This award is seeking for improving the qualitative level of Persian speculative fiction books.

Five finalists of young-adults speculative fiction section were Mahdi Rajabi’s *Bardia and Goolakhs*, Javad Rahnam’s *A Bear Who Smokes Pipe*, Hamid Shahabadi’s *Vertical Cemetery*, Bita Husseini’s *Karen and five Wonderful Cities*, and Tina Jamali’s *Mysterious Elixir in the Abandoned Factory*.

The closing ceremony of Noofe Literary Award based on Speculative Fiction, attended by a group of writers and



translators, was held in the Roudaki Hall of Qasr Garden Museum on Jan. 2019.

The winners of each section were introduced in this ceremony. The jury failed to grant any award to nominees of the Children and Young Adults section and it only appreciated Javad Rahnama’s *A Bear Who Smokes Pipe*, Published by Hoopa Books.

Iranian Institutes in GreenMetric list

GreenMetric World University Rankings 2018 has studied 719 institutes from all over the world. With the aim of offering a pervasive perspective about the condition and policies related to the environment and sustainable development in the universities of various countries, GreenMetric has been launched. Environment and infrastructures, energy and changing ecology, waste management, water, transportation and education are among measures which are applied in this ranking system for comparing institutes.

According to the report of this ranking system about sustainable development, 16 Iranian universities have been placed in the list of the world’s greenest ones. University of Zanjan, University of Kashan, University Isfahan, University Guilan, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Shahrood University of Technology, Islamic Azad University,



Science and Research Branch, University of Tehran, BuAli Sina University, Shiraz University, Alzahra University, Amirkabir University of Technology, Sharif University of Technology, University of Tabriz, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences and University of Applied Science and Technology are among the Iranian institutes whose names have been included in this list.

The Annual ADKA Seminar

The 11th seminar of the Union of Iranian Library and Information Science Student Associations (ADKA) was held on Feb. 27, 2019. In the closing statement of the seminar, Morteza Kokabi [the seminar’s secretary] and Mohsen Haji Zainolabedini [the seminar’s executive secretary] said, “Let us return to the society to recognize its needs and to take advantage of information technology as much as possible to serve the society



and its needs. Given the increasing complexities of the society, our responsibility is felt heavier than before. Understanding such complexities and to get ready to respond them is though very difficult, is necessary to be met.” The seminar was has been organized through five topics:

1. Enhancing the society’s culture;
2. Improving cultural and social behaviors;
3. Promoting culture of protecting the environment;
4. Training and improving citizenship rights; and
5. Strengthening the family foundations.

On the sidelines of the seminar, the festival for choosing the best dissertation on improving citizenship behaviors and technological ideas and experiences was held.

The Largest Iran Public Library Grand Opening

On May, 2019, Mashhad Central Public Library was opened in a ceremony attended by Abbas Salehi [Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance], Alireza Mokhtarpour [Secretary General of Iran Public Libraries Foundation], Jan Richards [president of Standing Committee of IFLA], Ashraf Broujerdi [director of NLAI] and university professors of knowledge and information

client, out which 13 services are provided as the modern library services for the first time to the users. Through such modern services, we intend to reach a book-based and knowledge-oriented society.” He also referred to Mashhad’s Imam Khomeini Library as a sample of second type libraries. Announcing his delights for his presence in the inaugural ceremony of Mashhad Central Public Li-



science. In this ceremony, an exquisite copy of Holy Quran was presented to this library by Ayatollah Khamenei [Leader of Islamic Revolution of Iran]. Referring to two important propulsions of formation of the Islamic civilization, namely mosques and libraries, Salehi said, “Libraries are not just places to keep and safeguard books, but they are the starting point towards building societies and civilizations. We need libraries wherein people not only are gathered to read books, but they go there in order to be an active and creative citizen and it is the ideal followed in the second type libraries.” Explaining about Mashhad’s central library, He said, “In this library, 43 services have been predicted for

client, out which 13 services are provided as the modern library services for the first time to the users. Through such modern services, we intend to reach a book-based and knowledge-oriented society.” He also referred to Mashhad’s Imam Khomeini Library as a sample of second type libraries. Announcing his delights for his presence in the inaugural ceremony of Mashhad Central Public Li-

ary Jan Richards, announced the greetings and best wishes of IFLA Secretary General and Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, IFLA President. “When we visit Iranian public libraries, unconsciously we would compare them with other public libraries all around the world. These libraries are completely professional and through my visits, I realized that librarians and employees of Iranian public libraries are extraordinary,” she said. Another speaker of this ceremony was Ashraf Broujerdi who asked others to consider public libraries as the scientific reference and science database where scientists and scholars would be able to share their ideas and scientific issues with others in order to be used to promote knowledge.

