



2-1-2011

News of the Field

Eleanor Yuen

Frank Joseph Shulman

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Yuen, Eleanor and Shulman, Frank Joseph (2011) "News of the Field," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2011 : No. 152 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2011/iss152/17>

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NEWS OF THE FIELD

Geographic Name Mapping Project at UBC

The mapping of geographic names recorded in the head tax database was launched in the fall of 2008 as one of the “Asian Library’s Partnerships with Communities’ Program Series”. Following twenty rounds of community-based meetings with Taishanese/Zhongshanese-speaking participants, towns and villages of origin reported by 90% of the immigrants were matched with the original geographical names in Chinese scripts. This project is a foundation of an international research network for reporting the roots of emigrants from Guangdong, China from 1885-1947, during which head tax was levied on incoming ethnic Chinese.

The idiosyncratic dialects of the Chinese immigrants from a myriad of villages and towns of southern Guangdong contributed to a collection of sometimes indecipherable documentation of their roots. Because Customs personnel failed to accurately capture and document immigration interviews, innumerable Romanizations of the reported places of origin were recorded. As a result, analysis of and research on regional identities has been difficult.

Of the 97,123 entries in the immigration register, 93,815 contain data on the county/town/village of origin. Of these, 44,131 record Taishan as the village of origin; 5,898 record Zhongshan. Through this mapping project headed by Eleanor Yuen and Phoebe Chow, in all about 90% of such places of origin in Taishan and Zhongshan were deciphered. With the findings, the Register of Chinese Immigrants to Canada, probably the most detailed records in Canadian immigration history, now makes more sense to the public searching for their ancestral roots as well as to researchers interested in the patterns of immigration from China to Canada during this major historic phase of population movement.

It is planned that when more resources are available, mapping will also be conducted for the remaining major sending counties of Xinhui, Kaiping, Panyu, Enping and Heshan. For more information on the project, contact Eleanor Yuen (Eleanor.yuen@ubc.ca) or Phoebe Chow (phoebe.chow@ubc.ca).

(From an Eastlib announcement and brochure provided by Eleanor Yuan)

Recent MLIS Thesis on CJK Cataloging

ONNAGAWA, Mie.

Japanese Bibliographic Records and CJK Cataloging in U.S. University Libraries. San Jose State University [United States], 2009 (M.L.I.S., School of Library and Information Science). Chairperson-Major Adviser: Kristen R. Clark. xii, 133p. Abstracted in Masters Abstracts International 48, no.4 (Aug. 2010); UMI (formerly University Microfilms International) order number 1484368.

Edited from the abstract on page iv of the thesis:

“Over the past two decades, American university libraries have developed Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) enhancements to their library automation systems and have transitioned from conventional card catalogs to online public access catalogs (OPAC) by using CJK vernacular scripts even though non-Roman script search options of these systems are still limited.

The East Asian library community in North America continues to deal with complex problems regarding the cataloging of East Asian library resources due to the inconsistency of cataloging rules used in bibliographic records for CJK materials. Despite all of the improvements and efforts made by CJK catalogers, their task of creating more precise and accurate CJK library-cataloging records remains challenging, mainly due to their unfamiliarity with cataloging rules and the difficulties with language.

The purpose of this study is to examine the university library policies and practices in cataloging CJK materials and authority control of CJK bibliographic databases, particularly of Japanese records for monographs published after 1900. The thesis evaluates the creation, maintenance, and sharing of the bibliographic records for CJK materials. “

Table of Contents: [1.] Introduction. [2.] Research Problem. [3.] Literature Review. [4.] Methodology. [5.] Survey Results and Case Studies. [6.] Conclusions. [7.] Future Issues and Recommendations. 21 figures. 11 tables. Bibliography: pp.112-22. Appendix: pp.123-33.

(Contributed by Frank Shulman)