

Report of the Wuhan Forum
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It was overwhelming for me to visit my Alma Mater after graduating 23 years ago. I am so grateful that CALA offered me this wonderful and memorable opportunity. I reconnected with some of my friends, classmates and professors from the old days and all of my sweet memories of my college life came back vividly. There were many emotional and exciting moments embedded in this trip.

The CALA plays a significant role in bridging Chinese and American librarianship and library practices. The forum provides a platform for scholarly communication and speeds up the process of professional and cultural exchange between the two nations. The CALA members enthusiastically serve as go-betweeners. New concepts were introduced, ideas were shared, and connections were made among the seminar participants. The forum was beneficial for the Chinese colleagues, the CALA delegates, as well as the institutions where the participants came from.

The presentations among the CALA team members are quite impressive and comprehensive. The credit should go to the CALA Wuhan seminar planning committee for their considerable selection of the delegates and the topics. The Wuhan Seminar covered various aspects of the American library practices. I learned a lot from our own team. It was a mini professional development for our own CALA members. My presentation focused on the practices of the Electronic Reserves and its copyright concerns in daily practices. There is no counterpart concept and practice in the current Chinese library services. Through the feedback and the discussion with the Chinese colleagues, there is still a long journey to introduce the American concepts of Reserve Services into their daily library practices. There are still differences in terms of copyright issues and the faculty involvement of collection development. It is my wish that the Chinese libraries will find their own way of conducting the reserve services bringing into play with their own characteristics and considerations, because the patrons' needs are there.

The presentations from the Chinese counterparts were quite inspiring too. Compared to the American practical paradigm, the presentations from the Chinese librarians were more theoretical and policy making orientated. I was very impressed with their open minds and their knowledge about the current trends. I was also thrilled to see the potential leadership among the Chinese participants. They are young, energetic, enthusiastic, introspective and engaging. Through the Chinese colleagues' presentations, discussion, and social interactions, I gained valuable knowledge of Chinese library practices and their librarianship. Through the tour of the library building, I learned the organizational structures of the Wuhan University libraries, the space usage, and the special projects being undertaken.

One more benefit for me was that I had the opportunity to exchange ideas through my mother tongue – Chinese. For years, I experienced the challenges in using my second language in an English-speaking environment. However, translating the American concepts into Chinese was quite challenging also. The forum provided an opportunity for me to learn the Chinese library terminology as well as the opportunity to discuss and explicate the concepts lost in translation.

It was also a rewarding experience for me to become acquainted with the fellow CALA members. I appreciated Shuyong, our team leader, especially her experience, knowledge, and leadership in coordinating the seminar. I admired Karen's long-term commitment and dedication to the collaboration and the communication with the Chinese librarians. Ma Lei's accompanying husband brightened our days each morning by serving us teas and filling us with delightful humor. Julia, though she missed her flight connection and was stuck in Shanghai overnight, showed us her tremendous patience and understanding. It was also my privilege to spend some time with our dedicated CALA member, Guoqing Li, the director of the Ohio State University Libraries, Dr. Branin and his wife, Mrs. Branin. I am sure that the personal social interactions will yield life-long friendships. The forum introduced me to a wonderful CALA family. I feel the warmth and closeness with the Association more than ever before.

The same appreciation goes to our Chinese colleagues. The Wuhan University Library director, Yan, strategically selected and corresponded the Chinese presentations with the CALA members' topics which made the comparisons and exchanges more focused within such an intense schedule. In addition, the drilling feasts and memorable tours caught the great attention of our cameras. It is also a must that I have to acknowledge Director Yan's administrative assistant, Xie Chunzhi and her young energetic team. Chunzhi and her reception team did a marvelous job to make our traveling go smoothly.

The immediate benefit from the Wuhan seminar is that not only I made friends with our CALA participants, but also I built newer and closer connections with the Chinese colleagues. I was directly contacted by some of my Chinese friends for helping them with their visiting scholar application, translating dissertation abstracts, proofreading English publications, etc. Furthermore, I even joined the high school alumni online group introduced by one of my high school classmates that met at the seminar.

In short, the Wuhan seminar was a very motivating experience for me: professionally, culturally and personally. With the recent Federal Grant for CALA, more collaborations and exchange activities need to be developed. I would recommend having more CALA members join this initiative and I wish myself to be an active ambassador in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

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