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Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee was honored on April 27, 2018 at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand
Open Letter from CALA President

Chinese American Librarians Association - 華人圖書館員協會

Champaign, IL

http://www.cala-web.org

Dear CALA Colleagues,

On behalf of the CALA Board of Directors (the Board) and the Executive Committee of the Board (EC), I am writing this open letter to all the CALA members in response to Mr. Clement Lau’s recent email posted on CALA’s Listserv. First, I would like to thank Mr. Clement Lau and others for bringing up the questions and concerns related to the proposed changes to CALA’s Constitution and Bylaws. This letter addresses on the concerns about transparency, CALA’s non-profit organization status, and related financial and legal matters.

As a registered nonprofit organization with 501(c)3 tax exempt status, CALA must operate in compliance with state and federal laws. Managing a non-profit organization like CALA is not an easy and simple task. Since 2013, the CALA leadership team has worked diligently to ensure CALA’s proper status both legally and financially. Please note that all the Board and EC members are volunteers.

Legally, CALA is now in good status as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and operates with professional guidance and protection. CALA has worked with lawyers who are familiar with Illinois laws for legal advice as needed. Approved by the Board, CALA has also purchased nonprofit D&O (Directors & Officers) insurance to protect CALA and CALA officers. However, for about ten years before 2013, there were some critical issues. For example, CALA had failed to file the required annual report with the Illinois Office of the Secretary of the State as CALA registered as a non-profit organization in Illinois. It was Lisa Zhao, CALA President (2013/2014), who initially discovered the legal issue with the Office of the Secretary of the State. She spent tremendous time and efforts to reinstate CALA’s non-profit status in October 2013. CALA had also failed to register with the Illinois Office of the Attorney General for more than ten years before 2013. Dr. Lian Ruan, CALA Incoming Vice President/President (2015/2016) worked diligently on the documents and the registration statement under both the Charitable Trust and the Solicitation for Charity Acts required by the Office of the Attorney General. CALA had to pay monetary penalties for the past four years in Feb. 2015 to reinstate CALA’s legal status under the Acts.

Financially, CALA follows professional practices. CALA has hired a professional bookkeeper company (BizCentral) to manage CALA’s financial operations, prepare quarterly statements, and file annual income tax every May. CALA has used J.P. Morgan Security (Chase Bank) to handle CALA investment and endowment accounts. Before 2013, however, there were also many issues in bank accounts, investment management, and funding management. For instance, CALA failed to file a tax return with the Federal Internal Revenue Services (IRS) for over two years (2009-2010). CALA’s banking and some investment accounts were not appropriately set up to reflect CALA’s non-profit status. It also appeared that several times that CALA’s operation funds were mixed with donor funds causing CALA’s disorder. Since 2013, it has taken CALA Treasurer, Executive Director and EC tremendous time working with several financial institutes where CALA accounts were opened to fix the issues. After the problems were resolved and to better manage the donor funds in the future, in 2017, the Board passed the CALA Donation Acceptance Policy (http://cala-web.org/node/1479), among other policies.
Open Letter from CALA President (Continued)

Since 2013, the CALA leadership team strive to maintain CALA’s proper status. CALA President has followed the requirements stated in Bylaws to submit the budget proposal prior to the Board Meeting for approval. Every change in the budget needs to be revisited and approved by the Board in the revised budget. Whenever CALA Treasurer makes a payment by check, CALA corporate credit card or other means, Executive Director must review and approve it while informing EC. The Treasurer shares EC the financial statements by BizCentral and investment firms on a regular basis. The Treasurer is also required to make the financial report presented to the Board twice at the Board Meeting (open meetings during ALA MidWinter and Annual Conference). These reports are available to all members upon request.

Transparency has been a top priority for the Board and EC. Information about CALA Board meetings is posted on CALA Listserv, CALA Website, ALA Annual Program Flyer, ALA Mobile App, and ALA Website. All board meeting minutes and documents are recorded and open to the public. Anyone can request to have a copy of it.

The CALA leadership team is working very hard and is determined to keep all practice clear and transparent. The leadership understands that members are our core and our base and will always put members’ interest first. With all the changes in the past few years, the Board and EC are confident and proud to say that CALA as a non-profit organization is moving forward towards a much healthier professional organization. The CALA leadership team will continue its efforts on best practices, and with open ears, we welcome any sound comments and suggestions for the benefits of CALA and our members.

The Board and EC ensure you that all proposed changes will not cloud CALA’s transparency. We are working on another open letter addressing concerns on changes of Constitution and Bylaws and how the changes will make impacts on CALA’s future and growth.

Sincerely,

Le Yang, President (2017/2018)

CALA Executive Committee –
Le Yang, President (2017/2018)
Lian Ruan, Executive Director (2016-2019)
Ying Zhang, Vice President (2017/2018)
Fu Zhuo, Incoming Vice President/President-Elect (2018/2019)
Ying Liao, Treasurer (2016-2018)
Qi Chen, Immediate Past President
Announcements

CALA Collaborating with Wuhan University School of Information Management

The Chinese American Librarians Association has established a collaboration relationship with Wuhan University's School of Information Management, the top 1 and the oldest school in Library & Information Science in China.

CALA President YANG Le visited Wuhan University's School of Information Management on March 29, 2018. Professor WU Zhiqiang (The Secretary of CPC of Library Science Department), Professor SI Li (former Director of Library Science Department) and several other professors met with Le and discussed collaboration opportunities, including international conferences, seminars, journal publications, professional training, scholar exchange program etc.

2018 CALA Annual Conference Poster Session

Showcase of Your Achievements
The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) will host a poster session during its 2018 annual conference. The goal of the poster session is for its members to showcase, discuss and share achievements in research, work in progress, best practices, innovative services, and community development in an informal scholarly setting.

The 2018 CALA Annual Conference Poster Session will be held:
**June 24, Sunday, 3:15 – 4:15pm**
Uptown 2 &3, Le Méridien Hotel
New Orleans, LA

#CALAannual #CALAannual2018 #postersession #calls #ALAAC18
The accepted poster presentations will be arranged under five categories: Instruction and User Services, Assessment and Evaluation, Library Research, Outreach, Connecting and Communication, and Infrastructure. Please refer to the attached document for poster abstracts.

