

Summary Report: 2024 Horner Exchange of Fujian Librarians' Visits to Oregon Libraries

July 1, 2024

After a long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Horner Exchange finally resumed in May 2024!

From May 12-24, 2024, the Fujian delegation visited Oregon to learn about Oregon libraries, present on their professional interests, and experience the local culture and hospitality. The delegation included four visiting librarians (Zhaohui Huang, Feng Yu, Xiyang Lin, and Weiwei Wu) from Fujian, China.

There are plans to complete the Exchange in October, when the Oregon delegation, led by State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen and including Jennifer Cox (Chemeketa Community College), Haley Lagasse (North Bend Public Library), and Ingrid Topp-Johnson (Multnomah County Library), will travel to Fujian to represent Oregon libraries.

Over the past twenty-plus years, the Horner Exchange program has enabled the exchange of library staff between Fujian and Oregon, sharing valuable knowledge and best practices in library and information science. This year's exchange is especially exciting, as 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of the sister provinces/states relationship, highlighting long standing library connections and friendship across the world.

Many thanks to the Oregon Library Association International Relationship Round Table (IRRT), the State Library of Oregon, and Horner Exchange participating libraries and friends for extending hospitality and hosting our Fujian guests during their visit this May, touring them around Willamette Valley libraries, highlighting the development and achievements of Oregon libraries, and enhancing knowledge exchange and cross-cultural understanding.

Special thanks to the Portland State University Office of Global Engagement & Innovation (former CIPSU Board) for major funding support, which has been essential in making this round of exchanges possible. Also, particular thanks to Ron Witczak, Sally Mudiamu, and Debra Clemans for their leadership in fostering internationalization. Additionally, our sincere appreciation to Michael Bowman, the Interim Dean of the PSU Library, for his unwavering support during the unforeseen library building closure.

Below are some of the highlighted activities.

May 12, 2024

Arriving at Portland, Oregon from Fujian, China



May 13, 2024

Venues: Downtown Portland & Lincoln High School

Highlights:

- Walking tour of Downtown Portland, including the waterfront and Tilikum Crossing
- Visiting Lincoln High School, meeting with the principal and interacting with students
- Touring the School Library

Downtown Portland made the visitors' first day truly delightful. Linda Campillo's walking route for their first tour in Portland, Oregon started with a stroll up Lincoln Street to 4th Ave, where we introduced them to the food

carts. They enjoyed sampling the local ethnic cuisine for dinner during their stay. Continuing the tour, we passed by the PSU eastern campus and ended up at the RiverPlace Marina. There, they enjoyed the riverfront scenery and saw the beautifully decorated dragon boats preparing for the Summer Rose Festival. They were especially fascinated by the sight of the Hawthorne Bridge being lifted, a unique spectacle they thoroughly enjoyed.

Next, we walked north and up SW Main St., where we paused in front of the Portland Building to introduce them to the iconic Portlandia statue. The route concluded with a pleasant walk down 5th Ave, passing by the mural of books [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Knowledge_\(mural\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Knowledge_(mural)), leaving the visitors eager for more discoveries in the days to come.

After lunch at Gracie's (their first taste of authentic American food), visitors were taken on a tour of Lincoln High School where they were welcomed by the principal and met with students for a presentation and discussion. The tour of the classrooms and the school library was enjoyable, as they met with students, teachers, and the school librarian, and learned about their classes and library's unique collections.





(Content contributed by Linda Campillo & Jian Wang.)

May 14, 2024

Venues: Portland State University

Highlights:

- Meeting with the PSU Library leaders: Michael Bowman, Interim Dean and Cristine N. Paschild, Associate Dean/Head of Special Collections & University Archivist
- Meeting with the PSU Office of Global Engagement and Innovation leaders: Ron Witczak, Executive Director; Sally Mudiamu, Deputy Executive Director; Debra Clemans, Fiscal Officer, and Director of Fulbright and Boren Programs; Dr. Eric Einspruch, former Board Chair of the CIPSU and Adjunct Professor of OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
- Tour of the PSU campus and major buildings

