# Contents

**From the President**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hong Kong Heritage Project: Preserving Corporate and Community History</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Amelia Allsop</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China’s Rural Statistics: The Contemporary Chinese Village Gazetteer Data Project</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Yuanziyi Zhang</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Report on Preparing the Council on East Asian Libraries’s Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fabiano Rocha</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Institutional News**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Retirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the President

I have always liked autumn. There is a nice crispness to the air that signals winter is around the corner, yet temperatures do not fall into the freezing range. The fiery colors of autumn are inspiring.

Then, there is Autumn 2020. A second wave of the coronavirus in many countries, social distancing, lockdowns, and the “new normal”. Nevertheless, the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) is moving forward. The work of CEAL does not stop because of a pandemic.

Since immediately after the 2020 CEAL Annual Conference in March, the CEAL Executive Board has been busy handling a number of business items for the CEAL community. Here is a list of some major highlights of what the CEAL Executive Board has been doing:

In Spring, the following committees were formed with new members under chairs newly elected in March 2020: Committee on Chinese Materials (CCM), Committee on Japanese Materials (CJM), Committee on Korean Materials (CKM), Committee on Public Services (CPS) and Committee on Technical Processing (CTP). Subsequently, the term of the CJM Subcommittee on Japanese Rare Books has been renewed. In addition, the following two CEAL affiliates’ terms have been renewed: Small East Asian Collections Roundtable (2020-2023) and Working Group on Research Materials in East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine (2020-2023). All of the committees have developed exciting and thoughtful work plans for the next three-year term for the CEAL community.

To identify strategies that support CEAL members’ interests and needs, several task forces have been established.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a new operational and budgetary ecosystem for area studies libraries and their neighboring institutions that collect, archive, and preserve scholarly and cultural heritage. Many CEAL members expressed the desire that collection integrity and access must be maintained throughout this time. In solidarity with the concerns raised by our colleagues in the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) in their June 10, 2020, Task Force Resolution, and the Middle East Librarians Association’s (MELA) June 22, 2020 Statement on Collection Development, Access, and Equity in the Time of COVID-19, I suggested to the Executive Board to issue a joint statement in partnership with, but not limited to, the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Committee on Libraries and Information Resources (CLIR) Executive Council, the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), and Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation (CONSALD) that highlights the organizations’ commitment to diversity and accessibility. Furthermore, I suggested the creation of a Task Force in order to issue a CEAL-specific pandemic statement. These mandates were supported by the Executive Board.
Thus, two major outcomes were generated. First, the CEAL participated in crafting the Joint Statement: Equity and Access in Higher Education and Academic Libraries Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic released on July 31, 2020. It was written by colleagues from 16 organizations and represents our shared areas on concerns and recommendations on how to alleviate challenges faced by marginalized communities of color, people with disabilities, and students from rural and low-income areas. The Joint Statement Task Force has been engaging in conversations with administrators and board members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), and HathiTrust to share the concerns described in the statement.

Secondly, the Task Force for the Creation of CEAL’s Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, in collaboration with the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL), was established to work on issues specific to East Asian area studies and to create a statement outlining a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the wonderful work by the Task Force, the CEAL statement was created and released on August 13 and was officially endorsed by the Association for Asian Studies on August 31.

Several months ago, I was notified by the Eastlib manager that there was an issue with the CEAL mailing list archive. The CEAL mailing list, Eastlib, was established on the listserv server at the University of North Carolina (UNC) of Chapel Hill in 1999 and has been used by subscribers for various communication needs: announcements, job postings, discussions, inquiries, etc. On the CEAL website, Eastlib had messages posted for searching and browsing of archival postings. In early March of 2020, the Eastlib manager discovered that this message was no longer valid, as the archiving setting was found to have been inadvertently reset to the system default of 90 days record retention. An investigative report on the matter from the UNC Listserv office could not determine when and why the archiving setting had been changed to the default setting. The likelihood was that it had happened during various system migrations over the years. In order to rebuild the lost archive, in June, the Task Force for Reconstruction of the CEAL Mailing List Archive was established. The Task Force will ensure to make it accessible to CEAL subscribers and to facilitate the long-term preservation of the archive.

The CEAL Task Force on Metadata Standards and Best Practices for East Asian Electronic Resources (ERMB) was initiated in March 2013 as a special task force under the supervision of the CEAL Executive Board. The ERMB Task Force is currently charged with investigating best practices for the creation, manipulation, and management of electronic content and metadata for resources in East Asian languages, and with addressing issues as how e-resources move through their life cycle from selection through to user access, along with associated metadata, across various systems and functions. Under this general charge, the ERMB Task Force also promotes compliance with well-established e-resource metadata standards and best practices and communicates the required standards for compliance to vendors/information providers of East Asian digital resources. Over the past 6 years, the ERMB Task Force has fulfilled these goals by organizing training workshops at CEAL annual conferences, initiating various international collaborations, and coordinating Cooperative E-Journal Cataloging Projects to provide either original cataloging of the journals, or
enrichment/enhancement of metadata to facilitate improved access and discovery. As the ERMB Task Force is in its third renewed term, it was necessary to have its charge reviewed and to be re-examined to see if the Task Force should be expanded or to consider if a new standing committee was needed. Thus, the Task Force for Review of the ERMB Task Force was established in June 2020. Also, the membership of both the ERMB Task Force and the Task Force on CEAL Leadership Institute 2021 have been updated.

Lastly, the CEAL Executive Board is hard at work, preparing for the 2021 Annual Conference. Please stay tuned for next year’s program.

In closing, I would like to recognize the dedication and commitment of members of the Executive Board, committee and task force members, and their service to the CEAL community. Also, I would like to express my appreciation to CEAL members for your ongoing valuable feedback and input, as well as your resilience during this pandemic.

Wherever you are, I sincerely wish you are continuing to stay safe and well in these extraordinary and difficult times.

Hana Kim
Your CEAL President
The Hong Kong Heritage Project: Preserving Corporate and Community History

Amelia Allsop

The Hong Kong Heritage Project

This report is dedicated to the memory of Clement Cheung, one of the original members of the Hong Kong Heritage Project team, who sadly passed away in 2018.

Business archives in Hong Kong

When the Hong Kong Heritage Project (HKHP) was founded in 2007, it was one of the first corporate archives to open its doors in Hong Kong. The archive, which houses the papers of the Kadoorie family and their business interests, was established by The Hon. Sir Michael Kadoorie to “save now for the future”. It followed in the footsteps of HSBC’s Asia Pacific Archive, founded in 2004, which pioneered business archives in Hong Kong. Today, more than a decade on, there are approximately six corporate archives in the city, although not all are open to the public.¹ The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) is one of the few jurisdictions in the world that has no archival legislation covering the retention of government records, calling into question the availability of sources for the future historian.² And so, in a city with no archival law, non-government archives can play an important role in preserving, and in some cases, providing access to, Hong Kong’s recent history. Archives have a particularly important role to play in the preservation of Hong Kong’s history at a time when the SAR’s political and social identity is being challenged and redefined. They also provide spaces where Hong Kong’s history—its colonial past and post-1997 present—can be found and interpreted. However, Hong Kong’s historical record is not always so easily accessible.

During the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong (1941–1945) for example, a period when Hong Kong was a British Crown Colony, a great number of government records were either destroyed or lost. Later in the century, as the 1997 watershed approached (the date marking the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China), civil servants transferred government records held at Hong Kong’s Public Record’s Office (today known as the Government Records Service) to Britain. These records are now housed at The National Archive in Kew, London, making them all but inaccessible—except at great expense—to Hong Kong-based researchers.³ And so, in a place where politics and business has always been closely intertwined, business archives provide important spaces where Hong Kong’s history can be found and interpreted. More widely, archives of all stripes—either government, religious or community repositories—can provide societal value. This is especially true today as Hong Kong’s past is increasingly being scrutinized, interrogated and explored by local researchers as well as those outside of Hong Kong, coinciding with the development of new “Hong Kong studies” programs around the world, for example at the universities of Bristol in Britain and British Columbia in Canada.
In this report, Amelia Allsop, Research Manager of HKHP, will describe the founding of HKHP and provide details about the Kadoorie family’s history, a family with historic ties to Hong Kong. The report will also provide a glimpse into the archive’s core collections, many of which will be of interest to Hong Kong researchers.