Instruction and User Services

**Keeping It Interesting: Application of Instructional Technologies to Enhance the Engagement of Generation Y Students in Library Instruction Classroom Activities**
Liya Deng, Social Sciences Librarian, Eastern Washington University
Announcements (Continued)

Abstract: In today’s academic libraries, Millennials, or Generation Y students, have become one of the major constituencies and the focus of many library services, including information literacy instruction. Millennial students possess a number of features and personality traits that determine their learning preferences, including natural curiosity, proficiency with modern technologies, and a desire for social interaction and collaboration. Thus, academic libraries increasingly seek to expand their understanding of how Millennials learn and how to make library instruction more relevant and appealing to Generation Y students.

The purpose of this poster is to illustrate that the application of various instructional technologies like Poll Everywhere or Padlet is a powerful tool to increase student engagement with the instructional material and long-term mastery of the content in the library classroom. The author uses an example of the successful implementation of such technologies in the context of information literacy instruction provided by the Eastern Washington University Libraries for a senior capstone Social Work course and a research-heavy Communication Studies class. The author argues that since group work is at the core of technology-mediated learning, it is a perfect fit for Millennial learners and should be integrated into a variety of instructional products designed for them.

The poster further discusses how the interactive nature of polling technology tools complements more traditional engagement techniques, such as peer assessment, alternating periods of instruction and classroom discussion, or asking students to think out loud through search query design. The main take-away for the audience is that instructional technology can serve as a bridge between contemporary learner needs and library offerings to make learning more enjoyable and fun for Generation Y students.

If You Build It, They will Use It: Creating Effective Course-level Library Guides

Hanrong Wang, Professor, Law/Technology Librarian, Jacksonville State University

Abstract: Bridging resources and users is one of the core responsibilities for a subject librarian in an academic library. A library research guide, which typically presents related resources and finding aids, is a straight way to link resources and users. This is because not only a guide can offer a starting point of research, but also it can provide a map of library resources. Creating a research guide by subject (also called subject-level library research guide) became a natural adoption and a common practice in many academic libraries since 1970s. However, in recent years, with the introduction of increasing academic interdisciplinary courses/programs and the rapidly grown library resources, a subject-level guide, from time to time, could be overwhelmed with burdened information and/or without focus. Creating course – level research guide became necessary to amply support the specific course under this circumstance.

This presentation shares the processes and methods on how to create and promote an effective course-level library research guide in an academic institution. Why to create, what to include, what to avoid, when to post, whom to communicate, and what to expect are all discussed. According to the presenter, the course-level guides were well received by the faculty and the students at the home institution, though similar/same processes could be adopted by other practitioners for future performance. A sample guide is provided.

VoiceThread: Utilization of Technology for Library Instruction

Yingqi Tang, Distance Education/Electronic Resources Manager, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University
Announcements (Continued)

Abstract: Collaborative learning allows students to learn together in a group toward a preinstalled objective. Students who are engaged in a collaborative learning environment have more opportunity to perceive others’ ideas, resources, and experiences. Many studies show that collaborative learning fosters student’s critical thinking and problem solving skills (Kirschner et al., 2011; Zahra, 2009), contributes to academic achievement (Chen & Chiu, 2016). Collaborative learning leads to self-questioning, deeper thinking, and problem solving. Current treads in education emphasize the importance of a creative and active learning environment where faculty and students can communicate, exchange, and share ideas.

VoiceThread is an audio-based, Web 2.0 technology solution that allows users to communicate and collaborate. It offers students a vigorous and engaging way to share and communicate images, audio, video, and text. Because it can be integrated with any Learning Management System (i.e. Blackboard, Moodle, Desire 2 Learn, and Canvas), it becomes one of the useful collaborative tools for online learning.

This poster will present some ideas for using VoiceThread to promote active learning in library instruction class that meets students’ individual learning styles and encourage collaborative learning.

Student Success, a Library Case in Supporting Student Success

Hong Wu, Director of Library and Information Services, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Abstract: Reynolds Libraries have offered a display of student projects called the “Reynolds Student Expo” for the past three years. Faculty from all disciplines and programs are invited to take part; they select their best student projects to represent their courses and bring them to the library. Library staff organize and display all formats of student works including: posters, essays, digital presentations, sculptures, photographs, floral arrangements, and even cakes. The results have been three fold: Reynolds Library has positively impacted student success and generated an enormous feeling of pride in the content and execution of student projects. Faculty members are rewarded by the promotion of their courses. Students are applauded for the creativity, content and execution of their projects. Over two thirds of the students reported that they demonstrated more motivation and stronger comprehension of the course content, and received better grades as a result of their participation.


Xiaojie Duan, Catalog Librarian & Assistant Professor, University of Southern Mississippi Libraries

Abstract: (1) Method, analysis, and finding This research is conducted through online questionnaire. Based on the analysis of collected data, the research has the following findings: 1. Understanding of VRS: Both students and librarians are aware that VRS is a way to ask questions, especially academic questions. 2. Use of VRS: “Online chat” is the most popular type of VRS used by both students and librarians, and “Emails” is the second popular VRS to students, while “Text” is the second popular VRS to librarians. 3. Satisfaction of VRS: Students’ satisfaction is related to the waiting time. The less time they wait, the more they feel satisfied. The librarians’ satisfaction of VRS, however, does not relate to the waiting time but relates more to the answer qualities. 4. Expectation of VRS: Chinese students have a higher expectation of VRS than international students. So far, some libraries provide VRS especially to international students, but in most libraries the VRS are for all library users, not just for international students.
Announcements (Continued)

(2) Description of work in progress: The research is under data collection and is collecting data from both students and librarians. The questionnaire is separated by Chinese student’s version and librarian’s version. Participants need to complete up to fifteen questions or to seven questions, depending on the versions they choose. (3) Discussion: This research is having the following discussions: 1. Does English skills have an impact on the use of VRS? 2. Is the librarian profession related to answer qualities? 3. Does satisfaction change because of interactions with the librarians? 4. Do student expectations of VRS really matter to library operations? This research displayed its initial research findings last year. As more data is collected over time, this research aims to reveal more findings to help librarians and students know more about each other.

Reflections in Teaching a LIS Course in the Changing World of Libraries
Suzhen Chen, Chinese Language Cataloging/Metadata Librarian, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Margaret Joyce, Hawaiian Materials Cataloging/Metadata Librarian, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Abstract: As Catalog/Metadata Librarians and adjunct faculty at the LIS program of a public co-educational research university, we rethink what skills and knowledge LIS students seek to gain from the class Metadata Creation for Information Organization, and how these reflect the rapidly changing information age. In this poster, we share our experiences, thoughts, and planned future direction in teaching the course, which is related to cataloging, classification, metadata, and information organization. We highlight emerging trends in the field and the knowledge and skills that are useful to LIS students, and new librarians, to learn in the class from our own experiences in teaching these topics. A literature review will complement our experiences and research. Some changes to the course and thoughts on future directions for its development will be discussed. The synthesis of this information will impact the students' understanding of and ability to utilize metadata skills in their library careers.

