

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Guam and Micronesian Libraries: Historical events, information sources and others.* Chih Wang. Philadelphia, Pa.: Xlibris Corp., 2005: 172 pp, Price \$20.99**

**(ISBN hardcover 1-4134-6338-X; softcover 1-4134-6337-1.)**

### Reviewed by

#### Mark C. Goniwiecha

Professor of Library Science  
Robert F. Kennedy Mem. Library, University of Guam  
Mangilao, Guam  
E-mail: goniwiec@uog9.uog.edu

*Guam and Micronesian Libraries: Historical events, information sources and others* comprises a collection of the researches and investigations of Dr. Chih Wang about the libraries of Guam and Micronesia. Dr. Wang served as Dean of Learning Resources at the University of Guam during the decade covered in the book. The book is organized into 19 chapters in three sections, the “University of Guam Library”, “Guam and Micronesian Libraries”, and “Micronesian Information Sources and Others”. The “University of Guam Library” section includes a description of the University of Guam’s Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library and a detailed 42-year history of the library, including comparative data concerning student enrollment, library personnel, budgets, collections, and services, presented in several tables. By mining previous library annual reports, university catalogs and other sources, Wang compiled this treasure trove of university and library history and milestones for posterity. The library quarters, administration and staffing are described; the library automation process and its challenges are outlined; and the professional activities of the librarians are summarized. Dr. Wang’s budget requests and public appeals are relayed. Wang presides over the “baptism” of the expanded-and-remodeled library—still under construction—during Supertyphoon Omar in August 1992, then the library’s “confirmation” in the 8.2 Great Quake of August 1993.

In the “Guam and Micronesian Libraries” section, Wang summarizes the results of the Guam Governor’s Conference on Library and Information Services of 1990, and the work of the Guam delegation to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services of 1991. In addition, Wang’s appeals for library support and investment are included, and library continuing education and recent library development in Micronesia are covered.

In the “Micronesian Information Sources and Others” section, Wang describes the University of Guam Micronesian Area Research Center and the Palau National Museum, and proposes a Micronesian information system or network. In the “Internet Information” chapter, Wang highlights the disparity between national and international “rights” to information access and the reality of laws and policies which censor or abridge these rights. He poses a big question about liberty or security regarding access to internet information.

Dr. Wang’s writings provide details and information about library development in this remote and developing region of the globe, during the very challenging decade of the 1990s. He narrates the details of the library expansion-and-remodeling project and its automation in the face of frequent earthquakes, typhoons and other challenges of nature.

The essays are supported with numerous tables and illustrations. Bibliographical references and an index are included. This is an inspirational collection of essays and highly recommended for working and aspiring librarians, educators and policy planners, and all those interested in the Micronesian region.

***Thirty Years’ Practice in Libraries: Recollections and ruminations.* Chih Wang. Philadelphia, Pa.: Xlibris Corp., 2005: 245 pp, Price \$21.99 (ISBN hardcover 1-4134-6336-3; softcover 1-4134-6335-5.)**

#### **Reviewed by**

##### **Mark C. Goniwiecha**

Professor of Library Science,  
Robert F. Kennedy Mem. Library, University of Guam  
Mangilao, Guam  
E-mail: goniwiec@uog9.uog.edu

In *Thirty Years’ Practice in Libraries: Recollections and ruminations*, Dr. Chih Wang gathers together his investigations of his library and information science profession. Truly a library and information science professional, the thoughts and writings of Dr. Chih Wang demonstrate his professional commitment to the discipline. In several sections, Dr. Wang considers “The Library Profession”, “Library Administration”, “Electronic Publishing, Networking and Internet”, and “Library Science Research”.

In “The Library Profession” section, Wang considers what competencies competent librarians need. What is the proper direction for academic libraries to take? How are librarians certified? What is comparative librarianship? Does automation mean the

end of libraries? In “Library Administration”, Wang looks at how users receive and react to online catalogs and subject access. What is needed in order to automate library acquisitions? How does one teach library research skills? What do library users want? How does one assume a library administration position?

In the “Electronic Publishing, Networking, and Internet” section, Wang examines significant landmarks in electronic publishing history, laws regulating electronic publishing, application of an information system model to the real world, global networking and the internet, and internet censorship attempts and challenges as information age stumbling blocks. His “Library Science Research” section uses social science research methods to look at the impact of electronic publishing on print publishing, the perception ranking of library graduate schools, and a trend analysis of volumes added to research libraries. Wang’s research results are supported by numerous tables and figures. Bibliographical references are listed, and the volume is indexed.

During the three decades of Dr. Wang’s library career, the nature of library and information service work has changed tremendously. Dr. Wang’s researches and investigations illustrate the changing impact of technology on learning and libraries. On several occasions, Wang recommends topics for further research. This volume is an important record of his career and of the many recent changes in the field. The work is useful as an example, a template showing which questions to ask, and of how to answer them. The book is a valuable contribution to library and information science literature.

Highly recommended for working and aspiring librarians, educators, researchers, information scientists, and library and education policy planners and historians.