

- Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, wherever you are at, that you're joining us from. Welcome to the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs. We are in a wonderful moment, although we're experiencing difficulties with the pandemic to celebrate much of the work that has taken place in the last 30 years of the Mortenson Center, and please note that this session is being recorded. Before I start, I wanted to connect and share with you that I'm connecting virtually, and I wanna begin today by recognizing and acknowledging that I joined you from the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Masciutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nation. These lands were the traditional territory of these native nations prior to their force removal. These lands continue to carry these stories of these nations and their struggles for survival and identity. As a member of the University of Illinois, Urban-Champaign, I take the responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of this possession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. I wanted to just quickly show what our program is for today. We will begin with a few welcome and introductory remarks followed by two panels, and then have a short break before we do the 31st Annual Mortenson Distinguish Lecture. So I'd like to begin by asking John Wilkin, who is Juanita and Robert Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, Here at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to do a welcome.

- Thank you, Clara. I wanna say greetings and welcome to all who join us from across the globe. It's wonderful to be here, even if it's only virtual, I look forward to this being an in-person event soon. It's my distinct pleasure to mark the special occasion, which was made possible by C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson. The Mortensons endowed the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, as well as making an initial generous gift establishing the Mortenson Distinguished Professorship. I would also like to thank and recognize the Mortenson children, Ray and Kip Mortenson, and their families who continue to follow and encourage the work of the center. The center was founded with the leadership of University Librarian, Robert Wedgeworth and Library Development Director, Joan Hood, 30 years ago, Bob and Joan are with us right now. And I wanna say thank you again to both of you. Bob, it's fantastic to be able to follow in your footsteps. Joan, to benefit from your great work. The center has been since directed by Mortensons Distinguished Professors, Marianna Tax Choldin, Barbara J. Ford, Paula Kaufman and now, Clara M. Chu. With noteworthy contributions by Associate Director, Susan Schnuer. Their work along with the work of their staff and partners has demonstrably realized the Mortenson's vision. As the Mortenson's said, "Librarians sharing information is one of the shortest and surest paths to world peace." As the only center of its kind in the world, the Mortenson Center has raised close to 3 million in grant funds to develop capacity and transform libraries. 79% of the librarians and other information professionals who have attended the center's Signature Associates Program and other programs, believe that as a result of their time in the Mortenson Center, their library is more prepared to serve users. 70% of these individuals introduced a new tool, service or resource as a result of their or training, and one in three went on to take leadership roles in professional networks. You will have a chance to hear from some of these librarians in today's 30th Anniversary forum. Here, at the University of Illinois library, our staff have benefited from their interactions with international librarians who have come to our campus allowing us to gain a comparative and global understanding of librarianship. We are all truly connected. Some of us have had the fortune, the good fortune to travel with the Mortenson team in their partnership activities and projects where we have shared our expertise, and we have learned from

librarians in other countries. The engagement has resulted in new insights, collaborations and friendships. The center continues its leadership development and partnership programs with recent and future work focusing on advancing community and sustainable development in libraries, including emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence. I hope you enjoy today's program where you will hear about this work. I also invite you to stay and listen to the second half of the Anniversary Program, the 31st Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture on Engineering Change and the Power of Information, Otherness, Exclusion, Propaganda, Dislocation, by Dr. Agnes Kaposi, engineer, educator, Holocaust survivor and author. Followed by a conversation moderated by Dr. Valerie J. Matsumoto, Professor & George and Sakaye Aratani Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community at UCLA. I wish to conclude with congratulations to Marianna Tax Choldin, Barbara Ford, Paula Kaufman, and Clara Chu, and, of course, Susan Schnuer for the great success of the Mortenson Center and their work to help realize the vision of C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson. Thank you very, very much.

- Thank you, John, for those welcome remarks. And now I like to invite another person that has been instrumental in the work of the Mortenson Center. And I like for Joan Hood, retired Director of Development and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Library, to please say a few words about the Mortenson and the center.

- Thank you, Clara. Good morning, and greetings to everyone on the webinar. Walter Mortenson was a chemist, a lawyer, a book collector, a traveler, and a person who wanted to improve the world situation. His wife, Gerda, a retired nurse and educator gave him her full support. When I first contacted Walter in the mid 1980s, he had not been back to the Urbana-Champaign campus since his graduation in 1937. We arranged a personal campus visit that coincided with a library academic program, featuring Russian scholars. Hugh Atkinson was head of the University Library, and Marianna Tax Choldin, head of the Slavic and East European Library. Over the next couple years, as Walter came to know us and the library better, we developed Walter's idea for a program that would empower librarians worldwide to improve communication and to promote international education, understanding and peace. In 1986, Walter and Gerda decided to fund the Mortenson Professorship for International Library Programs with a gift of \$2 million. Marianna was selected to be the first Mortenson professor. The inaugural distinguished lecture was presented by renowned librarian of Congress, James Billington, who spoke to a large audience in Foellinger Auditorium on the quad. As the program successfully grew, attracting librarians from many countries to learn about new technologies and improved library methods, the Mortensons expanded the professorship to create with a second \$2 million gift, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs in 1991. The librarians who came to the University of Illinois for the program were already leaders in their communities, but they wanted to learn new skills to further their impact. I always taught a seminar on fundraising and public affairs, subjects quite new to many of them. Often they would come to my office to say goodbye before leaving for home. One in particular remains in my mind, the head of a major library in Hyderabad, India, visited me before his return. Excited about the information he gained and the technical equipment he had already ordered for his library. He said, quote, "Joan, when the Mortensons made their gift to the University of Illinois, they really gave it to the world." I immediately telephoned Walter in Delaware to share those powerful words. Now, 30 years later, librarians from nearly 100 countries have traveled to Urbana to gain new strengths. Under the strong

leadership of three past directors, Marianna, Barbara Ford, Interim Director, Paula Kaufman, and now our current Director, Clara, the program has truly impacted the world. Walter and Gerda would be thrilled with the direction and scope of their gift and idea. Thank you.

