Developing CALASYS in Celebration of CALA 50th

CALASYS Subcommittee

CALASYS

- **CALASYS:** https://ir.cala-web.org/, CALA's Open Access Institutional Repository, established in 2013
- **Purpose:** to curate, archive and promote the CALA members' research works, the CALA's organizational documents, and the Chinese cultural and research resources
- **Platform:** built on Omeka, an open source web-publishing platform
- **How it works:** to store, display, link and exhibit research works, documents and collections
- **Supported material types:** book, book chapter, journal article, conference proceeding, presentation, poster, document, image, sound, video…
- **How to get involved:** to become a contributor via the CALASYS site (https://ir.cala-web.org/how_to_contribute)

Project Context: Celebrating CALA 50th

CALA (1973-2023) is Celebrating its 50th Anniversary!

- What to Celebrate
- Various Ways of Celebrating CALA 50th

CALA 50th Celebration / CALASYS Collection Grants

- The Grants were created to collect and archive collections of documents, photographs and other materials that reflect the history of CALA, the Chinese American Librarians and the Chinese American community.
- **Content Scope**
  - Documents and photographs related to **CALA's current time and history**
  - Documents and photographs documenting the **Chinese Americans' experiences in the US**
  - **Chinese American librarians**, their achievements and stories
  - **Chinese culture heritage materials**
  - **Chinese studies**, related exhibits and scholarly output…

CALASYS as a Platform to Celebrate CALA 50th

CALASYS Collections

- **CALA Archives**: Archives CALA's programs, initiatives, organizational documents; Preserves CALA's history
- **CALA Chapter Collections**: Features local chapters programs and activities
- **CALA Member Scholarly Achievements**: Showcases members' research and scholarly works
- **Chinese Cultural Heritage & Chinese Studies**: Features publications and materials on Chinese culture, heritage and Chinese Studies

Features: Open-source application with server subscription; Browse Items & Collections; Search by Keywords; Self Contribution & Mediated Contribution; Statistics

Challenges

- **Open Access Costs:** Labor, time, commitment, server hosting fee
- **Building A Sustainable IR:** Lack of interest among members in self-contribution; No obligation for CALA officers, chapters to deposit their committee documents; Collection development; Members not receiving statistics on their works' impact…
- **System Challenges:** The function of self-contribution is limited in Omeka Classic. The Subcommittee is investigating Omeka S. With potentially better submission, Omeka S requires server admin access for module upgrades; no backup and disaster recovery solution except the hosting vendor's account backup

Approaches to Address the Challenges

- Encourage members' involvement in IR on the occasion of CALA's 50th anniversary
- Promote self-contribution and content development
- Subscribe to Archive-It

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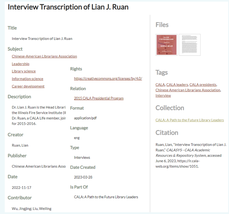
Encourage Members' Involvement in IR on the Occasion of CALA's 50th Anniversary

CALA 50th Celebration / CALASYS Collection Grants Recipients

CALA: A Path to the Future Library Leaders

This collection is created by the CALA Personal Relations and Fundraising Committee in commemorating CALA's 50th anniversary. "The interviews were conducted with nine CALA presidents who served from 2015 to 2023 between November 2022 and March 2023." They are focused on "the leadership experiences of these past, present, and future CALA presidents and their advice to new Chinese American librarians and CALA members."

Collection & Exhibit: CALA: A Path to the Future Library Leaders (https://ir.cala-web.org/exhibits/show/cala-a-path)

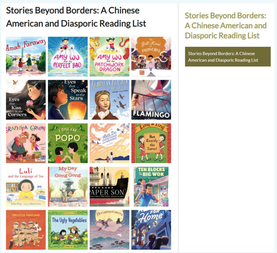


Record Example: Interview Transcription of Lian J. Ruan

CALA/YALSA Chinese American Reading List

Stories Beyond Borders: A Chinese American and Diasporic Reading List

This collection features "children's, middle grade, and young adult books centering Chinese American and diasporic voices." "Rooted in different parts of the world, these empowering stories transcend borders and reflect the multifaceted experiences of our communities, leading us toward a brighter future full of hope, harmony, and unchecked possibilities." It's created by Crystal Chen and Melody Leung.

