

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2006

ISSN 1548-4343

Vol. 3, No. 2

Digital Libraries

Bridging the Digital Divide: The African Digital Library

Over the last decade, with the financial and technical support of many international organizations such as the World Bank, UNESCO and the Humanities Libraries Project as well as for profit institutions such as NetLibrary, many African educational, governmental, non-governmental, and research institutions have been able to establish their own digital collections/libraries.

One of the most noteworthy among these developments is the African Digital Library (www.AfricaEducation.org/adl/). The African Digital Library (ADL) is a joint venture project of the following entities: Technikon SA, South Africa; the Association of African Universities; and NetLibrary, a private US-based corporation. The mission of the ADL "is to provide digitized full text resources to learners in Africa via the Internet, thereby contributing to the revitalization of education and lifelong learning on the continent and alleviation of the digital divide between the First and the Third World Countries."

The ADL collection contains "full text" eBooks, mostly English language textbooks, and is available to the people and institutions in the African continent, free-of-charge.

The ADL "opened" on November 1, 1999, with some 3000 eBooks. In February 2000, the World Bank's

(continued on p. 3)

Digital Library of the Middle East

The Digital Library of the Middle East workshop held in January 2006 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt. After the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) conceptualized the workshop in August 2005, Bibliotheca Alexandrina joined hands as co-organizer. Financial support for the workshop came from the US/Egypt Joint Technology Fund and the National Science Foundation.

The idea of this workshop germinated in IMLS' participation in a series of informal discussion, beginning in 2003, convened by the White House and State Department on preserving and restoring the cultural heritage of Iraq. Those meetings followed by a series of conversations between IMLS and representatives of the National Science Foundation that were interested in supporting the creation of a knowledge repository, or digital library, of the cultural heritage resources of the Middle East. Such a resource would not only facilitate access to related cultural heritage resources in different types of institutions throughout the world but would also serve as a security and preservation repository in the case of theft or loss of physical resources. Because a narrow focus on Iraq would be meaningless in the context of artifacts and materials pre-dating its creation as a political entity, it was recognized that a broader concept would be desirable. In the meantime partnership was developed with

(continued on p. 3)

Libraries Around the World

Libraries are Showcase of Shanghai

R. N. Sharma

China is one of the oldest and largest countries in the world with over one billion population. Libraries have been part of her civilization for many centuries. In 1936, China had about 5,800 libraries but by 1949, when the new government was formed in the country, the number was reduced to 400. The revival of libraries started in the sixties and at present, libraries are booming with the support of technological revolution all over the country.

I was invited by the Shanghai Library to visit them during October-November 2005. The purpose of the visit was to learn about and contribute to the development of the library. It was a great honor for me to spend one month in China and visit many libraries. I was impressed with the

(continued on p. 4)

In this issue

African Digital Library	1
Digital Library of the Mid East	1
Libraries ... of Shanghai	1
Editor's Note	2
Events/Programs	2
ACRL/AAMES Leadership	5
Members' Corner	5
Upcoming Events	6
Organization News	7

Editor's Note

The last issue of the Newsletter focused on the future of AAMES. The Section Chair highlighted on AAMES' current crisis and urged members to be more proactive. The editorial column of the issue also focused on the same crisis. It was hoped that members would initiate a meaningful dialogue on how the crisis can be evaded and what measures can be taken to avoid any fateful consequence. Unfortunately, no such response was noticed from the membership. It seems that they are almost indifferent about the future of AAMES and they prefer to remain passive. I hope, members reconsider their position and change their perspective. The current and future leadership of the Section has to play a role too – the role of motivating the membership to get more involved and to remain more in touch. Their ultimate objective should be to identify and involve a handful energetic members who would take the challenge of not only letting AAMES survive but also performing better than before.