- Thank you, Joan, for those welcome and introductory remarks and telling us the background about the Mortensons. And now I would like to share a few words from our directors who some are here and some were not able to be here. So I will start off with some remarks from Marianna Tax Choldin. And she says, I'm delighted to celebrate with you the 30th Anniversary of the Mortenson Center and the 31st Anniversary of the Mortenson Distinguished Professorship. How wonderful to be together even though I can't be with you in person. There's nothing good about COVID, but one of the few positive things about this pandemic is that it has forced us to discover ways to be together remotely. I can't tell you how proud I am of our colleagues here, and around the world for making the Mortenson Center, a place to gather, to learn, and to realize the dream that Walter Mortenson and his family envision. That librarians everywhere might connect and resolutely take steps through education and cooperation toward peace in the world. My heartfelt thanks to my colleagues who succeeded me as director of the center and as the Mortenson Professor, Barbara Ford, Paula Kaufman, and Clara Chu, and to our longtime Associate Director, Susan Schnuer, indispensable to us all. A very special thanks to all the Mortenson Associates who joined in our work from over 100 of their own countries who worked so hard and with such great success, past and present, you fill our hearts with joy, my best wishes to you all, and may you thrive and continue your good work. And now I would like to invite Barbara Ford to say a few words. Oh, Barbara, I think you're muted.

- Yes, such a pleasure to reconnect with colleagues, and friends here on this wonderful celebration of a truly unique organization. So many lives have been changed by the work that has been done at the Mortenson Center. Lives of people in libraries, in the United States, and in a hundred countries around the world, and also the lives of our users. The people that we serve in our libraries through the interchanges that we've had, new services have been introduced, and people have had the opportunity to learn from one another and share their expertise. It's truly a remarkable organization. Libraries are around the world have been changed. People's lives have been changed. Librarians have taken on new roles, new services, and sought new opportunities to serve their users. I want to thank everyone who's been involved with the center. It take village. Many of our colleagues here in Illinois and at the university were involved in teaching and training roles. We could not have done it without them. Our colleagues around the world who were willing to share their expertise and let us learn from them, brought so much to the program. So thank you to everyone. It's been a wonderful, wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to what will happen in the next 30 years.

- Wonderful. Thank you, Barbara. And now I'd like to continue and share some remarks from Paula Kaufman. More than 30 years ago, Walter and Gerda Mortenson envisioned a university library center led by distinguished library professor and dedicate it to promoting international education, understanding and peace through innovative programming and creative activities. Thanks to the good work of University Librarian, Robert Wedgeworth and Library Development Head, Joan Hood. The center

became a reality 30 years ago. Throughout the ensuing decades, the center led first by Marianna Tax Choldin, then Barbara J. Ford, and now Clara Chu with Susan Schnuer making truly significant contributions has succeeded in fulfilling the Mortenson stream. Today, it stands as its unique world renowned source of global library leadership development, and as one of the major strengths of the University Library, the Mortenson Associates Program stands of the heart of the center's work. If a generation is 25 years long, we are now in the second generation of Mortenson Associates. The first of over 1,300 associates from over 90 countries has set a high standard of achievements throughout the world that I'm confident the second generation will exceed, but the Associates Program is just one of its impactful programs. The centers long established lecture series its partnerships with other libraries, library associations, foundations, and other organizations, and more recent programs such as Strengthening Innovative Library Leaders, Libraries for Peace, Community Library Interaction Project, and Project Welcome ensure that Walter and Gerda Mortenson's vision will continue to be fulfilled. It has been my privilege to be able to support the center's work during my tenure as university librarian and to serve as interim director as the capstone of my career at the University of Illinois. Best wishes for continuing success. So thank you, Paula, for those words. And now I like to share some remarks from Susan Schnuer. Over 30 years ago, C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson gave two gifts to the University Library. One to create a distinguished professorship position and the other to create a center that will promote international education, understanding and peace with libraries around the world. Marianna Tax Choldin, the first distinguished Mortenson professor had the daunting task of translating the Mortenson's vision into reality. And I had the privilege of being part of the beginning. It was clear that the work of the center would focus on librarians, and over the years, capacity building of international librarians became the primary work of the center. We started the Associates Program, which brought librarians to the University of Illinois library to experience, practice, and trends in US libraries. However, the center's work was not limit to programs at the university. With funding from many foundations, the center staff engaged in projects in Central America, Russia, Haiti, Vietnam, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, and Bhutan, just to name a few locations. These projects were successful because they were co-developed and implement it with local partners. The true experts on the library situation in their countries. Over the past 30 years, the Mortenson Center has established a worldwide reputation for excellence in professional development. This reputation is due in large part to the leadership of talented directors over the years, to the willingness of our colleagues and university librarians to support center activities, to our amazing international partners who guided us. And finally, to foundations that support the work of the center around the world. It is a good time to reflect on and celebrate 30 years of achievements. It is also a time to pause and think about the next 30 years. The international library landscape has transformed over 30 years. Innovation, excellent library practices, new technologies are no longer just a purview of the Global North. The role of the Mortenson Center will evolve to address new challenges and deliver programs that are not necessarily based on location or the work in the United States. I look forward to hearing about changes and successes as the center moves forward. I would like to end these short remarks with my thanks for working with great directors and for co-creating amazing projects with many colleagues and friends around the world. We have shared many laughs, a few tears, and most of all have worked together to make a difference in libraries. May the center continue to bring international education, understanding, and peace to libraries around the world. So thank you to all our past directors for their remarks, and I look forward to continuing this work that remains ahead and join you all in celebrating the 30 years of the Mortenson Center, and we look forward to the 30 years ahead. And in thinking about that work, then I would like for us to start the next

part of the program, which is to have the Transformational Leadership Panel moderated by Barbara J. Ford.

- It's a pleasure to get to share some ideas with some wonderful kind colleagues from around the world. This will be a panel discussion, and I've got some questions that I will use to speak with our six colleagues. The people that are with us today, all outstanding librarians and colleagues. First of all, Abeer Al-Kuwari, who's the Director of Research and Learning Services at the Qatar National Library. Elizabeth Pierre-Louis Augustin, who's is the Program Director at FOKAL, the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté in Haiti. Svetlana Gorokhova, who's the Academic Secretary of the Mayakovsky City Library, Adviser of the Library of Foreign Literature and Russian Library Association Board Member. We also have Ramon Masis Rojas, who's Director of the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Costa Rica. Karen M. Tyrell, Reference Librarian at the University of West India in Mona, Jamaica. She was one of the winners of our Susan Schnuer Associates Leadership Honor Award, which is something we established when Susan retired. And the sixth person is Helen Emasealu, who's Associate Professor and Acting Head of the Department of Librarian Information Science and University Librarian Elect at the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria. She also is a winner of the Susan Schnuer Associates Leadership Honor Award. So it's a pleasure to be able to talk with these colleagues, and I have questions that I will ask them. The first question I would like everyone to answer, and then following that, I will just ask certain people questions. So the first question is, what was your experience at the Mortenson Center and what have been some of the benefits or impacts from this experience? And I think since we're in a library group, we'll just go alphabetically on that one. So Abeer, would you like to begin?

