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From the President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2009 CEAL Conference will be held in Chicago Wednesday March 25 and Thursday March 26 at the Sheraton, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. A pre-conference sponsored by the CEAL Committee on Technical Processing will be held on Tuesday, March 24. The conference will open on Wednesday with a business meeting, which will address the new CEAL server as well as reporting the election results, and recognizing members for their service. Following the practice of recent years, we will distribute many reports over the internet in lieu of oral presentations. The meetings of the committees on Technical Processing and Public Services will follow this meeting.

Then, at 4 pm, we will present a plenary session that will be a panel planned in cooperation with the Asian Liaison Librarians; members of both CORMOSEA (Southeast Asia) and CONSALD (South Asia) have been invited.

The panel asks how the relationship between libraries, scholars and presses is changing in the face of border-crossing research and ubiquitous digitization. Boundaries between disciplines have been crossed, and barriers to research, whether institutional, system or national, have been broken. Information can be found regardless of location. Text stored electronically allows us to ask new questions and connect information in ways that facilitate interdisciplinary and cross-border research.

The panel will address how libraries, faculty and publishers each respond to the challenges posed by cross-border and interdisciplinary research. With the explosion of materials from around the world and the breakdown of territorial boundaries as a framework for research, how do faculty pursue research in areas that require materials and language skills from more than one country and increasingly more than one region of the world? How do libraries support faculty who cross borders in their research, given that old budgetary paradigms based on separate departments or programs may no longer be viable? If the library of the future is a portal through which students and faculty access the vast information sources of the world, what material should libraries collect? How do publishers find reviewers and sell books that may appeal to more than one audience?

The panel will consist of a faculty member, Peter Perdue from Yale, whose research spans from the Middle East to China. He will be complemented by David Magier, who was South Asian Studies librarian at Columbia before becoming head of area studies at Columbia, and who is now head of Collection Development at Princeton, and two press editors, Ken Wissoker, Editor-in-chief at Duke University Press, and Michael Duckworth from Hong Kong University Press. David will talk about the challenges of cross-border research for building collections and budgeting for collecting, while Ken and Michael will address the challenges and opportunities for publishers—and university presses in particular—afforded by border-crossing research. Michael will contrast his experience at the University of Washington with Hong Kong UP and how the world looks from Hong Kong as opposed to the States, how the markets and marketing differ, and how this affects what they choose to publish.

Thursday's panels will include those organized by the Committees on Japanese, Chinese and Korean materials. Talking with Experienced Librarians will be held Wednesday evening, while the Small Collections Roundtable and the Genealogy and East Asian Diaspora Group will hold their meetings on Thursday afternoon.

Related meetings of interest to conference attendees include those of several consortia (East Coast, Korean Collections, Midwest, West Coast), the Japanese Company Histories meeting, the NCC Open meeting, and the annual meeting of OCLC-CJK users group.

Yuan Zhou, Curator of the East Asian Library at the University of Chicago, has kindly made arrangements for this year's Fellowship Dinner, which will be held on Thursday March 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The agenda for the CEAL conference and related meetings has been posted on the CEAL homepage,

<http://www.eastasianlib.org/CEAL/AnnualMeeting/CEALMeetingSchedule/CEAL2009.htm>.

Our former President, Phil Melzer, and at-large member Cathy Chiu will soon be contacting CEAL members with instructions on how to cast ballots in this year's election. Members will vote for secretary, treasurer and two members-at-large.

Best wishes,

Kristina Troost
President, Council on East Asian Libraries