Cultural Diversity in LIS Research:
National and International Communities as Context

Jointly sponsored by:
Center for the Study of Libraries, Information, & Society, Drexel University &
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WORKING ACROSS BORDERS: ETHICAL ISSUES IN HERITAGE AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

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SISLT, The iSchool at Missouri
ASIST 2015
St. Louis, MO
Regional, national, and global information policy

- Geopolitical and cultural boundaries
- Postcolonial nations, power, and heritage
  - Presentation should be driven by owners (Whose struggle?)
  - Tools of digitization: corporate interests, power, and history of exploitation
- Lawyers and bureaucracy
- UNESCO: thinking globally about development, culture, and ownership of culture
- What is a developing nation, anyway? Who defines that?
- Who should fund projects, what does funding mean for power?
Cultural Diversity in LIS Research:
National and International Communities as Context for the Study of Ethics, Policy, and Education

Deborah Turner
Drexel University

ASIS&T • St. Louis • 2015
First impressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literate culture</td>
<td>Oral culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource rich</td>
<td>Resource poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of access to information</td>
<td>Challenging access to information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Method

• Grounded theory
• Observation
Setting

• Kampala, the capital city of Uganda (~Oregon)
• population
  – average age: 15
  – Average # children/woman: 6.3
• Compromised access to housing, clean water, plumbing, transportation

Deborah Turner  •  Drexel University  •  ASIS&T 2015  •  7 of 8
Setting (continued)

- access to information
  - High cell (not smart) phone use
  - Low literacy
    - # of languages spoken: 56
    - Accents matter
    - Reliance on visual information
    - Signage / marketing / hand prepared posters
  - National, l’national, public, community libraries
  - “We’re not a reading culture” -- rich oral culture
Setting (continued)

• Compromised access to health care
• Rich resource in volunteers & COBRAs (medical students ‘residencies’)
• Health camps
  – opening lesson
  – medical record ‘blue books’
Outcomes

• **RQ** → How can I help patients partner with their health care providers?

• Interventions
  1. a prescription “menu,” failed miserably respectfully
  2. a “digital library,” ongoing
  3. health care provider training, ongoing

• Interdisciplinary research takes time
Intervention #4: CHOICES Uganda

• Team: Doctors, librarians, midwives, nurses, public health researchers... and playwrights
• Task: identify themes, dyads, health lessons
• Seeking: identify a test site; secure funding
• Method: pre & post test; monitor health stats
Ongoing LIS Research Initiatives in SYSU

Bella Jing Zhang  Research Institute of Library & Information Science
Catherine Qiong Tang  School of Information Management (iSchool)
Eva Yi Zhou  Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China
Outline

• About the RILIS, SYSU (Bella)
• Library Rights Studies and Publicities (Bella)
• Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation* (Catherine)
• Preservation and Conservation Education and Training (Eva)
About the RILIS, SYSU

Bella Jing Zhang
About the RILIS, SYSU

South, Guangzhou

North, Guangzhou

Zhuhai

East, Guangzhou

Shenzhen

【http://www.sysu.edu.cn/】
About the RILIS, SYSU

【http://202.116.65.84/research/】
About the RILIS, SYSU

• Public culture services system & Librarianship
• Preservation and conservation & Cultural heritage inheritance
• Historical documents collation & Digital humanities
### About the RILIS, SYSU

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Research Initiatives</th>
<th>Impact on Society</th>
<th>Starting Time</th>
<th>Funded Projects</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Library Rights Studies &amp; Publicities</td>
<td>information access</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>7, 475,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drafting the <em>Guangzhou Public Libraries Regulation</em></td>
<td>policy development</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3, 280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation &amp; Conservation Education &amp; Training</td>
<td>cultural heritage inheritance</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6, 2,140,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table I: Three research initiatives with impact on society in RILIS, SYSU
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

Bella Jing Zhang
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

• 图书馆权利（Library Rights）

• ALA's *Library Bill of Rights* and Interpretations
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

Miss Mary Elizabeth Wood (1861-1931)

Boone Library, 1910

Boone Library School, 1920
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

- skip of enlightenment baptism of the society
- lack of consciousness of modernity of the occupational group
- difficulties in understanding, accepting, and following modern professional ideas and principles
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

A discussion on the Hangzhou Library case of homeless people accessing public libraries
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

- Improvement of the people’s consciousness of civil right
- National policies’ inclusion of the people’s rights of accessing public culture services
- Perfect timing for the Library Rights Studies & Publicities
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

- The RILIS’s Studies on Library Rights

future librarians education

BOOK: *Rights & Professional Ethics of Library*

BOOK: *A Study of Library Rights*

Library rights

extending

rights of accessing public culture & information services
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

• The RILIS’s Publicities of Library Rights
  ✓ Seminar on the Library Rights (2005)
Library Rights Studies and Publicities

Guangzhou Library
【http://www.gzlib.gov.cn/】
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Regulation*

Catherine Qiong Tang
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*

Library legislation

Universal, equal, open, and convenient access

Public library services
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*

- China has no national library legislation but does have some regional laws mandating the provision of public library services.
  - *Regulations of Hubei Province Public Library* (2001)
  - *Regulations of Sichuan Province Public Library* (2013)
• The latest one, the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation* passed in 2015, was drafted by and is promoted by the RILIS.
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*

**Legislative History**

- **2006**
  - Listed as the key projects of Guangzhou Philosophical and Social sciences Eleventh Five-year Development Plan
  - RILIS was responsible for proposing a draft regulations

- **2007**
  - Listed into preparatory projects of Guangzhou Municipality People's Congress

- **2008**
  - turned to the stage of deeper investigation and revision, but many disappointing setbacks and failures followed during the next three years.

