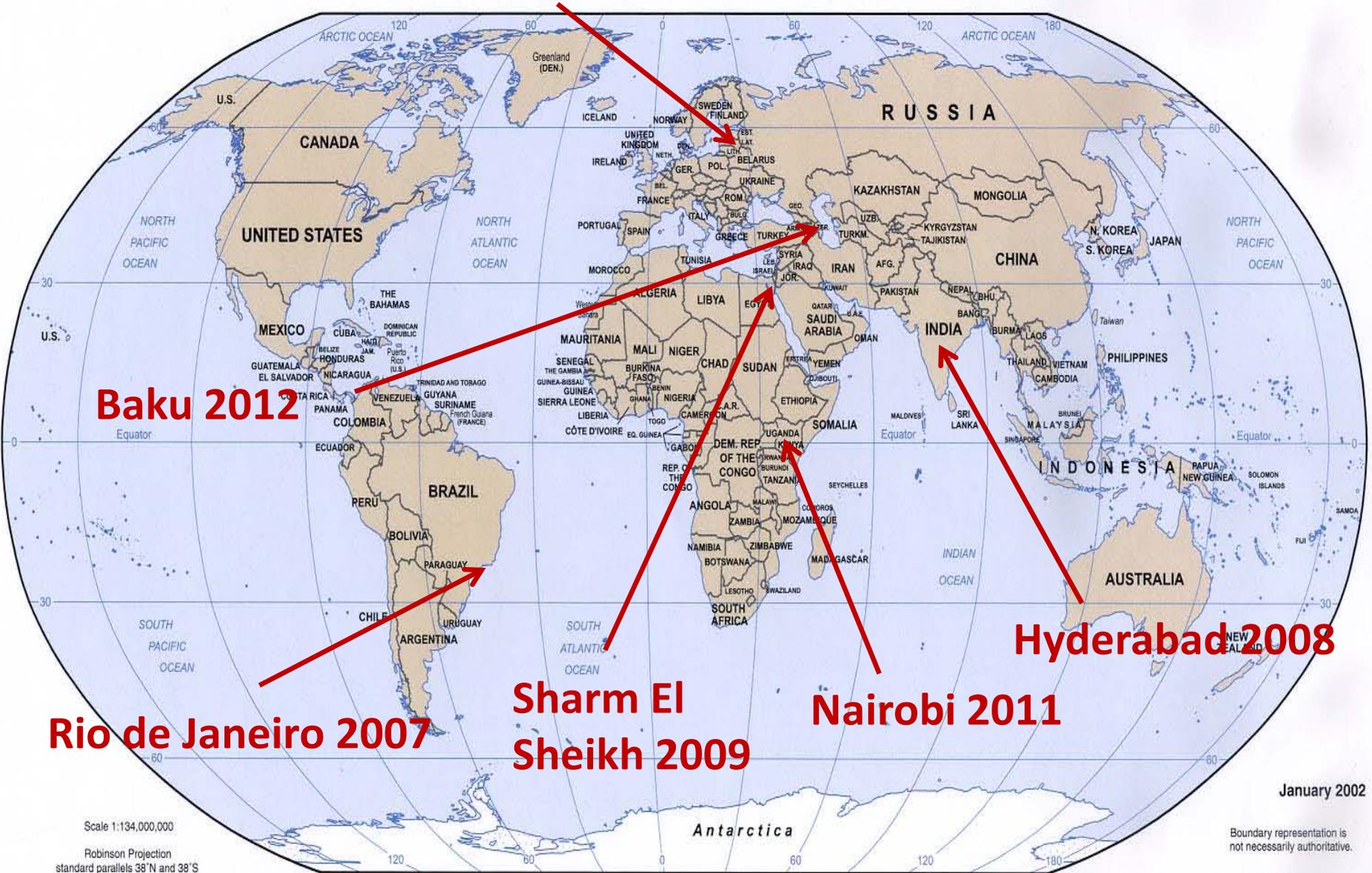


International librarianship: an introduction

The image shows a large airport terminal with a glass wall. In the foreground, three people are silhouetted against the bright light coming from the window. They are standing near two rolling suitcases. The person on the left is walking away, the person in the middle is standing still, and the person on the right is holding a camera up to their eye. Through the glass, a large white commercial airplane is visible, parked at the gate. The scene is captured in a cinematic, high-contrast style.

Peter Lor, University of Pretoria

Vilnius 2010



Baku 2012

Hyderabad 2008

Rio de Janeiro 2007

**Sharm El
Sheikh 2009**

Nairobi 2011

Scale 1:134,000,000
Robinson Projection
standard parallels 38°N and 38°S

January 2002

Boundary representation is
not necessarily authoritative.

802804A1 (R00352) 12-01

What do these cities have in common?

Answer:

IGF, Internet Governance Forum:

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Second question: What do the following stand for?

CONSAL

ECOSOC

FAIFE

IBBY

ICANN

IFAP

IFEX

ISO

ITU

WIPO

Quiz: *Answers*

What do the following stand for?

CONSAL: *Congress of South East Asian Librarians*

ECOSOC: *UN Economic and Social Council*

FAIFE: *Free Access to Information and freedom of expression*

IBBY: *International Board on Books for Young People*

ICANN: *Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers*

IFAP: *(UNESCO's) Information For All Programme*

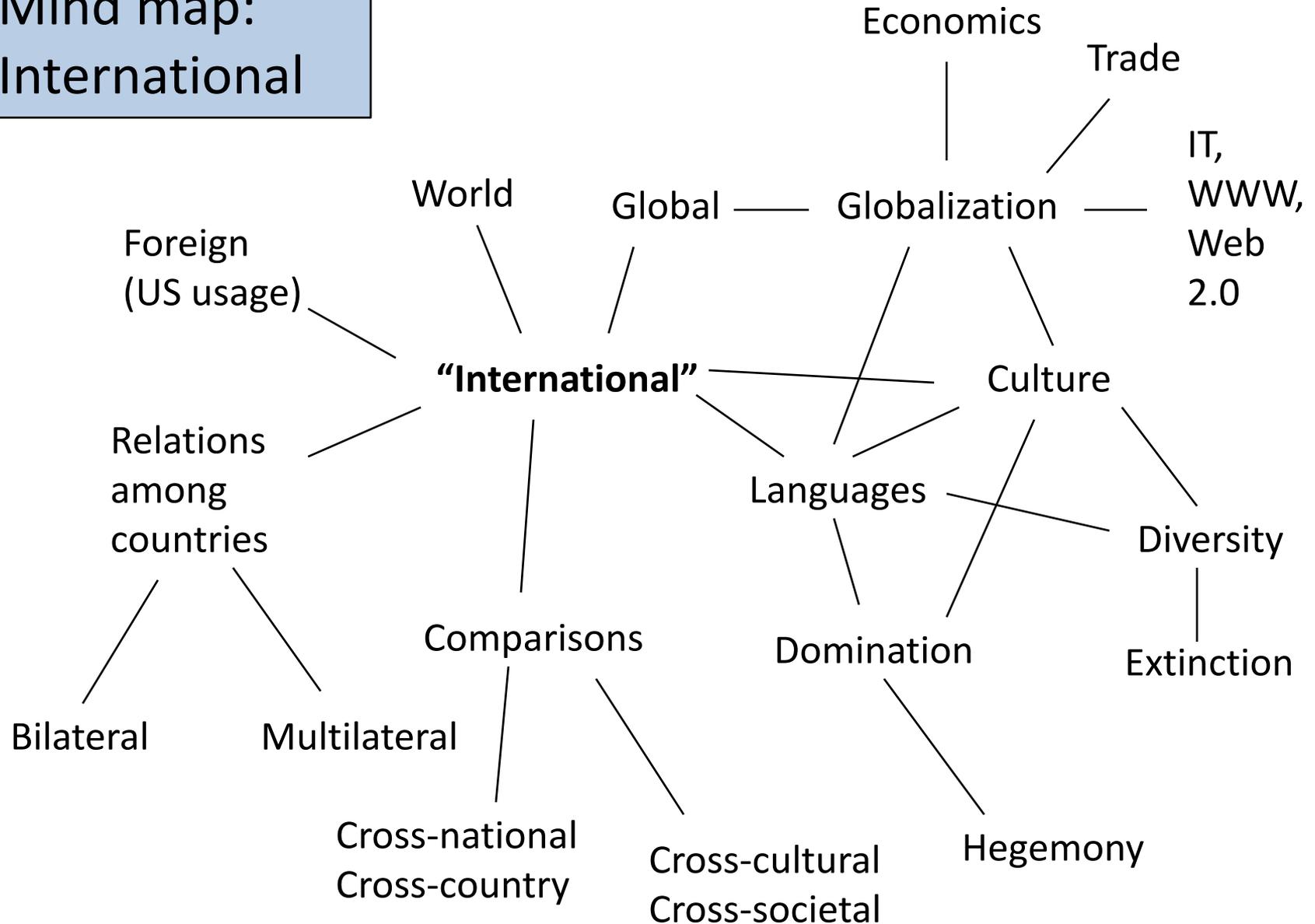
IFEX: *International Freedom of Expression Exchange*

