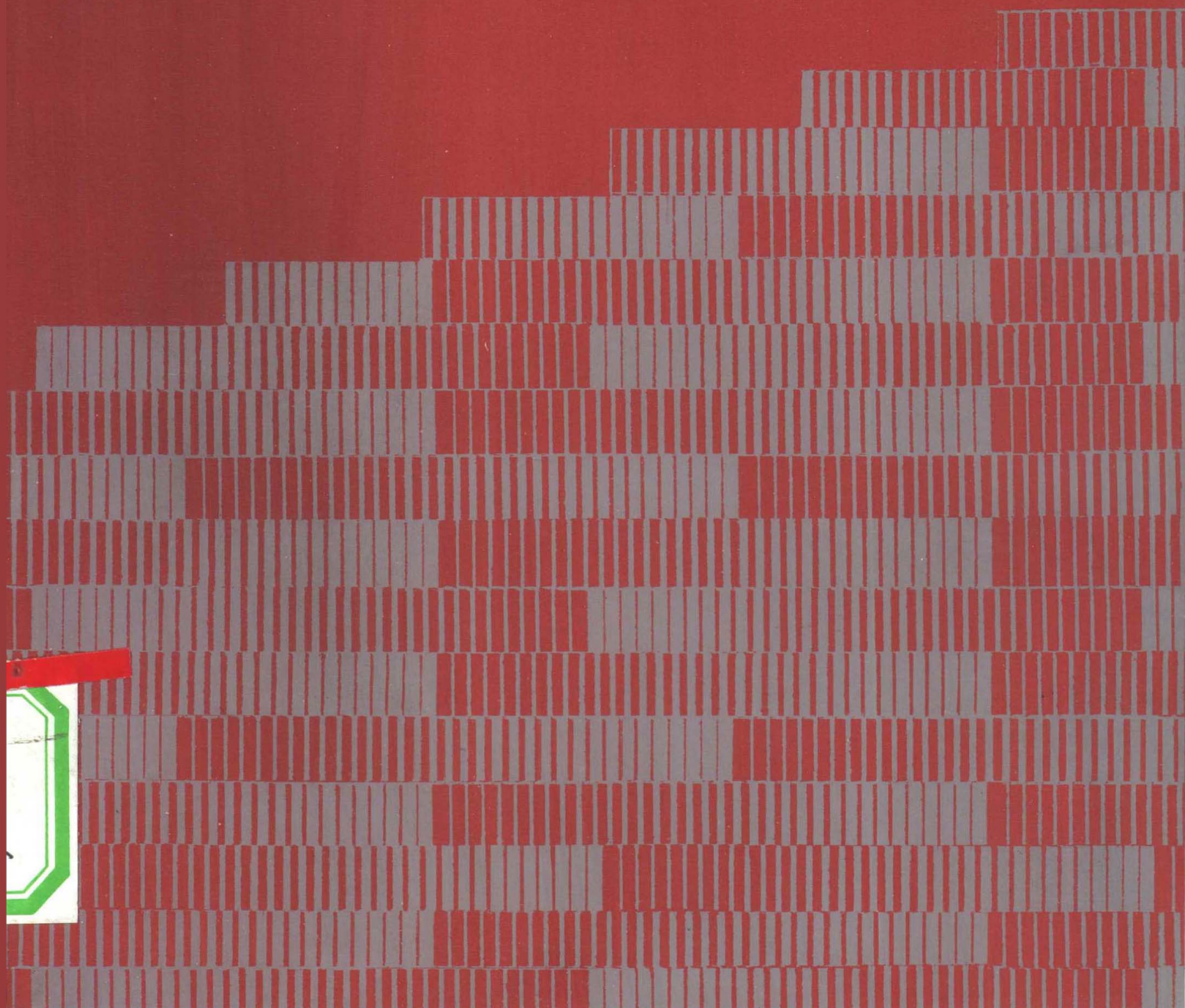


中国图书馆学会综览

《中国图书馆学会综览》编写组

THE GENERAL SURVEY OF THE CHINA
SOCIETY FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE

*The compilation group of "the General Survey
of the China Society for Library Science"*



