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# Korean Collection Consortium of North America

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**KOREAN COLLECTIONS CONSORTIUM OF NORTH AMERICA  
2009 ANNUAL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Time:** March 26, 2009 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Ohio Room, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, USA

**Members Present:**

Ms. Helen Kim (University of British Columbia)  
Mr. Jaeyong Chang (University of California, Berkeley)  
Ms. Esther Mi-Kyung Han (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Ms. Younghee Sohn (University of Chicago)  
Ms. Hee-sook Shin (Columbia University)  
Ms. Mikyung Kang (Harvard University)  
Ms. Jude Yoon Lim Yang (University of Hawaii at Manoa)  
Ms. Yunah Sung (University of Michigan)  
Ms. Joy Kim (University of Southern California)  
Ms. Kyungmi Chun (Stanford University)  
Ms. Hana Kim (University of Toronto), Chair  
Ms. Hyokyung Yi (University of Washington), Secretary

**Korea Foundation:**

Mr. Young-hee Hahn (Executive Vice President)  
Ms. Jiyoung Park (Program Officer, Fellowship Program Department)

**I. Welcome and introductions**

Hana Kim, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming member librarians as well as representatives from the Korea Foundation. Jude Yoon Lim Yang, the new librarian from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, was introduced for the first time to the members. In the meeting, each member shared a brief report about the highlights of their institution.

**II. Member Reports**

The following reports are submitted by members via email about their library's activities and program updates. The report is listed in the same order as institutional names above.

**University of British Columbia (UBC)**

The Korean Studies Department, the Center for Korean Research, and the Korean Collection have achieved successful results during the period above mentioned.

As highlighted achievements, the Center for Korean Research was selected to be one of three institutes for a grant; the Korean Studies Department launched 3 new courses; and the annual total acquired volumes of the Korean Collection exceeded those of Chinese and Japanese Collections.

The following is detailed information about these and other matters which took place during the period.

**A. Library**

- Collection
  - The volume of purchased materials was greater than the Japanese, and the gift books also

- greater than Japanese and Chinese books.
- Gift books: As a result of efforts to increase the Collection within the limited budget, the amount gift books received was more than 50% of the total purchased books.
- The widow of Prof. Song, Jae-gap, Tongguk University, donated Prof. Song's collection of about 3,000 volumes.
- The Korean Labor Institute donated about 200 titles of gift books in 2008, and will continue to send its publication once every year.
- The National Library of Korea sent about 170 volumes as gift books.
- Some local community members donated their published books.
- Korean Language Librarian
  - The Librarian offered instructions on how to search and use materials, and to research for assignments to 1) UBC students, 2) visiting scholars, 3) exchange students from Korea University, 4) students of the English Learning Program, and 5) local Korean community members.
  - The Librarian attended the general management meeting of the Center for Korean Research, and participated in the application procedure for a grant from the Academy of Korean Studies. The result is that the Librarian will receive \$3,000 per year for 5 years from the Center as support for an annual acquisition trip.
- Others
  - The Head Librarian of the Asian Library returned after her sabbatical year.
  - There was an Asian Library's Open House event in 2008, but it will be changed to an event as part of *Asia Voila!*, which is sponsored by all of the UBC's Asia-related programs from 2009.
  - The Library Processing Unit, which includes Acquisition, Cataloging, Serials, and Binding sections, will be moving to a different location, and this will cause some delay in the acquisition and cataloging process.

#### B. Program

- Prof. Ross King was appointed as the Head of the Asian Studies Department for 4 years as of 2008.
- Ms. Eurie Shin, a new lecturer, started teaching Korean language courses and Korean Cinema.
- The Department added 3 new courses: 1) Korean Cinema, 2) Literature of the Korean Diaspora, and 3) Korean Language and Writing in Culture and Society.
- The Korean Nights were held 2 visits from authors: Yi, Hye-gyong and Cho, Chong-nae. The Korean Language Librarian promoted the library services and displayed the books of the author at the site.
- Visiting scholars' subject seminars were held once every month.

