

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

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

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Message from the Chair

The Future of AAMES

Greetings everyone I hope that this newsletter finds you healthy and happy. When I was asked to write a brief column for the newsletter I was initially going to discuss how those involved in Asian, African, and Middle Eastern librarianship could make a contribution to developing information literacy standards for students studying in those disciplines. However, recent events with the section have forced me to address a rather serious issue, that of our members' involvement in the section; or rather the lack thereof. ACRL has become concerned with our section's increasing struggle to find members willing to serve on the executive committee.

I have been a member of the AAMES executive committee since 2001 and two years ago I served on the nominating committee. I have seen the section struggle to get members to volunteer for various positions and have been concerned. The section tried to make volunteering easier with an online form at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aamescommittee.htm>. We did get new members volunteering for committees but we still have had problems with filling executive slots. As a result I believe we must have a frank discussion on whether or not there is sustaining interest in AAMES as a section. The funding it

takes on the part of ACRL to keep us going may be better served elsewhere within the organization.

The option is to become a discussion group. To this end I would like us to have an open discussion via the AAMES listserv and at an open meeting at Annual. According to ACRL a discussion group is "designed to respond quickly, discussion groups address hot topics. These short-term groups gather together to discuss the issues and provide members with the always-important informal networks for exchanging ideas and problem-solving." A list of ACRL discussion groups can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlcomm/discussiongroups.htm>. The group would concentrate on leading a topical discussion at Annual each year. The benefit is that it would require fewer people to organize and sustain. Much of a discussion group's work happens via e-mail or other forms of electronic communication. In the coming months you will have an opportunity to weigh in on this idea through e-mail and at Annual. If we can get more AAMES members involved and create projects that are meaningful I see no reason to become a discussion group. However, if a majority of members are amicable we should seriously consider converting to an ACRL discussion group.

Cynthia Tysick
Chair, AAMES 2006
University at Buffalo
E-mail: cat2@buffalo.edu

Future of Area Studies and Area Studies Librarianship

Area studies programs at various academic institutions are facing new challenges, encountering threats of dissolution and generating new discussions on future directions and strategy for survival. As the future of area studies libraries is closely related to that of academic programs, interested people would like to know what scholars in the field are thinking and what new course of action they are suggesting. Below is a list of selected readings on the topic.

Bentley, Jerry H. "Globalizing history and historicizing globalization." *Globalizations*, Volume 1, Number 1 (September 2004): 69 - 81.

Palat, Ravi Arvind "Area Studies After 9/11, Requiescat in Pace." <http://www.duke.edu/APSI/pdf/asiaconf/Ravipalat.pdf>

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Editor's Note

With this issue, the AAMES Newsletter enters into its third year and this is the first issue under my editorship. I took the responsibility of editorship with a commitment to improve communication between the members of the Section and with intension of making current and hot news related to the Section easily available. A sense of great responsibility works behind it and I request all of you to extend your cooperation and helping hands to make my task easier. It is my understanding that as editor I am responsible to oversee the logistics of the Newsletter and to streamline the contents in a way that readers would find it informative and useful. But the contents have to come from you, the members, and without your active support and cooperation I can make neither a headway nor any meaningful contribution. I, therefore, request you to make AAMES and its Newsletter a priority in the list of things you do. Without your support and active involvement neither the Section can survive nor Newsletter can maintain its continuity.

The Asian, African, and the Middle Eastern Section of ACRL represents the major part of traditional Area Studies librarianship. Area Studies as an academic discipline is currently under threat of dissolution, so also the Area Studies librarianship. The conference on the future of area studies librarianship at the Indiana University, Bloomington (<http://www.indiana.edu/~arealibs/>) or a similar conference at the Library of Congress (http://www.arl.org/collect/grp/conf_sum.html) echoes this fear. Unless we come forward with creative ideas and active participation, the days may not be too far away when area studies librarianship will be a matter of memory only.

AAMES' current chair Cynthia

Tysick's short write up in this issue vividly draws this gloomy picture and she foresees the fearful future for this organization unless its members come forward to volunteer and participate actively in its activities. Passive or no participation is equal to losing the existence. I hope AAMES would not reach to that level and our members would not let it happen.

I also like to take this opportunity to thank the ACRL/AAMES Executive Board for giving me the opportunity to edit its Newsletter and to Dr. Rajwant Chilana, the former editor, for his continuous support.

