

**Librarians Association of the University of California
Research and Professional Development Committee**

Final Report, October 1, 2004

TO: LAUC MEMBERSHIP

FROM: Terence K. Huwe, 2003-2004 Chair, Research and Professional Development Committee

During 2003-2004 the Committee was active this year on multiple fronts. First, we issued a call for proposals earlier than usual, on September 1, 2003. We also contacted divisional members to urge them to promote the Research Grants for Librarians Program. These actions bore fruit, insofar as we received a total of six proposals. The proposals were reviewed by divisional committees and sent to our group in a timely manner.

The Committee held one in-person meeting at the Office of the President, in February 2004. We sent all six proposals back for additional revision and clarification. All proposal writers complied, and we held a conference call in April to reevaluate their efforts.

After careful deliberations, we determined that all proposals had substantial academic merit. However, we recommended only five of the six for funding. The Committee felt that the proposal that was not recommended, although it was very interesting, would be more appropriately supported as part of the departmental responsibilities of the library unit and staff where it originated.

The Office of the President concurred in all instances with LAUC's recommendations, which we interpret as a vote of confidence in our evaluative work. Consequently, the following proposals have been funded. I should also note that the Office of the President very graciously accelerated its review of proposals, so that we could announce the 2003-2004 awards at the LAUC Spring Assembly, which was scheduled for a date earlier than the target date for UCOP final decisions. The funded proposals follow below.

2003-2004 Research Grants for Librarians Award Recipients

JAEYONG CHANG

"The Korean Diaspora: An Annotated Bibliography and Its Database"

Campus: Berkeley

\$4,346.00

Librarian Chang seeks to develop a single bibliographic reference tool that addresses the diaspora of Koreans throughout greater Asia. Over 3 million Koreans now reside in China and the former USSR, and this project will research and identify periodicals and monographs, as well as literary works, published in the Korean language. After discovery is complete the investigator will construct a bibliographically annotated database that will be available on the Internet at no charge, using the East Asian Library Web server.

LINCOLN CUSHING

"Database of American Labor Graphics"

Campus: Berkeley

\$4,682.00

This second phase of a previously funded LAUC project extends and deepens a systematic survey of labor graphics collections in the United States. The survey encompasses diverse media, including graphics, prints, and posters depicting workers, the workplace, labor organizations, and labor culture. Mr. Cushing argues that although labor graphics are rich, primary sources with historical value, U.S. archives and libraries have generally been slow to develop their holdings in the subject area. He describes what remains as a disorganized archipelago of major and minor collections in need of better bibliographic control. He proposes to address the access deficiencies inherent in area of cultural resources through the creation of a prototype union catalog of known holdings. This will allow researchers to identify, as accurately and quickly as possible, which institutions are likely to have the materials they are looking for.

SHEILA O'HARE

"Legal Executions in California, 1851-2003"

Campus: Santa Cruz

\$7,500.00

Librarian O'Hare argues that even though the debate over the death penalty is ongoing and far from settled, a comprehensive reference source for California legal executions does not exist. She proposes to compile a chronological record of all California legal executions, beginning with the authorization of the death penalty in the Criminal Practices Act of 1851 and continuing to the present day. Her research will culminate in a

book containing a short narrative of each case and its unique legal, procedural, or sociological issues, demographic information for the executed individual and victim(s), images, and bibliographic references. Her publication would be structured to benefit academic and public libraries, death penalty opponents and advocates, legal practitioners, historians, criminal justice scholars, and the general public.

DAVID OWEN

“Consumer/Patient Information Resources for Phytotherapeutics”

Campus: San Francisco

\$7,077.00

Librarian Owen proposes to research, map and characterize information resources in phytotherapeutics, popularly referred to as herbal medicine, where plants or herbs are used to treat diseases or to alleviate pain. He defines phytotherapeutics as an incipient medical discipline, of importance to physicians, pharmacists and other health professionals. The field only began to emerge in the United States in the mid-1990s. Due to historical and socioeconomic reasons, he argues that much of the available information is false, inaccurate or misleading. He further asserts that both health professionals and their patients often do not know which are the most reliable sources of information. He will produce an educational monograph, oriented to an annotated bibliography that documents the most reliable and authoritative resources. He will also address electronic resources due to their ubiquity and ease of access.

ELIZABETH STEPHENSON and CHERYL BARTEL

“Using Personal Digital Assistant Technology for Statistical Research in Health Sciences”

Campus: Los Angeles

\$6,395

Librarians Stephenson and Bartel propose to explore the use of Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) technology as a tool for statistical health-related research, through conducting focus groups with interested medical and health researchers. The cohort of researchers they will work with are well accustomed to the use of a PDA, since PDAs are required in medical and health education. The investigators argue that researchers will use information more efficiently and effectively if it is accessible via PDAs, since this is a preferred tool for other information-related activities. This project includes several phases of activity, and it is *fundamentally experimental* in nature. The investigators will perform a variety of tasks, including an evaluation of content strategies, database design and experimentation, and compilation of reference resources that provide access to major and specialized statistical data files and library resources.

Other Committee Activity

Discussion of "Targeted" Grant Writing. The Executive Board asked the Committee to consider the merits of inviting proposal writers to address specific topics for sponsored research, which would be identified by the Board. After a substantive discussion of this idea at our February meeting, it was the unanimous consensus of all divisional representatives that LAUC should not take this role, but should instead leave the field of inquiry open for grant writers to pursue as they see fit.

Special Task Force to Revise Grant Guidelines. Members Chuck Wilson (LA) and Patrick Dawson (SB) volunteered to serve as a reviewing team to assess whether the grant writing guidelines need to be revised or added unto. They completed their work in early summer, and forwarded their proposed guideline revisions to the Executive Board in July. The Board accepted the revisions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terence K .Huwe
Vice President/President Elect, LAUC
Chair, Committee on Research and Professional Development