#### C. Others

- In 2008 the Center for Korean Research made an application for a grant of \$1,000,000 to the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS). The application included information about the support of the University of British Columbia library in general and the Korean Collection. The Korean Language Librarian took part in the procedure by writing a supporting letter presenting the Collection and the Library System in general, providing a tour to the delegates from the AKS, and arranging meetings of the parties of the University Librarian and the Asian subject liaison librarian of the main library with the delegate members.
- As a result of success in acquiring the grant, the Korean Collection will receive \$3,000 per year for 5 years from 2009 to 2013 as a subsidy for the Korean Language Librarian to make acquisition trips to Korea.
- The Centre's bi-weekly subject seminars were regularly held at the Choi Building on every other Friday afternoon.

#### University of California, Berkeley

The C.V. Starr East Asian Library, University of California, Berkeley concluded a written agreement with academic leaders from the Institute of Korean Culture at Korea University on behalf of the Starr Library. Un

der this agreement, Korea University will fund the Starr to the amount of \$350,000 over the next two to three years. The money will be used to digitize Korean rare books, including the Asami collection, making these valuable materials accessible to the global scholarly community.

### **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**

- From October to December 2008, UCLA East Asian library hosted an exhibition on East Asian Archeology and Classical Architecture in the lobby of the Young Research Library. Displayed were some of the most important monographs and journals related to Korean archaeology from the UCLA East Asian Library. Additionally, three lectures on the same topic by UCLA faculty were presented during this period. On November 19, 2008, Professor John Duncan, Korean history professor, gave a lecture on Korean archaeology to a group of 45 students, professors and library staff at the Young Research Library Presentation Room.
- In January 2009, the library received approximately 900 volumes of Korean language books from Professor Lee, Sang-ok of Seoul National University. The donated books will help to strengthen UCLA East Asian library's collection in the areas of Korean linguistics and Korean literature.

### **University of Chicago**

#### **A. Library**

- Kim Hyerye, a new bibliographic assistant, started working in October 2008, after her predecessor Yu Jung-yul resigned in July. The book processing has been slow as much of the time has been spent on training Ms. Kim, although her previous experience at the now-defunct Chicago based book store, Seoul Sojom, is helping her to settle in faster than expected.
- Ordering with the Korea Foundation funds for 2009/2010 is 80% completed and almost 100% of the titles that have been received as of mid-March have been processed.
- The Library's schedule to build a storage facility with an automated retrieval system to the west of the main Joseph Regenstein Library has been proceeding smoothly without glitch. The groundbreaking took place in September 2008, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010.
- The Korean section, along with other parts of the library, has been working on a project to select titles, particularly serial titles that are also available on-line, and ship them off to an interim storage site in Indiana. The books will remain there until the storage facility becomes functional. The official name of the storage facility is Mansueto Library.

#### **B. Program**

- The search for a senior-ranking faculty has been successful, and Prof. Hwang Jong-yoen from Dongguk University will start teaching from the fall quarter this year.
- In conjunction with this, the Korean section received additional funding of \$15,000 to purchase resources for the new faculty to meet his research needs.
- The Korean Committee on campus is busy organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Workshop on Korean Literature (NAWKOL), which is scheduled to be held in early June. The Library will provide a venue for the workshop.

### **Columbia University (CU)**

#### **A. Library**

As for the C. V. Starr East Asian Library, the Director of the library, Amy Heinrich, retired at the end of December 2008. The Director's position is currently under recruitment and the East Asian Studies Librarian, Ria Koopmans-de Bruijn, is Acting Director of the library until the position is filled.

Based on a 3-year Starr grant, the library hired a full-time Korean cataloger, Jee-Young Park, to process a large backlog of uncataloged Korean materials. With her assistance, the backlog will be reduced

significantly in the near future.

The library has started to work with the National Library of Korea on a cooperative digitization project of Korean rare books at CU. We have selected 94 volumes of unique materials to be digitized and made accessible to scholars worldwide by the end of June 2010.

#### B. Program

As for the Korean Studies Program at CU, the program will expand to include Korean religious studies and due to the economic downturn, the original plan to hire a full-time professor will be postponed to 2010.

