



Evergreen

Education Foundation

2008

Newsletter



Mission Statement

Improve the information literacy of rural communities, by modernizing rural libraries as information and cultural center.

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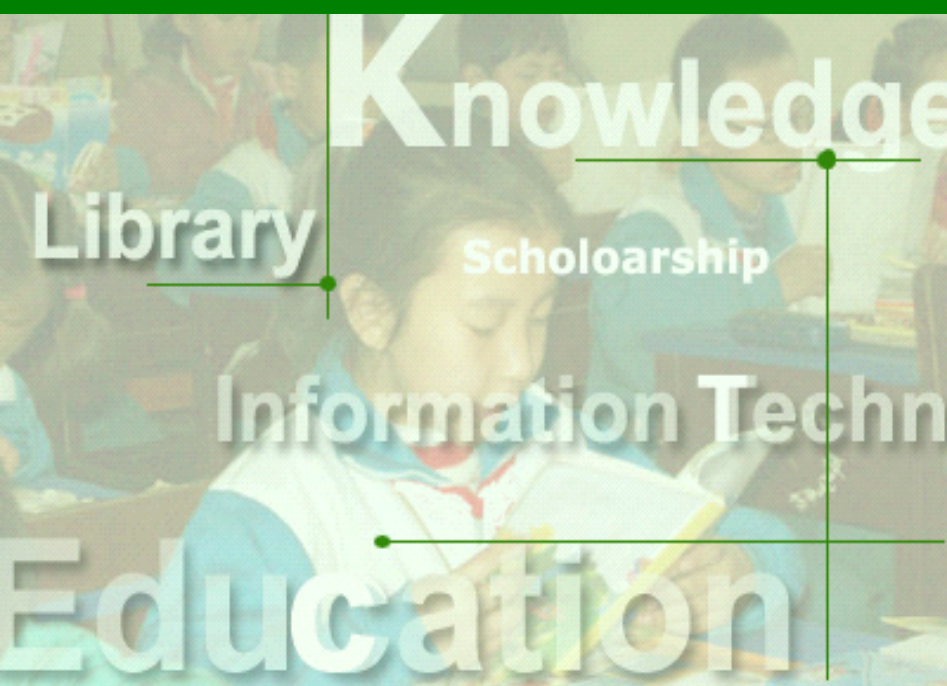
Reading program for
migrant school

Teachers Training

For Farmers

Conference/Workshop

Please help us





Evergreen Education Foundation Newsletter

P.O. Box 5131, Richmond, California 94805 • 415-602-4754 • 510-501-2714 • evergreenlibrary@yahoo.com December, 2008

Dear Friends and supporters,

None of these programs are possible without your help. I would like to thank you for your past and continued support and wish you a very happy new year.

Faith Chao, President

Faith and our partner in Danfeng →



Words from Board Director

John Lee: Health Information for Rural Areas in China

In the last seven years Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF) has been funding and providing rural area high schools and communities with Library and Information facilities, management training. They have enriched the lives of students, faculty, librarians, and the community. Furthermore, EEF has facilitated innovative programs such as letting students outreach to farmers doing soil analysis after which, they suggest fertilizer for better crop yield. There are encouraging evidences of economic improvement to those who made gainful use of the Information Resources.

One important information resource, however, is missing. That is the health information. Under the governmental inducement, schools perform rudimentary physical exams among their students, meanwhile, EEF has found it is an opportunity to address health issue in this area. EEF is ready to start at a school in

Tongwei, Gansu with over 4000 students as a

4 more schools with over 4000 students each and many schools with over 1000 can be replicated. EEF envisions itself to address Health Information with the following perspectives:

- To make available Healthy diet, habits and practices – as a disease preventative measure
- To capture students' medical and health records when school performs rudimentary physical exams (vital, lung and appropriate protocol per government spec) or when government sponsored facility performs more advanced exams
- Make available common disease information resources, including Traditional Chinese Medicine

In cooperation with and its sponsored libraries and schools, it is an effective channel for agencies and suppliers to meet the needs identified by item 1 and 3.



Resource searching

by Faith Chao

These pictures are taken in a village of China. Children there do not share the same idea of Health as children in the U.S.. How can we just ignore their health and future life.

by Faith Chao



The materials can either be hard or soft copy sources. In the latter case, libraries and schools have been equipped with Internet access, and more importantly, with trained librarians.

