AAMES Newsletter

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Editorial: Changes to ACRL Section Rules

As many of you may know, ACRL has enacted changes to the rules governing section status. In an effort to streamline processes and to cut costs, ACRL has set a minimum section enrollment of 400 members. If a current section of ACRL falls under 400 members for three straight years, that section will lose its status. Sections that lose their status can disband, merge with another section, or exist as a discussion group or an interest group.

The current ACRL sections at risk of losing status are the African American Studies Section, the Slavic and East European Section, the Women and Gender Studies Section, and our own AAMES. ACRL does not want to simply pull the plug on these sections and so is working with section leaders to develop plans to increase membership or to transition to some other status. While the rules changes are effective immediately, current sections would still have three years of sub-400 membership to go before action would be taken.

AAMES regularly sees membership levels below 400 members and one of our paths forward would be to more aggressively seek new members. It was suggested at the midwinter meeting of the Executive Committee that we could pursue current library school students, offering a mentoring program that would help new librarians navigate professional issues and build up a network of colleagues while helping the section build and maintain our membership.

Of course, we could also pursue a merger with another section, perhaps creating a larger "Area Studies" section with AFAS, SEES, and WESS, that would have committees or discussion groups within the section devoted to regional issues. From a financial standpoint, such a merged section would have more resources at its disposal, but there is the danger that smaller groups within the section would not always have their interests met.
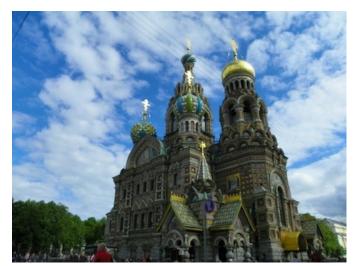
While there are many options for moving forward, I hope that we can all agree that simply sitting by and letting AAMES dissolve is NOT an option we wish to pursue. I hope that AAMES members will pitch in to work toward a beneficial outcome.

If you have questions or comments about this issue, post them to AAMES-L (aames-l@ala.org).

International Trip Report: Visiting Libraries in St. Petersburg, Russia!

Raymond Pun is Reference and Research Librarian in The New York Public Library: Stephen A. Schwarzman Building

Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood

For 12 dates in May 2012, I had the opportunity to explore the culture, libraries and history of St. Petersburg through the University of Maryland's Library Science Study Abroad Program called "Libraries and Cultural Heritage Institutions of St. Petersburg, Russia." This trip allowed us to observe how libraries, museums and archives serve their patrons and researchers. The program was coordinated by three faculty members and had about 10 participants.

Throughout the city, we visited over 15 different types of libraries in our brief stay: national, public, academic, school libraries and special libraries including a business center and the library in the Hermitage Museum. It was a real treat to see these libraries and learn how they have changed over time in Russia. More importantly, we interacted with library science students and faculty in the St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts where we had seminars discussing social media, issues of censorship, books during the Soviet period, and reading cultures of today's youth.

Inside one of Russia's National Libraries

St. Petersburg! (continued from p. 2)

It was an opportunity to learn from our colleagues and share ideas and values in which people rarely get to do. None of the students or faculty spoke English well, however, our faculty coordinators are fluent in Russian and managed to translate and guide us to the right path. The food was very interesting and we really had the chance to see local and former imperial cultures by exploring the street markets, the churches, palaces of Catherine's and Peterhof, and the city life.

At 300, St. Petersburg reflected a lot of "Western" traits; from the architectural designs of the buildings to the goods in various retail stores. It was also the "White Night" season, which meant that the city never became dark at all for three weeks. At night, the sky remained bright and it was very difficult to get any sleep. We also visited Alexander Pushkin's archives in a special library; his papers, memoirs and writings were kept there. Rarely do they offer visits to outsiders to view Pushkin's papers. (Alexander Puskin is known as Russia's greatest poet from the 19th century).

The Hermitage Museum

Perhaps what were interesting about the trip were the special collections in academic libraries. Many of the libraries had collections from Asia, particularly Japan, China and Korea. These collections contained manuscripts, pamphlets and papers from Russian sinologists and Japanologists who specialized in academic and diplomatic affairs in Asia, going as far as the 17th century. The collections are unique and for anyone interested in studying the history of East Asian Studies in Russia.

