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# LACUNY International Relations Roundtable Meeting Minutes, September 2009

LACUNY

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LACUNY International Relations Roundtable (IRRT)  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009.  
Baruch College Library Conference Room  
2.30 PM - 5 PM.

Attendees:

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Minutes:

- Approval of the agenda
- Approval of the Mission Statement :

Library Association of City University of New York (LACUNY) International Relations Roundtable (IRRT)'s objective is to provide a framework for information sharing among library faculty and staff interested in international librarianship activities. The LACUNY IRRT aims to increase communication among LACUNY members about international visits, exchanges and programs.

- Visit of Dr. Eduardo Torres Cuevas - Cuba National Library Director.
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Torres Cuevas is a distinguished intellectual and social historian of Cuba Society whose writings and research focused on topics related to Cuban independence, abolitionism, slavery, and the formation of Cuban identity. He is a director of the Insituto de Altos Estudios Fernando Ortiz, of the University of Havana where he taught for over 30 years. Since 2007 he has been the Director of the José Martí National Library.

Torres Cuevas will give a lecture in Graduate Center on November 6<sup>th</sup>. IRRT members discussed the meeting with Dr. Eduardo Torres that is planned for the same day as his lecture at Graduate Center. Dr. Torres will give a presentation about libraries in Cuba and will answer questions. Jane Fitzpatrick will book the Skylight Room in Graduate Center for this event. Since light refreshments are planned the budget will be discussed over email.

The REFORMA The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking an affiliate of the ALA was invited by Kenneth Schlesinger to co-sponsor this event.

- Visit of Deputy Director of Shanghai Normal University Library Prof. Wu Zhirong.

Wu Zhirong arrives to New York City on October 21<sup>st</sup>. He will be hosted by several CUNY colleges and he will participate in LACUNY Institute on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. After the Institute, the IRRRT is organizing an Open Forum with Professor Wu who will give a presentation about Chinese libraries with focus on his own library. The participants of Open Forum will have an opportunity to ask questions to Prof. Wu. The meeting will take place in Graduate Center. Kenneth Schlesinger will prepare a flyer to be posted on CULIBS prior to the event.

#### Wu Zhirong biography (prepared by Kenneth Schlesinger):

Wu Zhirong has been Deputy Director of Shanghai Normal University Library since 1993. In 2002, he was appointed Professor. He graduated from Shanghai Normal University in 1981, majoring in library science. He attended the Eastern China Normal University Graduate School of Library Information Science and received a Master's degree in 1987. Professor Wu has published over fifty articles, authored two books, and edited two more. In 1996 he chaired the International Symposium on Information Resources and Social Development at Wuhan University, and in 2008 the Forum on Library Collections and Publishing at Shanghai Normal University.

Professor Wu's book, Digital Library: From Concept to Reality, is the first specialized work on building a digital library in the Chinese library profession. It has been cited over 270 times. Library professionals have named his book one of the ten best in the archives of library information science. Due to its high citation rate, Professor Wu's book has been selected by Report of the Impact of Humanities and Social Sciences on Scholarship, 2001-2004 as one of the highest cited books in information and archival management. Professor Wu has been a forerunner in the study of digital information exchange, evident in his manuscript, Virtual and Reality: Study of Digital Information Exchange. He also completed a digital information study project for the Shanghai Education Commission. Further, Professor Wu is also assistant director of the Publication and Translation Committee of the Shanghai Library Association. He also serves as a specialist responsible for reviewing articles submitted to the Journal of Library Information Science. Lastly, Professor Wu is a member of the Municipal Committee for Evaluation of Senior Professional Titles in Library and Information Science.

Shanghai Normal University website:

[http://wwwen.shnu.edu.cn/en/index\\_en.jsp](http://wwwen.shnu.edu.cn/en/index_en.jsp)

The gift for Prof. Wu was discussed –it was agreed that the most appropriate would be set of informational materials from different CUNY colleges since CUNY does not have single brochure that can serve this purpose. Issues of

Urban Library journal and CUNY newsletter might also be an appropriate addition to this collective gift.

Designing the brochure about CUNY libraries for foreign guest might be a future undertaking of the IRRT.

- Discussion about application process and application form for the **Shanghai University – City University of New York Library Faculty Exchange Program.**

Application form for CUNY Library faculty and Instruction page directed to CUNY faculty, both documents prepared by Kenneth Schlesinger were reviewed during the meeting. Both forms will be posted by Kenneth on CULIBS. The interested library faculty will have to meet the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The program will hopefully start in the Spring 2010.

Applications will be reviewed by screening committee which would comprise of 5 CUNY librarians – CUNY University Librarian, 3 Chief Librarians, one of the chairs of IRRT. The exact composition of the screening committee will be discussed later.

- The Instructions and Application form should be posted on CULIBS no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> in order to allow sufficient time for interested library faculty. Songqian Lu from NYCCT was elected co-chair of the committee.