

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2007

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Message from AAMES Chair

“Lost” in the Digital Age

During my trip to Vietnam in the summer of 2002, I visited my old hometown public library, the Danang Public Library. The last time I used this library was more than a quarter of a century ago! While touring the library, the director of the library showed me a number of important books the library holds, which include copies of books on and about the region. And according to the director, there are only handful copies of these books available in Vietnam. Unfortunately, these “highly valued books” are not in very good condition. It is very likely that they might soon disappear from the collection, because of Vietnam’s harsh tropical weather conditions. The library simply cannot afford to pay for air-conditioning service. Similar situations can be found in many Asian and African countries. This is unfortunate for us all, because such resources might be soon disappear from our collective memory.

Digital technologies can alleviate some of these problems. Indeed, they have enabled institutions throughout the world to digitalize important materials and make them accessible electronically to users worldwide. Recent efforts to digitize rare resources held in isolated areas in the developing world, however, are far from encouraging. The problems are that only important and heavily used materials and/or resources deemed important by the grant-makers are being digitized. Moreover, only financially viable institutions or countries, either by using their own fund or generating it through grants, could afford to digitize their collections. Poor institutions, especially the ones located in the developing countries, could not afford to digitize their rare materials. In today’s world, users rarely go beyond the Internet to search for

(Continued on page 6)

AAMES 2007 Annual Conference Program

Creating World-class Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Print and Digital Collections

This distinguished panel discusses how the rapid advance in information technology and the expansion of the digital networked environment have empowered academic and research libraries from being passive depositories of knowledge to active creators of new knowledge and resources. Topics covered include discussions on the Digital South Asia Library, funded by the Association of Research Libraries’ Global Resources Program, and the new initiative of the Library of Congress in the development of the proposed World Digital Library.

Speakers

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee,
Chief, Asian Division, Library of Congress

Dr. Mary-Jane Deeb
Chief, African and Middle Eastern Division, Library of Congress

Dr. David Magier,
Director of Area Studies, Columbia University.

Chair: Binh P. Le,
Associate Librarian, Pennsylvania State University.

Date: June 24, 2007 **Time:** 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Place: TBA

ALA Midwinter@Seattle ... See what you missed ...



All Committees Meeting



Executive Board Meeting

Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

Asian African and Middle Eastern Section AAMES/ACRL/ALA Knowledgebase

At the ALA Midwinter meeting in Seattle the AAMES Executive Board unanimously approved the AAMES Knowledgebase Project.

Just to remind our readers and reiterate - "The purpose of this project is to create a virtual global knowledgebase of experts in AAMES subject areas from the United States as well as from countries around the world. This database is also expected to be a valuable resource for AAMES members to share and collaborate on new ideas or projects especially in the library areas of collections, reference, instruction and cataloging."

Yue Li (project creator) and Triveni Kuchi are currently the project managers. The recruitment of experts is based on invitation and rec-

ommendations. Those who would like to offer their services as experts for the knowledge database and also those who maybe interested in volunteering to work with this project, please feel free to get in touch with Yue Li yeli3@mailier.fsu.edu.

We are continuing to aggressively recruit experts to the AAMES Knowledgebase since the past six months. A few examples from our growing list of recruits include:

- ♣ David Bade, Monographic Cataloger, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Senior Cataloger, Joseph Regenstein Library, University of Chicago.
- ♣ Anjana Bhatt, E-resources Librarian, Florida Gulf Coast University Library Services, Florida.

- ♣ Dr Kultida Dunagin, Library Director, University Center in Greenville, South Carolina.
- ♣ Calvin Hsu, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- ♣ Joy Kim, Curator, Korean Heritage Library, University of Southern California.
- ♣ Binh Le, Associate Librarian, Penn State University, PA.
- ♣ Jingxia Li (Chinese), Associate Director, Wuhan Libraries, China.
- ♣ R.N. Sharma, Dean of Library, Monmouth University, NJ.
- ♣ and more...

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UNESCO/Jikji Prize

for significant efforts in making cultural heritage accessible

Significant contributions to "preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage" by individuals or institutions are rewarded the UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize consisting of \$30,000, once every two years! This year - 2007 - out of 23 nominations from various countries, the following three are the lucky pre-selected:

- ♣ "Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the oldest sound archive of the world, which made substantial contribution to the advancement of audio and video preservation;" <http://www.pha.oeaw.ac.at/>
- ♣ "French Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA), which

safeguards and digitizes programmes in danger of disappearing and participates in international projects on preservation of, and access to, audiovisual heritage;" <http://www.ina.fr/>

- ♣ "National Library of Malaysia, which preserved and made accessible valuable treasures." <http://www.pnm.my/>

A winner will be announced at the June International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme meeting in Pretoria, South Africa. The nomination details and more information are available from: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=24311&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

Proposed ACRL Structure Changes

The Board is engaged in a multi-year review process to enhance the ACRL governance structure to better advance the ACRL Strategic Plan and fulfill ACRL's core purpose "To lead academic and research librarians in advancing learning and scholarship." As part of this ongoing process that includes membership assessment, program review, and structural evaluation, the Board is engaged in reviewing opportunities for member involvement as well as its own composition and process for nominations.