ISO: *International Organization for Standardization*

ITU: *International Telecommunications Union*

WIPO: *World Intellectual Property Organization*

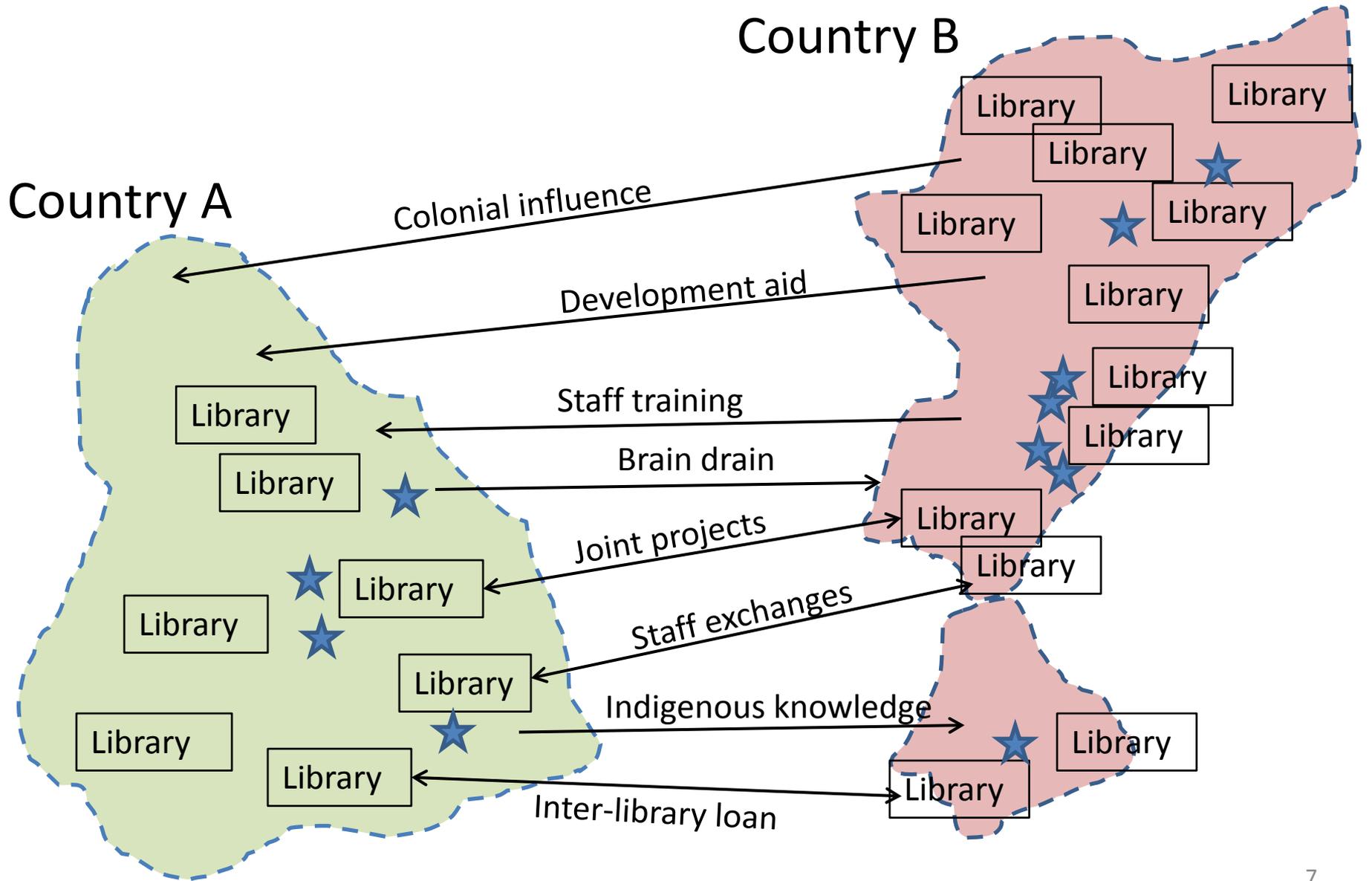
Mind map: International

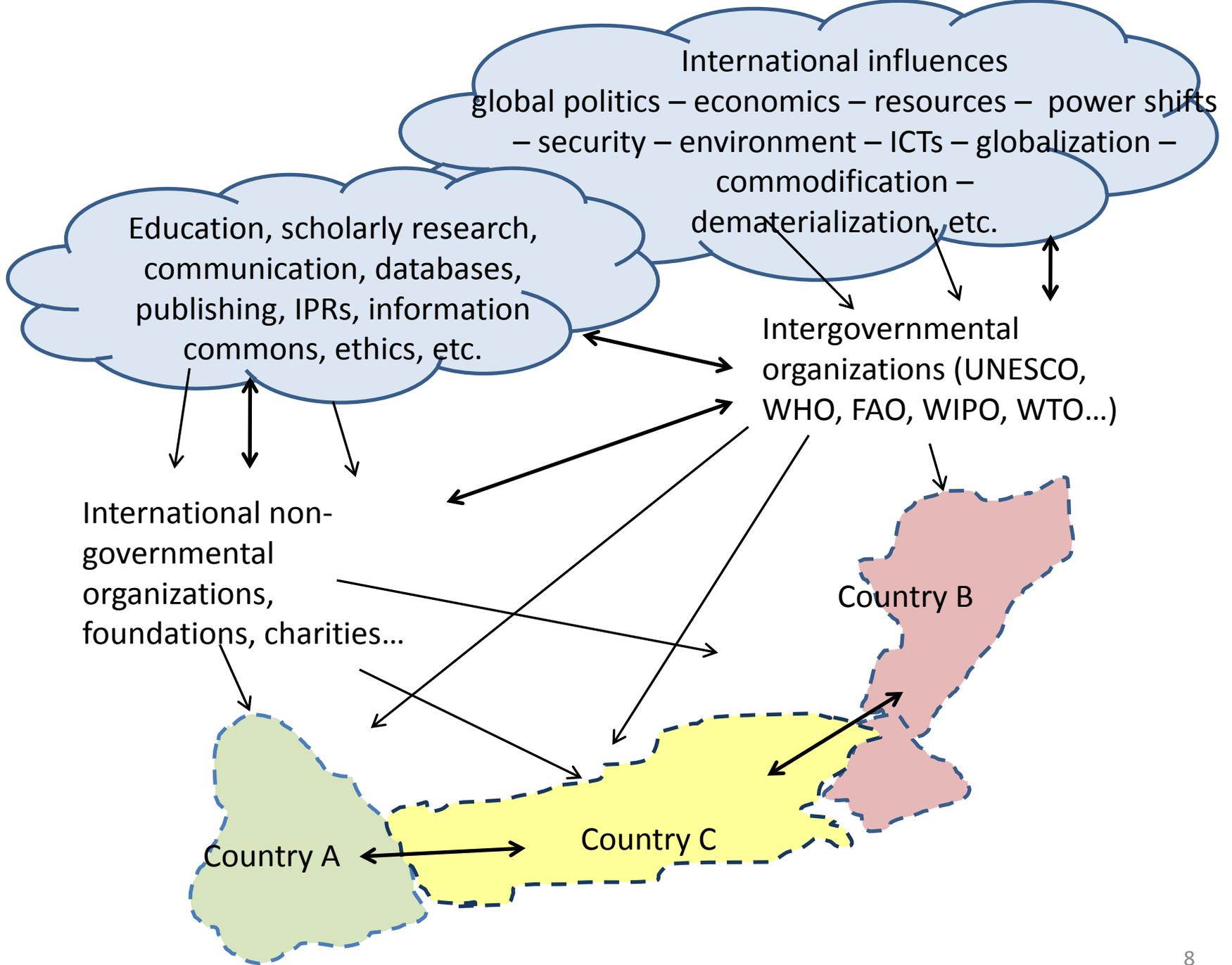


International librarianship (and information work)

“International librarianship consists of activities carried out among or between governmental or non-governmental institutions, organizations, groups or individuals of two or more nations, to promote, establish, develop, maintain and evaluate library, documentation and allied services, and librarianship and the library profession generally, in any part of the world.” (Parker 1974: 221)

