Message from AAMES Chair

Dear AAMES members:

AAMES has constituted its new Executive Committee, and new Chairs have been appointed in its various committees. It’s good to know that Chairs and committee members have started planning activities for the year 2008-2009. To achieve our goals and continue useful discussions, all members are urged to participate in AAMES Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 8.00am to 10.00am during the ALA Mid-Winter Conference at Denver, and also attend All Committees meeting from 10.30am to 12.00pm. We hope to see you all at the Midwinter Meeting next year.

I am pleased to report that AAMES has been invited by the Chair of ALCTS to co-sponsor a program of its Steering Committee to Oversee the Implementation of the Non-English Task Force Recommendations’ during the ALA Annual in June 2008. During last year, the ACRL/ALA membership has grown while AAMES membership has declined. I sincerely suggest you all for active involvement in AAMES and encourage your friends and colleagues to join the Section. In order to achieve AAMES objectives, we all have to work cooperatively as a team so that we may accomplish our goals to be an active section. Thanks are due to Dr. R. N. Sharma for his valuable suggestions and nominating new Chair/Vice-Chair for the year 2009-2010. We appreciate endeavor of Dr. Muhammad al-Faruque, former Chair, and other Executive Members for providing us excellent leadership in the Section.

AAMES Newsletter is becoming a popular medium of communication, and we seek your continued support and contributions for the forthcoming issues. Please continue sending your suggestions, ideas, news, brief write-ups relating to Asian, African and Middle Eastern activities to Dr. Deepa Banerjee, Editor (dbaner@u.washington.edu).

We look forward to your suggestions and comments for planning and organizing various AAMES activities.

Rajwant Singh Chilana
Chair, AAMES 2008-09

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Dispatches from Zambia: An interview with a Lusaka Librarian
Anne Garner speaks with Holly Morganelli

Since July of this year, Pratt Institute library science student Holly Morganelli has been stationed in Zambia as a consulting librarian at the Lubuto library at Fountain of Hope, a shelter for street kids. The library, which opened just over a year ago in Lusaka, contains over 4,000 volumes geared towards readers of all levels.

Morganelli is no stranger to Africa, having spent a semester in college in Zimbabwe. Here, however, she serves a unique role—recommending books and refereeing conversations on topics as diverse as the Cinderella story, missionaries and colonization, and the candidacy of Barack Obama. We chatted by instant message on the eve of a short trip to Cape Town.

AG: Who uses the Lubuto library at Fountain of Hope?
HM: The library was created to serve street children. That’s the primary goal. The kids who stay at the Fountain of Hope shelter use the library and most of them are street children. There are also street kids who aren’t ready to leave street life, who come to use the library and eat some food. Then they go back to the streets. One of the reasons the Fountain of Hope is a good site is that it’s in Kamwala, a short walk from the center of Lusaka, so kids from the street can easily walk there. Finally, kids who live in Kamwala also use the library.

The problem here is that books are very expensive. There are no public libraries, schools don’t have enough, and literacy is a problem. Lubuto gives people who would otherwise have almost no exposure to history and culture a chance to explore on their own.

AG: Are most of these kids in school?
HM: Some of the street kids

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It is a well known fact that Vasco da Gama discovered in 1498, an overseas route to India, and thus began an era of persistent efforts by Europeans to gain a foothold on the Indian sub-continent. This discovery eventually culminated in the European colonization of India. The colonial narratives and national discourse of the late nineteenth century in Portuguese periodicals published in India sheds light on various interactions between those who were colonized and the colonial masters. The Portuguese permanent colony of Goa was initiated in the early 16th century, and lasted until its liberation by Indian Union forces in 1961. The Portuguese, being the first European colonizers of India, were subsequently the last ones to leave. The lengthy tenure of the Portuguese is an experience in state-building on a foreign soil that mandates further investigation into the nature of their rule. One way to examine the nature of their rule is through the Portuguese periodical press of the time.

