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1. Conferences

1.1. Multilevel, Multicultural & Multiethnic Information Society: An International Conference for Yunnan Provincial Library's 100th Anniversary, November 16–17, 2009, Kunming, China

Yunnan, the most culturally diverse province in China, has developed its unique regional culture of multiplicity. The long history of interactions among different ethnic minorities has cumulated rich information resources. Since its establishment a hundred years ago, Yunnan Province Library has been striving in describing, preserving, and providing access to the resources. In the event of the first centennial celebration, Yunnan Provincial Library is planning an international conference with the theme of "building an information society of cultural and ethnic multiplicity".

The goal of the conference is to bring together librarians, information engineers, educators as well as experts and professionals in other fields, from both China and aboard, to exchange ideas and share research findings about multiethnic culture, resource development, information sharing, etc. The conference provides a forum for scholars from different traditions and backgrounds to share their views and perspectives on how to preserve and promote the traditional culture of ethnic minorities in a multilevel, multicultural, and multiethnic information society. The conference will generate valuable ideas for advancing services to disadvantaged social groups and rural developments in the province.

The conference will cover a broad range of topics on multiethnic culture and information society. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Roles of public libraries in multilevel, multicultural, and multiethnic information society,
2. Development of multiethnic culture and resources,
3. Diversity of ethnic culture and resources,
4. Roles of ethnic minority culture in public information services,
5. Cultural and information resources in socio-economic developments.

All conference participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses and conference registration fee.

For questions and inquiry, please contact the Yunnan Provincial Library Training Center at (86) (871) 532–5260 by phone or ynlibpx@yahoo.com.cn .

1.2. Seventh International Conference on the Book, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, 16–18 October 2009

We are particularly excited about holding this year's Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. The beautiful and historic city of Edinburgh has long served as a center of learning and the arts. It is the home of the world's largest book festival and oldest literary award. Edinburgh's important role in literature was recognized in 2004 when it was named the first UNESCO City of Literature. The Book Conference venue, the University of Edinburgh, has contributed significantly to the city's, and the nation's achievements. Since its founding in 1582 it has made vital contributions to learning and scholarship. We expect that the Seventh International Conference on the Book will make contributions of its own, in the spirit of this impressive tradition.

The Book Conference serves as an inclusive forum for examining the past, current and future role of the book. It proceeds from recognition that although the book is an old medium of expression, it embodies thousands of years' experience of recording knowledge. The pervasive influence of this experience continues to shape newer forms of information technology, while at the same time providing a reference point for innovation.

The Book Conference not only considers the book and other information technologies as artefacts or discrete objects, it also examines other key aspects of the information society, including publishing, libraries, information systems, literacy, and education. Broadly speaking, the Conference engages the interrelation between changes in thought, creation, production and distribution, and the role and meaning of the book and other information technologies. The Book Conference welcomes a wide range of participants from the world of books including authors, publishers, printers, librarians, IT specialists, book retailers, editors, literacy educators, and academic researchers and scholars from all disciplinary traditions.

The Conference includes plenary presentations by accomplished researchers, scholars and practitioners, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in the fully refereed International Journal of the Book. If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in this fully refereed academic Journal.

Full details of the Conference, including an online proposal submission form, are to be found at the Conference website – http://book-conference.com.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and hope you will be able to join us in Edinburgh, Scotland in October 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Garett Gietzen
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA
For the Advisory Board, International Conference on the Book and International Journal of the Book

1.3. 18th Bobcatsss symposium,Parma, Italy, 25-26-27 January 2010

The 2010 topic is "Bridging the digital divide: libraries providing access for all?" Bobcatsss is an annual conference organized by and for students in librarianship and information science coming from Europe and countries all over the world: This year the organizers are the universities of Parma and Manchester, in collaboration with those of Milan and Liverpool.

Until the 15th of September 2009 it is possible to send contributions in the form of workshops, paper or poster. The target audience is students, but everyone is welcome. The received abstracts will be evaluated and participants will be contacted by the end of October.

For more information about the meeting, registration, contributions and so on, is available at the e-mail address: bobcatsss2010@unipr.it, and on the website http:// bobcatsss2010.unipr.it <http://bobcatsss2010.unipr.it/> .

1.4. Eighth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), US, 29 June–2 July 2010

We are very pleased to be holding this year's conference in Los Angeles, California. Los Angeles is one of the most diverse and dynamic cities in the United States, attracting immigrants and visitors from around the world to its wide range of attractions, activities and professional opportunities. Although Los Angeles is perhaps most well recognized as the center of US movie and television production, its cultural role exceeds that of its most famous industry. Its music, literary and visual and performing arts communities, for instance, reflect the diverse perspectives of Angelinos and are internationally influential. The Los Angeles area is home to some of the best galleries and museums in the country and to distinguished centers for humanities research, such as the Getty Center, the Huntington Library and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. The city is also a center of higher education, boasting many of the finest colleges and universities in the United States, in cluding the host of this year's International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

The Humanities Conference provides a space for dialogue and for the publication of new knowledge that builds on the past traditions of the humanities whilst setting a renewed agenda for their future.

