



2-1-2004

From the President

Abraham J. Yu

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Yu, Abraham J. (2004) "From the President," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2004 : No. 132 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2004/iss132/2>

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February 20, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of CEAL:

During the CEAL 2003 Meeting in New York, I addressed my version of the acronym of "CEAL." I stressed that most CEAL members are either "Curators," "Experts," "Administrators," or "Leaders" in the East Asian Library Communities. At this time, I would like to share with you my interpretation of the letter "C" in "CEAL." "C" represents "Challenges" and "Changes." CEAL has overcome a number of challenges and changes in the last few years. The changes we implemented have significantly improved the operation and services of CEAL.

The major changes of CEAL in recent years include but are not limited to:

- Changed the "CEAL Directory" to the "CEAL Directory Online" for easy access from anywhere at anytime
- Changed the printing and mailing services of the Journal of East Asian Libraries (JEAL) to the institution of the JEAL Editor for efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Changed the "CEAL Procedures" to "CEAL Bylaws" with more provisions
- Changed the term of the CEAL President from three years to two years to provide more opportunities for CEAL members to serve
- Changed the voting system from paper format to electronic format for efficiency and cost-effectiveness

In addition, the letter "C" in "CEAL" also stands for "Commitment" and "Cooperation," which CEAL members exemplify. With these qualities of our members, CEAL has made the necessary changes to overcome the challenges it has faced. Over the past forty years, more than two hundred CEAL members have served as CEAL President, Vice-President/President-Elect, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, committee chair, member-at-large, member of committees, subcommittees, or task groups. I am especially impressed by Edward Martinique and Gail King, who together have committed 15 years of faithful service as Editors of the CEAL Bulletin and JEAL.

This issue of our journal includes an article on famous Japanese visitors to Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the annual CEAL statistical report, the NCC 2002-2003 meeting reports, the CEAL Committee on Technical Processing reports, new appointments, and obituaries. We will greatly miss our departed colleagues and friends: Du Ke, Takayasu Miyakawa, and Yoko Akiba. I hope you will find the article and reports informative and interesting.

As the CEAL 2004 Meeting is quickly approaching, you will soon hear the exciting programs and presentations prepared by CEAL committees. I look forward to seeing you in March as we convene in San Diego.

Sincerely,



Abraham J. Yu, President
Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)

