

# *AAMES Newsletter*

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*AAMES Newsletter*  
is a biannual  
Publication of the  
Asian, African, and  
Middle East Studies  
Section of ACRL

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## **Editorial**

Welcome to the Fall 2015 issue of the *Asian, African, and Middle East Section Newsletter*!

In this issue, you will find:

- A message from our Chair, Yue Li, Associate University Librarian, FSU Libraries
- The minutes of the 2015 ACRL-AAMES Executive Board Committee meeting
- A summary of upcoming conferences and events in African, Asian and Middle East Librarianship
- An article on Libraries, Collections and Sites in Auckland, New Zealand by Raymund Pun.

Hoping you'll have an enjoyable read, I wish you an excellent 2015/2016 academic year!

Anaïs Salamon

## Chair's message

Welcome to the Asian African and Middle East Section (AAMES) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). It has been a privilege this year for me to serve as AAMES' Chair. AAMES represents librarians and specialists in the fields of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern studies, covering the special library services of a wide area of academic disciplines.

It is my great pleasure to work closely with our members, especially the immediate past chair. Dr. Jingfeng Xia (library director of State University of New York at Rockland), Chair-Elect Ruby Bell-Gam (African Studies and International Development Studies librarian, UCLA), and the energetic and vigorous AAMES Board, to ensure continuity across our terms to fulfill our shared vision.

AAMES Board members have been working hard in professional development, library activities and services. We have initiated many good and influential programs in the ACRL and ALA conferences. For example, at the 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Ravindra Nath Sharma, the Chair of AAMES, initiated the AAMES program by inviting the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) President Kay Raseroka to speak as part of the AAMES program. In her talk, she addressed information development and digitization in libraries around the world. This program was very well received.

This year, AAMES actively participated in the ACRL 75 Anniversary Fund Raising Campaign and was able to support two new librarians to attend the 2015 ACRL Conference in Portland. Both Jingfeng Xia and I received a thank-you-note from ACRL and the award recipients who wrote: "I received an Early-Career Librarian scholarship to attend the 2015 ACRL Conference in Portland. I would not have been able to attend the conference without the scholarship. So thank you so much for your contribution to the fund."

In the 2015 ALA conference, AAMES organized a forum: "Cross Regional Studies and Resources on Asia, Africa and the Middle East," which attracted many librarians and scholars and received positive feedback. All these events show AAMES' active role and its importance in ACRL and ALA.

AAMES sets five major goals this year.

- The Board and I plan to initiate a final call to every AAMES member asking them to recruit one or two new members in order to increase our membership. The goal is to enlarge the size of our membership to the 400 threshold for ACRL's requirement for keeping an independent section
- I will make efforts to work with the AAMES past chair, chair-elect, and Board members to remind ACRL Board of Directors of AAMES's special position, unique characters, and extraordinary importance, with the view toward retaining AAMES' independent status
- Alternately, I will work closely with AAMES Board members and ACRL to plan on a smooth transfer if a restructure of the section is required
- We will create additional programs and activities so as to make more contributions to our members, ACRL, and ALA. We understand that AAMES needs to provide more opportunities for members to participate in our programs. Up to this point, AAMES has submitted a proposal for ACRL/ALA's 2016 annual conference in Orlando
- I will prioritize AAMES work to engage members in our activities. I and the entire Board welcome any ideas you may have to help us meet that goal. I urge you to forward your advice and suggestions to [yli3@fsu.edu](mailto:yli3@fsu.edu). With all our efforts and your strong support, we will collaborate with members and colleagues, nationally and internationally, to build a highly valued sense of community so as to provide first class library services to our unique academic community.

**Yue Li, AAMES Chair**

Associate University Librarian, FSU Libraries, 711 W Madison St., Tallahassee FL 32306 - Tel: 850-980-3098

## 2015 ACRL-AAMES Executive Board Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 27 2015

10:30AM-11:30AM

Hilton Union Square 12

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Attendants: Jingfeng Xia, Marilyn Ochoa, Hong Cheng, Shuyong Jiang, Binh Le, David Hirsch, Tomoko Bialock, Yukako Tatsumi, Mohamed Berray, Ruby Bell-Gam, Sylvia Owiny, Yue Li

The Chair, Jingfeng Xia, briefly reported jobs done by AAMES in the year 2014-15. He acknowledged that the future of AAMES is a key issue. He described extensive discussions in the Mid-winter virtual meeting and 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, and reported on a membership campaign that is based on ALA's new membership rules which allow a member to join more than one division section for free. For the campaign, board members agreed to help recruit new members using their own personal network. This campaign had started in the early spring of 2015 and it did bring a slight increase in membership. However, it is still impossible to meet the threshold of 400 members set by ACRL. In April 2015, an online survey was developed and was sent to all AAMES members. The survey listed three options for each member to select from and it also provided an open-end box to collect additional suggestions:

- A. Remaining an independent section and continuing the membership recruitment effort
- B. Consolidating with another section to form a new section
- C. Becoming an interest group that would only need to maintain a membership size of 200.

