

**Report on the 2007 “CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar Project”
Participation in the Shanxi Team--Personal Experience**

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August 16, 2007*

During July 9-11, 2007, I participated in the CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar held at Shanxi Agricultural University as trainer with other four members, respectively, Haipeng Li (team leader), Judy Jeng, Xiaoli Li and Dajin Sun. I presented on two topics: (1) Library Personnel Administration System—Evaluation, Promotion and Tenure; and (2) Information Literacy. The overall program was very well received. It was fruitful for both the CALA team and the audience. My personal feelings about this experience are summarized as follows.

Firstly, as the presenting team, we have learned about the current operation in academic libraries in China. Generally speaking, despite the fast “hardware” development (e.g. library building, internal facilities and technology) in recent years, there is a great need for improvement of standards in library personnel constitution and professional education and advancement in administration system. We have also learned about what librarians working in those libraries need to know about the library system in the Western world. Via discussion sessions, mealtime talking and program evaluation survey, the audience expressed further interests in (1) introduction to library research (hot topics and methodology), theory and professional publications; (2) social and academic status of the library profession in the U.S.; (3) information literacy at both undergraduate and graduate levels and (4) reference service, among many other topics. They appreciated the Q&A sessions and the interactive episodes a great deal. These together provide helpful information for our future work.

Secondly, the Seminar provided an opportunity for mutual learning and professional development among us CALA team members, who came with experiences in various library areas. I was impressed by Haipeng’s super ability in administration, organization and communication, and deeply touched by his devotion to this project. Xiaoli’s thorough and serious work and her beautiful eloquence revealed in her presentations added a lot to my experience. Dajin’s advanced knowledge about his topics amazed me. I became interested in Judy’s “library evaluation”, too. In addition, the mutual tacit cooperation and support of the CALA members for one another reflected the excellent spirit of teamwork--an important element that guaranteed the success.

Thirdly, this was a very good opportunity both for cultural refreshment and to make new acquaintances. We received very thoughtful and well prepared reception by the hosting institution, which reflected the warm hospitality in our homeland culture, on the one hand, and the excellent arrangement by the CALA project organizers, on the other hand.

Finally, the importance of the CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar Project is many-fold. It enhances international academic exchanges for the library profession; it reinforces the professional development of all CALA members involved in it; and it promotes publicity of the CALA organization. As a participant on the 2007 Shanxi team, I’d like to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity. I also want to thank those who initiated the idea and have been working hard to make the seminars happen. I’d like to congratulate on the accomplishments of the project and express my best wishes for its future.