In addition to an impressive line-up of international plenary speakers, the Conference will also include numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by practitioners, teachers and researchers. We would particularly like to invite you to respond to the Conference Call-for-Papers. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in the fully refereed International Journal of the Humanities. If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in this fully refereed academic Journal.

Whether you are a virtual or in-person presenter at this Conference, we also encourage you to present on the Conference YouTube Channel. Please select the Online Sessions link on the Conference website for further details.

The deadline for the next round in the call for papers (a title and short abstract) is 13 August 2009. Future deadlines will be announced on the Conference website after this date. Proposals are reviewed within two weeks of submission. Full details of the Conference, including an online proposal submission form, are to be found at the Conference website – http://www.HumanitiesConference.com/.

We look forward to receiving your proposal and hope you will be able to join us in Los Angeles in summer 2010.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom Nairn
Globalism Institute, RMIT University
Melbourne, Australia
For the Advisory Board, International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities and International Journal of the Humanities

2. Schools

2.1. Wayne State University, US

The Wayne State University Board of Governors has approved the creation of a School of Library and Information Science, effective Spring/Summer 2009, to house the existing Library and Information Science Program. The LIS Program has grown from 125 students in 1987 to nearly 600 graduate students currently enrolled. The academic oversight and degree-granting authority for the program will be transferred from the Graduate School to the new School. The Dean of University Libraries and the Library and Information Science Program, Dr. Sandra Yee, will continue to serve as the dean of the new School.

More information about the LIS Program is available at www.lisp.wayne.edu.

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2.2. *McGill University, Canada*

While SIS has been offering a Ph.D. under McGill University's Ad Hoc Regulations for 15 years, and from which as of Fall 2008, 16 students have graduated, the Quebec provincial government has recently approved a new formal Ph.D. in Information Studies that will enrol its first students in Fall 2009. This Program is organized around four broad research themes: information-seeking behaviour, human-computer interaction, information resources in context, and knowledge management and representation. All accepted doctoral students will receive a $5 000 fellowship in their first year of study. Canadian students from outside Quebec as well as international students will also receive funding from McGill University to offset tuition fee differentials during their period of residence, thereby reducing their tuition fees to those applicable to Quebec students. SIS in addition provides ample opportunities for doctoral students to develop their research and teaching skills within the Program through paid positions as research assistants on externally funded faculty projects, as teaching assistants or as sessional lecturers.

For further information, please consult http://www.mcgill.ca/sis/programs/phd/.

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2.3. *University of North Carolina, US*

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have launched a center that will bring together scholars and technical experts to solve the pressing problems of managing and sharing today's deluge of digital data. In addition to building shared collections, the Data Intensive Cyber Environments (DICE) Center supports software systems for data curation and data preservation so that today's knowledge will be available for future generations.

The DICE Center, which is funded by external research grants, draws on leading data management technology whose advanced generic nature makes possible a remarkable array of uses, from helping the National Archives preserve the nation's digital information including records that document our nation's experience, to helping digital libraries cope with the ever-increasing size and complexity of digital knowledge, to enabling sharing of digital data by large-scale interdisciplinary scientific research collaborations across the nation and the globe.

At UNC, the Libraries, Information and Technology Services, the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI), the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) and numerous research projects will all make use of the Center's technologies to organize and curate collections, create digital repositories and federate data resources.

The Data Intensive Cyber Environments (DICE) group joined Carolina's nationally recognized School of Information and Library Science in fall 2008. The award-winning research group, formerly of the San Diego Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego, has an international reputation in developing digital data technologies.

For more than 10 years the DICE group's data grid technologies have been used in research projects worldwide to manage large, distributed data collections and support discovery, access, retrieval, replication, archiving, and analysis tasks. The researchers most recently released iRODS, the open source Integrated Rule-Oriented Data System, which introduced user-settable rules that automate complex management policies, helping users handle today's mushrooming collections of digital data.

iRODS harnesses the full power of cyberinfrastructure and virtual technologies to integrate functions that free digital data collections from the constraints of space – whether physical, administrative, or disciplinary – and time, through long-term preservation. The iRODS software assembles distributed data into shared collections, and the rule-based architecture enables users to develop and enforce community policies, without changing core iRODS code, so that they can easily and flexibly manage their data collections and verify policy enforcement to ensure appropriate access and authentic data.

