

CALA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Seminar Project  
Team Member Report

Seminar Location: Dongguan Public Library  
Seminar Dates: From December 16 to December 18

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Dear CALA Board Members:

January 9, 2008

It is my great honor to represent CALA and participate in the Dec. CALA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Seminar, held at Dongguan Public Library on Dec. 16-18, 2007.

I have to say that this three-day workshop provided an excellent opportunity for me to learn from our Chinese colleagues. The energy efficient building not only reflects current trend in modern architectural design, but serves well the purposes of integrating modern technologies into library science. The services provided by Dongguan Public Library are very dynamic and proficient. What has impressed me even more is the energetic and aspiring leader team, who guides this institute into the frontier of 21<sup>st</sup> century librarianship. It is not exaggerating to say that Dongguan Public Library sets up an excellent model for library services not only in China, but in the United States as well.

In three days, I was very fortunate to join Professor Loriene Roy, President of American Library Association (2007-2008) and Professor Lili Li, Georgia Southern University Library to exchange views about modern librarianship with our Chinese colleagues. After an inspiring and informative speech by Professor Roy, then Professor Li, I gave a presentation entitled "Reading and Children's Enlightenment". The presentation included six subtopics:

1. Brief History of American Public Library System and Children's Library System
2. Earlier Childhood Reading and the Development of a Child's Intelligent Quotient
3. Hardware Requirements of a Children's Library (Architectural design, furniture selections, collection development, etc.)
4. Software Requirements of a Children's Library
5. Examples of Services in Children's Libraries in the United States (Storytelling time for baby, toddler, elementary school children, summer workshops for youth, special services for disable children, etc.)
6. Children Services in the Internet Age

During my preparation on this unfamiliar topic, I received great help from Professor Sue Searing and Kate McDowell at Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, librarians in the Children's Department at Urbana Free Library and Champaign Public Library. In the meantime, I am grateful for the encouragement and suggestions from Guoqing Li, Haipeng Li, Shuyong Jiang, and

Lisa Zhao at CALA. I am also very thankful to my teammate Lili Li, for his efficient communications, advices in organizing powerpoint, and moral support during the workshop. My last but not the least thanks go to the administrators in Dongguan Public Library, Mr. Li Donglai, Ms. Huang Wendi, Ms. Du Yanxiang, Ms. Li Yingchang, and Ms. Cai Bing for their hospitality and wonderful experiences in Dongguan.

Thank you very much for your attention.