Iran Public Libraries Standards

The project of “Iran Public Libraries Standards” was concluded between Iran Public Libraries Foundation (IPLF) and ILISA on Sep. 24, 2017. In this project, seven standards including programs, information services, customers’ services, marketing, public relations and working time of Iranian public libraries were compiled and offered. One of important feature of this standards collection is the maximal usage of

of technical and national commissions, were polled and consulted about each standard. Also, representatives from the Iranian National Standards Organization (ISIRI) helped to set down this standard. On February 2018, Iranian Public Libraries’ Standard Plan was introduced to the IFLA’S International Advocacy Program (IAP) through a letter to IFLA and was rectified by IFLA as one of national programs to promote



both internal and external capacities of standard developing of Iran. To set down these standards, information of more than 11000 library spaces (under management of various organizations such as mosques’ cultural centers, cultural-artistic organization of Municipalities, Astan-e Qods-e Razavi and Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults were collected and more than 200 references including national and international standards from across the world and country’s laws and high-level documents, as a research and legal backbone for compiling standards, were studied, examined and used. Likewise, more than 120 librarians working in public libraries, university professor and experts, in the framework

socio-cultural development purposes and it is being dealt with through coordination with the international experts of public and standard libraries. It is necessary to note that, IAP is part of the IFLA strategic plan whose purpose is connecting libraries to each other and providing public access to information about development of countries. According to goals and guidelines of this program, the national projects need to realize capability and capacity of libraries towards the society’s development through planning and setting certain goals. In the Iran National Project, it is tried that the goal and purpose of IFLA IAP would be realized through considering the development goals in the standardizing approaches of libraries, their plans and services.



Abdolhossein Azarang [Writer and researcher; Member of the Great Islamic Encyclopedia]

Speaking about publication and its relationship with the related and non-related debates and concepts such as information, knowledge, bibliography and etiology has raised some questions to which in this article and the following ones I will try to answer. One of these questions is what the publication's nature is or in other words what is publishing activity? Is it a science or a technique or a business or a profession, or a cultural and enlightening action or a social effort or none of these or all of these? And in the modern world in which electronic and communicational technologies have added to range and diversity of the publishing activity, other and more questions would be asked about the publication's nature?

Perhaps, it would be better to pay attention to the more tangible aspects to find easier answers for these questions and then deal with other aspects which are more hidden and abstract.

Publication, whatever it is, is something whose material effect is recorded in the form of something readable, hearable and touchable. The first form include books, magazines and anything else which is recorded on paper, paper-like material and electronic media which can be read with eyes. The second form includes visual messages. And third one includes audio messages. The fourth form is touchable such as special papers designed form blind

Publishing and its Related Issues

people. In all forms, the produced work must be delivered in to the market and to be sold. Thus, like other goods, it must follow rules of market and the balance between demand and supply. Now, if another factor is involved with production and distribution of this product, such as non-profitable and non-economic purposes in production and distribution, its considered as something peripheral rather principal, because there is no doubt about its nature as a product, but there are another factor which separate profit aspect from other aspects of the good and pays its necessary cost. For example, a charity foundation or a public organization or a promotional activity, given its certain goals, would distribute a product with its prime cost, or even free of charge. Books and publications which are distributed with the aim of making people informed about governmental decisions, legal statements, issues and concepts which are necessary to know according to the rules, political, faith and commercial purposes are among these. So, if we exclude the economic and profitable aspect from such publications, their other aspects such as information dissemination, announcing messages, promotions, propaganda, etc. would be remained. Now, if these aspects are along with development and extension of culture, intellectual enhancement and growth, extension of viewpoints, changing viewpoints, correction of behaviors, formation of a common mentality and synergy, development of new incentives and so forth, then one of performances of publication would be relieved which can be considered evidently.

Let me explain about this tangible and sensible aspect of publication. The product of publication, in any form of abovementioned ones, has a content which would reach our minds through only there ways-of course for now, it is possible other ways would be added to this list in the fu-

ture thanks to the new scientific developments.

These three ways are: eyes, ears and touching.

Some studies have indicated that data would be transferred to mind during sleeping or via sending some waves to brains. These studies are in the pipelines and maybe one day-near or far-the society may find its tools and technology, but before the time we have no choice but using the three mentioned ways.