Muhammad al-Faruque
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Events/Programs

Joint ALC/MELA Program

The Africana Librarians Council and the Middle East Librarians Association will jointly sponsor the following panel and lunch in Washington, DC. It will take place on Friday, Nov. 18th from 9 a.m. until noon in the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel. This is the first joint program of the Africana Librarians Council and the Middle East Librarians Association. It is intended to explore our overlaps and links, including our methods and sources, and to highlight two prominent archival and research collections. There will be three speakers. Ghislaine Lydon, Department of History at UCLA will speak on "Writing Trans-Saharan History: Methods, Sources and Interpretations Across the African Divide." Marieta Harper and Christopher Murphy, both from the Library of Congress, will give an overview of "The Timbuktu Manuscripts Collection at the Library of Congress." And Philip Croom, Curator of the Rare Books Collection at The American

University in Cairo will present the "Nubiana in the collections at The American University in Cairo." We look forward to a fruitful interchange in exploring our connections.

We will gather for a no-host lunch at the Taverna Restaurant (near the conference hotel) following the joint ALC/MELA program. If you are planning on joining the groups for lunch and have not already made a reservation, please send a check for \$25 made out to the Middle East Librarians Association to:

William J. Kopycki
University of Pennsylvania Library
3420 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206

Please include the following information:

Payment is for the ALC/MELA lunch at the ASA meeting in Washington, November 18, 2005.

Name(s) of person(s) attending the lunch.

The lunch menu will be an array of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes served buffet or family style.

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The AAMES Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; Phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 2517. The subscription is included in the ACRL/AAMES membership fee.

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(from p. 2)

(Note: The menu I saw during the planning stage was spectacular. Several members of the ALC have eaten at this restaurant and gave it high marks)

Reported by: Al Kagan
African Studies Bibliographer and Professor
of Library Administration
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

South Asian Librarians Meeting at Madison Oct 5-7, 2005

The 34th Annual Conference of South Asianists was held at the Madison Concourse Hotel from October 6 - 9, 2005. This event was sponsored by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that attracted around 500 scholars who traveled from a dozen countries around the world and much of the North America. During this conference, the South Asian Librarians/Bibliographers from various academic institutions under the umbrella of CONSALD (Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation) met on October 6, 2005 at the Memorial Library of the University of Wisconsin, and deliberated on different topics including establishing CONSALD archives, journal indexing project underway at the University of Wisconsin, Bibliography of Asian Studies indexing update, tables of contents project at Columbia, and parallel/coordinated efforts in the future, update on Endangered Archives project for preservation of Urdu serials, Urdu Research Library Consortium's Khwaja collection purchase update, CRL updates on TICFIA and South Asian Information Access projects, and Digital South Asia Library project. Participants were concerned about continuous attack on Area Studies Librarianship. Dr. David Magier, South Asian Librarian & Director of

Area Studies at the Columbia University Libraries told about his new interesting web site on "Area Studies Librarianship blog" developed on neutral ground, using an outside server to encourage Area librarians from everywhere to be open and candid about the major issues facing the profession. For more information, visit: <http://areastudieslibrarians.blogspot.com/>

Preceding the CONSALD meeting, the SACAP participants had a meeting from 11:45 to 1:30 pm with the Library of Congress office (New Delhi) Director and Deputy Director, and discussed various issues pertaining to South Asian Acquisition Program.

Reported by: Dr. Rajwant Chilana,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

IFLA 2005 A Voyage of Discovery

More than 3000 delegates, many of whom were from Asian, African and Middle Eastern countries, attended the World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, held in Oslo, Norway, from August 14th- 18th, 2005. Like most library conferences in North America where the programs/topics are geared toward the interests of the members of the sponsoring organizations (e.g., ALA, SLA, PLA, ACRL,) this IFLA conference, like the previous IFLA conferences, offered a variety of programs/topics for everyone. However, there were a good number of programs/papers addressing important issues relating to libraries beyond North America and Europe. Indeed, by a quick glance at the conference's "Final Programme" one can quickly recognize a great number of papers dealing with library issues outside North American and European

countries. Among the many presentations addressing library issues in Asian, African and Middle Eastern countries included "Rising from the Wreckage: Tsunami Affected Libraries in Sri Lanka," "Digitization, Sustainability and Access in the Indian Context," "Government and Publications and Information Dissemination: Indian Scenario," "Management and Planning Organization of Iran: Official Publications," "Digital Libraries to Preserve, Archive and Disseminate the Arab Heritage," and "Cooperation between the Libraries at Mzumbe University (Tanzania) and Agder University College (Norway): An Overview for the Present and the Future."

