AAMES

NEWSLETTER

A biannual publication of the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Studies Section of ACRL/ALA
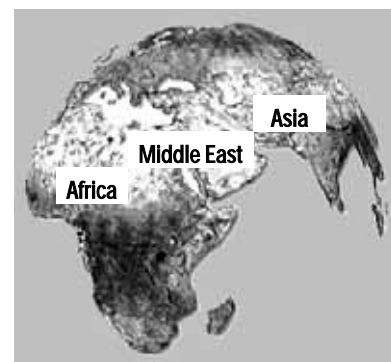
In This Issue:

Message from AAMES Chair
Asian, African and Middle Eastern Area Studies Librarians in Transition

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS), the African Studies Association (ASA) and the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), while they were formed at different time, share a similar mission: to increase our understanding of the cultural, historical and social traditions of the societies located in these vast regions of the world. In the process, numerous area studies degree programs, from associate to doctoral degrees, have been established at many colleges and universities across United States over the past several decades.

To support the research and teaching interests of students and scholars area studies librarians have gathered (in many cases, area studies librarians have traveled to these regions to acquire the needed resources), organized and disseminated materials originated from or about these areas.

In recent years, however, there are a couple of emerging trends that have significantly transformed the "traditional" area studies programs in America. Firstly, due to globalization, many of the goals of these area studies programs

have been shifted, broadened or moved away from the study of, for instance, social upheavals such as revolutions and wars (e.g., peace treaties) to business (e.g., trade agreements) and technologies (e.g., intellectual property rights laws). Consequently, many of the traditional area studies courses and/or programs have

Skills/Competencies of the Area Studies Librarian

The Many Hats of the Area Studies Librarian

"If you know all three languages, Chinese, Korean and Japanese you must be at least eighty years old!" A comment from a colleague succinctly highlights the graying problem as well as the lagging mentoring and skills development of the area studies librarian. Although aging demographics of the area studies li-

brarians cohort in the United States is a serious problem, it is however, only one among numerous issues and changes these librarians have been experiencing. Reiterating the message of AAMES Chair, the effects of globalization, changes initiated by the Information and communications technologies (ICTS), blurring or changing cultures, increas-

ing digital or technology related collections and projects, rising multidisciplinary information needs, broadening library wide responsibilities, professional local, national and international service activities, and multiple language skill requirements vastly increases the complexity of the area study librarian's job today.

Review of An Historical Atlas of Central Asia

An Historical Atlas of Central Asia, by Yuri Bregel. Leiden: Brill, 2003. (Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section eight, Central Asia, volume 9). ISBN 90-04-12321-0. $181.

This folio volume contains 47 plates of maps of the region sometimes known as Turkestan, comprising present day Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and the Xinjiang-Uygur region of China. Bregel is Professor Emeritus of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University, and he has compressed centuries of ethnic migration, clashing empires, and cultural development into this masterful work. While many general historical atlases cover the highlights of Central Asian history—notably the empires of Alexander, Genghis Khan, and Timur—this atlas gives fulsome treatment to all of the intervening years. No other

Shah-i-Zinda Mausoleum Complex, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
Photo Courtesy: Ryan Womack

atlas provides comprehensive coverage of this part of the world from ancient times to the present.

The detailed plates address lesser known periods such as the 6-7th centuries, when the Sasanids, Soghdians, and the first Türk Qaghanate controlled the region. The complex battles for control between the Özbeks, Qazaqs, and the decaying

Timurid dynasty in the early 1500s are illustrated here, presented in the same level of detail as the struggles between the Reds and the Whites in Central Asia between 1917 and 1922. Each page records a stage in the changing makeup of this crossroads of the world.

