

*Note: On Friday March 6, CONSALD canceled the in-person meeting scheduled for AAS in Boston due to the novel coronavirus (covid-19). This virtual meeting was held through Zoom.*

**Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation (CONSALD)**  
**Virtual Meeting on Thursday March 19, 2020**  
**1:00pm-4:00pm Eastern Time**

Attending: Neel Agrawal (CRL), Judy Alspach (CRL), Ellen Ambrosone (Princeton), Deepa Banerjee (Washington), Bronwen Bledsoe (Cornell), Jonathan Durr (Wisconsin), Karen Farrell (Indiana), David Faust (Minnesota), Lisa Gardinier (Iowa), Charlotte Giles (LC DC), Shah Mahmoud Hanifi (JMU), Gary Hausman (Columbia), Richard Lesage (Harvard), Jonathan Loar (LC DC), Triveni Kuchi (Rutgers), Aruna Magier (NYU), David Magier (Princeton), Adnan Malik (Berkeley), Jeff Martin (Michigan), Philip McEldowney (Virginia), Zoë McLaughlin (Michigan State), Brandon Miliate (Yale), Ryan Perkins (Stanford), Jef Pierce (Penn), Edward Proctor (Duke), Mary Rader (UT Austin), Sarbjit Randhawa (UBC), Gautham Reddy (Emory), Laura Ring (Chicago), AJ Robinson (Wash U), Lana Soglasnova (Toronto) and Mara Thacker (Illinois)

**Item 1: Welcome, Approval of Minutes, Introductions**

CONSALD's chair Mara is hosting the virtual meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the virtual meeting through Zoom. The minutes from the 2019 Madison meeting were approved.

**Item 2: CONSALD Honors**

No honors were recognized at this time.

**Item 3: Treasury Report (Jon Loar)**

The current balance is a healthy amount, \$531.19.

**Item 4: SACOOP and SAMP update (Judy Alspach, Mary Rader, Bronwen Bledsoe)**

Judy noted that tomorrow's (Friday March 20) SAMP meeting will discuss new proposals as well as proposed changes to the SAMP bylaws and the SAMP and SAOA relationship. For SACOOP, Bronwen noted the desire to continue discussions about cooperative cataloging, and Mary said she will put together a draft call for participating in the next workshop, which is for those who can actively participate. Mary also noted that Judy is stepping down from organization of SACOOP workshops, and she is thanked for playing a vital role over the years. Karen Farrell will join in the organizing of workshops.

**Item 5: Journals Subcommittee Update; SALToC Refresher (Gary Hausman)**

Gary wants to highlight three things. First, the journals subcommittee is looking at the recent release of Ideas of India database and its indexing contributions. Second, they are discussing the content in semi-open/semi-commercial archives like Granth Sanjeevani from Asiatic Society of Mumbai and Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune, and discussing who might be the best conversation partner with them, viz. individual universities (although there have been some subscription difficulties) or possibly CRL. Third, Gary speaks briefly on SALToC. NYU is currently updating WorldCat records to provide links to SALToC records and indexing. Some

universities have done that on an ad-hoc basis, but working through WorldCat records will increase discoverability. Aruna adds that she'll give a refresher demo of the database to new colleagues at the next CONSALD meeting.

#### **Item 6: CONSALD Bylaws Amendment Discussion (Mara Thacker)**

Mara reviews the proposed changes to the CONSALD bylaws:

- 1) There has been increased communication between CONSALD and AAS's South Asia Council (SAC). SAC asks to have only one faculty representative – instead of the previous two – on the CONSALD executive committee, and also asks for CONSALD to send one executive committee member to SAC meetings.
- 2) There is a motion to remove the ex officio status of the newsletter editor on the CONSALD executive committee, as this role has not been utilized for a number of years. The motion would replace the ex officio newsletter editor with another librarian elected from the CONSALD membership.
- 3) There is a motion to remove the CONSALD Vice Chair position, as this role has not been an active part of the executive committee. This would not change the total number of members of the executive committee.

Mara also notes that CONSALD had been off-cycle with regard to elections, which is the reason for this year's election for two members, with the person with the most votes serving 3 years and the person with the second-most serving 2 years. Terms will begin after this meeting.

Discussion notes that the Vice Chair position was started to ensure continuity. There is a built-in mechanism for continuity in the bylaws – the past chair's additional year on the committee as the new chair's mentor.

Move to call a vote virtually through Zoom with video capabilities and/or mentioning in the chat. Membership voted and edits to the bylaws were passed: changing number of SAC reps from two to one; remove the ex officio newsletter position and replace with another librarian to be elected in the future; and remove the Vice Chair position.

#### **Item 7: DSAL update (Laura Ring)**

Laura notes that DSAL is not staffed by Chicago and Jim Nye recently retired, although he retains an appointment on the Committee on Southern Asian Studies. In that capacity he continues to do work with DSAL.

Digital Dictionaries of South Asia (DDSA) has six dictionaries with new searchable interfaces, which are identified as new on the DDSA website. Five more dictionaries are ready for presentation in the next two months. They have begun to release iOS apps; Android apps had been released previously.

