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Announcements

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Think Globally, Act Globally Agreement Between U.S. and Chinese Librarians

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library has received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant for \$499,582 from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The grant was announced on November 16, 2008 and the agreement was signed by Professor Paula Kaufman, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries for the University of Illinois, and Dr. Zhan Furui, director of the National Library of China and president of the Library Society of China. The agreement is one component of the new Partnership for Cultural Exchange established by IMLS and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China. The Ministry of Culture provides additional funding for the program.

The "Think Globally, Act Globally" agreement establishes a cooperative and cultural exchange between American and Chinese librarians. Under the agreement, the Asian Library and the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs from the University of Illinois will partner with the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and the Library Society of China. These organizations will work together on the implementation of a two-year pilot project to enhance communication and relations between American and Chinese librarians and to enrich the variety of information and services that U.S. librarians can offer their users. Activities will include training in the United States and the People's Republic of China and the development of a website for publically available Chinese information resources for use in U.S. libraries.

"The University Library is primed to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Culture to make this proposed project a success with benefit to Chinese and U.S. librarians and the library users they serve," said Kaufman.

"It is a rare and great opportunity for librarians from the United States and China to work together on such a large scale," said Dr. Shuyong Jiang, Project Director and Principal Investigator of the grant. "I am confident that this grant will have a significant impact on library partnership on a global stage and on future collaborations among librarians between these two countries."

For more information about the project, please visit www.library.uiuc.edu/China or contact Dr. Jiang at shyjiang@illinois.edu.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

(From a press release by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Columbia University Libraries and the National Library of Korea to Digitize Rare Books

Columbia University Libraries is partnering with the National Libraries of Korea to digitize rare materials from the C. V. Starr East Asian Library and make them available online.

"C. V. Starr East Asian Library strives to serve the scholarly and research needs of those beyond the campus. This project advances our ability to provide global access to our library resources," said Dr. Amy V. Heinrich, former director of Starr East Asian Library.

The Preservation and Digital Conversion Division of Columbia University Libraries will digitize approximately 100 rare volumes and make them available through the Libraries' online catalog, CLIO. As a result, materials from the library's special collections will be easily accessible to students, scholars and people worldwide. The project will begin in January 2009 and conclude in June 2010.

The Korean Collection of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University was established in 1931 by a donation of nearly 1,000 books by Korean students at CU. Systematic collection of Korean materials, however, began only after renewed interest in Korean Studies in the early 1950s. The special collection holds approximately 660 titles in 2,230 volumes of rare books including the Yi Söng-üi Collection, Sonbon and over 150 titles of Korean novels, called "Sin sosol" (published between 1915 and 1947) that are housed in the East Asian Rare Book Room.

The C. V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University is one of the major collections for the study of East Asia in the United States, with over 820,000 volumes of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, and Western language materials, as well as some holdings in Mongol and Manchu, and over 6,500 periodical titles. The collection, established in 1902, is particularly strong in Chinese history, literature, and social sciences; Japanese literature, history, and religion, particularly Buddhism; and Korean history. The Library's website is located at: www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/eastasian/.

Columbia University Libraries/Information Services is one of the top five academic research library systems in North America. The collections include over 10 million volumes, over 100,000 journals and serials, as well as extensive electronic resources, manuscripts, rare books, microforms, maps, graphic and audio-visual materials. The services and collections are organized into 25 libraries and various academic technology centers. Columbia University Libraries employ more than 550 professional and support staff. The website of the Libraries at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb is the gateway to its services and resources.

(From an Eastlib posting by Ria Koopmans-de Bruijn, Columbia University)