



American Information Resource Centers Pakistan Newsletter

Vol. 1
No. 2
March 2008

U.S. Diplomat Highlights the Role of Libraries in America

Islamabad- April 15-16, 2008- AIRC Islamabad celebrated the American National Library Week by organizing two speaker programs at Lincoln Corner Islamabad and Lincoln Reading Lounge. Counselor for Public Affairs, Kay Web Mayfield highlighted the importance of libraries with examples of her own experiences with the library and usage of its resources in both the programs. Reference Specialist Maqsood Shaheen conducted Internet workshop on “Join the Circle of Knowledge @ Your Library” at both venues. The movie “American Libraries Change Lives” was also played for audience of both events.



Lincoln Corner Islamabad Celebrates “Earth Day” in International Islamic University Islamabad

Islamabad- April 21, 2008- LC Islamabad organized a seminar on “Earth Day” for female students from Department of Environmental Sciences of the International Islamic University. Reference Specialist Umar Farooq used the America.gov as a gateway to demonstrate textual information and multimedia features on the environment, biodiversity, and the earth day. Chairman Dr. Irfan Khan shared his views on celebrating the earth day and emphasized the students to engage their counterparts at the faculty of Management Sciences to create awareness on environmental ethics. LCI Coordinator Sajid Mirza briefed the students about resources, services and programs of the Lincoln Corner. An exhibition on Green Technology by the Culture Section of the U.S. Embassy also supplemented the seminar. The posters prepared by the students were displayed at the walls of the seminar room. Some 15 students of the Department of Environmental Sciences participated in the competition held on the topic of “A Call for Climate.” Prizes and certificates were presented to the top three winning students. The seminar and poster show were concluded with the plantation of a tree by the students outside the central library of the International Islamic University.



AIRC Screened Movie Series on “Business Communication” in Lincoln Reading Lounge at National Library of Pakistan

Islamabad- April 2-5, 2008- AIRC Islamabad arranged a movie series on “Business Communication” for librarians and visitors. The Lincoln Reading Lounge Coordinator Raheela Naz read the theme of each training video and explained the significance of effective resources available in the Lincoln Reading Lounge. This series on Business Communication comprises 22 documentaries ranging from listening skills to professional developments on the workplace. The series aimed to introduce the viewers with the tips and techniques to keep themselves abreast of the workplace changes, ethics and technological developments in the 21st century.



Movie Series on “American Passages” at Lincoln Corner Islamabad

Islamabad- April 9-26, 2008- To commemorate the National Poetry month, the Lincoln Corner Islamabad organized a movie series on “American Passages: a literary survey” for students and visitors of the Corner. Coordinator Sajid Mirza read the theme of the movie before each show of the series.



Seminar on “Earth Day” at Lincoln Reading Lounge

Islamabad- April 25, 2008- AIRC Islamabad organized a seminar on “Earth Day” for researchers and students from Peace Education and Development Foundation, Quaid-i-Azam University and Arid Agriculture University. Country AIRC Director Afshan Amir informed participants about resources, services, and programs of the AIRC Islamabad. Reference Specialist Umar Farooq used the America.gov as a gateway to demonstrate textual information and multimedia features on the environment, biodiversity, and the earth day. Executive Director of Peace Education and Development Foundation Sameena Imtiaz shared her views on celebrating the earth day and emphasized the students to learn and teach about saving the valuable resources like water at early stages of life.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Visits Lincoln Corner Muzaffarabad in Kashmir

Muzaffarabad- April 30, 2008- The Prime Minister of AJK Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan and The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani visited the Lincoln Corner Muzaffarabad at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Dr. Habib Ur Rehman briefed the Prime Minister about the University and the Lincoln Corner. The Lincoln Corner Coordinator presented a gift of flowers to Prime Minister at this occasion.



Workshop on “Intellectual Property Rights”

Islamabad- April 29, 2008- To commemorate the Intellectual Property Rights day, AIRC Islamabad organized an Internet workshop on “Intellectual Property Rights” for male students from International Islamic University and National University of Emerging Sciences. AIRC staff showed selected websites on the intellectual property, copyright, fair use, plagiarism, and related issues. The LCI Coordinator informed about the exhibition on intellectual property at the Lincoln Corner.