While ups and down in an organization is a historic phenomenon keeping the upward trend up and changing the direction of downward trend to upward is a real challenge for the leadership. Those who have successfully led this organization in the past should also feel it as their moral responsibility to contribute at the time of need. If AAMES flourishes we all win, if AAMES goes down we all loose.

This is the last issue of the Newsletter under my editorship. I look forward to get more involved in AAMES and take this opportunity to welcome the next editor, Triveni Kuchi, and wish her very best in this tedious task of editorship. I hope, she would be able to take the Newsletter one level up and as the chair of the AAMES publication committee would be able to play a notable role.

Muhammad al-Faruque
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Events/Programs

JCLC

The first-of-its-kind, the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) will be held on October 11–15, 2006 at the Adam's Mark Dallas Hotel in Dallas, TX. JCLC is co-sponsored by five affiliates of the American Library Association: the American Indian Library Association (AILA); the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA); the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA); the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and Reforma, an association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

With the conference theme of "Gathering at the Waters: Embracing Our Spirits, Telling Our Stories," the JCLC conference program will explore "the role of ethnic librarians and library workers in their libraries and communities" and "the role of all librarians in bringing services to and supporting literacy in under-served communities across America." The tracked conference topics include:

- Recruitment and Retention (Professional and support staff issues)
- Staff Development (Best practices and model programs, sensitivity training, public services and continuing education)
- Gender and Identity (GLBT populations and feminization of the profession)
- Advocacy (Affirmative action, equity of access and grants)
- Service Delivery (Urban and rural issues, best practices and programming models, collection development, outreach, and education of a diverse workforce)
- Legacy Recognition (Celebrating elders, promoting archives and preservation)
- Literature (Ethnic and multicultural collections and bibliographies)

JCLC will be an event that is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

Currently, JCLC is accepting nominations for JCLC scholarships and awards. Each of the five JCLC organizing caucus associations will present five \$1,000 JCLC scholarships and an award in one of three categories:

- JCLC Advocacy Awards
- JCLC Author Awards
- JCLC Distinguished Services Awards

The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2006.

More information on registration and conference program can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/olos/jointconferenceoflibrariansofcolor/geninfo.htm>

CALA

There are some new developments in Chinese American Librarians' Association. This year, CALA will launch a new program for "Best New Books." A list of the selected new books will be recommended and posted on CALA's web page to showcase and promote outstanding Chinese or

(cont'd on p. 6)

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.

© Copyright American Library Association, 2005

Editor: Muhammad al-Faruque

Send editorial communication to:
Muhammad al-Faruque
Asian Library, University of Illinois
1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801
E-mail: Faruque@uiuc.edu

African Digital Library

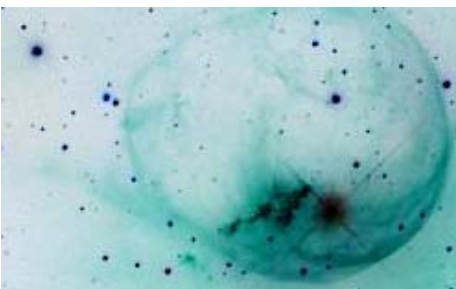
(from p. 1)

In February 2000, the World Bank's Development Marketplace awarded ADL a \$90,000 grant, which enabled ADL to acquire additional 2,800 eBooks. Today, the ADL collection has grown over 8000 titles, covering over 50 subject disciplines such as agriculture, arts, astronomy, business, computer science, economics, education, engineering, health, medicine, religion, and technology. According to ADL's circulation statistics, the ADL's most frequently-circulated eBook is *Essentials of Total Quality Management* by Richard L. Williams (1994).

ADL's future goals are to expand the collection to over a dozen thousand of eBooks, especially in the fields of computer science, health care, science, and technology; digitize works of African origins; increase the number of registered users; foster greater collaboration with African-centered as well as international institutions; and seek financial support (grants, sponsorships) to ensure its continued growth.

