

## **Preserving History and Exploring Resources: A U.S. - China Experience**

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This presentation introduces collaborative efforts and research activities by librarians in California, U.S.A. and China, in preserving history and exploring resources in memory of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a pioneer and leader in the fight for Chinese democracy, has long inspired patriotism in China and overseas and left behind invaluable legacy of documents and sources for scholars and researchers worldwide. The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) Southern California Chapter, the County of Los Angeles, City of Montebello and Monterey Park, and librarians and library executives from ten academic and public libraries in California and China were involved in this collaborative project in 2006. Our presentation will introduce efforts and activities including: research and planning, analyzing library resources and collections, training staff, and outreaching to the U.S. community. We will share successful experience in sponsoring two month-long exhibits with over 400 rare photographs, manuscripts and historical documents at the local libraries, hosting two international symposia, and raising-funds from public institutes and private entrepreneurs in California. The Exhibits and the Symposia, both in size and contents, marked a "First" in the history of California in similar activities.

The presentation will also provide an overview of the existing research resources and materials in major repositories from U.S., China and other overseas countries on the study of modern Chinese history. It will look into the recent development of collections and resources in digital format. In particular, it will analyze the strength of collections and provide reference tools, from librarians' perspectives, for developing, preserving, and strengthening collections for research, study, and teaching.