Every plate uses the same color coding scheme to clearly distinguish between ethnic groups, political entities, and geographic regions, allowing a large amount of text to coexist harmoniously on the page. Movements of armies, and significant locations and boundaries are likewise clearly drawn and color-coded. Most of the plates show the entire Central Asian region at a similar scale, making intertemporal comparisons easy. Special maps illustrate the historical cultural centers of Samarkand,

A Growing Digital Library on Shanghai: http://www.virtualshanghai.net/

Covering the history of Shanghai from the mid-19th Century to the present, *Virtual Shanghai: Shanghai Urban Space in Time* calls itself a "research and resource platform." The Editor, Christian Henriot, Professor of History, Lumière-Lyon 2 University (France), is bringing together photographs, maps, documents and essays, to produce a history of this city.

The project, begun in 2000 as a collaboration between the Center for Chinese Studies of the University of California, Berkeley, and the Institut d'Asie Orientale, was selected in 2005 by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche for a three-year supporting grant.

The Library begins with a review of its history, its objective, its scope,

Title: *Far Eastern Hotel*
Location: *Shanghai: International Settlement*
Estimated period: *1910-1929*
Caption on print: *(on the sign) Dongfang fangdian*
Nature: *B&W Photo*
Support: *Paper*
Street Name: *Thibet*
http://www.virtualshanghai.net/
Photo courtesy: Christian Henriot

(Overview), and its methodology, noting that this is a not only a work

in progress, but that parts of it are available only to those involved in its development. (Unfortunately, I have never been able to find exactly what those parts are.)

Currently the site has 14,768 records. Photos make up the major part of these, with a current count of 11, 213, 2643 images, covering 177 pages. There are also over 200 maps, over 1500 records in the GIS repository and almost as many in the Biography section.

There is also the first of what one hopes is many visual narratives. (http://www.virtualshanghai.net/Image_Narrative.php?CF=3). In this case, 25 photographs, with their accompanying text, tell the story of the refugees who flooded

Building a Just and Sustainable Peace
A Conference Report

The "Building a Just and Sustainable Peace" conference was held from August 31 to September 3, 2006 in Hiroshima, Japan, under the sponsorship of the Office of the Mayor of Hiroshima; Office of the U.N. Under- Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Developing States; Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations; International Health Awareness Network; and several other organizations.

The goal of the conference was to find ways to cultivate a culture of peace, including eradication of poverty, illiteracy, and diseases in developing countries. Speakers at this conference included: Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel

Peace Prize; Jody Williams, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize; Anwarul K. Chowdhury, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked De-

Shirin Abadi (Center) and Binh P. Le (Far right)

veloping Countries, and Small Island Developing States; and Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima.

At this conference, Binh P. Le presented the paper "Bridging the North-South Digital Divide: Indigenous Knowledge-Capacity Generation." In this paper Binh argues that unless developing countries improve their literary rates (nearly 1 billion or 1 in 5 people in the world, mostly in developing countries, are illiterate), they will not effectively harness the benefits of the Digital Revolution. Equally important, they also need to generate new knowledge if they want to be competitive in today's world.

Binh P. Le
Associate Librarian
Pennsylvania State University
Chair, ACRL/AAMES 2006-2007

Asian African and Middle Eastern Section
AAMES/ACRL/ALA Language Knowledgebase

If you can speak, read, write or understand languages from Asia, Africa or the Middle East countries, AAMES needs your assistance! You are invited to contribute to a renewed initiative of the AAMES Librarianship/Language Knowledgebase. The purpose of this project is to create a virtual global knowledgebase of experts in AAMES subject areas from the United States as well as from countries around the world. This database is also expected to be a valuable resource for AAMES members to share and collaborate on new ideas or projects especially in the library areas of collections, reference, instruction and cataloging.

You will be sent formal AAMES invitations to participate in the project and your brief biography and

contact information will be made available from the AAMES Website. You will be able to choose to volunteer in the knowledgebase on a long or short-term basis. AAMES will be acknowledging each of you and will set up a process of recognition for your professional services rendered. Participating in such a project will provide new openings, opportunities and experiences, especially for new and budding Asian, African, Middle Eastern studies librarians. For more information and to volunteer for help in setting up and working with the project, please contact Mr. Yue Li, Collection Services, Florida State University Library, **yli3@mailer.fsu.edu** or Triveni Kuchi, Rutgers University Libraries, Kilmer Library, Rutgers University, **kuchi@rci.rutgers.edu**.

