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# From the President

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## From the President

This issue's cover signals a plea for a coming together of talents, within our community of East Asian librarians, for our common interests. That actually is a pretty good summary of what CEAL is all about. To date, our "coming together" has mainly involved our annual meetings and the publication of this journal. The emergence of the World Wide Web as a pervasive medium for communication now presents to us the opportunity, and the challenge, to work together in creating an information environment which could directly benefit everyone involved in Asian studies.

All of us provide services and have resources in our own libraries which could be of use elsewhere but, being elsewhere, have to be replicated over and over. The possibilities for using the internet to cut down on unnecessary duplication of effort have barely been explored, much less implemented. The lessons learned in cataloging decades ago can now be put to use in other areas of the library. If every East Asian librarian or library were to devote an incremental amount of time every week to enhancing East Asian resources available on the web, we could make great collective strides.

The first thing we need, though, is organization. Towards that purpose, I plan, over the coming months, to reconfigure CEAL's Committee on Publications into the Committee on Communications, to include oversight and coordination of the Council's print and electronic communications. Part of the new committee's charge will be to begin the process of building the structure for CEAL's cooperative web development.

Our guiding principle in this effort should be "no duplication of effort," and this should encompass any services already being provided. The amount of success we are able to achieve will be in direct proportion to degree of participation among our members and, also, the degree to which we are able to suppress our proprietary urges. Let's all of us resolve to work together, as we have done before, to do something great.