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Institutional and Member News

Xiaoli Li

IR/PS Library

East Asia Library

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INSTITUTIONAL AND MEMBER NEWS

Serials Control/Chinese Serials Pinyin Conversion Project of the East Asia Library at the University of Washington

The East Asia Library at the University of Washington is undertaking a major in-house project to catalog its entire serials collection along with the Pinyin conversion of Chinese serials and to re-shelve the collection in LC call number order. Our goal is to make the library's CJK collections, the largest in the Northwest, more accessible to users at the University of Washington as well as at other institutions.

When the project started in 2001, the library held approximately 10,000 serials. However, the online records for 80% of these serial titles, mostly in Chinese and Korean, contained only title, publisher, and author information. Enormous numbers of volumes lacked barcodes, and library holdings records were incomplete or inaccurate. The library had hoped to improve the situation for a long time. After the Library of Congress and the East Asian library community decided to adopt Pinyin transliteration for romanizing Chinese materials, the East Asia Library received funding and additional staffing to implement this long-awaited project.

The core tasks of the project are:

- Cataloging every title through OCLC
- Providing ANSI/NISO level 4 holdings statements
- Barcoding every bound volume and creating item records
- Applying new LC call number spine labels for all bound volumes

Associated tasks are reviewing and withdrawing, and binding and preservation. In the first year, we processed approximately 4,200 titles for a total of 35,000 volumes. Since few titles had been cataloged, cataloging and assigning LC call numbers have posed a tremendous challenge. While 71.5% of our cataloging has been copy cataloging, we have spent a considerable amount of time on original cataloging (4.7%) and enhancing/upgrading OCLC records (23.8%). Normally, an OCLC record is edited when there is no vernacular in the record, when a serial has changed its title but the change is not indicated in the record, i.e., no 780 or 785 field, when an ISSN is on the piece but not in the record, when the record is not fully converted into pinyin, or/and when there are typographical errors or romanization problems in the record.

Anticipated completion date for the entire project is 2005.

(Xiaoli Li, Serials Librarian, East Asia Library, University of Washington)

Jim Cheng Appointed as Head of IR/PS Library and East Asia Collection at UC-San Diego: Mr. Jim Cheng was installed in November 2002 as the new head of the IR/PS Library and East Asia Collection at the University of California, San Diego. Before coming to UCSD, Mr. Cheng held positions in the East Asian Collection at the University of Iowa Libraries and at the East Asian Library and the Law Library at the University of Washington in Seattle.

(From an announcement by the IR/PS Library, UCSD)
Sarah Su-erh Elman joins East Asia Library at Yale: Sarah Su-erh Elman has been appointed to the position of Cataloging Coordinator in the East Asia Library, Yale University, effective December 2002. Ms. Elman will be the head of CJK cataloging operations and will also serve as a cataloger for Chinese materials. Before moving to Yale she was for ten years at the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library at UCLA, where she served as head of both cataloging and public services.

Ms. Elman’s addresses are
Email: sarah.elman@yale.edu
Telephone: 203 432-8210
Postal: Sterling Memorial Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(Eastlib posting by the East Asia Library, Yale University)