Editor's Note

आसमान से गिरना
खजूर में अटकना

[Aasamaana sað egarnaa KajaÜr maðø Axknaa] — Hindi equivalent of "Jumping from the Frying Pan into the Fire"

As a debutant editor, I jumped into the proverbial fire from the frying pan. However, I am happy to report that I survived (i.e. did not burn to a crisp yet), mainly due to the invisible support railings in the form of Binh Le, Muhammad al-Faruque, Dawn Mueller, Rajwant Chilana and several Rutgers colleagues. Thank you for your advice, encouragement and patience. I am grabbing on for survival and am hoping to hear soon from more of *you all*-- AAMES members -- for the future issues of this production.

In this Fall 2006 issue, I have focused

. . . Review of An Historical Atlas of Central Asia
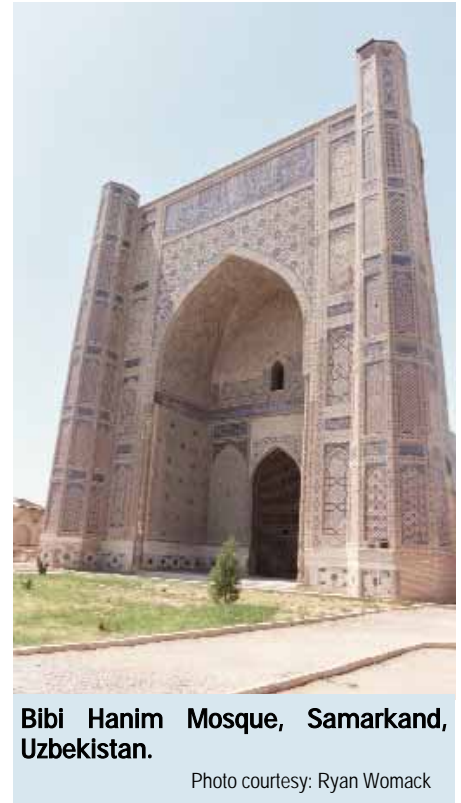
(Continued from page 2)

Bukhara, and Khiva, while other maps inventory the region's architectural and archaeological sites. Accompanying each map, a lengthy text summarizes the relevant history of the period. These mini-histories are surprisingly complete and skillfully compressed. An index rounds out the volume.

Bregel has synthesized a mass of historical scholarship, much of it from less accessible Soviet publications, to produce these maps. He is also very balanced in his treatment of the different nations, ethnicities, and religions that have vied for dominance in Central Asia. Bregel's original cartography is elegantly presented by the team of graphic designers at Indiana University that produced the computerized maps.

The only defect in the work is the lack of a selected bibliography for further reading, although the sources used for each map are described. The result is an exemplary work of scholarship that is worthy of its lofty price for researchers and libraries that collect in this area

The reader of Central Asian history encounters hundreds of unfamiliar names of distant peoples and places. By mapping out these names and their political relations over time, this atlas is an important and unique reference for all those who seek a better understanding of the region.

Ryan Womack
Business & Economics Librarian
Rutgers University Libraries

Bibi Hanim Mosque, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Photo courtesy: Ryan Womack

. . . A Growing Digital Library on Shanghai

(Continued from page 2)

into Shanghai in 1937 and 1938, as a result of the fighting between Chinese and Japanese troops in the Shanghai area.

It's interesting to note, as the site does, that there are many photographs of Shanghai's development as a major urban area, because the founding of the International Settlement was right when photography was a new development leading to an extensive photographic record being made of the city's birth and growth.