The importance of print media as a vehicle for the expression of popular culture and the associated rise of nationalism is a well studied fact. Often times the print culture reinforced the paradigms of national identity as it aided in the standardization of the language. The print culture within a colonial framework evolved differently in different colonies. The rise of the Portuguese press in India can be used to document not only the evolution of popular culture in Goa and other territories of Índia Portuguesa, but it can also be viewed as a valuable tool in understanding various mechanisms that lead to the rise of a complex national identity. In its initial phases, the development of the press in the colonial territories can be examined as a function of the initiatives that the mother country implemented as well as that of the interests of the local elite as permitted by the mother country, and Goa in this was not an exception.

It is generally assumed that the appearance of Portuguese language periodicals in Índia Portuguesa facilitated the enhanced circulation of ideas from the metropole and the rest of the Europe. However, one can also state that the set of historical conditions that existed in metropole, when transported and implemented in Goa blossomed into a different end-product than in the metropole.

The Portuguese language periodicals could have acted as information vectors that disseminated not only the information but various ideas to the colonial population. This dissemination of information at times complimented the goals of the Portuguese administrators of the ultramarine territories. Can one assume that in the long run this information dissemination could have led to the internalization of various “Portuguese" ideas by the literate populace of Goa?

Beginning in 1821, with the appearance of the first Portuguese newspaper in India Portuguesa, a new era in India Portuguesa’s history began. This era was characterized by hundreds of Portuguese language periodicals that circulated in the state. These Portuguese periodicals were published in various parts of India including Goa, Mumbai, Daman and Diu. These periodicals serve as an important testimony to colonization, because the contents of these periodicals narrate not only the story of acculturation and acceptance, but that of re-assertion of “native" identity and resistance to the colonial rule.

The periodicals of Índia Portuguesa are as diverse as the audience that they addressed, and subjects they covered, including literary, political, economic, and social, women’s issues in daily, weekly, monthly, quarterlies. These periodicals are often excluded by Western European historians as being outside their zone of expertise, and the Portuguese bibliographies that exist about these periodicals are not current and up to date. I consider these periodicals to be a treasure trove for North American researchers, because one can assume that the editorials of these periodicals will reflect various opinions about the Portuguese State building experience in India, especially during the Salazar period, where Estado da India had only one party system under the semi-fascist “União Nacional”. The editorials perhaps may not be radical given the state of censorship in which Estado da India existed in 1950s, but there is a large cultural data that needs further analysis to form a complete picture about the nature of Portuguese colonies in South Asia.

It has been more than 24 years since, Schoenberg, Kakodekar, and Azevedo published in 1982, “Bibliography of Goa and the Portuguese in India”. The Schoenberg bibliography deals with periodicals in a separate section, and does not contain all of the Portuguese periodicals that were published in India Portuguesa. For example, before this bibliography, we find a list of Portuguese Periodicals in Brito de Aranhas work titled, “Subsidios para a historia do jornalismo nas provincias ultramarinas portuguesas, pelo socio Brito Aranha” that was published in 1885. Jaime Rangel of Típografia Rangel, Bastora at Goa in 1960’s

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A Festschrift Volume on Dr. R. N. Sharma former AAMES Chair, Released

In 2005, the Association of College & Research Libraries recognized him with the ‘Academic/Research Librarian Award’ for his outstanding national and international contributions to academic and research librarianship and library development. The award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, carries $5,000 cash and a plaque. It was a great honour for the Asian American librarians in North America that for the first time in the history of ACRL/ALA the award was given to an Asian professional. As a tribute to this dedicated professional, his friends, colleagues and well wishers, around the globe have brought out a felicitation volume in his honour on the topic: "Challenges for South Asian Resources and Information Services". Forty Seven leading professionals and teachers of library and information science from various countries contributed individually and jointly for this volume. A total of 35 research papers were received from United States, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan on different aspects of South Asian librarianship.


This volume has been edited by Dr. Rajwant Singh Chilana, presently Chair of the AAMES, and many AAMES members including Dr. Deepa Banerjee, Binh P. Le, and Dr. Liladhar Pendse, contributed research papers on various aspects of South Asian Librarianship.