The responding rate was 72 out of 249, a 29% returning rate and the result is:

- A. Remaining an independent section, 22 (30%)
- B. Merging with another section to form a new section, 9 (12 %)
- C. Transitioning to an interest group 52 (72 %)
- D. Other suggestions 0

Marilyn Ochoa, AAMES liaison to ACRL, acknowledged the AAMES Board's efforts, including the draft of an annual report and the membership survey. She gave a brief report on the ACRL 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference earlier this year in Portland. She further affirmed that AAMES is in transition from its current status as a section to an interest group – 2015/2016 would be the third and final year in the transition process which should be completed by April 2016. She called for a transitioning plan from AAMES.

Marilyn mentioned that all CoPA groups, including AAMES, were invited to participate in the discussion/raise concerns about the policy in all forums it was discussed before this became policy. This included leadership forums and open microphone at Board meetings.

She agreed to bring the section funding issue to the Board at the conference and report back to the AAMES Board after conference. Along with the request for a meeting with the Board, Marilyn recommended that AAMES provide the Board information from membership before speaking with ACRL Board that includes a report of the initial survey findings, additional input from the membership that explains why even with 72% wanting to transition, that the AAMES board is recommending otherwise.

However, attending AAMES board members did not agree with Marilyn Ochoa and ACRL about the transition decision:

- A member started by pointing to the fact that a membership decrease is not only an issue for AAMES but also the reality for ACRL and even ALA. The 400 bar set by ACRL does not seem reasonable. ACRL should not use the same standards across the board, especially for minority and under-represented groups like AAMES.
- Someone mentioned that one of ACRL's goals, as stated in ACRL's 2015 Leadership Council for Plan for Excellence, is diversity. Downgrading AAMES to an interest group does not reflect this goal.
- Another member stated that AAMES represents emerging disciplines and comparatively new areas in librarianship. ACRL should not apply the same threshold of 400 members in this case. Besides, an interest group is informal. AAMES insists on a section status. Marilyn Ochoa countered that an interest group is not an informal one and that the structure is similar to a section, with the biggest difference being the amount of funding. The same person also maintained that interest groups have a lower status level than sections, and pointed out that AAMES covers a wide range of area and regional studies. Also, interest group may not convey the same importance as section for the purpose of seeking institutional support for conference participation.
- A fourth person emphasized his concerns on the possible change from a section to an interest group and suggested that the change could result in many members leaving AAMES or even leaving ACRL for other ALA organizations, because the group will not be attractive.
- Someone else pointed out that AAMES forums have always been on unique topics within ALA's programs. The 2015 AAMES Forum, "Cross Regional Studies and Resources on Asia, Africa and the Middle East," is the only one on this topic within the ALA conference. Without AAMES and its programs, we will lose a very diverse area of studies and library fields in ACRL and ALA.
- A member believed that AAMES executive board should have the right to ask for a meeting with ACRL Board of Directors to discuss this issue.
- Another member suggested that AAMES could remain a section without requiring section funding from ACRL, if money is the issue.
- Finally, a person pointed to a lack of direct communication with ACRL. She felt that AAMES has not had the opportunity to state our view and share our inputs face to face with ACRL. She was concerned about AAMES losing its status as a section, and the possibility that ACRL would not get time and space to have a full program for our members to participate in during ALA's annual conferences. She thought that ACRL has placed too much emphasis on membership numbers rather than on the unique character and quality of AAMES contributions. The required change would reduce the possibility of AAMES members' engagement in ACRL and ALA and could, therefore, be short sighted. Besides, she said, this move does not appear to support ACRL's diversity goals.

In the end, the board decided to request a meeting with ACRL's board of directors and asked Ruby to draft an appeal to ACRL.

### AAMES Programs

Fund Raising Program: AAMES actively responded and participated ACRL 75 Anniversary Campaign/fund raising. Lead by AAMES Board members, AAMES successfully raised \$300 more to ACRL Campaign.

AAMES Program at AAS: On behalf of AAMES, Dr. Hong Cheng and Dr. Shuyong Jiang presented a panel, "Modern Migration: Asia and the World," at the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago.