As for item 2, the capture of students' health and medical record, EEF is investigating the existence of some Chinese version software, similar to Google Health in nature or MS Health Vault. Should such software exist and can be hosted in a L(inux)A(pache)M(sSql) P(hp) environment, EEF would be a great partner to facilitate and make sure students' medical and health records will be kept when they are at schools. Such information would be transferred and made available to students after they graduate and leave their home for higher education or work opportunities elsewhere.

Late October, EEF had an opportunity to learn from Microsoft's effort in China. Messrs Curt Devlin, Ben Flock and Hong Choing provided the most helpfulness in sharing some of DPE's work in China whose project covered some aspects what EEF envisioned for its sponsored schools and communities. It would be extremely helpful, with Microsoft's network to point EEF to the direction where its vision would bear more fruit soon.

Our record of success rests solidly on our conscientious effort to work with all stakeholders, especially centered on the beneficiaries and the local community. We have a deep understanding of the culture and the practice of government officials. We do believe that our approach would be an effective one. With the help of Microsoft and its network in the health field, we can accelerate the fulfillment of our



mission.

Please contact EEF President, Professor Faith Chao, EEF Chairman, John Lee or System Designer, Jerry Xu for leads that they can follow up. Their email addresses are respectively fchao@ggu.edu and ele81946@yahoo.com and jerryx@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Evelyn Zhang: Evergreen- An Inviting Platform to Promote Information Literacy

Years of searching and inquiry led me here --- In July 2008, I quit my job in computer industry, an industry I've been actively involved for about 9 years by serving in various companies in both Silicon Valley and China, and joined Evergreen Education Foundation as her China Program Director, overseeing and directing program execution in China.

It is a moment of excitement, also a moment of urgency.

I feel excited because finally I found a good handle by which I can leverage my capabilities and skills to serve much-needed social improvements. China is a great country experiencing rapid developments. Following the economic development, Chinese society is on its way towards profound changes in education, culture, legal institutions, among others. During this evolving process, "Where should our rural education go?" is a critical question posed at the government, NGOs, scholars, and the masses. The rural education at our times has to help 70% of our total population, one billion men and women, to become active participants in creating social wealth, and pursuing personal happiness. The key is information literacy. The understanding of the complex and diverse world, and the capability of obtaining and analyzing information

lay a strong foundation for citizenship education and further education in specialized subject. By working on building this foundation, Evergreen intends to mobilize the rural education.

Yet I also feel a strong sense of urgency because information literacy of the rural population is called for more than ever. In a fast-changing globalized market, in all farming-related lines and small business, there is this pressing need of equipping rural population with information and knowledge to boost their competitiveness.

Pushed by the same sense of urgency, in the year 2008, Evergreen has advanced library automation, training, extended community projects, and library evaluation, to make libraries a strong and out-reaching platform to promote information literacy. Hereby I'd like to report developments on library automation and library evaluation, and my colleagues will show you the developments on the other two aspects.

Moreover, to save the cost of commercial software license, and leverage the free functionalities and user-group support from well-structured open-source development, we follow the international trend of open-source library management software adoption. We evaluated possible options and identified KOHA (<http://www.koha.org>) Chinese version as our choice. We are also preparing a KOHA trial in our new site in ShanXi in February 2009. Here we've got a new



partner in our cause, Taiwan Fu-Jen University KOHA volunteer team, led by Prof. Qingzhen Mao in the Dept. of Library & Information Science. This team has years of experience supporting KOHA in Fu-Jen University, and converting high school and primary school libraries in Taiwan into KOHA. They will provide us with the right expertise in our KOHA trial. It is encouraging that other organizations value our cause and platform, and join us in the path.



Student Team Interviewing Families Using Biogas Provided by Evelyn Zhang

As for library evaluation, we continue surveying the communities in various regions that our libraries serve on the impact and effectiveness of our library service. Moreover, we start to get strong help from the university students who care about the rural education, economy, livelihood, environment and local cultural preservation. From July to November 2008, 4 teams of ZheJiang University students, altogether around 30 students, went to our various project sites in YunNan, GanSu, and QingHai. Their field study covers the following aspects:

1) They inspected our libraries in great details, collected statistics, designed and executed surveys and

structured interviews, to evaluate library hardware, circulation and management, library basic services.