Parker, J.S. (1974) International librarianship – a reconnaissance.
Journal of librarianship 6(4):219-232.





Some themes

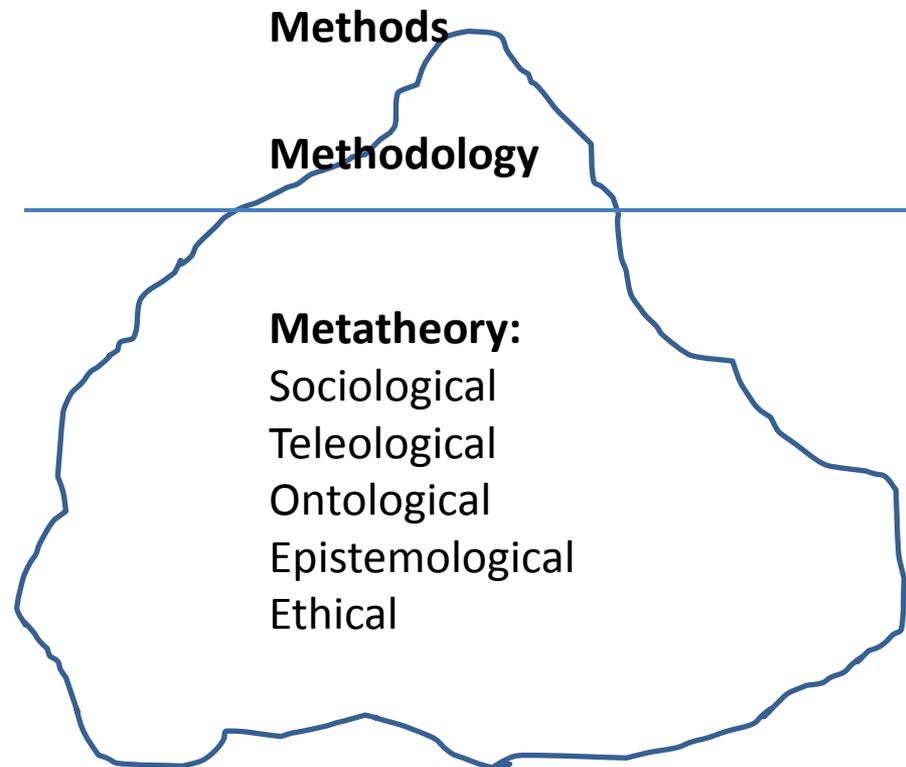
- International comparisons
- International influences and “borrowing”
- Library development aid; “book aid”
- Indigenous librarianship
- International organizations: IFLA
- International information relations
- Your international career

Some themes

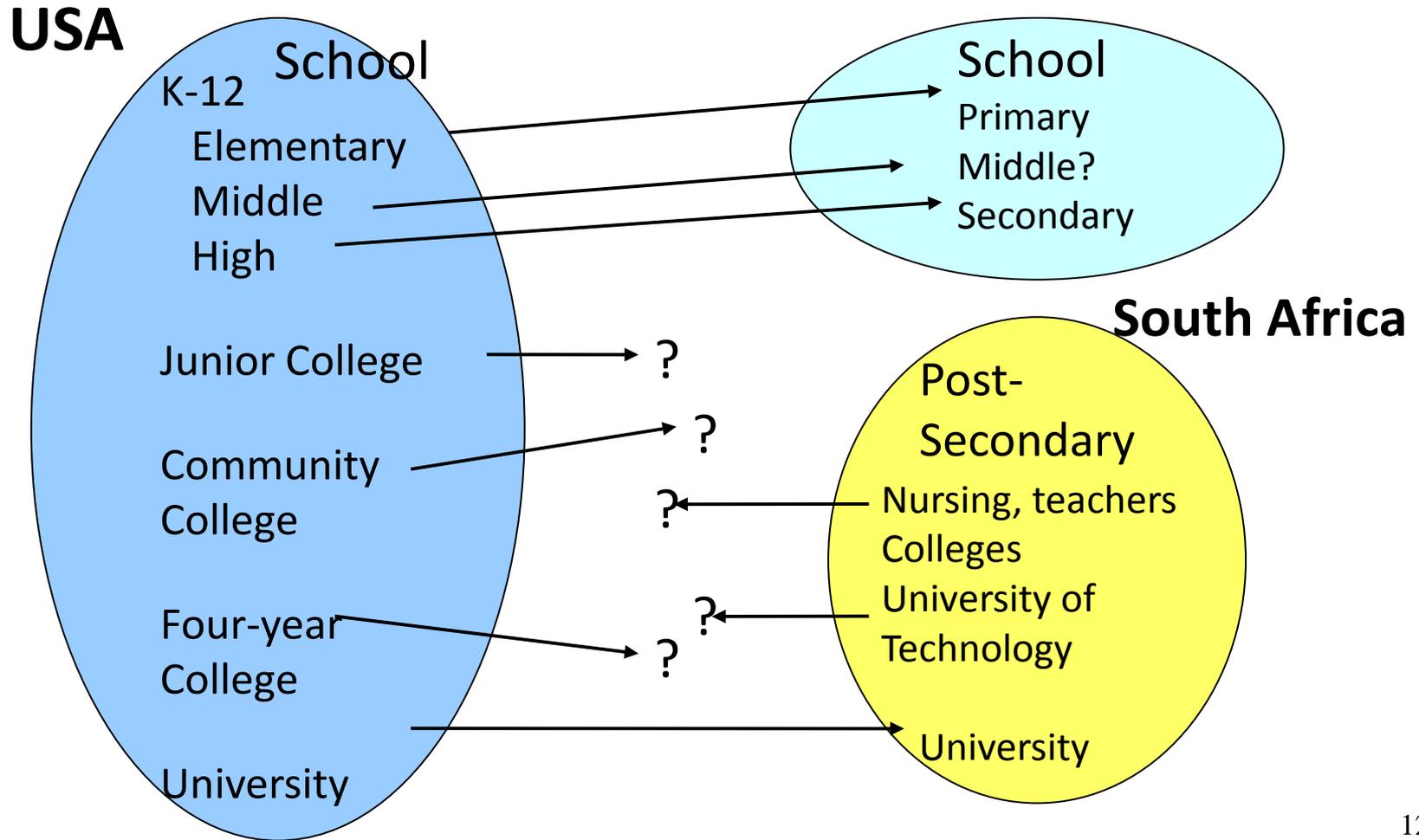
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International comparisons

- Who are we to do it?
- Why? (Purpose)
- What reality?
- How valid?
- Ethically?
- Which countries?
- How?



