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From the President

Ellen H. Hammond

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From the President

This issue of the *Journal of East Asian Libraries (JEAL)* will be the last published in print. As editor Gail King notes in this issue, what began as a mimeographed newsletter is now online, peer-reviewed, and open access. The move to exclusively digital format represents another remarkable transition for this 51-year old publication.

The original newsletter first appeared in May of 1963 under the auspices of the Association for Asian Studies' Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East (CALRFE), the organization that later became the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL). The CALRFE newsletter began as a collection of numerous short notes and updates for the membership and bears little resemblance to the current professionally published *JEAL*. However, many of the core concerns of the organization's membership have clearly not changed greatly over the years. The short articles discuss projects to preserve important scholarly resources and ways to design products to make them more user-friendly. They provide evidence of strong collaborations between East Asian studies librarians and a sense of excitement in communicating about recent publications and developments in the field. While the world of librarianship is radically different today, these legacies continue.

I took office in March as CEAL President, replacing Peter Zhou, who now becomes Past President on the CEAL Executive Board. The accomplishments of Peter as CEAL President are many and varied, but the two annual meeting plenary sessions he organized with Luce Foundation funding were a highlight. The plenaries brought the CEAL membership into contact with themes and ideas that are circulating among the foremost thinkers in our profession today. It was a welcome chance to engage in discussion with those who will help shape the way academic libraries evolve.

The election cycle for 2014 brought many new faces to the CEAL Executive Board. Jim Cheng is the new Vice President/President-Elect. New committee chairs are: Miree Ku (Korean Materials), Michiko Ito (Japanese Materials), Hong Cheng (Chinese Materials), Sharon Domier (Public Services) and Erica Chang (Technical Services). And, Tomoko Bialock and Michael Meng joined the board as Members-at-Large. Board business is in full swing; some of the major projects underway relate to grant applications, planning for a new CEAL budget model, renewal of the LC-CEAL Cataloging Internship Program, and planning for the 2015 CEAL Annual Meeting in Chicago. Planning will also begin soon for the 2015 elections for two officers (secretary and treasurer) and two members-at-large. Information about all of these initiatives will be shared on Eastlib and the CEAL website in coming weeks.

I look forward to greeting everyone next March in Chicago.

Ellen H. Hammond
President, Council on East Asian Libraries