Overall, the trip was amazing experience and I highly recommend people to visit St. Petersburg and explore the cultures and libraries in the city.

New to AAMES?

Make sure that you're subscribed to the AAMES listserv. If you are not already subscribed, you can do so by sending SUBSCRIBE AAMES-L [your name] in a message to sympa@ala.org (leave the subject line blank).

Visit AAMES online at: http://aamesacrl.wordpress.com

World Beat

Welcome to the spring 2013 edition of World Beat. This semester's column is a review of Oxford Bibliographies Online (OBO), a subscription database that offers a wealth of content especially useful for area studies librarians and the faculty and students they serve. OBO's structure is modular in nature, and each module contains a set of bibliographies edited by scholars from relevant disciplines. Depending on their needs, libraries can choose to subscribe to the entire universe of OBO editorial content or pay for a selection of modules (http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/faq).

OBO contains several modules directly relevant to AAMES members, including African Studies, Islamic Studies, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jewish Studies, with a Chinese Studies module forthcoming later in April (http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/). Other modules such as International Relations, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, and Political Science may also prove broadly useful to area studies librarians (http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/).

Recommended resources vary depending on the subject matter of each bibliography; some of them are only accessible via subscription databases or as physical library holdings, while others are freely accessible to the public. For example, the bibliography entitled "Political Science and the Study of Africa" has an entire section devoted to datasets that researchers can download into programs like Excel and SPSS, several of which are available online. By contrast, other bibliographies such as "Orientalism and Islam" may reference rare primary sources available both in print and through digital repositories such as HathiTrust (http://www.hathitrust.org/).

The interface is user-friendly, if somewhat text-heavy, and it allows for full-text searching across bibliographies as well as hierarchical browsing. Additionally, within bibliographies, there is a left navigational bar that allows users to skip to particular sections rather than scroll the entire length of the article. This feature is particularly useful for longer bibliographies on topics with a long history of scholarship such as the Qur'an.

The only real downside, and this is not necessarily the fault of the editors, is that there is occasionally some variance between the titles given for works by OBO and their library catalog equivalents, particularly for older works, translated works, and republished works. This can make it somewhat difficult for to assess collection holdings, so librarians may have to use tools such as the Library of Congress's Linked Data Service (http://id.loc.gov/) to check OBO information against name and title authority records. Overall, however, these discrepancies are easy to deal with, and this author recommends OBO for students and faculty at all levels at both teaching and research institutions.

Blake Robinson is a doctoral student at Florida State University and works in the Circulation department at the University of Central Florida. He holds a Master of Arts in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Sydney, Australia, where he completed his thesis on the historiography of Islamic Spain.

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Management	Medieval Studies	Military History	Music	
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Retrospective Exhibition Review: 1001 Inventions

Raymond Pun is Reference and Research Librarian in The New York Public Library: Stephen A. Schwarzman Building

This review is about the *1001 Inventions* exhibition in the New York Hall of Science. The goal of the exhibition is to promote "awareness of scientific and cultural achievements from the 'Golden Age' of Muslim Civilization (7th - 13th centuries) and how those contributions helped build the foundations of our modern world" (http://www.nysci.org/learn/news/article/1922421). This traveling exhibition has already been showcased in Istanbul and London and was settled in the New York Hall of Science from December 4th 2010 until April 1st 2011. The New York Hall of Science is a museum that displays exhibits concerning the physical and natural sciences.

1001 Inventions illuminates the various achievements of Muslim and Jewish men and women during the medieval Islamic world when Europe was "creatively trapped" in the dark ages according to the exhibition. From surgical tools to the game of chess, the exhibit draws on these foundations and ideas from the Golden period to explain how modern inventions came to be. By referencing to these devices and their usages, *1001* demonstrates the intellectual vitality of the Golden Age. To attract relevancy and attention, *1001 Inventions* traces the roots of modern technology in the scientific developments of the medieval Islamic world, thereby demonstrating the considerable impact of the Golden Age on the world we live in today.