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FOREWORD

The China Society for Library Science (CSLS) has transgressed the past sixteen years' journey imbued with hardship and brilliance. Under the leadership of the China Association of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Culture and many thanks to the support and participation of the mass of the society members and librarians, CSLS has attained remarkable achievements in varied areas during the past 16 years. At the turn of the centuries, while '96 IFLA General Conference is about to be held, CSLS compiles "The General Survey of the China Society for Library Science" with a view to making a fairly overall and systematic introduction to the development made by CSLS since its establishment and its positive role played during the new period of changes in promoting the study of library science and pushing forward the development of librarianship as well as achievements made by CSLS as an association member of IFLA in positive participation in activities conducted by IFLA and the conduct of international academic exchanges since its founding, inclusive of the preparatory work done by China for the 62nd IFLA General Conference, for librarians, experts and scholars in the world library community. The introduction will contribute to improve mutual understanding, deepen friendship and promote exchanges and cooperation between us and our colleagues from overseas; and avail society members of an opportunity to learn about their own academic organization in a fairly comprehensive and systematic manner.

First of all, we would like to present briefly some basic information concerning CSLS.

CSLS is a national corporate body approved by the Ministry of Civil Administration of the People's Republic of China, and also a national academic community-based organization of librarians established in accordance with laws.

CSLS is a component body of the China Association of Science and Technology.

CSLS is an association member of IFLA which is global research organization in library science and has consultative status "A" with UNESCO.

The objectives of CSLS, from its inception, have been to organize all members and unite the mass of librarians to adhere to guidelines and policies of the Central Communist Party and the State, and the guidelines of "theory meets practice" and "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend"; to initiate the spirit of "being devoted, creative, realistic and cooperative"; to contribute to develop the librarianship of China, promote

the study of library science, build the socialist with Chinese characteristics and realize the "four modernization".

Stipulated in the constitution of the society, the principle tasks of the society have been; to organize its members to develop the mass-oriented research of library science; to conduct academic exchanges nationally and internationally; to compile and publish the periodical of the society, monographs of library science and some relevant materials of academic research; to introduce academic trends and results of library science; to provide consulting services for vital decisions in developmental strategies on the national science and technology and in the course of the economic construction as well as policy-makings in the library undertakings of China; to introduce, popularize and evaluate the results of research of library science and offer in-service training to members and librarians; to spread the basic knowledge of library science and disseminate advanced technologies; to safeguard lawful rights of members and receive suggestions and requirements.

During 16 years the society has done lots of works centering on the above-mentioned tasks and the achievements are remarkable. But it has been a starting point from which we run forward, and we must work harder for brilliant tomorrow of CSLS.

On the occasion of the convening of 62nd IFLA General Conference, this book has been presented to the Conference and friends in the world library community.

I. Historical Evolution

1. The embryo and establishment of the China Society for Library Science. Though library science as a special independent field began only in 1887, the origin of librarianship, which is the backbone of this science, has to be traced back to ancient times. To be specific, the work of librarianship includes collecting, ordering, management and utilization of documents. In China, all of these were carried out in "House for Storing Books" and involved the integration of catalogue, bibliography, emendation. The emergence of industrial revolution and industrial cities resulted in modern public libraries. In China, the emergence and the rapid development of public libraries took place from the end of 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. During this period, keeping with the trends of the introduction of western sciences and knowledge, the western thought of library science was also disseminated in China. Before long, China began to establish its specialized academic bodies of library science. On April 25, 1925, Zhonghua Society for Library Science (ZSLS), the first specialized academic body of modern library science in China, held its setting-up meeting in Shanghai and officially launched a ceremony of establishment in Beijing in June 2, with its headquarters located in Beijing. The objectives of Zhonghua Society for Library Science were to carry out research and

study of library science and to develop librarianship. The first chairman of its board was Mr. Liang Qichao and the secretary was Yuan Tongli. ZSLS compiled and published "Library Science Quarterly" and "ZSLS Journal" and was one of the founders of IFLA in 1927, and sent delegates to participate in several IFLA annual meetings after that.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government, the library undertakings of China made rapid development and the study of library science was also in prosperity. Under these circumstances, ten well-known librarians including Mr. Wang Zhongmin, Mr. Zuo Gong, Mr. Zhang Zhao in the Chinese library community initiated the re-establishment of Zhonghua Society for Library Science (ZSLS) with a new name of the China Society for Library Science (CSLS), and the preparatory committee of CSLS with the Chairmanship of Mr. Ding Xilin, the Vice-minister of Culture and the director of the National Library of China, was found in 1956. Due to the lack of appropriate conditions, efforts to establish CSLS failed, the preparatory work, though managing to hold a few of meetings, didn't achieve satisfactory results and had to be suspended when the "Cultural Revolution" started.

After the "Cultural Revolution" ended and the politics and ideology were set right again, our country immediately stepped into a new period of development. On March 18, 1978, the National Conference of Science was held in Beijing and the unprecedented importance was attached to the scientific and technological work by the party and the People at large. Under these circumstances, some of famous members in the Chinese library community intended to prepare the re-establishment of CSLS once again. From March 26 to April 8, 1978, the Administrative Bureau for Museums and Archaeological Data held the "National Conference on the Compilation Work for Bibliography of Ancient and Rare Books" in Nanjing. During the period of this conference, the National Library of China took the lead to repropose the re-establishment of CSLS. After discussions, twelve libraries inclusive of the National Library of China, the Library of Academia Sinica, the Library of Peking University, Shanghai Library, the Capital Library, Liaoning Provincial Library, Sha'an Xi Provincial Library, Sichuan Provincial Library, Zhongshan Library of Guangdong Province, Nanjing Library, Library Science Department of Peking University, and Library Science Department of Wuhan University were selected to be the members in the preparatory committee, of which those located in Beijing were designated to be the standing members and the National Library of China was the executive member. On April 28, 1978, the standing committee held a meeting at which a decision was made to form a preparatory working team consisted of twelve persons from each of the standing members and work together in the National Library of China (NLC) to draft two documents i. e. "Bylaws of CSLS" (draft) and "Main points of the Working Plans for the Conference on Founding of CSLS and its First Symposium on Science". From November 16 to 23, the leading group of the "Bibliography of National Ancient and Rare Books" held a meeting in Chengdu City and meanwhile the enlarged meeting of CSLS preparatory committee was also opened, focusing on the discussions of the CSLS Bylaws (draft) and the Main of Points of

Working Plan. After the meeting, an application for the re-establishment of CSLS was submitted by the Administrative Bureau for Museums and Archaeological Data to the Propaganda Department under the Party Central Committee and was approved. The CSLS Preparatory Committee held a meeting again in Tianjin in June, 1979, further discussing and arranging the concrete tasks centering the establishment of CSLS. Until then everything was ready to greet the rebirth of CSLS. During the same period, under the leadership of some local governments of provinces, cities and autonomous regions, the preparatory committees for their own societies for library science at these levels were successively established and so did some professions and departments. Those societies then chose their own delegates to the founding meeting of CSLS and candidates for its council.

2. Former National Congresses of CSLS Membership. Since its re-establishment, CSLS has held four congresses;

(1) The 1st National Congress of CSLS Membership From July 9 to 16, 1979, the founding meeting of CSLS, the 1st National Congress of CSLS Membership was held in Taiyuan of Sha'anxi Province, and the First National Symposium on Library Science was concurrently convened. The delegates from 29 societies at different levels presented at this symposium, which was a happy and big gathering of the Chinese librarians since the founding of P. R. C., and among them nearly 200 two hundred librarians of Han, Meng, Tibet, Hui, Ma'an, Hazak and other nationalities made presence.

The founding meeting of CSLS was accompanied by the First National Symposium on Library Science at which the CSLS Chapters was discussed and approved and its first council consisted of 69 people including 21 councilors (two seats were reserved for the library community of Taiwan Province) was established. In addition, the meeting discussed to establish the research institutions under CSLS and approved the namelists of its Academic Committee and the Translating and Editing Committee.

**Namelist of the president, vice-presidents,
secretary-general and directors of some institutions**

President: Liu Jiping

Vice-president: Ding Zhigang, Huang Yusheng, Gu Tinglong

Liang Sizhuang(female), Wang Changbing

Tong Zenggong

Secretary-general: Tan Xiangjin

Deputy secretary-general: Bao Zhenxi, Du Ke, Zho Jisheng, Guo Songnian

Director of academic secretariat: Xu Wenxu

Director of international liaison: Li Xunda

(2) The 2nd National Congress of CSLS Membership. The 2nd National Congress of CSLS Membership was held in Xiamen City of Fujian Province from October 31 to November 6, 1983 with the participation of 196 delegates. The main tasks of this meeting aimed at discussing and approving the Working Report of the First CSLS Council; amending and approving the CSLS Chapters; election of the 2nd CSLS council; convening special academic sympo-

siums; and awarding those staff members of CSLS with good working performance.

At the congress, Mr. Ding Zhigang delivered the Working Report of the First CSLS Council. He pointed out that in the four years 23 provinces, cities and autonomous regions had established their own societies for library science, and the membership of CSLS had been reinforced by 4017 members on the national basis; 15 national academic symposiums had been convened and 959 academic papers were submitted; and 17 issues of CSLS Journal were published with a yearly circulation of 25,000; and CSLS had established the relation of inter-library loan service with 93 organizations from 30 countries and regions. As to international exchanges and academic interflows, CSLS resumed the legal membership in IFLA in May, 1985 and sent delegations to 3 IFLA General Conferences. In this regard, the international contacts and exchanges have been strengthened with all parts of the world library community.

The congress also made amendments and additions to the CSLS Chapters on the basis of the Organizational Principles of Academic Societies made by the Chinese Association of Sciences and the needs of CSLS.

The congress chose 82 councilors (of which two seats were reserved for delegates from Taiwan Province) including 22 executive council members, meanwhile 31 staff members of CSLS who had made great contributions from different parts of China were awarded.

A specialized academic symposium was convened concurrently.

**Names list of president, vice-presidents, secretary-general and
deputy secretary-general of the Second CSLS Council**

President: Ding Zhigang

Vice-president: Huang Yusheng, Gu Tinglong

Tong Zenggong, Du Ke

Zhuang Shoujing, Bao Zhenxi

Secretary-general: Liu Deyuan

Deputy secretary-general: Huang Jungui, Yan Lizhong, Xiao Zili

In April, 1986, at the Second Session of the Second CSLS Council, Ding Zhigang, the president of the Second CSLS Council, resigned his post for his illness, and Tong Zenggong was elected to replace Ding as the President and Tan Xiangjin was supplementally elected to be a vice-president.

(3) The 3rd National Congress of CSLS Membership. From November 5 to 8, 1987, the 3rd National Congress of CSLS Membership was convened in Shenzhen of Guangdong Province with the participation of 131 delegates and 60 observers. Its agenda were: to discuss and approve the Working Report of the Second CSLS Council; to discuss and approve the amended CSLS Chapters; to elect the Third CSLS Council and to award staff members of CSLS with good working performance.

At the congress, Tong Zenggong delivered the Working Report of the 2nd CSLS Council. He pointed out that since the Second National Congress of CSLS Members, CSLS had enlarged its membership to 6364 members; as many as 41 academic exchanges had been orga-

nized and about 500 papers had been received; the societies for library science at province, city and autonomous region levels had sponsored 106 academic symposiums with the total participation of 7418 delegates and exchanged 2986 papers.

The report also listed the objectives and achievements of the 2nd CSLS Council mainly as follows :

- It carried out the research activities concentrated on the social functions and development strategies of libraries and pushed forward the advancement of librarianship.
- It summarized practical experiences of libraries and carried out the theoretical research of library science and compiled and published a great number of documents and periodicals of library science, closely jointed with the work of libraries.
- It made discussion about the distribution of documents resources and greatly improved the development and utilization of sources of documents and information .
- It popularized the standardization and automation of documentation and improved the fundamental work of libraries.
- It carried out international academic exchanges and enhanced the influence of CSLS in the world library community.

The congress made amendments to the CSLS Chapters and defined the characters of CSLS which has been "an academic community-based body of Chinese librarians and component part of the Chinese Associations of Science and Technology", and the guidelines of CSLS have been to encourage the dialectical materialism and adhere to the scientific attitude and working style of "seeking truth from facts" and strictly carry out the guideline of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" and keep up the practice of democracy and develop free academic discussions.

The 3rd National Congress of CSLS Membership produced a new council consisted of 83 councilors (of which two seats were reserved for delegates from Taiwan Province, HongKong and Macao) including 25 executive council members.

During the period of the Congress, the meeting of secretary-generals of local societies for library science at province and city and autonomous region levels was held, and 26 staff members with good working performance from different societies for library science were awarded, and the delegates of the Congress visited the "First International Fair of Special Equipment for libraries " in Shenzhen.

Namelist of President ,

Vice-presidents and Secretary-generals

President :Ren Jiyu

Vice-presidents :Du Ke, Shi Jian, Zhuang Shoujing

Gu TingLong, Tan Xiangjing

Secretary-general :Huang Jungui

Deputy secretary-generals:Qiu Dongjiang, Li Jiuqi, Kong Lingqian

(4) The 4th National Congress of CSLS Membership. The 4th National Congress of

CSLS Membership was held in Nanjing City of Jiangsu Province from April 25 to 27, 1992. The main task of this Congress was to mobilized positive factors to call on the national librarians of all nationalities to contribute to national development through science and technology under the guidance of the spirit of Deng's talks delivered on his trip to the South. Delegates at this congress heard and discussed and approved the Working Report of the Third CSLS Council delivered by Ren Jiyu, the President of the Third CSLS Council, discussed and approved the new CSLS Chapters, and elected the Fourth CSLS Council of 97 councilors including 30 executive council members.

In his report, Ren Jiyu summarized the achievements of CSLS since the 3rd Congress held in November, 1987 as follows:

- It carried out the study of theory in library Science and gave full play to the role of young and middle-aged scholars in this respect;
- It organized specialized academic discussions jointed with the reality of library work ;
- It carried out the survey on China's resources of documents and the research of their distribution, and improved the development and utilization of documents and information.
- It made the research of the standardization and automation of documentations;
- Compilation and publication works ;
- Awards and exhibitions ;
- Contacts and academic exchanges with the Taiwan library community;
- It sponsored the international academic exchanges, and participated in IFLA activities and enhanced the international influence of the Chinese library community ;
- Dissemination of science and continuing education;
- Organizational work of CSLS .

For the sake of better organization and performance of CSLS, this congress made necessary additions, deletions and changes to CSLS Chapters according to the new Chapters of China's Association of Science and Technolgg (CAST) issued in May, 1991 and the General Rules of the CAST on its national academic societies, which was approved by the Second Plenary Session of the Fourth CAST Committee in February, 1992.

Liu Deyou, the President of the new first CSLS Council, also made a speech at the congress. He said, this congress, which was convened at the critical moment of our socialist modernization and under the guidance of Deng Xiaoping's South-trip talks, was of great importance to our current tasks; with a better understanding of our situation and the new tasks for societies for library science and libraries, we should seize every possible opportunity to quicken our reformation of libraries so as to serve the country's main concern of national economic development better. Therefore, CSLS and all of its members should call on and organize the whole library community to make greater contributions to national economic construction, advancements in science and technology and improvement of labor quality under the guidance of Deng's important talks, focusing on national economy. Liu emphasized the great responsibilities and future challenges faced by the new CSLS Council. The 62nd IFLA General Confer-

ence to be held at Beijing in 1996 would be a big event for the Chinese library community. Not only would the scale of the conference be large but also it would be a great opportunity for us to display to our foreign counterparts the development of China's librarianship as well as the great progress achieved in its scientific research in this field. Through the conference, the outside world would be able to see a new image of China in its process of reform and opening-up. More important, it would be a brilliant opportunity for China to learn from other countries and for other countries to know China, and the leading Party group of the Ministry of Culture reserved no efforts to devote into preparatory work for the conference.

