

AAMES Newsletter

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Editorial

Welcome to the Fall 2014 issue of the *Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section Newsletter*! I would like to start by telling you how excited I am to be taking over the role of *AAMES Newsletter* editor for the two coming years. Thank you for this opportunity to get actively involved in the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section of ACRL.

In this issue, you will find:

- a message from our new Chair, Jingfeng Xia
- the minutes of the Executive Board Committee meeting held in Las Vegas in June
- a calendar of upcoming conferences and meetings in our fields
- the announcement of the celebration of ACRL's 75th Anniversary.

In the future, I have great hopes to develop new sections, but in order to succeed, will need your help. Not only can you contribute by writing reviews or short pieces, but also passing along any information relevant to your field. I strongly believe this Newsletter is vital to the AAMES community, and should be an engaging read for all of its members.

I wish you an enjoyable read, and all the best in the Fall semester!

Anaís Salamon

Chair's message

It's with a heavy heart that I was assuming the position of AAMES' Chair in this summer. From the moment I took the responsibility over from the past Chair, Dr. Jiang, I felt pressure, alongside an honor, to serve our section. I want to thank everyone who has made contributions to AAMES, making it a truly professional, yet friendly, place for collegial interactions.

It is a pleasure to report to you the progresses we, the executive board and myself, have made in the past months. Since I formed new committees and assigned a chair and at least one member to each committee, all of them have already started the normal business and achieved great success. Please open this site: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/aames/acr-aamec> to get to know our executive committee as well as members of other committees. By letting them know your ideas, concerns, and suggestions, you can help improve our services.

Thanks to the conference program committee, particularly its chair – Dr. Hong Cheng, AAMES has received an approval for a panel at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago on March 26-29, 2015. Its title is Modern Migration: Asia and the World. The committee is working on other conference programs, hoping to bring more opportunities for our members to showcase in ALA and ACRL organized events.

There has been an increasing focus on the areas of our service in the academia and beyond. The world has paid more attention to Asia, Africa and the Middle East, not only for political and economic reasons but also in scholarly pursuits. With such an increasing importance, we anticipate more research activities and opportunities in relevant studies and hope to become prepared in support of these activities. It is an exciting time; and we are lucky to be standing at the forefront of the changes.

2014-15 is also a year of professional development for our own section. Since fall of 2014, the ALA and ACRL will allow their members to select more than two sections without additional charges. This will give us an excellent chance to grow.

I urge all of our current members to introduce AAMES to your colleagues and friends and them to join our section so that we can work together to better promote librarianship. The new membership will not be limited to those who are currently working in the areas of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern studies, but also welcome anyone who has a related interest.

In the new year, our priority is to increase membership and recruitment although we will continue to promote the value and significance of the contributions and skills of librarians within our section. We will need to work together to provide more resources and services to our members, and encourage an environment of openness and inclusiveness among all colleagues.

Let me extend my thanks to all of our volunteers who are willing to donate their time and energy to AAMES. I cannot imagine how the section can function without their contributions.

Jingfeng Xia

AAMES Executive Board Committee Minutes

Executive Board Meeting

June 28, 2014 – 8:30-10:00AM

Bally's Palace 5, Las Vegas

Brief Description: This is an AAMES executive board meeting held at the ALA 2014 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Attending board members discussed the future of the section, under the pressure from the ACRL that asked for a possible merger of the section into another section or changing to an interest group due to the falling numbers of membership. The board members had an opportunity to share their thoughts and communicate with ACRL's two representatives and shared concerns about the available transition options.

Attendees:

Deepa Banerjee (Past Chair)

Shuyong Jiang (Chair)

Jingfeng Xia (Vice-Chair)

Yue Li (Incoming Vice-Chair)

David Hirsch

Hong Cheng (Secretary)

Qian Liu (Member-at-Large)

ACRL Representatives:

Trevor Dawes (Past President)

Mary Ellen Davis

Started at 8:30AM

Attending committee members introduced to each other. Shuyong Jiang mentioned that the ACRL liaison, Marilyn Ochoa, could not attend the meeting because of family reasons.