- Outing to the Washington Park International Rose Test Garden

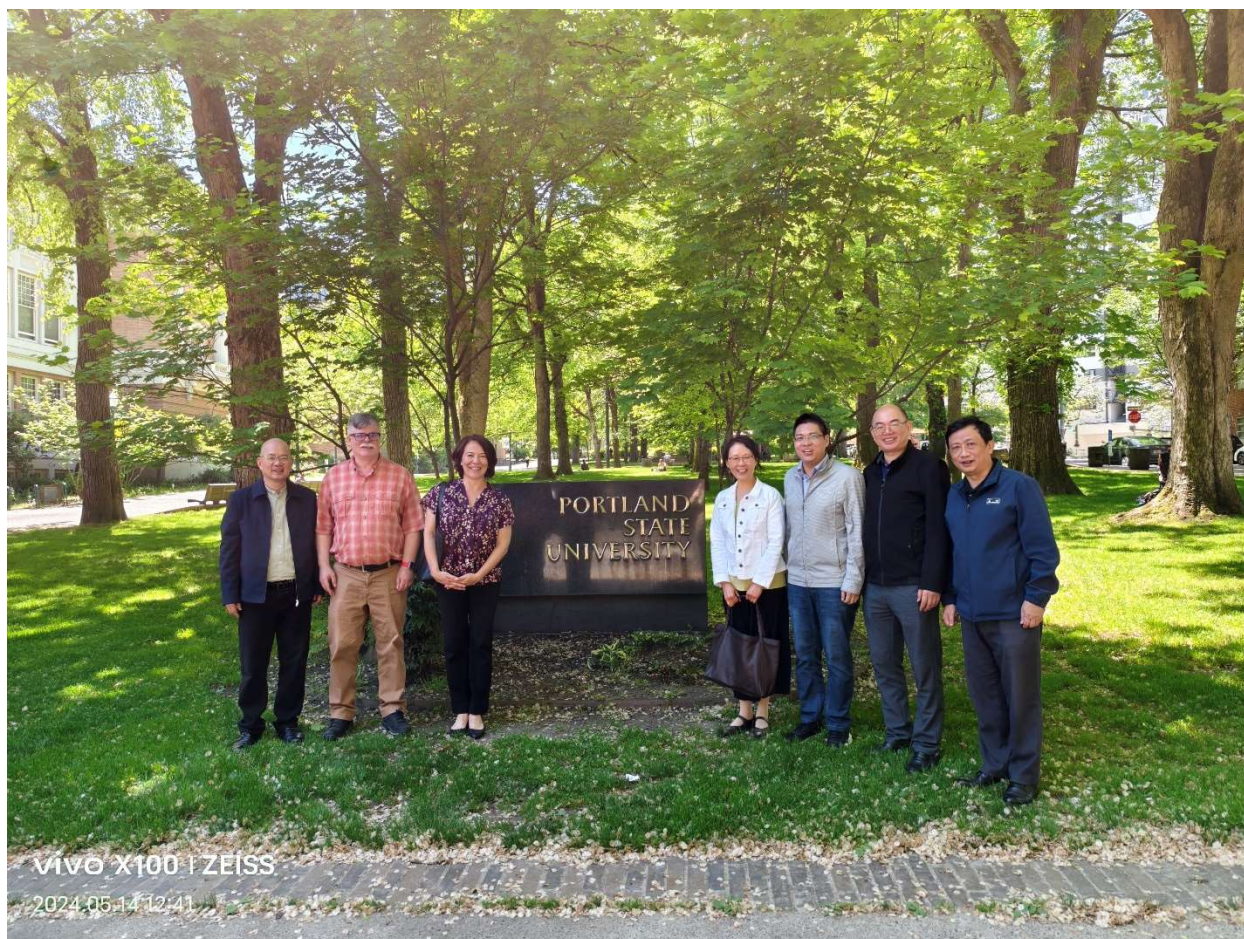
NOTE: Canceled delegates' presentations due to closure of the PSU Library.

The visit to Portland State University began with a tour of the Washington Park International Rose Test Garden. Despite the cold May weather delaying the full bloom of the roses, our guests enjoyed the beauty of the garden and the scenic city view. They also appreciated the aptness of the city's nickname, "Rose City," which they had learned about before their visit.