Transforming Chinese Libraries through Innovative User-Centered Services
Lian Ruan, Head Librarian, Illinois Fire Service Institute; Xingye Du, Managing Editor, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.R. China

Abstract: This poster presentation reports a special issue project for the International Journal of Library and Information Services. It discusses how libraries in China are transforming themselves through innovative user-centered services in the 21st century. It covers a range of academic, public and special libraries both in developed coastline and under-developed western regions. It is hoped that this special issue will help readers in the western world gain a better understanding of libraries in China.

Assessment and Evaluation

Assess and Improve: A Case Study at Georgia Southern University Library
Clement Chu Sing Lau, Associate Dean of Libraries & Director of Zach S. Henderson Library, Georgia Southern University
Announcements (Continued)

Abstract: (1) Method, Analysis, and Finding (Research): Case study method using surveys. (2) Description of Work in Progress, or Best Practice, or Innovative Services, or Community Development: Over the years, Georgia Southern University’s Henderson Library has been assessing its service performance, making improvements, and demonstrating its values. It has been applying various assessment tools and methods to evaluate its services and programs, and using the findings to make improvements. This poster will demonstrate how Henderson Library continuously assesses and improves its services with concrete examples using photos and graphs. (3) Discussion: How to better document and communicate its outcomes in order to prove its performance contributes to institutional goals and outcomes.

“Microscope” the Organizational Services of Chinese American Librarians Association

Jian Anna Xiong, Government Information Librarian, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Yan He, Information Literacy Librarian, Indiana University (IU) Kokomo; Jie Huang, Special Projects Cataloging Librarian, Pennsylvania State University Libraries; Xiaocan (Lucy) Wang, Emerging Technologies Librarian, George A. Spiva Library, Missouri Southern State University; Wenli Gao, Data Services Librarian, the University of Houston

Abstract: To make the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) a stronger organization and to serve its members more efficiently and effectively, the CALA’s Assessment and Evaluation Committee designed an online survey and distributed it to all members through the CALA’s listserv and its website. The total 30 survey questions in six categories correspond to the six areas of CALA 2020 Strategic Plan. The committee will collect survey results and analyze them using multiple methods. For the questions that can be quantified, the committee will sort the data, manipulate them in Excel, and use graphic images to demonstrate the results in a visual way; for questions that cannot be quantified, it will summarize the results in a narrative. Finally, the committee will send a comprehensive report with its conclusions as well as the raw data to the CALA Board.

The survey data and conclusions will assist the Board to gauge the level of CALA members’ awareness, perception, and usage toward the association’s policies and services and therefore to understand its members’ level of satisfaction with the services provided by CALA. The findings of the survey can be used as an important reference for the association to better develop its future strategic plan and long-term goals, such as launching innovative and quality programs and services, using cutting-edge technologies to recruit and engage CALA members, creating professional development networking platforms, and promoting leadership training and services.

The proposal will share the interpretation and findings of this survey with the audience. It can increase the awareness of issues, difficulties, and challenges with respect to organizational development. The proposal will also share the best practices that may be applied to other library organizations.

Study on User Satisfaction in University Libraries Based on SEM – Take Changzhou University as an Example

Mi Yan, Lecturer, Changzhou University
Announcements (Continued)

Abstract: Library is the significant information center of universities, and it is very useful to teachers, researchers and students. With the development of internet and information technology, the traditional services of the university libraries will be challenged. In order to make more teachers and students use the information and services of the library, how to provide what the users really want, how to create the comfortable environment, and how to improve the user satisfaction are the most important issues in university libraries now. This paper takes Changzhou University Library as an example, finds the factors which influence the users satisfaction of university library, constructs the structure equation model about user satisfaction, analyzes the reliability of the data which are collected from the questionnaire survey with SPSS 13.0, discusses the rationality and gets the solution of that model by AMOS 17.0. Finally, it calculates the user satisfaction degree of the library in Changzhou University. Based on the conclusion, the paper studies the existing problems and gives some active advises, which will be useful for the construction and development of other university libraries. However, there are still some problems waiting to be solved, such as how the university libraries make better use of social resources, provide social services and expand social influence, which are also conducive to the development of university libraries and make the users more satisfied with the libraries.

Library Research

Problems of JCR categories: Information Science & Library Science

Wang-Ching Shaw, Chief Librarian and Associate Research Fellow, National Academy for Educational Research, Library, Taipei

Abstract: The Impact Factor, IF, ranking of journals in Journal Citation Reports (JCR), influences journals’ academic evaluation and the IF ranking which is closely related to its journal’s category. The author has analyzed 88 Information Science and Library Science (IS & LS) journals under JCR to explore the problems of JCR through bibliometrics. The citations and the author’s organizations of four different sub-categories, Library Science, LS, Information Science, IS, Scientometrics, SM and Management Information System, MIS, moreover, four specific journals, LISR, JASIST, SMs and MISQ have been studied. The IF and quartile distributions of these journals also have been examined.

This research shows that the articles in IS & LS, LS, IS and SM mostly cite the literatures from LIS, except MIS. Articles in LS, IS and SM cite the literatures from LIS, computer science, general science and medicine science mostly; while articles in MIS mostly cite the literatures from MIS, computer science, management and business. As for the author’s organization, authors in IS & LS and LIS journals are mostly from LIS organization; authors in MIS are basically from MIS, LIS and business schools.

This research has found that the IF is significantly different between MIS and LIS. The quartile value of MIS falls within Q1, while the quartile value of LS mostly falls within Q4. As it shows, the top 25% in journal rankings are mostly occupied by MIS journals; this might have a negative impact on the IF ranking and academic evaluations of LIS journals and authors. Besides, LIS journals sometimes cite MIS journals; articles in MIS almost never cite from LIS journals. The authors from MIS and LIS journals mostly come from organizations in different disciplines. To summarize, the journals in MIS and LIS are heterogeneous.
Announcements (Continued)

Evaluating the Consistency and Quality of Search Strategies and Methodology in Cochrane Urology Group Systematic Reviews

Clara Y. Tran, Science Librarian, Stony Brook University; Jennifer A. Lyon, M.ED. Student, Western Governors University; Carrie Price, Clinical Informationist, the Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University; Jamie Saragossi, Head of the Health Sciences Library, Stony Brook University

Abstract: (1) Method, Analysis, and Finding (Research): Sixty-five published Urology Group Cochrane Systematic Reviews (CSR) and Protocols (CSP) were downloaded from the Cochrane Library on September 15, 2016. A data form was created using Qualtrics consisting of several sections including expanded PRESS (Peer-Review of Electronic Search Strategies) elements, database selection, search methodology reporting, & consistency. Four librarians, including two Cochrane Urology Assistant Information Specialists, evaluated 20 CSR/Ps each, allowing overlap to verify data extraction reliability. Librarian reviewers noted high variability in CSR/P search methods including selection of databases searched, full search strategies reporting, and use of publication filters, clinical trial registries, conference proceedings, and journal TOCs. Within search strategies, common errors included wrong line numbers, misspellings, inappropriate syntax, and duplicated lines. (2) Description: Cochrane Reviews are frequently viewed as the “gold standard” of systematic reviews; therefore the CSR/Ps should have high quality search methodology. This retrospective analysis represents a historical overview of search method reporting in CSR/Ps from the Cochrane Urology Group. Our results demonstrate a need for improved standardization including complete documentation of all strategies, more consistent database selection, less variation in strategy construction, increased use of peer-review and inclusion of the PRISMA Flow Diagram, and tighter adherence to the Cochrane Handbook/MECIR Standards. (3) Discussion: The range of databases searched was extremely wide with only MEDLINE and a Cochrane database seen consistently. It was rare to see search strategies provided for all (or even most) databases, with higher inclusivity in more recent reviews. Many reviews were limited to term listings in the methods while others provided one strategy as an example. Publication type filtering was extremely varied, with alterations to standard Cochrane filters common. Most reviews included reference list searching and author contacts, but had little consensus regarding trial registries, conference proceedings, and journal table of contents.

Applying Statistical Methods to the Library Data Analysis

Yongming Wang, Systems Librarian, The College of New Jersey; Jia Mi, Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian, The College of New Jersey

Abstract: Data has played a more and more important role in today’s society. Data-based decision making can help libraries improve their services and functions such as library collection management. This poster will demonstrate our experiment using some traditional and popular statistical methods, such as Pearson correlation coefficient and linear regression, to analyze the College of New Jersey Library’s e-resources usage data. By using the statistical methods to analyze the data, we are trying to understand the real relationship between the different variables and forecast the future usage of the e-resource collections. Thus it can help the library make effective decisions in e-resource collection management and library budgeting.
Announcements (Continued)

Outreach, Connecting and Communication

Building a Tag Library for the CALA’s Social Media Channels

The CALA Social Media Group

Abstract: The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) has created several social media channels since 2012 with CALA members and friends participating from around the world, including the CALA’s Facebook public page, WeChat space, YouTube Channel, LinkedIn Group and the "CALA Members and Friends" Facebook private group. This poster will introduce these channels and discuss the CALA Social Media Group’s efforts in promoting them to better serve the users’ needs and connect its members and friends nationally and internationally. One big effort to be discussed is to build a tag library for the CALA’s social media channels for postings to be connected internally and exposed to a wider audience. This project is carried out by investigating the social media practices of other organizations in the library and education community, collecting tags from other organizations’ social media sites such as ALA, APALA, IFLA and OCLC, researching the nature of the CALA’s Facebook postings and brainstorming a tag list, tagging the previous Facebook postings using tags from both researches, refining the tag library and applying it to new postings. The future steps are to keep expanding and enhancing the tag library and also refer to it for poster analysis and user study in other social media channels so as to serve the Chinese American librarians community better.

The Library Association’s Role in Creating and Promoting the International Relations: a Case Study of CALA

Yuan Li, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Princeton University

Abstract: In the context of global economy, international relation has become increasingly important in the library world. The ALA International Relations Committee and International Relations Round Table work to promote the exchange of professional information, techniques, and knowledge, as well as personnel and literature between and among libraries and individuals throughout the world. The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), as an affiliate of the ALA, is also actively working on the international relations. Because of the ubiquitous connection with China from the majority of its members, CALA has incorporated the promotion of the Sino-American librarianship into the mission statement. This poster shows the international librarianship programs and activities that CALA or CALA leaders initiated and how those programs have promoted the exchange of best practices in the profession internationally as well as the relationships between ALA and the Library Society of China.

Infrastructure

If We Build It, They will Come: Improving the CALA’s Institutional Repository

The CALA Academic Resources & Repository System (CALASYS) Group
Announcements (Continued)

Abstract: The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA)’s Academic Resources & Repository System (CALASYS) is an important initiative to curate its members’ research works, the organizational archival materials, and other cultural resources. CALASYS uses Omeka, an open source web-publishing platform, to store, link, display, and exhibit its collections. During its development, several aspects of the platform have been significantly improved due to the effort of the CALASYS Group and the CALA members.

To meet the emerging needs for improving data entry, description and access, the CALASYS group has explored and implemented multiple plugins. Among those implemented are Library of Congress (LC) Suggest, CSV Import, and Zotero Import. LC Suggest facilitates the cataloging process by offering auto-completion of subjects; it is linked to various authorities and is synchronous to updates thus helps improve the quality and consistency of metadata. CSV Import and Zotero Import both are instances of batch upload. This poster will demonstrate the improvements brought by plugins as well as the pros and cons of the selected plugins.

Meanwhile, the CALASYS group has been diligently building its collections by reaching out to the CALA members, chapters, committees and task forces. They have also been proactively promoting the platform among the CALA members via mailing lists and social media channels, showcasing it in conferences and involving more members and student volunteers in using the repository and contributing metadata. CALASYS is positioned as the organization’s institutional repository and its development will be an ongoing process to meet the needs of the organization and its members in the future.

How to Keep Sustainable Development of Central-Branch Library System from its Beginning in China -- Take Tianjin as an Example

Xue Xiao, Associate Professor, Nankai University

Abstract: This poster explores the construction plan of the central-branch library system in Tianjin. The author uses in-depth interview, focus group interview, questionnaire and case study methods to get to know the present situation, problems and expectations of the central-branch system construction in Tianjin. Based on the analysis, it is found that: (1) Most of the public libraries were isolated from each other and only four out of sixteen districts have explored central-branch library system to the various extent. (2) The main propelling forces can be summarized as the attention of district government and its policy and financial support, the pressure of external evaluation, library spontaneous pursuit of self-development. (3) Present problems include deficiency of understanding of the central-branch library system, lack of collaboration between district government and county/town government, unstable policy and financial supports, an unclear operation system, and an incomplete evaluation mechanism. (4) Librarians expect fuller and more stable policies and financial support, better collaboration relationship between district and county/town government, increase of workers and more investment in human resources, a more effective operation system, and an assessment mechanism developed on the normalized basis.

In conclusion, the author brings forward her thoughts about the central-branch library system: (1) At present, it is difficult to construct the same central-branch system as that in western countries, so government at different levels should devote to the system construction and collaborate with each other. In Tianjin as well as in most provinces of China, in accordance with three-tier administrative division hierarchy system, the most suitable model for the central-branch system is a three-tier system. (2) To keep the sustainable development of central-branch library system, it would be better to take all present situation, problems and expectations into consideration at the beginning of design, and keep a close eye to its implementation and make some adjustments accordingly. Our procedure and methods of making construction plan will be helpful to other regions.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the CALA Annual Poster Session!

2018 CALA Conference Program Committee
Ying Zhang, Chair, CALA Vice President/President Elect

Poster Session Subcommittee
Sai Deng
Jiaxun Wu
Announcements (Continued)

IFLA Meeting 2018 in Canada

CALA Members @ IFLA 2018

Congratulations to CALA Northeast Chapter on having a successful 2018 Spring Conference on April 20, 2018!
Announcements (Continued)

CALA life member Wenxian Zhang’s new book, *China Through American Eyes: Early Depictions of the Chinese People and Culture in the US Print Media*, has recently been published by *World Scientific* in April 2018. This title is a part of the Chinese Culture Translation and Studies Support Project, and its Chinese edition was published by Peking University Press last summer (美国画报上的中国 1840-1911).

Cultural understanding between the United States and China has been a long and complex process. The period from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century is not only a critical era in modern Chinese history, but also the peak time of illustrated news reporting in the United States. Besides images from newspapers and journals, this collection also contains pictures about China and the Chinese published in books, brochures, commercial advertisements, campaign posters, postcards, etc. Together, they have documented colourful portrayals of the Chinese and their culture by the U.S. print media and their evolution from ethnic curiosity, stereotyping, and racial prejudice to social awareness, reluctant understanding, and eventual acceptance. Since these publications represent different positions in American politics, they can help contemporary readers develop a more comprehensive understanding of major events in modern American and Chinese histories, such as the cause and effect of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the power struggles behind the development of the Open Door Policy at the turn of the twentieth century. This collection of images has essentially formed a rich visual resource that is both diverse and intriguing; and as primary source documents, they carry significant historical and cultural values that could stimulate further academic research.

**Buddhist Text Translation Society celebrates 100th birthday of founder Triпитaka Master Hsuan Hua by Eileen Hu**

When Buddhism first came to China from India, one of the most important tasks required for its establishment was the translation of the Buddhist scriptures from Sanskrit into Chinese. This work involved a great many people, such as the renowned fifth century monk National Master Kumarakajiva, who led an assembly of over 800 people to work on the translation of the Buddhist canon (Triпитaka) for over a decade. Because of the work of individuals such as these, nearly the entire Buddhist Triпитaka of over a thousand texts exists to the present day in Chinese.

Now the banner of the Buddha’s teachings is being firmly planted in Western soil. Triпитaka Master Hsuan Hua was one of the earliest Mahayana monks to come to the United States and have scriptures translated from Chinese into English. He established the Buddhist Text Translation Society (BTTS) in San Francisco in the 1970s. Aware that the Buddhist Triпитaka is a work of such magnitude that its translation could never be entrusted to a single person, BTTS, emulating the translation assemblies of ancient times, does not publish a work until it has passed through four committees for primary translation, revision, editing, and certification. The leaders of these committees are bhikshus (monks) and bhikshunis (nuns) who have devoted their lives to the study and practice of the Buddha’s teachings.
Announcements (Continued)

Master Hua was born in 1918 near Manchuria, China into a family of frugal farmers. He learned to read at 15, and after his mother’s death at 19, he became a monk. He meditated by his mother’s grave for three years and practiced other austerities before receiving full ordination.

At Nan Hua Monastery in Guangdong Province, the bodhimanda of the Sixth Patriarch Hui Neng, Master Hua received the mind-to-mind transmission of the Patriarchs from Master Hsu Yun, making him the 45th Buddhist patriarch in direct lineage from Shakyamuni Buddha. In 1949 the Master went to Hong Kong to promote orthodox Buddhism. In 1962, he brought monastic, Mahayana Buddhism to America.

The Buddhist Text Translation Society will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Master Hua, at the Main Library in San Francisco, CA on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018 with an exhibition of photos, publications, and artifacts. The exhibition will run for three months. In addition, during the year 2018, BTTS is offering complimentary copies of books in their catalog to academic and public libraries.
http://www.buddhisttexts.org/catalog.html

CALA President Le Yang gave a presentation on OCLC Annual Conference

CALA President Le Yang gave a presentation on OCLC Annual Conference: “EZproxy Integration for Better User Experience” which is about EZproxy integration for both the Chinese and American database resources to improve remote access.
Six Winners of the 2018 Cala Scholarships

CALA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Cala scholarships.

**Rongqian Ma** - Winner of the [CALA Scholarship of Library and Information Science](#). This scholarship awards $1000 to a full-time student at an ALA-accredited library school. Rongqian Ma currently studies at the University of Pittsburgh, working on her Ph.D in Library and Information Science.

**Lanyi Peng** – Winner of the Sheila Suen Lai Scholarship of Library & Information Science. This scholarship awards $500 to a full-time student at an ALA-accredited library school. Lanyi Peng is a student in the MLIS program at San Jose State University.

**Amanda Chin** – Winner of the Lisa Zhao Scholarship. The Lisa Zhao Scholarship awards $500 to a current full-time students enrolled in an ALA accredited Library School. Amanda Chin is a first-year residential student in the master program of Library and Information Science at University of Washington.

**The Huang Tso-ping and Wu Yao-yu Research and Scholarship**. We are also pleased announce the winners of the Huang Tso-ping and Wu Yao-yu Research and Scholarship. This scholarship awards faculty and students at the Wuhan University, China.

