

Chinese American Librarians Association: Serving Diverse Populations

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ALA Diversity & Outreach Fair, ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco, June 25 – 30, 2015

What Chinese American Librarians do?

Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) was established 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 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 underserved, underprivileged and at risk.



- 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)

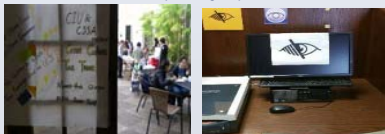


Help international students: San Diego University Library Library International Student Success Program (LISSP)

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.



CCTT Cross-Culture Tea Time provides after class academic and language support to these students. Through LibGuides, and social media sites, the library has been a resourceful hub to this special group.



Software Applications for patrons with disabilities
In support of patrons with disabilities, Library has made two software applications: Freedom Scientific Openbook (FSO) and Window-Eyes (WE). Both are installed on workstation to help the visually-impaired patrons. WE enables these patrons to hear the contents via speech and/or Braille.



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.

Help Underserved, Underprivileged and at Risk Students



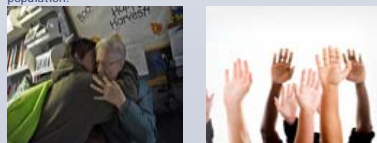
Calumet College of St. Joseph



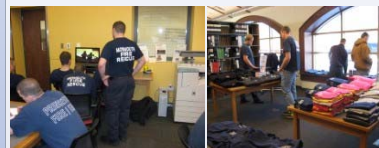
Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting Indiana is Midwest most diverse college where it serves a student population most of which are from underserved and underprivileged families. For years, the college library has been working with other departments in developing projects to meet the needs of the students to ensure their success. The library holds library instructions, on call reference services and visiting classrooms. In addition, the library staff has a Book Club inviting local residents to be involved in reading and discussing interesting topics. The library staff also participates in Hammond Reads, a non-profit organization that devotes to promote information literacy in the community from infant to senior years, to encourage information sharing, advocacy, and resource networking.



Calumet college staff participate in Meals on Wheels to serve local communities and deliver meals to senior citizens and those who are in need. One of the projects for the library in the coming year is to work with Meal on Wheels to deliver books to this population.



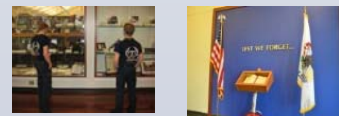
Salute to Our Firefighters!



Illinois Fire Service Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the second-largest fire service library in the United States only next the National Fire Academy Library, U.S. Fire Administration, has developed outreach Program to provide no-cost fire emergency library and information assistance and services to 41,651 Illinois firefighters.



The Library was able to document more than 850 firefighters who died on line of duty since 1857.



CALA's 21st Century Seminar



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



Thinking Globally Act Globally China-US Collaboration
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. More than 7000 US/Chinese librarians have directly participated in the project, either as presenters or listeners. In addition, the project has also developed pilot Web-based portal where more than 2540 digital materials were translated and shared between the librarians of the two countries.



Thanks to CALA members for your efforts in reaching out to our patrons of all kinds !!!