



Mortenson Center Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

April 7, 2025; 12:00-1:00pm

Hybrid meeting:

In person: 323c Main Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive Urbana IL 61801

Zoom link: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/89605760273?pwd=6cwVlSS3NUwSQQCPHqmic5aUNOt6YG.1> Meeting ID: 896 0576
0273 Password: 082361

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/>

Present (in person): Clara Chu, Peggy Nzomo, Emily Sherill, Kyungwon Koh, Bing Wang, Will Schlaack, Mandi Arlain, Qian Jin

Present (online): Steven Anderson, Scott Schwartz, Laila Hussein

Apologies: Sarah Park, Ellen Moodie

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of November 18, 2024 minutes - Motion to approve-Will, seconded by Mandi. Approved.
4. Operational updates - Clara provided an update regarding staffing: Emily continuing as Extra Help and Katie still on medical leave. Clara provided update of new logo/branding requirements and MC now has a new wordmark/type treatment (as shown above).
5. Training - Peggy provided updates regarding the 2026 Associates Program
 - a. Associates Program
 - [2025 Associates Program](#), Theme: *Libraries Unbound: Open, Inclusive and Engaged*, June 2-25, 2025.
 - She thanked those who helped with the review and who came for the Thank You & Reviewer Feedback Lunch, February 19, 2025.
 - We admitted 26 librarians from 17 countries; anticipate welcoming 17 international librarians (11 Academic, 5 National, 1 Public Librarian) from 14 countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana (2), Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan/Qatar, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea(2), Spain, Trinidad & Tobago (2) and Vietnam).
 - Opportunities for involvement with 2025 Associates were presented to the committee:
 - Library Buddies Program (Lunch meeting with Associate, June 4, 12:15pm and other expectations discussed briefly)
 - Associates Showcase and Graduation, June 25th - hold the date
6. Professional Development Programs - Clara provided updates on the following PD activities
 - a. SILL Training - MC plans to develop modules for online delivery
 - b. The Mortenson Center and IFLA BLISE co-sponsored a virtual Workshop titled: “*Foundational Knowledge Areas (FKAs) for LIS Professionals: An Action Plan Workshop*” in February. The Workshop was hosted by The University of the West Indies, Mona campus.

7. Partnerships: Clara and Peggy reported on status of various center partnerships and collaborations:
 - Naseej Academy - Naseej Academy Grant to Attend the Mortenson Center Associates Program - 2025 winner is from the Qatar National Library.
 - [JASPUL](#) - sponsoring a 2025 Associate from Risho University
 - School Libraries Collaborative - expanding membership is being discussed.
 - Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) - action on collaboration ideas discussed in-person last October and are still under consideration; the BA presented a SILL workshop in February.
 - [Partners in Literacy Haiti](#) - the development of the [Haiti Libraries Alliance](#) is still on hold while we wait to hear from Erick Toussaint and past Executive Director Sara Mansbach.
 - IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group <https://bslise.org/>: ongoing development of the Resource Guide for the implementation of the [IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library and Information Science \(LIS\) Education Programmes](#); publications, presentations and workshops (see above).

8. Mortenson Center Initiatives, Grants and Staff Activities - Clara and Peggy provided
 - a. [Catalyzing African Community Archives for Social Good Project](#) (Clara is Co-PI , funded by a 2024-25 grant from the Chancellor's Call to Action Research Program - team members from Africa and Europe will be coming May 19-23, 2025 to review and finalize the co-developed training materials on African community archiving.
 - b. Community Libraries International [Portal \(CLIP\)](#) - [UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning Library](#) is now a member of the technical/working group.
 - c. World Refugee Day, June 20 - planning a webinar in collaboration with the American Library Association for May.
 - d. Department of Knowledge and Information Stewardship (DKIS) Conference on Advancing Social Justice Through Curriculum Alignment, 8-9 December 2024, University of Cape Town; South Africa. <https://doasummit.uct.ac.za/> - Clara was moderator, "Stakeholders' role in shaping scholarly communication in practice and/or curriculum" Panel, AND co-presenter, "Recommendations for LIS Curriculum"
 - e. iConference 2025, Bloomington, IN, March 21, 2025 - Clara organized and moderated a workshop on her concept the slow information movement, titled: "*Disrupting the Algorithm: The Slow Information Movement (SIM) and Implications for Slow Information Behavior and Practice (SIBP) Research.*"

