



10-2016

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, recipient of 2016 CALA
Outstanding Library Leadership Award In memory
of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung

Judy S. Lu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Lu, Judy S. (2016) "Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, recipient of 2016 CALA Outstanding Library Leadership Award In memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2016 : No. 163 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2016/iss163/11>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

**Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, recipient of
2016 CALA Outstanding Library Leadership Award
In memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung**

Judy S. Lu
Former Head, Collection Services
Asian Division, Library of Congress

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, an outstanding library administrator for nearly five decades, was presented with the 2016 CALA Outstanding Library Leadership Award in memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung at the CALA Annual Awards Banquet on Sunday, June 26, 2016 during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

As many professional librarians and scholars know, Dr. Lee has a world-wide reputation for being an exceptional library administrator and leader, a scholar, and is an ambassador for East-West cultural exchanges.



Born in China, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee traveled to the United States from Taiwan in 1957 to pursue graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

In the years following the completion of his M.Ed. and MLS degrees in 1961, Dr. Lee worked as the first assistant for acquisitions at the University of Pittsburgh Library and then as head of technical services at Duquesne University Library. After the completion of his Ph.D. in 1965, he was appointed, consecutively, as the Head librarian at Edinboro State College of Pennsylvania; Director of the Library and Information Center at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand (under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development); and Associate Director of Libraries and Professor of Library

Administration at Colorado State University.

In 1978, Lee joined Ohio University (OHIO) as director of University Libraries. Soon after taking office, he made it a top priority to build the research collection to ensure that the library would meet the necessary requirements for membership in the Association for Research Libraries (ARL), an organization established to address issues that affect libraries, research facilities, higher education and scholarly communities to build the research collection to ensure that the library would meet the necessary requirements for membership into the Association for Research Libraries (ARL), an organization established to address issues that affect libraries, research facilities, higher education and scholarly communities. Ohio University Libraries earned its place among that elite group of research libraries when it joined ARL in 1996—a true testament to the strength, size and quality of the libraries' research collection.

In the early 1980s, Lee was able to recognize the great potential for expanding upon the libraries' services with the acquisition of the Virginia Tech Library System (VTLS), an automated system which enabled staff to download the machine-readable cataloging records (MARC) from the Library of Congress, do on-line cataloging, and complete circulation tasks. The system, which was named "Alice," enabled library users to search the libraries' materials online. Throughout the years, the system has evolved to accommodate the library services such as automated acquisitions, serial records and reference services.

Lee's legacy also includes the libraries' reputation as a diverse and internationally-connected resource institution. The library received international attention when the Dr. Shao You-Bao Center for Overseas Chinese Documentation and Research was founded in 1993.

During his 21-year tenure at OHIO, Hwa-Wei Lee was instrumental in organizing the International Librarians Internship Program, enabling librarians from around the world to learn about the current librarianship practices of Ohio University. This unique informational exchange was reciprocated when OHIO librarians visited the home countries of prominent librarians to facilitate a mutual understanding of library practices.

Throughout his extensive career, Lee remained active in various areas of librarianship. Lee's expertise was shared through honorary and consulting professorships, advising, and speaking at libraries, universities, businesses and research institutes in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and the Philippines, as well as many other countries.

In March 2000, Hwa-Wei Lee worked in collaboration with OHIO's Dr. Shao You-Bao Center for Overseas Chinese Documentation and Research to direct the first World Confederation of Institutes and Libraries for Overseas Chinese Studies (WCILCOS) conference. The conference, an astounding success, attracted representatives from over 50 research institutes, libraries, universities, academic societies, museums and archives from around the world. Since then, five WCILCOS conferences have been held worldwide. In recognition of his many contributions, he was awarded an honorary doctor of letters degree by Ohio State University during the June 2012 commencement ceremony.

Immediately after retiring as dean of Ohio University Libraries, Lee was invited by the world renowned OCLC Online Computer Library Center to serve as a visiting distinguished scholar and consultant for three years.

Dr. Lee was the Dean Emeritus of Ohio University Libraries before he was selected to be the Chief of the Asian Division, the Library of Congress (LC) in 2003. He reorganized the structure of the Asian Division, emphasizing cooperation and harmony. During his five-year tenure at LC, Dr. Lee encountered many difficult work-related situations, which he solved through creativity and insight. He also improved the employees' productivity, expanded the readership to the Asian communities, and improved collection management.

Among many projects and programs that were completed during Dr. Lee's tenure (2003-2008) four are considered to be the most noteworthy. They were: (1) Establishing the Asian Division Friends Society as an organization reaching out to the Asian communities for their

support of scholarly activities; (2) Creating the Florence Tan Moeson \$300,000 Fellowship and Collection Preservation Fund to provide fellowships for library patrons to use the Asian collections and to provide funds for library training; (3) Conversion of East Asian serials online check-in procedure in order to allow readers to view the Asian serials globally; and (4) initiate efforts to reorganize the book decks and have the un-cataloged books, periodicals, rare materials and other resources cataloged and digitalized.

Dr. Lee also reorganized and revitalized the Asian Division. He implemented state-of-the-art improvements for personnel management, administrative procedures, and the preservation of the unique collections in various Asian languages. He worked to fill vacant positions according to the needs of the Division. He publicly recruited the most capable candidates and initiated awards for employees who performed above and beyond their regular duties. Ten of his most notable initiatives are listed below.

1. He revised acquisitions plans in order to acquire the efficient online databases in the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages.
2. He revised acquisition methods and procedures, using the financial support of the Luce Foundation.
3. He improved the communication and contact between the Asian Division and LC field offices in the South Asia and Southeast Asia areas.
4. He opened the Asian Reading Room on Saturdays in order for more readers to use the Asian collections.
5. He used the Asian Division Friends Society to increase scholarly activities and to promote the Division's collections and services.
6. He increased fundraising in order to set up more research fellowships.
7. He improved the Asian collections and also established a new Asian American Pacific Islander Collection.
8. He oversaw efforts to reorganize the book deck and to send out un-cataloged periodicals for cataloging.
9. He oversaw the updating of the serial check-in system from a manually-operated procedure to an online check-in system.
10. He fostered collaboration with the national libraries of the People's Republic of China, Japan, Korean, and the Republic of China to digitize the unique rare materials in each library in order to make this information available to readers in all of these libraries.

Immediately after his retirement Dr. Lee continued his efforts to preserve culturally and historically important Asian materials by providing advice upon request from the LC Asian Division staff. As a result, many unique collections and materials were brought to the library after many significant programs were initiated. Thousands of historically important documents were preserved because of Dr. Lee's influence.

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee was one of the founders of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA). CALA members celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the organization by issuing a special issue of their *Spotlight* publication in his honor and producing a video on his life. This was followed by a series of CALA fortieth anniversary events during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in June, 2013.

Recently, Lee was announced as the recipient of the 2015 Melvil Dewey Medal on February 12, 2015, and the American Library Association (ALA) honored him with this prestigious award on June 28, 2015. This award recognizes the achievement of the most innovative leaders in the fields of library management, training, cataloging and classification, and tools and techniques of librarianship.

Lee is an extremely skilled and accomplished professional in every aspect. From the legacy he built at OHIO Libraries. The Library of Congress to the many universities, institutes and facilities that he has consulted, partnered and led; he continues to be celebrated for nearly five decades of unparalleled dedication to the advancement of the field of librarianship. Dr. Lee is the most deserving individual for the 2016 CALA Outstanding Library Leadership Award in memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung.