

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

One Dipper Out of Thousands:

The Web Portal in the “Think Globally, Act Globally” Grant Project

CEAL Annual Conference
Committee on Chinese Materials

Chicago, 03.26.2009
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www.uiuc.edu

What is T.G.A.G.?

- Almost an \$1M grant project!
- with half of it (\$500,000) funded by Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- \$180,000 contribution of personnel from University of Illinois Library
- Additional funding from Ministry of Culture of China
- Pilot project in a two year period from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2010
- A partnership program with Chinese American Librarians Association and Library Society of China for exchanges and sharing under the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program



Components of the Grant

A plan targeting different audiences in the U.S. and China:

- Three (3) Programs in the U.S. for Chinese library directors, educators, & IT managers
- Six (6) continuing education programs in China
- A Chinese resources web portal
- A workshop for U.S. librarians in June 2010



Challenges

- “The 21st Century is defined by a need to enhance access to information resources and services from around the world - resources and services to which access may be limited by language barriers and by the lack of robust professional networks of information professionals across national borders. ”



Opportunities

- To meet the needs of U.S. librarians and their users in seeking China related information in an increasingly international, interdisciplinary information environment.
- To overcome the language and cultural boundaries.



Opportunities-cont.

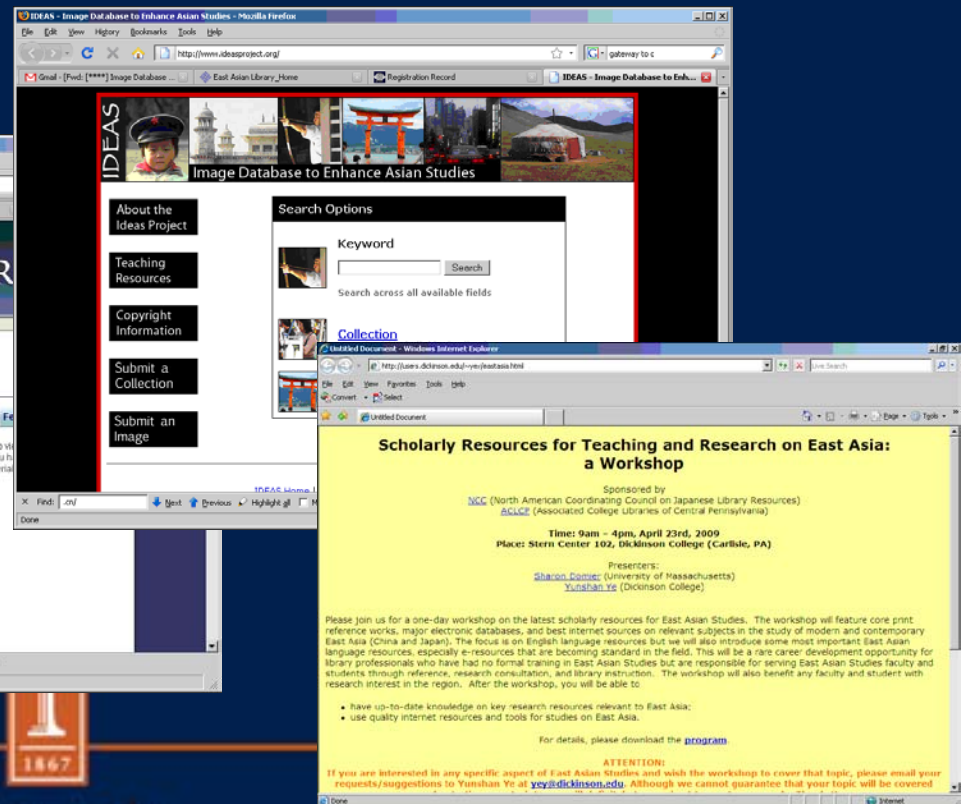
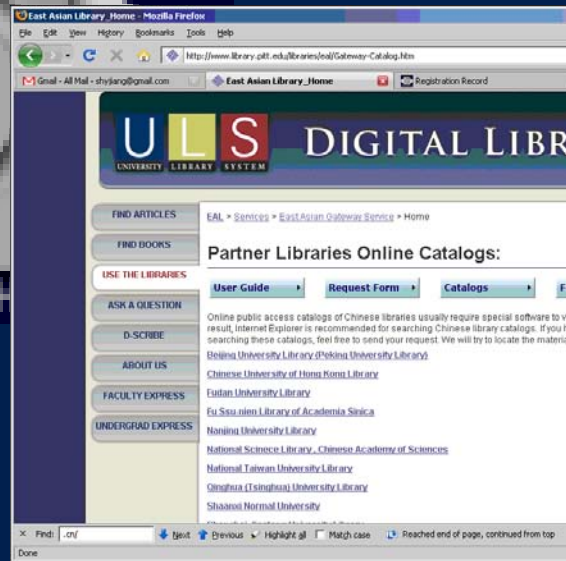
- In recognizing the challenges and opportunities we are facing as Chinese studies librarians, the grant project made sure to address the needs of U.S. librarians and their users in seeking China related information in an increasingly international, interdisciplinary information environment. We are facing the language and cultural challenges, but if we can cross these boundaries, we may prevail. Our project is just one approach out of many.



Many Efforts and No Single Answer

Many Efforts and No Single Answer in an evolving process of providing ultimate access to information

OPEN ARCH



Find Our Dipper

- There are so many possibilities, so much to do, and so many ways to approach
- Knowing our limits but also knowing that we can make a difference, we just need to find our own dipper
- Know what we want and what we can, the next is to focus on something that is achievable for our project, after all this is only a pilot.



Chinese Resources Web Portal– a Pilot

Working with Chinese partners and we have chosen two locations, and two type of resources

- Two locations:
 - Changchun: Northeast Normal University Library, Changchun Library
 - Suzhou: Suzhou Library, Suzhou University Library
- Two tasks:
 - Gov. information
 - Historical image databases



Make a Splash

To maximize our efforts

- A Workshop for the portal and other resources and exchange with the Chinese IT group (a point all the elements of the project connect.
- Offer support up to 20 U.S. librarians to attend
- U.S. librarians from public libraries serving communities with a large Chinese population
- Those from small sized libraries with limited access to and expertise of Chinese studies and China information.



First of its Kind

- First such a project that is funded by both U.S. and Chinese government.
- One concrete step of the bigger collaboration between Institute of Museum and Library Services and Ministry of Culture of China.



Mary Chute and Li Dongwen sign an agreement establishing the *Partnership for Cultural Exchange*.



Professor Paula Kaufman and Dr. Zhan Furui sign an agreement establishing a cooperative and cultural exchange between American and Chinese librarians. *Click image for a larger view.*
Photos: tony brown/imijphoto.com.



- The U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China signed an agreement establishing the *Partnership for Cultural Exchange* between museum, library, archive, and information services
- The agreement calls for sharing best practices in library and museum services, including enhancement of public service and access to information in libraries, promotion of youth engagement, education in museums, and applications of new technologies in libraries and museums to engage audiences and increase the availability of information online.



One Dipper out of Thousands

- It is always worth of trying, one dipper at a time
- Have a sense of humor when dealing with the obstacles and difficulties along the way
- Stick with the plan but be prepared for unexpected scenarios
- Even a small dipper can make a difference
- Every dipper counts in this efforts of sharing and enhancing access to the sea of information.



Project Website:
www.library.illinois.edu/China/

Thank You!