Anyway, the content which is transferred from the publication is cultural, so publication produces a product whose nature is cultural. What is considered as an understanding, perception, conclusion, opinion, decision and viewpoint after being processed in the mind is essentially cultural; and the activity of publication, if it want and know, and if it does not want and know, is producing culture. However, culture would wither have positive and valuable aspects or negative and non-valuable aspects. Speaking about to what extent publication would act positively and valuably and vice versa is a relational, contractual and at the same time very difficult and controversial, as only people who are expert in philosophical, social, cultural, behavioral, educational, research and generally general and cultural policies can discuss about them. If we decide to continue discussion about publication in this bulletin, then we can invite experts and discuss about this from various viewpoints, however, here it would be sufficient to say that: publication is a productive act whose product is a cultural good. This composition actually means mingling three main variables: 1. Technology of publication, 2. economy of this production, 3. cultural nature of this producing product. So, it can be concluded that three variables of technique, economy and culture are undeniable and completely touchable in publication. But what are other variables? (*To be continued....*)

Yalda Night for the Working Children

On the occasion of Yalda Night (in Persian: Shab-e Yalda or Shab-e Cheleh), NLAI along with Iliad Institute hosted the working Children. Yalda Night is one of the most ancient Iranian celebrations.

Yalda is a winter solstice celebration, that is, in the night of the Northern Hemisphere's winter solstice. The purpose of holding this program in the Iranian Children National Library was explaining the philosophy of Yalda Night to the working children and making them acquainted with the ancient Iranian culture and traditions.

Besides holding a Yalda table, an exhibition of books about Yalda Night was held in the Iranian Children National Library. At the end of the program, the participants were given some presents and books proper with their age group.



NLAI: NLNC & New Delhi WBF

In parallel with the common research cooperation, National Libraries and Archives of Iran and National Library of Northern Cyprus (NLNC) signed a MOU.

In this meeting which was held in NLAI venue, before signing the MOU, Ashraf Broujerdi, director of National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), told Kostas Champiaouris, the Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus, "Iran and Cyprus have a common historical background, so we need to define a contributory plan on the common research works on the written heritage of both countries."

Later in this meeting, Kostas Champiaouris said, "NLNC is the house and shelter of our nation which has three buildings and 200000 titles of books with full equipments. It also is the entity where all books are published and processed and all documents and books with a very high quality standard are kept.

Digitalizing books has been started in NLNC since 2008, as not only people of Cyprus, but also European people and other people in the world would use these books." Another NLAI recent cooperation was held in New Delhi. Iran in the New Delhi World Book Fair The 27th New Delhi World Book Fair was held with the participation of 1000 publishers from both India and 30 other countries in India on 5 to 13 January 2019. New Delhi World Book Fair has different sections such as public publishers, commerce, technology, social sciences, e-books, children and young adults, Indian language and international publishers.

The Festival of Villages and Nomads Book Lovers

Mohsen Haji Zeinolabedini / The 5th festival of villages and nomads Book lovers was held attending by Es'hagh Jahangiri, Iran's First Vice President and Abbas Salehi, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance was held on Feb. 23, 2019. In this ceremony ten villages were introduced as book-reader and ten other villages were introduced and praised as book lovers. Also, the award for



continuance of book-reading activities was awarded to Bezanj Village, North Khorasan Village. The award for continuance of book-reading is awarded to a village which had been selected by the same festival already and has offered new plans and has never stopped its activities. The festival of villages and nomads Book lovers is a program which is run every year with the cooperation of a collection of governmental and non-governmental organization. Every year, ten village or nomad villages are introduced as villages and nomads who love book reading. To participate in this festival, villages need to intro-

duce their special cultural and social features and also to present their activities, initiatives and executive plans in order to strengthen infrastructures of book-reading and promotion of book-reading culture in the village.

"Iran Book Capital" is an initiative in Iran according to which every year a city is chosen as the book capital of the country. The fifth round of this initiative was held on Feb. 23,



2019. In this ceremony, because of its continued book promotion activities and proposing new and creative plans in this regard, Yazd was selected as the fifth book capital of Iran. The former book capital cities of Iran were Ahwaz (2015), Neyshabur (2016), Bushehr (2017) and Kashan (2018). The project of choosing Iran's book capital city is the first national experience in this field and this practice will help us to approach the global standards of to be chosen as the world's book capital. The Iranian cultural authorities say that their standards are nationally and based on the local structures and capacities.