The guests were then taken to the campus Park Avenue Café where they were welcomed by Michael Bowman, Interim Dean of the PSU Library and Cristine N. Paschild, Associate Dean/Head of Special Collections & University Archivist. They had an engaging meeting over lunch, talking about topics of interest, including library administration, budgets, and special/archival collections. Afterwards, Michael escorted them to his new office building and had a more in-depth conversation with the visitors. The guests were already aware of the library building damage from the recent student protests. Despite their disappointment at missing the PSU Library and its staff due to ongoing repairs, the guests expressed understanding of our situation. They were then guided on a tour of the campus and enjoyed seeing students and watching a band perform on campus. They also inquired about the big copper tree in front of the library and took time to walk about the area outside the library at night.

Another highlight of the day was the visit to the PSU Office of Global Engagement and Innovation at the Karl Miller Center. The guests were greeted by Ron Witczak, Executive Director; Sally Mudiamu, Deputy Executive Director; Debra Clemans, Fiscal Officer and Director of Fulbright and Boren Programs; and Dr. Eric Einspruch, former Board Chair of the CIPSU/Adjunct Professor of OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. Ron welcomed the guests and highlighted the university's international partnerships and initiatives followed by Q&As. The day concluded with a welcome dinner at Tasty Corner, where they were joined by PSU OGEI leaders, professors, and local community friends.





(Content contributed by Jian Wang.)

May 15, 2024

Venues: Multnomah County Library

Highlights:

- Tour of the Multnomah County Library and visits to various key areas
- Tour of MCL Special Collections
- Tour of the Operations Center and meeting executive managers

Wednesday morning, Ellie and Ingrid met our guests at their hotel and walked through the Park Blocks to Central, where myself and JW (a frequent Horner volunteer, also my husband) were waiting on the front steps.

After some photos of the recently refurbished exterior, we were met by MCL employee Kenny Chen, whose family is from Fujian. Kenny lead the tour of Central and translated along with Ingrid. Many of our Chinese Bilingual staff were on hand to demonstrate technology, answer questions, or assist in

other ways as we moved through the building. They arranged for a tea break, which was thoughtful and appreciated.

Highlights of the tour were: the new, modular AMH system, especially the ergonomic hand trucks; design aspects from the recent remodel; the Sterling Writers Room; the grand black marble staircase & the bronze tree; the eco roof; the general collection's variety, accessibility, and displays.

Special Collections Librarian Rachael Short showed several items from the collection in the John Wilson Rare Book Room. She selected items that were either of Chinese origin or relating to Chinese history, such as a silk scroll praising a civil servant of the imperial court and a Blaeu Atlas with maps of China. She also showed us a cuneiform tablet, medieval illustrated books, illustrated Latin sheet music from the 14th century, and the "world's first digital" book, which was woven by a pre-industrial loom using punch cards.

We walked to the nearby Shigezo restaurant, where we had reserved a tatami room for lunch. We ordered several dishes to share and I tried to remember all the proper etiquette. ;) Ingrid helped to keep the conversation flowing. We also used the visitors' translation device to talk about ourselves, our libraries, and other topics. Very futuristic! They had questions about the library's approach to serving Portland's homeless population and shared some stories of their own. We also talked about technology in the library, but as of this writing I'm realizing we didn't talk about generative AI, which would have been an interesting topic.

I told some stories from my visit to Fujian in 2010 -- mostly about food and special dishes, such as Jumping Over the Wall. They complemented our chopsticks skills. The group is very open, friendly, curious, and energetic. It's too bad they couldn't stay longer. I am envious of our 2024 Oregon delegation!

We rode the MAX to the Operations Center. On the way we had a very clear view of Mt. St. Helens. I told them a little about the eruption in the 1980's but with the anniversary tomorrow, perhaps they'd like to know more from Saturday's hosts?

A different group of Chinese Bilingual staff met us and took the group on a tour of our new facility. Highlights were: the much larger, but still modular, AMH; the Friends of the Library bookstore; the behind-the-scenes view of running a Summer Reading program (t-shirts!); meeting executive managers.

With time running short, we opted to skip the planned presentation and have a quick question & answer sit-down break instead. We mostly talked about the differences between our and their AMHs, and a little about the companion software we will be implementing called IMMS. Ellie shared a snack from Oman, which was a yummy and delightful addition to our cross-cultural exchange.

After more photos and some good-bye's, Ingrid brought our guests back downtown via MAX.







(Content contributed by Brandon Barnett.)

May 16, 2024

Venues: Vancouver Community Library/Multnomah Falls

Highlights:

- Tour of Vancouver Community Library and visits to various key areas
- Outing to Multnomah Falls.





(Contributed by Amy Lee)

May 17, 2024

Venues: UO Portland library which invited a Multnomah County Library temporary branch to share space while other nearby branches were being remodeled/Hillsboro PL Brookwood

Highlights:

- Tour of the UO Portland library (new location in the old Concordia University Library) including remodel to accommodate the Balmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health.
- Met with members of the Balmer Institute
- Tour of the Pop-up branch of Multnomah County Library
- Tour of the UO Virtual Reality Lab
- Tour of the Brookwood Public Library in Hillsboro
- Watching a special student performance at the Portland Wushu Center

Nancy Hoover and Angela Lee accompanied the guests to several interesting spots, including the UO Portland library (new location in the old Concordia University Library), where Michael Brown escorted them through the library as well as the Virtual Reality Lab. The visitors experienced VR at the Lab, learning about innovations in teaching and learning. The visitors met with members of the Children's Health Institute. After a lunch of Indian food, the visitors walked through the town of Hillsboro. They then proceeded to the beautiful Brookwood Public Library in Hillsboro for a tour and watched an airshow briefly that coincidentally took place during their visit. They finished their day with a special student performance at the local Wushu school, where they met the Wushu masters (Fujian natives).









(Content contributed by Nancy Hoover.)

May 18-19, 2024

Venues: Oregon Historical Society and Mt. Angel Library

Highlights:

- Visit to Oregon Historical Society and museum exhibitions
- Tour of the Saturday Market
- Tour of LanSu Chinese Garden, including a tea break at the garden's tea house
- Tour of Powell's City of Books
- Tour of Pioneer Place
- Visit to Mt. Angel Library
- Tour of Oregon Garden

Jian and I had a really nice day yesterday with the Fujian librarians, despite the rain. And we walked about 5 miles in total!

We started out at the Oregon Historical Society where they had prepared a very nice display of materials relating to the Chinese history in Oregon as well as some materials about the eruption of Mt St Helen's since it was the anniversary day. We visited the museum, too, and saw the main exhibit about the history of Oregon. Coincidentally, as part of Asian and Pacific Islander month, they had a class going on in the lobby and there were a few dozen people there making woven palm leaf hats which was fun to watch.

We then walked down to the Portland Farmers Market and wandered through the stalls, checking out the various food offerings. They decided to try tamales for lunch and since it had started to rain by then, we ducked into one of the PSU buildings to eat.

From there we walked up to Powell's (I had planned to take the streetcar, but everyone agreed that they preferred to walk rather than wait for the train). They were very impressed with the size and scope of Powell's. Then we walked over to the Lan Su Garden. It was raining quite a lot by then and we had to borrow umbrellas from the visitor center - I was glad they had them! We spent a nice while enjoying tea in the tea house and talked about the importance of tea culture in Fujian.

We walked through Old Town to get down to Pioneer Place mall and the Made in Oregon store where they scooped up lots of Oregon souvenirs.

On the following Sunday, Bruce Flath and Ingrid Topp-Johnson treated the guests to a scenic trip to Mt. Angel Library and the breathtaking Oregon Garden, where they enjoyed an overnight stay.









(Content contributed by Veronica Vichit-Vadakan.)

