Fourth Town Hall Meeting for 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Time: Apr. 17, 2020 11-12pm Central time

Attendees: Lian Ruan, Min Tong, Qiang Xiao, Zengwei Zhong, Grace Liu, Xiping Liu, Alvina Lai, Yulong Zhao, Fang Sheng, Yan, Ling Leng, Rong, Juanren Hong, Yuyao, Qi Chen, Jia Liu, Xiaocan Wang, Danxiao, Xuyao, Daniel Xiao, Hong Yao, Wenli Gao, Yang Dai, Le Yang, Weiling Liu

Meeting Chair: Wenli Gao & Lian Ruan

Minutes Taker: Grace Liu

Question 1: Compared with other library associations (ALA, IFLA, CEAL, ALCTS, APALA, etc.), what do you think CALA can adopt?

Attendees Responded:
- CALA is different from ALA but more comparable to APALA in terms of size and structure, for example chapters.
- APALA is more in front of social justice issues. CALA shall do more in this area.

Question 2: What improvement can CALA do to meet your expectations?

Attendees Responded:
- Develop more resources for students and entry level librarians for their professional development and job hunting, especially in this challenging period.
- Promote current programs, such as one year free student membership, mentorship program to students and entry level librarians to support their career development and job searching as well as finding directions for future career.
- Continue to provide committee and other volunteer opportunities for members to gain work related experiences, build and stay connections in the profession.
- In this pandemic situation, many libraries may face budget cuts which would probably lead to cut training and other professional development opportunities for librarians. CALA is currently establishing a virtual space for members to hang out and support each other. CALA shall consider staying agile to support members in unexpected circumstances.
Question 3: What is your long term career goal, and how can CALA help you?

Attendees Responded:
- Promotion to full librarianship.
- Create a space/database of reviewers in different areas so members can find them to support their own promotion to full librarianship, especially in academic libraries.
- Connect professionals with specialized expertise or librarianship, such as business, systems, etc. for sharing and supporting each other.
- Provide archives of recordings or other resources from previous professional development or related programs for members to review whenever they need.
- Use repository as a knowledge base to support members for their professional development, promotion, renewal and tenure process.
- Provide leadership development opportunities for members.
- Provide editorial, peer-reviewing opportunities using CALA own journal for members to gain academic experience in this area so they would be more prepared to take reviewer or editor roles in other journals in the field.

Question 4: What do you want CALA to be in the next five years?

Attendees Responded:
- Outreach to students in LIS schools to inform CALA resources to them
- Promote CALA in different conferences to new generations
- Include more students in committees for students to gain professional experiences and for committees to see students’ perspectives
- Build student chapter or student community to promote CALA to students
- Provide and promote conference presentations and publications opportunities, especially in this pandemic situation, many members will not go out for professional developments probably in a long time
- Encourage collaboration among chapters
- Provide more online training, meetings or other activities - can start now
- See more international impacts and collaboration with other organizations
- Initiate professional training in specific areas, like developing programs, etc.
- Make a long term plan or task force for professional training
- Coordinate and distribute training opportunities from other organizations.
- Compile a list of training opportunities for members