**Zhiqiang Wu** – US$400.00 (faculty).

**Yueliang Zeng** - $200 (Ph.D. student)

**Jing Dong** - $200 (master student)

Congratulations again to them all!

**Newly Published Edited Volume**

Newly Published Edited Volume: Asian American Librarians and Library Services: Activism, Collaboration and Strategies

From digitization efforts of Asian American collections to public library outreach to Vietnamese-American communities, [Asian American Librarians and Library Services: Activism, Collaboration and Strategies](#) was recently published by Rowman & Littlefield in December 2017.

This collection, edited by APALA and CALA members Janet H. Clarke, Raymond Pun and Monnee Tong, is the first book that features an array of personal essays and case studies from, and interviews with librarians who are of APA heritage and who support the APA community.

Many contributors are also CALA and members and active in the profession. There is one chapter by Sai Deng that covers the history of CALA. Leadership interviews are also featured in this book including Lian Ruan (Current Executive Director of CALA), Haipeng Li (Past President of CALA), Xuemaowang, Patty Wong, Sandy Wee, Tiwei Liu, and more! Kudos to all!
An Interview with BCALA President 2017-2018 Denyvetta Davis

Ray: Can you share highlights of your presidency in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) 2017-2018?

Denyvetta: This has been a busy year for BCALA. The theme during my administration has been “Commitment to Excellence” with a focus on organizational excellence. To keep members informed and to provide transparency, I submitted quarterly reports. I will complete my sixth report in June 2018.

Here are a few highlights of my presidency:

- Strategic Directions, 2016-2020 was completed and Action Plan activated. A progress report was presented at the Executive Board meeting during ALA Annual in Denver.
- We implemented a Membership Campaign, 2016-2019 coordinated by the membership committee in November 2016. As of November 2017, membership increased by 24%.
- Bylaws were revised and approved by the membership during ALA Annual in Chicago.
- We sponsored the CSK Book Author Award and presented the honorarium at the CSK Breakfast during ALA in Chicago.
- BCALA sponsored the Inaugural Walter Dean Myers Memorial Lecture during ALA Annual in Chicago with Association for Library Service to Children, American Association of School Librarians, CSK Book Award Committee, Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table, Public Library Association, Simon and Schuster, Inc., and Young Adult Library Services Division as co-sponsors.
- I presided over 10th NCAAL in Atlanta, GA (512 attendees) celebrating 25 years since 1st NCAAL was held in 1992, Columbus, OH. We awarded four 1,000 scholarships and twenty -$50 scholarships for school librarians to attend the CSK Book Award Pre-Conference. We sponsored two Emerging Leaders for 2017-2018, Twanna Hodge and A. J. Muhammad.
- Members completed a Comprehensive Membership Survey via Survey Monkey in the spring of 2018. Results will be shared with the Executive Board and membership during the ALA Annual meeting in New Orleans.

The Executive Board approved funding for BCALA Website Enhancement with DGSNR Unlimited, our current website host. The phased project began February 2018 and is expected to be completed by October 2018. Both BCALA.org and BCALAJob.org will be updated with the latest WordPress eCommerce frameworks, which will allow for the expansion of community features (i.e. user forum, accepting payments for various features, membership and roles) and overall enhance security for the platform.
Established the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) made up of the BCALA past presidents. One of the goals was to create and fund the President Leadership Grant. The purpose of the first grant was to give current BCALA Executive Board members and Committee Chairs an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and to cultivate a large pool of BCALA members who are interested in BCALA leadership. Generously funded by the past presidents, the grant would provide financial support for the recipient, if accepted to attend the ALA Leadership Institute: Leading to the Future, August 6-9, 2018 at the Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois. Brian Hart, Deputy Director of Libraries, Greensboro Public Library was selected.

The National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) Task Force was created to review the site selection process, frequency and planning process for the National Conference of African American Librarians to ensure it is efficient, cost effective and meets the needs of BCALA members. The report will be presented to the Executive Board during ALA Annual in New Orleans.

Dr. Shaundra Walker was hired as Organizational Director replacing Keshia Garnett who served in the position for several years. This is a part-time, contract/remote position with a maximum of 40 hours/month.

I represented BCALA at the IFLA Global Visioning Regional North American Conference in Ottawa, Canada, April 16-18, 2018.

**Ray:** Have you been to JCLC before? Can you share with us your thoughts on JCLC 2018 and the importance of attending this conference?

**Denyvetta:** Yes, I attended JCLC 2006 in Dallas, JCLC 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri and excited about attending JCLC 2018. JCLC provides an opportunity for the ALA ethnic caucuses to get together, network, rekindle old friends and create new ones, learn about advocacy, best practices, and much more. JCLC is for anyone in the library world who is interested in diversity issues and how to enhance services to ethnic populations.

**Ray:** Can you think of any ideas for collaboration between CALA and BCALA members?

**Denyvetta:** BCALA and CALA can collaborate by co-sponsoring programs/activities, presenting and sponsoring webinars and other professional development opportunities, mentoring, grant writing, sharing resources, recruitment, and through joint advocacy efforts. TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE!
Ray: What's next for BCALA? Where do you see BCALA heading?

Denyvetta: The BCALA vision is to be the pre-eminent organization service African American Librarians. This will to be our focus and will be our “north star” for the next generation of leaders.

We will continue to work with North Carolina Center University SLIS to digitalize BCALA papers currently housed there and explore possibilities for the digitalization of future documents. We will continue to seek partnerships and collaboration opportunities with organizations both inside and outside the library world.

By the end of 2018, BCALA will have enhanced websites that are user friendly and meets the current needs of the organization. BCALA will celebrate our 50th Anniversary during the 11th National Conference of African American Librarian (NCAAL), August 5-9, 2020 in Tulsa. The theme is Culture Keepers XI, Sankofa Experience: Inspired by Our Past, Igniting Our Future.