The Center includes Reagan Moore, director; Richard Marciano, executive director; and co-director-Arcot Rajasekar all of whom are SILS professors and RENCI chief scientists. Other staff include Antoine de Torcy, data grid developer, Chien-Yi Hou, digital preservation specialist, Mike Wan, chief architect; Wayne Schroeder, product manager; Sheau-Yen Chen, data grid system administrator; Bing Zhu, computational scientist; Paul Tooby, community development coordinator; and Lucas Gilbert, consultant and Java developer.

The campus-wide DICE Center will initially include three core research units that form the foundation for data intensive and data lifecycle activities.

To facilitate interactions with the many communities at UNC that require data management infrastructure, fellows will be named. The first fellows are: José-Marie Griffiths, deputy director (biomedical informatics) of the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (TraCS) Institute; Jan Prins, department chair, Department of Computer Science; and Javed Mostafa, Frances Carroll McColl Term associate professor at SILS and the Biomedical Research Imaging Center.

DICE Center Web site: http://dice.unc.edu SILS Web site: http://sils.unc.edu/ RENCI Web site: http://www.renci.org/ iRODS Web site: http://www.irods.org TraCS Institute Web site: http://tracs.unc.edu/.

2.4. University of Denver, US

We are pleased to announce receipt of an IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians grant for 10 Master's fellows to develop expertise in early childhood literacy and library services.Our project is an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional partnership with University of Denver entities (Library & Information Science, Child Family & School Psychology, Fisher Early Learning Center, Marsico Institute for Early Learning & Literacy), and, state and community entities (Colorado State Library, Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy, Clayton Early Learning Institute, Denver Preschool Program, and, Family Educational Network of Weld County).

Master's fellows will take courses and have direct experiential learning in library and information science, brain development, literacy and language acquisition, issues and interventions for children with special needs, program development for families, caregivers, library staff and early childhood educators, and, Spanish language. Using frameworks such as Every Child Ready to Read (c) and Read, Play, Learn! (c), the project team will also develop guidelines for libraries and early childhood education sites to use for developing and implementing early literacy programs and classroom collections of materials.

A more detailed abstract for our project is found below this message. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Early Childhood Librarianship: An Interdisciplinary, Experiential Learning MLIS Funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services (www.imls.gov).

The lead applicant is the University of Denver Library and Information Science Program (Mary Stansbury, PI) in formal partnership with Arapahoe Library District (CO), Colorado State Library, Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy, and Douglas County Libraries (CO). The time frame for this project is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. The community need addressed by this project is the demand for more public librarians to help very young children acquire early literacy skills. The primary goal of this project is to increase the number of Master's in Library & Information Science (MLIS)-degreed librarians who are prepared to serve the early literacy needs of very young children (0–5 years), caregivers, families, educators, and community coalitions in Colorado. This goal will be achieved with funding support for 10 student fellowships for completion of the DU MLIS using experiential learning in at least 5 partner public libraries and at least 5 early childhood education centers , and, an interdisciplinary curriculum including LIS coursework and Child, Family, and School Psychology (CFSP) coursework in brain development, language

acquisition, and, special needs. Early literacy skills improve learning achievement and enhance the joy of reading, yet, many young children are disadvantaged in acquiring these skills. Furthermore, most (MLIS) programs in the U.S. provide only one or two courses in early childhood library services. This project is designed to provide fellowship recipients with extensive coursework and direct experiences in the settings most pertinent to early childhood literacy. The coursework has been chosen to include classes in brain research and child development in order to better understand some of the principles behind framework such as Every Child Ready to Read© and Read, Play, Learn!(c). MLIS fellows will be placed in public libraries and preschools, with an emphasis on diversity of programs and populations. Fellows will also take conversational Spanish, as Colorado and other states have a significant percentage of Spanish speaking residents.

A secondary goal is to increase the knowledge and skills of public librarians, early childhood educators, families, and, caregivers in order to encourage the development of young children's early literacy skills. This goal will be achieved through the development of guidelines and training programs by the PI, Co-PIs, Consultants, Internal Planning Team, External Planning Team, and the Fellows. These guidelines will be incorporated into instructional sessions for the targeted groups. The strengths of this project include the highly critical need for early childhood librarians, the unique configuration of partners, and, the experiential learning component.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP
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  Marcee Martin, Fisher Early Learning Center
  Clara Sitter, LIS Program

  Consultants
  Melissa Depper, Arapahoe Library District
  Sharon Morris, Colorado State Library
  Priscilla Queen, Douglas County Libraries
External
Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy
Family Educational Network of Weld County Clayton Early Learning Institute Denver Preschool Program Marsico Institute for Early Learning & Literacy

2.5. *University of Tennessee, US*

Drs. Suzie Allard, Bharat Mehra, and Vandana Singh at the University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences have scored a triple play of grant awards from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) totaling over $1.6 million for the

next four years. These Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program awards support projects that are designed to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and faculty members, to compare and improve the technology tools that librarians use daily, and to shore up technological expertise of regional library leaders.