- Thank you, Barbara. Thank you so much, and thank you for inviting me for this amazing celebration. I just would like to add that I do remember Barbara when you were at Qatar at the UCL Qatar.

- [Barbara] Right, right.

- And you were the one who introduced me to this amazing program. How can I describe it? Amazing as I've said. One of the most benefits that I have from this program is the connection with fellow librarians from around the world and addition to gaining confidence into driving the change and the library sector on Qatar and establishing the library association as well on Qatar as a result of my education at UCL, Qatar information and science studies. In addition to being at the Mortenson with this amazing experience. I think, you know, having this confidence that anything is, is possible. We're not afraid to ask, connecting with each other to learn from each other is always good. And I'm happy to see day that until today, I have connections with my fellow associates from all over the world, from Jamaica, from Costa Rica, from India. And we do always collaborate and communicate with each other as if we are living in the same country by WhatsApp and all these social media connections. Again, I want to emphasize that the connection with fellow librarians is the most important thing to learn from each other, to know about the up-to-date trends in the library sector, to make sure that we have accessibility to knowledge and information for our users.

- Thank you. Elizabeth.

- Hello, it's really a pleasure to be invited on this panel. My first encounter with the Mortenson was in 1997.

- [Barbara] Wow.

- So I knew all of the past directors, so it's such a pleasure to hear their words. The foundation where I work is part of the Open Society Foundations network. So they used to have a library program and to that library program we were informed about our nascent library program within the foundation. And we took three trainers, I was part of the first team, and then there were other three other teams also who benefited from this training and then on a personal level, being exposed to this three month training in 1997, being a able also to understand how association life is important for librarian. I was able to receive a Fulbright Scholarship to come and do my master's degree at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and that was amazing also. And I was also able to volunteer at the Mortenson Center. For me, it was a great experience also to find out new associates and then guide them and take them to tours of the campus. It was wonderful for me also. So I benefited as an associate, as a volunteer, and also afterwards, as a librarian, I was invited to do the 2009 Mortenson Distinguished Lecture also. So that was amazing for me as well. I keep in touch, I keep in touch as much as I can, but one thing I know also is that being involved in the professional association life was extremely important for me. And I was president of the Regional Association 2016, Barbara came in 2012 when I was part of the local organizing committee. And this is things that are really amazing for me, that such esteem professional that are so busy, you call them, and if they come, they help you. Susan Schnuer was my keynote speaker in 2016, also in Haiti, and being able to have these relationships and having also them as mentors has been extremely important for me. And since February 2021, I'm Executive Secretary also of the Caribbean Regional Association named ACURIL. So all of this for me, was started in 1997 when I was associate then. Thank you.

- Thank you. Svetlana. I'd love to hear from you, Svetlana.

- Yeah, I'm just trying to switch on the sound.

- Okay, yeah, I know the technology is challenging.

- Hello, everyone, so glad to see so many familiar and non-familiar faces. So it's a great pleasure for me. Great honor to be part of this panel. So my encounter actually starts even before the center was launched, because Marianna Tax Choldin became distinguished professor first and she was a great, and she's still a great friend of the Library of Foreign Literature where I worked for more than 30 years. And actually when the center was launched, the first visit of Ray and his wife, Jean Mortenson was to Russia and to our libraries. So this is from where we found out about what are the plans for the centers activity, since the end we had all kind of, and all forms of collaboration. I think at first, of course, when the Soviet country opened up, the Soviet Union opened, and it was, like the Mortenson Center was a great channel for us to go out and to absorb the information about what was happening in the rest of the world. Yeah, outside our iron curtain. And that's why we are very grateful that it happens through these capable and loving hands and considerate thoughts of our colleagues from the Mortenson Center. We used to have and still have a custom made professional development programs, and it's a great experience. The first thing we found out about management and marketing in the cultural sphere were all picked up from the Mortenson Center programs, elevator speech and all other things. There was very new for us. About the latest things I would mention, a special group of youth librarians back in 2013 when 27 specialists, library directors, and project managers came to Urbana-Champaign. Then in 2015, we had a community engagement group. In 2017, and this is very available experience for head of group of LIS students from high school of Illinois University, visiting with Ellen Knutson through the exchange program, supported by the Mortenson Center. That was a great experience for us to hear about their projects and research. And, of course, I hope for them as well, because this, did some rural libraries in Russia, which is I think not like an everyday experience for them. I also like to mention that Dr. Chu is now part of, a member of the American Delegation of US-Russia Library Dialogue and we are gonna have our next meeting online unfortunately in December this year. So all in all, I would like to say that I think Susan mentioned it in her remarks that building capacity like forming and strengthening the leaders, library leaders around the world. This is the essence of activities of the Mortenson Center. And I mean, even if you count only on the Mortenson Center, it's done such a great change over the years in 100 countries around the world. So thank you for that. It was a great experience and I hope we will continue.

- Thank you very much. Ramon is next.

- Thank you. Well, first for me, it's a pleasure to be part of this panel, coordinating to my colleague on this panel. I want to thank the Mortenson Center for the invitation, thank important activity and wonderful panel. So I was in the Mortenson Center in 2014, is a wonderful experience. The program allowed me to learn about different trend in libraries. For example, in public libraries, learn about technology. How is the library applying the technology, for example. But I think the most important thing that I be able to learn is the relationship or the connection to other colleagues, professional for other countries, and learn about the culture. For example, I remembered we talk about food, clothes, holiday tradition, sport, and many more topic. I think is an holistic experience. Be part of the program of the Mortenson Center. Also other benefit that I have in the Mortenson program was share my experience with other colleagues in Costa Rica. For example, this time after 2014, three other Costa Rica professional have been participating in the other program. We hope, for example, that in the 2022, two other professor be able to join the program. I think this is a great experience. I really recommend it to

other colleagues and also, not only I learn about academic information that is important to learn about personal information and culture around the world and reconnect with other colleagues around the world because we can work together, we can work like a team, work in different kind of topics like libraries or not libraries. I think this is my idea.