May 20, 2024

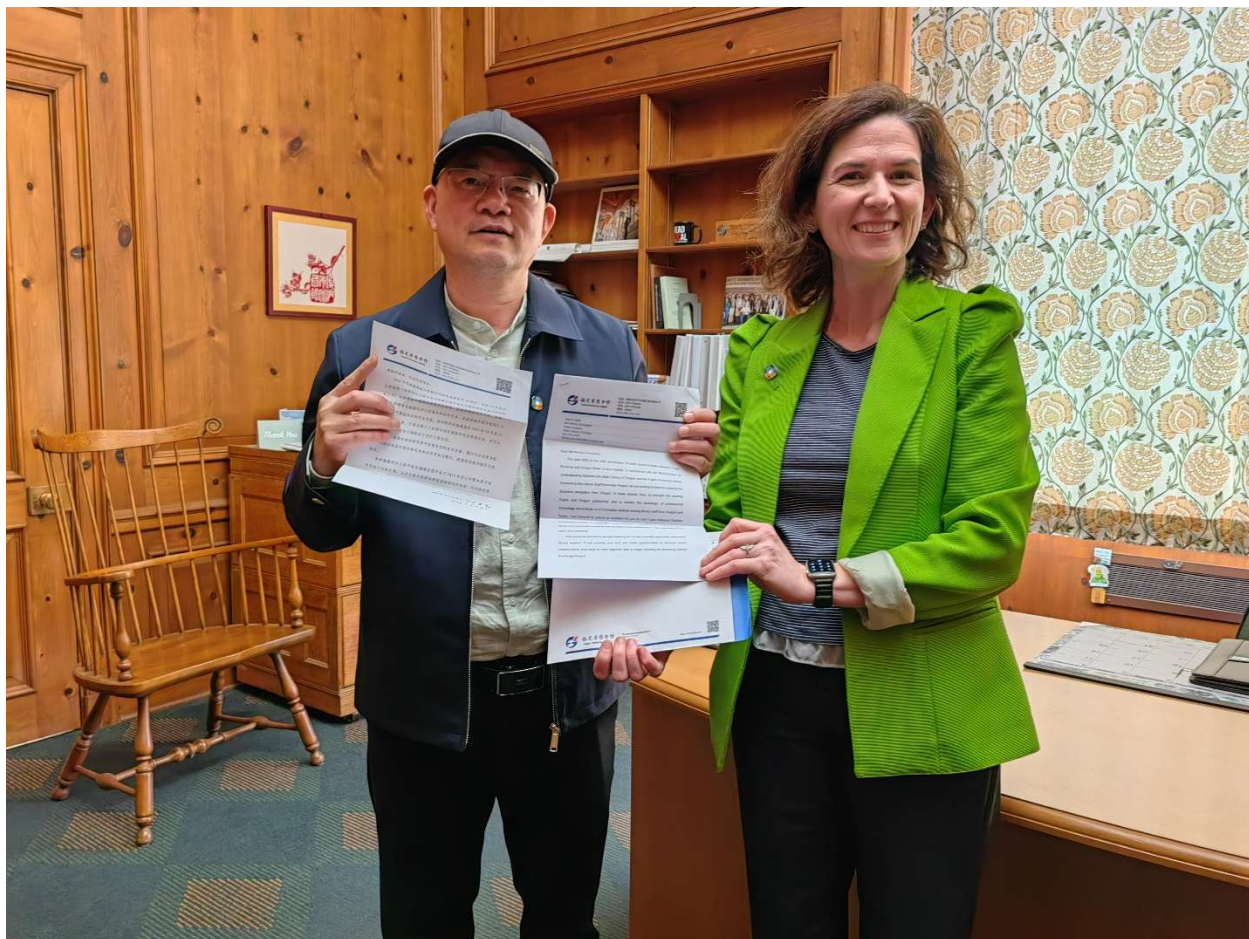
Venues: State Library of Oregon in Salem

Highlights:

- Attending presentations given by the state library staff on Government Services Library and Library Support
- Q&A session with the State Library staff
- Tour of the Talking Books Library
- Tour of other key areas of interest, including special collections, conservation, and the reading room
- Visits to the State Archives and the exhibits
- Tour of Chemeketa Eola Northwest Wine Studies Center, including savoring the delicious Northwest wine