The exhibition is designed for both children and adults who are interested in knowing more about the Middle East and its often misunderstood history. As America's engagement with this volatile region continues to echo across the media, the exhibition seeks to engage the public in a less commonly discussed aspect of the Muslim past. 1001 reveals a rich history that has been largely neglected in US public discourse, yet which was enormously influential on the development of the modern world.

Academic Libraries & Cloud Computing

Cloud computing is an emerging area in the profession of Library and Information Science but India took the lead to host the Second International Conference on Academic Libraries with the theme "Academic Library Services Through Cloud Computing: Moving Libraries to the Web." This conference was held on the beautiful campus of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIP) in New Delhi from February 12-15, 2013, and attracted academic librarians from many countries including Australia, England, France, India, Mauritius, Switzerland, and the United States.

Marshall Breeding an authority on cloud computing and a well-known author/speaker was the plenary speaker on the opening day and he spoke on the "Cloud Based Technologies Enable Large Scale Collaboration for Academic Libraries." During his talk he mentioned many new and important developments in the field of library automation and the need to keep-up with the developments for the benefit of all users because cloud computing libraries will be relieved from maintaining hardware and software. It will also lead to collaboration among libraries. In his view "Globally shared data and metadata models have the potential to achieve new levels of operational efficiencies." He added that the predictions are that within five years, all library collections, systems, and services will be driven into the cloud.

Dr. Arthur Smith of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) during his plenary talk spoke on the cross linking of data on "OCLC World Share Platforms: Features and Technologies." He is of the view that users and librarians are more interested in finding the information and answers to their questions regardless of the source from where they get the information. According to him OCLC's WorldCat is the best solution to all their questions because it "is browser based catalog module embedded with numerous cross-linking features of different functionalities." He added that "through OCLC WorldCat platform libraries data is moved to web, i.e., 'moving libraries to web of data'." He said that "it's an imperative for the libraries to move from cataloguing to cata-linking in this cloud computing environment."

Professor Heather Lea Moulaison of the University of Missouri Library School spoke on "Linked Data in the Cloud" and said "it is an exciting time in librarianship, as academic libraries move to the cloud and re-envision how their data should be stored and made accessible." But she advised librarians to get proper training and plan well before introducing cloud computing in their libraries.

Mr. Toshiro Aoyama, Chief Librarian, University of Mauritius told the delegates that in Mauritius, "libraries are using cloud computing program and technology advancement and the users like it."

Ravindra N. Sharma in his keynote address "Academic Libraries and Technology in the Twenty-First Century" discussed why a majority of developing nations are behind in introducing technology in their academic libraries. He mentioned that poverty, hunger, illiteracy, lack of planning, leadership, wars in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, and expensive computers and software are the main reasons. The poor nations have the least access to information, and information poverty is closely linked to economic poverty. He suggested that rich nations of the world and the United Nations should make a commitment to work together to remove all barriers in the new global environment of cooperation, development and resource sharing to help academic libraries of developing nations succeed and invest wisely in introducing technology including cloud computing for the benefit of information seekers.

R. N. Sharma, Ph.D. is Dean of Library at Monmouth University, New Jersey. He was Chair of the International Relations Committee of the Association of College Research Libraries (ACRL) and Chair of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) Section of the ACRL.

Cloud Computing (continued from p. 6)

Dr. Nicholas Fleury of Switzerland International Organization for Standardization informed the delegates that to date 19,500 standards have been developed on different aspects in the world but no standards have been developed yet on cloud computing.

Professor Alan Hopkinson of Middlesex University, London, England spoke on the topic of "What We Need to Know about Cloud Computing in Academic Libraries." He mentioned that libraries in developing nations are moving to cloud in patches and cautioned the libraries by saying "Do not throw yourself into the cloud until the fog clears."

Dr. Paul Pauline of France spoke on "Why Should You Choose Cloud Koha to Manage Your Library?" He said that Koha is an Integrated Library System (ILS) that has all features needed by a library to manage printed collections and it is easy to integrate with other web applications, like CMS (Drupal and Joomla). He added Koha does not require Java and any other dedicated software and can be operated with any operating system like Microsoft's Windows, Apple's Mac OS-X, and the Free Software Foundation's GNU/Linux as well as on your smartphone or tablet and it is very easy to upgrade. Koha was cloud compatible software before cloud existed.