For many Africa's "book famine" and "resource-challenged" countries, development such as the African Digital Library is indeed a major contribution in the advancing of human development in Africa as well as the alleviation of the digital divide between the First and the Third World. It should also serve as a model for resource sharing for many underdeveloped regions of the world.

Binh P. Le
The Pennsylvania State University



Digital Library of the Middle East

(from p. 1)

an Egyptian organization, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The joined team prepared a report identifying the broad range of requirements for a Digital Library of the Middle East, including:

- technical architecture;
- cyberinfrastructure to support networks of users including researchers, content providers, educators, etc.;
- cultural heritage content resources; and,
- educational requirements for cultural heritage professionals who will produce and manage the content, as well as users, including educators and students, who will use the repository.

Based on the recommendations in the report, IMLS issued a call for proposals from institutions in the U.S. to develop a technical architecture and an initial aggregation of content from U.S. cultural repositories, which would be shared with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The report also encouraged investments in the digital library and appealed to various funding agencies and cultural heritage repositories both within and outside the U.S.

Following objectives of the workshop were determined. To:

- Agree on a long-term vision;
- Assess the current information infrastructure in the Middle East and examine the potential for establishing advanced research networks;
- Identify a model for content aggregation, management, and preservation;
- Identify content scope and services; and,
- Document requirements as a road-map for future actions.

Technical Sessions and Discussions

- Identification of a Collaborative Framework for Aggregating, Managing, and Preserving Digital Content,

and Providing Attribution and Access (including demos of current projects)

- Technical Requirements for Digital Libraries
- Identification of Resources (e.g. Middle Eastern Heritage) - Digital and Physical
- Resources and Needs for Establishing a Middle East Cyberinfrastructure
- Users and Usability (HCI)
 - o Services
 - o Investments in education and skills
 - o Technological capabilities (bandwidth)
 - o Economic conditions and pricing of services
- Utility (i.e. measure the value of the resource) and Evaluation

Potential Participants (US, Egypt, Other Middle East Countries)

- Content experts
- Digital library experts
- Educators
- Cyberinfrastructure experts
- Telecommunications service providers
- Entrepreneurs
- Philanthropists and other funders

Desirable Characteristics of the Digital Library

- A framework that can accommodate resources from many sources and subject areas
- Content that has public value, is easily navigable, and is unrestricted for use
- Connected to a large network supporting wide-scale access and exchange
- Maintained in a trusted repository with appropriate redundancy to ensure long-term preservation and continuity of access

A sizeable number of US and Egyptian experts participated in the workshop. For the list of participants (continued to p. 4)

Digital Library of the Middle East

(from p. 3)

see: <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/-egyptdlw/participantsList.html>. Though overdue now, the post-workshop report is not out yet. However, those who are interested may read some of the papers submitted before the workshop at: <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/-egyptdlw/papers.html>. Of special interest is the report paper on scanning and OCR setup at Alexandria. This setup would have a projected annual output of 25,000 books and some good work on Arabic language scanning and OCR have already been done.

This is an edited and summarized version of a Longer report available at the website of the Digital Library of the Middle East. <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/-egyptdlw/background.html>. This version edited and summarized by Muhammad al-Faruque

Showcase of Shanghai

(from p. 1)

progress libraries have made during the last twenty years with emphasis on technology. In my view, gap between the libraries of the western world and China has certainly been reduced.

At present, China has over 25,000 libraries with over three billion volumes in their collections. Thousands of e-books and e-journals from many databases are included in their collections. In addition, many domestic databases are being developed for the benefit of local users. A library consortium called "China Academic Library and Information System" (CALIS) was started in 1998 and over three hundred libraries have already joined the consortium. Even Google has started providing information to Chinese users in Chinese language through its database.