According to the needs of the preparatory work for the 62nd IFLA General Conference, Tang Shaoming and Qiu Dongjiang were designated to make the preparation. So, accordingly, at the end of 1994, necessary adjustments were made in the personnel of the CSLS Secretariat and Liu Xiangsheng was designated as the secretary-general, responsible for routine work of the Secretariat.

By the end of 1995, CSLS membership included 36 societies at provincial levels and of the specialized systems as collective members and 10,500 individuals in the system of public libraries, governmental organizations and agencies, and libraries for scientific research and libraries of the high-learning institutions and military libraries and trade union libraries from 30 provinces, cities and autonomous regions.

**Na melist of President, vice-presidents, and
secretary-general and Deputy Secretary-Generals**

President ;Liu Deyou

Vice-presidents ;Tang Shaoming, DuKe

Zhuang Shoujing, Shi Jian

Tan Xiangjin, Zhu Qingzuo

Secretary-general ;Liu Xiangsheng

Deputy secretary-generals ;Zhou Xiaopu (female)

Qiu Dongjiang, Kong Lingqian

Li Jiuqi, Qu Hong (female)

II. Overview of the Organization

China Society for Library Science (CSLS) is an academic group of librarians nationwide which is established according to law and admitted by China Society for Science and Technology to be one of its organizations. It is provided for in the charter of the society that the leading organ of CSLS is the National Congress of Members.

The leading body for the society when the Congress is not in session is the Council.

Council members of the society are composed of experts, scholars and library employees of

young or middle age who have made certain academic achievements and are able to attend to the daily affairs of the society. Members of the Council can also be cadres responsible for certain organization and management work in certain departments of libraries who are enthusiastic about the work of the society.

The Council sets up, in accordance with the requirements of the work, academic research committee and committee of edition, translation and publication to assist the Council in handling routine work.

Under the academic research committee of this session of the society, 14 specialized research groups have been established; basic theory, readers' service, science of bibliography, collection of documents and literature, classified topics and cataloging, library management, ancient books, documents repair and protection techniques, information techniques, education and training, architecture and equipment, work of the libraries for children and teenagers, libraries in areas inhabited by minority nationalities and library automation. Under the committee of edition, translation and publication are three research groups of edition of periodicals, compilation and publication of books and compilation of China Library Encyclopedia.

The executive body of the society is Secretariat, the daily work of which is taken charge by the secretary general under the leadership of the executive council.

As mentioned above, being one group of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), the China Society for Library Science is under the leadership of CAST while CAST exercises management over, gives guidance to and provide coordination and services for the Library Association. Since China Society for Library Science is established under the National Library of China, its executive body shall be led by the National Library of China from the administrative perspective.

Library associations of various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, library associations of departments directly under the central government, library associations in the field of scientific research, library association established by institutions of higher learning in Beijing and library associations established in various sectors form part of the China Society for Library Science and shall be led by the society. In the mean while, these library associations have filed application to become part of the scientific and technological associations and federation of social sciences of their respective province, municipality and autonomous region.

It is necessary to give a description of the library associations in Beijing. Given the fact that Beijing has a cluster of libraries and information centers in various sectors, besides the National Library of China which is considered as the local association at the provincial level, there still exist two other specialized library associations at the same level, library association for departments directly under the State Council and scientific research establishments; and library association for institutions of higher learning in Beijing. Without any chapters, these two associations act according to the chapter of the China Society for Library Science. Therefore, members of these two associations are, at the same time, members of the China Society for Library Science. The library association for departments directly under the State Council has

close contacts with libraries of departments directly under the State Council, headquarters of army, air force and navy and their affiliated research institutes as well as libraries (data room) of Academia Sinica, China Academy of Social Sciences and their affiliated research institutes. These two associations have a great number of members and are playing an important role in various activities organized by the society.

With the development of China's librarianship, expansion of the workforce in the library field and the in-depth activities of the academic activities of the society, library associations have been established by various municipalities directly under provincial (autonomous regional) administration, prefectures and some counties, which conduct activities under the guidance of the library associations of their respective provinces or autonomous regions.