Editor’s Note

It gives me great pleasure to put together this issue of AAMES newsletter (the first one that I have edited) as a new Chair and the Editor of the AAMES Publications Committee. This issue brings to you three very interesting articles. Dispatches from Zambia: an interview with a Lusaka librarian gives us a glimpse of how a new library in Fountain Of Hope, Zambia created for serving street children, is fulfilling its goal of educating street children through providing books on a wide variety of topics.

India Portuguesa: improving access to Portuguese language periodicals from Portuguese India by Liladhar Pendse India gives an insight into a project initiated by the author to create an annotated bibliography of all known Portuguese language periodicals of Portuguese India that were published between 1821 and 1921.

This newsletter also includes a very interesting write up by Dr. Rajwant Chilana about a festschrift volume on Dr R.N Sharma which was released on June 4th, 2008.

I sincerely appreciate the endeavor of Ms Triveni Kuchi, the former Chair and the Editor of the AAMES Publications Committee for doing an excellent job of editing and publishing the AAMES newsletters for the last two years. I would like to extend the welcome to you to send in your contributions and/or join the AAMES publications committee. Thanks.

Deepa Banerjee

AAMES Editor, ACRL/ALA
More than 70 people attended the 2008 AAMES annual program, entitled “Global Scholarly Communication: International Access and Accessibility,” held on Saturday, June 28, 2008, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA. One moderator, five speakers, and two reactors formed the panel and discussed the issues, challenges, and solutions librarians encounter and seek in assisting scholarly research in an environment that is becoming more interdependent and global in outlook.

The general moderator, Jim Cogswell, Director of Libraries, University of Missouri, pointed out in his introduction that scholarly research is increasingly becoming global with internet connectivity and growing interdisciplinarity. It is obvious now that academic research and global communication mutually affect and reinforce each other.

In her presentation, titled “Overview of Global Scholarly Communication Issues,” Associate University Librarian, Yale University, considered some of the influences that impact the libraries of the 21st century and scholarly communication, such as the transforming information economy in global settings that is creating a new generation of technology savvy audience, and the evolving global economy that is closely related to information-economy fueled innovation and prompts libraries to rethink its business plans and revenue streams.

Okerson emphasized that technology gadgets are creating a large number of audience for the next information revolution. “Librarians need to think about how to reach marginalized and under-supported populations around the world, people with perhaps no fixed address, or people unable to leave their residence or fishing boat or market stall to find a building with computers and network connections.” Okerson went on to offer examples of librarianship on a global, partner scale at Yale, such as

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India Portuguesa cont’d

published a bibliography.

Although all of these bibliographies deal with the periodicals, these bibliographies fail to indicate the subjects that these periodicals covered. I have planned to create an annotated bibliography of all known Portuguese language periodicals of Portuguese India that were published between 1821 and 1921 as a part of this project. We should also look at the relationship of my bibliography to the National Bibliography of Indian Languages. The census of Goa just after reintegration in to the Indian Union fails to mention Portuguese as one of many languages that were spoken by the population of India Portuguesa. The Indian Union asserted its strong de-colonization practices in India Portuguesa, among these policies; we see an example of delimiting use of Portuguese in daily affairs of the State. Indian National bibliography also fails to reconcile these periodicals as a parcel of field of Indian cultural production. I believe that my project will help us address this deficiency.

This in turn leaves the scholars who are studying Portuguese colonialism at significant disadvantage for several reasons. First, as mentioned earlier, there are hundreds of these periodicals with varying degrees of longevity and subject matter. Second, the dynamics of Portuguese rule in India from 1821 onwards align not only with the “happenings” in the Metropole, but with the local political and social conditions. These conditions resulted in the dominance of “field of cultural production” by the generations of “lusitanized” Indians who spoke, wrote in Portuguese, and took part in various revolts against the perceived oppressive policies of the mother country. Third, the lack of subject indication in these bibliographies leaves the researchers with no clue as to what are the topics that might be covered. The scholars are often left with only guessing the contents based on the titles of the periodicals.