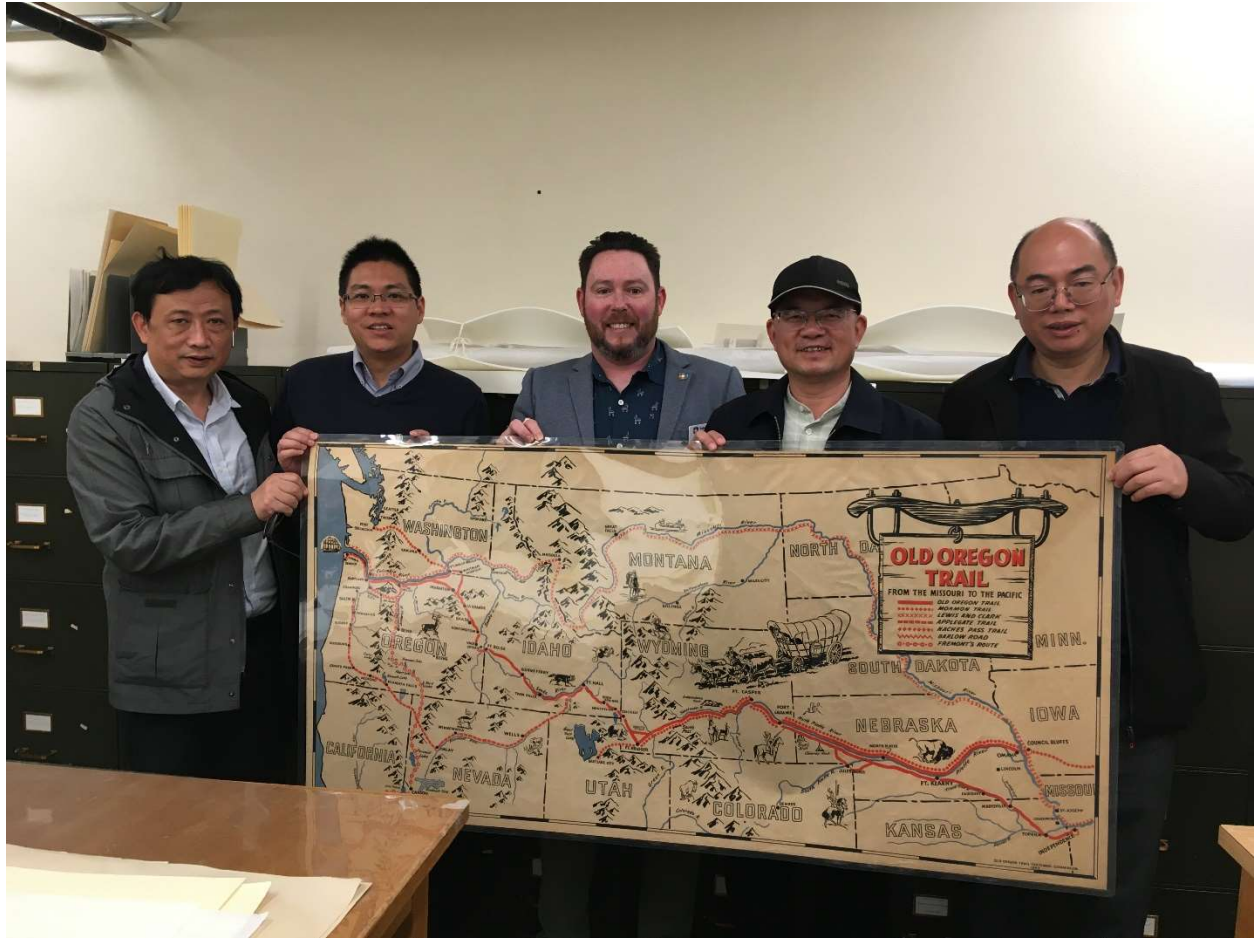
The visitors were welcomed by State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen and the State Library staff. They began their visit by attending presentations on Government Services Library and Library Support, followed by an interactive Q&A session with the library staff. Afterwards, they toured the Talking Books Library, exploring the library services for any Oregonian with a print disability, which includes visual, physical, and reading impairments. They were also shown around other key areas of interest, including special collections, conservation space, and the reading room. The day continued with a visit to the State Archives, where they learned about how the archival materials are maintained and preserved, and a walkthrough of the exhibits that highlighted Oregon history. They concluded their memorable experience by touring the Chemeketa Eola Northwest Wine Studies Center with Jennifer Cox and savored delicious Northwest wine.