2) They also concentrated on evaluating the effectiveness of library extended projects. Moreover, they conducted surveys for evaluating feasibilities of new project proposals.

3) Their study on education, livelihood, environment and local cultural preservation in surrounding villages help us in adjusting directions of our extended community projects.

4) They not only help to replicate the know-how and methodology of established Evergreen projects from one site to another, but also help to summarize the know-how of other successful NGOs for Evergreen's assimilation. They interviewed the key persons of these NGOs and surveyed their projects. All these know-how they've collected have already taken effect in Evergreen project design and execution.

Moving forward, our organization will continue working closely and systematically with the university student teams in these aspects.

Evergreen, with its strong focus on promoting information literacy via the vehicle of library, has been and will

continue to be an inviting platform. Walking on this path now, we have all Evergreen/CERLS staff, our librarians and computer teachers, Fu-Jen and ZheJiang university teams. We are looking forward to more staff, volunteers, and partners who hold this cause dear, deem this approach effective, and walk along with us.

China Evergreen Rural Library Service and its impact on cultural life in rural communities

Wenjie Zhou, Elaine Dong, and Tim Zou wrote a paper,

which was presented by Wenjie and Tim at the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) at the August 2008 meeting in Quebec. Community library users in rural Tongwei and Tianzhu counties in Gansu province were surveyed about the impact and effectiveness of the Evergreen Rural Library Service (CERLS). In the CERLS model interactions between a school library and students, students and parents, parents and local residents, and community and school library, promote a healthy learning environment within the rural community. Evergreen funding for the main high school libraries and their satellite stations has expanded community access to both technology and book collections in Tongwei and Tianzhu. One of the most significant findings in the study is that the level of household income and education affect people's need for information services. People with lower income and less education need information services more because they are less likely to have Internet access from home or to know how to use the information services that the library offers. People who had lower incomes valued the library most for meeting their practical needs whereas community members with higher household incomes (10,000 Yuan or more) reported that the library was most important in meeting their leisure and recreational needs. More than half of community members reported an increase in time spent reading after being issued a library card. More than 80 percent of respondents in both Tianzhu and Tongwei were satisfied with the hours of operation and the services. Therefore, the CERLS program has positively affected the lives of local residents in providing more opportunities for reading and learning. As CERLS programs continue to expand into other locations in China, this study will provide useful information and a model to analyze prospective programs. Many challenges still remain, including building a networked and virtual library community, continuing to enhance printed and electronic resources, and organizing more cultural events. The complete paper is available at:

http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/papers/106-Zhou_Dong_Zou-en.pdf

Wenjie Zhou: Keep the Pace of the Changing Information World



---Thoughts on IASL and IFLA

August in San Francisco is so charming that I can't help being addicted to the fresh air, blue quite bay and glorious bridges as soon as I arrived in this city. Faith, President of Evergreen Education Foundation was waiting for me there and she took me to the Clark Kerr Campus of the University of California, Berkeley, a fruitful tip in the US was opening its prologue.

During the first week of August I stayed at Berkeley, enjoying IASL annual congress. One of my missions is to share China Evergreen Rural Library Service's experience with all conferees from school libraries in different parts of world. On August 6th, I gave a presentation titled "Evergreen Library Penetrating into Classroom Teaching: application and expansion—Take Tianzhu No.1 High School in Northwest China as a Sample." My presentation focused on the progress Evergreen Library has made towards our mission.

Many librarians from US, India, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong were greatly interested in the work Tianzhu Evergreen library has done. We got together

and kept sharing our thoughts on the program during the whole conference. Topics we discussed include:

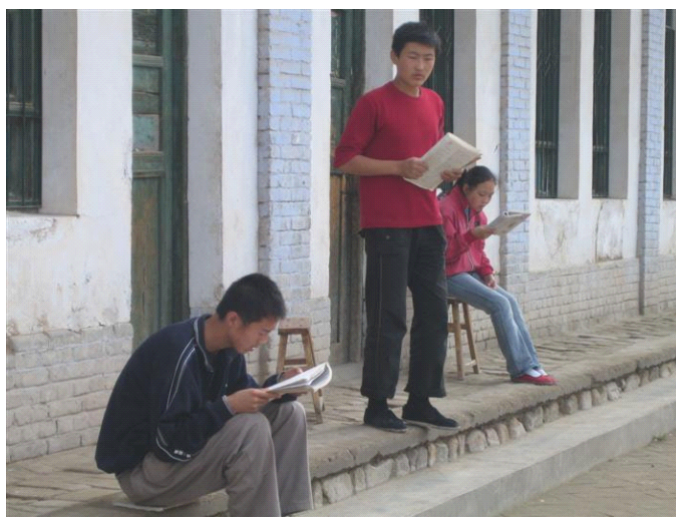
- 1) More efficient teaching activities should go on in the library.
- 2) The school library has unique advantage on improving students' information accomplishment.
- 3) School library can not only help students access information resource but also help them acquire a right method to assimilate the resource.

Beside the presentation, I also visited Redwood High School Library and several academic libraries of U.C. Berkeley. Their comfortable reading rooms and efficient running system impressed me deeply. I think that the experience from U.S and other countries, such as the following, is very valuable to Evergreen libraries:



then 5000 librarians and specialist this year. Plentiful presentations, cocktail parties and ceremonies made up a colorful and fruitful IFLA. It was my great honor to cooperate with Elaine and Tim on Evergreen's work in China, and our paper was accepted by Asian and Pacific group.

On August 12th, Tim and I gave a presentation titled "A School-library-centered Community Information Resource Sharing Model and Its Impact on Cultural Life of Rural Communities in China". Our presentation focused on the evaluation of Evergreen libraries. Positive impact of Evergreen libraries in Tianzhu and Tongwei are proved by our survey. Many scholars from U.S and other developed countries



**Based on library, we can do more for students.
provided by Evelyn Zhang**

- 1) A dedicated director is necessary for an efficient school library.
- 2) In Taiwan and other regions, there are two kinds of librarians in middle or high school: Some of them assume duties both as teacher and librarian compared with others being just librarians. It's very valuable that a teacher is also a librarian because he/she has better chance to incorporate library utilization into daily teaching.

After IASL conference, I continued my trip to IFLA in Quebec, Canada. As the highest level conference for librarians from all over the world, IFLA attracted more

applauded Evergreen library model which leads to efficient information sharing between communities and local school libraries.

The year 2008 is coming to an end. But those colorful days will remain in my mind forever. 2008 is a significant year not only for Evergreen but also for me. I was so lucky that as a member of Evergreen I have met so many new friends and have tasted magnificent scenes I never seen before. I wish Evergreen greener in the next year.





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It is really hard to describe what I've learned during the first year in Tsinghua. It is truly a treasure which cannot be bought. It will impact my entire life and remind me constantly how to walk my path. I feel so lucky to be here, one of the best universities in China. What I learned here is much more than I imagined.

many grateful thanks to Eileen!

Being a volunteer has been a great thing, to me, to my high school, and to Evergreen who has been greatly helping us. I hope we all do out

Han is a proud volunteer for 2008 Olympics and for Beijing migrant school library

||

best!

Han Qiu, a former scholarship fellow

Martin: Dreams and Evergreen Education Foundation

The world is full of coincidences and myth-like stories. Like my getting to know with Evergreen Education Foundation, it's part of those stories. Thanks so much for the chance I can "run into" this organization and find such a group of kind people who are energetic and enthusiastic to help people in rural area of China. So

I myself, come from a relative remote northeast place of China, so I guess I have the vivid memory about information shortcoming and opportunity inequality.

when I was in middle school, we did have a library for sure. But the interesting thing was, students could only borrow books for 2 hours during Reading Class which ran once a week except exam periods under the supervision of our Chinese teacher and then we had to turn them in a pile back. Additionally, it was rarely happen to a common student find the access to go into the library and to pick up whichever he was interested

in unless he figured out some kind of "Special Relation" with some teacher or school faculty.

