

Dear CALA Board:

I was honored to be part of the CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar Project at Shanxi Agricultural University. The event provided a great platform for me to interact with the colleagues in China and to share experience with others. It also provided an opportunity for me to work closely and collaboratively with other four presenters. The participation of the project was very rewarding experience to me.

My presentations were focused on two topics -- academic library management and library consortia. I started my talk on library management with an overview of U.S libraries and the challenges they are facing, followed by the discussions how libraries are addressing some of those issues. For the library consortia topic, I used the University of California Libraries system as an example to illustrate some new roles a library consortium can play in a digital era, such as in the areas of digitization projects, institutional repository, and digital preservation.

Besides my own presentations, I was very engaged in the six hourly discussions and Q&As following presentations on each topic. Though five of us tried to make as much time for discussions as possible, sometime even compressing our presentations, conversations often were carried on during breaks and at meals. It was obvious that the conference attendees were immensely interested in the topics we presented.

Last but not least, the hospitality and accommodations offered by the hosting library to all conference attendees were very impressive. I really enjoyed my stay at the Shanxi Agricultural University.

Submitted by Xiaoli Li
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