

**CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar Project
Team Member Report**

Seminar Location: Wuhan University

Seminar Dates: From: October 23 to October 24

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December 12, 2008

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I chose to participate in the 2008 Sino-US Forum on Library Practices held in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, October 23-24. I was especially appreciative to have the opportunity rendered by CALA to return to Wuhan University Library after 20 years. I first visited Wuhan University Library in 1988 when the current Library Director, Mr. Yan Jinwei, invited me to give a lecture there. Mr. Yan had just completed his one-year tenure as a visiting scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and returned to China. Wuhan University, as one of the key universities with a top ranked School of Information Management in China, has expanded and developed tremendously since my last visit with the merger of four nearby campuses in 2000. It was indeed an enjoyable journey personally to revisit a familiar and yet not so familiar place two decades later.

The two-day forum encompasses five major topics with nine presenters, including Joseph Branin (Director of Libraries, Ohio State University), Chen Chuan-fu (Dean, School of Information Management, Wuhan University), a five-member CALA Wuhan Team, and two Chinese colleagues. My PowerPoint presentation was titled "Library Resource Development and Assessment in a Networked Environment." It focuses on collection building, collection development, and collection management. I reviewed the historical background of collection building and development, how information technology has evolved and impacted libraries over the years, collection development and management in a networked environment, collection analysis and assessment, and future trends. While I continued my trip over the next two weeks following the presentation I was already receiving questions on the road. It was definitely a rewarding experience professionally.

I attended all of the presentations and particularly enjoyed the discussion session at the end of program. The session was divided into three groups: reference/IT group, collection group, and administration group. I joined the last group and truly learned a great deal about library administration in China from ten or so library directors and deputy directors through exchange of information regarding our own experiences

Our final business in Wuhan came on the day the three of us paid a visit to Wuhan Public Library before we headed to the Tianhe Airport. We had fruitful discussions with Director Li Jingxia on public library concerns/issues.

The most valuable experience of all were the connections and contacts we made during the very pleasant stay in Wuhan. Not only did I get the chance to learn from our own CALA members on the team and other presenters, but I also had the opportunity to communicate with our Chinese colleagues. Unfortunately, two days are a bit short to get

to know the participants. If I may offer suggestions, I would strongly recommend that the Forum be extended to at least three days. This would undoubtedly improve the likelihood in making deeper connections between participants.

Finally, I would like to thank CALA for the wonderful opportunity and our team leader, Shuyong Jiang, who coordinated and communicated well with our hosts at Wuhan University Library on behalf of the team members prior to and during our trip.