

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

A biannual publication of the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section of ACRL/ALA

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Message from the Chair **Asia, Africa, and the Middle East**

There are 192 countries in the world at present and 101 countries in the list are from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. More than four billion people live in these countries which are about 75 percent of the total population of the world. These countries occupy more than 50 percent of the land on this earth. Asia is the largest continent and it includes China and India, two great ancient civilizations and the most populated countries in the present world. Asia occupies 30 percent of the earth's land with a 17,212,000 square mile area. Africa is the second largest continent in the world with an area of 11,608,000 square miles, and a population of 807,419,000. It occupies 20.2 percent of the land of this world. The Middle East is where Africa, Asia and Europe meet. It is in fact West Asia, but this area has been known as the Middle East since the Second World War. It has an area of 4,197,300 square miles and a population of 326,000,000. It is known as the cradle of ancient civilization.

Asia, Africa, and the Middle East have a rich history and have contributed to the development of the world including libraries. No one can forget that the human civilization first started in Africa. No one can forget the famous Alexandrian Library of the ancient Egypt, and University libraries of Taxila and Nalanda in India. No one can forget contributions of the late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan of India, to the world librarianship including his 'Five Laws of Librarianship'. No one will forget that Ms. Kay Raseroka of Botswana, Africa, is the first African and the first woman of color elected as President of IFLA in 2003.

In spite of these achievements, the Asian, African, and the Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) is one of the smallest sections of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). AAMES has a major responsibility to contribute to the development of not only the area studies libraries, but other libraries also. We should all work hard to increase the membership of the section, and become a more active group in ACRL.

As your Chair, I have appointed many hard-working librarians as members of various committees. A much needed new 'Publications Committee' has been created to communicate with all members and keep them informed about the activities of the Section. The Committee, under the able leadership of Dr. Rajwant Chilana, has worked hard to publish the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. The Area Representatives for Asia, Africa, and the Middle East will help the Publications Committee in the preparation of the newsletter and keep us posted on the developments in the field. I am honored to write the first chair's message for the AAMES Newsletter. The Publications Committee has also prepared a brochure for the Section. It lists all activities of AAMES. It will help us to attract more members to the Section.

AAMES List Serve has been created to have discussions on many important issues of area studies librarianship. Therefore, please join the list serve and share your ideas and suggestions with your col-

leagues. The web page of AAMES, prepared by Cynthia Tysick, is also very attractive. You can access the web page for more information on AAMES. I have also appointed a Special Multi-Lingual Thesauri Task Force to develop guidelines for a thesaurus to provide equivalent terms across a number of different languages.

The Program Committee, under the leadership of Anjana Bhatt, is working very hard to prepare an excellent program for the annual conference to be held in Orlando, Florida. Please join us with your colleagues and friends on Saturday, June 26, 2004, from 2:00-4:00 PM, to hear four distinguished and internationally known speakers, Ms. Kay Raseroka, President of IFLA, Dr. C.C. Chen of Simmons College, Dr. Mohammed Aman of the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. James Natsis of West Virginia State College, on the "Impact of Technology on Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Collections." I am confident that you will enjoy our well-planned program.

All members of AAMES and others are invited to an important meeting of the AAMES Executive Committee on Saturday, January 10, 2004, at San Diego, California, during the ALA Mid-Winter Conference. I urge you to be active in AAMES and encourage your friends to join the Section. As a good team, we can turn many of our dreams into reality and achieve many of our goals. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. Please do send me your suggestions to further improve AAMES and its activities.

R.N. Sharma
Chair, AAMES

From the Editor

I am much delighted to present the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. The idea of this newsletter was encouraged and supported by Dr. R. N. Sharma, Chair of the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section, ACRL who was also instrumental in creation of a new Publication Committee for this purpose. As decided by the committee this Newsletter will be published twice a year, in April and November. In this issue I have included information about AAMES committees and their reports, professional activities in Asian, African and Middle Eastern areas, forthcoming meetings and conferences. Three new publications relevant to our interest have been briefly reviewed. I am thankful to all who helped us in bringing out this inaugural issue. I look forward to seek cooperation and contributions from our learned members for their input in this publication. Please forward your suggestions, ideas, news or brief write-ups relating to Asian, African and Middle Eastern related activities to me at rchilana@uiuc.edu. Earlier, the Publications committee developed a new AAMES brochure.