Edward Corrado of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton, New York, USA told the delegates that most of the librarians in the United States have moved to cloud in one way or other. He said "Some of the libraries have got discovery service, e-mail service on cloud and are further moving ahead step-by-step sharing resources among libraries."

The highlight of the conference was an excellent plenary talk by Dr. N. Vijayaditya, retired Director General of the National Informatics Center, and a fellow of National Academy of Sciences, India. His topic was "Cloud Computing Indian Initiatives." He discussed information technology and challenges and said that cloud computing was introduced in 1996 with the introduction of Hotmail, Amazon Web Service in 2006, Gmail, and Microsoft Azure in 2007. He explained various models and services of cloud computing and discussed how technology has changed the landscape of Information Technology. It has resulted in "more access, faster access with economical resources." He mentioned that according to Forbes survey "Cloud computing market will reach $241 billion by 2020 and cloud based services will grow from $12.1 billion to $35.6 billion in 2015." India is adopting fast to the cloud computing but he warned that the privacy, security, legal jurisdiction and other concerns of cloud computing must be addressed for academic and other types of libraries. Dr. Vijayaditya's forceful speech made a deep impact on the packed audience and they gave him a loud and long applause.

Over one hundred librarians, library educators, IT professionals, and other prominent leaders from all over the world presented papers and talks in various sessions in this well organized conference. It included a pre-conference tutorial on cloud computing, poster session, panel discussions, presentation of papers, two excellent cultural programs of Indian dances, and sitar recital. Many aspects of cloud computing were discussed by various presenters including Cloud Computing Solutions for Moving Library Service to the Web, Cloud Computing Approaches to Globalizing Academic Libraries, Factors Influencing Cloud Computing Solutions, and Education, Training, and Research on Cloud Computing in Library Sector. The conference emphasized the new roles academic librarians must play in the changing environment of technology and adopt new management style to prepare academic libraries for the next generation of students, faculty, scholars, and other users in the twenty-first century.

Throughout the exhibition, there are interactive educational games. These games include a math trivia (based on the invention of algebra by Al-Khwarizmi, the 9th century Persian mathematician who invented Algebra.), language games (matching words to their Muslim language roots of modern English words such as Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu and Hindustani languages), and a finding-the-objects game (which involves identifying household items such as soap, coffee beans, sofa, that were conceived during the Golden Age). There is also a short video called "1001 Inventions and the Library of Secrets" that follows these accomplishments. This fifteen minute movie describes the quirks and characters of various medieval scientists and inventors while also emphasizing the impact of the Golden Age on the present.

1001 also exhibits many rich photographic and digital images of medieval manuscripts. These manuscripts, which are held at institutions including the University of Cam-

bridge, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Syrian National Archives, illuminate inventions of the Golden Age, many of which formed the genesis of modern scientific developments.

Some of the more memorable exhibits include a section focusing on higher education. In 880 AD, Fatima Al-Fihri of Tunisia, a wealthy widow, founded and endowed the Qarawiyyin madrasa in Fes, Morocco. Initially it was a mosque but grew into a university. This was the world's first modern university and still exists today as one of the leading schools of Islamic studies in the Muslim World. The establishment of this university spearheaded other universities to incorporate the study of Islamic theology in higher education.

During the Golden Age, Muslim inventors and scholars achieved various successes in the fields of science: From the 10th century, Ibn al-Haytham's scientific work on optometry, "Book of Optics," served as a foundation to the development of the modern camera. Al-Haytham's theory explained how the connection between the optic nerve and the brain creates images for the eye to see. The scientific section also presents an historical overview and concept of the hospital. Founded in 872 in Cairo, the first medical center, Ahmad ibn Tulun Hospital offered free medical services for those who are sick. In the operation room, surgical tools such as the syringe, forceps, surgical hook and needle, bone saw and the scalpel were invented by 10th century surgeon Al-Zahwari; many of his inventions are still used today.

