

# CALA at Forty: Faith, Focus, Forward

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CALA Annual Conference in Chicago  
June 30, 2013

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University

# Informal Gathering



- ☞ On **November 19, 1969**, twenty Chinese librarians met at Rosary College.
- ☞ In **May 1970** at Northwestern University. William Sheh Wong 汪 變 presided over the meeting. Nineteen Chinese librarians attended.

# Forming the Association



- ❧ On **March 31, 1973**, a meeting at Rosary College with the very purpose of forming an association.
- ❧ Thirty-eight librarians from California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York attended.

# Association Formed



- ❧ At the meeting, we decided to establish an association, named Mid-West Chinese American Librarians Association (MWCALA), adopted its constitution, and elected eleven board directors.
- ❧ In **May 1973**, the board elected Tze-chung Li 李志鍾 as president and Peter S. Wang 王實青 as treasurer-secretary.
- ❧ On June 5, the association was registered as a not-for-profit organization with the Illinois Government.

# The objectives of the New Association

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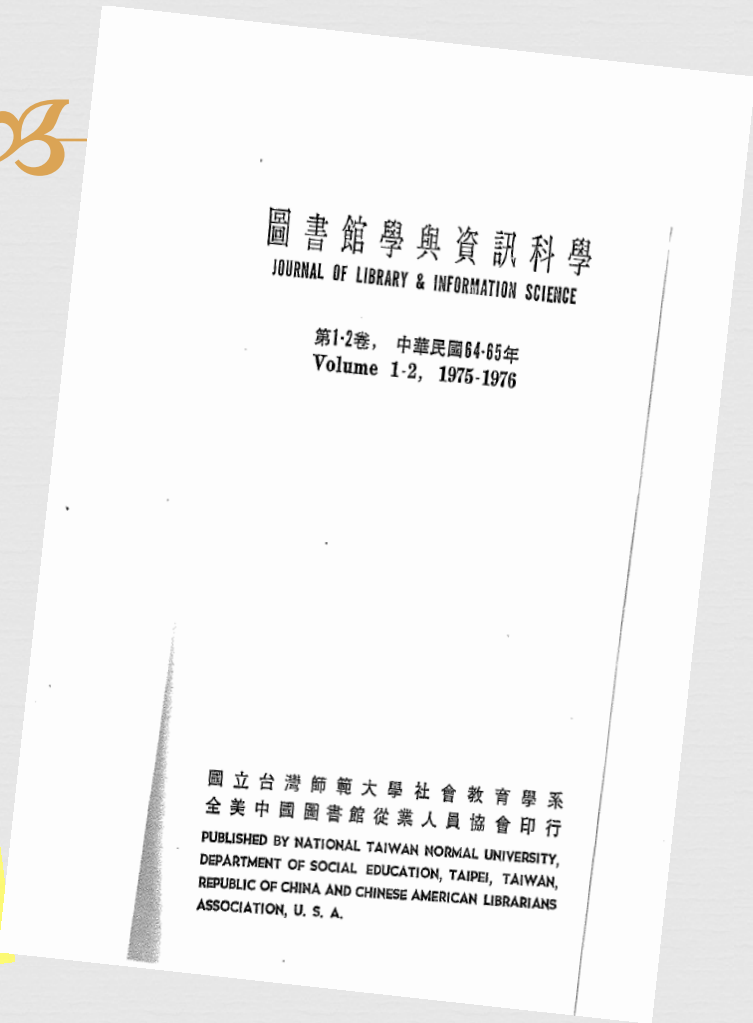
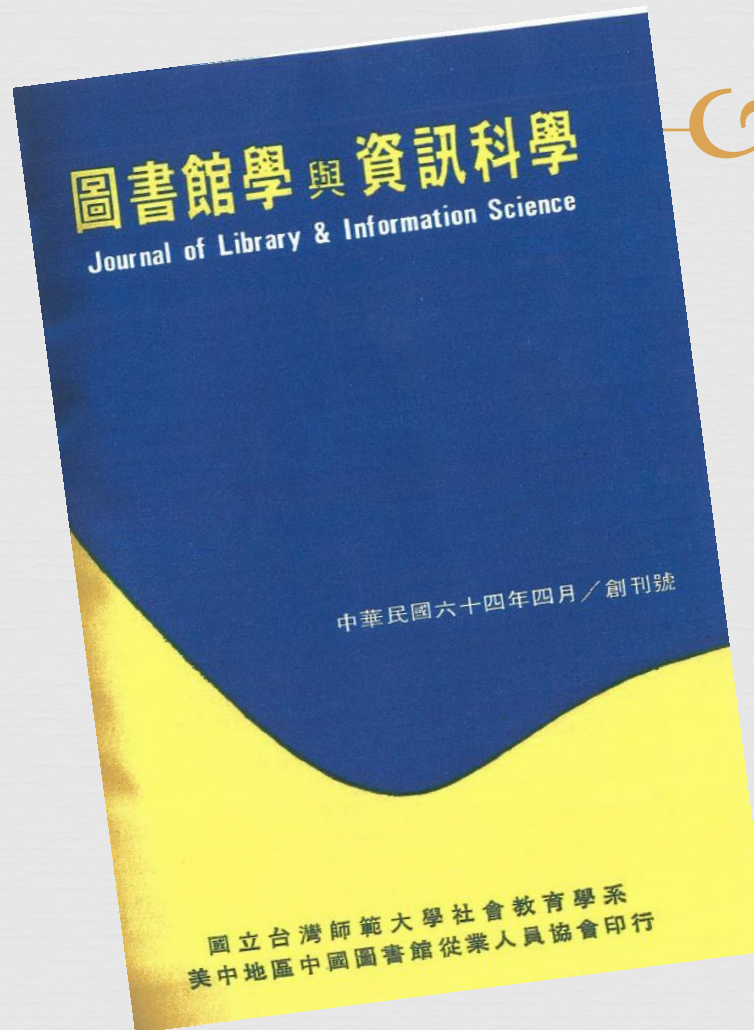
- ❧ to enhance communication among and bring together Chinese American librarians;
- ❧ to serve as a forum for discussion of issues and problems common to libraries and library profession;
- ❧ to advance the professional and social status of Chinese American librarians.

