CALA History of Chinese Railroad Workers on the Transcontinental Railroad Task Force
Mid-year Report 2015-2016

Advisor: Irene Yeh
Committee members:
Eugenia C. Beh (MIT Libraries)
Xi Chen (University of California San Diego)
Zheng (Jessica) Lu (University of San Francisco Library)
Yiping Wang (San Jose State University Library)
Chair: Yan He (Ohio University Libraries)

Since we formed the Task Force in September, our committee has achieved these accomplishments:

We started promoting the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project (CRRW) through a traveling exhibit: “The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental” that are housed in the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum (CHSA) in San Francisco. The University of California San Diego Library has contracted with the CHSA to loan their panels. Xi Chen, our committee member and the Chinese Studies Librarian at the UCSD Library, is the coordinator and event organizer. The panels arrived at UCSD Library on January 4, 2016 and will be on display until February 29. Brian Schottlaender, the University Librarian of UCSD will give an opening remark on January 22. Hilton Obenzinger, Associate Director of the CRRW project at Stanford University, Simeon Man, a history professor from UCSD, and Murray Lee, Curator of San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and also a descendant of Chinese railroad worker, will give speeches during the opening reception.

Upcoming events:

After the exhibit ends at the UCSD Library on February 29, it will go to San Diego Chinese Historical Museum for display from March 1 to 31. Xi Chen is the coordinator.

Second, we have done with compiling a bibliography regarding Chinese Railroad workers including the facts, articles, books, newspapers, archives, audio records, oral history and online materials. This bibliography will be distributed to the libraries with interest soon.

Third, we continue identifying the local libraries with an interest to host display/exhibits or relevant events. There are a few libraries have signed up for the travelling exhibits including the San Jose State University, the San Jose Public Library, Berkeley Public Library and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. The first round of exhibits will be travelling within the state of California. The schedule is planned full from January to May. After May, the exhibit is aimed to travel to libraries in other areas in the U.S.

Two Contact Persons coordinating with the CRRW project:
Yiping Wang (North California)
Xi Chen (South California)

Upcoming events:
After the exhibit ends at the UCSD Library on February 29, it will go to San Diego Chinese Historical Museum for display from March to April. They share the shipping cost with the UCSD Library. Xi Chen is the coordinator.

The San Jose State University/San Jose Public Library are requesting the exhibit for Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage month exhibit, which lasts from early April to late May, 2016. Yiping Wang is the coordinator.

Further cooperation with the CRRW project:

On November 9, 2015. Irene Yeh visited Gordon H. Chang and professor Shelley Fisher Fishkin. Upon Professor Chang’s invitation, Irene Yeh visited on campus the CRRW related photograph collection – *The Chinese Helped Build the Railroad. The Railroad Helped Build America. ‘Chinese Workers and the Railroad’ Photo Exhibit* 华工建造了铁路，铁路帮助建设了美国——“华工与铁路”图片展. It is a new collection of prints of 70 photographs in pairs of the “then and now” of key sites along the railroad track.

([http://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/wordpress/](http://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/wordpress/))

These collections are owned by the project as well. The collections are available to be loaned to CALA exhibits hosting libraries. The professors hope CALA will administer for them the shipping and the loan process.