Shuyong started her reporting by pointing to some house-clean issues

- Her term as the section chair will end after this ALA conference
- AAMES will need to elect a third Member-at-Large. It will be the nominating's responsibility to undertake the election
- Shuyong then reported jobs done during her term from 2013 to 2014
- Made efforts to increase the visibility of the section and the number of members
- Organized a Mid-Winter virtual meeting to discuss relevant topics
- Used various channels to communicate with ACRL leaders to convey the section's rationale and ask for an extension of possible AAMES merger/changing

Jingfeng Xia reported as the incoming chair that he had appointed chairs and members to AAMES' all five committees, thanks to a group of qualified volunteers. Some of the committees have already taken over business. For example, the conference programs committee members have started working on projects for the future conferences.

The committee roster is listed below:

- **Conference Programs Committee:** Hong Cheng (Chair), Fagdeba Adjola Bakoyema, Anais Salamon (Members)
- **Membership Committee:** Ping Situ (Chair), Erica Tyler (Member)
- **Publications Committee:** Anais Salamon (Chair), Erica Tyler (Member)
- **Constitution and Bylaws Committee:** Fagdeba Adjola Bakoyema (Chair)
- **Nominating Committee:** Mohamed Berray (Chair)

He recommended a taskforce group that will work on a proposal requested by the ACRL for AAMES' future directions. This recommendation was taken by other board members. Jingfeng agreed to lead the group and the following people will be the taskforce members: Deepa Banerjee, Shuyong Jiang, Yue Li, David Hirsch, Hong Cheng, and Qian Liu (some members need to be consulted).

Board members discussed other issues as well, including strategies to recruit new members:

- Every board member is encouraged to introduce 5–10 new members who are in related area studies
- Consider reaching out to public libraries a rapid increase of library clients with Asian, African, Middle Eastern, and other international background has been obvious (some members pointed out that the ACRL does not handle public library membership. They assumed librarians outside the ACRL may not be eligible to participate in ACRL).
- Consider an expansion of member recruitments to overseas librarians (some members pointed out that international members must be ALA and ACRL members before becoming eligible to participate in ACRL)
- Board members also discussed several options
- Merging to other area studies sections to form a new International Studies section
- Changing the section's goals and mission to become a History Studies section
- Changing to an Asian American section, similar to current ACRL's African American section (This change may easily reach the goal of membership quotes, but may decrease diversity).

Two ACRL representatives came and joined the board's conversation. Both of them introduced ACRL's concern on the decreasing membership of AAMES, and suggested the merger/changing option in order to reduce ACRL's management burdens. According to them, AAMES should have a transition plan that would take effect in 2017 – the date by which the board had set for any changes to become effective.

AAMES board members made their voice strongly by stating that

- Most AAMES members are area studies librarians who have multiple affiliations with other professional associations such as the Association for Asian Studies, Middle East Librarians Association, Africana Librarians Council, CONSALD (Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation). Many of them have a more distant connection to the ACRL than to other associations. Changing AAMES from a section to an interest group will make these members feel marginalized and thus negatively affect their relationship with the ACRL. AAMES members may find their interest of area study in other ALA divisions or library organizations.
- As a region-based section, AAMES is unique from many other ACRL sections such as the Instruction section. This difference needs to be taken into consideration when using metrics-alone (the 400 threshold) to judge the conditions of AAMES.

- AAMES represents a group of minorities in contrast to the mainstream ACRL membership that is consisted of white librarians as the majority. The ACRL leaders shall have crafted appropriate policies to promote and protect diversity.
- Since the ALA is going to lift the 2-section only limitation for its members to select more sections for free, AAMES requires more time to figure out workable plans to increase its membership size and observe changes of its situation, if any.