### Harvard University

#### A. Library

- The Korean Cataloging section was fully staffed by the middle of August 2008 with Ms. Eun-hee Nah's appointment as a Korean cataloger. Currently, there are 2.08 FTE (one full-time professional cataloger; 2 part-time cataloging assistants) cataloging staff members working for cataloging of Korean materials at the Harvard-Yenching Library.
- Harvard-Yenching Library was chosen to be one of KOFIC (Korean Film Council)'s Hub-Library program members in 2008. From this program, the Library received 132 DVDs of Korean feature films and 395 volumes of Korean cinema-related publications.
- The Library received more than 1,000 volumes of Korean excavation reports from Zininzin as a donation with the support of the Early Korea Project, Korea Institute.
- Photographs in the James H. Hausman Archive collection have gone through the preservation process during 2008. Approximately 1,200 photos were reviewed and went through preservation treatment.
- The Korean rare book digitization project is going smoothly and is now in the second year of the project. So far, digitization of 413 titles/544 volumes has been completed within this project, and all digitized images are available through HOLLIS, Harvard's online catalog, and are open to the public. In the meantime, 4 titles were newly added to the Korean rare book collection after they were identified as rare books. Two of them were newly received donations, and the other two were pulled from the regular stacks while reviewing.
- The reviewing/weeding project of the pre-1990 Korean collection (classified in Harvard-Yenching Classification scheme) currently located in the sub-basement of the Library has begun as a two-year project. This project aims to create more space for the recent Korean Collection, and weeded materials will be sent to the Harvard Depository. After completion of this project, Korean stack areas will be expanded to hold more recently-acquired publications.

### University of Hawaii at Manoa

#### A. Library

The Korean Collection has a new Korea specialist librarian as of March 1, 2009. The University library's program prioritization review group has been reviewing departmental rubrics and narrative reports. Each department did a prioritization survey, and the review group gave their recommendations for the library's 66 programs.

### University of Michigan (UM)

#### A. Library

- Funding  
The Library has processed 70% of the Consortium books that it has received as of mid-March, and all Korea Foundation funding has been exhausted. The University increased the Asia Library collection

budget by about 9%, and the Korean Studies collection budget was allocated 100% more than the previous fiscal year. This has been a major base increase for the Korean Studies collection since 2003.

- Staff change
  - Dr. Jidong Yang, Head of the Asia Library, started on July 1, 2008. He received his Ph. D. in Chinese history from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000.
  - It is feasible that the position of a Korean Copy Cataloger will be changed to a full time permanent position from a year-to-year term appointment.
  - Myung Kim, half-time acquisitions assistant, started in November 2008.
- Notable activities
  - A special exhibition of East Asian materials was held on September 19, 2008, exclusively for library donors as part of fund-raising efforts executed by the Library Development Office.
  - An “Exhibit of treasures from the UM Asia Library” was held on March 14, 2009 for the University and local communities. Notable Korean exhibits include “Akhak kwebom”(약학 궤범; published in 1610), “Chungbo munhon pigo”(중보 문헌 비고; published in 1770), and late 19<sup>th</sup> century bibles.
  - Google has been digitizing all print collections at UM. CJK materials at an off-site storage have been digitized, and now Google is working on materials in Asia Library. Copyright status permitting, full-text of these materials is available through the UM Library Catalog (<http://mirlyn.lib.umich.edu>) and at Google Book Search (<http://books.google.com/>).

## B. Program

- UMMA (University of Michigan Museum of Art; <http://www.umma.umich.edu/>) will re-open to the public on March 28, 2009 after two-and-a-half years of renovation and expansion. CKS has been actively participating in fund raising to install a Korean gallery, which would be the first Korean gallery at a university museum in the U.S. To celebrate its opening, many donors from Korea have been invited, including President Yim.
- Joan Kee, Assistant Professor of Contemporary Korean Art at the Department of History of Art, will begin teaching from September 2009.
- The Center for Korean Studies (<http://www.ii.umich.edu/cks>) and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/asian>) are currently in the process of searching for candidates for the Korean faculty positions.

