International and Area Studies Implementation Team  
Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2010

Present: Barnes, Cuno, Jiang, O’Brien (Chair), Orta, Rudasill, Sroka, Teper, Toby, Wei  
Absent: Escobar, Koenker, Randolph, Song, Sullivan

1. Minutes taker: Karen Wei

2. Welcome new member, Ron Toby: Toby (History and East Asian Languages and Cultures) joined the Team to replace Elizabeth Oyler who is on sabbatical for Spring 2010. Members of the team who were in attendance introduced themselves.

3. Reports from Working Groups:  
Because of the holiday break, none of the working groups have met since early December. Updates are:

Collections and Space Working Group  
Two meetings in spring are scheduled: January 25 and February 25.

Services Working Group  
Is working on the graduate student survey. Lynne will also send the results of the faculty survey to IAS Team members.

Working Group on Staffing  
Nancy and Tom started interviewing staff in area studies libraries as well as staff who were already reassigned to technical service units to solicit their concerns and questions. They also plan to interview library faculty and academic professionals in area studies.

4. Status of Progress Report  
Terri and Nancy drafted the Team’s progress report based on prior reports for members to review. Discussion followed:

Some concern about the issue of access was raised that needs to be addressed - with 5 units in the new IAS Library without access to stacks, users will have to travel down to the 2nd floor Main Circulation to enter the stacks and back with much time wasted. It was noted that the current Asian Library has its reading room and stacks open at any time the Main Stacks are open. Discussion followed about whether it would be possible and/or advisable to keep the other current stack entrance, which is relatively close to the new IAS Library, functional. Although this would have implications for both security and increased staffing during difficult budget times, it was agreed that this is an issue which is open for further discussion by the relevant working groups. A question was raised as to whether anyone now used the Asian library's stacks entrance in a way that required going back and forth between reference materials and the stacks. No one had an answer and it was agreed that should be weighed in considering whether the stacks entrance was needed.

It was mentioned that with extended hours in the evening and on weekends, librarians/expertise will be more accessible to users with improved service onsite and virtually.

A question about what is next for the draft report was brought up. It was suggested that some relatively
settled points be kept while the issue of access may be open for further discussion. A question was raised about the language used in the progress report – that the points listed as principles are actually pending recommendations.

One library faculty reminded everyone that as a group we should be looking at improved service in the future. Our goal is to make our service better than what we now offer, and the benefits we can provide in the new IAS Library should be made clear in the report.

A faculty suggested that we establish separate reference collections, appropriately designated with distinct identities, i.e. the identity of each area studies should be retained and clearly indicated in the report. Otherwise our area programs may fall in the rankings and have difficulty recruiting future faculty and graduate students. It was also mentioned that a Latin American Studies Librarian is needed to serve the Latin American studies community, and this needs to be included in the final recommendations. The faculty survey conducted recently confirmed that the faculty in general does value librarians/specialists in each of the area studies.

Concerns about lack of budgetary information for the new library were raised. The New Service Models program has mechanisms for requesting funding, but does not have pre-set allocations for any of the new service programs that are being investigated. Teams need to consider what is needed rather than restrict themselves to specific dollar amounts.

There was also a question about the integration of South Asian and Middle East collections in the Main Stacks in one LC sequence. These collections are currently shelved by languages which makes it difficult for shelving. Since they are all classified under the Library of Congress system, it would be more efficient and effective if they be integrated to facilitate service.

It was decided that Nancy will revise the draft report based on the discussion and circulate to members for another review. Once approved, the Progress Report will be sent out to seek feedback from faculty and graduate students. There may be interviews, public forums, and focus groups to follow.