SHANGHAI LIBRARY

Shanghai is one of the old cities of

China with over 6,000 years of history. It is the center of economy, trade, technology, culture and communication of China. It is also one of the important international ports in the Far East. It has twenty universities with modern libraries and thirty five public libraries. Founded on July 22, 1952 the Shanghai library is China's second largest public library. It is a comprehensive research and public library. It moved to its present location at 1555 Huai Hai Zhong Lu in December 1996. The Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of Shanghai has been part of the library since 1995.

The complex of the Shanghai library has 3.1 hectare land with a build up area of 83,000 square meters. Its collections and staff are housed in two towers of the library. One of the towers is 106.9 meters high with 24 floors and the other tower is 58.8 meters high with 12 floors, and a five-story annex. It certainly represents the cultural charm of the beautiful city of Shanghai. The library has 32 reading rooms and over 3000 seats. A lecture hall with a seating capacity of 764 adds to the charm of this magnificent library. 8,000 to 10,000 people visit the library every week. It is fully automated and provides many excellent services to users including document supply, reference service, and book mobile service to hospitals, communities, countryside, enterprises, military campus and prisons. It also offers free service to blind and handicapped people. The library has a collection of over 49 million books and documents and over 1300 staff. It is equipped with all modern technological tools of the twenty first century. The Library is adding many e-books and online databases regularly. At present, it has 34 branches and the goal is to have 100 branches by the end of 2010.

SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

As mentioned earlier, there are

twenty academic libraries in the city. The Shanghai University Library is the largest academic library. It was reorganized in 1994 by merging four universities. The University has over 25,000 students including 6,000 enrolled in various Ph.D. programs. The library has over three million books and subscribes to over 4,000 journals and newspapers, sixty databases with access to 24,00 online journals. The library comprises of the main library, Weinhui library on Yanchang campus, and Lianue library on the Jiading campus. It is fully automated with twenty-five reading rooms and 4,000 seats. The library also has an auditorium with over 400 seats. It is used for workshops and conferences. It has an excellent interlibrary loan facility and resource sharing relations with many universities in Shanghai. The Institute of Information and Documentation of Shanghai University is affiliated with the library and offers Master's degree in Information Science in collaboration with the School of International Business and Management.

I have visited many countries on library assignments but have not seen so much progress of libraries in any other country. My visit to China, especially Shanghai and Beijing was an eye opener for me. I must add that China has recognized the importance of libraries in the life of the nation.

Dr. Ravi. Sharma is the Dean of Library, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey.



ACRL/AAMES Leadership

Executive Committee

Cynthia A. Tysick
Chair—2005-2006
E-mail: cat2@buffalo.edu

Binh P. Le
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect—2005 - 2006
E-mail: bp11@psu.edu

Chengzhi Wang
Secretary—2005 - 2007
E-mail: cw2165@columbia.edu

Majed J. Khader
Past-Chairperson—2005 - 2006
E-mail: Khader@Marshall.Edu

Rajwant Singh Chilana
Member-at-Large—2005 - 2007
E-mail: rchilana@uiuc.edu

Mary Kristen Kern
Member-at-Large—2004 - 2006
E-mail: kernk@pdx.edu

Kultida Dunagin
Webmaster—2004 - 2006
E-mail: kbd@clemson.edu

Karen A. Williams
Board Liaison—2005 - 2006
E-mail: kaw@umn.edu

Mary Jane Petrowski
Staff Liaison—2005 - 2006
E-mail: mpetrowski@ala.org

Membership Committee

Binh P. Le
Chair—2004 - 2006
E-mail: bp11@psu.edu

Mary Jane Petrowski
Staff Liaison—2005 - 2006
E-mail: mpetrowski@ala.org

Constitution and

Bylaws Committee

Yurong Y. Atwill
Chair—2004 - 2006
E-mail: yya2@psu.edu

Nominating Committee

R. N. Sharma
Chair—2005 - 2007
E-mail: sharmarn@wvstateu.edu

Triveni S. Kuchi
Member—2005 - 2006
E-mail: kuchi@rci.rutgers.edu

Megan R. Bielefeld
Staff Liaison—2005 - 2006
E-mail: mbielefeld@ala.org

Publications Committee

Muhammad al-Faruque
Chair—2005 - 2006
E-mail: faruque@uiuc.edu

Kultida Dunagin
Member — 2005 - 2007
E-mail: kbd@clemson.edu

Member's Corner

R. N. Sharma, has recently accepted and moved to the position of Dean of Library, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey. Previously, he was the Director of Library at the West Virginia State University.