## University of Southern California

### A. Library

- One Visiting Librarian position has been approved for a two-year term. In contrast to past practice, where USC invited specific Korean institutions to send Visiting Librarians, we decided to have an open recruitment this year. The position was announced in several Korean library listservs, and applications will be accepted until the end of April. USC hopes to have a Visiting Librarian on board in time for the new school year.
- A librarian from Panmun Academic Services, USC’s South Korean approval plan vendor, will be receiving training at USC on full cataloging of history and literature books during the entire month of April. This is phase 2 of USC’s vendor training program that started last year with K-level records. Joy Kim acknowledged that while the basic K-level records are of limited utility (primarily for acquisitions), they are not intended to remain in that state for long periods of time. Joy’s ultimate goal within the next few years is to train the South Korean vendor to provide shelf-ready materials for USC, accompanied by I-level bibliographic records. The training is taking place in incremental stages, progressing from easier books (DS and PL schedules) to more complex ones. Joy said that a few Consortium colleagues expressed their appreciation for even the K-level records Panmun Academic Services created in OCLC for USC.

- USC purchased 300 volumes of Japanese Colonial period books from a private collector in Korea.
- USC received some 800 volumes of gift books from Dr. Sang Oak Lee, Professor at the Seoul National University.
- Joy Kim had been scheduled to take a year of sabbatical leave this year, but for personal reasons found it necessary to postpone this for a few years.

#### B. Program

USC hired three new faculty members this year.

- Dr. David Kang started in January as the new Director of the Korean Studies Institute. A Stanford (B.A.) and UC Berkeley graduate (M.A. and Ph.D.), he has dual appointments as full professor in Political Science and Business. A widely recognized expert in East Asian international affairs, especially North and South Korea, he is the author of *China Rising: Peace, Power, and Order in East Asia* (2007) and *Crony Capitalism: Corruption and Development in South Korea and the Philippines* (2002), and co-author of *Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies* (2003). More information about him is available at: <http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/experts/1553.html>
- Dr. Sunyoung Park joined the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures as Assistant Professor of Korean Literature. A graduate of Seoul National University (B.A., Korean Language and Literature), SUNY at Buffalo (M.A., English Literature), and Columbia University (Ph.D., English and Comparative Literature), Dr. Park has been teaching Korean literature and cultural studies courses since the fall of 2008. More information about Prof. Park is available at: [http://college.usc.edu/faculty/faculty\\_display.html?Person\\_ID=1022658](http://college.usc.edu/faculty/faculty_display.html?Person_ID=1022658)
- After a national search, Dr. Choe Youngmin accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Korean Visual Culture in the Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures. A graduate of UC Berkeley (M.A. and Ph.D.) and Yonsei (B.A.), she has taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, UC Berkeley, and UC San Diego. She will start in the fall of 2009.
- The USC Korean Studies Institute was selected to receive \$600,000 from the Academy of Korean Studies (Hangukhak Chungang Yonguwon) over the next five years. This grant will support two post-doctoral fellows and one administrative assistant.

### Stanford University

#### A. Library

The Korean Collection held a special exhibition of Hangeul (Korean Alphabet) Calligraphy from October 9 to 31, 2008. The exhibition featured Hangeul calligraphy works donated by eleven established Korean female calligraphers. At the opening ceremony three calligraphers from Korea demonstrated their art for the audience. It was a unique opportunity to introduce a part of Korean culture, as well as the Korean Collection, to the Stanford community.

In order to house the fast-growing new collections, some collections of the East Asia Library in the Meyer Library building will be moved to one of the Stanford Auxiliary Libraries (SAL) on campus. Uncatalogued Korean collections will be moved to SAL. As they are cataloged, they will be shelved in the Meyer Library.

#### B. Program

Professor Shin is on sabbatical leave until June 2009. Mr. David Straub is the acting director of the

Korean Studies Program.