The Portuguese periodicals press further bears witness to the fact that the

Continued on Page 7
Dispatches from Zambia cont’d

attend school at Fountain of Hope. The former street kids who stay at the shelter attend school, and all the students at Fountain of Hope school use the library. Many of them come from the nearby Misisi Compound, an extremely down-trodden compound (even for the com-

pounds...and they all are). [Kids in Kamwala] can afford some school fees, so they go to schools with more re-

sources or secondary schools in the area (Fountain of Hope does not include a secondary school).

AG: How do you spend most of your
days when you’re at the library?

HM: It really varies. I have spent a lot of
time just getting to know the kids. I
usually eat lunch at the center with
them. I also walk around and help them
find books, read books with them, and
talk to them about what they’re reading.
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I spent Friday and Saturday [ September
19th and 20th] taking handwritten sta-
tistics and trying to organize them and
summarize them. It was very difficult,
and I learned that a major project when
I get back from Cape Town will be to
device and enact a new way of re-
cording statistics because the current system is insufficient.

AG: You wrote a blog post about the
reactions of some kids reading a book
about David Livingstone and the coloni-
zation of Africa. The kids disagreed
tightly on whether colonization was
good or bad for Zambians. Can you talk a
little or give another example of how you
see Lubuto library books influencing his-
torical / cultural perceptions?

HM: There is [already, before Lubuto] a
wide interest in African-American history

and culture, for instance. And in Zambian
history. There was a huge push to maintain
knowledge of cultural heritage here after
independence. It was stressed by Kenneth
Kaunda [the first president of Zam-
bia]; “one Zambia, one nation”. So I actu-
ally learn more about Zambia from them,
not the other way around.

AG: Those subjects are being studied a little
in the schools?

HM: Yes, a little. Especially secondary
school.

AG: In your blog, you introduce readers to a
library worker named Vasco who used to be
on the street. What has he taught you about
the needs of the kids in Lusaka?

HM: I would be relatively clueless without
Vasco, and would impose assumptions
based on my own observations that would
definitely be way off. This is why NGOs
need to work WITH the community.
[Vasco and I] have meetings about cultural
differences, where things are explained
carefully.

AG: What kinds of materials / subjects are
the kids who use the library most interested
in?

HM: Maps, atlases, pictures of other places.
Story books. It varies. Animals (not sur-

prisingly). Amphibians, Biogra-
phies. A few of them really like
going through animal books and
assigning identities to them. ‘The
llama is you, the lion is your hus-
band, the chinchilla is your daughter,
the koala is your cousin”. They all
want to read and try. Often, follow-
ing Zambian traditional culture, they
read in groups. Sharing a book is
very popular. There are some story-
books in Zambian languages [bemba
and deep Nyanja]. Some street kids
don’t know much English. Some of
the older kids read [English] on a
high level.

AG: Do you ever see results i.e., a
kid says, thanks for that book, it
made me understand x in school, or
it contradicted y that I learned in
school?

HM: All the time. I ask them if they
need help with anything in school
and pop until classrooms to find out
what they're studying.

I went into a classroom today and
they were learning about the human
body. The human body books are
also very popular at the library.
Kids from schools outside the center
have also told me about their human
body studies, and want to demon-
strate and extend their knowledge of
that subject. Three boys from Kam-
wala high school spent a lot of time
with a detailed diagram of the body.
They were looking at the human
heart and the cardiovascular system.
They learned a lot and applied what
they already knew from school.

AG: So regardless of access to
schools, kids are learning to view the
library as a place to come for infor-
mation and education?

HM: The goal is to connect children
to information, of course, and to
Teach them the benefits of reading
and books, but so much more hap-
pens. On a library science level,
they learn how to treat books and
why books are special. I think the
presence of people in the library
who can assist in their education in
general and specific ways adds an
entirely new element. I can't pin-
point how much I’ve helped them by
being there, but I have on a variety
of levels. The library desperately
needs more volunteers who will sim-
ply be there.