Denyvetta Davis is a retired administrator with the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Denyvetta was the systems’ first African American administrator serving as Director of Library Operations supervising 19 libraries serving citizens of Oklahoma county. Prior to this position, Denyvetta served as Manager of the prestigious Ralph Ellison Library where she received numerous local, state, and national awards/honors for her professional and community service including being named as one of ALA’s Visionary Leader, winner of John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award, the Oklahoma Governor’s Art Award for Community Service and the Ralph Ellison Person of Distinction Award. She recently received the 2018 Cultural Connection Award for outstanding contributions in the preservation of our culture through the Arts and Humanities. Denyvetta is the co-author of Ralph Ellison: A Biography with Bob Burke, a noted Oklahoma historian; wrote the Forward for These Words, A Collection of Verse by the Society of Urban Poets, and editor of What’s in a Name: Footprints of African American Trailblazers Publicly Honored in OKC written by Bettye Wedgeworth. She is currently working on two projects to be released in 2018 and 2020. Denyvetta has extensive nonprofit management experience. She is an alumni of Leadership OKC and has served in various leadership roles within the Oklahoma City community. She recently graduated from the Salt and Light Leadership Training (SALLT) program. Denyvetta is a Life Member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, a member of ALA, EMIERT (CSK Book Award Committee), IRRT, LLAMA, and PLA. She has traveled extensively and enjoys spending time with family and friends. Denyvetta received a bachelor’s in business administration and master’s in Instructional Media from the University of Central Oklahoma, a master’s in library science from Atlanta University with addition study at the University of Oklahoma.
Featured Interviews with ALA Ethnic Affiliate Leaders (Continued)

An Interview with REFORMA President 2017-2018 Tess Tobin

Ray: Can you share highlights of your presidency in REFORMA 2017-2018?
Tess: My REFORMA Presidency has been a very rewarding experience. I have a great Executive Committee and Board of Directors who have been supportive during a challenging year. The 6th REFORMA National Conference scheduled for Puerto Rico had to be canceled due to weather. There were many good moments too. One of the highlights was announcing the Pura Belpré Awards at the Youth Media Awards at ALA Mid-Winter. There is so much excitement in the auditorium and there are so many great books that get honored during this event. I am so happy that the Pura Belpré Award receives the recognition and kudos it deserves. Another highlight was my visit to Puerto Rico in January2018. Travelling with President-Elect Loida Garcia-Febo we visited libraries where we met many dedicated librarians. REFORMA partnered with the ALA International Relations Office and through the ALA Disaster Relief Fund, we raised more than $70,000 dollars to aid libraries devastated by Hurricane Maria.

Ray: Have you been to JCLC before? Can you share with us your thoughts on JCLC 2018 and the importance of attending this conference?
Tess: I attended the 2012 JCLC Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference offers a meaningful time for all the ethnic affiliates to come together and share their best work and projects. You have the opportunity to network and meet so many library professionals working to diversify the profession. The JCLC Conference provides and excellent forum to discuss and debate ideas and make progress towards a more diverse and inclusive profession.

Ray: Can you think of any ideas for collaboration between CALA and REFORMA members?
Tess: REFORMA and CALA are working together and we can only expand these partnerships. The REFORMA Valle de Central Chapter and CALA offered a series of programs Awakening Stories: Asian-Pacific American Librarians in the Central Valley and Beyond to promote Asian writers, poets and artists in the Central Valley community The REFORMA Northeast Chapter supported the CALA Northeast Conference held in April. CALA also takes part in the REFORMA Northeast Chapter Joint Conference held in June since 2004. These are only a few examples. We look forward to collaborating on more events in the future.
Ray: What's next for REFORMA? Where do you see REFORMA heading?
Tess: REFORMA will continue to expand and improve library and information services to the Latino community. Many REFORMISTAS from our Chapters throughout the USA are involved in providing these important services to immigrants and refugees. Free access to information and community building is so important in today's society. Other REFORMISTAS are offering programming and developing bilingual collections. And most of all, REFORMISTAS continue to advocate for the Latinos in their community as they engage with community leaders and agencies to further the educational and economical opportunities to Latinos and their families in their communities.

**Tess Tobin** is a retired Associate Professor from New York City College of Technology, the City University of New York. For fourteen years, she was the Personnel and Administrative Services Librarian overseeing Human Resources, Facility Planning and Technology. She then became a Reference/Instruction Librarian which included teaching LIB120: Research and Documentation in the Information Age. She is the President of REFORMA National. She has also served on the Executive Board of the REFORMA Northeast Chapter. She is the Past-Chair of the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) of the American Library Association (ALA). She is also the Past-Chair of the Library Services to Multicultural Populations section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutes (IFLA). Through her work she promotes the principles of the IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto advocating for the fundamental freedoms and equity of access to information and knowledge for all members of the community. Her current research focuses on recruitment and retention of underserved groups to the library profession.
Awakening Stories: Asian-Pacific American Librarians in the Central Valley and Beyond
弗雷斯诺的桂冠诗人 & REFORMA 中央山谷分会联合倡议

On May 6, 2018, this public event sponsored by CALA, REFORMA, APALA and other organizations gathered librarians, educators, poets, community members and activists to share their “library” stories, perspectives and encounters. Many of the presenters are of Asian-Pacific heritage too. CALA members such as Dora Ho, Haipeng Li, and Ray Pun presented and gave remarks on what it means to be an APA librarian today. The program celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of APA librarians, and their collaborations with community groups and educators. For more information about the program, see here: https://campusnews.fresnostate.edu/may-21-2018/asian-pacific-american-librarians-share-stories
Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee Honored at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand

CALA life member, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, was honored on April 27, 2018 at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of the official opening of its newly modernized library which was officiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. At the opening ceremony, Dr. Lee was awarded a Medal of Appreciation for his role both as the founding director of the Institute’s Library and Regional Information Center from 1968 to 1975 under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development; and as a member of the International Advisory Committee for the library modernization project under the Honorary Chair of HRH Princess Sirindhorn. AIT has been a renowned regional graduate school of engineering and technology in Asia located in Bangkok, Thailand. It offers only Masters and Doctoral degrees. Attached are several photos of the official ceremony.

Dr. Lee in front of Asian Institute of Technology

AIT Library

Medal of Appreciation
On April 24-25, 2018, a five-person delegation from the Beijing Normal University (BNU) in China visited the University of Montana (UM). The delegation was led by Dr. Xiaojuan Li, Professor and Library Dean at the BNU Library. She was accompanied by BNU’s Global Education Collaboration Officer and three associate library deans. This visit followed the UM Deans’ Delegation to BNU in 2015. Since then, the library dean Shali Zhang made several trips to the BNU Library. Two UM Library faculty members were invited to give lectures at BNU in March 2018, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was recently signed between the BNU and UM libraries.

The BNU delegation visited the UM Libraries and met with library faculty and staff for professional exchange sessions on library services at both institutions. Professor Xiaojuan Li introduced the services of the BNU Library. The UM Library faculty and staff presented the library’s signature programs, such as information literacy, digital initiatives, technology accessibility, and discovery platforms. Both libraries are exploring common interesting areas for further exchanges and collaborations.