The Kadoorie family

Formerly merchant farmers of Jewish origin, the Kadoorie family settled in Baghdad, Iraq, many centuries ago. Eleazar Silas (Elly) Kadoorie (later Sir), son of Silas Kadoorie and Reemah Yacoob Elaazar Yacob, made his way to the East from Baghdad via Bombay to work for the Sassoons at the tender age of fourteen; the Kadoories being related to the Sassoons by marriage. Also hailing from Baghdad, the Sassoons were Chief Bankers to the Pashas and were one of the earliest and most successful Jewish families to arrive in the Far East. Following increasing persecution of the Jewish community in Baghdad, the Sassoons fled to Bombay where patriarch David Sassoon opened his modest trading house (which later became David Sassoon & Sons) in 1832. In 1844 David's son Elias Sassoon arrived in Canton as the first Jewish merchant to work in the factories, and in 1850 he made Shanghai his personal base. Within five years the Sassoons held a solid footing along the whole China coast, trading in tea, opium, and other commodities. A Hong Kong office was opened in 1857 and during this time most of the "Baghdadi" Jews in both China and Hong Kong were in the Sassoon family employ. In 1867 Elias opened E.D. Sassoon & Co. in Bombay, and in 1880 a young Elly Kadoorie gained his first foothold in the commercial world, working as a clerk earning 37 rupees a month.
Elly was soon posted to the north of China where he spent time in the Treaty Ports of Shanghai, Wei Hai Wei (today’s Weihai), Tientsin (Tianjin) and later Ningpo (Ningbo), where a minor incident changed the course of the family’s history. Due to the absence of the manager, Elly was left in temporary charge of the office when an outbreak of plague caused him to withdraw a barrel of Jeyes fluid (the powerful and expensive disinfectant) without permission, and for this he was let go. This incident was to mark the beginning of Elly’s career on which his son Lawrence Kadoorie (later Lord) remarked: “this happy occurrence upon which the family fortunes are founded should be depicted by a barrel of disinfectant rampant upon the Kadoorie Coat of Arms.” Elly then returned to Hong Kong, where his brother Moshi gave him $HK500 to start anew. With this money he set himself up as a broker alongside his first partner Mr. Joseph, forming “Joseph & Kelly” in around 1887 (Elly used the anglicized “Kelly” at the start of his business career in response to the snobbism and antisemitism prevalent in early Hong Kong but resumed his original surname in 1901). Elly later left the partnership and joined forces with Solomon Sassoon Benjamin and George Potts. Based in Queen’s Road Central, “Benjamin, Kelly & Potts” soon became one of the premier brokerage houses in Hong Kong, playing a role similar to a merchant bank or underwriter. Their clients included notable Hong Kong businesses such as Green Island Cement, Kowloon Docks and the South China Morning Post daily newspaper, the latter turning to the firm for financial support soon after it was formed in 1903.
Shortly after his fortieth birthday in 1906, Elly decided to try his luck as an independent and parted ways with Potts and Benjamin to form his own brokerage house named “E.S. Kadoorie & Co.” (which later became “Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons”). Elly invested heavily in sugar and rubber plantations across Asia, where he made his wealth. Elly would travel extensively between Hong Kong, London and Shanghai, and following a brief retirement, opened a Shanghai office in 1912. In 1897 he married Laura Mocatta, who hailed from a prominent European Sephardi Jewish family. Moses Mocatta had founded the family’s London-based fortunes in the early 1670s. He was originally from Amsterdam, where the family were merchants and diamond traders for half a century, having fled to the Netherlands from Portugal to escape the Inquisition. Over successive generations, the Mocattas fulfilled a unique role as exclusive brokers of precious metals to clients such as the Bank of England, the Royal Mint and the East India Company. After 100 years they went into partnership with the Goldsmids, so that the firm became “Mocatta & Goldsmid” in 1779. Shortly after her wedding to Elly, Laura bore three sons; Lawrence (1899–1993), Victor (1900–1900), who died in infancy, and Horace (1902–1995). Laura died in a fire at the family’s Shanghai home in 1919.

Alongside his younger brother and fellow broker Ellis Kadoorie (1867–1922), who arrived in Hong Kong in 1883, Elly made a series of shrewd business investments that were to stand the test of time. For example, Elly was one of the original seven subscribers to China Light & Power’s (CLP) Memorandum and Articles of Association when founded in 1901. His brokerage company provided part of CLP’s funding capital, whilst his brother Ellis (later Sir) invested in CLP shares as early as 1918. CLP started life as a small utilities company at a time when electricity was still a novelty around the world. In the post-war years, Lord Kadoorie, Elly’s son, was a driving force behind the company’s success as it met Hong Kong’s rapidly increasing electricity demand while supporting the city’s manufacturing, textile and industrial boom of the mid-twentieth century. Today, the company supplies electricity to 80% of the city’s population and is the leading investor and operator in the energy business in the Asia-Pacific region. The family have also been involved in the hospitality industry in Hong Kong and Shanghai for over one hundred years. In 1906, Ellis Kadoorie became a major shareholder of The Hongkong Hotel Limited (est. 1866), which later merged with The Shanghai Hotels, Limited to form The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited (HSH, est. 1923). Elly Kadoorie was appointed to the Board in 1921, and his son Horace Kadoorie (later Sir) and grandson Michael Kadoorie (later Sir) later became company Chairmen. HSH is the owner and operator of the Peninsula Hotel brand, whose original hotel in Hong Kong played an important role in Hong Kong’s history, for example as the site of the British surrender to the Japanese in 1941. HSH also owns and operates historic tourism sites in Hong Kong such as The Peak Tram—Asia’s oldest funicular—as well as The Peak Tower and The Repulse Bay.
The Kadoorie brothers were also keen philanthropists who founded schools, hospitals and social clubs throughout the world but particularly focused on Hong Kong, China and the Middle East. 10 Elly Kadoorie’s charitable philosophy was that “wealth is a sacred trust to be administered for the good of society”. He and his brother Ellis were benefactors of schools, hospitals and other charitable institutions across the globe. Elly made a pact with his brother whereby he was to focus on philanthropy abroad while Ellis was to focus on philanthropy in China. As an early supporter of women’s rights, Elly was among the first to provide non-denominational educational facilities for women in many parts of the Middle East in collaboration with the French-Jewish charity the Alliance Israélite Universelle (AIU, est. 1860). The creation of these Kadoorie schools reflected a wider modernizing drive in education that took place around the world at the turn of the twentieth century. The AIU schools have since been credited with creating a professional class of women and for integrating minorities, especially in Ottoman Iraq, in the inter-war period. 11 Meanwhile, and in collaboration with prominent Chinese businessman Lau Chu Pak, Ellis founded the Ellis Kadoorie Chinese Schools Society which opened non-denominational schools for Chinese boys and girls in Hong Kong and China at a time when English-language education was solely provided by missionary societies. Alongside
fellow Hong Kong dignitaries such as Robert Ho Tung and Paul Chater, Ellis also lent his support to the opening of a new university for Hong Kong (today's University of Hong Kong). Opened in 1911 and described as an “instrument of British cultural imperialism in China” by the University's historian Peter Cunich, the university also created a new class of educated Chinese graduates who would push against British dominance in Hong Kong’s tight-knit world of business.\textsuperscript{12}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{image}
\caption{Lord (Lawrence) Kadoorie, Baron of Kowloon in Hong Kong and the City of Westminster, pictured in the House of Lords in 1982. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.}
\end{figure}

As noted earlier, Ellis died in 1922. He arranged for his fortune to be divided into three parts in his will: one third to the British Government for the purpose of building schools in “Palestine or Mesopotamia”, one third to the Anglo-Jewish Association and the final third to his brother, Elly. The bequest was used by the British Government to establish two agricultural schools in Palestine (administered by the British under a League of Nations mandate) in 1930—one for Arabs and another for Jews—and served the dual purpose of providing much-needed schools without incurring initial government capital expenditure. The schools went on to play an important role in the development of a coherent education policy in Palestine in the 1930s and continued to do so after the State of Israel was established in 1948.\textsuperscript{13} After the war, Elly’s sons, Lawrence and Horace, continued the family’s philanthropic mission. In 1951 they founded the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) to help refugees from China establish themselves as farmers by providing them with live-stock, interest free loans and agricultural training in Hong Kong. In 1956 the Kadoorie Farm was founded on the upper slopes of Tai Mo Shan as a training center and experimental farm. Today, the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) raises awareness of ecological and sustainability issues and undertakes
species and ecosystem conservation in Hong Kong and South China.\textsuperscript{14} The KAAA’s historic records, as well as oral histories and photographs pertaining to the charity, are today housed in HKHP’s archive and will be explored in further detail below.

![Distribution of KAAA cement in Sai Kung, 1950s. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.](image)

**Figure 5.** Distribution of KAAA cement in Sai Kung, 1950s. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.

![A New Territories farmer with her cattle, 1950s. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.](image)

**Figure 6.** A New Territories farmer with her cattle, 1950s. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.

### Building the archive: Our collection

In early 2007 Sir Michael Kadoorie appointed CLP’s Director of Strategy, Peter Greenwood, to create a heritage organization that would “save the past for the future” by preserving the history of the Kadoorie family and their businesses, recording oral history interviews with Hong Kong people and promoting heritage awareness in the city. The project was to be funded by the Kadoorie family and their two main business interests: CLP and HSH. By April 2007, Mr. Greenwood had recruited three team members: Fanny Iu, Amelia Allsop, and Clement Cheung, who have a background in corporate
communications, history and research, and information management, respectively. The following year, Melanie Li, a former news editor, and Edward Kwong, a CLP executive, also joined the team (in 2013 Mr. Greenwood retired and Nicholas Colfer from Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons succeeded him in leading HKHP). One of the first tasks to be tackled by the HKHP team was to devise a project name. After much deliberation, “Our Home, Our History—The Hong Kong Heritage Project” was chosen, an all-encompassing name designed to reflect the project’s mission to preserve Hong Kong’s history, and the Kadoorie Family’s historic ties with the city. Today, “The Hong Kong Heritage Project” is used for short.