A core component of the library is the Live Maps. You are offered a choice of either "Simple HTML" or "Complex HTML." Both then show the locations of buildings across Shanghai on maps dating from 1904-1982. The Simple HTML will

show only the locations on the maps, but the Complex is an ambitious attempt to provide pictures of many of the buildings, data on their building date, whether they are extant, and a collection of the images in the database of them.

If I have any one complaint, it is that the images are JPEGs. In some of the photos one sees people, signs, kiosks, that would be fascinating to examine in greater detail. Had the images been digitized in DJVU, this would have been possible. But with the JPEG, many of these captured details remain obscure.

There is also an extensive References section that contains a bibliography, (and a thematic bibliography), a Repository that gives information on institutions, including private persons, that own/host documents on

the history of Shanghai, a listing of the publishers on the site's documents, and biographies of the photographers, when known, of many of the photos on the site.

Virtual Shanghai: Shanghai Urban Space in Time is a very worthwhile effort to track the birth and growth of an urban area through time. As it is still growing, it will undoubtedly grow in value. The Live Map is a wonderful way to give someone a feeling for the architecture and variety of the city, and the collection of images taken over a time span of 150 years is itself an inspiring effort.

Willis Walker
Reference/Instruction Librarian
Rutgers University Libraries

Call for Papers: Dr. R. N. Sharma (*former Chair AAMES*) Festschrift Volume

Dr. Ravindra N. Sharma, Dean of the Library at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey (USA), is an outstanding Asian American library professional. Since last 30 years, he has worked in various capacities in a number of academic libraries in United States. He has served ALA, ACRL and the International Federation of Library Associations admirably by chairing and serving on many committees dealing with international issues.

It was a great honor for the Librarians of color in North America that for the first time in the history of ACRL, the 2005 ACRL Academic/ Research Librarian of the Year Award (sponsored by YBP Library Services) was given to Dr. Sharma for

his significant contributions to the profession of academic librarianship. **As tribute to this dedicated professional, his friends, colleagues and well wishers have proposed to bring out a festschrift volume in his honor on the topic: "Challenges for South Asian Resources & Information Services".** The Felicitation Committee will highly appreciate if you submit an article/ research paper or your tributes/comments for inclusion in this volume by 30th November, 2006. A line of confirmation with paper title will be highly appreciated. Following is a tentative table of contents:

♠ Library Services & Information Centers in South Asia.

♠ Information Resources on South Asia- Printed, Online & Digital

♠ Problems in Collection Development in South Asian...

♠ Issues of Cataloguing...

♠ Education and Training...

♠ Role of South Asian Institutions...

♠ South Asian Professional Associations...

♠ Information & Resource Sharing among South Asianists.

♠ South Asian Collections and Library Services in USA, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Sweden and Others.

♠ Future of South Asian Information Science & Services.

♠ Any other topic relevant to South Asian studies.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Rajwant Singh Chilana, Ph.D.
For more details please email
rchilana@gmail.com

Florence Tan Moeson Fellows Appointed
Scholars to Conduct Research in the Library of Congress' Asian Collections

The Asian Division of the Library of Congress is pleased to announce the appointment of seven Florence Tan Moeson Fellows for 2006 of whom will each receive support to conduct research using the Asian collections of the Library of Congress.

The Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship provides individuals with the opportunity to pursue research on East, Southeast, and/or South Asia

(including the overseas Asian communities), using the unparalleled collections of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Each fellow receives a stipend of $300 to $2,500 to support a minimum of five days of research at the Library of Congress, resulting in a brief report and an informal presentation at the Library of Congress. Graduate students, independent

scholars, community college teachers, researchers without regular teaching appointments, and librarians with a need for fellowship support are especially encouraged to apply. Awards are announced in December. For more information please visit http://www.loc.gov/rr/asian.

Anchi Hoh, Ph.D.
Sp. Asst. to Chief Asian Division
The Library of Congress.

