

From the East Asia Library

Zhijia Shen

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Dear East Asian Studies Faculty and Students:

Congratulations on the successful conclusion of another academic year and welcome back to the beautiful summer quarter! Here I would like to take this opportunity to update you about your East Asia Library. It has been a very busy and gratifying sprint quarter for the East Asia Library. Two new staff members joined the EAL in May. Michael Meng, our new Chinese Studies Librarian started on May 1, 2007 and Anne Moreau, our new administrative assistant on May 7. Coming from University of Michigan, Michael was able to bring his rich experience to us and hit the round and run. Anne Moreau came to us from UW Health Services. Before coming to the EAL, Anne had several related positions and took Asia related courses. She has already developed an interest about East Asia. Since she started here, Anne has pitched right in taking on many tasks of projects at the EAL. Both Michael and Anne are great additions to the EAL. They currently are busy going through training and learning their jobs while already making a difference in the library.

Facilities

As many of you may have already noticed that the windows in the Beckman Reading-room look different now—all the greasy-looking, dusty, and weather beaten yellowish curtains have disappeared to reveal the beautiful designs of the classic windows. The new window covering is specially suitable for window of our type—screening out much of the heat and sun while leaving the original appearance of the windows visible. This is a major improvement of the EAL facilities, which has long been overdue. We have received many positive comments from our users.

Outreach Activities

In April, Zhijia Shen took a trip to Mainland China and Taiwan in the effort to re-establish relationship between University of Washington Libraries and libraries in Mainland China and Taiwan. It was a very productive trip. Zhijia visited ten libraries and met with their directors. Among these libraries are Shanghai Fudan University Library, Shanghai Jiaotong University Library, Tsinghua University Library, National Library of China, Taiwan University Library, National Taiwan Normal University Library, and National Central Library in Taiwan. She

also visited with UW alumni in Taiwan and Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation on this trip. In addition, she visited with many Chinese e-resource vendors to raise fund to support the summer institute for Chinese studies librarians in North America to be held at University of Washington in 2008. The summer institute is designed to focus the training on Chinese studies librarianship in electronic environment. On this trip, Zhijia also conducted acquisitions visits to Chinese book vendors. She purchased access cards of three major electronic providers in China for experiment with pay-per-view services to our users. Please watch for the upcoming announcements on how to use this resource from Michael Meng.

On May 18, Betsy Wilson, Dean of the University Libraries, hosted a reception to introduce Zhijia Shen as the new director of the EAL to the local East Asian communities. The reception was held in the EAL Beckman Reading-room in the evening after the library was closed. The EAL staff set up book displays in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean studies. At the reception, Zhijia also introduced our new Chinese studies librarian, as well as our established Japanese and Korean studies librarians to the guests. It was a very successful event. About 40 guests attended the reception; the event was reported in several major Chinese and Japanese newspapers in the Seattle area and brought significant publicity to the East Asia library and the University of Washington Libraries.

In May, three faculty members from Harvard University visited the East Asia Library to use our collection of the Korean literary materials published during the period of 1945-1950. They became first known to the scholars through the library exhibit, "*Between Liberation and Time of Need: 1945-1950*", organized by Hyokyoung Yi, our Korean Studies Librarian, in collaboration with a visiting scholar from Korea from May through August of 2006. This exhibition inspired scholars of Korean studies from all over the nation, who are now planning a conference and book publication project that will develop in the next two years. The visit of the three faculty members from Harvard to our library is part of the initial gathering in the form of a roundtable discussion sponsored by the Center for Korean Studies at UW. Among the scholars who attended the roundtable were David McCann, the Director of the Korea Institute and the Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Literature at Harvard University, Young-Jun Lee, Post-Dotoral Fellow at Harvard University, and Kyoung-Hoon Lee, visiting professor of the Korea Institute. We are very proud of the role our library plays in this significant project and Hyokyoung is now working with the University Libraries Digital Initiative Department to digitize the collection. We hope soon to be able to provide access to the rich contents of these rare materials to scholars around the world.