The team set about acquiring records in earnest. The first record fonds to be acquired by HKHP were the records of the Kadoorie family’s holding company “Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons” (SEKS), an entity mentioned earlier. The collection dates from 1934 to 2007 and is primarily in English, with some French and Hebrew. Its creators are Horace Kadoorie, Chairman of HSH (1950–1985), and Lawrence Kadoorie, the long-running Chairman of CLP (1935, 1939, 1955 until his death in 1993). Together, the Kadoorie brothers held chairmanships or directorships in over twenty corporate entities. Luckily, both Horace and Lawrence were keen and assiduous record keepers. Their records chronicle not only the history of the vast Kadoorie business empire which encompassed utilities, hospitality, land, transport and construction, but also Hong Kong’s political and social landscape in the twentieth century.15 Both Lawrence and Horace worked on numerous government and non-government committees during their lifetimes, many of which shaped and influenced Hong Kong Government policy. For example, Lord Kadoorie served on several government advisory bodies from the 1930s to the 1980s, including on public transport, education, currency, labor and taxation committees. He was appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council in 1950 (the legislature of the Hong Kong Government) and conferred a Peerage in Britain’s House of Lords in 1981. These activities, which touch

Figure 7. Clement Cheung, Project Archivist, pictured in the HKHP Archive in 2014. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.
on many aspects of Hong Kong’s twentieth century history, are chronicled in detail in the archive through correspondence files, speeches, research reports and publications.\textsuperscript{16}

The SEKS collection is by far the largest fonds held by HKHP, measuring 79 linear meters. The collection was originally kept in storerooms in the Kadoorie family’s head office in Hong Kong. Between 2007 and 2009, the records were appraised on-site according to specific selection criteria (in short: records with relevance to the Kadoorie family, their businesses and charities, as well as Hong Kong’s wider history). Selected records were transferred to CLP’s then Head Office (147 Argyle Street, Kowloon) where the project was based for accessioning, cataloging, and preservation. It is estimated that around 80% to 90% of the family’s historic records were transferred to HKHP, which are held by the archive on permanent loan. During this acquisition period, archival policies, rules, and procedures were formulated and implemented, and Amelia Allsop and Clement Cheung set about designing HKHP’s new repository and sourcing materials including acid free paper, folders, and equipment to preserve the collection. The SEKS fonds was catalogued using a system designed by Mr. Cheung between the years 2007 and 2009. When the project website was launched in 2009, portions of the SEKS collection were searchable online using the HKHP website’s online catalogue.\textsuperscript{17}

Over time, new collections were acquired from Kadoorie businesses which served to enrich the core SEKS collection. Businesses were encouraged to donate their records through internal communication channels such as email, roving exhibitions, and staff newsletters. These channels helped to disseminate the message that records of historical value should be preserved and donated to HKHP where they would be professionally managed and cared for. In parallel, HKHP fostered close working relationships with senior managers and record creating departments, thereby ensuring that HKHP was the first point of contact when records of historical value were found. As a result of these efforts, HKHP has received numerous donations from Kadoorie businesses and charities. For example, in 2010, HKHP received a major record donation from HSH which includes the two companies that preceded its formation. As outlined above, HSH is one of the oldest hospitality firms to be founded in Hong Kong, and one of the earliest companies to be listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The collection, which dates from 1884 to 1989 and measures 3.3 linear meters, is held on loan and has been designated a ”Special Collection” due to its historic significance, special preservation requirements and importance to HSH’s corporate memory. It comprises administrative records including minute books, records of shareholders’ meetings, Register of Directors, contracts and agreements, lease agreements, share certificates and architectural drawings of hotels. The archive retains a particularly strong set of records relating to The Grand Hotel des Wagons-Lits, a hotel once located in the Foreign Legation in Beijing and founded by French and German individuals in 1905. Together, these historic records constitute a wealth of legal data and institutional history about HSH and its historic hotels in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

In 2012, HKHP received two batches of records from CLP on permanent loan. The first collection was donated by CLP’s Corporate Secretarial Department and measures 4.2 linear meters of papers. Collection highlights include CLP’s earliest Annual General Meeting reports (1902–1940), the first of which was published in 1902 at a time when the company’s balance sheet was a six digit figure, and detailed correspondence from the 1970s with former members of staff who describe their experience of working with the
company. These anecdotes were collected by Edgar Laufer, CLP’s longest serving employee, and describe key moments in the company’s history as well as personal memories of the electrification of the New Territories and the activities of so-called “cable gangs” Library (also in Argyle Street) and include in-house publications and brochures as well as administrative records originally set aside in the 1980s for the purpose of creating a CLP archive.

**Figure 8.** Negative rolls of CLP’s share register, up to 1941. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.

**Figure 9.** The archive houses a particularly valuable collection of architectural drawings depicting the design of HSH hotels. The Peninsula Court’s “Marco Polo” restaurant, opened in 1957, is depicted here. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.

Another significant collection was donated by KFBG in 2012, when staff working on the farm found, stored away in an old storeroom, a cache of around 20,000 case files (39.3 linear meters). The collection, which is in English and Chinese, chronicles the work of the KAAA. The files are comprised of several series with the largest being the “Application for Assistance” series, written by Extension Officers assessing the income of rural villagers from 1951 until 1983. This collection provides valuable data on village status, lifestyles, socio-economic conditions as well as housing, land holding and income of the non-indigenous communities who migrated to the New Territories in the latter half of the
twentieth century. Smaller series provide information on the working partnership between the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department and the KAAA, as well as information on rural districts including village plans and photographs of rural scenes in the 1950s and 1960s. When processing the collection, HKHP staff undertook preliminary preservation measures onsite at the Kadoorie Farm over a three-month period in summer 2012 before the records were moved to the HKHP office. In the same year, the archive moved to CLP’s new Head Office in Hung Hom, where HKHP is located today.

**Oral histories and photographs**

Complementing these papers are oral history interviews recorded by the HKHP team. HKHP is proud to be home to Hong Kong’s largest collection of filmed oral histories, with 530 interviews recorded so far. These films capture gestures, facial expressions and emotions that serve to enliven and enrich audio recordings. Interviewees include former Kadoorie business employees (representing around 30% of the collection) as well as members of the public (70%) who are interviewed in both Cantonese and English. Oral histories serve to widen the scope of the archive by recording the lives of “everyday historians”—ordinary people who have lived through seminal moments in Hong Kong’s history such as the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong, the 1967 riots and the 1997 handover. When the project started in 2007, the team had no experience of the oral history discipline. So how did they go about recording these interviews? Firstly, an experienced oral historian (Kelvin Chow) was employed to train the team in Hong Kong, and other members of staff had the opportunity to join oral history training courses at the British Library in Britain. Later, team members attended conferences hosted by the International Oral History Association. Expertise in the oral history discipline was gradually built over time and through experience.

![Figure 10. Edgar Laufer (1915–2010), CLP’s longest-serving employee, is interviewed by the project team in 2007.](Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project)

Initially, interview subjects were chosen in relation to sixteen themes that were devised by the project team in 2007. These themes related to Kadoorie business entities, or specific subjects associated with Hong Kong’s history. As time went on however, the sixteen themes were seen to be a constraint, especially as interviewees were increasingly referred to the team through networks and contacts in the community, and many of these referrals fell outside of HKHP’s subject areas. As mentioned previously, HKHP’s interviews can be divided into two categories: business-related interviews, and non-business related. The HKHP team worked closely with staff and internal
departments from across CLP, HSH, The Peninsula Hotel, the Peak Tramways, and the Kadoories’ aviation businesses to reach out to retired employees. The team also contacted retirees through informal and formal employee networks. These interviews have led to surprising—as well as confronting—histories. For example, oral histories recorded with CLP retirees provide new insights into technological innovation in the company, the social history of electricity production, as well as more contentious issues such as race relations between British and Chinese engineers and the threat of nationalization in the 1950s. In parallel, the team also interviewed Hong Kong people about their lives. The project’s founder, Sir Michael Kadoorie, was a key referrer of these interviewees. Interview subjects were also found through retirement homes such as the China Coast Community, through village or communal associations, journalists, or by word of mouth. Thanks to HKHP’s strong network within the community, the project has been able to interview underrepresented groups in Hong Kong, such as marginalized communities from impoverished districts such as Sham Shui Po, as well as ethnic minorities, particularly the Nepalese, Portuguese-Macanese and Indian communities.

Interviews were conducted by four members of the project team (Fanny Iu, Amelia Allsop, Melanie Li and Edward Kwong). Each interviewer was responsible for finding interviewees, pre-interview meetings and research, scheduling interviews and setting up and operating a camera. Interview summaries (finding aids) were written by the interviewer and transcripts were outsourced to transcription houses in view of the volume of interviews collected. Oral histories were recorded using the “life history” method, with interviews typically lasting several hours. From 2007 to 2011, interviews were filmed using handheld Sony cameras, Bluetooth microphones and DV tapes which were transferred onto DVD through a third-party producer. In 2011 the project transitioned to using HD digital cameras. Interviewees are asked to sign a consent form, which they are free to edit, and staff members explain copyright issues and how their recording will be processed, deposited, and used. Interviews are catalogued by date, interviewee name and subject terms, and a partial list of HKHP’s interviewees and some interview summaries can be found online on HKHP’s website. A full catalogue of interviewees is available in the archive. So far, HKHP’s oral history interviews have been used by academics, journalists, and authors, and in HKHP’s exhibitions.

Alongside moving film, HKHP also houses an impressive collection of still images, which date from the 1930s to 1990s. The collection of over 20,000 photographs depict an ever-changing Hong Kong, from the development of heavy and light industries to the rise and fall of agriculture. One of the largest collections of images was sourced from Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons in 2007 to 2008 and comprises 71 albums and hundreds of negatives and loose photographs. The albums depict projects undertaken by various Kadoorie business interests in the engineering, construction, and utilities sector such as Franki Piling, Hongkong Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd., Major Contractors and CLP. These include the construction of the Tai Lam Chung reservoir in the 1950s, the laying of electricity cables in Kowloon and the development of Hok Un Power Station (est. 1921), one of Hong Kong’s earliest power stations which was re-developed in the 1940s. The archive also holds a collection of photographs taken by Lawrence Kadoorie, a keen amateur photographer and President of the Hong Kong Photography Club, who used a miniature Minox camera to capture daily life in the city in the 1950s. Finally, the archive received a major donation of positives and negatives from KFBG in 2008 depicting the work of the KAAA from the 1950s to the 1990s. This collection, numbering in the
thousands, is currently being digitized as a preservation measure and to improve future accessibility.

