

August, 2, 2007

Dear CALA Board members:

I was honored to be selected to participate in the CALA Twenty-first Century Librarian Seminar Series program. I joined a team of three librarians to present this seminar at Northeast Normal University in Changchun China in July. I enjoyed this trip very much. I think this unforgettable experience benefits both our Chinese colleagues and myself.

Based on my background and work experiences, I presented the following topics at the seminar:

1. Library consortia in the United States: an overview.
2. Washington Research Library Consortium: a case study.
3. Library home page development.
4. ALADIN: WRLC's digital library: a case study.
5. Digital Collections Production Center at WRLC: an introduction.

I learned so much in the process of preparing the presentations. Through researching the topics and organizing the information into presentable formats, I learned new technology trends in the library field and challenges we are facing in the twenty-first century. This is a great opportunity for professional development, which I will benefit from for the rest of my career.

I also learned a lot from the discussions with our Chinese colleagues. From the questions they asked and the comments they made, I learned current status of the academic libraries in China and how we can help them to improve their library services.

Our Chinese colleagues definitely benefit from this seminar. As this seminar focuses on practical issues and we are practitioners who have extensive experiences in different areas of the library operations, we were able to provide detailed information and give answers to practical questions and issues. Many attendees of this seminar expressed satisfaction and gratefulness to us.

I would like to thank you for organizing this seminar and for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this program and learn from the librarians in China. I hope CALA will continue organizing this seminar program or similar activities in the future.

Sincerely,

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