

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

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

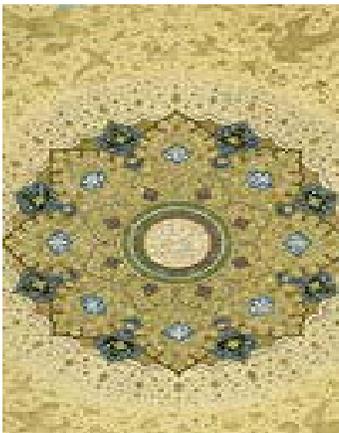
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Message from AAMES Chair

AAMES After a Decade

Two years ago, as the editor of this newsletter, I expressed my concern about the future of AAMES and appealed to the membership for more active involvement in the organization and to come forward with fresh ideas. Since then, especially during the tenure of Binh Le as the Chair, noticeable improvement has taken place. However, this organization still has to walk a long way in order to come to the forefront of ACRL/ALA sections. I also underlined this point in the last annual meeting in Washington D.C. More the time is passing, more it seems to me that we are loosing great opportunities to bring this organization to prominence.

As information professionals specializing in specific regions that are commonly identified in academic terms as area stud-

ies, we need to be more vigilant, forward thinking and technology oriented. We need to be alert and ready to face challenges of the twenty-first century in the areas of information processing and information media. The pattern of information use in the digital age has so rapidly been changing that it needs quick and adoptive minds to stay at par with the phase of development.

If we want to see AAMES at the forefront of information professionals' organizations in a decade from now, we need not only to keep up the forward moving momentum, but also to speed it up in order to successfully overcome the new challenges and to stay there with firm footings. Let's take the initiative from now and hold our

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Iraq National Library

In April of 2003 the Iraqi National Library and Archive was set on fire by arsonists and looted. In addition to the severe structural damage a full quarter of the library collection was lost including primary documents from the Ottoman period (1534-1918), approximately 1200 items, the Hashmenite monarchy (1920-1958), approximately 30,000-40,000 items and all of the materials from the Republican period (1958-1979), housed in the Old Library (contrasted with the New Library, which is a new building chosen to house the collection).

Also among the material losses were many rare books, approximately 4,000



items, and over half of the archives, which included primary documents dating back to the Ottoman Empire. In addition to the fires most of the rare materials had been relocated to the basement of the neighboring Ministry of Tourism building, and having survived the bombings during the invasion, the materials were looted and the remainder were left under open water taps, ruining the entire collection.

To highlight the plight and recovery efforts of the Iraq National Library and Archive the British Library has hosted a diary written by the Director of the li-

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Globalization on Film

“Darwin's Nightmare/Whose Nightmare? Globalization on Film” is an exhibit at the Rutgers University Kilmer Library <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib/kilmer_lib/kilmer_lib.shtml>, running from September 4th through December 12th, 2007. Conceptualized and designed by Kevin McGuire in cooperation with the Rutgers University Libraries Media Center, the exhibit seeks to highlight the many films in the Media Center's collection that focus on the worldwide ramifications of globalization. The title of the exhibit is inspired by one of films on display, *Darwin's Nightmare*, released in 2005, that depicts the tragic effects that ensue when disproportionately powerful companies, governments and people compete on an anything but level playing field in Tanzania. As the director of the film points out in an interview on the DVD, similar effects can result from the production and distribution of almost any product or service in today's global marketplace, thus making the film representative of what is happening not only in Africa but throughout the world today. All of the films on display are annotated below (annotations from the Rutgers Library Catalog) and a more comprehensive list is available from: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/media_collections/globalization.shtml.



Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

1) “**King for a Day.**” Alex Gabbay, director. Bare-foot Films, 2001. A satire on globalization and its implications for the citizens of developing nations. Presented as the diary of a cynical Bangladeshi journalist who follows the arrangements for the arrival of President Bill Clinton in March 2000.



Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

2) “**Black Gold.**” Marc Francis and Nick Francis, directors. Speak-it Films in association with Fulcrum Productions California Newsreel, 2006. “After oil, coffee is the most actively traded commodity in the world. Tracing the path of the coffee consumed each day to the farmers who produce the beans, *Black Gold* asks us to ‘wake up and smell the coffee’, to face the unjust conditions under which our favorite drink is produced and to decide what we can do about it.”