In 1989, with the approval of the Standing Council of the China Society for Library Science stationed in Beijing, the National Association of Libraries of Middle and Primary Schools was established, which has become a member at the secondary level of the society.

The above-mentioned local associations, associations in various specialized fields and the China Society for Library Science keep close contacts and coordination with each other, thus forming a mass network of academic activities, with the China Society for Library Science as the key player in various academic activities relating to library science.

Through years of exploration and practice, the China Society for Library Science has established a multi-layer organizing structure suitable for the operating mechanism of the academic activities pertaining to library science.

In May, 1991, the Fourth National Congress of the China Association for Science and Technology was held in Beijing. Mr. Duke, Vice President of the Council and Mr. Qiu Dongjiang, Executive Vice Secretary General of the society participated in the conference, at which Mr. Duke was elected member of the Fourth National Committee of the society and Mr. Qiu Dongjiang was rewarded the title of "Advanced Worker of China Association for Science and Technology".

In light of the criteria provided for in the Chapter, the society actively admit new members into the organization. By the end of 1995, members of the society had totaled 10,500. Active efforts were made to admit corporate members into the society.

In accordance with relevant regulations concerning registration of groups and organizations formulated by the State Council and the Ministry of Civil Affairs and with the approval of the Ministry of Culture and China Association for Science and Technology, the China Society for Library Science obtained the "Registration Certificate of the People's Republic of China for Social Groups and Organizations" in July, 1991.

To further study and strengthen the management further, the society has attached great importance to the experience of associations at various levels and in various fields in exercising management and conducting academic activities. Secretaries general of some associations have been invited on purpose to share with the participants their experience at the working level conference of associations at various levels, with very good results being generated. In addition,

the society sponsored a National Symposium on the Management of Library Associations in Hangzhou City of Zhejiang Province from Sept. 15 to 16, 1994. The participants had an exchange of the management experience of their respective associations. At the same time, invitation was extended to Mr. Russel Boden, Executive Vice President of International Federation of Library Associations and founding father and President of Round Table of the Management of Library Association to make a keynote speech on "Standards Concerning the Management of Library, Information and Archival Specialized Associations". His speech gave an opportunity for the secretaries general of local associations to have an understanding on the status quo, management experience and problems of the library associations of other countries.

III. Academic Activities

1. Overview. In the past 16 years since the establishment of the China Society for Library Science, along with the historic progress of China's reform and opening-up and under the leadership of China Association for Science and Technology and relevant departments, the society has united and organized its members and library employees to actively conduct academic activities with the aim to promote the study of library science and the development of librarianship, to serve the construction of socialist material and spiritual civilization and to make its due contribution to the country's socialist modernization drive.

It is stipulated in the Chapter of the China Society for Library Science that one of the major tasks of the society is to "carry out academic exchanges between China and foreign countries". The China Society for Library Science, associations of various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, associations established by departments directly under the State Council, associations in the scientific research field and associations in various specialized fields have all set up their own academic research groups to conduct academic exchanges both at home and with foreign countries. The China Society for Library Science has established academic research committee, under which, there are 14 specialized research groups. The academic research committee is an executive body which is responsible for the organization, coordination and guidance of the academic activities relating to library science under the leadership of the Council of the society. The major tasks of the committee are as follows: to formulate plans of the society for academic activities, organize and conduct various academic research activities pertaining to library science; to evaluate, verify and popularize the results of the research on library science; to conduct academic exchanges of library science within the country and with foreign countries; to provide consulting service for the formulation of national policies and strategies for the development of culture, education and science and technology, major decision-making in the economic construction and the formulation of policies guiding the develop-

ment of the country's librarianship; to mount publicity campaign and popularize new theories, technologies and methods concerning library work; to look for and recommend talented personnel and to give reward and award to the members and library employees who have made great achievements in academic study.

