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From the President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

More than half a century ago, the forerunner of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) was founded as the Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East. Since then, our organization has undergone many changes. However, no previous changes can match what we are facing today.

Today's unprecedented changes are caused by a number of factors: first, the media through which research publications are made is fast changing from print to multiple formats, as exemplified by Sachie Kobayashi's article on metadata issues in this issue of *Journal of East Asian Libraries*; second, our operational environment is changing due primarily to increasing financial constraints, in public and private universities alike, and to the ever-increasing pace of change in the volume and scope of the online information environment, a point made clear by Yoon Jee Cho and Hyokyoung Yi's report on Chinese, Japanese and Korean e-books in this issue; thirdly, a generation shift has recently changed the face of our organization as many experienced professional librarians have retired and more young people are coming in. Fabiano Rocha's report on the junior Japanese studies librarian training workshop highlights precisely this reality.

A larger question, however, is what CEAL as an organization should do in the midst of these changes, and how we can best manage the change through the development of new strategies and ideas.

This year, CEAL received a generous grant from The Henry Luce Foundation to engage its members in in-depth explorations of new strategies and directions. In this process we are focusing particularly on the following questions:

- How the increasingly fast-changing digital environment will change the ways and practices of East Asian librarianship in North America;
- Whether the next generation of East Asian libraries will retain the shape and form of traditional East Asian collections, or find themselves navigating a vast cyberspace of e-content in search of materials and collections relevant to East Asian studies;
- How East Asian library professionals and collections can best position themselves, vis-à-vis the information industry and the academy to which they belong, to serve the research and teaching agendas of their core constituency.

To effectively facilitate these discussions, in 2013 and 2014, for a consecutive two year period, CEAL will hold full-day plenary sessions during its annual meetings in San Diego and Philadelphia. In 2013, the meeting theme will be “Open Access and Discovery in the Academic Universe: Next Steps for East Asian Studies Research and Library Development.” In 2014, the theme will be “Global Networking, Trans-disciplinary and Inter-disciplinary Research in East Asian Studies and their Implications for East Asian Libraries.” CEAL will invite some leading thinkers and scholars to speak to its members and help them explore those issues.

Traditionally, CEAL annual meetings have been focused on committee work reports. In the next two years, we will shift to finding new ideas and strategies, and taking actions in order to move our libraries into the new operating environment. Such explorations of big ideas and themes are a significant change by itself. In order to involve more members, the CEAL Executive Board has also changed the annual meeting format. In the new format, there will be three plenary sessions on the first day of the annual meeting: the general plenary, a plenary on collections and a plenary on services. The second day of the annual meeting will consist of committee programs as in the past.

In addition to CEAL’s discussions in 2013 and 2014, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) will also organize roundtable sessions as part of its regular programs on the same topics during AAS annual conferences in the next two years.

As the President, I invite all of our members to consider emerging scholarly communication trends and library service models. We as a community must identify strategies and take decisive actions to build a better future for all of us and our clientele.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Zhou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter X. Zhou