# Journal to be Published



- ❧ 1974, seeking Chen-ku Wang 王振鵠's cooperation and support.
- ❧ Seeking financial support from the Asia Foundation.
- ❧ With an initial support of US\$3,000 from the Asia Foundation, the Journal of Library and Information Science 圖書館學与資訊科學 was born in 1975.

# The Journal of Library and Information Science 圖書館學與資訊科學





- ❧ In 1976, the association was expanded into a national association. The name of the national association is Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), dropping the word “Mid-West.”
- ❧ In the same year, CALA joined the American Library Association as its affiliate.
- ❧ Beginning in 1979, CALA expanded to create chapters in difference regions, in California, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Northeast, and Southeast.



# Distinguished Service Award



- ☞ In 1980, CALA established Distinguished Service Award to recognize a retired library professional in recognition of his/her contribution to librarianship in general and Chinese American librarianship in particular.
- ☞ The first recipient is Ernest Wolff 華祿夫.
- ☞ One criteria for this award is retirement. But, later this requirement was removed.

# Merge with CLA



- ☞ In 1983, merge with California's Chinese Librarians Association. Thanks to David Liu 劉大經 and Irene Yeh 葉方青 for their efforts to accomplish the merge.
- ☞ The new entity used the CALA as its English name and Chinese Librarians Association's Chinese 華人圖書館員協會 as its Chinese name.

# Librarians from China and Taiwan Together



- ❧ In 1985, IFLA held its annual conference in Chicago. Librarians from China and Taiwan attended the meeting.
- ❧ I invited librarians from China and Taiwan and some Chinese librarians in the United States to get together at my home.

# CALA is 40



Confucius said, at forty, I have no doubt 四十而不惑. At forty, I can focus my work immune from confusion and with confidence.

# CALA Moving Forward



- ❧ Recruit more members, in particular, student members.
- ❧ Campaign for renewal of membership of former members.
- ❧ Build endowment with its proceeds for scholarships, lectureships, and travel grants.
- ❧ Raise fund to purchase an office in Chicago.
- ❧ Sponsor more forums and workshops in librarianship in general and Chinese librarianship in particular to develop, promote, and advance librarianship.
- ❧ Promote and advance librarianship in China. This is one of CALA's missions. China needs a great leap forward in librarianship.

- CALA will move forward and under the leadership of many outstanding members,
- CALA will continue to flourish and grow in excellence.

Thanks 谢谢