3) “**Secrets of Silicon Valley.**” Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, directors. Bullfrog Films, 2001. The film chronicles the lives of two young activists, Magda Escobar and Raj Jayadev, grappling with rapid social change and the meaning of globalization on their own doorsteps. Presents an illuminating view into the hidden world of high tech sweatshops and a critical look at the social impact of the new millenium's high technology.

4) “**The Invisible Wall.**” Ole Alskov, director. Filmmakers Library, 1993. Presents issues of the power in food politics, roles of multi-national corporations, Third World debt, and trade barriers in fueling poverty and environmental destruction in the world's poorest countries.

5) “**Shocking and Awful.**” Larilyn Sanchez, et al, series editors. Deep Dish TV, 2004. Contents: [Disc 1] 1. The real face of occupation -- 2. Standing with the women of Iraq -- 3. National insecurities -- 4. The art of resistance. [Disc 2] 5. Dance of death -- 6. Erasing memory, the cultural destruction of Iraq -- 7. Globalization at gunpoint, the economics of occupation -- 8. The world says no to war. [Disc 3] 9. Empire and oil -- 10. Channels of war, the media is the military -- 11. Resistance at home -- 12. Baghdad.

6) “**Koyaanisqatsi : Life Out of Balance.**” Godfrey Reggio, director. Pacific Arts Video Records, 1983. *Koyaanisqatsi* is a Hopi Indian word meaning variously crazy life, life in turmoil, life disintegrating, life out of balance (the subtitle for this film), and a state of life that calls for another way of life. Presented by Francis Ford Coppola, this creation of director Godfrey Reggio, cinematographer Ron Fricke, and composer Philip Glass seems to flash by

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IFLA 2007



Central Drakensberg, South Africa

Photo Courtesy: Tom Glynn

“Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships”

International Federation of Libraries Association (IFLA) Annual Conference held at Durban, South Africa was very well attended by librarians from around the world. From the photo above we can see that some of the librarians also enjoyed the exquisite view and toured around after the meetings.

... Iraq National Library Blog

(Continued from page 1)

brary, Saad Eskander. The intermittent entries chronicle the life of not only Dr. Eskander but also of his staff and their experiences in both private and public life.

This blog and efforts by Dr. Eskander and other libraries and organizations world wide have started on the road to rebuilding the Iraq National Library and Archive, not only its collections, but its physical facilities and staff as well. Harvard University, Simmons College and the University of California Los Angeles have been provided money to train Iraqi librarians. This program will focus primarily on preservation but will also bring Iraqi librarians up to speed on current professional standards, includ-

ing digital collections and automation. The classes will be held in the United Arab Emirates so as to give the Iraqi librarians access to local collections in the Emirates and Dubai. This program is modeled on two highly successful programs run by Simmons College, one in Vietnam and the other in Bosnia.

Cason Snow
Northern Illinois University

...Message from Chair

(Continued from page 1)

hands together to achieve this goal and let's create a notable space for those who would follow our footsteps in the professional field. I am optimistic that AAMES will turn into the leading Section of the ACRL and its members will feel proud for their being part of this great organization.

Muhammad al-Faruque
Chair—AAMES 2007-2008
Associate Professor
of Library Administration
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Editor's Note

Imagine this: *You have just received the AAMES Newsletter with nothing printed in it.* Initially I thought, as an editor, I would protest the lack of submissions by leaving the first page of the AAMES Newsletter completely blank. In this section's membership of more than 380 I have received only one submission for the Newsletter!! However, even though I do believe in protesting and staying my ground, when I did receive the only submission, I counted it as a blessing or rather compromised — “better than nothing” — and have yet again pulled content together that might be of interest to you all.

In this Fall issue of the AAMES Newsletter, I have attempted to strike up your interest in an ongoing exhibit on “Globalization on Film,” Iraq's National Library's blog, and a summary of activity that took place at the summer ALA meetings in Washington D.C. You will continue to see topics of my interest or convenience in future issues of this newsletter, unless of course you ask or demand for something else. Don't give up your rights as an ACRL/AAMES member to participate!

Triveni Kuchi
Editor, AAMES Newsletter.

