Chinese American Librarians Association: Serving Diverse Populations
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What Chinese American Librarians do?
Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) was established in 1974 and has recently celebrated its 40-year anniversary. Over the past 40 years, CALA has grown into a known international organization with 7 chapters from the United States, Canada, China, and other areas. Guided by its mission to promote information literacy, share resources and encourage professional development for Chinese American Librarians, CALA leaders and its members actively work in its own areas and abroad. For over a decade, CALA members have been supporting remote areas in China to train library directors and librarians in various areas. At home, CALA members have also been actively participating in serving diverse patrons including those with disabilities, international students and students and patrons of undererved, underprivileged and at risk.

Help international students: San Diego University Library Library International Student Success Program (LISSP) LISSP was developed Library International Student Success Program (LISSP) to serve the growing population of international students. LISSP collaborates with other departments such as multicultural, center, center for inclusion and diversity, and International student’s office to provide tailored orientations and workshops.

Help Underserved, Underprivileged and at Risk Students CALA has sponsored and participated in Think Globally Act Globally a grant China-US project of $250,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The three year project involved 44 cities in 31 provinces in China and 45 cities in 15 states and Washington DC in US.

Solute to Our Firefighters! CALA started its 21st Century Librarians Seminar in July 2006. For almost 10 years, CALA members have reached out to several provinces and cities of China, visited a few dozens of libraries and trained library directors in both China and Taiwan. The 21st Century Seminars have influenced thousands of Chinese librarians and at same time, have created professional development opportunities for CALA members. As a result, many CALA members have become leaders of CALA and their own institutions.

CALA’s 21st Century Seminar
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Thinking Globally Act Globally China-US Collaboration
The library has also reached out to community and organizations to collaborate on developing programs and hosting events with the community. The service provides psychotherapy and education to survivors of sex trafficking, hands-on sessions for Non-English Speaking students, new immigrants and more.

Greater Mid-Atlantic (GMA) Midwest (MW), Northeast (NE)
Northern California (NCA)
Southern California (SCA)
Southeast (SE) Southwest (SW)
All Other U.S. States (OUS)
Non-US Areas (NUS)