In conjunction with the paper sessions, more than 70 poster presentations from around the world were also presented at the conference. Among the many noticeable poster presentations relating libraries in Asian, African, and Middle Eastern countries included "American Libraries in the Arab Gulf: New Approaches to International Cooperation," "Bibliographic Description of the Karamanlidika (Karamanli) Collection: Bibliographic Analysis Through WorldCat," "INFLIBNET Centre: A Gateway to the Academic Community in India," "The Beautiful Granny Project: 'Silver' Storytellers Workshop," "Methods of Authorizing Arabic Old Names and Creating Bi-Script Arab Roman Authority File Using VTLS LIS in Bibliotheca Alexandrina: Cooperation in Online Union Catalogues," and "Delivering Information Services to Nuclear Physicists in a Multi-disciplinary Research Laboratory in South Africa." The poster presentations complemented the overall theme of the conference very well. The papers and poster presentations presented at the conference are available at

(<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/Programme.htm>).

Reported by: Binh P. Le
Associate Librarian, Penn State
Vice Chair/Chair Elected ACRL/AAMES

Middle East Librarians Association

This year the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) is holding a joint session during its annual meeting with the Africana Librarians Council (see, Joint ALC/MELA Program, reported by Al Kagan on p. 2).

MELA has established the David H. Partington Award. This annual award was financed by a long-time MELA member and former librarian at the Harvard University library, Dr. Fawzi Abdalrazak. It has been named in honor of Dr. David H. Partington, who has had a long and distinguished career in the Middle East collections of Princeton University Library, the University of Michigan Library, and Harvard University Library. He was one of the founders of the Middle East Librarians Association and served as its first president. For many years he was the dean of Middle East librarians in this country, providing wise guidance and at the same time maintaining the highest standards of scholarship. With this award, MELA seeks to grant public and tangible recognition to its members who display the similar standards of excellence like Dr. Partington and to recognize accomplishments in and contributions to the field of Middle East librarianship, librarianship in general, and the world of scholarship. A Committee, comprising of Edward A. Jajko (chair), Muhammad al-Faruque and Jere Bacharach, selected the first winner(s) of this year's award which will be announced at the MELA Business meeting in Washington DC on November 18th.

MELA has also established a Committee on Cataloging (comprising of Joyce Bell, Muhammad al-Faruque, Meryle Gaston (Chair), William Kopycki, Fereshteh Molavi and Sara Özturk) to identify and consider issues, make recommendations, and work with other appropriate bodies on matters related to the descriptive and subject cataloging, classification, and content designation of materials from and about the Middle East. To gain a better understanding of the practices, needs, and issues confronting institutions and individual catalogers responsible for the cataloging of Middle Eastern language materials the Committee conducted an elaborate survey and prepared its report. An executive summary of the report will be presented at the MELA annual meeting.

A Committee on Education has also been established to Committee to further the initial and ongoing training of Middle East area studies librarians by providing, in collaboration with library science and other faculty, learning opportunities in varied formats including workshops, special courses, or distance learning. Details of this and other committees are available at the MELA web site: <http://www.mela.us/>

Each year MELA awards the George Atiyah Prize, established in honor of one of its founding members. The applicants must be currently enrolled students in an accredited library education program. The winner receives a stipend to attend the annual MELA and MESA meetings. This year the award is given to Martha Jenks, who is currently enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin's dual-degree program in Middle Eastern Studies and Information Science.

Reported by:
Muhammad al-Faruque
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Council on East Asian Libraries

The 2005 Annual meeting of the CEAL was held in Chicago during March 31 – April 3, 2005. Some of the major events in the meeting were: Electronic Serials Cataloging Workshop, organized by the University of Chicago; a round table on "Small Collections, Practical Solutions"; a panel discussion on "Improving access to and delivery of a full spectrum or research resources to students, faculty, and searchers". Details are available at: <http://wason.library.cornell.edu/CEAL/>

Reported by MaF

CALA: Chinese American Librarians Association

The Chinese American Librarians Association conferred its 2005 Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Susana Juh-mei Liu. This annual award is offered to honor and recognize an individual who has distinguished himself/ herself for providing outstanding service to the profession of librarianship. Ms. Liu has forty years' distinguished service to her credit during which she held various positions in academic librarianship. She has been recognized for a long commitment to serving the local community as well as library professional organizations. She played an instrumental role in the 1983 merger of Chinese American Librarians Association and the Chinese Librarian Association in California to form a unified voice for Chinese American librarians in the United States. In addition to holding a number of offices in CALA, Ms. Liu has also actively contributed a great deal of her time and energy in professional organizations and committees such as California Library Association. Her

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Member's Corner

R. N. Sharma, past Chair of AAMES and director of library, West Virginia State University has been invited to work at the Shanghai Library for four weeks during October-November 2005 where he has presented a paper entitled: "Library and Instructional Services in American Academic Libraries with emphasis on West Virginia State University." The Shanghai Library is the largest public library in China and one of the oldest libraries in the world. In September Dr. Sharma has presented a live online seminar on "Diversity in American Libraries" hosted by the Dynix Corporation of USA.