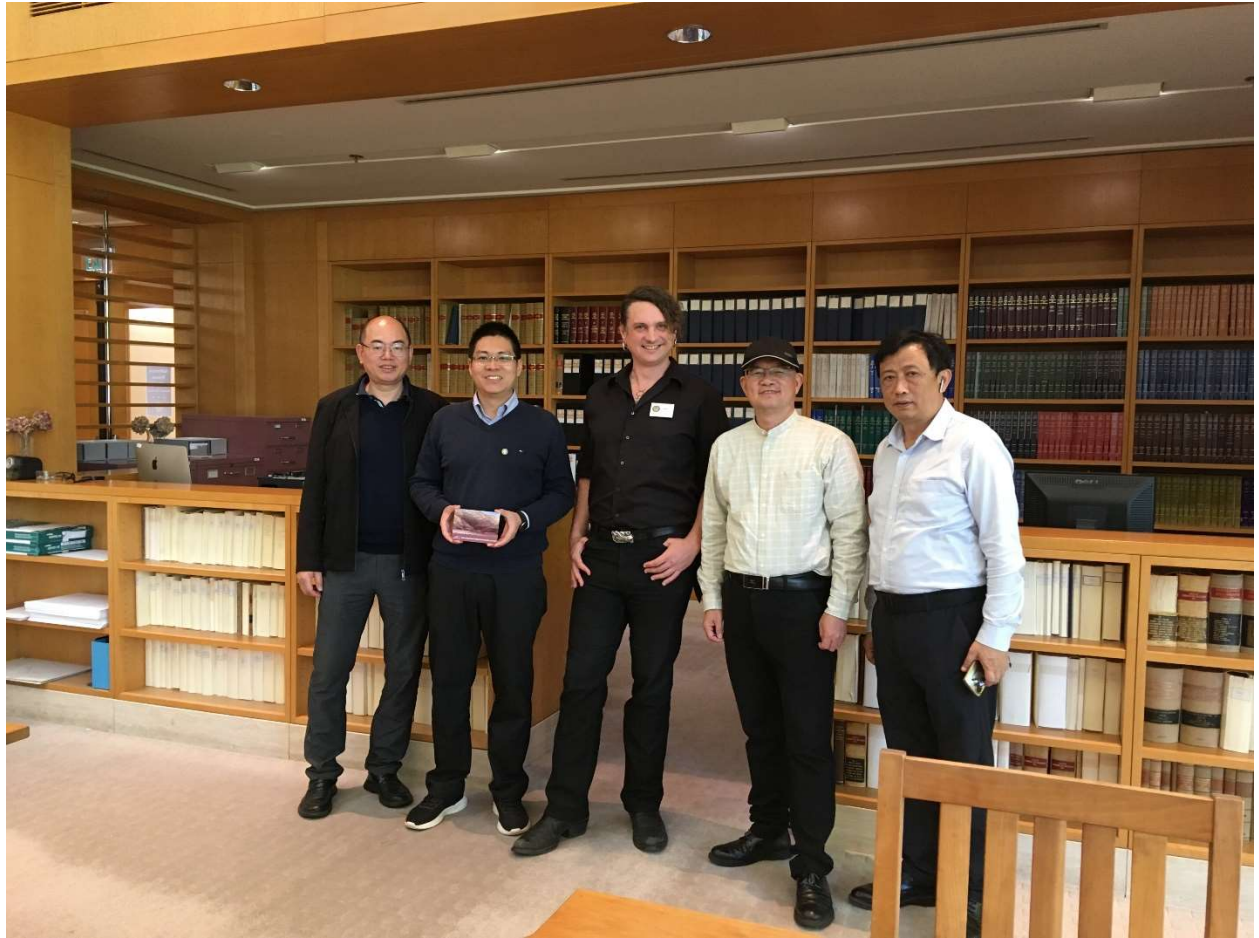


NOTE: Mr. Zhaohui Huang, on behalf of Ms. Jianqin Ye, the Director of the Fujian Provincial Library, delivered an invitation letter to Wendy Cornelisen, inviting the State Librarian for a visit.













(Content contributed by Wendy Cornelisen & Jian Wang.)

