

Dear

Thank you for your recent letter.

The American Library Association currently has 64,000 members in over 100 countries. The mission of the ALA is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access for all.”

Over the years, the ALA Council has passed resolutions concerning the destruction and rebuilding of libraries that have occurred as a result of natural disasters and human conflict. The goal of these resolutions is to prevent further destruction of materials and to provide mechanisms to rebuild what has been lost.

In recent years, ALA Council has passed resolutions on the destruction of libraries and library materials in Bosnia

<http://www.ala.org/work/international/resolutiononbosnianlibraries.html>

and Kosovo

<http://www.ala.org/work/international/resolutiononkosovoliberalies.html>

The Kosovo resolution called for ALA to work with the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and Institutions, an international body of national library associations to address the destruction. With funding from UNESCO, IFLA presented recommendations for initiatives to rebuild and replace what had been destroyed in Kosovo.

During the recent conflict in the Middle East, Palestinian libraries, archives and other cultural institutions have suffered damage and the destruction of materials and resources.

ALA Council, following the successful course of past resolutions that have helped to rebuild libraries, recently passed a resolution regarding the destruction of Palestinian libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions. The resolution can be found at <http://www.ala.org/work/international/resolutiononpalestinianlibraries.html>

The resolution calls for ALA to again work with IFLA to determine if a similar program as the one in Kosovo can assist in the rebuilding of Palestinian libraries and other cultural resources that have suffered destruction.

Sincerely,

Maurice J. Freedman
President
American Library Association