Binh P. Le, Vice Chair/Chair Elect of ACRL/AAMES, presented a poster ses-

sion entitled "LEAF-VN: The Success Story of a Small Non-profit Library Foundation" at the World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, held in Oslo, Norway, from August 14th- 18th 2005. Binh Le's poster session covered LEAF-VN's establishment, important library projects completed such as the translation of the Concise AACR2 into Vietnamese and the library workshops conducted for Vietnamese library professionals in Vietnam. The conference's poster sessions were held on the 16th and 17th, from 12:00-2:00. The poster sessions were well-attended.

Rajwant Chilana, member of the AAMES Executive Committee and the past editor of the AAMES Newsletter, has published a new edition of his book: *International Bibliography of Sikh Studies* (Springer, 2005). He has also published "Information Technologies and the Development of South Asian Collections & Services in US Libraries," in R.N. Sharma (ed.), *Impact of Technology on Library Collections and Services* (Scarecrow Press, in press); and "Sikhism Resources: Building a Basic Collection on Sikh Religion and Culture" in *Reference & Users Services Quarterly*, v.45, no.1, August 2005

Muhammad al-Faruque, Chair of the AAMES Publication Committee and the editor of its Newsletter, has been invited to attend the National Economic Model Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, to be held on November 26-27, 2005. The conference aims at developing a model for balanced use of national resources and minimizing the gap between a minority high privilege section and a majority less privilege section of the society.

Triveni Kuchi, Member of the AAMES Nominating Committee, has written two articles: "Communicating Mission: An analysis of Academic Library Web sites," forthcoming in *Journal of Academic Librarianship* (March

2006); and "Constant Change and the Strategic Role of Communication: A Selective Annotated Bibliography," forthcoming in *Library Management* (March 2006)

Blog Blog Blog Blog

Area Studies Librarianship

Front-line area studies librarians at research libraries: issues in area studies librarianship

<http://areastudieslibrarians.blogspot.com/>

This blog is hosted by David Magier, Director of Area Studies at Columbia University Libraries and President of the Center for South Asia Libraries. The host is conducting a survey on international travel support, collecting data with questions such as "Does your institution support foreign acquisitions travel? Does it come from library funding, or do you have to find other/outside funds for such travel? Does the library grant you paid professional leave for such travel? Is it only for acquisitions, narrowly defined? Or are you able to engage in a wider array of activities such as building institutional connections, human networking, attending conferences and exhibits, participating in cooperative projects, etc.?"

Upcoming Events

IFLA 2006

The next IFLA conference (Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society) will be held in Seoul, Korea, from August 20th-24th, 2006. It is worthwhile to visit IFLA's web site (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>) to get additional information, especially on submitting panel/paper/poster proposals to be presented at the next IFLA conference.

ALA MID-WINTER 2006

The 2006 Midwinter Meeting will be held in San Antonio, TX, from January 20-25, 2006.

The exhibits will be held January 20-23, 2006 in the Gonzalez Convention Center, with the Ribbon-Cutting held Friday, January 20 at 5:15 pm preceding the All-Conference Reception on the Exhibit Floor from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Details are available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2006/home.htm>

AAS Annual Meeting 2006

The 58th annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies will be held at the San Francisco Marriott on April 6-9, 2006. The Association notes:

"AAS members planning to attend the annual meeting next spring in San Francisco may be aware of ongoing labor disputes at several hotels in the city. While we cannot guarantee the AAS will not be affected by the situation, we can offer potential panel organizers and meeting attendees a degree of reassurance. According to the Hotel Labor Advisor website, the San Francisco Marriott is one of the few hotels in the city considered "safe" from labor disputes because hotel management has signed a "me too" agreement. This means that the non-union hotel has agreed to abide by the terms of union contracts negotiated by other hotels in the area, but does not participate in negotiations. In return, the hotel's employees and the union agree not to engage in workplace actions. We trust the Marriott will remain unaffected by the dispute, but we will continue to monitor the situation carefully."