Malik Library & Alzheimer's Association

A special tour of the Library of Malik National Museum of Iran was held for patients with Alzheimer's and their escorts. The special cultural program of Library of Malik National Museum of Iran to hold educational tours for the patients with Alzheimer's through holding two special tours with participation of two groups of "patients with Alzheimer's" and "sensitive people with likelihood of suffering from Alzheimer's, is a new effort of this library to serve special classes of the society with a museum-therapy approach.

These two groups with pre-planned goals and in cooperation with the Iran Alzheimer's Association have been chosen as sample groups for appraising how comprehensive and pervasive are the cultural-historical trainings through purposeful museum-based visits. The greatest cultural endowment of Iran seeks for offering new services to the special classes of the society such as the working children, orphans and patients, especially those suffer from Autism and Alzheimer's. Before starting tours and during some sessions, he expert of Iran Alzheimer's Association proposed trainings about definition of dementia and also some explanations about the most prevalent form of dementia (i.e. Alzheimer's) and its various types and the effective factors in suffering from dementia. The mutual cooperation between the library of Malik National Museum of Iran and Iran Alzheimer's Association would be continued in this regard and patients with Alzheimer's and sensitive people who would take it will enjoy the cultural programs of this museum in the framework of predefined programs.

TAK Books Nominated for Bratislava Award

Seven Ponies, Seven Colors illustrated by Nooshin Safakhoo and *The Parrot and The Grocer* illustrated by Amir Shabanipour, from children and young-adults sector of the Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature (TAK) nominated for Biennial of Illustration Bratislava award 2019.

These two works are among 15 Iranian nominees which have been introduced by Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults to Biennial of Illustration Bratislava award 2019.

Seven Ponies, Seven Colors written by Muhammad Hadi Mohammadi is a fiction praising fantasy. *Seven Ponies, Seven Colors* is a book of intercultural project collection. Books of this collection are high-quality illustrative books which have been produced for "Read with Me" Program.

This book also has been published by a great children books publisher in Netherland and won the Nami's Purple Island Award 2019 and Russia's "Books Illustration" Award 2018.

The Parrot and The Grocer written by Muhammad Hadi Mohammadi, is a recreation of an anecdote with the same name in the first volume of Rumi's Masnavi, Persian Poet lived in 13th century.

This work won the third award of Nami 2017 and Diploma of Honor from Bologna Award 2018.

The winners of Biennial of Illustration Bratislava award will announced in October 2019.

NLAI & Qatar Foundation

In her visit to Qatar National Library and Qatar Foundation, Ashraf Broujerdi, director of NLAI signed a MOU to expand the cultural and research relations between two organizations. In this MOU, it has been tried to extend the limited bedrocks of cooperation, as experts of librarianship and information and also experts of manuscripts, as the executive arms of this agreement, would be able to exchange their opinions and knowledge with the various entities of the Qatar Foundation.

Qatar Foundation (QF) is a non-profit organization made up (since 1999) of more than 50 entities supported by partnerships with leading international institutions.

The organization's initiatives are oriented towards education, science and research, and community development. It has solicited a number of international universities to establish campuses in Qatar as part of its goal to develop a youth population with the necessary expertise to maintain a knowledge economy.



Calligraphy Arts of Afghan Artists in Iran

Exhibition of calligraphy arts and paintings of Afghan artists, aka "Azure Pens" was held by Iranian National Commission for UNESCO on Dec. 21, 2018. It was attended by Ashraf Broujerdi, director of NLAI, Hojatollah Ayubi, Secretary General of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Nasir Ahamdpoor, Afghanistan ambassador to Tehran, Mehmet Tashkan, Cultural Advisor of Iran to Turkey, and a representative board from Tajikistan. With regard to the common culture of Iran and Afghanistan, since establishment of Afghanistan Islamic Republic government, Iranian government has always tried to help this country in different fields. So, some good cooperations have been formed between Iran and Afghanistan in cultural field. This exhibition was held in order to extend cultural interactions between Iran and Afghanistan and to bring about a condition in which Afghan artists would showcase their artifacts and to boost and to encourage incentives for work and live in the youth who are living far from their homeland.