Challenges in comparative research: Spurious lexical equivalence



Some themes

- International comparisons
- **International influences and “borrowing”**
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What do you see in this picture?



Photo courtesy
of Springvale
Primary School,
Pretoria

What do you see in this picture?



Photo courtesy
of Springvale
Primary School,
Pretoria

What do you see in this picture?

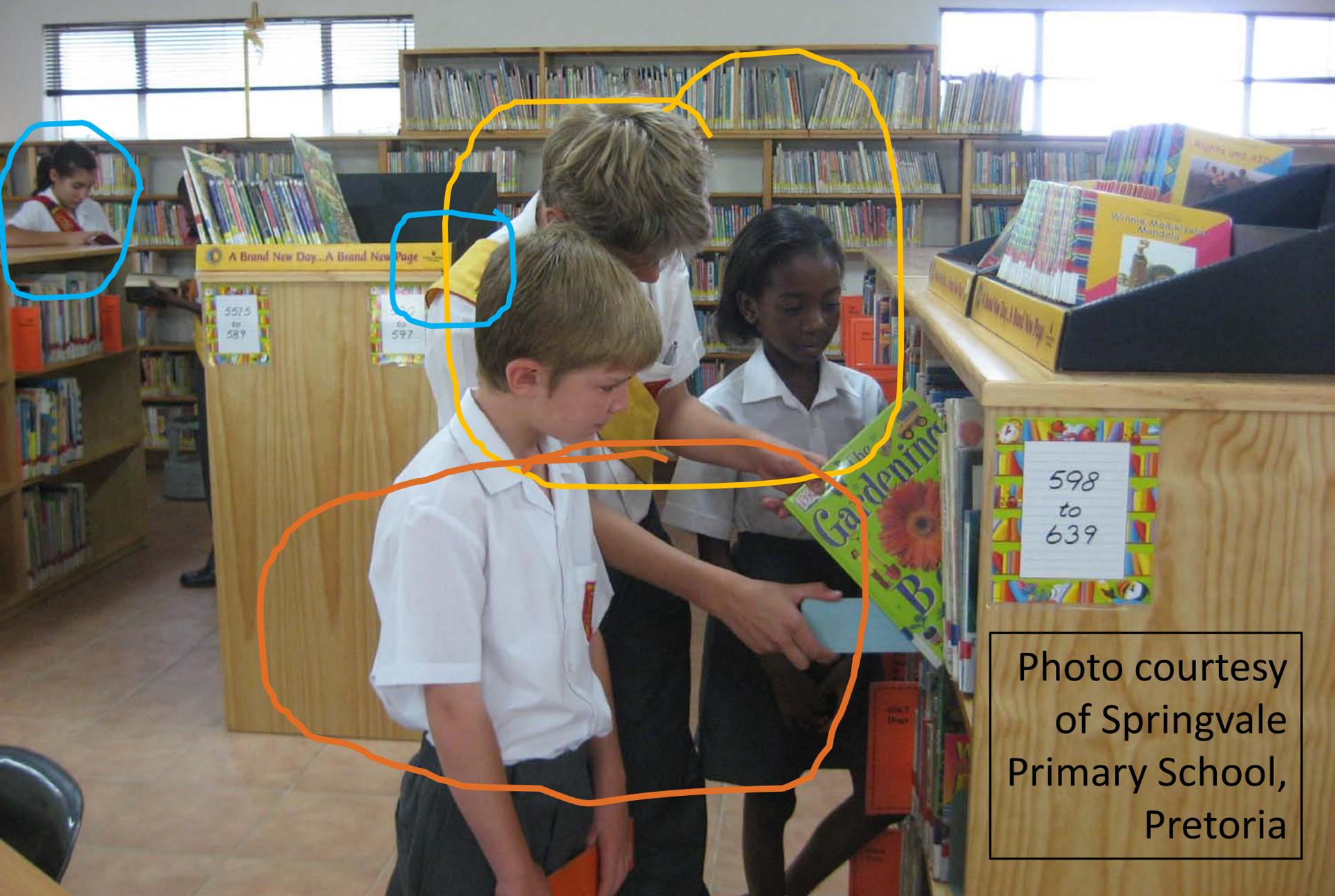


Photo courtesy
of Springvale
Primary School,
Pretoria

International LIS Influence (1)

United States

Trade and cultural influences; security-related aid

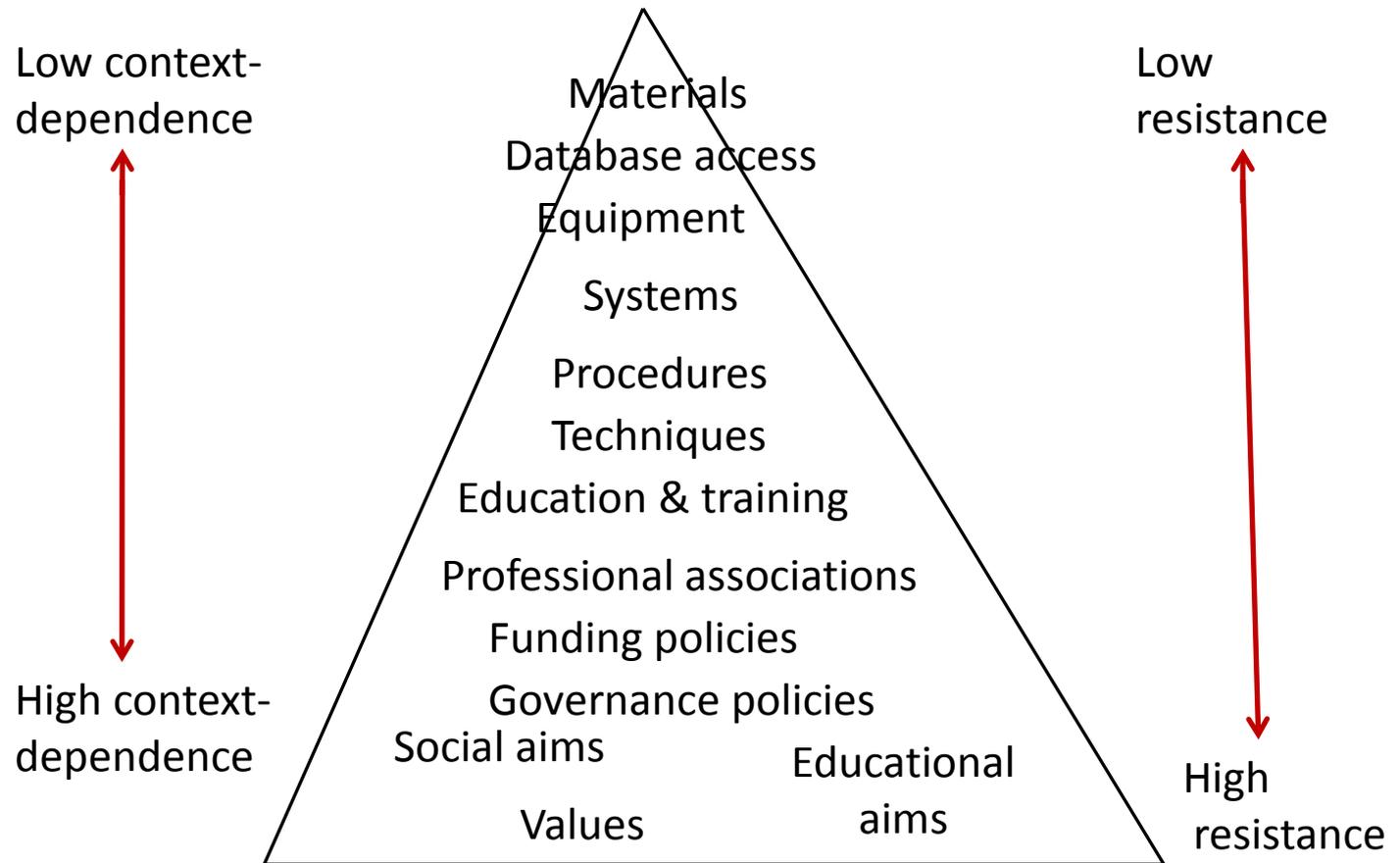
WHICH country influences WHICH country?