Dr. Suzie Allard is the principal investigator of the ScienceLinks2 grant, which was awarded $711,727 to build curriculum, provide mentoring and support the research agendas of six doctoral students who will become educators of the next generation of science data and information specialists. "ScienceLinks2 PhD: Linking Education and Science to Develop the Next Generation of Educators for Science Librarians and Data, Information and Communication" bridges a knowledge gap that exists to educate science librarians who are increasingly needed to "provide reliable digital preservation, access, integration, and analysis capabilities for science and/or engineering data," "to anticipate and adapt to changes in technologies and in user needs and expectations;" and to "engage at the frontiers of computer and information science and cyberinfrastructure with research and development to drive the leading edge forward."

Allard's team will recruit doctoral students from information, communication and science backgrounds, with an emphasis on those from minority populations; provide them with mentoring, financial support, and a focused doctoral education; and coordinate mentored research experiences in world-class science institutions and major science data initiatives. Other College of Communication and Information faculty involved in the project include Drs. Sally McMillan and Carol Tenopir, Co-PIs, and the following academic mentors: Drs. Ben Bates, Karen Hilyard, Lorraine Normore (SIS), Vandana Singh (SIS), Lu Tang, and Peiling Wang (SIS). Thura Mack, an SIS alumna, will be the library coordinator for the project.

ScienceLinks2 builds on two previous science information initiatives at the school: the IMLS-sponsored project, Science Links (a masters-focused program successfully completed in 2008) and NSF's DataONE, a major international initiative which includes faculty and researchers in the UT libraries and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

A second grant will work to tackle lagging information technology literacy in Tennessee's rural Southern and Central Appalachians. Principal investigator Dr. Bharat Mehra will work with co-PIs Dr. Kimberly Black and Dr. Vandana Singh to recruit and mentor 16 IMLS-funded technology support librarians to earn a master's degree. Titled "Rural Library Professionals as Change Agents in the 21st Century: Integrating Information Technology Competencies in Southern and Central Appalachian Region," this $567,660 grant will allow UT SIS to collaborate with a team of regional library systems (Clinch-Powell Regional Library, Sevier County Public Library System, and the Watauga Regional Library) to offer students coursework tailored for a specialization in Information Technology and Rural Librarianship. Upon graduation, students will be prepared to assume leadership roles in their libraries and the region.

Dr. Vandana Singh is the principal investigator on a third grant for $321,178. "Technical Support for Integrated Library Systems' Comparison of Open Source and

Proprietary Software" will compare the level of technical support required by open-source integrated library systems (the computer systems used to acquire, manage, and circulate library materials) and the off-the-shelf, proprietary versions of these systems. This research project seeks to better inform librarians about the maintenance and management costs associated with one of the key tools that they use to serve the public.

The University of Tennessee's College of Communication and Information (CCI) Center for Information and Communication Studies (CICS) submitted the successful grants to IMLS.

For more information, contact Dr. Suzie Allard at sallard@utk.edu or (865) 974–1369.

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2.6. *University of Pittsburgh, US*

The School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh (the iSchool) is pleased to announce that it has won a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant, for $911,311, will support the development of the "Post Master's Degree Certificate of Advanced Studies in Health Sciences Librarianship," to be managed jointly by the iSchool and the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS) at Pitt. The program will offer specialized preparation for professional positions in health sciences libraries through online coursework, an applied research project, mentoring experiences, and attendance at a national conference. The grant from IMLS will support the costs of curriculum development and evaluation, online course delivery infrastructure, and student recruitment. In addition, the grant will provide tuition scholarships for 27 students. Students will be enrolled in the program beginning in May 2010.

Coursework will address such issues as evidence-based medicine, teaching and instruction in a health care setting, clinical librarianship, expert searching in medical resources, and integration of information resources in electronic health records. Students, admitted in cohorts of 12–15, will complete the 15-credit program within one year. Students will plan and complete a 3-credit applied research project at their

home institution under the aegis of a professional mentor. For more information about the grant, please visit http://www.ischool.pitt.edu/news/article/IMLS-grant.php.

Students or organizations interested in learning more about this health sciences librarianship program should contact Susan W. Alman, Director of Distance Education and Outreach at the School of Information Sciences. She can be reached at 412-624-5142 or salman@sis.pitt.edu.

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