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Jidong Yang

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A Brief Report on The Current State of the East Asia Library at Stanford

Jidong Yang
Head, Stanford East Asia Library

The East Asia Library of Stanford University started to collect Chinese and Japanese materials shortly after the end of World War II. From 1967 the East Asia Library was housed in the newly-constructed Lou Henry Hoover Building of the Hoover Institution Library and Archives. In 2001, the collection was separated from Hoover Institution to become the largest branch library in the Stanford University Libraries system.¹ Since the realignment, the East Asia Library has developed rapidly. Currently its holdings number about 0.8 million print volumes. Half of the total holdings of East Asian language materials are housed on site in the East Asian Library building. In addition, the EAL also holds a large collection of electronic resources. It manages an annual collection budget of over 1.2 million US dollars. EAL staff is comprised of 21 (18.5 FTEs) regular members, including 9 full-time professional librarians, and 8-12 temporary workers. All the staff members report to the Head of EAL, who reports to the Associate University Librarian for Public Services and Collection Development.

The year 2014 marked another milestone in the history of Stanford's East Asia Library. After several years of discussion and preparation that involved many faculty members, the library moved from the now-demolished Meyer Library to the newly renovated Lathrop Library building in the fall. In addition to the more-than-doubled shelving capacity, the New East Asia Library gained two exhibition areas with several large glass cases in each, a special collections reading room, an area housing its special collections with controlled/restricted access, a lecture room, two seminar/meeting rooms, three group study rooms, four research offices for individual scholars, four large public reading areas with numerous chairs and tables in various styles, a media room, and spacious working areas for its staff. Operating in this significantly expanded and improved space, the library has begun to offer a wide range of new services to the East Asian studies communities on the Stanford campus and beyond. For instance, with a capacity of 70-80, our lecture room has been used not only for weekly lectures organized by the Center for East Asian Studies, but also for national and international conferences in East Asian studies. In each academic quarter, four to five courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are taught in the EAL. In recent years, the East Asia Library has hosted a number of influential exhibitions such as the relics of Chinese railroad workers who contributed to the construction of the transcontinental railroad as well as the wealth of the university's founder Leland Stanford, pre-digital East

¹ This system does not include the libraries of Stanford's Law, Medical, and Business schools.

Asian information technology featuring Chinese and Japanese typewriters, the personal archive of Mario Paci (1878-1946, an Italian musician who served as the conductor of Shanghai Municipal Orchestra 1919-1942) held by Stanford University Libraries, works by Chinese and American artists, and Korean Hangul calligraphy. With a specially designed reading room and locked stacks, our special collection materials are much more accessible and manageable than ever before.

The fast development of the East Asia Library during the last two decades has been made possible primarily by the increasing demand for resources and services from the Stanford faculty and students with academic interests in China, Japan, and Korea. With more than 160 faculty members, research fellows, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scholars concentrating in the field,² East Asian studies at Stanford is now flourishing. Teaching, learning, and research about East Asia involves scholars well beyond the departments of humanities and social sciences. It is my belief that the East Asia Library will continue to play an essential role in the academic life of Stanford University in the years to come.

² See the web site of Stanford's Center for East Asian Studies: <https://ceas.stanford.edu/>