![Figure 11. Cable laying by CLP employees in Kowloon City, 1950s. Photo: The Hong Kong Heritage Project.](image)

**Access**

In 2009 the HKHP archive was officially opened to the public, and in the same year, the project’s website was launched. In 2014 the website was revamped to host more content, primarily photographs, oral histories, and archival information. HKHP aims to provide archival access to a wide and diverse audience, taking into consideration age, academic interest and geographic location. HKHP is committed to promoting access based on four key principles: equity, communication, responsiveness and efficiency. Researchers can access HKHP’s holdings by appointment and use the repository’s dedicated research area to explore its holdings. Overseas researchers can search portions of the archive’s holdings via the online catalogue, which is available on the project’s website, and archivists are on hand to respond to more complex research queries by email. Much in-house research has been undertaken to enhance access to HKHP’s collections, for example by providing detailed descriptions of key collections. Descriptions increase accessibility and intellectual control and ensure that collections are understood and used in a more efficient way. Similarly, segments of oral history interviews are made available through the project’s social media accounts, predominantly through YouTube, and researchers can access full transcripts and films in-house.

Of course, archival access comes in many forms. Over the past thirteen years this has included an array of exhibitions, education programs and publications, all of which introduce HKHP’s collection in a variety of engaging formats and for multiple audiences.
However, in its primary role as a corporate archive, HKHP also needs to balance access with the needs of the business. Like many archives, only those records created before a certain date (1969) are open to the public, while other series remain permanently closed. Access to the archive is by appointment only and researchers must send their research scope and complete research registration forms to gain access to the collection. Similarly, portions of the archive are closed due to preservation requirements—certain records are simply too fragile to be frequently handled by researchers. Despite these checks and balances, which serve to protect records and their record creators, HKHP has helped pioneer open-access archives in Hong Kong. Since it opened in 2009, the archive has contributed to new scholarship including numerous PhD dissertations, documentaries, and academic publications.21

Engagement and exchange

As mentioned earlier, one of the aims of HKHP is to promote heritage awareness in Hong Kong. In keeping with this mission, HKHP engages with three key stakeholders: young people, academics, and the general public. Youth groups are a particularly important group as they can champion the preservation of Hong Kong's heritage both now and in the future. With this in mind, a formal education program was launched by HKHP in 2013. The “Young Historian Program” (YHP) is a collaborative education platform which seeks to engage students with history outside of the classroom in fun and imaginative ways. The YHP program takes an experiential approach to learning, and its objectives are to inspire, educate, and encourage young people to put their knowledge into practice. Creativity is a guiding force of this program. For example, YHP’s “Drama and History Workshop”, held in partnership with the Girl Guides, used immersive learning techniques to encourage Guides to re-enact the past. Guides received basic theatre training from a drama professional and studied HKHP’s oral history transcripts from which they wrote, and improvised, plays based on historical events. Another long-time YHP partner is the Hong Kong Baptist University’s Department of History (HKBU). In recent years, HKBU history undergraduates, together with secondary students, have had the opportunity to record oral history interviews with their grandparents, as well as industry giants. These testimonies were published in a book, “Professionalism in Hong Kong” (Hong Kong: Hong Kong Heritage Project, 2017), which provided students with the satisfaction of seeing their work in print. YHP has also collaborated with the Government’s Conservation Office to deliver an annual Conservation Workshop to introduce secondary school students to museum laboratories, conservation techniques and the day-to-day preservation work undertaken in the archival sector.
As seen earlier, HKHP engages with the academic and research communities through its archival holdings. In tandem, the project has sought to encourage exchange and dialogue within the archival and academic community by organizing seminars in collaboration with HKU SPACE (School of Professional and Continuing Education) on the subject of archives, oral history and intangible cultural heritage, while team members have also spoken at various conferences, including those hosted by International Council on Archives’ (ICA) East Asian Regional Branch (EASTICA) and the ICA’s Section on Business Archives. HKHP has contributed to archival organizations closer to home through its association with the Hong Kong Archives Society and Business Records Group, and has helped promote the archives practice locally through participation in
International Archives Day celebrations. At the same time, HKHP also undertakes its own research initiatives, for example the “Hong Kong Refuge” project examines the lesser-known history of Hong Kong in the migration and survival of Jewish refugees before and after the Second World War using the records and oral histories held in the archive. Finally, HKHP seeks to share its history with the Hong Kong public through exhibitions hosted in Hong Kong's major museums and community galleries. So far, 13 exhibitions have been organized which explore different facets of Hong Kong’s history in playful and unexpected ways. For example, the “Our Tsim Sha Tsui: Past, Present and Future” exhibition, hosted at the government's Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, explored the cultural and social legacies of the Tsim Sha Tsui district using interpretative art pieces, Lego models and futuristic urban planning concepts. More recently, the project’s “Eye on Hong Kong” exhibition showcased 60 unpublished black and white Minox photographs from the Lord Kadoorie collection and was featured in international media and the BBC.

Conclusion

As described above, HKHP safeguards and promotes Kadoorie corporate memory. Firstly, the archive preserves records by storing them in climate-controlled conditions and in acid-free folders and boxes. Secondly, the archive enhances access—namely through its catalogue and finding aids—thereby facilitating the quick and easy retrieval of information for legal, branding or corporate heritage purposes. In tandem, by facilitating public access to these records, HKHP helps promote Kadoorie businesses as long-standing, trustworthy brands. As a research hub and center of expertise on Kadoorie-related history, HKHP has also identified new and previously unknown sources, images and content which is shared and used by the businesses. Detailed finding aids have been produced explaining the nature and scope of each record which facilitate a deeper understanding of the company’s history. Having catalogued and meticulously described these records at the fonds, series, and item level, HKHP ensures that information is easily accessible and quickly retrievable by the business as and when needed, for example when legal matters arise. By virtue of the Kadoorie family’s involvement in the development of Hong Kong, these records are also of intrinsic value to the wider community. The project’s oral history collection has also served to widen the scope of the archive while preserving the testimony of Hong Kong people from all walks of life. As touched upon earlier, private archives are particularly important in Hong Kong as many of the city's records were destroyed during the war or transferred to London before the Handover of Hong Kong to China. The HKHP archive has therefore enriched Hong Kong’s written and oral record and contributed to new scholarship which enhances understandings of the past.

Business archives have an important social function: to preserve corporate memory, promote scholarship, and encourage an interest in history. As we have seen, such repositories are also important in that they can preserve and provide access to Hong Kong’s history. But how can this role be maximized? Firstly, business archives can enhance and facilitate access to their collections through the use of technology. Photographs and records can be digitized and easily shared online (copyright and confidentiality permitting) via social media channels, which can potentially reach hundreds if not thousands of researchers, students and genealogists. Secondly, corporate archives can work together with major museums and education institutions to share their collections and thereby introduce their holdings to a wider audience. In parallel, business
Archivists must also work together to leverage expertise, provide mutual support and cooperation, and encourage corporations to hire archivists, preserve records and open their collections to the public.

Access to HKHP’s collections will be further enhanced with the opening of a new “Clock Tower” facility in late 2022. The building, situated in Kowloon, was once CLP’s Head Office (1940–2012) and is today a Grade 1 listed Historic Building. The facility will include an electricity museum telling the development of Hong Kong’s power industry; a Hong Kong Heritage gallery showcasing photographs, oral histories, and records from the HKHP archive; and an Intangible Cultural Heritage expo that keeps local customs and traditions alive. The Clock Tower will also provide a permanent home for HKHP’s archive, with a repository built to the highest standards. The key objective of the museum is to enhance access to HKHP’s collection through engaging curatorship and storytelling, and to celebrate the community through the collection and display of materials about the local area and Hong Kong’s history more generally.

1 For a list of business archives in Hong Kong see “The Hong Kong Archives Society Archive Directory”, available at: http://www.archives.org.hk/en/page.php?page=archive_directory Not all of the archives listed are available to the public, perhaps because of the familial nature of these companies. There may be more private or corporate archives in Hong Kong than those listed on the HKAS website.


4 Lawrence Kadoorie, The Kadoorie Memoir (Hong Kong, 1979), 84.

5 Vaudine England, The Quest of Noel Croucher—Hong Kong’s Quiet Philanthropist (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1998), 60–64. For further information on the history of the Kadoorie family, see Lawrence Kadoorie, The Kadoorie Memoir (Hong Kong, 1979) and Maisie Meyer, Shanghai’s Baghdadi Jews: A Collection of Biographical Reflections (Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2015).

6 See, Yuk Chui Kong, “Jewish Merchants’ Community in Shanghai: A Study of the Kadoorie Enterprise” (PhD diss., Hong Kong Baptist University, 2017).

7 Timothy Green, Precious Heritage, Three Hundred Years of Mocatta & Goldsmid (London: Rosendale Press, 1984).

8 For further information on CLP and its history, see Nigel Cameron, Power: The Story of China Light (Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 1982).

9 For a history of HSH see Peter Hibbard, Beyond Hospitality: The History of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited (Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2010).


12 See Peter Cunich, *A History of the University of Hong Kong: 1911–1945* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2012).


14 See John Strickland, ed. *Southern District Officer Reports, Islands and Villages in Rural Hong Kong, 1910–1960* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010).

15 Kadoorie business interests past and present include: CLP, HSH, Tai Ping Carpets International Ltd., Kadoorie Estates Limited, Schroders Asia, Nanyang Cotton Mill, Franki Piling, Hong Kong Engineering & Construction Co., Major Contractors, the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Shanghai Gas, Shanghai Land, Hong Kong Aviation Group Ltd. (Helifers) and Metrojet, The Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf & Godown and the Far Eastern Economic Review.