We hope to see you all at the Midwinter Meeting at San Diego on January 10 next year.

Wish you all very happy and prosperous NEW YEAR.

Rajwant S. Chilana

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Committee Reports

Executive Committee members of AAMES met on Saturday, 21 June 2003 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, Gingersnap during the ALA-CLA joint conference. Yurong Jade Atwill (Pennsylvania State University), Sarah Su-erh Elman (Yale University), Majed Khader (Marshall University), Patricia A. Kreitz (Stanford University), Mary Jane Petrowski (Associate Director, ACRL), Jung-ran Park (Indiana State University) [Chair], and Dr. R.N. Sharma (West Virginia State College) [Vice-Chair/Chair Elect] attended this meeting. Chair Jung-ran Park called the meeting to order. After approving the agenda, the draft minutes of 24 January 2003 Midwinter meeting distributed beforehand were reviewed and approved. Chairs of various committees presented their activity reports. Dr. R. N. Sharma reported that AAMES currently counted about 400 members with 60-70 new members joining in the last few months. In order to increase the numbers of membership, Sharma would like to contact individuals from various professional groups, such as, APALA, CALA and MELA.

Revision of Bylaw: Sarah Elman reported the revisions of AAMES bylaws. The main revisions are- Article 6: Committees – Change caption to “Executive Committee”. Add Article 7: Other Committees, with 2 sections. [Original] Article 7: General Provisions – Change numbering to “Article 8”. [Original] Article 8: Vacancies – Change numbering to “Article 9”.

Mary Petrowski informed the procedure regarding passing bylaws revisions: First, it has to be approved by AAMES executive committee; secondly, send to ACRL Standards and Bylaw Committee, to be approved; and finally ACRL (Petrowski) will put out the revised bylaws to be voted by AAMES members. Jung-ran Park called for motion to pass

the revised bylaws. The executive members of AAMES present voted to pass. Park asked Elman to send the revised bylaw to ACRL Standards and Bylaw Committee for their final approval.

Funding questions: Dr. Sharma enquired the general procedure of funding application and the possibility of obtaining additional funds from ACRL for bringing international speakers, e.g., from Africa. Petrowski reported that the vice president of ACRL, Tyrone Cannon, is in charge of approving funding. ACRL board deals with policy issues. Budget, which depends on the AAMES membership numbers by August 31st, will be announced in October. The \$500 base money can be used for travel or food reimbursement for non-ALA member. Fund raising is one of the choices that may help for supporting international speaker, however, it has to be conducted by ALA policy and procedures.

Program Planning Committee: Anjana H. Bhatt, Chair, Program Planning Committee, AAMES has reported that the committee has completed initial requirements for presenting its program at the ALA 2004 conference in Orlando, Florida. The program is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2004 from 2:00-4:00pm on the topic “Impact of Technology on Asian African and the Middle Eastern Collection”. Several distinguished speakers have been invited to deliberate during this program. Dr. Mohammed M. Aman, Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. C.C. Chen, Professor, Library Science, Simmons College, Dr. James J. Natsis, Coordinator of International Studies & Head, International Programs, West Virginia State College, and Kay Raseroka, President, IFLA, University Library of Botswana, Africa will make presentations. It is hoped that all these speakers will enlighten attendees with their knowledge and experience that is required to incorporate digital books/e-resources into the collections. In addition

to learning about innovative and practical solutions for improving collections in digital format, it is expected that the speakers will provide positive input to the subject of this program. Efforts are being made to get sponsorships of CALA, APALA, MELA, Black Caucus and other minority associations belonging to ALA. The ACRL Board has allocated \$500 to this program under its meeting number- 282366. On January 10th, there will be a meeting of all committees from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Westin Plaza, Presidio. Please plan to attend this meeting if you are attending the ALA Midwinter meeting.