- Thank you very much. Karen is next.

- Hello, good afternoon, everyone. Karen Tyrell, I'm from Jamaica. Well, working at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. One of the premises that you are always encouraged to see continued professional development. So I went online and I was searching for some development course to attend, and I came upon the Mortenson Library Program, so that's how I found out about it. So I applied and I was accepted. I didn't even know that one of my colleagues had originally gone on this program, that's Yolanda. Okay, and since that we had another colleague that went on this program. So when I came, it was very warm. The personnel at the Mortenson, they were very warm. They were very welcoming. And the staff made you feel relaxed, I was not afraid to ask questions. It was like a close knit family. So the experience I had was a very rewarding one. Some of the benefits I learned from this program was a lot of them have been mentioned, I was able to network with persons. I was exposed to new cutting edge technology, such as 3D, 3D imaging. We learned about grant writing. We did work plan, new technology. It was an eye opener for me coming from a like a least developed country. And right now we have, I have experienced a friendship with some of these ladies from Zambia, Nigeria, and we are still in touch. I even have them on my phone. There are click away, right? And we talk a lot. So yeah, so the experience was very good. It was very good for me, yeah. And there are certain things that I was able to do from this program. I was able to complete a LibGuide 'cause we had a LibGuide session. I created a work plan where we had steps. I came back home and I put that plan into action. And just last year, I was able to create additional study space by repurposing the basement, and that was all based on my work plan. So it has really impacted my moving forward in this profession and encouraging others to seek out professional development. I have certainly been trying to get persons to come on this program where they can experience, have that experience that I had, yeah.

- Thank you very much. Helen, are you with us? I know you're having some connection problems due to rain.

- I'm with you now.

- Excellent, good.

- Thank you very much, Barbara. First, I'd like to thank the Mortenson Center under the leadership of Clara Chu for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion. Yes, it's been a wonderful time.

Actually, when I got the invite, I asked myself, what am I going to say at this forum? Because there's so much really to say. I recall when I applied for this Mortenson Training Program in 2019, just by chance, I was looking for something else, and I saw this call for applications. And I said, why not try this? It could be a place for me to actually develop myself. I recall also at the time, I was practicing in the main library as the academic library in my institution of heading the public services where I did a lot of interaction with the public and faculty members. And I knew I needed to develop myself in leadership area, because I saw the overwhelming population that now was handling. So as soon as I applied, that was 2018, I was immediately deployed. So I had the library school and I asked myself, oh, this is a sort of a new school and a smaller population. How am I going to handle this new environment? Even though, as then, I didn't know, I will get my application will be successful. So it came and I was in the libraries too, and I found myself in two world because I had aspired that I should want to be at the leadership of the library. So I took it all the same. And I said to myself, why not? If the opportunity for leadership firm, it's going to be of immense benefits. And so I came on the program and it was indeed rewarding because a next amazing group of librarians from across the world and great experts. And, of course, Barbara, you're one of them, I met a lot of resource persons that took us around the various types of libraries. I saw as a glance that librarianship is really about libraries, people, institutions, and the resources for the betterment of humanity. So I took the opportunity. I like to say that I got a lot of exposure, particularly to technology, how technology, modern technology, as we've deployed greatly for the advancement of knowledge, particularly in the US, my interaction with experts there, the value of information, no matter how old I actually saw it in the area of preservation and found vision, and that was very key to me. It gave me a lot of opportunity too, to broaden my knowledge in management, in terms of managing people, managing projects, managing personnel, particularly in an academic level, which sometimes can be very tasking, and it gave me a lot of exposure in that regard. And I said to myself, this I must take home, at least I can put them to practice in the library school where I was then, working as acting head of department. And upon my return to Nigeria, it gave me an opportunity to interact more with my students by inspiring them, mentoring them. I saw, I got a lot of, you know, experience on mentorship when I was at the center and I utilized it at least sufficiently to be able to reach out to my students, to tell them the importance of developing themselves, learning independently and to be self-reliant and to appreciate the value of information. Importantly to ask one of my leadership exposure that actually gave me a lot of confidence that when the opportunity arises, I could actually move to my next level, which was what prompted me to put in my application for the university librarianship position, which came up and the knowledge I got from Mortenson Center gave me a lot of confidence to be able to put a robust strategic plan of what I consider, should be done in the library to move it forward to the next level, which is where we are right now. And I saw that advocacy play a lot of role in attracting users to library resources. And in that document, I have actually done something that I think, with all confidence, I should be able to deliver when I assume office, as the investing librarian come January 2022, I like to show off the document here, and this was actually a great selling point where I competed for that position. A rich document that has given me a plan, plan of action all into my training, my experience from the Mortenson Center, exposure on how to draw a strategic plan and plan of action for whatever you need to do as a librarian. And I have a lot of connection. I actually, got the opportunity to be involved in the WLIC virtual program on the development in revision of the standards by IFLA, which I'm currently a part of. I want to say thank you to the center for the opportunity, giving me a best regard, no regrets at all. Thank you very much.

- Thank you. Six inspirational leaders from around the world. It's so wonderful to hear from you and to have been able to learn from you and share our expertise. We don't have a lot of time left, but I have one final question I'd like you to respond to. And that is how can the Mortenson Center continue to advance its mission and contribute to library and information needs in your region? So how about if we start with Helen, and let's keep these responses brief because we don't have a lot of time, unfortunately. So Helen.

- Thank you very much, Barbara. I think that in Mortenson Center could actually advance this mission in my region, in the area of training, training more associate to advance leadership in librarianship, because leadership at any type of library is very important. Leadership set pace, set the stage. and when you set is right as a leader, your followers are bound to take the lead and follow with.

- Thank you. Karen.

- Okay, thank you Barbara for that. Well, yes, I actually looked at that question. I jot down some points where it includes all the Mortenson can continue to advance its mission and contribute to library information is in my region, Jamaica, I looked at training. Training and using some of the softwares that we are not able to buy, who can grant writing, so that we can apply and get some grant to buy these software. So training is very important. Also looking at trends and issue, I was looking at the trends and issues that are trending now. We spoke to intellectual freedom, privacy building 21st century skills, we need that, we definitely need building 21st century skills to expand our knowledge so that we can offer the services to our students, submit them more fluent, more efficient in accessing online resources, versus I having a lot of difficulty, especially now that we're online in accessing our resources and we have to be online trying to help them to navigate 'cause they're frustrated, you know, and if they're frustrated, we're gonna be frustrated and we don't want that. So training more, training, training, training. Thank you.