16 The Kadoorie brothers were appointed to various government committees and advisory bodies including the Income Tax committee, the Labour Advisory Board, Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, Harbour Ferry Services Advisory Committee, the Port Administration Inquiry Committee and the Board of Education. They were also involved in non-government organizations such as the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Ohel Leah Synagogue.

17 Available at: [https://www.hongkongheritage.org/pages/amssearch.aspx](https://www.hongkongheritage.org/pages/amssearch.aspx).

18 The 16 themes are: the Kadoories, China Light, Daya Bay, Peninsula Hotel, Kadoorie Farm, Tai Ping Carpets, Peak Tramways, New Territories Development, Manufacturing, Public Housing, Jewish Immigration, Groups & Minorities, Shipping, Aviation, Hong Kong Society and Life History.


23 See the “Hong Kong Refuge” blog for the latest updates on the project: https://hongkongrefuge.wordpress.com/ accessed September 5, 2020.
China’s Rural Statistics: 
The Contemporary Chinese Village Gazetteer Data Project

Yuanziyi Zhang

Project Assistant for the CCVG Data Project
East Asian Library, University Library System, University of Pittsburgh

Introduction

The existing sources on Chinese rural data appear to be inadequate in many aspects. For example, a majority of rural data provided by the National Bureau of Statistics of China database\(^1\) are annual, seasonal, and monthly nationwide data. Provincewide rural data are provided in annual and seasonal bases, while very few annual citywide data have been recorded. In 2004, the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research created a series of datasets extracted from the 2005 China Rural Statistical Yearbook.\(^2\) The datasets cover a wide range of indices including gross output value, cultivated area, and output of major agricultural products, etc. The time span, however, is limited to a single year. The China Rural Studies Database\(^3\) constructed by the Social Sciences Academic Press (China) has digitized multiple sources including surveys, gazetteers, formal and informal documents, photographs, audios, videos, books, and articles. Villages are categorized by administrative division, region, topography, mode of production, and ethnic groups. The database covers 79 villages spanning in 19 provinces. Current sources of China’s rural data are problematic in the following ways. First, the sample size of most of the databases in the field is relatively small, which in practice often leads to large estimation errors. Second, for the few databases that do contain an adequate amount of data, the sources are usually inclusive and thus it is difficult for users to conduct either horizontal or vertical analysis without admitting sufficient assumptions.

In response to scholars’ needs over the past few years, initiated by Haihui Zhang,\(^4\) the Contemporary Chinese Village Gazetteer Data (CCVG Data) project was proposed by the East Asian Library (EAL) of the University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) in 2018. The CCVG Data project is funded by the Office of Chancellor, Asian Studies Center, and University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Building on EAL’s extensive Chinese village gazetteer (cunzhi, 村志) collection (about 2,600 and continually growing), the project aims to create a web repository that is openly accessible online for data extracted from the gazetteers. A Chinese village gazetteer is a grassroots-level primary source that contains both qualitative and quantitative data on various topics including local history, genealogy, legends and myths, natural disaster records, economics, education, etc. According to Chen et al.,\(^5\) administrative villages (xingzhengcun, 行政村 are the administrative domain of rural governance established by the villagers’ committees based on the Organic Law of the Villagers’ Committees of the People’s Republic of China. To ensure data consistency, the project limits the scope of the gazetteers within administrative villages. While the team is endeavored to include a minimum of one village from each province of China if possible, a
random selection process is applied when there are multiple gazetteers of administrative villages available within a province.

The current datasets cover 1,000 villages spanning in 31 provinces, 212 cities, and 510 counties. A total of 18 categories of data are included in the datasets with 147 subcategories:

1. Gazetteer Information
2. Village Information
3. Natural Environment
4. Natural Disasters
5. Last Names
6. Year of First Availability/Purchase
7. Ethnic Groups—Range
8. Ethnic Groups—Yearly
9. Population and Migration—Range
10. Population and Migration—Yearly
11. Military, Politics and Management—Range
12. Military, Politics and Management—Yearly
13. Economy—Range
14. Economy—Yearly
15. Family Planning—Range
16. Family Planning—Yearly
17. Education—Range
18. Education—Yearly

Most data extracted are information after 1949 with very few exceptions dated from the late-1940s. The complete datasets are available for download in CSV format through the D-Scholarship data repository of the University of Pittsburgh. A coverage map built in Google Maps integrates spatial and administrative information of villages with ULS catalog links to the gazetteers. More information on the CCVG Data project, contact, and user survey is accessible through the project website.

The CCVG Data project has received much attention from scholars and researchers in a variety of disciplines. To enhance the accessibility of data as well as to improve user experience, in January 2020, the CCVG team initiated a cooperation with the School of Computing and Information at the University of Pittsburgh which aims to store the 18 datasets as separate CSV files into a relational database. Following an entity-relationship modeling process, existing CCVG datasets were analyzed to identify important entities, their attributes, and relationships. Using an existing open-source database management system (MySQL), the database allows effective and efficient ingesting, querying, manipulating, and displaying CCVG data. Among the valuable feedback and suggestions received from users, the desire for a cross-searching tool confirms the necessity of such a database. By the end of 2020, a graphical user interface will be implemented to facilitate scholars’ interactive exploration of the CCVG data.
CCVG work protocol

The data extraction process for CCVG data is carefully designed and strictly followed. After consulting the advisory board members of the project, a peer-assessed data dictionary is developed that functions both as a data entry instruction and a user guide. To ensure the accuracy of data, every piece of data follows a 3-step protocol: Examine a gazetteer for different categories of data and use page number as the label of the source.

1. Manually enter the extracted data into the data entry platform developed in Drupal.
2. Manually proofread all data entries.

While there is no unified guideline in the composition of the gazetteers, nomenclatures are usually used interchangeably and inconsistency on both terms and data can be found within a single gazetteer. Whenever such a discrepancy occurs, data from the most related chapters are considered representative. In general, data are extracted unprocessed with the exceptions of clear additions and subtractions and the few eliminations of obviously erroneous data. If there are further disputes regarding the accuracy of the data, users are encouraged to contact the CCVG team or to access the gazetteers physically or digitally.

Once the extraction from a certain amount of gazetteer completes, multiple departments in the University Library System work together to update the datasets, the maps, and the website, including the Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing, Digital Scholarship Services, and Communications and Web Services, etc. If there are any changes in database and interface design, colleagues from the School of Computing and Information will address them accordingly.

Engagements and Applications

The CCVG Data project is a highly collaborative work that involves scholars in various institutions and departments. Within the University Library System (ULS), the Acquisitions Management Unit and the Catalog Management Unit are responsible for purchasing village gazetteers and managing the electronic catalog. The Hillman Library Stacks Maintenance, the Library Collections Storage Unit, and the Library Management Team oversee the circulation of books. At the nascent stage of the project, the Digital Scholarship Services and the Metadata and Discovery Unit work together to refine the mechanism and to offer suggestions to data extraction and input. The Information Technology Department and the Technical Services developed the data entry platform on Drupal and manage the D-Scholarship data repository. Our GIS Librarian from the Digital Scholarship Services incorporates administrative information of villages and links to gazetteers through Google Maps to construct a spatial textual connection. The Media Services, the Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing, and the Web Services and Communication work together to develop the website of the CCVG Data project. Meanwhile, eight scholars from the University of Pittsburgh, Harvard University, St. Vincent College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the University of California, Los Angeles are on the advisory board of the project. Scholars who work on the CCVG Data project come from diverse academic backgrounds including East Asian Languages and Literatures, Library and Information Science, Computer Science, etc. Consisting of many
graduate students who work as student workers and volunteers, the team also includes library staff and visiting scholars.

The CCVG Data project intends to support teaching, research, and reference services in general. Since the team has not yet publicly announced the project yet, the number of academic applications is limited. However, current applications and feedback we receive from the user survey already demonstrate the diversity in fields and subjects and hence the great potential of the CCVG Data project. As a graduate student in East Asian Languages and Literatures, I have worked on a project on the influence of arable land area on gross output value in Chinese villages in the course Data Information in Systems in Spring 2020. Adjusted datasets from the CCVG Data were imported in Python and conclusions were drawn based on interpretations of graphs. Starting from August 2021, I have been working on a project on the visualization of Chinese local performances from village gazetteers as part of the course Digital Studies and Methods Seminar. Because of China’s vast expanses and complex topography, various subcultures have originated and developed within relatively confined spaces. Evidenced by records of local opera performances in the village gazetteers, such diversity is featured by multiple genres of opera, distinguished troupes or actors, well-known repertoire, etc. The project aims to demonstrate and to visualize the complexity and diversity of Chinese local opera performances on the village level through ArcGIS mapping tools. By working on the project, I wish to construct a connection between opera and space as well as identify the less representative genres of local opera to draw attention to the preservation of certain cultural heritage. The project is inspired by the CCVG Data map and the data is also extracted from the ULS Chinese village gazetteer collection.

**Significance of CCVG data project**

Although developing rapidly, the field of digital humanities is featured by linguistic differences and great global inequalities. Thus, a bias can be found towards the English language and hence towards an Anglophone DH. As a digital humanities project itself, while most projects in Chinese employ scanning, photographing, and OCR, the CCVG Data project purports to fill in the gap between the abundant non-English textual materials and multiple digital tools and scholarship. The website of the CCVG Data project is bilingual and categories of data in CSV files are also displayed both in Chinese characters and in English. For village names, administrative divisions, and last names, Hanyu Pinyin (汉语拼音), a romanization of Chinese characters, is included.

