CALA at Forty: Faith, Focus, Forward

CALA Annual Conference in Chicago
June 30, 2013

Tze-chung Li 李志鍾
Professor and Dean Emeritus, Dominican University
Informal Gathering

On November 19, 1969, twenty Chinese librarians met at Rosary College.

In May 1970 at Northwestern University. William Sheh Wong 汪 變 presided over the meeting. Nineteen Chinese librarians attended.
Forming the Association

On March 31, 1973, a meeting at Rosary College with the very purpose of forming an association.

Thirty-eight librarians from California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York attended.
At the meeting, we decided to establish an association, named Mid-West Chinese American Librarians Association (MWCALA), adopted its constitution, and elected eleven board directors.

In May 1973, the board elected Tze-chung Li 李志鍾 as president and Peter S. Wang 王實青 as treasurer-secretary.

On June 5, the association was registered as a not-for-profit organization with the Illinois Government.
The objectives of the New Association

 to enhance communication among and bring together Chinese American librarians;

 to serve as a forum for discussion of issues and problems common to libraries and library profession;

 to advance the professional and social status of Chinese American librarians.
1974, seeking Chen-ku Wang 王振鵠’s cooperation and support.

Seeking financial support from the Asia Foundation.

With an initial support of US$3,000 from the Asia Foundation, the Journal of Library and Information Science 圖書館學與資訊科學 was born in 1975.
In 1976, the association was expanded into a national association. The name of the national association is Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), dropping the word “Mid-West.”

In the same year, CALA joined the American Library Association as its affiliate.

Beginning in 1979, CALA expanded to create chapters in difference regions, in California, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Northeast, and Southeast.
In 1980, CALA established Distinguished Service Award to recognize a retired library professional in recognition of his/her contribution to librarianship in general and Chinese American librarianship in particular.

The first recipient is Ernest Wolff 華祿夫.

One criteria for this award is retirement. But, later this requirement was removed.
In 1983, merge with California’s Chinese Librarians Association. Thanks to David Liu 劉大經 and Irene Yeh 葉方青 for their efforts to accomplish the merge.

The new entity used the CALA as its English name and Chinese Librarians Association’s Chinese 華人圖書館員協會 as its Chinese name.
In 1985, IFLA held its annual conference in Chicago. Librarians from China and Taiwan attended the meeting.

I invited librarians from China and Taiwan and some Chinese librarians in the United States to get together at my home.
Confucius said, at forty, I have no doubt 四十而不惑. At forty, I can focus my work immune from confusion and with confidence.
CALA Moving Forward

- Recruit more members, in particular, student members.
- Campaign for renewal of membership of former members.
- Build endowment with its proceeds for scholarships, lectureships, and travel grants.
- Raise fund to purchase an office in Chicago.
- Sponsor more forums and workshops in librarianship in general and Chinese librarianship in particular to develop, promote, and advance librarianship.
- Promote and advance librarianship in China. This is one of CALA’s missions. China needs a great leap forward in librarianship.
• CALA will move forward and under the leadership of many outstanding members,

• CALA will continue to flourish and grow in excellence.
Thanks  谢谢