ICADL Conference

The 8th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries will be held from 12-15 December 2005, in Bang-

kok, Thailand. The theme of the conference is "Implementing Strategies and Sharing Experiences". Details are available at <http://www.icadl2005.ait.ac.th/>

There will be a half-day International Workshop on "Dublin Core and Metadata Applications" to exchange and share knowledge and experiences on Dublin Core and metadata. Date: 15 December 2005, 2:00-5:00 pm.; Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel. Details at <http://www.icadl2005.ait.ac.th/workshop.htm>

ALC Spring 2006

The Spring 2006 meeting of the AFRICANA LIBRARIANS COUNCIL (ALC) will be held in Boston, MA at Boston University, May 4-6, 2006. The Council advises to contact Gretchen Walsh <gwalsh@bu.edu> for details.

CEAL and AAS Annual Meeting 2006

The annual meetings of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), and related organizations will be held at the San Francisco Marriott. The AAS panels and roundtables are scheduled from Thursday, April 6 - Sunday, April 9, 2006. The details are available at <http://wason.library.cornell.edu/CEAL/CEAL2006.htm>

MELA 2006

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association will be held on November 17 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA. For details visit <http://www.mela.us/>

(from p. 4) CALA

tireless efforts in promoting higher education for the Asian community won her several awards and honors by the State of California. As an academic librarian, Ms. Liu has achieved a long record of scholarship and research activities.

Reported by:
Muhammad al-Faruque

(from p. 1) Future of Area Studies

Kolluoglu-Kirli, Biray "From Orientalism to Area Studies." *The New Centennial Review*, Volume 3, Number 3 (Fall 2003): 93-111.

Lloyd, David T. "African Studies and Study Abroad." http://www.frontiersjournal.com/issues/vol6/vol6-07_Lloyd.pdf

Liu H. "Sino-Southeast Asian Studies: Towards an Alternative Paradigm." *Asian Studies Review*, Volume 25, Number 3 (September 2001): 259-28.

Bilgin, Pinar "Is the 'Orientalist' past the future of Middle East studies?" *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 25, Number 2 (March 2004): 423-433

Brenner, Neil "Beyond state-centrism? Space, territoriality, and geographical scale in globalization studies." *Theory and Society*, Volume 28, Number 1 (February 1999): 39-78.

Kuge, Shu "Learning Places: The Afterlives of Area Studies (review)." *Comparative Literature Studies*, Volume 42, Number 1, (2005): 120

O'Meara, Patrick "The Current Status and Future Trends in International Education and Research at American Universities, and the Impact on Libraries." <http://www.indiana.edu/~arealibs/conf95/omeara.html>

Collected by: Muhammad al-Faruque



ACRL pre-conference Workshops in New Orleans

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), the parent organization of AAMES, is offering three workshops in conjunction with the 2006 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans on Friday, June 23, 2006. Registration materials for these workshops will be available at www.acrl.org (click "Events").

"Assessment and Beyond: Starting It Off, Pulling It All Together and Making Decisions" (Friday, June 23, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). This workshop will introduce common methods of assessment and provide hands-on experience to design a tool for assessment activities. It will also focus on the methods to analyze and interpret results of information gath-

ering and will examine ways to manage information and data. Presenters include: Dave Baca, Team Leader, Science Engineering Team, University of Arizona; David Consiglio, Bryn Mawr College; Phil Davis, Life Sciences Librarian, Cornell University; Fred Heath, Vice Provost/Dean, University of Texas, Austin; Julie Miran, Director of Information Services, The Hill School; Adam Smith, Google.

"Federated Search: How Do We Teach It?" (Friday, June 23, 2006, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.). This workshop will offer practical advice on how to integrate federated search into existing information literacy courses and curricula. This half-day workshop will concentrate, inter alia, on learning outcomes as a framework for introducing federated search and related information literacy concepts, and

lesson plans and exercises for use in the classroom. It will be presented by Christopher Cox, Assistant Director, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

"Taking Your Library Liaison Program to the Next Level: Strategies for Outreach and Integration" (Friday, June 23, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) will highlight on library liaison programs and strategies for strengthening or revitalizing liaison programs. Presenters are: Craig Gibson, Associate University Librarian for Public Services, George Mason University; Jamie Coniglio, Head of Reference/Coordinator of Liaison Program, George Mason University.

Details are available online at www.ala.org/acrl/events. Registration opens December 1, 2005.

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