2015 AAMES Forum: Hong Cheng, Chair of the Program Committee initiated a forum, "Cross Regional Studies and Resources on Asia, Africa and the Middle East," which was approved by ACRL for the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

#### *"Cross Regional Studies and Resources on Asia, Africa and the Middle East"*

- Middle East Studies and Resources in China / by David Hirsch and Hong Cheng
- Korean Studies in South America / by Sanghun Cho
- Southeast Asia Collection Appraisal & Acquisitions in Paris: Quality & Impact / by Virginia Shih
- Fostering Collaboration and Improving Access: Two Area Studies Librarians' Cooperative Collection Development Experience / by Liladhar Pendse and Jianye He
- Open Access in Asia / by Susan Xue
- Gordon W. Prange Collection: Transpacific Resources, Transnational Studies / by Tomoko Bialock and Yukako Tatsumi

AAMES co-sponsored a forum with ALCTS's Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials (CC:AAM), titled "Managing Transliteration of Bibliographic Data," at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

Newsletter: Regular newsletters were published electronically to report AAMES's work. The newsletters were edited by Anais Salamon, Chair of the Publication Committee.

Marilyn Ochoa mentioned some missing information in the Chair's report and Jingfeng assured her that he will collect the required information and complete the report.

#### Vice-Chair / Chair-elect Report (Yue Li)

- AAMES Annual Program in 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando

The Annual Program is one of the most important of AAMES activities. The program proposal has been repeatedly rejected by ACRL for some years. All members of the AAMES Board have the obligation to get involved in developing the proposal and contribute some ideas.

It is time to submit the proposal by the AAMES Program Planning Committee for ALA Annual, in Orlando 2016. First of all, what would be the possible theme and topic? How should we plan and organize it? Possible Topic: Library Digitization Development in Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Countries; Joint Program with ALA International Relations Round Table, Joint Program with CALA? Could we invite some international libraries' speakers to the programs? At this point Marilyn Ochoa pointed out that funding for inviting international speakers could be an issue.

- AAMES Membership Recruitment

Why would librarians and ACRL members join AAMES? First reason might be professional development, and second, to make contribution to AAMES and ACRL. We need to think about how to justify their participation in AAMES so that it can benefit their institutions, libraries, and their own professional development. Could AAMES initiate a Poster Session in the 2016 ALA Annual within AAMES members as presenters? Would AAMES Newsletter encourage more members to participate?

## What's coming up in our fields?

Date(s)	Conference
November 6-7, 2015	Southwest Conference of Asian Studies, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX. For more information: <a href="http://www.trinity.edu/org/swcas/home.html">http://www.trinity.edu/org/swcas/home.html</a>
November 19-22, 2015	African Librarians Council Fall meeting, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, San Diego, CA. For more information: <a href="http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings">http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings</a>
November 19-22, 2015	African Studies Association annual Meeting, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, San Diego, CA. For more information: <a href="http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings">http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings</a>
November 19-20, 2015	Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. For more information: <a href="http://mela.us/annualmeetsmela.html">http://mela.us/annualmeetsmela.html</a>
November 21-24, 2015	Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Meeting, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO. For more information: <a href="http://www.mesana.org/annual-meeting/index.html">http://www.mesana.org/annual-meeting/index.html</a>
January 7-9, 2016	22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Japan Association Conference, Hyatt Place Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, Hawai'i. For more information: <a href="http://www.japanstudies.org/2016-conference-honolulu-hawaii.html">http://www.japanstudies.org/2016-conference-honolulu-hawaii.html</a>
January 15-17, 2016	Southeast Conference of Asian Studies, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. For more information: <a href="http://www.uky.edu/Centers/Asia/SECAAS/">http://www.uky.edu/Centers/Asia/SECAAS/</a>
November 19-20, 2015	Association for Asian Studies annual Conference, Seattle, WA. For more information: <a href="https://www.asian-studies.org/Conference/">https://www.asian-studies.org/Conference/</a>
June 24-27, 2016	Association for Asian Studies –in Asia- Conference, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. For more information: <a href="http://www.aas-in-asia.org/">http://www.aas-in-asia.org/</a>

## Visiting Auckland, New Zealand: Libraries, Collections and Sites

By Raymund Pun

*Raymond Pun is the new first year student success librarian in California State University, Fresno. Previously he was a reference and research services librarian in NYU Shanghai. His travel blog can be accessed here: [www.raypun101.tumblr.com](http://www.raypun101.tumblr.com)*



Picture : Outside of Auckland

This past May 2015, I had the opportunity to visit Auckland, a major city of New Zealand in the north island, to explore its wonderful landscapes and libraries. In five days, I spent most of my time in Auckland and out in the suburbs. It also happened to be winter season during my visit. What I found was a lot of rich history and culture in New Zealand, particularly the Māori culture (Eastern Polynesian culture).



Picture: Outside of Auckland Central City Library

When I visited Auckland I stopped by the central city library in Auckland, the Otaru branch public library (outside of Auckland), Auckland Art Gallery and the Auckland War Memorial Museum. In this piece, I'll discuss my experiences in the central city library and the Otaru library.



