

Research Incentive Fund Report

Report on the 2010 Book Buying Trip to East Asia

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Please accept my much delayed summary report related to the use of the Research Incentive Grant (\$909) that I received in 2010. Thanks to the grant from InULA and other grants from the campus, I took a book-buying trip to China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan in summer 2010. The entire trip took six weeks, from May 9-June 23, and covered the following cities: Beijing, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Seoul, Taipei, and Tokyo.

With prior arrangements, I visited twelve university and public libraries. I was able to keep my colleagues, who are often less informed about U.S. libraries in the Midwest region, updated on Indiana University libraries and services. In return, I was inspired through observations and discussions with colleagues and was able to gather materials for my research on library collections and book publishing. These visits have made possible person-to-person meetings to exchange views and inform each other of policies, changes, emerging trends, and impending plans. For example, I became aware of the personnel changes, library expansions, and reorganizations in East Asia in the past two years. I also gave a talk about library collections and local digitization efforts at IU to colleagues at the National Central Library on June 9 in Taipei.

The visits to libraries with which IU maintains long-standing academic and library-related partnerships helped me stay informed and connected. In China, I visited seven exchange partners: Qinghua University Libraries, Beijing University Libraries, National Library of China and its new addition National Digital Library of China, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Library, Fudan University Library, Shanghai Public Library, and Zhejiang University Library. In Seoul, I visited the Seoul National University Library, National Library of Korea, and the Korea Film Council. In Taipei, I visited the National Central Library and the National Taiwan University Library and its university press. And, in Tokyo, I visited our exchange partners, the National Diet Library and Waseda University Library.

The trip allowed me to get a close-up look at new publications, publication trends, electronic initiatives, and library services, and resume personal contacts with our vendors overseas. The visits to libraries certainly reinforced cooperative relations with our international exchange partners. In general, the book-buying trip helped me stay abreast of developments in my areas of responsibility so that I can offer better service to faculty members, students, and researchers in East Asian studies.

A full report of the trip can be found at http://www.indiana.edu/~libsalc/african/AS_Trip_Reports/Liu-no1-2010.pdf