Since the founding of the society, the academic research committee has held three nationwide scientific symposia. The first session was held in July 1979 in Taiyuan together with the inauguration ceremony of the society. A total of 165 authors from 106 establishments submitted 174 papers to the conference, among which, 11 were read at the symposium, 44 were read at the panel discussion and the rest were exchanged among the participants in written form. The symposium was divided into two stages, exchanges at the conference, and panel discussion of six topics such as basic theory of library science, bibliography, classification and heading of books, libraries of institutions of higher learning, modernization of library, shift of the focus of library work and the theory of editions. This was the largest academic symposium of general nature since the founding of New China. The second session was held in Hangzhou in October, 1980. A total 125 papers were submitted to the conference, among which 73 were read at the symposium. Discussion and exchange of papers were held in four specialized panels: basic theory of library science, book-collection and classified cataloging, readers' service, ancient books and bibliography. Major papers of the above-mentioned two symposia were included in the Synopsis of Papers of the First and Second Science Symposia of the China Society for Library Science. The third session was held in Kunming in October, 1982. All the papers were recommended by library association of various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, totaling 131. The principle of integrating theory with practice was observed in the papers and new progress was achieved in the in-depth study of some papers. Some papers paid attention to the method of transplantation, i. e., to apply theories, methods and research results of other disciplines to the study of library science. Some authors tried to use the results of research in such fields as psychology, management science, information science, systematic science, control science and statistics to solve problems arising from library science and library work. Judging from the three national science symposia of library science, the members of the China Society for Library Science and library employees have already formed a workforce covering wide-ranging specialized fields and consisting of a large contingent of professionals with rich working experience, high academic level and strong scientific research capability.

Though there are a great number of the association members and library employees who are involved in wide-ranging specialized fields, it is not appropriate to sponsor a national science symposium with an excessively large size. Based on this, it has been decided by the society to hold specialized discussion as a means of academic activities. In this way, the role of various specialized research groups established under the academic research committee of the society can be brought into full play and academic activities can be conducted more in depth. In light of this decision, in the past ten years and more, the society has always stuck to the principle of holding small-sized symposium in a diversified and effective manner by fully exploiting the ad-

■ advantages of convenient connection and communication among various talented personnel and professionals in different specialized research groups. In this way, academic activities of the society have been conducted in a planned and well-organized manner, with good results being generated.

Most of the specialized symposia organized by the society were presided over by various specialized research groups of the society. Some were co-sponsored with other relevant departments, such as China Association of Science, Technology and Information, National Committee of Document Standardization, the Department of Library with the Ministry of Culture and library associations in various localities and various specialized fields. Led by the China Society for Library Science, academic symposia of different size and with different focus were held by library associations in various localities or in various specialized sectors. All these indicate the frequent academic activities organized in the library field and the prosperity in the academic research.

2. Specialized academic activities. The specialized academic activities organized by the China Society for Library Science mainly focus on the following subjects:

(1) Study of the theory of library science and the development strategy of librarianship. After the inception of reform and opening-up, the unprecedented prosperity in the research of the theory of library science in China has brought about outstanding achievements. According to incomplete statistics, from early 1980's to 1995, more than 70 kinds of books and textbooks specialized in library science have been published. A total of 31 periodicals have been published by the China Society for Library Science, library association in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, library associations established by departments directly under the State Council, library associations established in the scientific research field and various specialized fields, carrying nearly 50,000 papers on library science.

In the study of the theory of library science conducted by the society, focus has been placed on the study of basic theories and education of library science. The study of the theory of library science mainly explores the significance, subjects of study and content of library science, nature of this discipline, basis of theory, structure, sub-discipline and related discipline of library science, methodology of library science, nature, social function and role of library, the relationship between library and social progress and the construction of material and spiritual civilizations. The library community of China has always been attaching great importance to the study of basic theories of library science. In November 1984, the society held in Hangzhou a symposium on the basic theory of library science, at which, discussion was focused on issues of the three aspects of subjects of study of library science, nature of the discipline and the impact of new technological revolution on libraries. This symposium has pushed the study of the basic theory of library science onto a new height. Following the conference, Collected Papers on the Basic Theory of Library Science was published. On this basis, the society, together with the library association of Zhejiang province, organized a pen-symposium on the basic theory of library science in 1986. An accumulation of 80 papers were submitted,