CALA Open Access Academic Journal Task Force

Goals

- Establish a reputable, peer-reviewed, regularly published and sustainable CALA academic journal
- Make this journal as a primary publication venue for CALA members and other Chinese librarians in North America, China and other regions in the world for their academic work

Recommendations

After investigating CALA current academic publications and consulting with CALA Publications Committee chairs, CALA Occasional Papers Series editors-in-chief, CALA leaders and other related parties, the committee makes the following recommendations:

- Name this committee as *CALA Open Access Academic Journal Task Force*
- Establish the new CALA academic journal:
  > Title: *International Journal of Librarianship*
  > Publication frequency: Semi-annually
  > Language: English
  > Refereed: Yes
  > Open access: Yes
  > Serial type: Journal
  > Content type: Academic/Scholarly
  > Format: Online
- Each issue consists of 5-8 articles in this journal
- All committee members serve in the inaugural Editorial Board for this journal

Plans and Timeline

October– November 2015

- Develop editorial guidelines, structure of the Editorial Board, criteria for editors and reviewers, peer-review process and other documentation for an academic journal publication
- Establish the inaugural Editorial Board. The board consists of 8 members in total, among which 1 Editor-in-chief, 2 Copy editors, 1 Web Master, and 4 members)

October 2015 - June 2016

- Complete procedures to start a new journal
- Set up the journal website

October 2015 - Ongoing

- Collaborate with organizers of various events by CALA or CALA Chapters to invite paper submissions to this new journal, for example, the Annual Conference of the China and America CALA 21st Century Librarian Seminar, the CALA Poster Sessions at the ALA Annual Conference, etc.

- Work with other CALA Committees, such as Sheila Lai Research Award Committee and Conference Travel Grant Committee, to encourage recipients of CALA grants or awards to submit their academic work to this journal
- Outreach to individual speakers/authors to invite potential publications for this journal
- Cooperate with other Chinese or international librarian associations and conferences to promote this journal and invite paper submissions

Second Half Year of 2016 – First Half Year of 2017

- Publish the first issue of the new journal

Budget

- Web hosting: $60-240/year (To be able to install Open Journal System)
- DOI service: $290/year
- Archival service: $200/year
  Total: $550-730/year

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Background

Currently there are only two academic publications in CALA.

a. *Journal of Library and Information Science*
   Partnership with National Taiwan Normal University, mainly Traditional Chinese, not open access.

b. *CALA Occasional Papers Series (OPS)*
   It is an irregularly published, less academic CALA publication. Since the first issue was published in March 2008, 12 issues were released till now, including the latest one in June 2013. Each issue contains one paper so there are 12 papers in total published in this journal.

   Unlike a standard open access academic journal, the OPS does not have an online submission system, nor archival or DOI services. Currently this journal, its published papers along with editorial documentation are not accessible due to the problem of CALA website. It may take months for the Web Team to get this fixed.

   In addition, the current editor has been working hard to get new issues published, and a new editor is being appointed. Based on its nature (less scholarly, occasional), CALA OPS may still exist in the CALA publication for a long time.

On the other hand, CALA has become a large organization for Chinese librarians in North America and over the world. There is a need for CALA and CALA members to have their own, real academic English journal. The open access academic publication is on the trend as well. So this committee believes it is time for CALA to establish such a high standard open access academic journal.

It would be of the best interest of CALA to create a new journal rather than convert from an old, less academic one. In this way, it will allow the committee to focus on the creation of the new journal and to

start the journal at a higher standard; in the meantime allow the OPS editors to continue their work without disruption. Once this journal is successfully launched, CALA can review the possibility to merge them.

So we recommend to name this committee as *CALA Open Access Academic Journal Task Force*. It is a task force independent of Publications Committee, which will be much more efficient and effective for this committee to get this task done. Once the first issue is published, the committee will be dissolved. All committee members will continue their work in the new journal's Editorial Board to ensure its continual success. At that time this new journal, like any other CALA publication, will be overseen by Publications Committee.

1st version submitted to the CALA President on October 2, 2015

2nd version submitted to the CALA President on October 25, 2015

3rd version revised on February 24, 2016 (*one edit was made: from "each issue contains 3-6 articles" to "each issue contains 5-8 articles)