

Knowledge, if meaningful, is best shared.
The test of its relevance comes in the
form of its use to the community as well
as in the generating of new knowledge on
how people, communities, and society can
change constructively.

Isao Fujimoto

from "Don't Mistake the Finger
Pointing at the Moon
for the Moon"

Dear Friend,

The Asian-American Resource Center is an idea, a concept as much as it is a place and a program. The concept is that Asian-Americans -young and old, rich and poor, student and non-student, foreign and American born- could work with, not against, each other, assist rather than exploit one another, and that those of us who have had opportunity not turn against or ignore those of us who have not.

You can help. Material, such as books, theses, monographs, or current information, is needed for the Resource Center Library. We are interested in knowing about your group and exchanging additional information of relevance. Certainly a contribution of one dollar or more will enable us to expand and broaden our collection and programs. But perhaps your greatest contribution will be yourself. You can encourage communication and promote understanding between Asians in America and Asian-Americans and the general public. You can do something to improve the welfare of all Asians in America.

Peace, strength and understanding
in unity,

Rockwell Chin
Project co-ordinator

ASIAN-AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
54 Elizabeth Street, basement, N.Y.C. 10013

The Asian-American Resource Center, located in Chinatown (NYC), is the first of its kind on the East Coast. The Center was established in order to:

- * encourage communication and promote understanding between Asians in America and Asian-Americans and the general public
- * stimulate the interest of Asians in America concerning their own welfare
- * provide assistance to research projects and programs directly related to the welfare of Asian-Americans and particularly those who live in Chinatown
- * service other resource centers with similar purposes and goals

Beyond our immediate tasks we must acquire an understanding of ourselves. Knowledge of our history and culture will enhance the understanding of our destiny as a people.

L. Ling-chi Wang¹

I. ASIAN-AMERICAN RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Library is the Center's specialized collection of primary and secondary source material on Asians in America (with emphasis on the East Coast population). It was set up partly in response to increasing East Coast Asian-American student interest in an accurate and adequate history of the experience of Asians in America. Recent Asian-American courses and conferences on the East Coast and the interest generated from them clearly demonstrate the need for developing Asian-American Studies curriculum material, particularly for use in the Chinatown public schools and the City University of New York.

- * compile and collect raw data on Chinatown (NYC) and set up a raw data research system
- * subscribe to selected periodicals
- * compile a library of basic material on the experience of Asians in America including books, theses and monographs.
- * maintain a vertical "pamphlet" file about Asians on the East Coast
- * prepare curriculum material for use in Asian-American Studies programs
- * prepare lecture and multi-media program on Asians in America for presentation to the Asian-American community and the general public

A. Current Collection

1. Chinatown planning studies
2. bibliographies on existing Asian-American source material
3. raw data from recent Chinatown (NYC) studies and surveys
4. map collection on Chinatown (NYC) and the Lower East Side of Manhattan
5. books, monographs, theses and other documents on Asians in America
6. Asian-American curriculum material

B. Vertical File

Current information on Asians in America is being collected systematically and filed. Material is being cataloged under approximately fifty (50) main subject headings and indexed according to the New York Times indexing system.

C. Periodicals

The purpose of the Resource Center's periodical collection is to make available in Chinatown (NYC) a selective set of current material which provide unique, substantive information concerning Asians in America and Overseas Chinese. Periodicals are chosen subject to budget limitations and with a view towards supplying information which is not easily available and accessible to the Chinatown community. The Resource Center also receives selected newsletters of government and social service agencies and Chinese Student Clubs. The Center presently subscribes to over fifty (50) periodicals (newspapers and magazines).

Seemingly straightforward facts about societal things and events are seldom, if ever, value neutral. They inevitably intervene into the workings of the systems they describe.²

II. ASIAN-AMERICAN RESEARCH PROGRAM

There has been growing distrust of many academicians and researchers who have used Chinatown as a social science "laboratory". These researchers have all too often provided interpretations that have misrepresented or misinterpreted the community. Others have conducted their studies in the naive belief that such research is value neutral, when in fact such investigation is a very real form of intervention in the community. Research without implementation is meaningless and, in many ways, irresponsible. The community wants, needs, and has every right to expect research that brings tangible results regarding its welfare.

- * support, promote or initiate applied community research into areas relating to the welfare and understanding of Asians in America
- * printing and publishing such material
- * community research and planning

Without doubt, one of the tragedies of the Chinese in the United States is the fact that those who have achieved moderate educational and economic success in the white society have preferred to believe in the myth of assimilation and to forget about the majority of Chinese who never have the opportunity to do the same.

L. Ling-chi Wang³

III. CHINATOWN COMMUNITY SERVICE

There appears to be an increasing awareness of and concern for Chinatown's needs and serious problems. Too long have Chinatown communities across the country been ignored. Indeed, too long have Chinatown residents been denied equal opportunity. In New York City, Chinatown's problems are by no means of recent origin. The Community has long been without adequate health, housing and recreational facilities. Moreover, problems of acculturation, discrimination, and a growing population affect job opportunity as well as the social fabric of the Community. The Community Service Program exists because of the recognition that Chinatown has numerous immediate needs which must be met.

- * English language and orientation program
- * Media Workshop
- * after-school program

In Planning

- * free professional services to the Chinatown community (e.g. legal assistance, health, business)

Asian-American Resource Center
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(212) 226-8064

- 1,3 L. Ling-chi Wang, Chinatown in Transition (Ting Magazine)
- 2 Webber, On Gathering Information (JAIP November '65)