In addition to linguistic diversity, the CCVG Data project also serves as a digital source for intersectional analysis. Proposed by Kimberlé Crenshaw, intersectionality originally models the patterns of racism and sexism over the experiences of women of color. Risam further generalizes the scope of intersectionality by expending the definition to “additional axes of difference including sexuality and ability.” After a thorough examination of existing DH projects, she notes in her article that it is perceived that “many digital humanities projects fail to engage with race, gender, disability, class, sexuality, or a combination thereof.” To avoid such partiality, the data structure of CCVG data is designed to be inclusive of detailed subcategories that are documented in the village gazetteers. In each demographic category of CCVG data, differences in genders and ethnic groups are considered and recorded to acknowledge the importance of intersectionality.
In terms of serving as subject reference, the CCVG Data project is also of great importance. Originated from the Neolithic Period, agriculture in China has been developing for over 8,000 years. From the traditional “men-tilling-and-women-weaving” mode to the modern mechanization and systematization, the evolution of agriculture is marked by industrial revolutions, marketization and globalization, and the wisdom of people. In recent years, however, it is witnessed that China’s agrarian economy is facing a decline as there is a significant increase in both the number of cities and urban populations. Furthermore, the uneven development of infrastructure construction, economy, education, etc. also brings up several issues including the rural-urban divide, regional differences, and other inequalities. Therefore, it is crucial to investigate China’s rural statistics to perceive a comprehensive vision over the development of China and to further obtain a holistic political or economic view of the world.

Critiques and justifications

One of the most common feedback the team receives is regarding the manual entry process. It is concerned that manual extractions would lead to mistakes and inaccuracy compared to computer-based techniques like optical character recognition. In the case of the CCVG Data project, constraints of OCR techniques on the Chinese language become one of the major obstacles. Firstly, as most village gazetteers do not have digital versions, the team would have to invest most of the time scanning and proofread the OCR results. This process may involve complicated copyright issues since the village gazetteers have been published by numerous publishers starting from the 1980s, some of which have even disappeared. Secondly, although data extracted from books are mostly numbers, the various ways of presenting numbers in the gazetteers could be troublesome. Figures could be written in Chinese characters, in Arabic numerals, or in a combination of both. Thirdly, it also requires much human effort to correctly distinguish the units of data. As there is no unified standard in the composition of gazetteers, units often vary greatly. Units for total grain output, for example, include dan (担), jin (斤), 1k jin (千斤), 10k jin (万斤), and kilogram (qianke, 千克).

The CCVG Data project currently confines its scope mostly within quantitative information. While team members notice that many categories of qualitative information are of interest to some scholars, for example, religion, myths, local customs, etc., it is difficult to incorporate such information into a database since attributes are often not fixed. However, separate projects focusing specifically on one of the categories may be applicable for future work.

Furthermore, while most people the project currently engages with are scholars and researchers in academia, the team hopes to expand the group both as users and as developers. Potential fields of application include industrial site selection, target marketing, policies of poverty alleviation, infrastructure construction, etc. In addition, as Miriam Posner discusses in her blog, it is also vital to do digital humanities work in partnership with the communities at stake. Input from local villagers and composers of the gazetteers is tremendously valuable. However, as we are experiencing such a difficult and complex historical moment due to the pandemic, it is not encouraged to conduct field studies and there is only a very limited number of villagers who can be reached through digital media.
Future work

The CCVG Data team is currently developing a user-friendly interface that enables scholars to browse and retrieve data of any category they are interested in. The first version is hoped to be launched by the end of 2020. The goal of the number of village gazetteers included in the datasets is 2,500-3,000. For derivations of the CCVG Data project, the team hopes to transfer the same methodology to other types of gazetteers including hydraulics gazetteers, rail transport gazetteers, and public health gazetteers. We welcome collaborators from all potential areas of application. Any feedback or comment is appreciated. For more information, please email ULS-EALReference@pitt.edu.

10 Ibid.
11 The team originally planned to announce the project at the Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies in March 2020. The conference was canceled due to COVID-19.
16 Ibid.

Fabiano Rocha

University of Toronto, Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library

Introduction and background

The formulation of the Council on East Asian Libraries’s (CEAL) Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic: in Collaboration with the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL) resulted from growing concerns within East Asian area studies in North American library communities. This report outlines the sequence of steps that resulted in the formation of a task force, a survey, and a final statement.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has put the world temporarily on hold. By mid-March 2020, as the numbers of transmission cases dramatically increased, companies and organizations all over the globe were forced to restructure their entire operations to increase the capacity for their employees to adapt to working remotely. Libraries were forced to temporarily close their doors resulting in a complete lack of access to the libraries’ physical collections. The inability to access print materials forced librarians to devote much energy in identifying and compiling lists of resources that could be accessed electronically. Much needed access to digitized versions of library holdings was made possible by the use of Hathi Trust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS)—a measure used to allow for lawful access to digital versions of the corresponding physical books held by libraries. It is worth noting that in the case of area studies and in specific disciplines (i.e., religious studies, fine arts), the availability of materials in Hathi ETAS proved to be insufficient to meet research needs. Publishers and vendors also realized the increasing demand for access to electronic contents and responded to the situation by offering temporary free access to their resources, offering free trials of e-book platforms and databases, as well as increasing the number of concurrent users on a temporary basis, despite of their own COVID-19 hardship with suspensions of shipments, ordering, delayed payments and anxiety about the vague prospects of when business will return to normal.

Gradually, we started to witness a number of libraries reformulating or implementing collection development policies to favor the acquisition of materials in electronic format over print. As of now, many libraries are yet to confirm their annual acquisition budgets, forcing many to limit their acquisitions to electronic books to respond to users’ immediate needs. While understandable that such measures are unavoidable during these unusual times, many concerns were raised regarding equity, representation, and access in collection
development, particularly in area studies. The uneven and inadequate ways that these developments aided the area studies communities prompted further action.

The Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials’ (SALALM) Resolution was the precursor in articulating the challenges that e-preferred policies impose on the collection development ecosystem for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Similar statements were soon released by the Middle East Librarians Association’s (MELA) Statement on Collection Development, Access, and Equity in the Time of COVID-19, and the Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation’s (CONSALD) Statement on Collection Development, Access, and Equity in the Time of COVID-19 in support of the SALALM’s Resolution, as well as addressing issues specific to those individual area studies.

Earlier in June 2020, the Chair of the ASEEES CLIR (Association of Slavic, Eastern European & Eurasian Studies, Committee on Libraries and Information Resources) Executive Council, Joe Lenkart, sent out a message proposing the development of a joint statement by different area studies-related associations to acknowledge the challenges as well as shifts in collection development policies brought on by the pandemic. The CEAL President, Hana Kim, brought the proposal up for discussion among the Executive Board members. The members agreed that it was not only important for CEAL to be part of the joint effort but also to create a task force to work on issues specific to the East Asian area studies.

**Creation of a task force**

Following the recommendations of the members of the Executive Board, the CEAL President prepared a charge document for the Task Force for the Creation of the CEAL’s Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. She appointed the Member-at-Large (General), Fabiano Rocha and the Vice-President/President Elect, Hong Cheng as co-chairs of the Task Force. The co-chairship ensured that the statement to be balanced by representing the perspectives of both American and Canadian institutions. The proposed membership included the chairs of the standing committees Chengzhi Wang (CCM Representative), Chiaki Sakai (CJM Representative), and Jude Yang (CKM Representative). The non-CEAL groups’ representatives were Xiuying Zou (Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL)) and Haruko Nakamura (North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC)). Efforts were also made to recruit a Tibetan studies representative, but due to the time sensitivity and challenging nature of recruiting one, the committee ensured that feedback related to Tibetan area studies was gathered through the membership survey. The Executive Board approved the membership (please see Appendix A) on July 10, 2020, and the Task Force began its work immediately.

**Task Force’s Action Plan**

As per the charge document, the co-chairs of the Task Force were required to submit an action plan to the CEAL President by July 17, 2020. The proposed action plan included a timeline that guided the work of the Task Force over the period of 4 weeks (July 17 to August 17, 2020). The action items included conducting a survey to seek input from the CEAL community on any additional issues or concerns that were not identified by the Task Force;
preparing a draft of the statement for submission to the Executive Board for review; incorporating the recommendations from the Executive Board in the final draft of the statement; subsequently securing the Executive Board’s approval; and releasing the official statement by August 17, 2020.

The survey

During the Task Force’s first meeting held on July 13, 2020, the members did a brainstorming session to identify issues and concerns regarding the reformulation and implementation of e-preferred collection development policies, for both temporary and long term. The purpose was to identify broader categories of concern that would be representative of the challenges for Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Tibetan area studies. The CJKT concerns regarding collection development and acquisition identified for the survey to be undertaken were: 1) budgetary concerns, 2) copyright, legal, licensing concerns (and implications to access), 3) quality and diversity of content, and 4) technological limitations. While the Task Force was confident that the above mentioned were representative, it felt that it was important to collect feedback from the general membership to ensure that there was no potential oversight. The survey was conducted between July 20 to 26, 2020 in an effort to provide an opportunity for members to voice their own concerns.