International LIS Influence Model

WHICH country transfers **WHAT ideas, policies, technology, etc.** to WHICH country through WHICH CHANNEL with WHICH MOTIVES and with WHAT EFFECT?

What is transferred or disseminated?



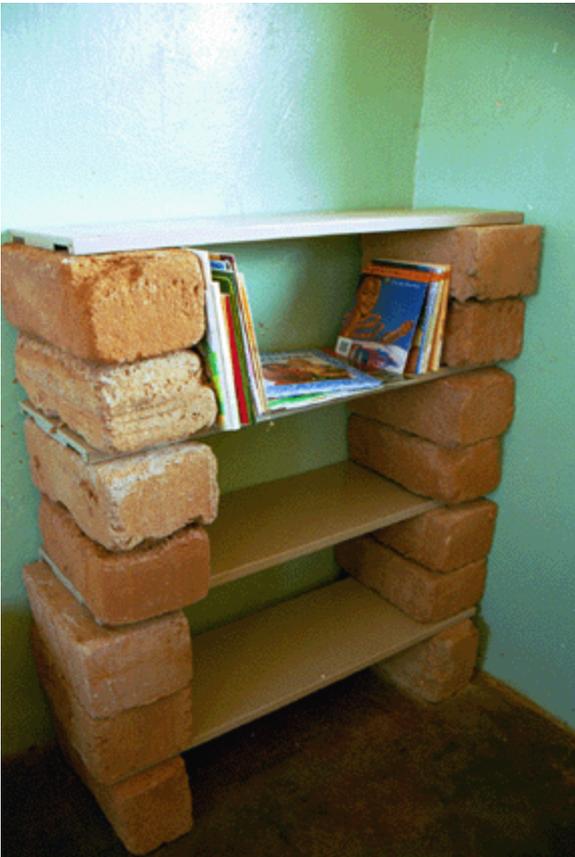
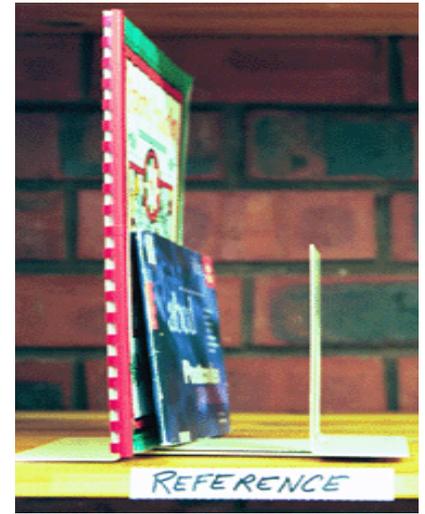
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Book famine!

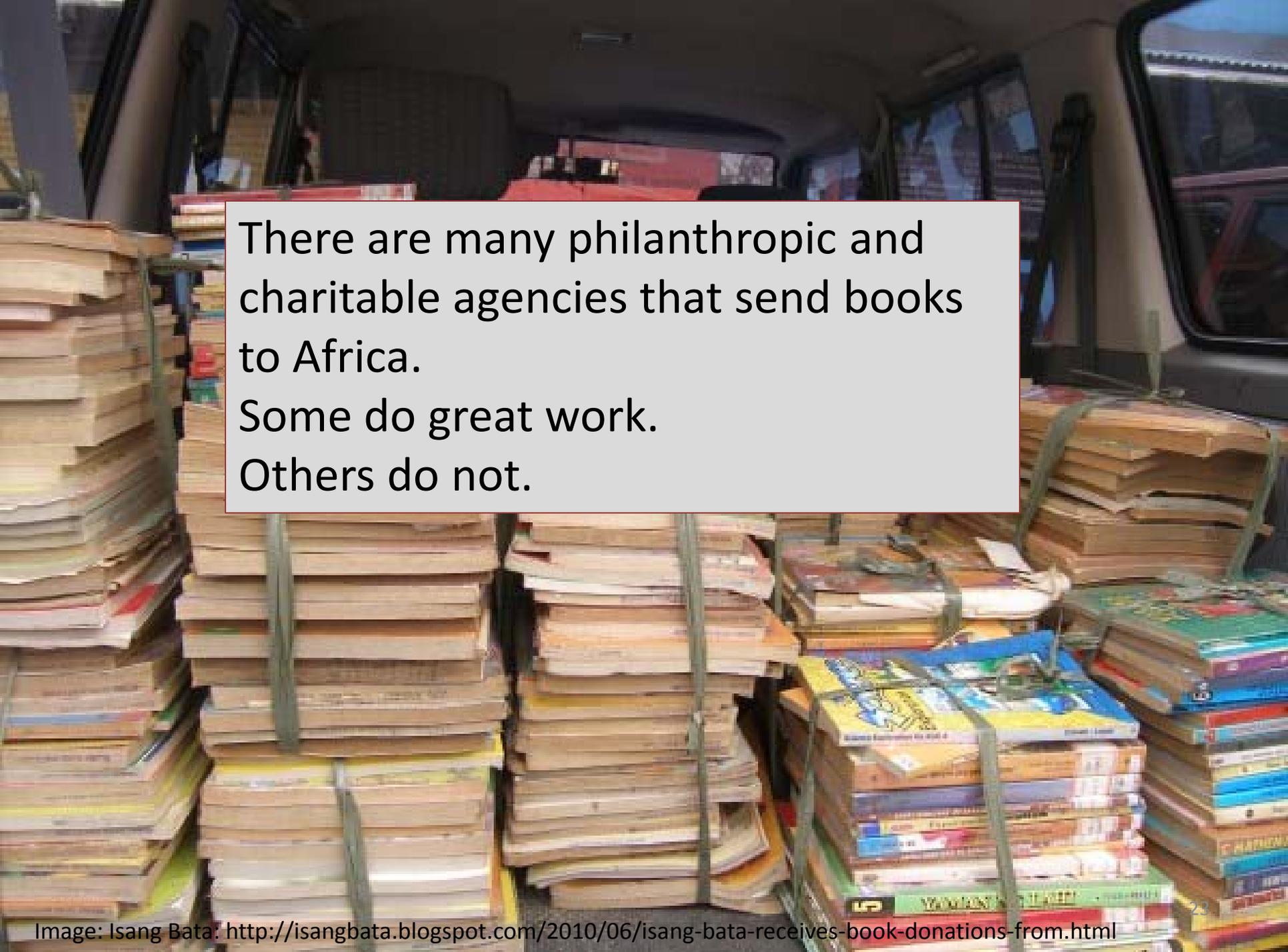
How is this possible in South Africa, the biggest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa?

