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From the President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This special issue focuses on the state of the field of East Asian librarianship in North America. The idea germinated from a talk given in honor of Amy Heinrich upon her retirement from the C.V. Starr library at Columbia; the first of the State of the Field articles is a reworking of this talk. In addition there are articles on Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies librarianship, all of which are invited contributions by leaders in the field.

Planning and preparations have begun for the CEAL Annual Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 25, 2010. Each year, staff of the Association for Asian Studies go to great lengths to secure rooms and equipment for CEAL's annual conference and related meetings in the hotel that hosts the AAS conference. CEAL is grateful to the Association for performing this service.

The Plenary will focus on "The Future of Foreign Language Collections in Transformational Times: What is at Stake?" We have invited a faculty member, Professor Peter Bol from Harvard University, to address the needs of the academy and the role he sees libraries playing in supporting teaching and research. He will also address how digital resources are changing teaching and research and what role collaboration with other institutions (for example, libraries in China) can play.

Two library directors, Tom Leonard from the University of California at Berkeley and Deborah Jakubs from Duke University, have been invited to address the roles of area studies collections and librarians. To round out the picture, Peter Zhou has agreed to survey all East Asian collections (heads of collections will receive this survey in January) and report at the Plenary. The survey will address Open access and mass digitization (Google, Hathitrust, local, etc) to assess the extent of digitization of East Asian materials; Budgetary challenges and their impact on collections & services; Organizational changes in East Asian branch libraries, EA technical services and collection development for EA studies; Strategies to cope with budget restrictions including cooperation, outsourcing and other measures for cost saving. We request your cooperation in filling out the survey and returning it quickly.

The CEAL Executive Board will decide on the order in which meetings will be held, but it will vary only slightly from last year. Once again we will separate the Business Meeting from the Plenary; it is an open-to-all meeting in which we will report on the elections and provide information on how to get to the dinner and other business matters.

The chairpersons of standing committees have begun working with committee members to arrange programs that will report professionally relevant news and important accomplishments in their areas of responsibility. This year, the Chinese

Materials Committee called for paper proposals “that will address how we may work with information seekers, information providers, publishers, library facilities and infrastructure on issues specifically relevant to Chinese studies materials.” The Committee on Technical Processing and the Committee on Public Services are collaborating on a joint program. The Committee on Technical Processing has recently issued a call for presentations on next generation catalogs. In both cases, these calls are opening up the opportunities for those not on committees to share their knowledge and experience.

This year, in addition to the conference itself, the NCC is holding its once-a-decade pre-conference, called 3D in honor of the beginning of their third decade. Entitled, “*Knowing More with Less: NCC’s Third Decade (3-D) Conference*,” it will be held March 22-23, 2010 at the University of Pennsylvania in cooperation with Penn’s Center for East Asian Studies and The Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium Faculty Group. The purpose is to review ongoing programs and to determine priorities for the coming years incorporating recommendations from its broad international constituency of collaborating organizations and stakeholders within the field of Japanese and East Asian studies.

Finally, we have begun preparations for the CEAL dinner. Alban Kojima and Chi-wa Chan from the University of Pennsylvania are investigating options. I hope you will all be able to attend.

Best wishes,

Kristina Troost
President, Council on East Asian Libraries