The ACRL representatives will continue to share the concerns with the full ACRL Board. Although demonstrating and understanding for the uniqueness of AAEMS, the reps suggested that a merger is only one option. There is the option also of transitioning to an Interest Group, and also of increasing membership, especially in light of the ALA pricing rule change (no charge for additional sections above 2). They agreed that making AAMES strong is a goal of both AAMES and ACRL. They encouraged the section board to continue thinking about the transition options and planning accordingly. At the same time, they reiterated the importance of making efforts to increase the number of AAMES members, if that is the direction in which the AAMES board believes would be of greatest benefit.

Adjourned at 10:00AM

New to AAMES?

Make sure you subscribed to the AAMES listserv!

If you have not subscribed already, you may do so by sending *SUBSCRIBE AAMES-L [your name]* in a message to sympa@ala.org (leaving the subject line blank)

Visit AAMES online at: <http://aamesacrl.wordpress.com>

What's coming up in our fields?

October 10-12, 2014	American Association for Chinese Studies annual conference, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. For more information: http://aacs.ccny.cuny.edu/homepage.htm
November, 20-21 2014	Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) annual meeting, Gelman Library, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. For more information: http://mela.us/annualmeetsmela.html
November, 22-25 2014	Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel Washington, D.C. For more information: http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/annual-meeting/index.html
November, 20-23 2014	Africana Librarians Council (ALC) Fall 2014 meeting, J.W. Marriott Indianapolis Hotel, Indianapolis, I.N. For more information: http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings
November, 20-23 2014	African Studies Association annual meeting, J.W. Marriott Indianapolis Hotel, Indianapolis, I.N. Theme: <i>Rethinking Violence, Reconstruction and Reconciliation</i> For more information: http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings
January 8-10, 2015	Japan Studies Association conference, Embassy Suites, San Diego, C.A. For more information: http://www.japanstudies.org/2015-conference-san-diego-ca.html
March 26-29, 2015	Association for Asian Studies annual conference, Chicago Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Chicago, I.L. For more information: https://www.asian-studies.org/Conference/index.htm
April 2015	Middle East Librarians Committee International (MELCom International) conference will be hosted by Université Constantine 2, Algeria. For more information: http://www.melcominternational.org/?page_id=793
June 25, 2015	The Asian Pacific American Librarians Association's 35 th anniversary & symposium will be held in San Francisco. For more information: http://www.apalaweb.org/calendar/35th-anniversary/

Kickstart the Future of ACRL

You definitely know that we are celebrating ACRL's 75th Anniversary. You probably know that ACRL was ALA's first official division. You might know that Phineas L. Windsor was first president of ACRL as a self-governing division. I hope you know that to celebrate and honor this Anniversary ACRL is conducting a major fundraising campaign to raise money for scholarships to ACRL 2015. ACRL seeks to raise \$50,000 by December 31, 2014, to provide 75 additional scholarships for these members to attend the conference to be held March 25-28, 2015, in Portland, Oregon.

We've already raised more than \$40,000 during the advance phase of the campaign. Now we invite you to pay it forward and invest in the profession's future leaders (and their libraries) as they seek to advance learning and transform scholarship in the 21st century. With your contribution (of any amount), we can ensure the future vitality of the profession, the association, and the diversity of our conference.

This is also a great opportunity for ACRL committees, sections and groups to show their support by establishing group scholarship goals. Some of those that have already established group goals include: the College & Research Libraries Editorial Board, Distance Learning Section (DLS), Education and Social Sciences Section (EBSS), Literatures in English (LES), Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, Science and Technology Section (STS), University Libraries Section (ULS), and the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. A page on the 75th Anniversary website acknowledges all group contributions. We have made great progress towards our goal but we are not there yet. Please consider making an individual donation or encourage your group to get together to fund a scholarship or commit to achieving 100% Board participation.

For more information on how to get involved visit the Scholarship Campaign FAQ page at http://acrl.ala.org/acrl75/?page_id=278. Help ACRL kickstart the future with your contribution.

Steven Bell, ACRL 75th Anniversary Campaign Chair



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