

**From the East Asia Library**  
**Zhijia Shen**  
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Dear East Asian Studies Faculty and Students:

As we conclude the Winter Quarter, I would like to provide you with a brief update about your East Asia Library. In the past fall and winter quarters, much has happened at the East Asia Library. First of all, with your support and assistance, the EAL successfully completed its search for the Chinese Studies Librarian position. Mr. Michael Meng from University of Michigan will start his appointment on May 1. The EAL also has completed some facilities projects. The damaged ceiling of its reading room was restored to its original appearance. The renovation projects of the two elevators, Elevator 3 and 4, were completed. We have replaced the ten old and dirty task chairs with brand new ones for the Access Plus workstations in the reading room. And the most recent happening is the arrival of the donation of the conference table that belonged to Dr. Herbert H. Gowen, after whom our building was named, thanks to the arrangement by Professor Kent Guy. Together with the table, the family donated a photo of Dr. Gowen taken in 1941. Now these donations are housed in the EAL Director's office (Room 322B Gowen Hall) for better protection according to the wishes of the family.

In addition to the facilities enhancements, the EAL staff has also been hard at work to enhance the library's collections and services. Major activities can be summarized as follows.

**Gift Collections and Grants**

Three major Korean gifts arrived or were arranged in the fall and winter quarters. They are the Mandang collection from Dr. Lee Hye-ku (pen-named Mandang). The Mandang collection includes 2,200 volumes / 2,000 titles of mainly Korean language materials in traditional Korean music, musical instruments, ethnomusicology, musicians, folk music, Buddhist chants, theories, court music, rites and ceremony music, etc. It fills a gap of the UW collections in an important area of ethnomusicology and makes a significant addition to our Korean studies collection. Arrangements have been made for the EAL to receive the entire library of the late Professor James Palais. The Palais collection has about 10,000 volumes of Korean and Western language materials on Korean studies and Korean history. Over 450 volumes in Korean studies and literature, which belonged to the late Professor Scott Swaner, were given to the EAL. All these gifts will further strengthen our capacity as the nation's second largest Korean collection to serve the active research and teaching of the Korean studies program at UW.

EAL also received from UW Alumni of Japan 150 volumes on company history.

We have received three grants from the Allen Endowment for our collections, \$3,500 for the electronic version of the Chinese newspaper, People's Daily, \$4,644 for the complete collection of writings and documents produced in the Song Dynasty, and \$5,000 for preservation of Japanese books published in World War II. The EAL also received a \$5,000 grant from the University Library's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund to prepare for its summer training program for Chinese studies librarians expected to take place in the summer of 2008.

**Outreaching**

In the past two quarters, the EAL has hosted many international visitors and groups. In February, Helen Kim, the Korean studies librarian from University of British Columbia's Asia Library spent a full week at the EAL to receive training on Korean librarianship from Hyokyong Yi, our Korean Studies librarian. It was a very

successful visit and mutually beneficial. We also have Mr. Jun Zhang, a visiting librarian from the Chinese Academy of Science Library in Wuhan, being with us for two months. One of Mr. Zhang's goals is to explore possibilities for future collaboration between the UW libraries and the Chinese Academy of Science Library. Mr. Zhang will be here till the end of April. In the summer interim, we had a librarian from Hosei University with us for two days as a library intern. Ms Keiko Yokota-Carter, our Japanese studies librarian, spent much time facilitating his visit.

A Delegation of librarians from Yamanashi Prefecture of Japan visited in January. Ms Keiko Yokota-Carter provided the group with a presentation on information literacy. Besides, we also had several other groups of visitors, such as Director of Hosei University Library, officers from the Consulate General of Japan in Seattle, and Director of Chinese Cultural Center of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle. All these visits opened channels for future exchange between our library and libraries in East Asia.

In January, the EAL hosted a tour for the attendees of American Library Association's mid-winter conference. Over thirty librarians came and toured our EAL; many were East Asian studies librarians. The tour brought significant publicity to our library and its unique collections.

Early in December, Ms Keiko Yokota-Carter offered a workshop on Japanese Digital Resources at the University of Washington for researchers from in the State of Washington. This workshop funded by Japan Foundation. It was very well received.

### **Library Instruction**

Our subject librarians have been actively providing library instructions in support of the East Asian studies curricula. We would like to be even more actively involved in such activities and invite our faculty to contact us for class presentations or group sessions about library resources, as well as co-teaching research methods classes.

### **Library Processing**

Our serials unit has completed the 2-year newspaper weeding project to free up storage space enough for three years' growth. Titles weeded included those selected by C.J.K studies librarians, newspapers of which the EAL receives microfilm, and some titles owned by the Center of Research Libraries. The completion of the project allows us to shelve the newspapers in chronological order without piling bundles on the floor and to facilitate effective retrieval. Currently, the EAL has sixty-three active newspaper titles.

The EAL is planning for cataloging retrospective conversion of its Pre-Cat collections to make them fully accessible to our users. The Pre-Cat is a temporary cataloging status of brief and non-standard cataloging records for books that the library does not have time to fully catalog. A collection survey of all the books in the Pre-Cat collections has been conducted and we estimated a total of 30,000 plus volumes of Pre-Cat titles; many of which predate library automation thus are not registered in our online catalog. This is a large collection and the retrospective conversion will be a major project. The completion of the project will significantly enhance the accessibility to our valuable research collections.

### **New Collections and Services**

The EAL has recently purchased the KPM, the electronic database of North Korean Newspapers and Magazines. The database includes six major North Korea newspapers including Pyongyang Times and fifteen

journal titles in various disciplinary areas. Users can get to the database at <http://dprkmedia.com/index.aspx>. This link will become accessible from Library Online Catalog some time soon.

The EAL has acquired the 360-volume set of *Quan Song Wen*--complete writings of the Song Dynasty (960-1279)-- the largest annotated collection of writings by authors of the Song Dynasty and the most complete collection of Song prose literature including up to 98% of the prose produced during that period. In addition to the "completeness" of the set, it also includes important scholarship of today through added annotations, citations, and documentation. The books are being cataloged and processed.

The EAL has started a new course reserve service, Shared Reading Shelf, on an experimental basis to provide more flexible reserve services to graduate level classes and seminars. The instructions on how to request materials to be put on the Shared Reading Shelves, is posted on the EAL's web site. Please see "[Reserve](#)" at the EAL's website or contact the EAL circulation desk at [ealcirc@lib.washington.edu](mailto:ealcirc@lib.washington.edu) / (206) 543-4490 to use this service for your classes.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support since I started my position as Director of the East Asia Library in September 2006. We have received many constructive suggestions and support for our collections and services.