After I got to high school, things changed! We were free to use a mini reading room during Reading Classes for 2 hours and can also borrow one piece at a time with a hand written white slice card. There was also a place named as Stack Room where stored decades of shelves of books. It was soon opened to students in my freshman year. According to thousands of students and only one librarian, it opened to different classes during same afternoon hours of weekdays. If you were there, you would participant into the big borrowing-a-book event in this way: hearing the bell for 30 minutes break, you rushed out of classroom and ran straightly to the Stack Room if you planned to borrow a book. After you got there, probably you would find there had been stuffed with students of your neighbour classrooms. Then you used drawers and drawers white inventory paper cards under the array of assorted fileds like A-literature, B-geography... Then your task was in about 20 minutes, tried to find one book you were craving to read among thousand of cards and nipped that precious card emerged into another crowd before a 1 by 1 meter square window inside which stood our librarian. Waiting her to sensor if you were able to borrow that one and then find that one in the big room in her backward was always a good temper work. If you were lucky enough, you could hand in your Borrow card to her with the names of the book as well as yours, plus the date on, and she would make a signature to confirm, then you got it for two weeks! So happy, huh? By the way, I had tried about four times but only made it happen once...

The little boy in *the Children Of Heaven* dreams he can win a pair of new shoe after the long race; the mothers in the *Joy Luck Club* dreams they can change their destinies one day and let their children live a better life; Harvey Milk dreams people can treat each other fairly and equally disregarding different sexual orientation. People who are under poor conditions always have a reason to have more dreams and

probably more strong motivation to active to make some changes.

I, too, have a lot of dreams from those interesting stories of my past student life. One of them is about books. I like books and really enjoy reading. I want to share with others my experience relating to books and how much I've learnt from books as well as travelling.

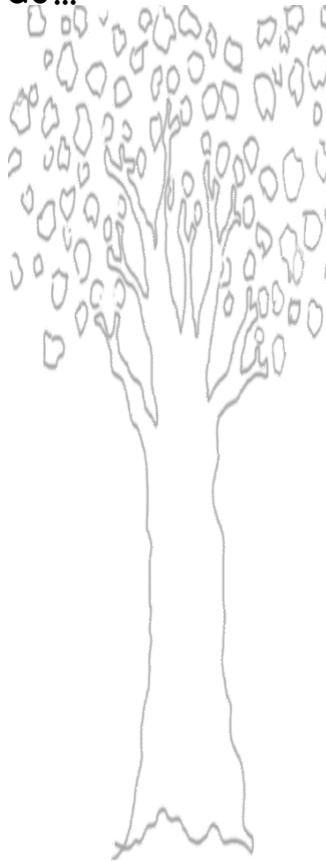
I know there are still a lot of people in our country facing the lack of reading materials and can't find the way to get more information. In this case, people will lose their chances to earn money, to find a training or to get to a school.

Besides books, I hope students can get a useful practical education. Many students can't afford the tuition and living expense of a college, which is really sad thing. I have met different people coming from all over the country. They teach me how to understand foreign cultures, how to recognizè myself and how to make changes. I want more and more people who are willing to have this kind of experience can make their wish come true.

At this point, I make myself connect to Evergreen Education Foundation. I want to participant in this group to contribute. Though our story is just newly beginning, I would imagine we will have fun working together and really help for those who are in need.



What else we
do...



Reading Programs for Migrant Schools:

- Another gracious donor is providing funds for our library in Beijing for migrant schools and the establishment of our reading program for the elementary students there.
- We expect to translate Beijing's experience to better reading programs for the libraries planned in Shanxi.

Model Libraries:

- Through a generous donation we are now able to engage in identifying and extending best practices at libraries in Tianzhu and Tongwei and replicating them to Huining.
- One Library in each of these areas will be named in honor of Captain Yip. We hope that these 3 communities in Gansu will serve as models for best practices for all rural libraries in China.



Library Automation:

Professor Mao of Fu Jen University from Taiwan will lead a team to Shanxi early next year to help us automate the 4 libraries planned.



Scholarships:

We are proud of our scholarship students. Some graduates are attending the top schools in China.

Conferences and Workshops:

- Our 3rd international conference: ITIE2008: Connecting Rural Communities, was held at and co-hosted by the first "Evergreen School", established over 75 years ago in Huzhou
- Thanks to a generous grant from the Joseph Tse Foundation, we were able to fund over 100 teachers and librarians from our Evergreen sites. Over 25 experts from Taiwan, Hong Kong, England and the US gave presentations.

Teacher Training:

- We are equally proud of our teachers. Providing workshops for our teachers has borne fruit.
- Zhou WenJie presented 2 papers at the most prestigious international conferences for librarians.



You are so important

We really appreciate

You can join with us

Please Contact us

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