This school library at Mogosane Combined School in the Northwest province, South Africa, is one of only a few functional libraries in this rural area. Images: iBiblio, <http://www.ibiblio.org/wlp/7-11-mogosane-library.html>

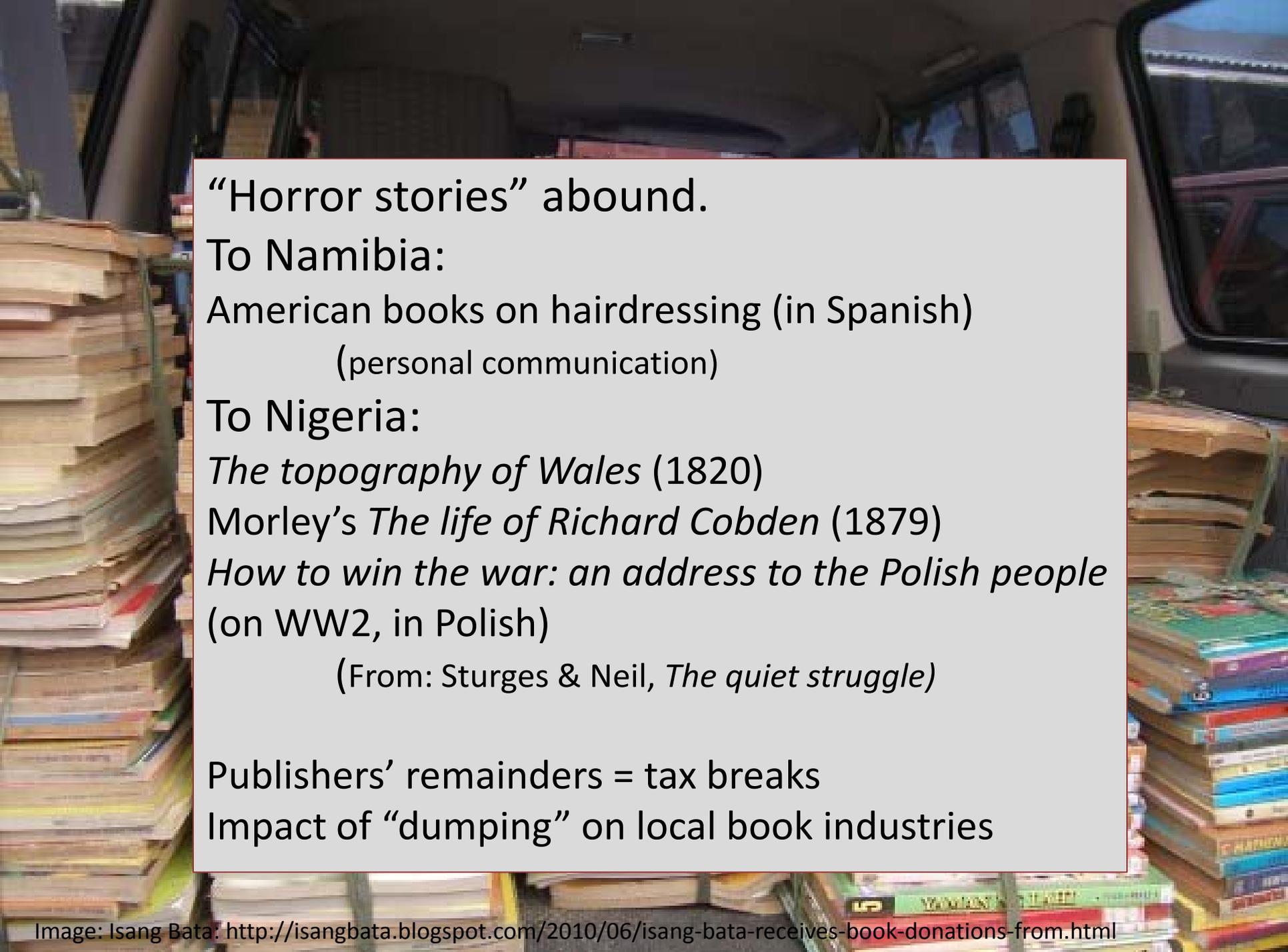


Book famine? Send books!



A photograph showing the interior of a van packed with numerous stacks of books. The books are organized into several large piles, some secured with green straps. The stacks vary in height and thickness, and some have colorful covers visible. The van's interior, including the seats and windows, is visible in the background.

There are many philanthropic and charitable agencies that send books to Africa.
Some do great work.
Others do not.



“Horror stories” abound.

To Namibia:

American books on hairdressing (in Spanish)

(personal communication)

To Nigeria:

The topography of Wales (1820)

Morley’s *The life of Richard Cobden* (1879)

How to win the war: an address to the Polish people
(on WW2, in Polish)

(From: Sturges & Neil, *The quiet struggle*)

Publishers’ remainders = tax breaks

Impact of “dumping” on local book industries

Aid –

From the frying pan into the fire?



Moyo, Dambisa (2009) *Dead aid: why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa*. New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. –
Controversial!

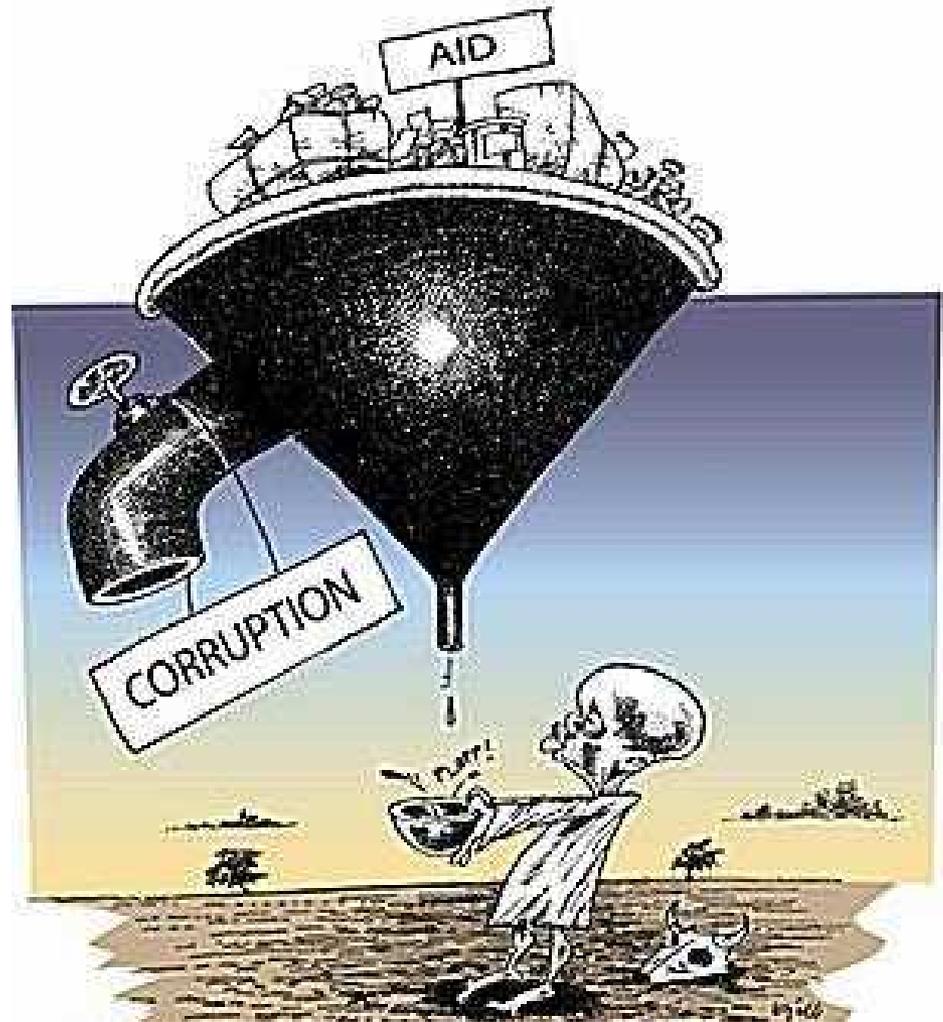


Image: State of Pakistan, <http://www.yousufnazar.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/10/foreign-aid.jpg>

