

August, 10, 2007

Dear CALA Board:

I am writing to report on my participation in the CALA sponsored CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar Series program for the team of five CALA members to present on the seminar at Shanxi Agricultural University in Shanxi, China, from July 9-11, 2007. I very much appreciated this opportunity to be involved in this project. I also believe that this enriching experience benefits both Chinese participants and myself as well.

Similarly I have a dual role for this project: to be the team-leader and also to be a presenter myself. As a team leader, I started about a year ago in my negotiations with the SAU library directors and at the same time reported back to the CALA board on this particular project. The following briefly describes what I did for the CALA-SAU project:

1. Signing the agreement with SAU, October 2006
2. Recommending topics to SAU, December 2006
3. Reviewing comments and suggestions on topics from SAU, March 2006
4. Conference call with presenter, March 29, 2007
5. Finalizing topics with SAU, April 2007
6. Assigning topics to presenters, April 2007
7. Drafting tentative schedule, April 2007
8. Asking presenters to submit PPT for review June 2007
9. Finalizing schedule, June 2007
10. Arranging for copies of textbooks to be sent, June 2007
11. Conducting seminars July 9-11, 2007

I learned a great deal from working with other CALA team members on this project and respect their hard work and dedication to make the project successful.

As a presenter, I presented on the following topics:

1. Library Consortia: OhioLINK
2. Reference Services
3. Reference Interview
4. Virtual Library Services
5. Professional Development
6. Opening and Closing Speeches

The highlights of this conference were the discussion sessions and also the skit put on to demonstrate the interactive reference interview process. Attendees came afterwards and even requested that all sessions be conducted with a similar skit. Through this experience, I not only learned from the Chinese participants, their views and their practice in libraries in China, I also learned a great deal from my co-presenters, about their topics, and their hard work in putting all presentations together.

This is no doubt one of the most meaningful and important projects that CALA has taken on in CALA's history. It not only helps promote the collaboration and exchange between CALA and libraries in China, but also has created great opportunities for many CALA

members who have been, are and going to be involved. This project serves CALA's purpose and its members in multiple ways.

I would like to thank the CALA Board for the vision to embark on such a great project to lead CALA into a greater future!

Sincerely,

Haipeng Li
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CALA-SAU Team Leader