**Who’s Who of Chinese Students Abroad (Pre-1949): Uncover Hidden Names**

**from National Archives and Records Administration, USA**

Ying Zhang

Research Librarian for Asian Studies

University of California, Irvine

**Abstracts of the proposed presentation**

Chinese, who studied abroad during the late Qing and Republic period, are a special and significant group. An estimated 150,000 Chinese students went abroad, including the United States as a major destination, over 100 years. However, only a small percentage achieved high social and professional status and had well-documented lives. Most lived unnoticed, with minimal evidence of their once existence apart from basic information found in university archives, immigration records, gray literature, and personal recollections from their descendants.

Recognizing the importance of both prominent figures and lesser-known individuals in shaping history, a group of Chinese Studies Librarians in the US and UK embark on a massive, multi-year project. Their goal is to rescue and reconstruct biographical information of Chinese educated abroad before 1949, especially those who have been marginalized. The biographical information will be ultimately made available online for open access.

One major challenge in piecing together the lives of these individuals in China and overseas lies in matching their Chinese and Romanized names, obtained from Chinese and Western resources respectively. The presenter, supported by research funding from UC, is scheduled to visit three branches of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) along the west coast of the United States in this summer. Her visit will involve examining students' arrival records, which may include passport copies with Chinese names and registration documents with Romanized names.

In this presentation, she will share her research experience at NARA and provide further details about the project she is leading.

**Bio of the presenter**

Dr. Ying Zhang has worked in academic librarianship for nearly 35 years. She has been the Research Librarian for Asian Studies at UCI since 2006. Prior to this current position, she worked at Rutgers University Libraries as the interim East Asian. Before coming to the States, she worked at Sun Yat-Sen University Libraries as a research librarian for 12 years. Ying has earned a B.S. in Biology from the Ocean University of China, an MLS from Sun Yat-Sen University, and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Studies from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Her professional experience includes East Asian librarianship, collection development and management, reference, intermediated information retrieval, user instruction, system/website design, digital humanities, digital library and information system evaluation. Over the years, she has participated in numerous national, regional, and local projects, has published three book-length publications and some 20 research papers.

Her presentation will address one sub-theme of this year’s meeting, which is “Showcase expertise and experience in sharing and unlocking the potential of scholarly content of Archives and Special Collections.”

The proposed presentation will be delivered in person.

Yes, she gives permission to record her presentation and to make it publicly available after the annual meeting.