The survey included a total of 6 questions. A decision was made by the Task Force to leave all fields optional, recognizing there were individuals who may have been conscious about openly disclosing information about their own institutions. The questions were presented in the survey as follows:

- [1] Affiliation
- [2] My areas of responsibility are (check all that apply)
  - Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Other
  - Collection Development, Technical Services, Public Services, Administration, Other
- [3] Is your library experiencing budget cuts
  - Yes, No, Maybe
- [4] Is Your library implementing or reformulating a collection development policy shift towards electronic resources
  - Yes, No, Maybe
- [5] Can you think of additional concerns regarding e-preferred collection development policies (short and long term)? Please refer to the spreadsheet for already identified examples
  <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DqlCMPEy63YVFnHGcbSxfy72OaBEJhB4NYtLvWKPw3I/edit?usp=sharing>
- [6] Other comments

The quantitative and qualitative data extracted from the survey are presented and discussed in the sections below.
Areas of responsibility

There was a total of 45 respondents from institutions of varying sizes from Canada, United States and United Kingdom: Columbia University, Harvard University, Oberlin College, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Princeton University, SOAS, University of London, Stanford University, University of British Columbia, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Victoria, University of Chicago, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Iowa, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Notre Dame, University of Texas, University of Toronto, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in Saint Louis, and Yale University. Respondents were asked to indicate what language(s), as well as what areas of professional practice (i.e., collection development, technical services, public services, administration, other) they are responsible for. Some of the variables that must be considered are that 7 institutions had more than one respondent; 8 respondents did not indicate their affiliation; 22 respondents indicated they are responsible for more than one language. “Other” in the language category may be referring to CJKT area studies resources published in English or other languages; “Other” in the professional practice may include non-library individuals (i.e., vendors).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Collection Development</th>
<th>Technical Services</th>
<th>Public Services</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibetan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Question [2]: Areas of responsibility (responses from the survey).

Figure 1. Question [2]: Areas of responsibility (responses from the survey).
**Budgetary concerns**

In response to whether their libraries are experiencing budget cuts, out of 43 respondents, 32 (74.4%) indicated yes, 8 (18.6%) indicated maybe, and 3 (7%) indicated no.

![Figure 2](image1.png)

*Figure 2. Question [3]: Is your library experiencing budget cuts? (43 responses from the survey)*

As for whether their libraries are implementing or reformulating a collection development policy shift towards electronic resources, out of 42 responses, 28 (66.7%) indicated yes, 12 (28.6%) indicated maybe, and 2 (4.8%) indicated no.

![Figure 3](image2.png)

*Figure 3. Question [4]: Is your library implementing or reformulating a collection development policy shift towards electronic resources? (survey responses)*

As for whether their libraries are implementing or reformulating a collection development policy shift towards electronic resources, out of 42 responses, 28 (66.7%) indicated yes, 12 (28.6%) indicated maybe, and 2 (4.8%) indicated no.

The numbers above give us a sense of the budgetary constraints that libraries are or will be facing because of the pandemic. Between the confirmed and the ones that will potentially experience budget cuts, there were 93% of respondents. Similarly, 95.3% of the respondents have indicated that their institutions are likely to favor the acquisition of electronic formats over print. As expected, when asked about what concerns they would have regarding the implementation of e-preferred collection development policies, respondents reiterated that the pricing of e-books and electronic resources is a major concern. According to one
respondent, “E-books are often more expensive than the print alternative further limiting the scope of what we can collect.” The ability to collect comprehensively would be significantly compromised as a result. Subscription-based electronic resources are unaffordable for small-size institutions in normal circumstances, and with the additional budget cuts, the more difficult it will be to secure funding for resources with ongoing costs.

**Copyright, legal and licensing (implications to access)**

Access and use of e-book and electronic resources can be largely affected by the copyright restrictions, publishing cultures, and varying vendors’ business models of East Asian countries. For instance, Japanese copyright law makes it harder to use e-books for interlibrary loan (ILL) and document delivery (DD), as well as the publishers’ and author’s established practices or preferences to not waive their rights to enable the sharing of e-resources. Institutions of all sizes rely on interlibrary loan, but a decrease in access to resources would be dramatically felt by smaller institutions that have no choice but heavily rely on other institutions. Vendors are primarily aggregators of content and do not have the rights to the contents offered in their e-book platforms. Consequently, they are not able to guarantee perpetual access to materials, representing a high risk for libraries that invest heavily in electronic formats. One respondent explained the extent she goes to provide access to e-books to her faculty and students by sharing that “[E]ast Asian publishers are more reluctant to give the rights for e-books. I have to buy some personal-use e-copies for my users but these are not the content the library can preserve nor what a faculty can use for teaching.” The unstable nature of availability of contents was also expressed in how materials can be inadvertently withdrawn from the platforms of resource providers and how “the only mitigation to the danger of censorship and or purging of existing content is to have print copies.”

**Quality and diversity of content**

Quality and diversity of content is perhaps the biggest concern when it comes to a shift the preference for acquiring materials in electronic formats. In addition to the discrepancy of availability of electronic content among the individual countries, regions and disciplines, serious concerns were voiced in regard to the availability and quality of those resources. The insufficiency of scholarly content in Korean e-book platforms was repeatedly brought up as examples, and in the case of Tibetan language materials, the fact that there are hardly any electronic options available in the market. One respondent reminds us that “in Asian countries, a substantial proportion of relevant content is produced only in print,” and we are at the risk of permanently losing those contents if we do not purchase when they are published. The respondent also added that “[l]osing those international voices is contradictory to our values and would impoverish our global studies at a time when such knowledge is of crucial importance”—a compelling argument for protecting the acquisition of print in order to maintain the breath, diversity and integrity of our collections.

**Technological limitations**

While there have been improvements in the way contents are presented in electronic resource platforms from East Asian countries, there are still many limitations that prevent users from having a seamless experience. The East Asian products have not matured to the level of those in North America. For instance, Japanese e-books are primarily available in
PDF format. This can be problematic, especially with the uneven availability and quality of OCR. Similarly, statistical data that is only available in PDF format presents a barrier to manipulating data for mining purposes. One respondent noted that “Many [Chinese] publishers/vendors require third party software or use additional access restrictions” resulting in problems related to data protection and privacy of data for researchers and students. Another respondent pointed out that “technological limitations may lead to inequality among our users who access the e-resources from other countries that may have a firewall.” Technological limitations can directly affect the quality and accessibility of materials. To one respondent’s point, even when digital versions of materials are available, the print copy remains irreplaceable for her institutions’ users who insist that their research demands the examination of the actual copies instead of their digital surrogates.

Additional considerations

In addition to the above-mentioned categories, individual responses addressed a number of other challenges. Among them, the lack of quality metadata compliant with North American standards always poses challenges to the discovery of individual e-book titles in the online catalogues, as well as users’ unfamiliarity and reluctance to use them. Streaming platforms remain largely unavailable for institutional licensing outside East Asia - even for individual subscribers. Collecting e-books may be unfamiliar territory for many, but the pandemic may have forced librarians to reconsider licensing of e-book platforms to be able to respond to requests from faculty and students. “My library is not set to acquire e-books title-by-title on a regular basis” reveals an important observation by one of the respondents about the unpreparedness and lack of infrastructure (i.e., licensing agreements in place, funding allocated for electronic book acquisition) to acquire e-books that would not have otherwise been considered as part of the regular collection development practice.

Drafting of the statement

Overall, the responses collected from the survey reaffirmed that the broader areas of concern identified by the Task Force were in line with those expressed by individual CEAL members. The Task Force had agreed that the structure of the statement would resemble the statements released by the CEAL’s peer library associations. The purpose of the statement was to add a voice in support of SALALM, MELA, CONSALD and other organizations that were expressing many of the CEAL’s shared concerns; to address issues that are more specific to East Asian area studies (including Tibet); to urge libraries to exercise flexibility in the reformulation or implementation of e-preferred collection development policies; and to ensure that the measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic are meant to be temporary and not prescriptive for the long term.

With those in mind, a preliminary draft of the statement was shared with the members of the Task Force on July 26, 2020. The comments made by the Task Force members were incorporated into the final version of the draft that was submitted to the CEAL President on August 3, 2020 for the Executive Board’s review. As there were no additional comments provided by the members of the Executive Board between August 3 and 9, 2020, the CEAL President called for a vote on the “Council on East Asian Libraries’ (CEAL) Statement on
Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic: In Collaboration with the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL)" that was approved on August 13, 2020. Please see Appendix B for a copy of the officially released statement.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted many institutions to implement collection development policies that favored the acquisition of electronic formats. With 66.7% that indicated yes, combined with 28.6% that indicated maybe, we see a total of 95.3% of policy shifts towards electronic resources. This raises serious equity and diversity concerns in collection development, particularly in area studies, for the short and long terms. As the CEAL Statement articulates, “in East Asia, a large percentage of the overall publication output remains as print-only”. With 74.4% that indicated yes and 18.6% that indicated maybe, 93% will or are likely to experience budget cuts, should the acquisition of electronic formats be favored, the ability to collect comprehensively and equitably would be severely compromised.

There remains much work to be done in regard to advocating for better terms of use and ownership rights of contents from East Asian countries, largely resulting from individual countries’ copyright restrictions, varying vendors’ business models and publishing cultures. The CEAL Statement refers particularly to how “ownership of contents and perpetual access rights cannot be guaranteed due to the restrictions imposed by the publishing cultures and copyright restrictions of East Asian countries,” and to the uneven provision of “interlibrary loan (ILL) and document delivery (DD), effectively decreasing the access to knowledge.”

The favoring of acquisition of electronic formats would create an enormous imbalance in the ability of researchers of East Asian area studies in accessing scholarly content. As noted in the CEAL Statement, “regional and niche (specialized) collections in platforms that libraries are able to license” remain largely unrepresented in commercial platforms. Print collections are “indispensable to the East Asian Studies scholarly community,” as the volume of scholarly works in digital formats remains insufficient, as well as engaging with electronic resources remains challenging due to the technological limitations of existing platforms. The indispensability of print collections is directly connected to another important concern raised in the CEAL Statement about the necessity to “Continue to support the work of vendors and small publishers who are vital to the building of diverse, specialized library collections and whose survival is critical to the academic enterprise.”