Discussion: Mandi asked Clara to explain what Slow Information Behavior is and Clara defined it as the engagement with information that is authentic and vernacular, which refers to the practices and systems that are deeply rooted in a specific place, time, and culture, using local resources and traditional techniques, reflecting a genuine connection to the environment and community. It encourages a slower approach to everyday information practice/behavior.
 - f. ACRL 2025, April 2-5, 2025; Minneapolis, MN - Peggy moderated a Roundtable Discussion titled "*Good practices for inclusive and culturally responsive library services for international students*"
 - g. Upcoming presentations and/or workshops
 - ALA 2025 Annual Exhibition & Conference- Philadelphia, PA Sunday, June 29, 2025
 - 8:30 AM-10:00 AM - IRRT Chair's Program "Librarians Connecting Globally: Insights and Conversations from the Americas and Beyond" (Clara co-chaired the planning committee and is moderating)
 - 11:00 AM-12:00 PM - Presentation on "Libraries Acting Together for Development, Sustainability, Leadership and More" in the IRRT Papers & Projects Committee Session (Theme: Stronger Together through Connections Worldwide: International Collaborations in Library Services)
 - 3:30 PM-5:00 PM - Global Solutions Poster on "International partnerships and collaborations: The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs Approach"

IRC- Africa Subcommittee session with the theme: “*Lifelong Literacy and Africa: The Role of Libraries and Library and Information Professionals*” (Peggy is coordinating/moderating)

9. Fundraising: Clara reported that the Kathleen Weibel Memorial Fund has been created for the Center to advance Kathleen’s commitment to international librarians and their professional development, and international librarianship. This year, it will be providing a scholarship to an Associate from Vietnam.
 - Working with advancement office on some strategies to show the impact of the Center’s activities, e.g., impact stories featuring our alumni and projects
 - Ideas from Advisory Committee? None
10. Alumni Engagement
 - Profiles are now regularly updated online featuring an Associate per month the year after they attend the program. There is also a map of profiles that provide information on the Associates and shows which countries they are from.
 - Ideas from Advisory Committee: **Discussion:** Listserv - Kyungwon suggested encouraging the alumni to run the listserv themselves to increase engagement.
11. AOB - none
12. Thank you. Committee members completing term of service (*=second term). Those available to continue to serve a second term are encouraged to fill out the Committee Volunteer form.
<https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/>
 - Kyungwoh Koh (2023-2025) | Will Schlaak (2023-2025) | Bing Wang (2023-2025)
13. Next meeting: To be scheduled for Fall 2025

<><><>

Mortenson Center Advisory Committee Charge and Membership

<https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/committee/mortenson-center-advisory-committee-charge-and-membership/>

Charge

The Advisory Committee advises the Director on center policy and procedures.

Composition

The Committee of nine Faculty members, at least half of whom are drawn from the Library faculty, are appointed to the Mortenson Advisory Committee by the University Librarian, in consultation with the Executive Committee, and on the recommendation of the Director of the Mortenson Center. The appointed members serve two-year staggered terms and may be reappointed to successive terms, not to exceed four years.

Membership (* = Second Consecutive Term)

Clara M. Chu, Chair

Steven Anderson (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Mandi Arlain (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Laila Hussein Moustafa (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Qiang Jin (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Kyungwoh Koh (Aug 2023 - Aug 2025)

Sarah Park (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Ellen Moodie (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Will Schlaak (Aug 2023 - Aug 2025)

Scott Schwartz* (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Bing Wang (Aug 2023 - Aug 2025)