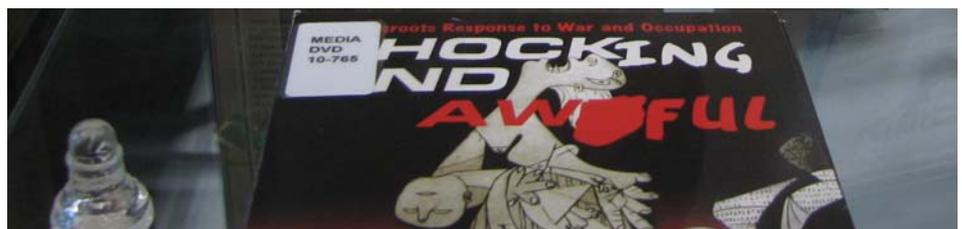


Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

Globalization on Film

your eyes but lingers in your mind.

7) **"This is What Democracy Looks Like."** Jill Freidberg and Rick Rowley, directors. Big Noise Films, 2000. Composed of film segments shot by over 100 media activists during the 1999 World Trade Organization's Ministerial meeting in Seattle when human rights activists, environmentalists, indigenous people, labor activists, fair trade proponents, people of faith, union workers, farmers, students and teachers from more than 700 organizations took to the streets to protest against the meeting.

8) **"Global Village or Global Pilgrage?"** Produced and written by Jeremy Brecher. Stone Soup, Inc., 2006. Examines global industrialization and how people around the world are challenging it. Features Ralph Nader, Charles Kernaghan, Thea Lee, Loretta Ross, Dennis Brutus. Based on the book of the same title.

9) **"Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics."** Terre Nash, director. Bullfrog Films, 1995. A rich biography of ideas in which Marilyn Waring maps out an alternative economic vision while demystifying the language of economics, its elitist stance, and our complicity with political agendas that masquerade as objective economic policy.

10) **"Powaqqatsi: Life in Transition."** Godfrey Reggio, director. Imperial Entertainment Corp., 1990. A visual collage with scenes from various cultures around the world showing how the lure of technology and of mega-cities is affecting small-scale indigenous cultures.

11) **"Commanding Heights : The Battle for the World Economy."** WGBH Boston Video, 2002. Contents: episode 1. The battle of ideas / produced and directed by William Cran -- episode 2. The agony of reform / produced and directed by William Cran -- episode 3. The new rules of the game / written, produced and directed by Greg Barker.

12) **"Darwin's Nightmare."** Hubert Sauper, director. Madman

Films: Potential Films, 2006. Documentary film that exposes the poverty and misery of the people living on the shores on Lake Victoria in Tanzania who are dependent upon fishing the Nile perch from the lake for their meager earnings. The fish are exported by air to Europe to be sold cheaply and the planes that arrive to transport the fish at first seem to arrive empty, but turn out to carry weapons to Africa and fish away.

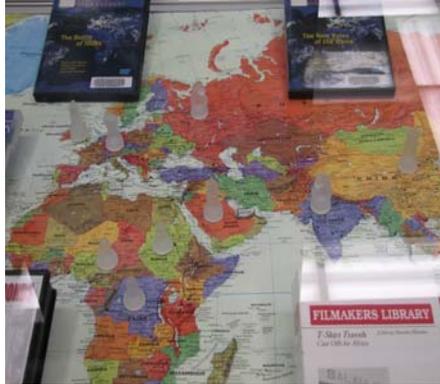


Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

13) **"30 Frames a Second : The WTO in Seattle."** Rustin Thompson, director. Bullfrog Films, 2000. A compelling first-person account by veteran cameraman Rustin Thompson, who covered the November 1999 WTO conference as an independent journalist. Thompson takes the viewer into the fray of tear gas, pepper spray and police abuse; behind the lines and inside the convention center and press rooms; and along the marches, sit-ins and demonstrations. The result is an impressionistic journal of a decisive week that exploded into a massive expression of freedom: of speech, of assembly and the press.

14) **"Super-companies."** Boyce Richardson, director. Bullfrog Films, 1989. Discusses the activities of large international corporations and the effects they have on the economic, environmental, and physical well-being of people as exemplified by aluminum companies in Australia, British Columbia, Jamaica, and Norway.