On June 7 and 8, the delegation of Chinese graduate school deans visited the East Asia Library. Zhijia Shen gave them a presentation about the East Asia Library and the University of Washington Libraries and their role in graduate education at UW.

Grants and Gifts

EAL has received from UW Alumni of Japan a donation of company history books of eighty-two Japanese corporations. Keiko has arranged for us to receive “Met Center Grant” from the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies to purchase Japanese art history books of our collection. A total of \$3,008.74 was granted to the EAL.

Library Processing

EAL has been working hard catching up with cataloging backlogs. Korean cataloging has caught up with the Korean Foundation consortium acquisitions. The increased grant from Korean Foundation Consortium program and the Academy of Korean Studies has added \$30,000 in acquisitions budget for Korean collections. This has posted a significant demand on our cataloging staff for Korean materials.

Japanese section has managed to stretch its budget to acquire more titles than we were able in the previous years without increasing its books budget. Eddy Harrison, our Japanese cataloger, after completing the serials project has resumed more Japanese cataloging. Chinese section is tackling the cataloging backlog in the pre-cat collections, putting a halt to the growth of the pre-cat collection by adjusting the workflow. In order to achieve this workflow, Michael has volunteered to spend 10%-15% of his time helping Chinese cataloging.

EAL has targeted the pre-cat as a main project for the 2007-08 academic year. The goal is to process the 30k titles in the library’s pre-cat collection into OCLC and make them fully accessible to our users.

We have completed a round of weeding of the EAL reference collection in the Beckman Reading room. This weeding heavily concentrated on Chinese studies materials, which was long overdue for weeding. More than 350 volumes were transferred out of the reference collection to Kane Hall Stacks. More than 150 volumes of the old book catalogs of other East Asia collections were also removed from the EAL reference collection to Kane Hall. Now, our students are working on shifting the reference shelves to ease in those books previously were

sitting on top of the shelves for the lack of space on the shelves. This project significantly improves the shelving situation of the EAL reference collection.

New Collections and Services

The EAL started a new course reserve service in the Spring Quarter, Shared Reading Shelf. This service was on an experimental basis to provide more flexible reserve services to graduate level classes and seminars. In the Spring Quarter, one graduate class used this service. We have received suggestions and feedback for improvement from our faculty. We will continue to offer this service and would encourage more faculty members to use it.

EAL acquired the electronic edition of the *People's Daily* newspaper, which provides full-text access to current issues with only one week delay (better than airmail delivery) and full access to the entire run of the retrospective issues back to 1946. The link to this newspaper is at <http://www.oriprobe.com/PeoplesDaily.html>, however this is an IP address limited access. All users can access from UW campus computers. You can also access this link from Chinese studies web page on the EAL website, and through the UW online catalog by a titles search of "Peoples Daily Database 1946."

On her trip to China, Zhijia also explored opportunities for pay-per-view access cards to some of the important Chinese electronic resources. With the understanding that these will be access only and EAL will not have perpetual or archival access to any of the materials through such access cards, EAL is having a pilot project to see if pay-per-view would be a useful resource to our users. The purpose is to allow our faculty the access to more electronic resources we otherwise can not afford. This will also give us an opportunity to make decisions about what databases to purchase for our collections in the future. We have now purchased access cards for three electronic database providers—SuperStar e-books, CNKI databases, and VIP databases. The materials can be accessed through these access cards include journals articles, electronic books, dissertations, and other subject specific materials. We are now working on setting up a system to facilitate the pay-per-view services. Please look for the announcement from Michael Meng on when and how our pay-per-view service will be available.

Starting from the Fall quarter, EAL will publish a quarterly newsletter on its website <http://www.lib.washington.edu/east-asia/newsletter.html> where library updates, new projects, and new

acquisitions especially electronic resources will be reported. The newsletter will come out at the beginning of each quarter. I will send out email announcements when each issue comes out.