Nomination Committee: John A. Eilts, Chair- AAMES Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee members conducted business via email in order to meet the ALA deadline for ballots. After much difficulty in finding members who were able and willing to run for office, the committee was finally able to appeal to the loyalty of a few members to run for offices beginning after annual conference in 2004. The candidates are: Vice-chair/Chair-elect - Cynthia Tysick; Secretary - Doris Seeley; Members-at-Large - Kristen Kern and Lokman I. Meho.

Publication Committee: A new brochure on the AAMES activities was prepared by the Publication Committee that was sent to the ACRL office for printing. The committee also made efforts to bring out the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. It is decided that the publication of this Newsletter will be continued twice a year.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Sarah S. Elman, Chair of the committee has informed that the AAMES Constitution & Bylaws Committee was formed before ALA 2003 with the following members: Sarah Su-erh Elman (Chair), Louise W. Greendfield, Joanne Y. Kim, and Jian Wang. The Committee Chair submitted an AAMES bylaws revision proposal, which was approved by the Executive Committee at ALA 2003

in Toronto, Canada, to the ACRL Bylaws Committee for approval after the conference. The Bylaws Committee has reviewed the proposal and no negative responses have been received so far. The proposal will be voted on by the ACRL Bylaws Committee at 2004 Midwinter in San Diego. Should the Committee approve the proposal; the Chair of the ACRL Committee will submit an action form to the ACRL Board of Directors requesting approval of the bylaws changes. If the Board approves the bylaws changes at Midwinter, they will be placed on the 2004 AAMES ballot. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee is currently working on additional changes to the bylaws and will report on the progress at the 2004 Midwinter.

Related News

The University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign became the largest public university library in the world by acquiring its 10 millionth volume on 10th October 2003. A dedication ceremony for the milestone acquisition took place at 1 p.m. October 10, 2003 in the Marshall Gallery of the University Library where Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of the Urbana campus, and University Librarian Paula Kaufman spoke to invited guests, including faculty members, staff, students and Library Friends. According to Library officials, the 10 millionth volume is a book unlike any other: It is a labor of love, a love letter of sorts – to the Library and from the Library. Instead of acquiring something thoroughly academic, old and rare, the Library faculty, staff and friends decided to mark the milestone personally – with their own thoughts and handiwork. The book that they have created, which includes original essays, photographs, art and poetry, and an introduction by University historian Winton Solberg, is titled “Unlocking Our Past, Building Our Future: A Commemorative Publication Celebrating the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign as Resource, as Place, and as Experience.” and continue to

make it one of the world’s greatest. The university library has a large collections of books and serials on Asian, African and Middle Eastern Studies.

Librarians from India, Japan and Africa for training at the Mortenson Center, UIUC:

The University of Illinois library’s Mortenson Center for International Library Programs offers a wide variety of unique activities and provides professional development opportunities to library and information specialists around the world. In recent years several librarians from various countries have been benefited through this center. This year the program brought together participants from Colombia, India, Japan, Kenya, Russia, and South Africa. The program provides a general overview of libraries and librarianship in the United States. Besides these, two Fulbright Scholars from India—Dr. Parvakar Rath of the Library and Information Science School at the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, and Poornima Narayana of the NAL Library, Bangalore are visiting the Library Science School at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for a six months program.

Asian Studies

Universal Library Project: The collaborative efforts of professionals and educationists from India, China and United States have succeeded in developing a Universal Library Project (<http://delta.ulib.org/html/index.html>). Alan Grosenheider, South Asian Librarian at the University of Washington Libraries, attended a meeting in India for the Universal Library Project led by Dr. Raj Reddy of Carnegie Mellon University, and reported that Indian participants have begun digitizing materials in South Indian languages including palm leaf manuscripts, science journals, and everything more than 50 years old. About 30,000 volumes have already been digitized as scanned images thus far. Copyright permissions for new materials have been extensive. Hard discs are being

shipped between the United States and India. Selection of objects to be digitized is at the discretion of each institution. The model of this project is not for profit, and information will be made available free to all through the web.