Censuses of South Asia: This is a multiyear project to make these materials available through Chicago/DSAL. Last summer, SAOA submitted a proposal to NEH, and this proposal focused on the 1931 decennial censuses. NEH will announce funding decisions in late March or early April.

Official publications of India: SAOA is preparing a grant to CLIR's Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program on behalf of CRL. That proposal uses the DSAL database to identify titles for digitization with volumes from collaborating universities – a proposal for a million pages to be digitized.

Committee on Southern Asian Studies and DSAL received a grant from the Ho Family Foundation for a project called, "Imaging the Buddha," which builds on the Huntington Photographic Archive of Buddhist and Asian Art. Funding will go toward creating a Buddhist iconography thesaurus, preparing 7000+ Gandhara and Pala photographs for online, and preparing the online infrastructure work.

Some DSAL resources are offline, and there is still struggle to make them available again. Priorities are, in order: gramophone recordings from Linguistic Survey of India; Shaw historical postcards; libraries and archives of South Asia wiki; and pre-1947 Survey of India maps. Contact Jim Nye to inquire about these priorities.

#### **Item 8: CONSALD Website Committee Update (Mara Thacker)**

SAC has funded the switch of the CONSALD website to Weebly. Work is still ongoing for a carousel at the bottom of the page to display different languages. Interested folks are welcome to join the committee.

#### **Item 9: South Asian Materials in the Internet Archive (Jon; Charlotte)**

Jon introduced a new South Asia digital collection on the Internet Archive, which resides within LC's larger collection on IA. This collection was started in December 2019 and has 193 items as of March 2020. Additions to the collection are currently paused due to the covid-19 pandemic. Jon talked about how items are selected for this collection (e.g., monographs/serials published at least 120 years ago, a date set by LC's Office of General Counsel; only materials in good state of preservation; only items in South Asian languages in custody of Asian Division and monos/serials in English in LC's General Collections; no microformatted materials; no rare books or manuscripts). Items not yet available on the Internet Archive and/or HathiTrust are prioritized, as are materials in South Asian languages. Jon also talked about the limitations of this efficient pipeline for digitization, such as missing metadata from older pre-MARC records. In all, the current plan is to digitize as much as possible. In coming years, we will work with LC's overseas offices to fix metadata, with the eventual goal of making these items discoverable through SAOA's federated search capability.

#### **Item 10: Update on the University of Toronto Tamil Donation (Lana Soglasnova)**

Lana spoke on the François Gros collection of Tamil materials in three parts: the Gros collection's status in terms of processing and digitization; the use of the collection at the UoT campuses and Tamil communities in the area; and reflections on the challenges posed by this

collection (e.g., non-rare items in offsite storage with long times for retrieval). Gros (former director of French Institute of Pondicherry) donated collection to UoT. The processing of approx. 9,000 items (60% processed so far) benefitted from a UTL Chief Librarian's Innovation Grant. Items eligible for digitization (pre-1925, per Canadian law) are made available through Internet Archive collection. In addition to hiring positions to assist with processing this large collection, another significant amount of the budget is going toward preservation, especially older items and fragile items like pamphlets. The collection has found use from graduate students and Tamil Studies faculty, and has generated the launch of a digital initiative for Digital Tamil Studies (website and Google group). This project earned the ALA ALCTS 2020 Outstanding Collaboration Citation.

**Item 11: "A Source-Based Research Biography in Afghanistan Studies" Research Presentation by Shah Mahmoud Hanifi**

Shah Mahmoud Hanifi's talk was organized as a biographical tour of Afghanistan source material engagement. It proceeded in three parts. He first gave an overview of materials engaged in India and Pakistan for his doctoral thesis, which became his first book (Gutenberg e-book, <http://www.gutenberg-e.org/hanifi/>). He then surveyed his work on Pashto language materials as well as the visual history of Afghanistan, with particular focus on maps and the work of Mountstuart Elphinstone during India's colonial period. And the final part of the presentation explored his current work in progress on the environmental history of Afghanistan organized around histories of water, animals, food, and especially wood.

**Item 12: Charlotte Giles's Research Presentation**

Charlotte spoke to the membership to introduce her doctoral work on textiles and labor in Lucknow, specifically artisans in the embroidery textile industry. During 10 months of research in Lucknow, she interviewed and learned from women who work with chikankari, men who produce zardozi embroidery. Her dissertation's main topics are gender, domestic space (and its flexibilities with regard to work), and pain and tension in these textile industries. This interest inspired the desire to learn more about textile-related items at the Library of Congress, which led to a collaborative venture with the GWU's Textile Museum: a symposium on texts and textiles, to be hosted (at a later date) at the Library of Congress. Charlotte also gave an overview of some new Library of Congress web archive collections: Kashmir Legal Status 2019; Indian Political and Social Issues (including CAA/CAB issues); Gender Issues in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan; and Indian Government Websites.

**Meeting adjourned.**