“The BNU delegation had a very productive visit at UM. We are very happy to discuss common projects with our library colleagues from the BNU Library that will benefit our faculty and students at UM,” said Shali Zhang, Dean of Mansfield Library.

The Beijing Normal University delegation members are with library faculty and staff at the University of Montana Libraries.

The Beijing Normal University delegation members are on the side of the Salish word, “Snipnuntn,” meaning “A place to learn, a place to figure things out, a place where reality is discovered.”

The Beijing Normal University delegation is touring the University of Montana Libraries’s Lightboard Studio.
Incoming President 2018-19 Ying Zhang was invited to speak at the Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries & Information Services (ETTLIS 2018) in New Delhi, India

The incoming President 2018-19 Ying Zhang was invited to speak at the Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries & Information Services (ETTLIS 2018) in New Delhi, India Feb 21-23, 2018. This international conference was hosted and partnered with number of organizations around the world including IEEE, University of London, Bennett University in India. Ying is the Head of Acquisitions & Collection Services at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL. She gave a presentation on “E---books for Academic Libraries in the USA”. Ying also took the opportunity in introducing CALA’s vision of global professional network. Many attendees have expressed great interests in exploring possible collaborations in the future.

The panel of speakers included experts from over 14 countries in the world. Dr. Sharon Yang, a CALA member and Professor and systems librarian in Rider University Libraries in New Jersey, USA is also among the panel of international speakers. She presented on “Altmetrics and Their Potential as an Assessment Tool for Digital Libraries.”
Reports (Continued)

Cultural food programming in the library: best practices for success

By Raymond Pun

I wrote this piece a while back to capture my thoughts about organizing programs in the library concerning food tasting and cooking demonstration. Today, we are seeing a shift to support more of these creative activities in spaces where food was never permitted. Here I’ll explain the process of organizing a program on food, particularly those who would like to invite Chinese and Chinese American cookbook authors and chefs to talk about making Chinese food in libraries.

Organizing programs can be very rewarding and a good learning experience. You get to meet with different people, sharpen your project management skills and most importantly, bring in regular and new patrons to the library! Programming is often a creative way to introduce the library’s mission, collections, services, etc., to and engage with the attendees through various forms such as lectures, performances, and workshops of all sorts from writing to food making.

The month of May is the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. May is the month that celebrates the important and creative contributions of Asians and Pacific Island Americans in the United States. One of the most interesting ways to promote APA heritage month is through food. There is such a diverse range of cuisines in America from Asia and also a growing number of cookbooks on learning how to make such dishes. These are great opportunities to create many fun programs for anyone to enjoy.

Back in May 2013, I collaborated with another colleague, Rebecca Federman, curator of NYPL’s menu collection at NYPL to promote the APA Month through a cooking demonstration. The food we chose was “kimchi,” a traditional Korean side dish made of vegetables with a variety of seasonings. We invited a cookbook author, Lauryn Chun and a writer, Ben Ryder Howe specializing in Korean deli to discuss the various ways of making this side dish. This free program introduced people to Korean food culture and gave people the opportunity to sample the side dish as well. It’s important to note that this is one of many dishes that organizers can freely choose to design and promote. There are many cookbooks that one can easily promote. Here I’ll discuss ways for you to promote a food program based on my experiences.

HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. **The Why:** It’s important to showcase different cultures through arts, literatures and food. Food can essentially bring people together to talk more about the cultural and historical significance of the food including the ingredients used, the preparations, and the origins.

2. **Choosing your book:** Make sure your library owns a copy of the book. It goes without saying: do not promote a book if your library does not own a copy! If you don’t have a copy, order the book ASAP or choose another book. If your library has a shop, it might be a good idea to sell the authors’ books as well. Putting other library resources such as books and DVDs under similar categories in the room may generate interest.

3. **Choosing your speakers:** Typically having an author to talk about their cooking styles will enhance the discussion.
Cultural food programming in the library: best practices for success

By Raymond Pun

of the program; authors love the invitation to present their work in a library. If you are planning a dialogue between two authors, and have only secured one author, you can ask that author to find other speakers to present with. This is a good way since there might be good conversation chemistry between the authors who know one another rather than authors who have just met for the first time. It’s hard to preemptively gauge whether the speakers will be good speakers unless you have seen them perform before. I actually had met Lauryn Chun, our cookbook author in another event at Queens Public Library, and that inspired me to create a program for this event at NYPL.

4. Choosing your space: It would be great if your cookbook authors can cook in front of your audience, but don’t feel pressured to add this into your event because you will need to have an appropriate space for them to cook in. Preferably close to a kitchen or sink because it will help a lot with cleaning. Organizers should also ask the authors to bring in the ingredients and necessary tools while the Library can provide space, tables and other needs. If possible, you will want a space that has free wifi as well. People will “tweet” or “wechat” or “facebook live” about the program in real time and that could generate discussion for other folks who cannot make it to the program in-person.

5. Choosing the food: Tons of options and flexibilities here. From my experience, we were very lucky that people did not feel sick or weird in smelling or trying out the food. Kimchi typically generates a strong sense of smell since it is fermented vegetables. Organizers should choose something simple rather than something messy or greasy. Facilities will not enjoy scrubbing that oil left from the event. If you don’t have a cleaning team, you might be the one doing the scrubbing after the program ends. Make sure you have paper towels and kitchen scrubs handy when you have to clean up after the event.

6. Signing liability waivers: If you plan to have audience members to sample the food, they must sign a paper indicating that the library is not responsible for any food-related incidents including allergic reactions. This should be announced before you offer the food and it should also be included in your publicity materials such as flyers and websites. You will need to be clear about the ingredients used in the food before people start sampling them. Your library’s counsel or director should be informed about this as well. The waver can also include that their pictures might be taken for library events.

7. Going Public: Social media tools and networks such as Facebook, Twitter, WeChat, and blogs are great tools to promote upcoming programs; one should also consider the local/digital newspaper or newsletter. By contacting your PR department, if your library has one, they may help generate publicity. At NYPL, the PR department did an extraordinary job in posting our program in the New York Times Dining Journal Calendar and also in the Huffington Post: NYPL Channel. The program attracted over 60+ people and successfully promoted the book and the food in the APA heritage month. Posting signs of “Free Food” or “Free Sampling” could also draw people because we all know that people love free food, especially in the library!
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