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Innovation Grant for East Asian Librarians Program Funds Final Projects

In 2014, the Council on East Asian Libraries, through its parent organization, the Association for Asian Studies, received a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a program to fund East Asian studies-related collection development projects. A 2-year “Innovation Grants for East Asian Librarians” grant program was launched in January 2015, with the final award made in December 2016.

The five award-winning projects are introduced below. They represent a range of technology uses, collection development goals, and innovative methodologies that will benefit scholars in both Japanese and Chinese studies in the future. Project leads have been asked to publish accounts of their project accomplishments after completion. In addition, they will be invited to present at the Council on East Asian Libraries Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference planned for Washington, D.C. in March 2018.

2016

University of California Irvine Libraries

Project Lead: Ying Zhang, Research Librarian for Asian Studies

Collaborators: Susan Xue (UC Berkeley), Zhaohui Xue (Stanford), and Xiaohe Ma (Harvard)

Award: \$53,810

Grant Period: August 2016 – July 2017

Project: ***From Curation of Collection to Creation of Knowledge: Building a Bilingual Dictionary of Ming Government Official Titles through Crowdsourcing***

This project aims to fill a critical lacuna in Chinese reference collection development by creating – through an open source platform to “crowd-source” content – an online dictionary of Ming dynasty official titles. This work will build on the standard source for translations of official titles by Charles O. Hucker (*A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China*) by adding over 600 translations for the Ming dynasty. This will fill a major gap for scholars of the Ming and those who need standardized English translations of imperial government titles for digital humanities and other projects. The new dictionary will be publicly accessible through the UC-Irvine digital repository.

Stanford University Libraries

Project Lead: Jidong Yang, Head, East Asia Library

Collaborators at Stanford: Zhaohui Xue, Nicholas Taylor, and Gary Geisler; under the general oversight PI Michael A. Keller

Award: \$39,650

Grant Period: August 2016 – July 2017

Project: *Recording the Emerging Chinese Civil Society: Archiving Websites and Social Media of Chinese NGOs and Making Them Accessible*

This project will enhance and extend an effort to collect born digital materials (websites and social media) published by Chinese NGOs active in the sectors of environmental protection, HIV/AIDS, labor and migrant workers, legal aid, social enterprise, women and gender issues, and ethnic minorities. The grant will be used to double the coverage of an initial project begun by the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, enhance the metadata to improve accessibility, and develop an existing open-source platform for online exhibits to feature the archived content.

University of Washington Libraries

Project Lead: Azusa Tanaka, Japanese Studies Librarian

Collaborators: Hiroyuki Good (University of Pittsburgh) and Daniel McKee (Cornell) Award: \$50,500

Grant Period: January 2017 – December 2017

Project: *Japanese Multi-Volume Sets Discoverability Improvement Project*

The goal of this project is to create an open-access, full-text searchable, online collection of finding aids (indices, user guides, etc.) for Japanese multi-volume sets held in North American libraries. The finding aids will be scanned, made searchable through OCR, and ingested into the University of Washington institutional repository. The finding aid will also be linked with the OCLC record for each multi-volume set title. The project will greatly enhance the discoverability of the otherwise hidden scholarly content in these sets for users world-wide.

2015

Duke University Libraries

Project Lead: Luo Zhou, Chinese Studies Librarian, in collaboration with Guo-Juin Hong (Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Department)

Award: \$40,000

Grant Period: July 2015 – June 2017

Project: *The Memory Project*

This project represents an original contribution in the area of processing, preserving, and making accessible digital primary sources, while also grappling with issues involved in the enhancement of East Asian language AV materials for presentation in an English language context. Grant funds will be used primarily for the arrangement, description, and

reformatting of over 1,000 interviews constituting an oral history of the Great Famine in post-Revolution rural China.

The Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University

Project Lead: Yunshan Ye, Librarian for East Asian Studies, in collaboration with Cathy Zeljak and Yan He (The George Washington University Libraries) and Ding Ye (Joseph Mark Lauinger Memorial Library, Georgetown University)

Award: \$77,610

Grant Period: July 2015 – June 2017

Project: ***Blogging and Microblogging: Preserving Non-Official Voices in China's Anti-Corruption Campaign***

This project, is an innovative approach in the area of harvesting and making accessible Chinese language social media content, including both blogs and micro-blogs, and the development of an existing open-source tool to allow for the harvesting of Chinese-language content. Blog and micro-blog content related to the Anti-Corruption campaign in contemporary China will be the focus of this archiving effort.

Ellen H. Hammond

Co-Principal Investigator

The Mellon Foundation-Council on East Asian Libraries Innovation Grants for East Asian Librarians