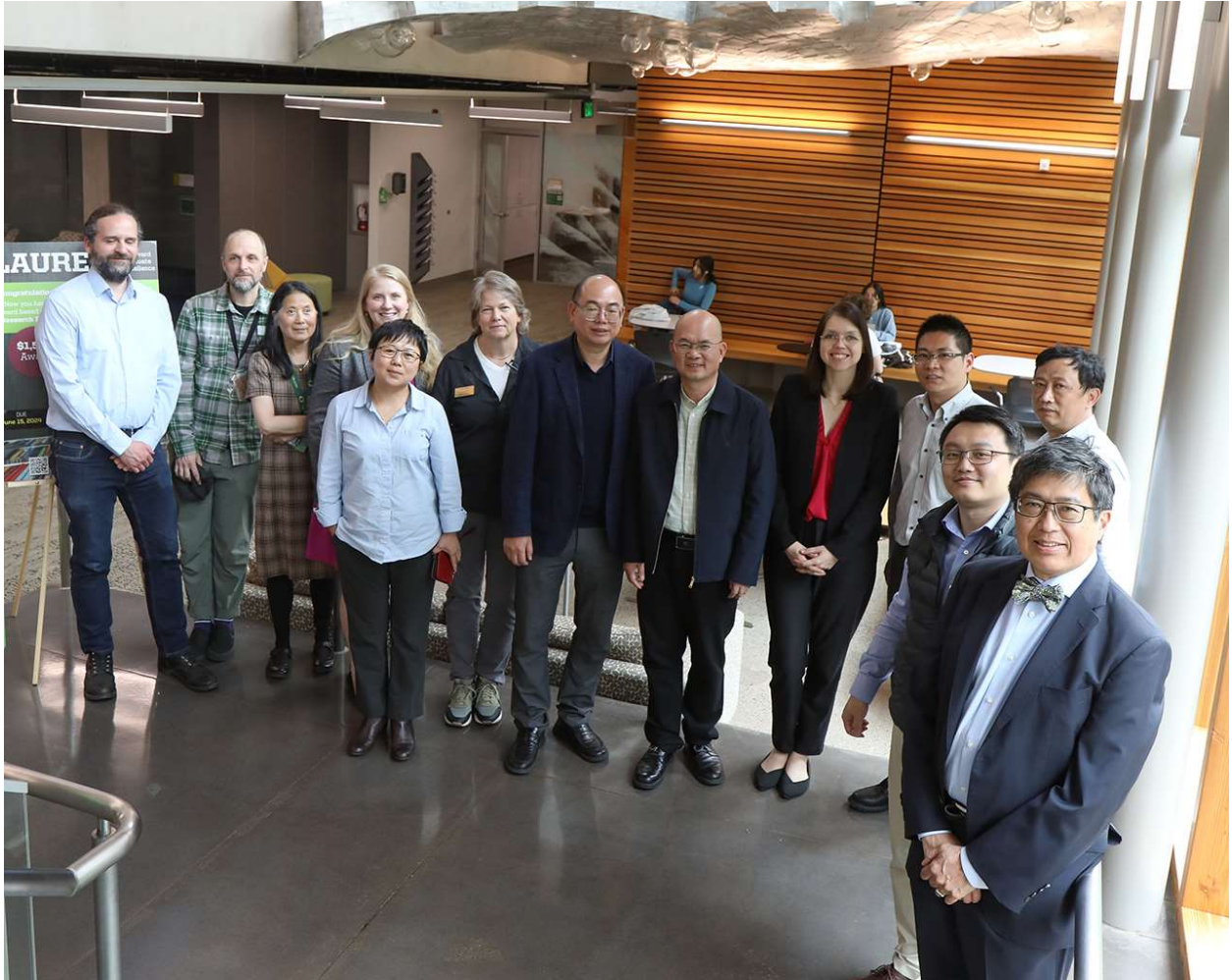
May 21, 2024

Venues: University of Oregon

Highlights:

- Tour of the Knight Library, branch libraries, special collections and university archives, and Knight campus.
- The UO Libraries hosted a catered lunch for delegates.
- The Vice Provost for Libraries, the Executive Team, and department directors attended the lunch, presentations, discussion, Q&A session, group photographs, and gift exchange.
- The Vice Provost for Libraries hosted a special meeting with the delegates.
- Delegates presenting on the following topics:
 - Fujian Provincial Library Renovation Project: expanding services and space
 - Exploring innovations in building and expanding library collections

- FULink: a review of library partnership
- Artificial intelligence, innovation, and the development of first-class universities





(Content contributed by Le Yang)

May 22, 2024

Venues: Oregon State University

Highlights:

- Tour of the Valley Library and OSU campus
- Delegates presenting on the following topics:
 - Fujian Provincial Library Renovation Project: expanding services and space
 - Exploring innovations in building and expanding library collections
 - FULink: a review of library partnership
 - Artificial intelligence, innovation, and the development of first-class universities







(Contributed by Michael Boock)

- Farewell Banquet at Excellent Cuisine, Portland



May 23, 2024

Visits to Woodburn outlets and other shopping areas

May 24, 2024

Departing Portland for Fujian

*Jian Wang, submitted on behalf of the OLA/IRRT
IRRT Past Chair 2023/2024, Chair 2022/2023*