Rajwant Chilana, Dr Rajwant Singh Chilana, Member at Large of the AAMES/ACRL, and Associate Professor of Library Administration and South Asian Studies Librarian at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign has been conferred with the Punjab National Librarian Award-2005 for his outstanding contributions in promoting librarianship in India, USA and Canada. The award was presented to Dr. Chilana at the

Annual function of the Satinder Kaur Ramdev Memorial Trust for the Advancement of Librarianship (SATKAL) at the India International Centre (the intellectual hub of India), New Delhi on December 20, 2005. The award was presented by the Honorable Mr. Jagmohan, Former Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Government of India, the chief guest of the function, amidst the exotic ambience of the dignitaries and senior professionals.

During this event, a panel discussion on "Library Services: a myth or reality" was also organized and Dr. Chilana participated in the lively discussion narrating his professional ex-



periences of the high quality library services in North America. On this auspicious occasion a festschrift volume "Digital Information Resources and Networks on India" edited by Dr. Rajwant Singh Chilana was also released by the Chief Guest.

In another event on December 28, 2005, during the 25th Annual Conference of the All India Conference of the Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centers at the Central Library of Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Dr. Chilana presented a paper on "Developing Qualitative Digital and Web Resources on South Asia", and also served as a panelist for a discussion on "Digital Preservation". On January 9, 2006, Dr. Chilana was also invited at the School of Library & Information Science, University of Delhi to speak about "Reference & Information Services in the context of emerging new

Information and Communication Technologies”.

Muhammad al-Faruque, Chair of the AAMES Publication Committee has recently attend spoke at the National Economic Model Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. About five thousand people participated at the congress. While at Istanbul, he was interviewed by local TV and coverage of his talk came in the local newspaper. This year he is also chairing the David H. Partington Award Committee of the Middle East Librarians Association. This annual Award is given to librarians for their outstanding service in the field of Middle Eastern librarianship.

Triveni Kuchi has been selected as the chair of the AAMES publication committee and will serve as the editor of the Newsletter for 2006-2008.

EVENTS / PROGRAMS

(from p. 2)

Chinese-American authors and their works.

In the wake of Tsunami disaster, CALA initiated the disaster relief fund campaign, which prompted the ALA to establish the “Library Disaster Relief Fund.” CALA is the first professional library association that has contributed (\$3,940) to the “Library Disaster Relief Fund.” The detailed information of CALA efforts for disaster relief was reported on CALA Newsletter, no. 92 (Spring 2005), p. 2-3 and on the web: <http://www.white-clouds.com/cala/publications/newsletter/2005spring.pdf>. CALA also acted very quickly in responding to the Katrina, and continued its effort to raise fund for libraries in the Hurricane Katrina disastrous areas.

CALA celebrated its 30th Anniversary and published a commemorative book, *Bridging Cultures*.

CEAL

CEAL is organizing the IFLA Satellite Meeting: “Scholarly Information on East Asia in the 21st Century.” The meeting is sponsored by the IFLA Asia and Oceania Section (RSCAO), the Korean Library Association (KLA), and the Korean Education and Research Information Service (KERIS). The Preconference Meeting will be held on Friday, August 18, 2006 at KERIS Headquarters in Seoul. The Topics includes :

- publishing trends of scholarly information in East Asia;
- issues related to the digitization of nonroman scripts and digital collections;
- cooperative collection development and resource sharing on East Asia;
- technical processing and cooperative cataloging of East Asian material;
- preservation and storage;
- information technology for East Asian materials;
- cooperative reference service;
- instruction and information literacy;
- outreach and user studies.