### University of Toronto

#### A. Library

- Grant  
The overall processing with the Korea Foundation fund is going smoothly. The University of Toronto will be finished ordering with the grant by the end of March and is currently waiting for the shipments to arrive.
- Exhibition Project  
In November 2008, the East Asian Library mounted a special film exhibition to introduce and promote awareness of the East Asian film collection in the library and to highlight some unique and significant titles for broader usage and research. On Korea, the library has 300 DVDs from South Korea and 200 video tapes from North Korea, and these include both motion pictures and documentary films reflecting the political, social and cultural values, and the background of different historical periods of Korea. The Library is presently exhibiting this film collection in its Current Resource Centre on the 8th floor of Robarts Library, and it will be on until April 2009.
- North Korean Films Digitization Project  
The East Asian Library has analyzed and digitized the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s film collection. As of March 2009, 54 video tapes have been converted to DVD format as an archival copy. With the successful sponsorship of the Centre for the Study of Korea, Dr. Jinsoo Ahn (Professor, Hong Ik University, South Korea) was invited to evaluate the DPRK film collection at the Library and we are currently awaiting his report.

### University of Washington

#### A. Library

- The cataloging project of the James B. Palais Gift collection, the personal collection of the late Korean history professor of the University of Washington, has been completed at the end of 2008 resulting over 1,600 volumes of Korean /Japanese/ English materials being added to the collection. For further information, the website is established at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/East-Asia/Korea/palais.html>. The grant proposal for the Palais Paper Archive project, submitted to the Korea Foundation, was not funded.
- Celebrating the first conference held by the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Washington on Korean literature from the Liberation Space period from October 31 to November 1, 2008, the Libraries hosted the opening reception of "Voices from Liberation Space", the exhibit of Korean literary works from 1945 to 1950 in the Suzzallo/Allen Library, for the whole month of November 2008. The event was to welcome the conference participants and presenters who came from many other institutions across the country and from Korea. The commentaries on featured books from renowned scholars were displayed in the exhibit and are also available online at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/East-Asia/Korea/Exhibit/>.
- The position of Korean Collection Assistant became permanent 50% from temporary 100% FTE due to a change in staffing. For the cataloging of grant materials, a temporary librarian at 37.5% FTE has been hired from January 2009 until June 2009.

#### B. Program

- Due to the global budget crisis, the University-wide hiring freeze has had an impact on the tenure position of the Korean Literature professor in the Department of Asian Language and Literature. The

position has been vacant and under the final process of interviewing, but the future of this position seems very uncertain at this point.

### III. Talking with the Korean Foundation representative

Mr. Hanh, the Executive Vice President, gave a brief introduction about himself, and an update on the Korea Foundation. He started talking about the economic situation of the Korea Foundation, which was severely hit by the global economic crisis, as well as the unfavorable Korean to US dollars currency rates. Most of public organizations had a 10% budget cut across the board, and the Korea Foundation was no exception to this reduction. In an effort to adjust to this budget situation, the KCCNA grant starting next fiscal year 2009/2010 might be distributed in a reduced amount of US\$20,000, extending the term of contract years to the next three years from two years. A note about this plan will be sent to the Korean studies librarians first before it reaches each institution. Therefore, considerations such as adding new members to the KCCNA may not be possible until the budget situation improves.

On a positive note, Mr. Hahn announced that the Korea Foundation will assist the purchase of the E-Koreanstudies database by subsidizing 35% of the cost. This funding assistance will be available for this year, as the source of the funding originates from the current program of the Media Department at the Foundation. The Foundation, however, will make an effort to create this new program as a multi-year project starting next year to support the E-Koreanstudies database for scholars in Korean studies. It is acknowledged that the benefits of the program should be extended to other institutions in the regions beyond the North America. Members were informed that the final price of the E-Koreanstudies database is still under the negotiation, but the details of the program will be announced shortly.