To learn more, visit the Lubuto Li-
brary Project website at http://
www.lubuto.org/. Holly’s blog can
be accessed at http://
hlbp.blogspot.com.

The first Lubuto library opens

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Project OACIS (Online Access to Consolidated Information on Serials), which has created a multi-partnered union list of Middle Eastern serials from a diverse set of institutions in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States, and Project AMEEL (A Middle Eastern Electronic Library), which is in partnership with several universities, global publishers, and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, President Mubarak’s visionary creation on the site of the ancient library.

The second presentation, titled “Two-Way Scholarly Communication between the United States and China,” by Dr. Hong Cheng, Chinese Studies Librarian at UCLA, raised interesting questions: How does the global scholarly communication affect our services in the academic libraries, and how do we respond to it? In an attempt to answer these questions, Dr. Cheng presented the result of a survey conducted among the Chinese and American scholars. His presentation covered the following several interesting points:

1) The global scholarly communication is transforming from one-way to two-way, and even to multi-directional traffic. Researchers in all international study fields become more dependent than ever on the global scholarly communication.

2) The scholars in international studies of the United States and China widely accept some new concepts of the global scholarly communication, such as international publishing, borderless service, cyberianship, etc. Scholars support the concept of open access, a key element of scholarly communication, as well. However, there are a few concerns over the actual practice, such as concerns over the tenure/promotion of faculty status and the role of professional associations, which are the main issues librarians have to consider in promoting global scholarly communication.

Cheng’s surveys and interviews discover that the Internet and related information technology make scholars in international studies share many common thoughts; however, notable differences still exist. It seems that Chinese researchers are more in favor of global scholarly communication than American scholars; on the other hand, American librarians are aware of global scholarly communication more than Chinese counterparts. To explain such a phenomenon, different social and cultural environment might be a key factor.

Deepa Banerjee’s presentation is entitled “Scholarly Communication and International Access in India and South Asia.” She noted that there has been an explosion of scholarly output by researchers and scholars around the world. The developing nations including South Asia are faced with constant challenge to provide access to the global scholarly literature due to the digital divide within their own countries and communities and the scarcity of resources. Libraries in South Asia are constantly faced with the issue of shrinking budget.

Some of the current challenges and new initiatives in South Asia regarding accessibility to international scholarly literature are:
- The changing nature of global scholarly communication.
- Challenges in providing access to global scholarly literature in South Asia.
- Current major initiatives in South Asia to enhance access to global scholarly literature.

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scholarly communication and the challenges that have confronted them, such as budgetary constraints and limited outreach mechanism.

Elizabeth Kiondo, Associate Professor, UNESCO National Commission, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, gave her presentation, entitled “Scholarly Communication and International Access in Sub-Saharan Africa.” In addition to offering examples of the projects that libraries in Tanzania are currently involved in concerning the global scholarly communication, Kiondo also raised similar issues as mentioned in Kwon’s and Banerjee’s presentations.

The first reactor, Joy Kim, is Curator, Korean Heritage Library, University of Southern California. Her response to the presentations was entitled “Comments on Dr. Eunkyung Kwon’s Presentation Impact of Scholarly Communication in Korea on Korean Studies in North America.” Kim focused on how these recent developments in Korea pointed out by Kwon affected Korean Studies scholars and librarians in North America. Recognizing the importance of information in the knowledge based economy, the Korean government coined the term ‘informatization’ (meaning a process of creating an advanced information society) and adopted it as a core strategy in its effort to emerge from its troubled economy.

Kim made an interesting point that librarians are “in the business of match making, connecting information to people. The collections and metadata that we created will remain and touch the lives of many generations around the globe.”