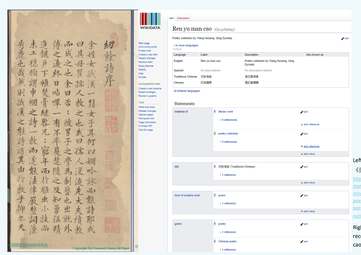


Collection & Exhibit: Stories Beyond Borders: A Chinese American and Diasporic Reading List (https://ir.cala-web.org/exhibits/show/stories-beyond-borders/gallery)

Record Example: The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee

Ming Qing Women's Poetry Collection

This collection features "over 300 poetry works written by 173 Chinese women poets of the Ming and Qing dynasties". It provides basic bibliographic information and Wikidata links to both authors and their poetry works. It's created by the Wikidata Chinese Culture and Heritage Group based on data from McGill University Library's Ming Qing Women's Writings Database.



Left Image: Preface of 《初餘漫草》 (Source: https://digital.library.mcgill.ca/mingqing/search/details-poem.php?poem=1&lang=1&keyword=)

Right Image: Wikidata record: Ren yu man cao (Q15158695)

Collection & Exhibit: Ming Qing Women's Poetry Collection (https://ir.cala-web.org/collections/show/123)

Record Example: 初餘漫草: 一卷

CALA 50th Anniversary Collection

This collection exhibit is created to showcase important documents, collections and projects on the CALA's 50th celebration.

Promote & Develop CALASYS to Better Present CALA & Its Members

CALASYS Training

- **Open Training Conducted as Part of the CALA 50th Celebration Webinar Series**
  - CALASYS Self-Contribution Training
- **Trainings for and Collaboration with Grant Participants**
  - **CALASYS Advanced Training:** includes how to use and manage CALASYS, such as how to batch load records, create and edit collections and exhibits
  - **Work with Grant Participants:** Provides feedback on sample records; Review and edit submissions; Help in creating exhibits
- **Other Online Instructions/Documentations:** Self-Contribution instruction, How to contribute guide, CALASYS Metadata Guideline Version 2 (2021)

Student Involvement in CALASYS

- CALASYS has been promoting LIS students' involvement in metadata creation
- It has collaborated with LIS graduate students such as those from University of Hawaii at Mānoa
- The Subcommittee welcomes more participation from LIS graduate students, and will provide them with practical experiences.

Promoting CALASYS & Celebrating CALA 50th

- Introducing CALASYS at the CALA 50th Virtual Celebration
- Collaborated with the CALA Assessment and Evaluation Committee to create a **CALASYS survey**
- **The Scholarly Kitchen Guest Post**: Pushing for Equity and Diversity in Scholarship through Open Access: Lessons Learned and Perspective from the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) (Raymond Pun, Sai Deng, Guoying Liu)
- **2022 Northeast Institutional Repository Day**: Chinese American Librarians Association and the CALASYS: An Institutional Repository Celebrating CALA 50th Anniversary

Subscribe to Archive-It

- To better preserve CALASYS, the Subcommittee subscribed to the basic service of Archive-it, an internet archive to back up the CALA's main website and CALASYS (Omeka Classic) before their migration to a new system.
- The Archive-It collection can be accessed from http://archive-it.org/home/cala-archived-websites.

Reflecting Thoughts & Future Steps

- CALASYS, as CALA's IR, can be used as a powerful **platform to present and preserve** collections and materials of the organization, its members and the Chinese American librarian community.
- To make the CALA's IR sustainable and successful, it's important to **open it to all members and encourage members' participation**.
- To encourage self-contribution and member involvement in the IR, one way of promoting it is to **create grants on collections** of CALA's history, people, Chinese cultural heritage and Chinese studies, and of books for the Chinese and Asian American community. The CALA's 50th Anniversary is a great catalyst for such grants.
- **Training and continuous promotion of the IR** can help spread the word and encourage more member involvement.
- The Subcommittee will need to **promote CALASYS** and help members contribute and build collections.
- The Subcommittee will discuss the **CALASYS survey** results and focus efforts in a few directions as recommended by the Assessment Committee, such as to make a more user-friendly interface, to continue to expand collections, to provide more training sessions, and to gain a stronger commitment from the CALA leadership, and the CALA community.
- More work is needed to make members aware **how IR can help promote their scholarly work as well as committee work**.
- CALASYS will be **migrated to a new version** for better presentation, flexibility and connection between collections and resources.