Craig has extensive experience in library and information science. She was awarded the 2010 ALISE Award for Merit and has been an active member of the American Library Association, serving through 2018. She is also a member of the ALA Council, serving through 2018. She is past President of the Association of College and Research Libraries. He has a distinguished record of professional leadership and service, including as a consultant on more than 80 library construction projects.

Lian Ruan has developed the Illinois State Fire Academy library, the only fire science dedicated library in Illinois. She has served on the Chinese American Librarians Association committees and is the President of CALA Midwest Chapter. Dr. Ruan has also served on state and international committees, like the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, IFLNET Network Advisory Council (INAC), Elected President of Chinese American Librarians Association (2015/2016) and Chair of infIRE (an international fire library consortium) Executive Committee (2013-). She is the recipient of a series of awards and grants. She has helped organize the Chinese Librarians Scholarly Exchange Program since 2005 in cooperation with partners both in the United States and China. She also organized multiple collaborative Chinese-American library projects.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a well-known public university. Its library is the third largest university research library in North America (behind Harvard University and Yale University) and the largest publicly supported university research library in the world, with more than 30 departmental library branches and over 11 million items in its collections. The Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) is the number one ranked LIS program in the U.S. and the Department of Computer Science is highly ranked in the nation and world as well. The State’s multi-type library systems have a long history of accomplishments and serve as a national model. The Ivy League owns the top-class universities and libraries in the world, with great collections, mature service systems, advanced information technology and management strategies. CLSEP has been designed and developed within an excellent environment to guarantee its success.

The 2017 program will carry out various forms of activities including reports, seminars, discussions, group projects and field trips to enhance scholarly exchange and sharing. CLSEP will create a scholarly learning environment of stimulation, participation and intellectualism. Following previous successful programs and meeting the needs of Chinese librarians, the CLSEP will continue to help librarian scholars obtain a deeper understanding of library and information science in the U.S., China and the world and to acquire the latest innovations and trends in library and information science.
Participating Organizations in Different Regions (Partial List): The following 97 organizations has attended the Chinese librarians programs in Illinois (2005-2016): Peking University, Zhejiang University, Beihang University, Wuhan University, Beijing Normal University, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing University of Technology, University of Science and Technology of China, Beijing International Studies University, Beijing Union University, Capital Normal University, Dalian University, Dalian Jiaotong University, Capital Medical University, China Youth University for Political Science Library, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Science, Development Research Center of China Aviation Industry, The Medical Library of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; Yanjing Theological Seminary, Northeast Normal University, AVIC Chengdu Aircraft Design & Research Institute, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Sichuan University, Chengdu Sport University, Third Military Medical University, Chongqing University, University of Posts and Telecommunications, Southwest University, Chongqing University of Science and Technology, Dalian University of Technology, Chongqing Medical University, Dalian University of Technology, Jilin University, Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, Hangzhou Public Library, Harbin Normal University, Northeast Agricultural University; Northeast Forestry University, Luoyang Institute of Electro-optical Devices Research, Luoyang Photoelectric Technology Development Center, Jiangxi Normal University, Nanjing University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing University of Technology, Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Hohai University, South China Normal University, South China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Normal University, Harbin Normal University, Jiangsu Normal University, Jiangsu Police Institute Library, University Town Library of Shenzhen, Shihezi University, Hebei Normal University, North China Electric Power University, Suzhou University, Shandong University, Nankai University, Tianjin College, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, East China University of Political science and Law, Wuhan University of Technology, Huazhong Normal University, Xiamen University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Shanghai University of Sport, China Women's University, Xuzhou Institute of Technology, Xuzhou College of Industrial Technology, Shanghai Maritime University, Huayin Normal College, Jiaxing University, Wenzhou Medical University, Dunhuang Academy, South East University, Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University, Jiangsu Institute of Architectural Technology, Jiangsu University, Yangzhou Sci-Tech&Information Research Institute, Anhui University of Technology, Anhui Normal University, Tianyu University of Science and Technology, Harbin Engineering University, Zhongshan University, Fujian Normal University etc. More than 307 participants joined the program since 2005. The 2017 CLSEP has been designed and developed based on the past successful programs.

CLSEP receives a minimum number of 20 short term visiting scholars and lasts four weeks from June 22 to July 20, 2017. Scholar participants will reside on U of I campus in the first part of the program concentrating on research projects and scholarly exchange activities. They will also attend the annual conference of ALA and CALA, and then the International Seminar on Remaking the Space of Innovative Library Services conducted in other academic libraries and institutes. One of the unique features of the program is the requirement for all scholars to showcase their library's top accomplishments and study the issues and questions raised during CLSEP. Scholar participants will evaluate issues, applying the new knowledge and ideas they have gained. During the stay, scholar participants will take part in colorful activities and do in-depth research at the well-known libraries. English language is required while CLSEP will also provide translation services for all research activities. At the end of the academic activities, scholar participants will attend a celebration ceremony and be granted a certificate by the University of Illinois. Scholar participants will engage in rich scholarly exchange and communication activities at other first-class libraries and universities, including the Library of Congress, John Hopkins University, Chicago University, Washington University in St. Louis, Columbia University, University of Delaware, Yale University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, and etc. in order to strength scholarly exchange, broaden understanding about American academic libraries, increase professional knowledge, management and leadership capabilities.

The costs of CLSEP includes 1) $150 that is a J-1 visa processing fee required by the University; 2) $4,000 to cover academic exchange activity expenses, including living expenses at U of I; 3) Flight expenses (both International and domestic) charged by third party and living expenses for the last part of the program when doing research at other universities (Chinese RMB is acceptable). Scholar participants are encouraged to get visas by April and May to facilitate the trip and ensure to arrive on time. See more information about the previous successful Chinese librarian programs at http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/international%20programs/china/