- **2012-2015**
  - Was restarted, got passed finally and be put into effect on May 1, 2015
Drafting the Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation

Title 1: General
Title 2: Public Libraries Construction
Title 3: Public Libraries Management
Title 4: Public Libraries Services
Title 5: Legal liability
Title 6: supplementary provisions
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*

• Constructing Guangzhou into “the City of Library”.

• Some objectives proposed by the *Legislation*, such as:
  - One public library per 80,000 person.
  - Three collections per person.
  - The gross area of public libraries, the total number of paper resources and per capita index of the annually new increased paper resources.
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*

RILIS’s role in the *Regulation’s implementation*

**Promotion**
- Seminar
- Training
- Spread the *Regulation* through various media

**Investigation**
Try to find out how to accelerate the development of community libraries.
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*
Drafting the *Guangzhou Public Libraries Legislation*

The *Legislation: Hallmark*

*Create meaningful impact on the lives of everyday citizens*
Preservation and Conservation

Education and Training

Eva Yi Zhou
Preservation and Conservation in Cultural Context

» libraries and library services as “essential components” for increasing information access

» Memories and cultures should last a lifetime and be passed on to future generations.

» No preservation, no access, and no inheritance
Preservation and Conservation in Cultural Context

» Preservation and conservation refer to the set of activities that assure long-term access to the physical and intellectual contents of the collections in libraries, archives and other cultural institutions.
• Shocking Numbers

» Our collections are at risk, but professionals are shortages.

- 4 conservators
- 210,000 items needed repair treatment

- 1 conservator
- 400,000 rare books
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

• P & C Education and Training in China
  » Pay more attention to remedial measures than preventive measures in China.
• the RILIS of SYSU
  » promote the new idea, new methods and procedures of the international preservation profession
  » become one of the initial institutions to train high-level talents for Chinese preservation profession
• Updating Education and Training

(1) *Preservation & Conservation* Offered to Juniors

» Investigate and analyze the similar courses provided by the North American Universities

» Prepare a new textbook *Preservation and Conservation of Library and Archival Materials*
Syllabus of Preservation & Conservation

- Environment control
- Collection care
- Staff and user education
- Preservation needs
- Emergency / Disaster Preparedness

# Reformatting & Replacement#

- Paper Conservation I: Theories
  - Paper Conservation II: Techniques

- Preservation of Digital Information

- BASIC THEORY
  - Introduction
  - Structure & deterioration of materials
  - Structure & deterioration of medium

- PAPER

- CONSERVATION
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

• Updating Education and Training
  (1) *Preservation & Conservation* Offered to Juniors
    » Be funded by Teaching Material Compiling Projects of SYSU
    » The first bilingual textbook of preservation and conservation in China
    » Be used for professional education in universities and also professional training librarians and archivists
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

- Updating Education and Training
  
  (1) *Preservation & Conservation* Offered to Juniors

  » Higher Education Teaching Reformation Projects of Guangdong Province

  » Demonstrated Bilingual Course of SYSU

  » Teaching Material Compiling Projects of SYSU

  » Excellent teaching achievement prize of SYSU.
• Updating Education and Training

(2) MLIS in P&C

» From the year of 2015

» National Preservation and Conservation Center for Ancient Books (NPCCAB)

» Develop cooperative program of MLIS specialized on Preservation & Conservation.
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

• Updating Education and Training

(2) MLIS in P&C

» Candidates

librarians and archivists engaged in related preservation, conservation, categorization and appraisal of special collection, who should hold bachelor’s degree.
• Updating Education and Training

(2) MLIS in P&C

» Training Style

✓ Part time
✓ Three years
✓ Dual tutorial system: one is the professor from SYSU, and the other one is the expert with practice experience of preservation and conservation
✓ Theoretical study, internship (not less than 6 months) and dissertation
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

• Updating Education and Training

(3) Continue Education & Training

» Involve ourselves in the China Ancient Books Preservation Project

» Host a series of seminars

» Deliver lectures in workshops of Conservation and Treatment of Ancient Books by NPCCAB
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

• Our cooperative institutions
  » School of Information of the University of Texas at Austin
  » University of Hong Kong Libraries
  » Goethe-Institut Hong Kong
  » National Library of China
Preservation and Conservation Education and Training

• In the future...
  » Mass deacidification
  » Remote storage
  » Digital preservation & curation
Thank you!

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Eva Yi Zhou (zhouyi37@mail.sysu.edu.cn)
Discussion Questions

1) What role does cultural context play in your own information research and/or practice?

2) How does local, regional, national, or even global information policy affect your work?

3) How can we encourage our students, colleagues, and clients to adopt an informed personal philosophy of globalization?

4) How can we work to broaden ASIS&T’s international membership and reach?