- Than you.

- Yeah.

- Thank you. Karen. No Ramon, sorry. Ramon.

- Okay, so I think the Mortenson Center need to continue with the training of all the countries in Latin America, for example, also maybe why not teach a program in Spanish. We know that in Latin American country, we have the difficult to speak in English, other program is the budget, for example, for the power of the program, but maybe with other scholarship or this kind of topic we can, our librarians can

participate more in the program. Also, for example, in topics that we can include or you can include in the program is now we talk a lot about co-creation about co-innovation, co-democracy, or open innovation, open democracy, maybe this kind of topic that could be included in the program.

- Thank you.

- Thank you.

- Thank you very, very much. Svetlana.

- Okay, hello, hello. I'd like to combine probably there was another question about international needs and I think that the needs of every country is actually the same as the international as part of it. So these topics that might be of interest from my point of view would be, of course, you started this conversation already libraries and you and SDGs. I think it's a great prospect and you can talk about each of the SDGs, it encompasses everything, since the libraries need to talk about it more and more, then are probably some research on how the role of the libraries and perception of this role changed recently during the pandemic. But also, I think these changes started even before that, because for example, in Russia, the government is allocating grand sums of money for the national project called Culture, this renovation, modernization of the libraries. And I know that in the United States also, there was an additional funding allocated for that. So it's an interesting fact, and I think it'll be interesting to see why it is happening right now, then future of the professionals, as Ramon mentioned already what is changing when new qualification, but also the name of the profession, because like we have a roster of professions and people said, we're gonna delete librarians from the professions like in 5 or 10 years. So the big discussion began in our country and I'm sure it would be interesting to see the international aspect of that. Motivation for life, long learning is a very important and here, we can do something with IFLA CPDWL guidelines you are aware of that, Barbara, I'm sure. I also would look into 20 trends defined by emerging library leaders and mentioned by IFLA President, Barbara Lison, because like emerging library leaders indicated 20 trends of the development of library field. And I think it would be interesting to see the national dimension of them, whether they're relevant or this very country and this very library community. On a more practical basis, I would suggest just think about this joint face-to-face custom made professional development programs. I hope it will happen in reality. And then final thing, I would like to mention, and for the Mortenson Center to become one of the launching institution for the US chapter of the US-Russia Library Dialogue So all these topics can be digested by this US chapter. So we would like it to be like a separate working group to ensure that alliance students exchange and all other things. Thank you very much.

- Thank you. Very good ideas. Elizabeth.

- Great ideas. I just wanted to mention that it seems to me in our regional, and I don't know how it is in the other parts of the world that were as you see a more bigger representation of university librarians, there's less representation about public libraries and smaller community libraries that don't get as much visibility or as much funding, and maybe the voices are not as heard, whereas they have a great world. So I think that we should, I know the Mortenson Center works specifically in Haiti with these libraries already, and I think that's a great trend to continue because they kind of disappear within the framework of professional librarians. The other thing I wanted to talk about is grant making, and I think it's really crucial. We need to find the pockets of money and maybe because we need the profession to be more visible and maybe change the focus about how libraries are presented and are working to be able to access other pockets of money that are not necessarily traditionally for librarians, but that can completely fit within the SDGs for quality education. Thank you

- Okay, thank you. Abeer.

- So my colleagues almost covered all the topics which are international needs, as my colleagues mentioned. I would rather propose that a new approach that the Mortenson can take is to utilize us as associates to be ambassadors for the Mortenson Center in our regions. I know that based on my connections and my discussion with younger leaders, I see them registering and applying to go to the Mortenson Center. So I think maybe this can be put in a more concrete plan where we act as ambassadors and we identify the needs of our regions with the Mortenson Center. So we can make sure that the needs for librarians around the world are covered.

- Thank you very much. What a fascinating panel. You all have such wonderful ideas, and I'm sorry, we don't have more time to talk longer, but thank you for your important input. And I look forward to hearing future ideas in other formats. So thank you very much. I think we move to the next panel now.

- Thank you, Barbara, for facilitating that rich dialogue. And we thank also our panelists for their participation and contributions. Many of you mentioned participating in the Associates Program. So for the 30th Anniversary, we have created two maps. One, a historical one, and then the other one, where we're inviting you as Mortenson alumni or other participants from the alumni, from the Mortenson programs to add your profile to the map and use that information on the corner of the slide, as well as you can go to our website to add yourself to the map. And so now I'd like to transition to the next panel. The next panel will focus on 30 years and beyond, how can we continue to do our work, not only to promote leadership, but to respond to the challenge of the United Nations, which is to advance sustainable development. And in our case, we also want to think about how this contributes to the people who are impacted. So in this panel, we're going to focus on community and sustainable development. And before introducing the panel, then I wanted to note that IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions has been a leader doing some of this work and sharing information on how librarian information professionals, we can be doing work to advance the United Nations sustainable development goals. So these 17 goals, which the work started in 2015

approved, and the work started in 2016, then there's an urgent need to address this because we have until the year 2030. So now less than a decade. So the United Nations has prompted us, has called for us to move forward and work on ensuring we can achieve these goals in this last decade. And so I'd like to share with you some of our thoughts from the Mortenson Center. Yes, continue. The United Nations has launched a decade of action to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a blueprint to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. I call on the community of information specialists, researchers and educators to join in the global effort to overcome poverty and inequality, tackle the climate crisis, empower women and girls, and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, free of discrimination and hate, in harmony with nature. To build a better future for all, we need information to bring awareness to the issues, knowledge to design solutions and data to monitor accountability. United and information, let's act together to meet the goals. So with that context as an introduction, I would like each of our panelists, I'm going to introduce them one by one to just briefly describe the project or collaboration that they have with the Mortenson Center and the center's contribution to the collaboration and/or benefits of working with the Mortenson Center. So I'd like to start first, by inviting Steve, who's Associate Professor and Head of the International & Area Studies Library and Director of the Center for Global Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Steve.