Some themes

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Rethinking libraries for developing countries

Failure of
western
model



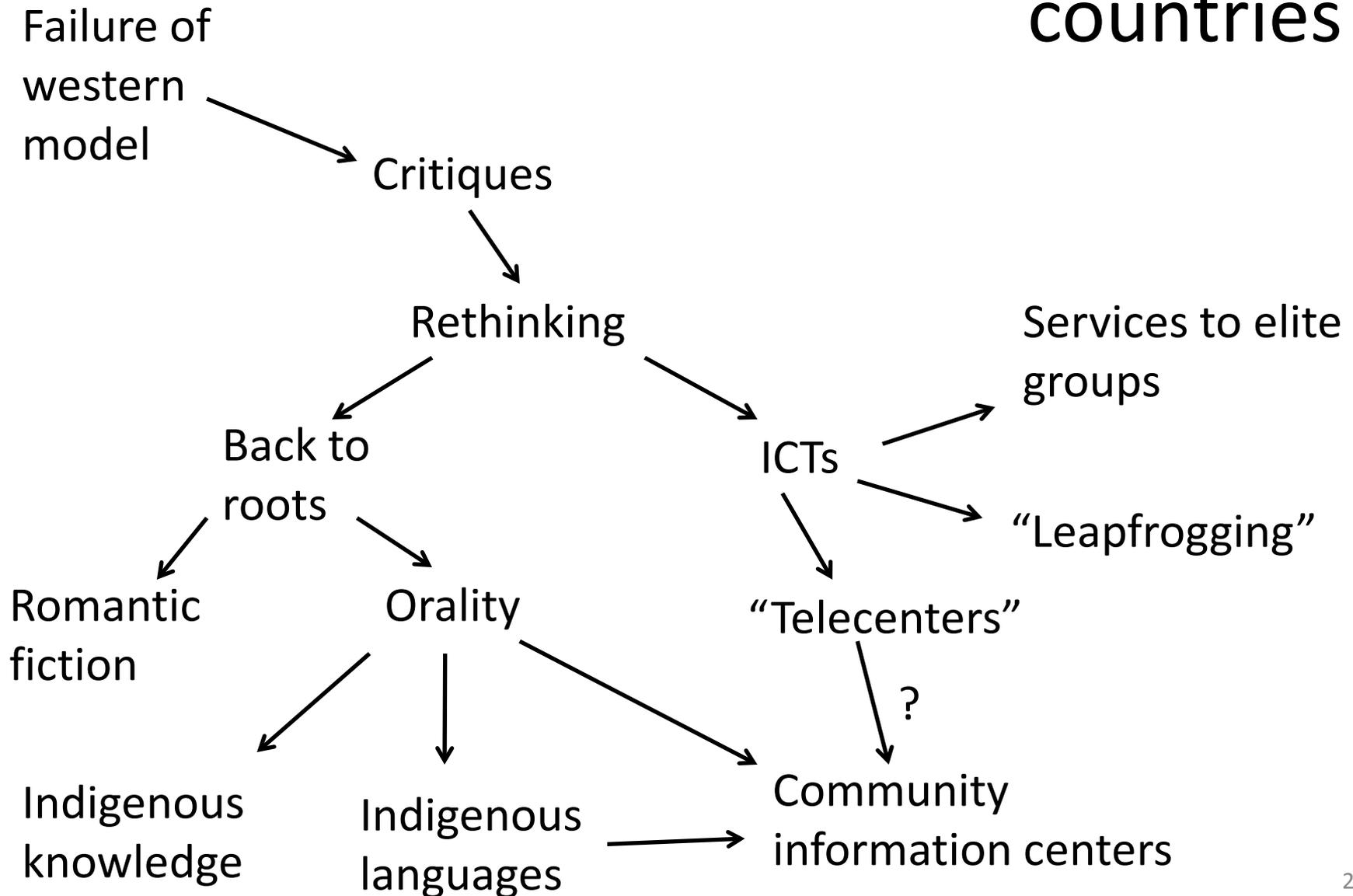
Critiques



Rethinking

Barefoot librarianship
(Wijasuriya, Lim and Nadarajah 1975)
The librarianship of poverty
(Kingo Mchombu 1982)
Post-colonial critiques

Rethinking libraries for developing countries



Language as carrier of knowledge: Examples of Zulu terminology to describe cattle:



The eggs of the lark - a creamy coat spotted with fine rust speckles: *imaqandakahuye*

The gaps between the branches of the trees silhouetted against the sky - a deeply dappled animal.

The hornbill takes to flight - a dark beast which shows a flash of white beneath its flank when it walks.

What stabs the rain - the upright points of a young steer's horns.

Some themes

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- **International organizations**
- International information relations
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Image: AIIC Interpreters, <http://www.aiicportugal.pt/articlept06.htm>

International organizations

- Intergovernmental organizations
 - E.g. UNESCO, FAO, WHO, WIPO, WTO...
- International non-governmental organizations
 - E.g. IFLA, IASL, IBBY, IRA, IPA, ICA

– IFLA: www.ifla.org



IFLA: The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions



IFLA Congress 2011, San Juan Puerto Rico
Photo: Peter Lor

Sessions, meetings, committees,
brainstorming, workshops, cultural
events, receptions.....



