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LAUC Research & Professional Development Committee
UCI Libraries
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January 10, 2011

Dear LAUC Research and Professional Development Committee:

Please consider my application for a LAUC presentation grant as described below.

A. Summary and current status of the research project/activity

Earlier in 2010, I conducted a research, along with Prof. Xiangjin Tan, the former Deputy Director of National Library of China, to examine technological influences on Chinese librarianship. Primary research findings are to be published in a book chapter in *Technology and Libraries in the 21st Century: an International Perspective*, edited by Dr. Ravi Sharma (Monmouth University). The book is currently in process of being published by Scarecrow Press.

In late July 2010, I received an invitation to serve as a panelist at the 2011 Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies. The panel entitled *the Social Context of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)* will establish a far-reaching discussion of ICT development in various Asian countries with different topics ranging from e-government practices in India to Internet café in China. The two-hour panel, led by Professor Jingfeng Xia at the School of Library and Information Science Indiana University, will have four panelists, including Ishan Joshi (Cornell University), Shefali Virkar (Oxford University), Liyun Wu (University of Michigan), and me (UC, Irvine).

My presentation, scheduled 20 minutes long, will be about the 21st Century ICT development in China with a focus on several ICT-enabled government initiatives aiming at helping the information-poor in remote rural areas (RRAs). This presentation is an extension of my earlier research work reported in the book chapter the aforementioned. While the book provides an overview of technological advancement and influence on Chinese librarianship in the past decades, this conference presentation will detail several government initiatives

launched in the 21st century to help in establishing technology rich information centers in RRAs to improve residents' access to government, cultural and educational resources. The presentation will also address the effectiveness of these government initiatives.

B. Description of and timetable for the activities to be funded by the Mini-Grant for Presentation Grant. If release time is required, please provide a sample signed memo or email from your department head or supervisor.

The activities to be funded by the Presentation Grant would include conference registration, local transportation and three nights of hotel rooms in Honolulu, Hawaii where the panel presentation will be given. While the Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) will be held from March 31 through April 3, 2011, the presentation is scheduled in the morning of April 2. Immediate prior to the AAS conference, I will attend the annual meeting of Council of East Asian Libraries (a sub-organization of AAS) which will be held in the same location from March 29 – 30, 2011.

Permission from my Department Head for time release and additional funding support is attached.

C. Summary of the budget.

- Conference registration: \$125
 - Estimated Airfare: \$700
 - Local ground transportation: \$80
 - Hotel room (6 nights): \$600
 - Estimated meal cost: \$300
- Total cost: \$1,805

Amount of funding requested: \$500

D. Indicate whether the applicant is a member of the bargaining unit represented by the UC-AFT or a non-represented librarian.

I am a member of the Bargaining Unit represented by the UC-AFT, at the Irvine campus.

E. Abstract of the paper or poster accepted for presentation.

Prior to the 21st century, it was very difficult for people who lived in remote rural areas in China to access information essential to their daily lives. As of 2000, there were 144 counties without a single library and 756 counties without collection development fund at all. In contrast to the ever rapid advancement of information and communication technologies in the coastal areas, the development of public information access in the remote rural areas was almost stagnant, and consequently created a much deeper information divide between the two

areas. The information divide worsened the by-then existing backward social and economic status in the rural areas.

In order to bridge the gap, Chinese governments launched several initiatives in the first several years of the 21st century, including *Satellites Broadcasting to Every Village*, *Books for Countryside*, and *Culture Information and Resource Sharing*. These government initiatives have proven to be effective as information access in the remote rural areas becomes richer and easier. As of early 2010, every village in China, regardless of geographic location and economic status, established at least one information station. The dream for the information poor to get access to essential and appropriate information at their fingertips has become true.

This panel presentation, entitled “ICT-enabled Chinese government initiatives targeting the information poor in the 21st century”, will highlight several representative governmental initiatives and programs that have been launched to help narrow the information divide. In addition to a discussion of background (e.g., historical, economic, and social reasons) and major accomplishments of these government initiatives and programs, the presentation will also raise some issues that might hinder the government efforts, such as information technology literacy and sustainability. It is hoped that the presentation along with a follow-up Q&A session will help in better understanding of the information-poor communities in China as well as the central and local governments’ outreach efforts to these communities in terms of improving their access to information needed.

F. Name and sponsoring organization (if applicable) of the conference

Association for Asian Studies/Council on East Asian Libraries, 2011 Annual Conference

G. Description(s) of any funds that have been requested from other sources

My Librarians Professional Development Fund (\$1,120) will be available to cover the airfare and three nights of hotel room. I am seeking additional funding support to cover the rest.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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