- Thank you, Clara. Can everybody hear me?

- Yes.

- Great. Thanks for inviting me to share some words to the group. It's really exciting to be a part of this 30 years anniversary. Within Center for Global Studies, we've worked with the Mortenson Center since the center was founded in 2003, and it's always been our pleasure to support the Mortenson lecture series. And we've also worked in collaboration with many of the other programs and projects of the Mortenson Center over the years. For example, we've been helping not only with the lecture series, but also with activities like services for refugee communities and linking Mortenson Center to community colleges that we work with. Similarly, that International and Area Studies Library has had a long collaboration with Mortenson Center, really predating the establishment of our library. Barbara Ford was very important to establishing International and Area Studies Library as a unit when she was director of Mortenson Center, and many of our faculty in the library work very closely with the Mortenson Associate Program, giving lectures in the program and also doing the fun work of helping to co-host the associates. And I think that's one of the more memorable activities within the Mortenson Center that we all enjoy, is making friendships and learning from our colleagues from around the world. So thank you very much for allowing to share this information.

- [Clara] Thank you, Steve. Now I'd like to invite, Kate Williams. We have done a lot of work with the School of Information Sciences, and so I know that many of our colleagues are joining us today online,

and I'd like to acknowledge and all thank them, but I'd like to have Kate Williams to talk a little bit about some of the collaborations.

- [Kate] Yeah, I'm gonna limit myself to one, because it's the one that Clara and I talk the most about. We do have a long history between the school and Mortenson, but what I'm gonna talk about is the mini talk series. I put the link to it in the chat in case anyone wants to follow that link that's there on the slide. So for five years, Clara and I have have planned out and hosted the mini talks, which are 15 minutes of presentation, 15 minutes of conversation equals 30 minutes of learning, and we were one of the first users of Zoom on campus. And that was very much because our library school started in the '90s doing online education. So we had a lot of experience with how to work remote, and it's important to think about this now because the whole world has begun to learn now in the last two years with the pandemic how to do this. We're all Zooming. This program of mini talks was linked from the beginning to one of the required courses in a library program, libraries information of society. So it always had a very strong orientation towards the social concerns that libraries address. Over these five years, we've hosted 83 talks. The second thing I have to say is remarkable, and comes from the partnership with Mortenson, they have been in English and in Spanish. Next thing is that 40% of the speakers have come from outside the US, and 30% of those from Latin America. And this is really important because as we say, coming out of the civil rights movement in the United States, each one teach one. So we, in the United States have a lot to learn from librarians and scholars elsewhere in all different directions. We can all say that that's true of our countries and other countries that we interact with. Finding the speakers, we have relied on many sources, but among them has been Mortenson's really strong network, and we really do feel, and I feel hearing what's being said today that the associate can teach us all, and we need to rely, continue to rely really heavily on Mortenson's strong network. And the last thing I'll say about the 17 sustainable development goals is that, this current semester, the mini talks has focused on climate. And as a result, we got a crash course in what libraries and librarians are already doing on climate emergency. And this is so important because there's a lot of, we just haven't had the chance to learn this and it's on us and we have to get with it. We have to embrace it as part of what we do, as changing what we do. So I'm very excited to be at this event and honored to represent my school here and look forward to more years of collaboration with Mortenson.

- [Clara] Thank you, Kate. And I also wish the same in terms of being able to collaborate with you all. So now I will have Zoraida Mendiwelo-Bendek, a Senior Research Fellow in Citizenship at the Lincoln International Business School in the UK. Talk about Community-Library Inter-Action, or CLIA.

- Thank you, Clara. Congratulations to the Mortenson Center. And thank you for the invitation. It is a pleasure to be with you today. It has been a remarkable process the work the Lincoln University has been doing with Mortenson Center. In a way that synchronization from the different knowledge, production and research activities that the two universities had been doing in the last decades, had been creating a new program that have the same aims and the aims are focused in where is the knowledge production, how we can facilitate and enabling a communities and vulnerable people, marginalized communities to produce, and to articulate very own knowledge for a social transformation.

And now more than ever, it's very important in the sustainable development goals to think very carefully how we can enable local knowledge. What we have called the epistemic knowledge and how we trust reality, a community based activities and community based projects. In that way, we have developed clear that is something that is how we are connecting communities and libraries, but at the same time, without working for the communities, but working with the communities. And that has been the mantra and is a very clear process of, as Ramon was saying, is co-production knowledge working together, and in a new paradigm that the universities are very clear in the position to work together with communities to produce sustainable knowledge and practice. And in that sense, we have been doing that with CLIA, and it has been remarkable process. We have been learning a lot, when we are working with communities, we are now doing something different than learning. It's a remarkable knowledge that communities have, that we need to learn together, to see how we are using sustainable change for social transformation. So thank you very much for taking me today and a remarkable whole work that Mortenson Center has been doing in all these times. Congratulations.

- [Clara] Thank you, Zoraida, for the opportunity to collaborate together with you. And now I would like to invite Sarah Currie Mansbach, Chair of the Board of Directors of Partners in Literacy Haiti to talk about some of the work that the center has been doing with PILH. Sarah, we're not able to hear you.

- It's a privilege to be here among all of you, prestigious librarians. I am a reading specialist who happens to be very passionate about the need for libraries in rural communities. We enhance literacy with children and families in Haiti. We work with them, support them, in developing community and libraries and learning centers, which is something that Elizabeth alluded to before. We have collaborated with experts from international and Haitian organizations and universities, but we have never collaborated with anyone as wonderful as Clara Chu. Clara Chu is the most, one of the most passionate people I have ever met in the profession of library science. And she has a wonderful talent for meeting a group at the need level that they have and nurturing that need. Through her work with us, she has helped us to establish a strategic plan for our nonprofit and found ways to make that a stronger and a more assured individual organization. We have spent a great deal of time working on the Haiti Libraries Alliance, which we work with Clara on offering once a month to independent libraries in Haiti that are in remote areas. We have contacted potential libraries for the Haitian Library Alliance for 2/3 of the year prior to our first meeting, surveyed all the interested libraries we could identify, to try to do a needs assessment of what they wanted to support, and then we shared with them report on their findings. Now we are working as a collaborative with Mortenson Center and another one of our stronger Haitian organizations to hold these monthly meetings. We have a lot of material that has been introduced to us by Clara. She's advised us on many of our library development activities, and we are hoping that that interactive participation with FOKAL and stakeholders who are interested in Haiti and development of libraries in Haiti will continue. She continues to play a mentoring role for us. She's connected us online to a variety of library prototypes in developing nations and webinar resources. She is in a sentence, she's simply been indispensable to us.