President-elect's
brainstorming session, San
Juan 2011
Photo: Peter Lor

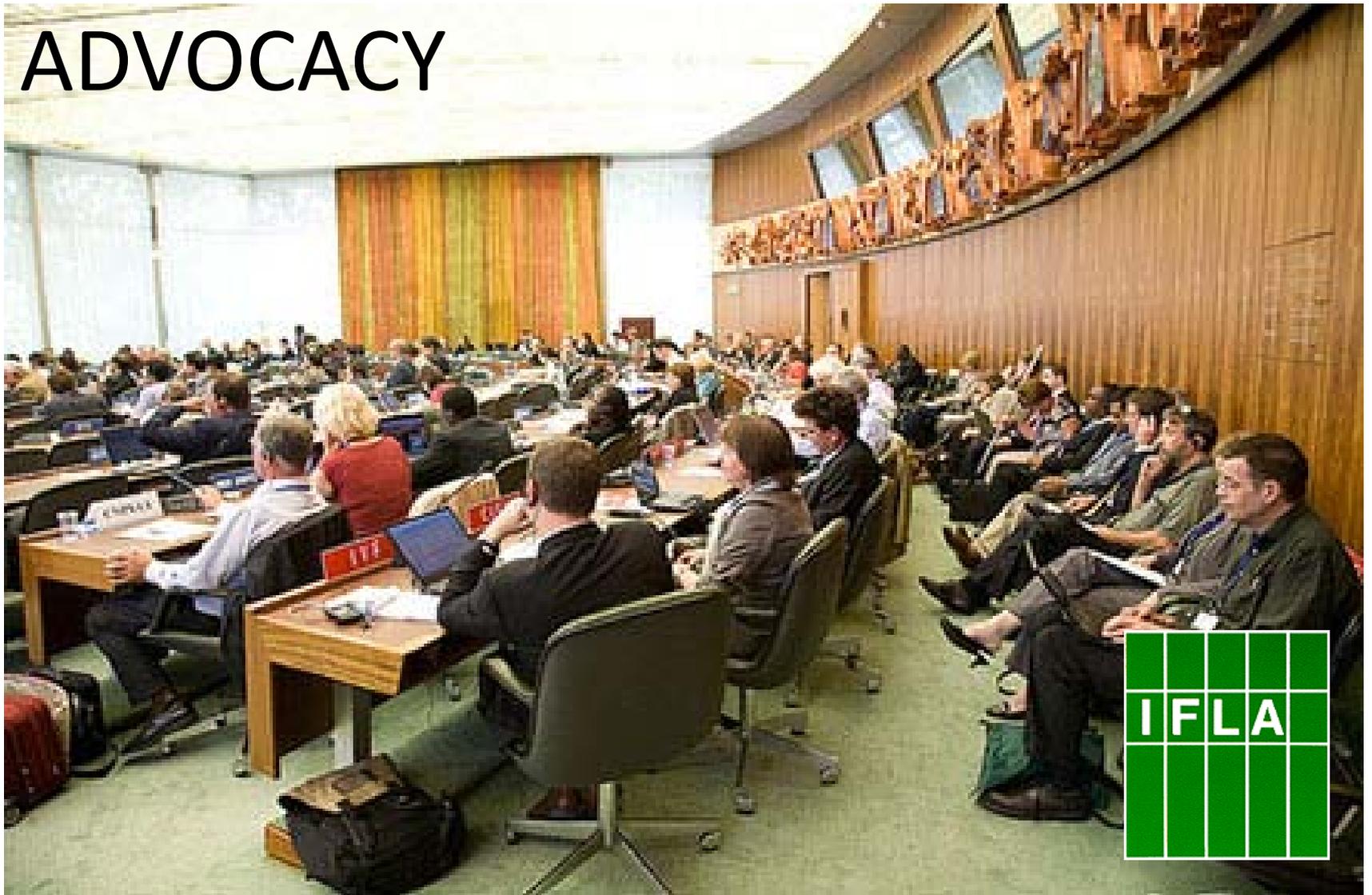
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International information relations

- International political economy of information
- How power relations affect access to information
 - especially North-South and South-North information flows
- Social justice
- International processes affecting intellectual property (copyright, etc.)
- Freedom of access to information and freedom of expression
- Etc.

ADVOCACY



World Intellectual Property Organization, 20th session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, Geneva June 2010.
Image courtesy of Jim Fruchterman

Some themes

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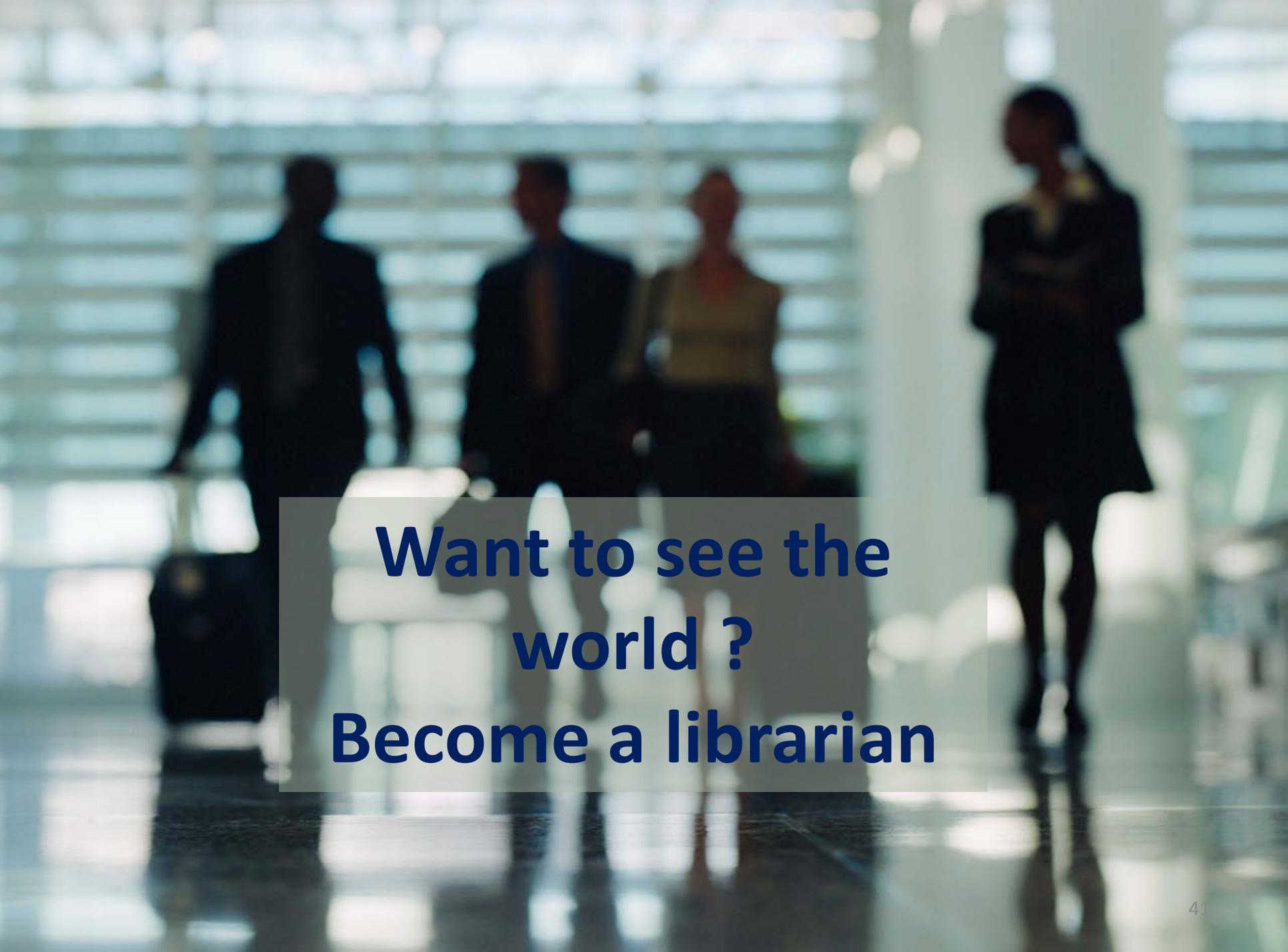
Your international career

- International cooperative activities
 - Study visits, staff exchanges
 - Library twinning & partnerships
 - Collection development; area studies
 - Digitization projects
 - International ILL
 - International education; study abroad, internships
 - Activities of national library associations
 - Employment
 - Volunteering

Your international career

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Finland?

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a modern office interior. Several people in business attire are visible as dark silhouettes against a bright, out-of-focus background of windows and office furniture. The overall color palette is cool, with blues and greys.

**Want to see the
world ?
Become a librarian**

Thank you

More information on my website:

<http://peterlor.com>



Robinson Projection
standard parallels 38° N and 38° S
Scale 1:134,000,000

January 2002
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802804A1 (F00352) 12-01