Picture: Genealogy Reading Room in Auckland Central City Library

Auckland's central city library is quite huge and plenty of resources and exhibitions to check out. First, they have a genealogy research division where researchers from all over the world come here to conduct ancestry and historical research; plenty of reference materials for consultation; and leisure reading books to be checked out too.



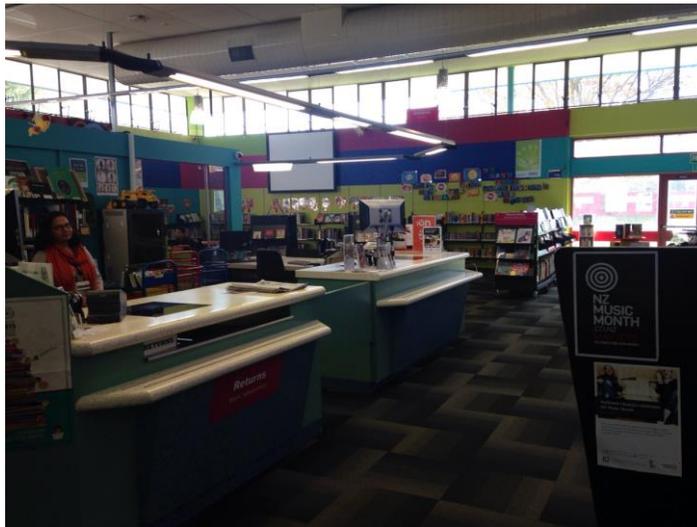
Picture: Special Collections Curator showed us rare books and manuscripts from ACC

The highlight of the trip was when I went to the special collections room, the curator greeted us with delight and brought out some interesting items for us to see. Some of the materials included copies of the *Book of Hours* from 1400s, Shakespeare's folio and other rare books from the 1500s. It was a nice experience that I was able to "tweet" about it and this attracted publicity from other Kiwis (people from New Zealand). They also have a fellowship program for researchers and scholars outside of New Zealand. More information can be found here: <http://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/>



Picture: Outside of Otara Library

In the Otara library, quite different from central city library, there is a strong outreach services to this suburban town in Otara, about 20 minutes drive outside of Auckland. The small but colorful library offers plenty of programs and workshops for children and adults. Like most public and community branch libraries, Otara had many visitors when I was there.



Picture: Inside the Otara Library

It was also located in an area of shops and stores. My guide, Eunice, a library staff member in Otara library, often does outreach services to the community. She is fluent in Māori and often builds relationship with the community through this language, one of New Zealand's official languages. She often leads programs in the library for the Māori community, which has made the library quite a popular place in Otara.

More information about their programs and services can be found in their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OtaraLibrary>



Picture: A View of Auckland from a Hill

Overall, the trip was short but enjoyable and I learned a lot about the Māori culture, and its history and influence in New Zealand's society. From food to architecture to political and social structures, this culture is part of New Zealand's fascinating history and culture. This trip also gave me a chance to connect and re-connect with librarians in Auckland and learned about what they do to support their communities. It was a nice treat to visit this country in May! I hope everyone will get a chance to see it in the future because I highly recommend it despite the long flight to get there!

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## ACRL Information

### Call for Award Nominations

- Excellence in Academic Libraries Award  
\$3,000 and a plaque  
Sponsored by YBP Library Services
- Academic/Research Librarian of the Year  
\$5,000 and a plaque  
Sponsored by YBP Library Services



DEADLINE: December 4, 2015. More information about these and all other ACRL award opportunities can be found on the [ACRL website](#), or by contacting [Chase Ollis](#) / (312) 280-2521.

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### Did You Know?

ACRL members can view full contact information for all ACRL section committee rosters (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections>) by logging into the ACRL Web site.

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### ACRL Fall e-Learning

ACRL is offering two webcasts in November to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. These interactive webcasts last 60-90 minutes and take place in an interactive online classroom; group discounts are available. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#).



[The Neoliberal in Your Library: Resisting Corporate Solutions to Collection Development](#)  
(November 4, 2015)

What is the 21st century library? Will it be a makerspace, a learning commons, or a sustainer of collections? Through an examination of collection development trends, explore the political currents converging in libraries and higher education that are obfuscating our community-oriented values in favor of privatization. This webcast will provide a frame to support librarians as they articulate the value of collection development, and sustainable collection management, that affirms our core values.

[Introduction to Critical Library Pedagogy](#) (November 10, 2015)

Investigate critical pedagogical approaches for library instruction with the greater goal of improving our teaching, how students feel about using the library, and the image of the librarian. As we strive to make our teaching, our libraries, and our campuses as inclusive as we can, there is still a lot of work to be done.

Complete details and registration information for e-Learning webcasts are available on the [ACRL website](#). Contact Margot Conahan at [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org) for more information.