Iranian Record in UNESCO Memory of the World

The Malik National Museum of Iran was opened by Haj Hossein Aqa Malek in 1937 and then along with other properties was endowed to Astan-e Qods-e Razavi. This library is the first endowed-private museum in Iran and also is one of six grand libraries of the country whose main concentration is on manuscripts and is located in Tehran. Paving the way for recording Haj Hussein Aqa-Malik's deed of endowment in the UNESCO'S Memory of the World Programme through signing a MOU between Malik National Museum and Library and National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) was emphasized. "Haj Hossein Aqa Malek in the deed of endowment, which had been compiled and registered in 1937, has considered very meticulously every aspects of the endowment and has set rules and standards for each aspect. He even has determined how researchers should use books, how employees must be insured, how manuscripts and historical materials must be purchased and how his endowment must be supervised, as such subtlety and worldview of him in compiling the deed of endowment has brought about a special and exemplary position for this important historical deed among other available deed of endowments", Mahdi Yasavoli, the director of Public Relations of Malik National Museum and Library, said. "Hence, recording it in the UNESCO'S Memory of World Program, with management and follow-ups of NLAI, would pave the way for keeping and introducing this deed to the world as an advanced and standard deed of endowment.

Information Hubs in Crisis Times

[continued from Page 1]... information hubs often try to play supportive roles.

Offering physical supports to the injured people, regardless of their religion, race and beliefs, providing housing and accommodation, preparing food, showing psychological supports to women and children are only a few examples of such supports. Examples of such supports can be seen during the Hurricane Katrina experience in 2005 in the United States where Florida, Mississippi and Alabama Libraries played similar vital roles for the harmed ones.

What happened in the last April in Paris would be avoided by some preventive measures from the information hubs.

Flashing fire flares over the historical dome of Cathedral Notre-Dame is not just destruction a building, but is annihilation of the cultural heritage of European civilization. It seems that the librarians, as the guards of cultural heritage and human's knowledge, can take necessary instructions and guidance to protect these works.

Although the main cause of this tragedy is not clear so far, negligence and inattention to some standards upon repairs are among the most important hypotheses which have resulted in this calamity for this Gothic architecture masterpiece. There are other Notre-Dames across the world which are suffering from some worse condition than Paris Notre-Dame's. If Paris Notre-Dame is a known cultural building, there are hundreds of buildings older than Notre-Dame in the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Asia, thousands of ancient manuscripts and lithographs which unfortunately are not known and are threatened by various harms and risks. Many of them are gone because of lack of information and protective plans every year. It is for this reason that the great librarianship associations and IFLA need to be more active about this mission, i.e. protecting the cultural heritage more than be-

fore and to carry out a common project with UNESCO to protect the world's memory.

Librarians also need to compile a "comprehensive plan to prevent crisis" in which instructions to protect the cultural things are offered. It is necessary to note that this preventive plan should not be designed only for preventing natural disasters.

Today, an important part of crises around us are political and social in nature. Thus, information hubs must be active in the field of development and promotion of peace and organization of anti-war groups and also anti-drug addiction, poverty and illiteracy social campaigns.

Unfortunately, another sort of crisis happened in Iran in this year. A devastating flood both in northern and southern parts of Iran made many Iranian people to lose their houses.

Fortunately, the relief and rescue groups as well as non-governmental networks performed some good measures to control this crisis.

Although, the Iranian society had not necessary readiness and sufficient information to deal with this crisis, our libraries could play an active role in organizing homeless people.

In this tragic calamity, unfortunately some public libraries were injured, but other libraries succeeded to provide facilities through providing a temporal shelter. In the same direction, during the crisis, various non-governmental groups succeeded to change the dominant tragic atmosphere for children through holding reading programs.

Although public libraries in such areas were not very large and very equipped, they spare no efforts to offer supportive measures during the recent flood.

Accordingly, National Libraries and Archives of Iran and Public Libraries Organization along with other people tried to extend their cultural supports via sending

book package to children. These measures indicate that libraries in Iran in contrast to two decades ago have experienced developments which it is an important happening.

We believe, information hubs (including librarians, libraries and even members of libraries) need to avoid passiveness during crisis.

These hubs must be among the most active organizations of the society.

They have many and effective roles, either before or after crises.

Although this necessity has been demonstrated for some librarians, many of them are not informed about it, as some important parts of the world's cultural heritage are in danger now.

Today, more than any other times, we are experiencing crises and it is one of the biggest tragedies of this century.

Hence, we and librarians need not only to work on reducing both size and intensity of crises, but also we need to believe in this fact that the information hubs are strong enough to restrain and control wrath of nature, society, politics and economy.

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