

## Arts and Humanities Council Meeting of October 7, 2021

10:00-11:30am

Facilitator: S.Reardon

Note taker: G. Tanasse

Attendees:

L. Cunningham, V. Egge, M. Erviti, D. Faulds, F. Ferko, S. Grant, R. Haber, M. Hamed, J. He, A. Malik, T. Marra, J. Ott, Scott Peterson, Claude Potts, Stacy Reardon, Abby Sheel, John Shepard, Naomi Shiraishi, Virginia Shih, Justin Underhill, Susan Xue,

Minutes: G. Tanasse

### Agenda

1. Announcements (5 min.)
  - a. New form for suggesting topics
    - i. <http://ucbib.link/ah-council-suggestions>
    - ii. From survey: Projects members are working on with undergraduate or graduate students on campus or maybe some projects that are happening in departments members are liaisons to. / Perhaps guests could include faculty from the A&H Department who could discuss activities and/or projects in which they and their students are involved.
  - b. Round-the-table updates in Dec. : these are optional ; participation is not required.
  - c. M. Hamed announced: 2 new MES librarians have been hired (for a longtime M. Hamed was the only Middle Eastern Studies librarian in the UC system).
  - d. F. Ferko announced Adam Baron as newly hired Head of Metadata Services starting November 1, 2021.
  - e. T. Marra East Asian Academic Librarians of California biannual zoom meeting was on 9/24/21. Website with presentations: <https://sites.google.com/view/eaalc/annual-meetings/2021?authuser=0> includes links to different campus reports.
2. DEIB and Area Studies in Practice: Examples from the Middle Eastern Studies Collections and Services. Presented by M. Hamed (20 min.) Slides here: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yJut2oeU0Vxlq7mcULmY3huml6e16UTKqRTXT9h7XfA/edit>
  - a. Expressed gratitude for the option to share, and awareness that many are doing DEIB work across the library.
  - b. What does belonging mean for students? M. Hamed highlighted note from a PhD student in MELC who was grateful and surprised to access an out of print 2014 book about famous Egyptian authors that she could not find in Egypt. The Student expressed feeling valued by the institution
  - c. Advocacy for collection practices reflect M. Hamed's DEIB priorities as member of Racial Justice Task Force. Specific RJTF recommendations for collections and area studies related to budgeting (limited funding for some areas), vacant positions, lack of language capacity for staff (staff cannot key Persian or Hindu order records, for example) results in challenges for tracking orders and expenditures
  - d. Environmental scan to identify Area Studies models are still in progress: have completed some peer institutions focus group conversations, but still working

through December 2021 or later to collect information around structure, staffing and library support.

- e. Non-Latin Enhancement project for access. M. Hamed stresses need to consider access issues whenever looking at usage data: lack of vernacular script limits access. Project to overlay vernacular, with great results for Middle Eastern languages incl. Arabic, Persian and Hebrew(144,000 items). Future goal: enhancing records for 130 Non-Latin languages in Berkeley collections. Completed Russian (167,000 items). CJK (~1,000 items, with manual work happening at EAL as well). Project delayed by Alma migration: will resume when Alma stabilized. For 2019, 43% increase over median or 32% increase over previous years with vernacular access for Arabic resources.
  - f. al-Mandumah Project: addresses the issue of reliance on print journals with significant gaps and no indexing. List price is significant barrier (over \$100,000 per year), but M. Hamed negotiated discount based on FTE with Arabic language skills. Cites example of graduate student who stood out in job presentation because of awareness and use of al-Mandumah database access. Cost effectiveness analysis-- equal to the cost for ILL, but for content not available any other way; collaborating nationally for CRL consortial deal.
3. Virtual Tour: "Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence: South & Southeast Asia Scholarship and Stewardship at Berkeley in the Brown Gallery of Doe Library" (South/Southeast Asia Library exhibition. Presented by V. Shih and A. Malik (25 min) Slides here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f0nvv52irk2oIPFqV2Mv2owUeR-36ccw/view>)
- a. Exhibit will be taken down on 11/1: please let Virginia/Adnan know if you would like in-person tour before then. Library News story has just been published here: <https://news.lib.berkeley.edu/sseal-50>
  - b. Malik: Challenge to cover South and Southeast Asia as huge geographical area, with lots of interaction, as well as the complex legacy of study at UC Berkeley (highlight before and after department, language instructors, the Centers, and Library collections)
  - c. Malik: Highlights images of Arthur Ryder's translation of famous play Shakuntala and performance at Greek Theatre; emeritus/faculty images, bios and publications; work of language instructors; publications from ISAS and CSEAS; South Asia Collection one of the largest in United States (largest on west coast), highlights bequeathment from Prof. Henry More Stephens and Carpentier Fund, Public Law 480/South Asia Cooperative Acquisitions Program (SACAP); very first edition of first modern Hindi Novel (1882); early 19th Century handwritten manuscript; Himalayan esoteric Tantric Buddhist Sutra (family texts that are usually kept private); Latin Translation of Ramayana by August von Schlegel (1829-1838); Altar of Fire video of 12 day ancient Vedic ritual by Brahmins in Kerala as performed 2,000 years ago (with modifications to avoid animal sacrifice); history of South/Southeast Asian bibliographers and origins of library with timeline and bibliographies.
  - d. V. Shih: 5 years to create this exhibit along with all parties involved from conception to implementation.
  - e. V. Shih: The exhibit focuses on Southeast Asia scholarship and stewardship: highlights of South/Southeast Asia distinguished teaching award recipients, library prize winners; acknowledgements of all library staff who worked at the South/Southeast Asia Library; highlights of gifts, purchases, textiles, and artifacts. UC Berkeley offers 6 national Southeast Asian language instruction. The case on "Berkeley Scholars in the Philippines" highlights the scholarship and historical archives of 6 prominent Berkeley scholars: David Barrows, Alfred

Kroeber, Bernard Moses, Robert Sproul, Harold Conklin, and Elmer Merrill; Thai Manuscript Treasures: printed folded books, used for funerals, memorial services and other Buddhist rituals; royal procession of a Thai mural painting; Case featuring Indonesian most celebrated author, Pramoedya Ananta Toer; Case on East Timor, Fernando La Sama de Araujo, featuring vivid multilingual t-shirt; and Vietnamese Đông Hồ woodblock prints on walls.

- f. Upcoming virtual exhibit and donor coffee chat about exhibit.
- g. Some content not accessible: older microfilm; follow up discussion around what role United States institutions play in preserving international content, and some of the challenges (logistical, funding, political) the countries of publication face as stewards of collections.

**Suggest a topic!**

<http://ucblib.link/ah-council-suggestions>

**Next meeting**

Nov. 4, 2021