



2-29-2020

From the President

Zhijia Shen
University of Washington

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Shen, Zhijia (2020) "From the President," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2020 : No. 170 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2020/iss170/2>

This From the President is brought to you for free and open access by the 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.

From the President

In the spring of 2018 when I first took on the responsibilities of CEAL president, we launched a series of initiatives focusing on the theme of “Strengthening the Organization and Empowering CEAL Members to Meet the Challenges of the Digital Age.” I appointed four taskforces to carry out the initiatives: [Taskforce on Establishing CEAL Distinguished Service Award](#) (Hana Kim, Chair, U of Toronto; Rob Britt, UW; Fabiano Rocha, U of Toronto; Kenneth Klein, USC; Yan He, George Washington U), [Taskforce on CEAL Organizational Handbook](#) (Yao Chen, Chair, UCSB; Xi Chen, UCSD; Vickie Doll, KU; Gail King, BYU; Ryuta Komaki, WUSTL; Tang Li, USC; Adam Lisbon, CU Boulder; Jude Yang, Yale), [Taskforce on CEAL Leadership Institute 2020](#) (Xiang Li, Chair, CU Boulder; Hye-jin Juhn, Notre Dame U; Tang Li, USC; Sharon Domier, UMass Amherst; Kristina Troost, advisor, Duke U), [Taskforce on the 2019 CEAL Annual Program: Panel of East Asian Librarians](#) (Tomoko Bialock, Chair, UCLA; Ying Zhang, UC Irvine; Azusa Tanaka, UW; Hyoungbae Lee, Princeton U; Katherine Matsuura, Harvard U; Kiyonori Nagasaki, Advisor, International Institute for Digital Humanities, Japan.)

In the past two years, I’ve been privileged to work closely with the excellent team of CEAL EB, committees, and taskforces, as well as all CEAL members. Together we have made significant strides in achieving our goals to strengthen the CEAL organization and empower CEAL members.

Under the exemplary leadership of the task force chairs, all four initiatives have been accomplished. At the 2019 annual meeting, the Taskforce on CEAL Annual Program successfully presented the East Asian Librarians’ Panel at the plenary. Their hard work and research resulted in a thought-provoking and inspirational panel discussion. The Handbook Taskforce has compiled and is ready to publish the first edition of *CEAL Organizational Handbook*, laying the important groundwork for it to be further developed in the future to document and ensure continuity for our organization. The CEAL Distinguished Service Award Taskforce has developed the guidelines for the award that represents “CEAL’s highest honor, recognizing extraordinary excellence in East Asian librarianship,” implemented the selection process, and identified the inaugural recipient for the award, Dr. Kristina Troost.

My warmest congratulations to Dr. Troost on this well-deserved honor and to CEAL on its outstanding members. I look forward to presenting the first CEAL Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Troost at the 2020 annual meeting.

As a preconference, CEAL will offer its first leadership institute, focusing on developing leadership skills for East Asian librarians. Ms. Xiang Li, Chair of the task force, has ably led the hardworking task force members to develop the program, arrange logistics, and implement the training. The institute will provide an exciting training experience to CEAL members, including one webinar before and two to three webinars after a full-day onsite workshop at Harvard University on March 17th. Thirty-six CEAL members have signed up for the training. The first webinar held on February 25th was a great success with many engaging discussions and questions from participants. We have high expectations for a very fruitful onsite training on March 17th.

The 2020 CEAL annual program scheduled for March 18th and 19th once again will offer a rich repertoire of plenary and committee panels, roundtables and forums. In response to

the 2019 membership survey, we have adjusted our plenary programming to bring in more leading scholars and professionals as keynote speakers to highlight the major trends and practices in the field relating to our theme. The morning plenary will feature Dr. Peter Bol, Charles H. Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and former vice-provost of Harvard University; Dr. Joyce-Chaochen Chen, Professor of Information Science and Vice President for Academic Affairs of National Taiwan Normal University; and Dr. Patricia Hswe, Program Officer for Scholarly Communications of Mellon Foundation. They will discuss from different perspectives about digital scholarship and challenges for East Asian studies and libraries. The afternoon plenary will focus on issues of leadership development and academic libraries, featuring Ms. Maureen Sullivan, former President of American Library Association and nationally recognized Library and Information Educator & Organization Development Consultant; Mr. Xuemao Wang, Vice-provost for Digital Scholarship and Dean of University Libraries at University of Cincinnati; and Ms. Martha Whitehead, Harvard University Librarian. They will discuss their visions on library leadership in the digital age and share their experiences.

In addition to the leadership institute, CEAL Committee on Technical Processing also will offer a pre-conference workshop on CJK cataloging. CEAL Public Services Committee will continue offering its successful poster sessions. To encourage student participation in the poster sessions, CEAL has made available student travel grants. Five students have been selected and awarded travel grants.

Thanks to the strong support of Mr. James Cheng, Harvard-Yenching Librarian, this year's CEAL membership reception will be held at and co-sponsored by Harvard-Yenching Library as part of the pre-conference activities on March 17th. I also thank our colleagues at Harvard-Yenching Library, Ms. Sharon Yang, Ms. Mikyung Kang, and Ms. Channah Leff, for working with us on all the details for the preconference, from booking conference rooms to catering foods and arranging library tour, and Ms. Nongji Zhang of Harvard Law Library for offering a tour to her library. Details of meetings and activities can be found in [CEAL Annual Conference Program](#) posted on CEAL website.

Such a rich and exciting annual program and pre-conference would not be possible without the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation and our donors. The Luce Foundation has provided us with a grant of \$12,685 for the 2020 CEAL Leadership Institute. China National Publishing Import and Export Cooperation (CNPIEC), China Classics, Wanfang Data, and Chaoxing Company have generously donated a total of \$16,000 in support of the 2020 CEAL Leadership Institute and annual program. On behalf of all CEAL members, I express our heartfelt thanks go to the Henry Luce Foundation and our donors. We also sincerely thank AAS for the collaboration with grant applications. Special thanks go to Ms. Alicia Williams, AAS CFO, for her patient and careful handling of CEAL financial issues and for her patient assistance and guidance.

The Year 2020 kicks off a new decade of the 21st Century and a new Zodiac Cycle on the Lunar Calendar. However, it also has started with severe challenges, caused by the novel Coronavirus, which is now spreading in Asia and beyond. We express our deep condolences to the people anywhere in the world who are suffering from epidemic and send our best wishes.

CEAL 2020 annual meeting will conclude my service as CEAL President. What a rewarding experience it is to serve such a dynamic organization! I express my profound appreciation to each and every CEAL EB members for their dedication and contributions. I thank all CEAL members for their active participation and support. My best wishes to CEAL for continued success. With such outstanding leaders on CEAL EB and the empowered CEAL members, as the professional organization of East Asian libraries and librarians in North America, CEAL is growing ever stronger and will lead the profession deep into the 21st century to meet the challenges of the digital age.

Last but not the least, the 2020 CEAL election is currently going on. Eight major EB positions are open for election. I urge all CEAL members to cast your votes by March 9th when the ballot closes.

Thank you.

Zhijia Shen
CEAL President