Digital South Asia Library (DSAL)

Project: DSAL, a project of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), provides digital materials for reference and research on South Asia to scholars, public officials, business leaders, and other users. This project builds upon a two-year pilot project funded by the Association of Research Libraries’ Global Resources Program with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Participants in the Digital South Asia Library include leading U.S. universities, the Center for Research Libraries, the South Asia Microform Project (SAMP), the Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation (CONSALD), the Association for Asian Studies, the Library of Congress, the Asia Society, the British Library, the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, MOZHI in India, the Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in India, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya in Nepal, and other institutions in South Asia. Several languages dictionaries, reference books, and journals have already been digitized and are available free on the web to everyone. For more information, please visit their web site: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/>

Vidyanidhi Project of Indian Doctoral Theses Database:

To evolve as an online resource and a technical mechanism for the creation, submission, archiving, and accessing of Indian doctoral theses, the Ford Foundation supported the Mysore University’s Vidyanidhi project specifically for focusing on dissertations in Social and Human Sciences in Indian universities. This pilot project begun in 2000 with support from the Government of India NISSAT, and DSIR, and demonstrated the feasibility of e-Theses program in India. With support from the Ford Foundation and also from Microsoft India, It is

evolving as a National Initiative. Vidyanidhi is a member of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD- <http://www.ndltd.org>)- a global initiative with more than 170 members from different countries of the world. This is a very useful researchable online database that makes available PhD theses accepted in Indian universities. Theses can be searched by title, subject, contributor, supervisor, language, university and year of award. (<http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/home/index.html>).

Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association's (APALA): Founded in 1980, the Asian/Pacific Librarians Association (APALA) was incorporated in Illinois in 1981 and formally affiliated with the American Library Association (ALA) in 1982. A predecessor of APALA, the Asian American Librarians Caucus (AALC), was organized in 1975 as a discussion group of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services reflecting the interest in library services to minority communities and professional support of librarians of minority ancestry that prevailed in the ALA in the 1960s and 70s. APALA and AALC before it, were organized/founded by librarians of diverse Asian/Pacific ancestries committed to working together toward a common goal: to create an organization that would address the needs of Asian/Pacific American librarians and those who serve Asian/Pacific American communities. APALA holds meetings in conjunction with ALA. It publishes the Asian/Pacific Librarians Association Newsletter, which appears in four issues per year. (<http://www.apalaweb.org/>).

The Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL): The main purpose of CEAL is to serve as a faculty-librarians' forum for the discussion of East Asian library problems of common concern, to formulate programs for the development of East Asian library resources, bibliographic controls, and access, and to improve inter-library and interna-

tional cooperation in East Asian library development and services. More information on Council on East Asian Librarians can be accessed through- <http://www.sois.uwm.edu/jeong/ceal/>

Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA): The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) was formed in 1983 by the merger of the Chinese-American Librarians Association (established in Chicago in 1973) and the Chinese Librarians Association (established at Stanford University in 1974). As part of the merger agreement, the name Chinese American Librarians Association became the English language name of the combined organization, while the Chinese name of the Chinese Librarians Association, hua ren tu shu guan yuan xie hui, became CALA's official Chinese name. CALA will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary at its 2004 Conference, which will be held during ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida in June 2004. A CALA Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 annually is re-established to encourage Chinese American librarians' professional growth and achievements. Among many CALA chapters' programs, Midwest Chapter's Mentorship Program is a unique program designed to help new and junior librarians to be successful in their library careers, to help students in library and information science to develop a library career, and to encourage seasoned CALA-MW members to pass on their excellent experience. For more information, please visit CALA web site: <http://www.cala-web.org/>

CONSALD- is a Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation organized as an organ of the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies. Its main objective is to develop library resources on South Asia in North America through library cooperation, collection development, bibliographic control, access and preservation. The Executive Board of the Committee consists of four librarians elected by the mem-

bership-at-large, three faculty members appointed by the South Asian Council and three ex-officio librarian members. CONSALD meetings are held twice a year, one during the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in March/April, and other meeting is held in October concurrent with the South Asian Council annual meeting at Madison. Details about CONSALD can be found at <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/area-studies/SouthAsia/Lib/consald.html>.