At the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, the ACRL Board discussed some

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UNESCO's Memory of World Programme

UNESCO's *Memory of the World Programme* began in 1992 with the objective of "protecting and promoting the world's documentary heritage through preservation and access." The program was considered critical for raising awareness of the rich documentary and cultural heritage prevalent around the world as well as for encouraging nations to preserve and safeguard their heritage for future generations. The emphasis has been to help safeguard documents as well as make them as accessible as possible.

An International Advisory Committee (IAC) consisting of 14 members appointed by the Directory General of UNESCO helps plan and implement the Memory of the World Programme. The work of IAC is aided by various sub-committees

viz., Bureau, Technical, Marketing and Register. In addition, there are National and Regional committees. National Memory of the World committees are independent units accredited by their country's UNESCO National Commission. Regional Memory of the World committees bring together nations from a particular region to share a common ground for discussions.

The Memory of the World Register provides information about documents from numerous countries that were accepted by the IAC based on the document's significance to the world and other selection criteria. Currently there are 119 collections from 67 countries from across all the regions of the world. Nominations made since 1997 are listed on the Web

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Blue Shield – "the Red Cross for Cultural Heritage"

Another important institution that is involved in protecting the World's cultural heritage is the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). This committee protects museums, archives, libraries and other historic sites from natural and man-made disasters. ICBS is made up of five international non-governmental organizations:

- ♣ International Council on archives (ICA).
- ♣ International Council of Museums (ICOM).
- ♣ International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
- ♣ Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA).
- ♣ International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Further, ICBS works with UNESCO's Division of Cultural Heritage and also consults with The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) <<http://www.iccrom.org/>>.

The ICBS prepares and coordinates meetings among different national and local entities to help respond to natural or other forms of catastrophes. National committees are formed based on the ICBS charter available from <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/nc-req.htm>. The local committees provide crucial connections among local and national government, emergency aid services and the military. For more details about the ICBS' statements, appeals, developments, publications, and awards see <http://www.ifla.org/blueshield.htm>.

Triveni Kuchi
Rutgers University Libraries

Editor's Note

It is interesting to note that the first of the *Top Ten Assumptions for the Future of Academic Libraries* announced by ACRL recently was: "There will be an increased emphasis on digitizing collections, preserving digital archives and improving methods of data storage and retrieval." In this issue of the AAMES Newsletter, I thought presenting a review of UNESCO's efforts in documenting and preserving the "Memory of the World" and the work of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) would provide a useful and relevant background to the issues of digitizing and preserving collections.

Members, as usual, you are invited to contribute short or long pieces of articles, information, news, announcements, member information, etc., whenever you have them ready.

Triveni Kuchi
Editor, AAMES Newsletter.

Passionate Policy Works Needed

Are you interested in federal legislation and policy affecting libraries? Are you connected in your campus community? Are you willing to work with your members of Congress for change?

ACRL needs you!

Become an ACRL Legislative Advocate. To supplement the existing ACRL Legislative Network, ACRL is creating the new position of Legislative Advocate. Recognizing that not all ACRL members are active in their local chapters, we are directly recruiting legislative advocates, in an effort to complement the good work the chapter networks and the Chapter Legislative Coordinators are doing.

AAMES Chair is ACRL/LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Press Award Winner



Binh P. Le has been selected as the 2007 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Marta Lange/CQ Press Award winner. The award "recognizes an academic or law librarian who, through research, service to the profession, or other creative activity, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law and political science." Prized

award: citation, \$1000.00, and a plaque. The formal presentation of the award will be made during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Washington, D. C., at the LPSS Marta Lange CQ/Press Award Reception on Saturday, June 27, 2007, at 4:30 p.m., at the CQ Press Offices.

Past ACRL/LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Press Award recipients include:

Graham Walden – 2006
Merle J. Slyhoff – 2005
Lucia Snowhill – 2004
Rosemary Allen Little – 2003
Mary Fetzner – 2002
Cheryl Nyberg – 2001
Grace York – 2000

More information from: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/lawpolisci/martalangepast.htm>

*Congratulations
Binh Le!*

Forthcoming Conferences/Events of interest

August 2007

World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council will be held in Durban, South Africa on the topic "Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships" from 19-23 August 2007.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm>.