Information of the conference can be found at CEAL Website: <<http://wason.library.cornell.edu/CEAL/>>

Submitted by Shuyong Jiang
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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

2006 Annual Conference



For more information: <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/b/annual/2006a/2006an.htm>

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting 2006

One of the largest organizations of its kind, the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) is organizing its Annual Meeting at San Francisco (California) from April 4-9, 2006. Several sessions have been planned on Asia, East Asia, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, South Asian, and South East Asian studies. A large number of faculty, scholars and students from all over the globe are expected to participate in this international event. A number of publishers and book distributors who specializes in Asian studies will be displaying their latest publications in the Book Exhibit during the conference. There will be very interesting panels and roundtables being held like “Educate a Woman, Educate a Nation”: Muslim Communities Educating their Daughters (Jacqueline Armijo-Hussein, Zayed University)”, “Political Action, Multiple Allegiances, and Troubled States: Challenges of Activism among Asians with Transnational Imaginations (Vanessa L. Fong, Harvard University)”, and “Funding for Asian Studies in the Twenty-First Century.”

(cont'd on p. 7)

MELA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The Middle East Librarian's Association (MELA) meeting took place on November 17, 2005 in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. First was a joint program offered with the Africana Libraries Council. The program, entitled "Accessing the past and assessing the present: the intersection of African and Middle East Studies Librarianship," included three presentations: "Writing Trans-Saharan History: Methods, Sources and Interpretations across the African Divide," "The Timbuktu Manuscripts Collection at the Library of Congress," and "Nubiana in the American University of Cairo Collections."

At the MELA business meeting, officer and committee reports were given. It was announced that the Cataloging Committee's survey report will be available shortly and reported from the Iraqi Libraries Committee that training took place for Iraqi professors of library science in summer, 2005, in Jordan. Also reporting were the Education, Legal Affairs and Nominating Committees. A Bylaws Committee was formed. Representatives from the Library of Congress program in Cairo reported on their activities. It was announced that 90 libraries are now participating in the OACIS program. Muhammad al-Faruque reported from AAMES. Award winners and newly elected officers were announced.

There was a special session on cataloging following the business meeting. Developments in international authority control and cataloging initiatives and the results of the Cataloging Committee's survey were discussed.

Kristen Kern
Portland State University

Association for Asian Studies (from p. 6)

International Perspectives (Barbara Watson Andaya, University of Hawaii, Manoa)". During this event Library professionals will have their periodic meetings and workshops.

For further information, please visit:
<http://www.aasianst.org/annmtg.htm>

Submitted by Rajwant Chilana

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.

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/>



Book stacks : medieval Islamic world

ACRL Election and You

Candidates for 2006: A look at who's running for office

(Selected Sections)

C&RL News, January 2006, Vol. 67,
No. 1

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2006/january06/candidates06.htm>

ACRL

Vice-president/President-elect

- Cynthia Steinhoff is director of the Anne Arundel Community College library
- Julie Todaro is dean of library services at Austin Community Colleg

Board of Directors

Director-at-Large:

- Mary Carr, dean, instructional services/director, collection development, Spokane Community College;
- Marianne Rough, professor/librarian, collection development, Prince George's Community College.
- Carl Bengston, dean of library services, California State University-Stanislaus;
- Debbie Malone, library director, DeSales University.

ASIAN, AFRICAN, AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES SECTION

Vice-chair/Chair-elect:

- Muhammad al-Faruque, Associate Professor/Middle East librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Member-at-Large:

- Su Chen, head, East Asian Library, University of Minnesota;
- Wyoma Rose vanDuinkerken, Middle Eastern/Islamic studies librarian, Texas A&M University.

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
American Library
Association

AAMES Newsletter
ACRL
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611