African Studies

Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BACALA): The Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's African American community, and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians. The main aim is to call to the attention of the American Library Association the need to respond positively on behalf of the Black members of the profession and the information needs of the Black community by reviewing, analyzing, evaluating, and recommending to the American Library Association actions on the needs of Black librarians which will influence their status in the areas of recruitment, development, advancement, and general working conditions; and to provide information on qualifications of Black librarians. (<http://www.bcala.org>)

African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS) is an active section of the ACRL / ALA, and its objective is to study librarianship and collection development, to conduct ongoing evaluation and discussion of research in African American Studies, to focus on resource sharing, archival materials, bibliographic control, retrospective collecting/purchasing, mechanized information, retrieval selection policies and procedures, oral history, and others as they relate to collection development and librarianship of African Ameri-

can Studies. Url for this Section is: http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ACRL/About_ACRL/Sections/African_American_Studies_Librarians/AFAS_Home_Page.htm.

Africana Librarians Council (ALC): In a recent meeting at Boston on October 30, 2003 the ALC members proposed to publish a festschrift volume in the memory of Daniel Britz with papers on various aspects of African librarianship. It was also approved to have next meeting of the African librarians at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor from May 6 to 8, 2004. ALC invites nominations for the Conover-Porter award for the Africana Bibliography or the best Reference books in African studies. Please contact Peter Limb, Africana Bibliographer, Michigan State University, 100 Library East Lansing, MI, 48824-1048 USA; phone: (517) 432 6123 extension 239; fax: (517) 432-3532; email: limb@msu.edu. For further details: (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/alc/>)

Middle Eastern Studies

MELA Annual Meeting at Alaska in November 2003- Dr. Muhammad al-Faruque reported that the annual meeting of the Middle East Librarian's Association (MELA) took place in Anchorage, Alaska on November 6 in conjunction with the annual conference of Middle East Studies Association (November 7-9). Besides reports of various committees, including MELA Committee on Iraqi Libraries and Library of Congress fact finding mission to Iraq, the main attraction of this year's meeting was the theme presentation on "The View from the East: Middle Eastern Library Collections in East, South (Asia) and Australia". Six distinguished speakers presented papers on the state of Middle Eastern collections in libraries of their respective countries. Mahboubeh Kamalpour of the Melbourne University Library presented a paper on "Middle Eastern Collections in Australia and New Zealand". She pointed out that eight Australian universities offer courses on Middle East and con-

duct research on various aspects of this region. Leading among these universities are Melbourne University, Victoria University and Australian National University. In New Zealand the scope of Middle Eastern studies is very limited though courses are offered in a few universities that also collect limited number of Middle Eastern materials.

Cheng Hong, Director of Library and Documentation Center at the Institute of West Asian and African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences presented her paper on "The Middle East Studies in China" and noted that Middle Eastern Studies found its way in China in the early 1960s when the Institute of West Asian and African Studies was also founded. Omar Khalidi of the Aga Khan Program at the MIT focused on historical importance of India and its close political and economic ties with Middle East though "Middle Eastern Studies" is not a choice term in India. While Labibah Zain, former Head Librarian of IAIN Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University and currently a PhD student at McGill University, Montreal (Canada) presented her paper on "Middle East Collection in Indonesia: A Case of IAIN Sunan Kaligaga's Library" and focused on both academic and collection development activities at various IAIN institutions. Toro Miura, President of Japan Association for Middle East Studies, presented a paper entitled "Survey of Middle East Studies in Japan: Historical Development, Present State, and Prospects." Also Byoung Joo Hah, Professor of Arabic at the Pusan University of Foreign Studies made his presentation on the state of Middle East collection in the libraries of Korea.