15) **"Holy Smoke: Cambodians Fight Tobacco."** Bruno Sorrentino, director. Bullfrog Films, 2001. Buddhist monks lead anti-tobacco campaign in Cambodia.

16) **"T-shirt Travels : The Story of Secondhand Clothes & Third World Debt."** Shantha Bloemen, di-

rector. Filmmaker's Library, 2001. A comprehensive program about Third World debt and secondhand clothes.

17) **"Diamonds and Rust."** Adi Barash and Ruthie Shatz, directors. First Run/Icarus Films and West Glen Communications, Inc., 2001. "Directors Adi Barash and Ruthie Shatz received permission to film everyday life on the Spirit of Namibia [a diamond trawler moored off the coast of Namibia] from diamond exporter De Beers, but the result - which shows fraying tempers, racist attitudes, a deteriorating vessel and front office indifference - hardly flatters the company.... Unobtrusively and without commentary, Diamonds and Rust takes us into the daily life of an international crew working in the service of a faceless mining conglomerate that owns not only the ship but the surrounding waters as well."

18) **"The Take."** Avi Lewis, director. First Run/Icarus Films, 2004. "In suburban Buenos Aires, thirty unemployed auto-parts workers walk into their idle factory ... All they want is to re-start the silent machine, but this simple act- "the take" -threatens to



Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

turn the globalization debate on its head."

19) **"Thirst."** Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, directors. Bullfrog

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News from the AAMES Meetings at Washington D.C.



Bylaws Committee Report - Ping Situ

There has been no activity and the Board has said nothing more about bylaws. Ping Situ reported that none of the other members ever show up for the Committee meetings. It was suggested that we try very hard to find people who can come to at least one meeting per year and that we should send a list of those who never show up at all to the Board and ask that they not be appointed to further committees or elected to further offices. All members are encouraged to recruit people who will make good committee members.

Report From ACRL Leadership Council



The ACRL Board discussed three proposals they want the membership to consider. The first was the possibility of changing the ACRL structure to allow for the formation of interest groups. The board is split on this issue; some think there are already too many small groups and this would just splinter the organization further. The Committee members were generally not in favor.

The board also wants the authority to raise the membership dues without having to wait for a vote of the membership. They say the ballot is too slow and they need to be able to respond to emergencies.

The Board would also like to change the structure of the Nominating Committee so that it is composed of members from the various sections to make the process more democratic.

All of these proposals will be discussed at the next two board meetings and then, if approved, put on the ballot.

Binh Le
Past Chair—AAMES 2006-2007
Penn State University

Membership Committee Report - J. Atwill

AAMES currently has 385 members. Letters were sent to all new, dropped and reinstated members—131 in all. Yu Li will cover for Jade Atwill for 2007-2008 as Chair of AAMES Membership Committee. It is important to note that only 21% of the AAMES section members voted in the 2007 election! A plan to send reminders to members (to vote) in March was decided.

Nominations Committee Report - R.N. Sharma

Current Chair - Muhammad al-Faruque 2007-2008

Candidates elected in the 2007 election are:

Vice-chair/Chair-elect: Rajwant Singh Chilana, Asian Studies Librarian & Associate Professor of Library Administration University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign
Secretary: Doris Seely, East Asian Cataloger, University of Minnesota; *Member-at-Large:* Michael Meng, Chinese bibliographer, University of Michigan. **Welcome!**



Conference Program Planning Committee Report

- Binh Le

The AAMES program for 2007 Annual, "Creating World-class Asian, African, and Middle-Eastern Print and Digital Collections," was held Sunday afternoon.

There has been good progress on planning for the program for 2008 ALA annual in Anaheim. Three or four speakers from various countries have been located. It is hoped that we can put together the papers from the 2007 conference with those of 2008 and perhaps others and publish them.

Summarized from Doris Seely's Notes for minutes. 2007.

Globalization on Film

(Continued from page 4)

Films, 2004. The survival of communities is threatened when big business buys the water supply.

20) **"Borderline Cases: Environmental Matters at the United States-Mexico Border."** Lynn Corcoran, director. Bullfrog Films, 1997. Describes problems caused by factories along the U.S. and Mexico border which did not need to comply with environmental regulations.



Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

21) **"Store Wars: When Wal-Mart Comes to Town."** Micha X. Peled, director. Bullfrog Films, 2001. This film follows events in Ashland, VA, over a one-year period, from the first stormy public hearing that galvanizes residents' opposition until the Town Council takes a final vote on the proposed Wal-Mart Store.

22) **"Invisible Garments: Expensive Soles."** Nan T. Achnas, director. Bullfrog Films, 1996. This film focuses on the impact on rural women of new large industries (including Nike) in Indonesia.

23) **"Another World is Possible: Impressions of the World Social Forum."** Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, directors. Bullfrog Films, 2002. In early 2002, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 50,000 gathered for the World Social Forum with the goal of opposing corporate globalization and developing alternative visions for the future.

24) **"The Emperor's New Clothes:**

A Cautionary Tale of Free Trade."

Magnus Isacsson, director. Bullfrog Films, 1997. Takes an incisive look at the profound effects that economic agreements between big business and government can have on human lives, including increased cuts to social programs, massive unemployment, environmental damage, and demoralization.

25) **"A World Without Borders: What is Happening with Globalization?"** Wilson R. Ruiz, director. (Globalization series.) Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2003.

26) **"The New Rulers of the World: A Special Report."** Written & presented by John Pilger. Bullfrog Films, 2001. John Pilger looks at how globalization has increased the gap between the very rich and the very poor. In particular he looks at Indonesia as an example of how globalization and corrupt government has thrown millions of people into poverty and how multinational corporations support the abuse of these poor workers in sweatshops.

27) **"Free Trade Slaves: A Report by Joan Salvat, Stef Soetewey and Peter Breuls."** Maria Josep Tubella, editor. Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1999. Film discusses free trade zones and the accompanying human problems that have arisen with human rights, exploitation of workers and environmental degradation. Filmed on location in Sri Lanka, El Salvador, Mexico and Morocco.

28) **"The Ister."** David Barison and Daniel Ross, directors. First Run/Icarus Films, 2004. At the height of World War Two, Martin Heidegger, the most influential philosopher of the twentieth century delivered a series of lectures on a poem about the Danube river, by one of Germany's greatest poets, Friedrich Hölderlin. Four remarkable thinkers, Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe, Jean-Luc Nancy, Bernard Stiegler, and, filmmaker Hans-Jürgen Syberberg, discuss his contemporary relevance.

29) **"Not for Sale."** Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, directors. Bullfrog Films, 2002. This documentary explores some little-known aspects of global trade agreements. Patents and other intellectual property rights are expanding what corporations can own and control -- from ma-



Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

chines to knowledge and even living creatures. What does this mean for the environment, the food supply and human rights? This film looks at farmers, indigenous people, and global justice activists who oppose patents on life and advocate for a world where life is not a commodity but something to be treasured.

31) **"No Logo: Brands, Globalization, Resistance."** Kelly Garner, editor. Media Education Foundation, 2003. Using hundreds of media examples, No Logo shows how the commercial takeover of public space, destruction of consumer choice, and replacement of real jobs with temporary work (the dynamics of corporate globalization) impact everyone, everywhere. It also draws attention to the resistance arising globally to challenge the hegemony of brands.

Kevin McGuire
Rutgers University Libraries



Globalization on Film



AAMES represents librarians and specialists in the fields of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern area studies and acts for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), in cooperation with other professional groups, in those areas of library service that require knowledge of Asian, African and Middle Eastern languages and cultures.

The Asian and African section was created in 1969. Its initial name was the "Asian and North African Subsection" of the Subject Specialists Section of ACRL. By 1980, the name had been changed to "Asian and African" and the group was a full section of ACRL. In 1993, the phrase "Middle East" was added to the section title in recognition of a long-standing practice of inclusion.

2007 - 2008 ACRL/AAMES Executive Committee

Chair,

Muhammad al-Faruque,
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Email: faruque@uiuc.edu

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Rajwant Singh Chilana
Asian Studies Librarian & Associate Professor of
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*For more information about committee
leadership check the AAMES Website.*

Images Courtesy: AAMES/ACRL

We are on the Web!

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aames/>





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Volunteer to serve on an AAMES Committee!

AAMES is now seeking volunteers for committee assignments.

Please fill out the volunteer form at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aamescommittee.htm>

For a description of committees see:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aamescommittees.htm>