October 2007

The 36th **Annual Conference on South Asia** will be held from October 11 – 14, 2007 at the Madison Concourse Hotel, 1 West Dayton St., Madison, WI 53703. The Conference is sponsored by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This Annual Conference on South Asia attracts over 500 scholars and other interested parties annually, who travel from a dozen countries around the world and much of the United States including Hawaii and Alaska. The conference features 75

or more academic panels and roundtables, as well as association meetings and special events ranging from performances to film screenings.

For more information and registration: <http://southasiaconference.wisc.edu/>

African Studies Association's 50th Annual Meeting will be held in New York, New York, October 18-21, 2007 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. "The ASA was founded in the Roosevelt Hotel in New York, New York, March 22-24, 1957."

For more information: <http://www.africanstudies.org/>

November 2007

The annual meeting of the Association is held concurrently with the **Middle East Studies Association** of North America's annual meeting, usually in November. MELA's annual meeting consists of two parts: a program on one or more designated

topics, and a business meeting. All of our members are welcome to attend all or part of our annual meetings and associated events (such as special workshops) sponsored by MELA. This year MELA meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada in November 2007. Please stay tuned at: <http://www.mela.us/>

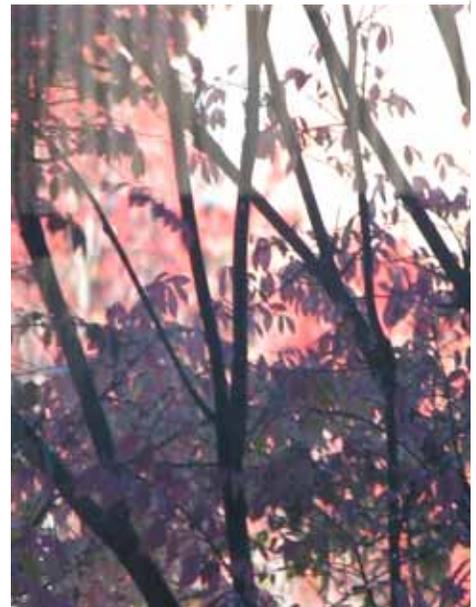


Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

... "Lost" in the Digital Age

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resources. Consequently, a vast number of rare materials and resources will be lost in the Digital Age.

It is important that we, as area studies librarians, need to remind ourselves as well as area studies scholars, higher education institutions, and especially grant-making organizations that there are other important materials and resources scattered and uncared for in many regions outside the developed areas including Asia, Africa and Middle East, albeit limited in scope, quantity and usage, merit to be digitized as well.

Binh P. Le
Associate Librarian, Penn State
Chair, ACRL/AAMES.

... Memory of the World

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site, but details about why some of the projects were rejected or next steps after non-acceptance are not provided. It would be very useful for countries that are planning preservation activities to have such details before they begin planning.

All in all, the significance of the Memory of the World project is absolutely critical given the current political and environmental conditions in the World. The task of preservation of cultural and documentary heritage of the world seems daunting, but this program has brought the otherwise near impossibility closer to achievement. For details of the program and lists of collections and countries participating refer to:

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1538&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Triveni Kuchi
Rutgers University Libraries

AAMES Knowledgebase...

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We are currently working on the recruitment part of the project, and expect that the database will eventually be accessible from the AAMES Web site <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aames>.

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... ACRL Structure ...

(Continued from page 3)

proposed changes to ACRL's structure with ACRL leaders. These changes would establish a new form of ACRL unit, the **Interest Group**, and would change the way candidates are selected to run for the ACRL Board of Directors. FAQ's are available at www.acrl.org/structure.



Photo Courtesy: Triveni Kuchi

Recent Asian, Middle Eastern African Films - *Check them out!*

The Great Yokai War -- Yokai Daisenso (2005)

Japanese film directed by Takashi Miike; 124 min; Japanese language, English subtitles.

The Color of Olives (2006)

Middle Eastern film directed by Carolina Rivas; 97 minutes; Arabic with English subtitles.

Dry Season / Daratt (2006)

African Film directed by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun; 95 minutes; French & Arabic with English subtitles.

Policy Wonks ...

(Continued from page 4)

Legislative Advocates will work as possible with other library legislative efforts in the state or region.

Selection as a Legislative Advocate is not automatic: those qualified will be selected to serve their profession with a two-year term, which may be renewed upon review by the Government Relations Committee. Legislative Advocates will be recognized and honored on the ACRL web site, annually in C&RL News, and during ALA Legislative Day activities.

Find full description and apply online by April 6, 2007 at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/washingtonwatch/acrladvocates.htm>.



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.

2006 - 2007 ACRL/AAMES Executive Committee

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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>