Committee on Iraqi Libraries: The MELA Committee on Iraqi Libraries expressed its willingness to co-operate with international efforts to recover looted Iraqi antiquities, manuscripts, books and other cultural properties, and to assist our Iraqi colleagues. Many of the members, individuals with much appro-

priate experience and knowledge, are eager to contribute, and especially eager to reaffirm the bonds of international scholarship. The MELA Executive Board convened the Committee on Iraqi Libraries to coordinate the organization's response to the damage and destruction suffered by libraries in Iraq during and after the war in March and April 2003. The committee is envisioned to be a small task force of MELA members who have first-hand knowledge of, experience or strong interest in matters related to libraries in Iraq who will be able to field questions, play the role of contact and suggest ways to assist in rebuilding efforts.

Forthcoming Conferences

1. ALA Midwinter Meeting- The 2004 Midwinter Meeting will be held in San Diego, CA from January 9-14, 2004. The exhibits will be held from January 9-12, 2004 in the San Diego Convention Center. For more information about this Meeting, please visit: http://www.ala.org/Content/ContentGroups/Events_and_Conferences2/Midwinter/2004/home.htm.

AAMES Executive Committee and Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2004 in the Manchester C - Room of the MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT HOTEL from 9:30 AM-11.00 AM. All Committees Meeting will be held in Presidio Room of the WESTTIN HORTON PLAZA HOTEL from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. on Saturday, January 10, 2004. Both meetings are open to all members of AAMES.

2. ALA Annual Conference: The 2004 Annual Conference of the American Library Association will be held in Orlando, FL from June 24-30, 2004. The exhibits will be held from June 26-29, 2004 in the Orange County Convention Center. Please visit: http://www.ala.org/Content/ContentGroups/Events_and_Conferences2/Annual/AN2004/home.htm.

3. The Association for Asian Studies, one of the largest professional

organizations of its kind in the world. The annual meeting this society will be held at San Diego from March 4-7, 2004. During this annual meeting South Asian Librarians (CONSALD), and Chinese, Japanese and Korean Librarians (CEAL) also meet to discuss various issues. More information can be accessed at their web site: <http://www.aasianst.org/annmtg.htm>

4. The **Second International Conference on the Future of the Book** will be held at the Beijing Friendship Hotel in Beijing, China, from 29-31 August 2004. This conference will address a range of critically important themes relating to the future of the book, as well as its past and the state of the book industry, books and reading today. For additional information please visit: <http://book-conference.com/Background/index.html>

5. **2004 International Conference on Digital Archive Technologies (ICDAT2004)** will be held from 18-19 March 2004 at the Howard Plaza Hotel Taipei, Taiwan. (<http://www.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ICDAT04/>).

6. **ASIA Network Conference**- The 12th Annual ASIA Network conference will be held at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center located just outside of Chicago in Lisle, Illinois. The conference will be held from April 2 through April 4, 2004. For registration information please visit the website: <http://www.asianetwork.org/2004conference/>

7. **Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP)** - The annual meeting of ASDP alumni and other interested faculty will be held from April 15-17, 2004 in Kansas City, hosted by Johnson County Community College and organized by faculty at ASDP regional centers. (<http://library.kcc.hawaii.edu/external/asdp/about.html>).

8. **ACRL National Conference**- Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 12th National Conference is scheduled from April 7-10,

2005 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference theme, "Currents and Convergence: Navigating the Rivers of Change," recognizes the convergence of two cities and the state where the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi are located. For details- http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ACRL/Events_and_Conferences/12th_National_Conference/Minneapolis_National_Conference_Call_for_Participation.htm.

9. **ASIS&T Conference**- American Society for Information Science & Technology 2004 Annual Meeting will be held from November 13-18, 2004 at Providence, Rhode Island. The theme of this event is "Managing and enhancing information: Cultures and conflicts". For more information: <http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM04/am04call.html>.

10. **IFLA Annual Conference**- World Library and Information Congress: 70th IFLA General Conference and Council will be held from August 22 - 27 2004 at Buenos Aires, Argentina. The theme is "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development". For more details please visit: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/index.htm>.

