

Lifelong and Continuing Education in Libraries

Introductory Remark

The Shanghai International Library Forum (SILF) is a biennial international event aimed at promoting professional and academic exchange among librarians and information professionals all over the world. In 2002, to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Shanghai Library successfully organized the first Shanghai International Library Forum. More than 100 representatives from twelve countries attended the forum.

The second Shanghai International Library Forum was held on October 12-15, 2004. Nearly 150 librarians and researchers attended this conference, including sixty-eight persons from sixteen countries other than China.

The main theme of the forum was "City Development and Library Services", which was divided into five sub themes: Library and Lifelong Education, Reference Services and Research, Digital Library and Digital City, Library and City Knowledge Infrastructure, and World Exposition. The first section, "Library and Lifelong Education," was a joint endeavor with the Nippon Association for Librarianship, as the theme of the third International Library Seminar (ILS). The first ILS was held in Shanghai in 2001, and the second in Osaka in 2002. These ILS conferences have greatly promoted the professional exchange and cooperation between the Chinese and Japanese libcircles.

After the second SILF was over, we, *Lifelong Education and Libraries*' editorial board, planned to feature "Lifelong and Continuing Education in Libraries" for its fifth issue. Of over one hundred papers submitted to the second SILF and third ILS sixteen papers were carefully chosen according to its special purposes.

We would like to thank all the contributors of the papers, and SHEN Liyun (International Cooperation Division, Shanghai Library) and Kayoko MURAKAMI (Secretary, *Lifelong Education and Libraries*) for their editorial assistance. We expect this special issue to be of great help and motivation for our profession's further development and success.

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