1001 offers a glimpse of a glorious period in Arab, Persian, and Turkish history by Muslim and Jewish scholars and inventors. More importantly, in an age of "Islamophobia" when Muslim civilization is frequently dismissed, 1001 reminds us that our intellectual tradition is in many ways a shared heritage.

For a list of the medieval manuscripts used in the exhibition, visit http://www.1001inventions.com/1001inventions/academic-sources/manuscripts

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Ukiyo-e Search

Kevin McDowell is Japanese Studies Librarian at the University of Oregon.

With a collection of over 200,000 images, the Ukiyo-e Search web site provides comprehensive coverage of images from the major eras of Ukiyo-e woodblock printing history starting from the mid-1700s and ranging up to the contemporary period making it a valuable resource for both scholars and general users. Sources of the images include major museums, academic institutions, libraries, databases, galleries and dealers.

The database includes several interesting search features including keyword searching in English and Japanese, a "find image" search function that allows users to search the database by uploading an image or pasting a URL and also a "compare prints" options by which it is possible to compare different iterations of the same print. One rather minor thing to note is that the number of returns varies depending on whether a search is conducted in English or Japanese so that a simple search for "Hokusai" in English resulted in 5,273 returns while a search in Japanese for Hokusai (北斎）resulted in 5,583 returns.

The periodization scheme of this database generally follows the conventional thinking on the development of Ukiyo-e printing that delimits periods by technological advances, exceptional artists, social and cultural trends of the Edo period (1600-1868) and the massive political shift that came with the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1868.

Edo period Ukiyo-e is divided into an "Early Ukiyo-e (Early mid-1700s)" period, followed by a phase of technological advancement and the advent of printing in multiple colors (1740s-1780s) that then culminated in a "Golden Age of Ukiyo-e (1780-1804)" that then led to a stage of mass consumption and popularization (1840-1868). This progression was shaped by the growth of a prosperous, cultured populace in Edo and other cities that saw its own diversions and imaginings in Ukiyo-e art.

The Meiji Restoration in 1868 marked a significant break with the social and political parameters that had held for over 200 years during the Edo (or Tokugawa) period. Western imports flooded into Japan, making a significant impact on nearly every aspect of Japanese life. Woodblock printing was no exception to this as new paint pigments were introduced, images of Westerners began to
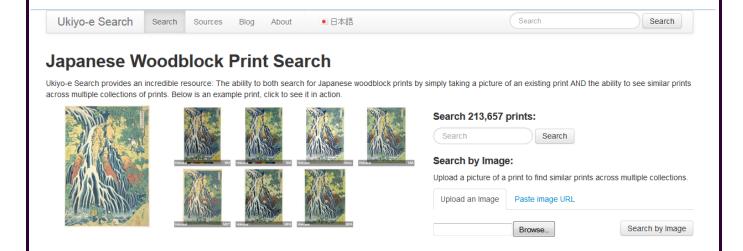
Ukiyo-e Search (continued from p. 9)

appear in prints and, gradually, aspects of Western art techniques were incorporated into Ukiyo-e production. Accordingly, the Ukiyo-e Search site denotes hese shifting trends by labeling late 19th and 20th century categories of Ukiyo-e styles as follows: "Meiji Period (1868-1912);" "Shin Hanga and Sosaku Hanga Movements (1915-1940);" and "Modern and Contemporary (1950s to Now)."

For researchers with a good grasp of Japanese history and art the chronological layout of the site will be clearly understood. Because of the lack of textual explanations of the major artistic and political developments and transitions from the Edo period to contemporary Japan, however, users who come to this this site without a solid understanding of Japanese history and culture might be somewhat perplexed as to the reasoning behind the organizational structure of the site. This is a minor quibble, but in that regard, either brief summaries to each chronological division or a list or suggested readings might be of use in ameliorating the problem.

Overall, the Ukiyo-e Search database is a valuable resource for research on Japanese woodblock images with powerful search functions and the promise of further additions to the collection of images as well as improved functionality.

http://ukiyo-e.org/

Editor: John Russell, Scholarly Communications Librarian, University of Oregon Libraries 141 Knight Library, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1299 johnruss@uoregon.edu