- [Clara] Thank you, Sarah. You're too kind. What has been wonderful from the Mortenson Center perspective is being able to truly connect at the multilingual level. The monthly meetings that we have of the Haiti Library Alliance is teaching us how feasible or how we can address the challenges of holding meetings where the speakers are English, Creole, and French speakers. And so it's been a wonderful learning experience, and we hope that the work continues to enrich us all. So now I'd like to invite Dania Bilal, Professor at the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. And she is the Principal Investigator of the IDEA Institute on Artificial Intelligence.

- Muted, okay. Yes, I just unmuted myself. Yes, hello, everyone. Thank you, Clara, for this opportunity to get to know everyone who is, yes, who is helping or collaborating with the Mortenson Center. As Clara mentioned, I'm a professor at the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. And my first collaboration was the Mortenson Center. Although, for sure, I knew about the center for long time, and I also met, I don't know if Barbara remembers me, but I met Barbara Ford at the Lebanese Library Association 2010, and we talked also about the Mortenson Center and we met in Beirut, by the way. So it's good to see you again here. So we collaborated on the IDEA Institute on Artificial Intelligence and IDEA stands for Innovation, Disruption, Enquiry, and Access. And this project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It's a two-year project, and the main goal is to provide the one week intensive, innovative, and evidence based education program for library and information professionals, Mainly who are actually working full time in the United States. And this project is, we are in the second year now. Our first year was very successful, and we graduated actually, or we gave certificates in July to 17 fellows who participated in this program 15 of those were funded by IMLS, and they had this assistantship, and two others, one is a faculty member at one of the universities, and another person is also self-funded. With this, what we did, actually, it contributed a lot to many things that we, not only to education, but also to providing equality and contributing to the diversity, equity, and inclusion. These are areas that Clara was a leader in that area. Clara's experience has really made significant contribution to the whole new project, but specifically to programming project management. And I emphasize more diversity, equity, and inclusion and actually recruiting in selecting people because this project was the applications for this IMLS was open to everyone who has a full-time position in the United States and who are working full-time in a library, different library, diverse library and information environments, diverse positions. We worked very hard on this, to have all these representations, and we did. So we're really very, very glad to, and also very happy and we appreciate, when we say we, it's myself, who's the PI, also Soo Young Rieh, who is the co-PI, and we appreciate Clara's expertise. So that's we, all three of us is like one person. She has made significant contribution to the success of the project, to all the activities that we have planned, and also all the events that we have provided so far. Now, we provided actually one of the impact of this project is that we started the first curriculum, including on AI, artificial intelligence for library and information professionals. These topics include like what's AI, AI challenges and opportunities, the impact of AI, the value and ethical concerns, how do we start with the project planning in AI. We use the user centered design perspective and also applications, where do you go for data? What data do you need to apply AI in the workplace and in different areas like in technical services and public services and user services and so on. How we prepare? You prepare for the data and also the data of various AI tools and solutions that are available on the market and how to evaluate these and what to select for what library based on, where the fellows are. We also offered the Machine Learning and coding training, and we talked about Voice

Digital Assistants and how to program Voice Digital Assistants in libraries, in general. But for specifically focusing on the libraries where the fellows are. So this has resulted in lots of success, and the students now are currently, we have also contributed to an online community where fellows are still in contact with us. They tell us about where they are what they're doing and the project they are involved in. We recent, last week, actually, I came back from the Association for Information Science and Technology Annual Conference, where we provided the first workshop on AI, on artificial intelligence, and the fellows who participated, six of them, I believe, who participated in this project presented their AI projects, like what they're doing now. Like they are creating library chat bots. They are, you know, be programming, they are planning for different AI, AI projects and so forth. And we have many more activities and presentations and so forth. And we're planning to present at the American Library Association Conference, hopefully in June. So we have a proposal waiting to hear from the people. We're also presenting at the Tennessee Library Association and our presentation has been accepted as well. So we are going in different places to create awareness of AI, and the way we did this is, and I'm ending in one second, is that we did not focus just on the technical part, we focus on the social aspects, the technical aspects, the conceptual aspects. It's like, how I conceptualize what I want to do? And the practical aspect as well. So thank you, Clara, for contributing to this project, and we are actually planning for the second year. And the second year of the project will be, the institute will be provided in July, so far in July, at the University of Texas at Austin. Thank you.

- [Clara] Thank you, Dania. At the Mortenson Center, we believe that leadership has to be in all areas. So that's why we're involved in this particular institute. We wanna make sure that we are engaged in emerging technologies and how librarians can be leaders in this particular area. So now I'd like to introduce Lisa Krolak, She's chair, oh, I got the wrong information there. She is the librarian at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, and she will share with us a project that is currently under development, and it's the Community Libraries International Portal, CLIP.

- Yes, thank you very much, Clara. First of all, congratulation, of course, also from my side to the Mortenson Center, thanks for giving me the opportunity to meet all these wonderful speakers. Greetings from Germany, that's where we are located. You see our institute behind me virtually. It is a UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, and then one of the areas we focus on is literacy, and another strong focus is on the marginalized communities. So as a librarian, I was always interested in how can we serve those people who do not have access to well-funded good libraries, but really try to set up services from the ground from scratch without a lot of funding. So I had these libraries in view for many years already, also because 20 years ago, I was a volunteer setting up libraries, that's where my passion for this issue comes from. I can say that over the years, I could really advocate for the importance of libraries in general, at UNESCO, because I see them as true lifelong learning organizations. But all the years when I went to the IFLA conferences, for example, I was always trying to find the right place where I can network, where can these libraries from all over the world who are more small funded community based where they can come together, but it was difficult to find a real, the right section for them. So I was very glad when I started to brainstorm with Clara, if we maybe can support those community libraries, because we have the feeling and then we are working on this subject now maybe half a year, that there is no international network of these libraries and most of us, and then other colleagues, of

course, know of fantastic examples all over the world. We know examples in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, of course, everywhere, but they do beautiful work. They might know from each other when they are, let's say, have great websites, but there will be so many who don't have. And as many speakers said before, getting together, sharing experience, learning from each other is so valuable. So we are at the moment setting up this network, we're still in the process for various reasons. Be it simple to learn about other experiences, be it to be able to connect, maybe we can have some at least virtual conferences, maybe even in person, we want to share research or news on different activities because the need is there. I can tell you that I get quite some requests from grassroots, asking for help to set up services, you don't necessarily get them from academic or public libraries, et cetera. It's those grassroots libraries. Yes, so I'm looking very forward to continue working with Clara. It's a wonderful experience. We can bring different knowledge together and soon, we will share it and then hope that all of you will chip in what you know, so we can set up this wonderful network. Thank you, Clara.