Members in the News

- Dr. R. N. Sharma, Chair AAMES presented a paper on "Destruction of Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Iraq" during a conference on "The Iraq That was ...Art, Culture and History, The Silent Victims" held on October 11, 2003 at the Boulder Public Library, Boulder, Colorado. His paper on "The Impact of Digital Collections on the Humanities: A Librarian's View" appeared in *Against the Grain*, 15(4), September 2003, pp.48-52. Dr. Sharma will also presented a paper on "Information Technologies in Academic Libraries: Barriers and Solutions" during the International Book Fair held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from December 1-3, 2003.

- John A. Eilts, Chair- AAMES Nominating Committee, has been elected as Vice-President/Program

Chair for 2004 of the MELA (Middle East Librarians Association). In this position he will plan the annual meeting that will be held at San Francisco in November 2004.

- Research and Publication Committee of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has approved a research and publication grant to Dr. Rajwant Chilana, South Asian Studies Librarian for his research proposal on "International Bibliography on Sikh Studies".

- As of August 7, 2003, Dr. Muhammad al-Faruque has joined as a Middle Eastern Studies Librarian and Associate Professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Earlier Dr. Faruque worked at the Stanford University Libraries as Middle East Librarian/Cataloger for two years and at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University as Principal Cataloger/NACO Coordinator/Middle East Cataloger from 1999 to 2001.

- Shu Yong is a new Chinese Studies Librarian and Coordinator of Cataloging in the Asian Library of the University of Illinois at the Urbana-Champaign. Earlier she was a Librarian at the Arts Institute of Chicago.

New Publications

1. The Cambridge University Press has announced that the first issue of a new Journal "*International Journal of Asian Studies (IJAS)*" will be issued in 2004. This Journal is an interdisciplinary, English-language forum for research in the social sciences and humanities. IJAS examines Asia on a regional basis, emphasizing patterns and tendencies that go beyond the borders of individual countries.

2. The South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) of Pakistan has brought it the first issue of a new Journal "*The South Asian Journal*" that is an academic and topical quarterly magazine, published by SAFMA, an independent mainstream media body.

3. *Acquisition in Different and Special Subject Areas*, edited by Abulfazal M. Fazle Kabir, Associate

Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at Atlanta University (Haworth Information Press, 2003, 122p) is a collection of contributions made by experienced professionals. Authors have discussed the profiles, methods and processes of acquisitions of library materials in special areas like India Studies, African country of Benin, regional poetry, and regional and ethnic publications. This compilation presents the techniques for stretching limited resources through good planning, faculty participation and use of online resources.

AAMES List serves

AAMES-L is ACRL Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section's discussion list. This has been created to

facilitate and encourage discussion of important issues amongst Section members and non-members across the spectrum of the area studies librarian's groups represented: Association for Asian Studies (AAS), African Studies Association (ASA), and the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). You may subscribe the list by sending an email to LISTPROC@ALA1.ALA.ORG with the single line: "SUBSCRIBE AAMES-L JOAN S. DOE".

Job Opportunities

The Columbia University Libraries announces an excellent career opportunity for a **Middle East and Jewish Studies Librarian**. Librarian is responsible for development of collection of materials from the Middle East and Near East (extending as far

east as Afghanistan, and also including Armenia), in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, Kurdish, Maltese, Armenian, and all other languages of significance to this field; as well as materials in support of the field of Jewish Studies. He or she is also responsible for the provision of information services to faculty, students, researchers and other Middle East and Jewish Studies scholars in the Columbia University community. For immediate consideration, please email your application, along with the names and numbers of three references to: recruiter@columbia.edu or mail it to Libraries Human Resources, Columbia University, Box 18 Butler Library, MC 1104, 535 West 114th Street, New York, NY 10027.

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Be sure to join AAMES when you renew your Membership or initially join. The Editorial Committee Consists of Dr. Rajwant Chilana, Editor, Anjana Bhatt, Cynthia Tysick, Emilie Ngo-Nguidjol, and Jian Tian.

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