### IV. Virtual Reference (Old Business)

The Chair briefed members about the historical background of Virtual Reference in the context of the KCCNA project. The idea was initially promoted in order to facilitate the use of materials through the medium of interlibrary loan service. Last year at the KCCNA meeting, it was suggested to create a Google Group for Virtual Reference service for Korean scholars. Members discussed some elements which should go on the Google Group page, initially developed by the Chair, Hana Kim, and Hyokyung Yi, the Secretary. The following is what the group agreed to implement:

- Participants  
Initially all KCCNA members are the participants as virtual reference service providers. Any volunteers can contribute their service once the site is ready to be opened.
- Users  
This service will be available for anyone who is in need of reference services, regardless of their geographic location.
- Timeline  
The desired timeline to be open to the public will be July 1, 2009.
- Division of work among members  
Among the 12 members of the KCCNA, the maintenance of the service will be managed on a rotating monthly basis by one member, possibly starting with the Chair. The next person in the organization list will serve as a back-up librarian during that one-month period. The clear expectations of these coordinators' work should be listed on the website.
- Subject categories  
Unlike the KCCNA collection development, the assigned subject areas will not apply to this virtual reference service.
- Delivery of service  
Due to the limited resources, the goal of delivery time for the service is within 48 business hours.
- Language  
English and Korean are both acceptable.
- Promotion  
It is proposed that we promote the service on H-Asia, eastlib, Korean studies listserv, etc.

- Name of the service  
It has been decided to name the service “Ask a Korean Studies Librarian!” using the standard reference service term of “Ask Librarian.”
- Automated response  
It is proposed to send an automated response as soon as each question comes in.

The virtual reference site will soon be available to all members for further testing based on the points discussed above.

#### **V. Non-Member Attendance Request**

It was requested by Princeton University’s Korean Studies librarian to attend the KCCNA meeting as a non-member. Members discussed this issue of allowing non-members to attend the KCCNA annual meetings. It was agreed that, in general, the meeting agenda does not relate much to non-members. It has therefore been suggested to refer non-members to the Consortium’s webpage for information about the Consortium’s activities, and to encourage them to bring their questions to the chair of the Consortium or to the Consortium’s report session during the CKM meetings. The issues of language barriers, room and lunch reservations and the funding from the Korea Foundation were also discussed. Through a vote among members, it was decided to keep the KCCNA meeting as a meeting closed to non-members. The Chair will respond to future requests in accordance with the decision which was made.

#### **VI. Webmaster & Website**

The KCCNA website will no longer be maintained by Jaeyong Chang at Berkeley. So it is in need of a new webmaster and a server to host. The Korea Foundation cannot support the server maintenance fee unless the site can be used as a Hub for Korean Studies scholars. Members will first look into the possibility of joining the website of the Committee on Korean Studies/AAS. A further decision will be made afterwards.

#### **VII. Sharing Library Instruction Resources**

There was a suggestion by Joy Kim to share resources on library instruction developed by members at each institution. Either by uploading resources to the KCCNA website or the “Ask a Korean Studies Librarian!” website, the information would be useful to share among librarians for the creation of materials for instruction classes. Members recommended that it could be done on voluntary basis. Testing could be done first on the “Ask a Korean Studies Librarian!” site.

#### **VIII. Brainstorming**

Lunch was served while brainstorming on topics of 1) how to cope with reduced funding during the economic crisis and 2) the impact of the altered exchange rate on the acquisition of books and online databases.

Stanford and UC-Berkeley are planning to work cooperatively to reduce duplicate purchases in library holdings between the two nearby institutions, especially in the Consortium subject areas. In addition, librarians will consult each other for big-ticket items and cancellation of print copies for e-journals. Some other institutions report that the budget situation has not made an impact yet for the fiscal year 2008-2009, while others are waiting for impending budget cuts.

As for the exchange rate, it seemed that vendors differ in terms of when and how they apply the change in the exchange rate. Some members thought that it is up to each institution and vendor’s negotiation in acquiring the best deal. Some expressed concerns about the fluctuating exchange rate, which was not fairly reflected in the book price on invoices for the benefit of customers.

**IX. Other business**

The Chair informed members that the Executive Board of the CEAL is going to decide whether the KCCNA website could be hosted on the CEAL website. She confirmed that the next leadership posts for the KCCNA for FY 2009/2010 will be assumed by Hyokyoung Yi as a Chair, and Helen Kim as a Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Hyokyoung Yi, Secretary.