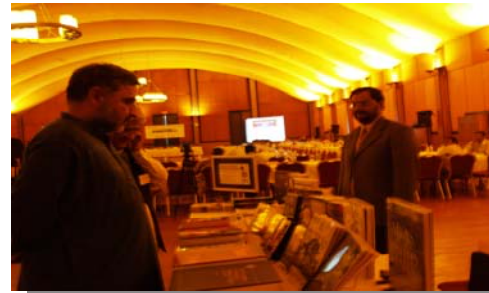
Workshops on “International Relations”

Islamabad- April 22 and 28, 2008- LC Islamabad organized two Internet workshops on “International Relations” for male and female students from the Department of International Relations of the International Islamic University. LCI coordinator showed selected websites on the foreign policy and international relations in two separate workshops for male and female students.



Information Booth at USAID Program

Lahore- April 18, 2008- AIRC Lahore displayed an information booth at a training program held by USAID's Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project at Pearl Continental hotel for the newly elected Punjab Assembly Parliamentarians. A large number of program participants visited the booth and asked questions about various services. Principal Officer Bryan Hunt in his welcome remarks invited all the members to make use of the AIRC services and offered them every possible help to train themselves and their staff members by contacting the AIRC staff.



Movie Series on "American Passages"

Islamabad- April 9-26, 2008- To commemorate the National Poetry Month, the Lincoln Corner Islamabad organized a movie series on "American Passages: a literary survey" for students from the Department of English Language and Literature of the International Islamic University. The viewers found the series useful and faculty appreciated this initiative.

Students and Faculty of Government Girls Degree College Visit Lincoln Corner Islamabad

Islamabad- April 30, 2008- Students and faculty members from Government Girls Degree College Loralai visited the Lincoln Corner Islamabad. Loralai is a remote district of Balochistan province. The LCI Coordinator briefed them about the Corner. Faculty members and students showed their keen interest in LCI resources. Copies of Khabr-o-Nazar, LCI brochures and bookmarks were also distributed among the participants. A book on "American History" was also presented for their library.

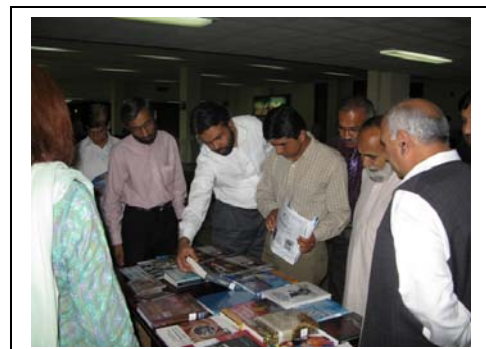


Visit by Beaconhouse National University

Lahore- April 29, 2008- students and teachers from Beaconhouse National University's School of Media and Communication visited the AIRC Lahore. AIRC Director introduced the visitors with resources, services, programs and databases accessible at the AIRC Lahore. He guided them about the scope and coverage of the subjects covered in various databases and encouraged them to make use of AIRC resources to meet their diverse research and information needs in the ever changing environment technological across the globe.

AIRC presentation on "Disaster Prevention and Management"

Islamabad- April 1, 2008- AIRC Islamabad staff gave a presentation on "Disaster Management in Libraries" in a seminar at the National Library of Pakistan. The presentation also highlighted the U.S. Embassy assistance to the earthquake devastated areas and the establishment of Lincoln Corner for the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



NEW ARRIVALS

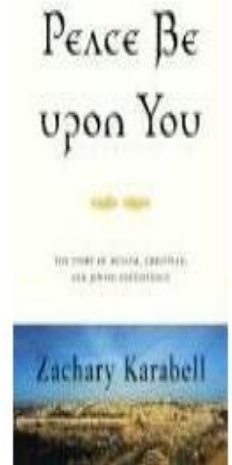
NEW BOOKS

Peace Be Upon You: Fourteen Centuries of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Coexistence in the Middle East

By Zachary Karabell

Knopf, February 2007. ISBN: 1400043689

Conventional wisdom says that Christians, Jews and Muslims cannot get along and have never gotten along; the Crusades, the Inquisition and September 11 have all fueled the flames of constant religious intolerance. In a pedantic and frustrating study, journalist Karabell (*The Last Campaign*) challenges this view by pointing to numerous but little-known periods of peaceful coexistence among the three religions. For example, he points to John of Damascus's condemnation of Islam as a Christian heresy as a powerful indication of the close connection between the two faiths in the early Middle Ages. During the Crusades, Christian rulers often adopted the policies of the Muslim governments they had supplanted, while in the 19th century, some Muslim nations attempted to emulate the progress of Europe and to coexist more peacefully with European nations. Karabell points to Dubai as an area in which such ironic coexistence still occurs and wonders whether Dubai holds the key to the future. Regrettably, the moments of peaceful coexistence are hard to spot in Karabell's narrative, since the largest portions are occupied with the ways that Christians, Jews and Muslims have failed to get along.