Workshop on Collection Development for Turkish materials

The Middle East Librarians Association will be holding a workshop on Collection Development for Turkish materials at its annual meeting in November in Boston. It will be held in the morning of Saturday, **November 18th** at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. The cost of attending the workshop will be $80. Space will be limited. For further information contact John Eilts

<john.eilts@stanford.edu> Curator, Islamic and Middle East Collection, Stanford University Libraries.

The workshop is intended to aid those with little, or not background in Turkish studies, as well as those who are responsible for collection development for Turkish materials to learn the current state of Turkish

studies in the world and where to find the materials.

> *Listen a hundred times; ponder a thousand times; speak once.*
> *- Turkish Saying*

. . . Asian, African and Middle Eastern Area Studies Librarians in Transition

received less attention or merged into "regular" programs or departments such as international business, Asian-American studies, and Women's studies.

While the newly established academic programs might not rely heavily on area studies librarians for expertise and resources, many area studies librarian have become an integral part of these programs. For instance, South Asian studies librarians probably spend more time assisting students (e.g., locating resources on India's outsourcing business or intellectual property rights laws) in business or law departments than South Asian studies departments.

Secondly, the Internet has enabled many of these societies to produce, among many other things, massive information resources on their societies and make them available to users worldwide. In response to these opportunities, area studies librarians have not only used their expertise to select relevant resources but also actively "produce" scholarly resources from the information generated in these societies. The Digital South Asia Library, created by David Magier and James Nye, is one of the many exemplary initiatives in this endeavor.

Indeed, area studies librarians have so much to contribute to not just the traditional area studies programs but also the broadening and growth of many area studies related-programs at many higher education institutions in America. Moreover, with the advent of the Internet, many area studies librarians began to utilize their area studies expertise by moving beyond their traditional roles of collecting, organizing and disseminating to producing scholarly resources and making them available to users worldwide.

Binh P. Le
Associate Librarian
Pennsylvania State University
Chair, ACRL/AAMES 2006-2007

. . . Editor's Note

on the experiences of change or transition, and skills or competencies of the area studies librarians. I have also included two unique reviews of a print and a digital resource that I hope will be of interest to you. Other topics included are Call for papers: *Dr. R. N. Sharma Felicitation volume*, Workshop on *Turkish Collection Development*, *Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship* Awards and Forthcoming events.

For a fresh look and feel, I have made a few changes to the layout of this newsletter. Please feel free to send me your comments. Also, I hasten to add, please write to me about what you would like to see in the future issues, and of any inconsistencies or design edits you would like me to consider for our next issue – Spring 2006.

Read on. Enjoy!
Triveni Kuchi
Editor, AAMES Newsletter

Forthcoming Events

November 2006

♠ **Sofia 2006** is the Fourth Bi-annual **Conference of Globalization, Digitization, Access, and Preservation of Cultural Heritage** to be held **8-10 November 2006** in Sofia, Bulgaria. For more details, please see http://slim.emporia.edu/globenet/Sofia2006/Index.htm.

♠ **Planner-2006: Digital Preservation, Management and Access to Information in the Twenty First Century**, **Nov 9-10, 2006**, Aizawl, Mizoram Uni, India. Please see:

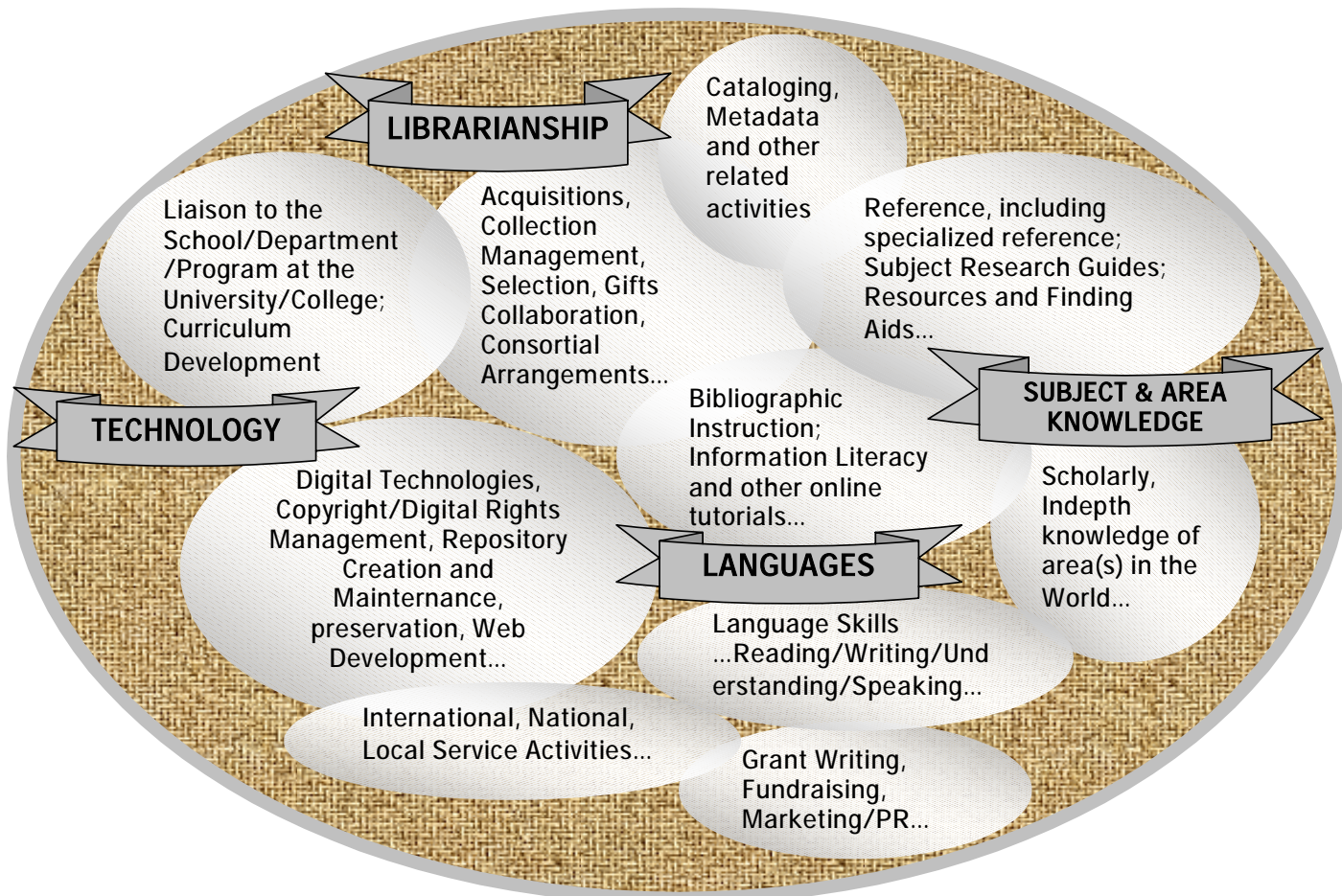# . . . Skills/Competencies of the Area Studies Librarian

Frykholm's summary of a 1997 survey of area studies librarians reveals that the area studies librarian is most often responsible, over 90%, for collection, development and management; about 90% for reference; about 70% for Gifts and Exchanges of collections; and only about 16% for Bibliographic Instruction. These relatively traditional librarianship areas still play an important role in the area study librarian's job, however, given the variety of changes occurring in the area studies librarian's environment, the demand for technology and fundraising types of skills is increasing. Librarians have had to additionally develop technological skills to manage and maintain acquisitions or collections, work with electronic reference, online instruction, create Web based resource guides and other tutorials or finding aids. The area studies librarian is also expected to work with collection digitization issues, repository planning and development, digital preservation, digital rights management and so on. A graphic depiction to highlight the nature and span of many skills and competencies of the

. . . Area Studies Librarianship — Skills/Competencies

LIBRARIANSHIP

Cataloging, Metadata and other related activities

Liaison to the School/Department /Program at the University/College; Curriculum Development

Acquisitions, Collection Management, Selection, Gifts Collaboration, Consortial Arrangements...

