

The CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar at Shanxi Agricultural University

A Personal Account

Dajin Sun

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It has been a great pleasure for me to join four other CALA colleagues and participate as a presenter in the CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar at the Shanxi Agricultural University (SAU) from July 9-11. This was the first cooperation between CALA and the Shanxi Library Association in helping Chinese librarians learn about the academic librarianship and current library services in the United States. This was also my first time to share my professional knowledge with our Chinese colleagues. I found the experience very interesting and rewarding, as it helped me understand more about the library services and practices in Chinese academic libraries as well. Besides what is said above, this seminar also presents a special meaning to me since my father happened to be an alumnus of this university and I myself lived and worked in Taiyuan a long time ago. It brought special memories and feelings.

Like other peer presenters, I did my best and spoke on four topics in four sessions during the three-day seminar. My presentations cover the following topics:

- American University Libraries: Funding, Budgeting, and Revenues
- Challenges of Information Technology and Libraries' Responses
- Group Purchase and Consortia
- Electronic Resource Cataloging in Academic Libraries.

In addition, I also monitored one session of discussions between the attendees and the presenters on the second day of the seminar. To my content, all of our presentations went well and were well received per the evaluations. It was quite rewarding to see the enthusiasm and interest of our Chinese colleagues in learning and discussing the US library operations and practices, especially the comparison of practices of both countries. The SAU library staff was very thoughtful and hospitable throughout our stay. They offered tours to show us around their brand new library and their beautiful campus. I was quite impressed by the contemporary architecture and the nice reading and workspaces in the library building.

I also found it quite a pleasure to work with other four CALA colleagues: Haipeng Li, Judy Jeng, Junlin Pan, and Xiaoli Li. This seminar helps us get to know one another very well. Apart from the workshop and tour of SAU, I was happy to be able to help with the discussion and promotion for continuing the cooperation between and CALA and Shanxi Library Association. Haipeng and I had a very fruitful conversation with Ms. Jialin Li, the General Secretary of the Association about the future seminars in Shanxi. Per Ms. Li, Shanxi University would be very happy to host the next training workshop in 2009.

Last but not least, my sincere thanks to Haipeng and the SAU library administration, without whose diligent efforts this seminar would not have been possible.