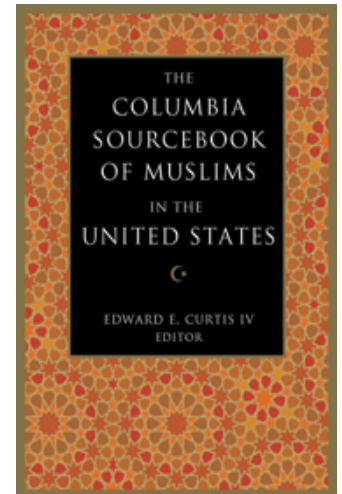
The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States

Edited by Edward E. Curtis IV

January, 2008

Columbia University Press, 472 pages, ISBN: 978-0-231-13956-4

Sampling from speeches, interviews, editorials, stories, song lyrics, articles autobiographies, blogs, and other sources, Curtis presents a patchwork narrative of Muslims from different ethnic and class backgrounds, religious orientations, and political affiliations. of such contemporary issues as Islam and gender, the involvement of Muslims in American politics, and emerging forms of Islamic spirituality. In constructing his history, Curtis draws on the work of Muslim feminists, social conservatives, interfaith activists, missionaries, and politicians, as well as Muslim rappers and legal experts. He also includes records from the large-scale migrations of the 1880s; racial, ethnic, and religious trends of the 1960s; writings from second-generation and African American Muslims; and discussions of Islam in the public square. With this highly informed, real-life portrait, Curtis provides a crucial corrective to the rhetoric of suspicion and fear surrounding current discussions of Muslims in the United States and emphasizes Muslims' continuing impact on American society and culture.

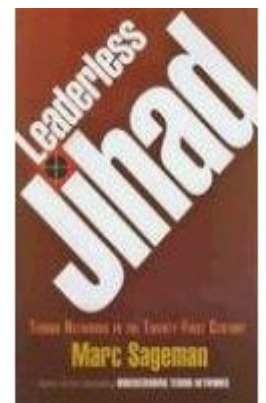


LEADERLESS JIHAD: Terror Networks in the Twenty-First Century

By Marc Sageman

University of Pennsylvania Press, December 2007. ISBN: 0812240650

In the post-September 11 world, Al Qaeda is no longer the central organizing force that aids or authorizes terrorist attacks or recruits terrorists. It is now more a source of inspiration for terrorist acts carried out by independent local groups that have branded themselves with the Al Qaeda name. In *Leaderless Jihad*, Sageman rejects the views that place responsibility for terrorism on society or a flawed, predisposed individual. The book concludes with Sageman's recommendations for the application of his research to counterterrorism law enforcement efforts.



NEW BOOKS

THE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 4, April 2008.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0408.html>

The Olympic Games remind us of certain universal human values. Every Olympian has a story that echoes the shared human struggle for excellence and our devotion to pursue purpose in life. In this issue of eJournal USA, we celebrate the Olympics through the individual experiences and insights of athletes who share their memories of the Olympic Experience. As the Olympic Games approach in the weeks ahead, some nations and competitors will raise their hopes for victories, and a drumbeat will pound for those coveted medals. It reminds that the true meaning of the Olympic Games is not the medals, but our shared human struggle for excellence and our devotion to pursue purpose in life. In a sense each Olympic athlete's story is every athlete's story. The Games remind us of certain universal human values – the need for persistence and tenacity in the pursuit of excellence, acceptance and dignity in the face of failure.



VIDEOS/DVDs

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It

By Al Gore

Paramount, Run Time: 96 minutes Format: DVD.

Director Davis Guggenheim eloquently weaves the science of global warming with Al Gore's personal history and lifelong commitment to reversing the effects of global climate change in the most talked-about documentary of the year. An audience and critical favorite An Inconvenient Truth makes the compelling case that global warming is real man-made and its effects will be cataclysmic if we don't act now. Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way: often humorous frequently emotional always fascinating. In the end An Inconvenient Truth accomplishes what all great films should: it leaves the viewer shaken involved and inspired.

KEN BURNS AMERICAN LIVES

8 DVD Set, Black & White, Color, DVD-Video, Widescreen, NTSC

Winner of the Best TV Documentary at the third annual TV DVD Awards! Ken Burns' stunning cinematography and storytelling has a unique way of documenting America's history and how it has shaped the American identity. Ken Burns American Lives Collection is a compilation of seven outstanding biographies and stories of some of America's most celebrated pioneers and historical events. Programming in this series began with Thomas Jefferson in 1997 and concludes with Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson in 2005.

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