- [Clara] Thank you, Lisa. Now I'd just like to, due to time, have everyone maybe end with one final remark and that remark has to do, if we are to work towards collective impact and to address the SDGs. How can we deepen the collaboration that we already have? Or are there areas that you would like to see us work on together? Or even address some of the needs that were mentioned in the first panel? So I'll have each of you conclude with trying to respond to that question. So I'll begin with Lisa.

- Yes, thank you. I mean, several of you have mentioned the need for training, and I just read today in our medium term strategy of my institute, that we will also provide training for librarians on our new lifelong learning training hub. And I think we can work together on this because the Mortenson Center really known amongst librarians, IFLA is known amongst librarians, but if you enter UNESCO, then you open up to a larger community of people. So I cannot set up a training like that myself, but together with your expertise, I'm sure we can come up with something. Thank you.

- Wonderful, thank you. Dania. Oh, you're muted.

- Okay, I know that the Mortenson Center is actually has done a lot in terms of diversity, equity, inclusion, and so forth. So what I see in terms of the sustainable goals is to continue to ensure that DEI is at the core of all the activities that are being done. And also, now thinking about the project, the IDEA Institute, I'm wondering whether something like that can go overseas. That's a-

- That would be wonderful.

- That's a very, very high, you know, it's not easily fetched, but I know if there are funding, you know, if the Mortenson Center and other agencies could fund such a project, then we can make possibly something like that, mobile all over, wherever it's needed.

- Great, thank you. And then now we have, let's see, who was next? Sarah?

- Yes, I think that with your expertise and the Mortenson Center's expertise in technology, that would be a major step forward for community libraries. We've been able to create the Haiti Library Alliance because of Zoom, but there is much more that we need to learn to know about how to introduce other kinds of technology to these community libraries. We need to have some expertise in funding to make this possible. Most of our libraries are very remote. We aren't even sure some days if Zoom is going to work or not, and the whole idea of gigabit libraries and the new technology that that might be possible through satellite in Haiti would be wonderful.

- Great, thank you, Sarah. Zoraida.

- Thank you, Clara. I would say that there is a great opportunity to connect the collective learning with lifelong learning spaces to produce a kind of structure that can enabling local knowledge for sustainable future. These three elements, I think I see a lot of possibilities from the work that you have been doing together with a lot different groups.

- Great, thank you, Zoraida. Now I call on Kate.

- Yeah, I think that it would really be great if these different projects in Mortenson learn from each other. And one of the things I wanna offer from the mini talks is just what happens when you set a schedule and you hold in mini talk week in and week out, and you just hammer on a topic and you gather up a lot of people who then end up learning a lot from each other about it. And one of the things we know from teaching online at the library school is that, the online teaching happens best when you know people already. And so to start with the people know each other from being associates and from training those associates, I think it would really be a powerful, a powerful offering on this, and, of course, on the other SDGs. But this is one that's very, very urgent to me.

- Thank you, Kate. And Steve.

- Thanks, Clara. I guess one of the benefits of going last is everyone has said such wonderful things. I don't have to add too much. I would like to echo the ideas of taking advantage of the expertise we've all gained in technologies to enhance the training opportunities. And as Kate mentioned, the networking or ability for us to learn from one another within this group and as the group grows, I think that would go a long way towards some of the goals in terms of lifelong learning, but also equity and providing ways that

we're not having as much of a one way flow of knowledge, but developing knowledge together, and really enabling greater participation in our collective knowledge production for the field, because that's really the critical next step.

- Thank you, Steve. So what I'm hearing is that to address collective impact then the continued engagement, the co-learning, the co-creating is important to not just build something new, but to really leverage what we already have. So I want to thank each of our panelists in this community and sustainable development panel, and also those who joined us for the earlier panel on transformational leadership. So just to conclude this mornings, or for some of you afternoon or evening program to celebrate our 30th Anniversary is to just finish with a few slides on other pieces information. And so one piece of information is that the lecture that you're going to hear very soon is part of a larger program called Engineering Change with Dr. Agnes Kaposi. And so we'll share information about that because it's linking the workshop that will be coming with the lecture that she is going to provide. So we, at the Mortenson Center, really think about connecting not just what we learned, but put it into action. And in terms of putting things into action with Kendra Albright, Jia Tina Du, and Bharat Mehra. We have been working to develop information action briefs, and so these are like policy briefs, but focus on action. And we have developed four already that will soon be published and they focus on the sustainable development goals. So this is a way that we can make concrete what the sustainable development goals are asking us as librarian information professionals to do. And so you can also contribute to writing and publishing these. And so we will be having workshops so you can participate and that information will be available on our website. So the information action briefs are four pages, and with the last page, being an information graphic. And to conclude then, our mission is to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians worldwide for the promotion of international education, understanding, and peace. And so some of our other projects that you see below do address that particular mission and the work wouldn't be possible if not for many, many partners. And so some of them are listed here, as you can tell. And I wanna thank them for the work over the past 30 years. And to conclude the program, I want to quote that I'm honored to be here at the Mortenson Center and to quote from Walter Mortenson. He stated, "The more tolerant the people of the world become the more peace there will be in the world. With an international cooperative effort among libraries of the world, pitched to educate people toward tolerance, we'd all be working toward a common goal, namely, peace." And so thank you so much for being part of this anniversary forum. The celebration that will continue in about 20 minutes with the distinguish lecture with Agnes Kaposi and Valerie Matsumoto. In the meantime, please stay connected, and what we will be doing is putting you into a conversation room and it will be hosted by Barbara Ford. So please enjoy the opportunity to connect, to celebrate, and have a conversation with each other, with Barbara Ford. Thank you so much.