Anchi Hoh, Assistant to Chief of the Asian Division, Library of Congress, was the second reactor. She noticed the libraries and librarians around the world seem to face the common issues and challenges, i.e. digital divide, budget constraints, lack of policy on equal participation as procedure and user of knowledge, social/cultural difference, etc. At the same time, similar strategies seem to have been sought, such as creating more open access sources, conducting more digitization projects, forming alliances with libraries in other parts of the world, etc. Some of the challenges mentioned in these presentations seem to be strongly associated with socio-cultural and/or economic conditions of a society. For instance, the gap of understanding and the utilization of global scholarly communication means between the Chinese and the American scholars lies largely in the language barrier. More Chinese scholars can use English sources, whereas less English speaking scholars can utilize resources in Chinese. Factors such as this are probably beyond the reach of libraries. However, by focusing on the technical advancement and raising people’s awareness of the importance and trend of global scholarly communication, librarians are committed to providing more available resources via new technologies in order to improve global scholarly communication.

The entire session ended with a very good discussion between the speakers and the audience. Program attendees became more aware of this subject and the issues surrounding it. Some of the presentations may be accessible through the following URL, http://www.acrl.org/alac/acrl/acrl events/acrlatannual.cfm.

Portuguese enclaves in India were surrounded by British India. The influence of Goan intelligentsia that was educated in Bombay led to the creation of tensions and competing priorities within Goa and other Portuguese territories. Some of the bilingual Portuguese-Marathi, Konkani-Portuguese periodicals are also understudied and often escape due attention in the standard reference sources. These sources acquire an important character as the majority of the population of India Portuguesa communicated in Konkani or Marathi alongside Portuguese. One can never ignore the fact that Portuguese although was an official language of the Estado da India, was never a language that was spoken by the majority. However, it is probable that the information that was contained in these periodicals often times was conveyed using the word to mouth mechanisms.

For the sake of curiosity and the project, I did a search on periodicals that were published in Goa, in the Portuguese language using advance search features for UCLA library catalog, and I retrieved 10 titles. Of these items, “Jornal de farmacia e sciencias medicas da India Portuguesa” published in 1862, was acquired by the Bio-Medical Library in September of 2006 for Walter Jarvis Barlow History of Medicine Collection Fund at my recommendation. This journal besides containing Medical and Pharmacological data contains the only available mortality rates in Estado da India for the year 1862. The socio-cultural briefs about Goa and Portuguese attitudes towards the level of sanitation within their territories are also included in it.

The project that I proposed here earlier is in the process of nearing its completion. Currently, I am in the process of coding the annotated bibliography that will be posted along with the digital images of the titles that I managed to digitize. One of the important presuppositions that Scholeberg and Kakodkar had made in their seminal work “Bibliography of Goa and Portuguese India” is that it was impossible for them to locate the extant copies of the first Portuguese journals in Goa, i.e.; Gazeta de Goa (1821-1826) and Chronica Constitucional de Goa. I was able to find both physical copies of the journals that Schoenberg and Kakodkar mention in Biblioteca Nacional in Lisbon. I have included Gazeta de Goa in my digitization effort.
Join your colleagues in Seattle, March 12-15, 2009, at the premier professional development event for academic and research librarians and staff. Registration and housing for ACRL’s 14th National Conference is now open!

The ACRL 14th National Conference will challenge you to explore new ideas, engage in new learning, and extend the collective vision of the future of academic and research libraries. ACRL’s celebrated line-up of keynote speakers include Naomi Klein, award-winning journalist, activist, and author of *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*; Sherman Alexie, prolific novelist, poet and screenplay writer; and Ira Glass, host and producer of the public radio program *This American Life*.

In addition to program sessions, the conference will provide time to have fun, share informal conversations, network with colleagues, and explore Seattle. ACRL will offer Virtual Conference presentations and embrace Web 2.0 tools such as podcasts, Flickr, blogs, and more to enhance and expand the impact of the National Conference. ACRL 2009 will also implement more eco-friendly practices than ever before and has invited Robin Chase, Founder of Zipcar and GoLoco to speak about her innovative combination of social networking and transportation. Help us reduce the meeting’s ecological footprint by committing to the Green Pledge when you register for the conference.

Registration materials are online at [www.acrl.org/seattle](http://www.acrl.org/seattle). Discounted housing rates, scholarships, and exciting tour options are also available. Contact acrl@ala.org with questions.