Reference, including specialized reference; Subject Research Guides; Resources and Finding Aids...

TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT & AREA KNOWLEDGE

Bibliographic Instruction; Information Literacy and other online tutorials...

Digital Technologies, Copyright/Digital Rights Management, Repository Creation and Mainternance, preservation, Web Development...

Scholarly, Indepth knowledge of area(s) in the World...

LANGUAGES

Language Skills ...Reading/Writing/Understanding/Speaking...

International, National, Local Service Activities...

Grant Writing, Fundraising, Marketing/PR...

area studies librarian is attempted above. A brief selective bibliography of related works is listed below:

Frykholm, Peter. Results of the Survey on Area Studies Librarianship. in *International and Area Studies.* Duke University, **1997** [accessed 9/8/2006 2006]. Available from http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/survey. htm.

Jakubs, Deborah. Session II - Roles and Functions of Area Librarians - *Workshop on Area Librarianship in Higher Education Defining the Future,* July 18-19, 1997. in Indiana University Bloomington Libraries. **1998** [accessed 9/15 2006]. Available from http://www.indiana.edu/ ~arealibs/workshop97/info.html. Also see: Schmidt, Nancy J. *Proceedings.*

Future of Area Librarianship Conference 1995 : Indiana University, 1997. 114 P.

Knowlton, Sean Patrick. 2002. The future of Latin American area studies librarianship. *Masters Thesis for the degree of Masters of Science* in Library Science., School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, http://ils.unc. edu/MSpapers/2778.pdf#search=% 22Knowlton%20Latin%20American% 20Area%22 (accessed 9/20/2006).

Koide, Izumi. Bridging shores: The changing role of the area studies librarian. in *Workshop on the Global Information Infrastructure for Asian Studies*; 3rd Session: electronic Resources and Information Services Part 2. Honolulu, Hawaii, 1996. [accessed 09/15/ 2006]. Available from http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu/ GIIAS/koide.html.

Kuntz, Patricia S. 2003. The Training of an Africana Librarian. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* 44, (3/4) (Summer/Fall 2003): 316-331.

MacDougall, Susan. A Look At Education For East Asian Librarianship. in *East Asian Library Resources Group Of Australia Newsletter*. Canberra, Australia, **1998.** [accessed 9/15/ 2006]. Available from http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ SpecialProj/NLA/EALRGA/ newsletters98/981102.macdougall.html.

Triveni Kuchi
Social Sciences/Instructional Services Librarian, Rutgers University Libraries

. . . Forthcoming Events

http://web.inflibnet.ac.in/planner2006/
brochure.pdf.

♠ **International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries**: The 9th ICADL (ICADL2006) will be held in Kyoto, Japan from **November 27-30, 2006**. Please see http://www.icadl2006.org/.

December 2006
♠ **International Conference on**

Digital Information Management, **Dec 6-8, 2006**, Christ College, Bangalore, India. Please see: http://www.icdim.org.

♠ **International Conference on Digital Libraries**, **Dec 5-8, 2006**, TERI, New Delhi, India. Theme: **Digital Libraries: Information Management for Global Access**. Please see: http://static.teriin.org/events/icdl/

January 2007
♠ **Open Repositories 2007**: to be held **January 23-26, 2007** in San Antonio, Texas. Please visit http://openrepositories.org/.

February 2007
♠ **International Conference on Semantic Web and Digital Libraries**, **Feb 21-23, 2007**, DRTC, ISI, Bangalore, India. Please see: http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/icsd/.

Volunteer to serve on an AAMES Committee!
AAMES is now seeking volunteers for committee assignments.
Please fill out the volunteer form at:
http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aamescommittee.htm.
For a description of committees see:
http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aamescommittees.htm.