Oftentimes, decisions to pursue the route of favoring the acquisition of electronic formats are based on the false assumption that access to the resources will be seamless, as there is no need for handling physical materials. Ironically, as identified as a concern in the CEAL Statement, the lack of quality metadata for electronic resources “not only becomes the largest impediment to the discovery of resources but also demands more attention from library staff of all levels to properly acquire, describe and make resources discoverable.” The acquisition of electronic books requires an elaborate infrastructure (licensing, budget
allocation, technical processing) that, as a respondent noted, some libraries still do not have in place.

In response, this report aimed at describing the necessity for the CEAL to add its voice in support of its peer organizations and the consultative process used by the Task Force that was charged with articulating the CJKT-specific concerns on behalf of its community.

The Task Force would like to express its sincerest gratitude for the CEAL community’s trust in its efforts, and it hopes that the statement can be used as a tool by librarians who find themselves in a situation where they are required to provide context and rationale regarding the challenges imposed by the implementation of e-preferred collection development policies in the areas and disciplines they are responsible to develop and support.

Appendix A: Task Force Membership

Fabiano Rocha, University of Toronto (Co-Chair)
Hong Cheng, University of California, Los Angeles (Co-Chair)
Chengzhi Wang, Columbia University (CEAL/CCM Representative)
Chiaki Sakai, Columbia University (CEAL/CJM Representative)
Jude Yang, Yale University (CKM Representative)
Xiuying Zou, Claremont Colleges (SCSL Representative)
Haruko Nakamura, Yale University (NCC Representative)
Hana Kim, University of Toronto (ex-officio)

Appendix B: Council on East Asian Libraries’s (CEAL) Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic: in Collaboration with the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL)

Approved by the CEAL Executive Board on August 13, 2020
Endorsed by the Association of Asian Studies on August 31, 2020

The COVID-19 crisis has unleashed a new operational and budgetary ecosystem in which the sudden and complete lack of access to print and non-digitized materials, albeit temporary, has resulted in an increase in the need for provision of resources in electronic formats. Budget cuts are anticipated, and while many institutions have not yet released their budgets for the current, and or, upcoming fiscal year, the acquisition of resources in electronic formats has been prioritized, and libraries are increasingly implementing or reformulating policies that focus on the acquisition of digital content for the time being.

Based on the knowledge that the publication output in area studies is largely – and in some places exclusively—in print, concerns regarding equity, representation and access in collection development have been raised by peer library associations in the form of statements such as those of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials’ (SALALM) Resolution, the Middle East Librarians Association’s (MELA) Statement
While we have observed the growth of electronic content over the years in East Asia, a large percentage of the overall publication output remains as print-only. It is also worth noting that there are enormous discrepancies in the availability of electronic contents among the individual countries and regions within East Asia (including Tibet), as well as within individual disciplines. In addition to the insufficient volume of scholarly content in digital format, technological limitations of the platforms present challenges to scholars’ engagement with many of the resources, making print collections indispensable to the East Asian studies scholarly community.

The members of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL) are committed to maintaining the breadth, diversity and integrity of collections by advocating for the implementation of collection development policies that are congruent with those principles. In addition to the shared concerns raised by SALALM, MELA, and CONSALD on the implementation of e-preferred collection development policies, we would like to express the following concerns:

- Whereas the focus on the acquisition of electronic resources has a strenuous impact on the overall acquisition budget of libraries of all sizes but putting particularly medium-size and small-size print collections at risk of survival and contributing to a greater knowledge divide
- Whereas East Asian countries’ copyright restrictions, or varying vendors’ business models, prevent the access of resources via interlibrary loan (ILL) and document delivery (DD), effectively decreasing the access to knowledge, particularly of those smaller collections that have to heavily rely on ILL/DD from larger collections
- Whereas the standard expectation for terms of use of e-books, as well as ownership of contents and perpetual access rights cannot be guaranteed due to the restrictions imposed by the publishing cultures and copyright provisions of East Asian countries
- Whereas the acquisition of materials in print is the only way to salvage knowledge and information that would be otherwise doctored, lost or unavailable as a result of censorship
- Whereas the integrity of collections and quality of scholarship will be negatively impacted due to the insufficiency of scholarly content available in commercial e-book platforms, as well as the lack of representation of regional and niche (specialized) collections in platforms that libraries are able to license
- Whereas the technological limitations in East Asian platforms curtail researchers’ ability to engage with and manipulate data
- Whereas the lack of quality metadata that oftentimes not only becomes the largest impediment to the discovery of resources but also demands more attention from library staff of all levels to properly acquire, describe and make resources discoverable
With the above in mind, the CEAL, the NCC, and the SCSL urge libraries to:

- Reassure that e-preferred collection development policies implemented temporarily during the pandemic are not meant to be prescriptive for long-term collection development practices
- Exercise flexibility in the implementation of collection development policies to allow for balanced collection development practices that adequately address the needs for print and electronic formats
- Rely on the expertise and advice of professional librarians who are better informed of the conditions of the publishing environments of the areas and disciplines they develop and support
- Commit to protect the acquisition of print materials, as well as the personnel responsible for making them discoverable and accessible, as an effort to ensure the inclusion of non-traditional publications that are often regarded to offer the most poised critique of mainstream voices and perspectives
- Continue to support the work of vendors and smaller publishers who are vital to the building of diverse, specialized library collections and whose survival is critical to the academic enterprise
- Support and advocate for Open Access (OA) initiatives via the collaboration of North American and East Asian partners to bring to light our unique and specialized collections while minimizing the reliance on commercial entities to make them available
- Encourage a collaborative, cross-institutional approach in developing best practices for license negotiations of East Asian resources that systematically address the issues outlined in this document
Committee on Chinese Materials’ Initiative to Access Free Chinese Studies E-resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic forced North American universities to physically close and offer online courses from March 2020, the CEAL Committee on Chinese Materials, in collaboration with the Committee for Information Exchange of the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians, started the Initiative of Free E-resources for Chinese Studies During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Yao Chen and Chengzhi Wang first reached out to all the major database providers and publishers mainly in the Greater China Area to offer free access to useful databases to support online courses and research in North American universities to the end of June 2020. Thanks to the generous support from vendors in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the U.S., over 200 selected databases were offered. The free access greatly assisted online teaching, learning, and research. As the pandemic continued and with university classes still taking place online for the fall term, free access to these databases was extended to the end of 2020. Many other committee members especially Yurong Y. Atwill and Stephen Qiao contributed greatly to the initiative. The committee is now working out new acquisition models with vendors in the hope of making Chinese studies databases as affordable as possible for all interested libraries.

Submitted by Chengzhi Wang
Images of Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress in 2020

In 2020, libraries everywhere closed, and many are now beginning to reopen. In mid-March, Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress closed to the public, and all public events were cancelled until further notice. The Library reduced staffing onsite, initiated social distancing procedures, and increased the distribution of laptops for telework. Many employees telework. Since mid-August, an increasing number of staff members are permitted to come to the Library to work, often just a day or two days a week. No dates have been determined yet for users’ access to the reading rooms and gradually re-opening public spaces in the Library. Below are images of Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress in 2020.

Researchers and the public can check out the latest update about the Library services here: https://www.loc.gov/about/pandemic-information/

Submitted by Philip Melzer

2. Asian Reading Room, August 2020

3. Jefferson Building hallway, ground floor, August 2020
5. Madison Building, ground floor, August 2020

6. A portion of the Official Catalog, Madison Building, sub-basement, August 2020
Anna Leon Shulman and Frank Joseph Shulman Announce Retirement

Anna Leon Shulman and Frank Joseph Shulman informed the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in mid-September of their plans to retire on December 31st following 35 years and 50 years respectively of professional involvement in the AAS “Bibliography of Asian Studies” (BAS). Their plans were conveyed in a letter addressed to the association’s Secretariat and its Officers as well as to the BAS Associate Editors and Advisory Committee members.

Anna began her work as an associate editor for East Asia of the BAS in 1985 and began serving as its full-time editor in 1993. Frank worked as an assistant editor between 1970 and 1972, subsequently served the BAS as a consultant, and worked more than half time from the mid-1990s onwards as one of its associate editors. Together they have sought to provide the community of scholars, students and librarians engaged in Asian Studies with authoritative bibliographical coverage of Western-language publications in virtually all academic disciplines (ranging from Anthropology, Economics, and History to Literature, Politics, and Science & Technology) and in various Western languages about China, Hong Kong, Japan, North and South Korea, Macao, Mongolia, the Russian Far East, Taiwan and Tibet as well as about East Asia as a whole and about Asia as a regional entity.

Over the past fifty years, they have witnessed, participated in, and through professional collaboration with their colleagues helped lead and direct a number of developments that transformed the BAS from an annual printed bibliography of the books, articles and chapters in edited volumes published during a single calendar year to a cumulative, periodically updated, increasingly annotated, online database of nearly 940,000 bibliographical entries on East, Southeast and South Asia. They stress that this could only be accomplished with the support and ongoing cooperation not only of their colleagues but also of many academic libraries—in particular, the University of Maryland, College Park Libraries—and of editors, publishers and librarians around the world.

Frank’s retirement is actually his second professional retirement. He worked for twenty-five years (1976–2001) as an associate staff member of the University of Maryland Libraries, where for part of that time he served as the Head of the East Asia Collection and Curator of the Gordon W. Prange Collections of published and unpublished materials from the early years of the Allied Occupation of Japan.

Upon their retirement, Frank and Anna intend to redirect their time and energy to a number of long-term projects. The first one centers on finishing up a multivolume, annotated bibliography of some 15,000 Western-language studies entitled “The First Century of Doctoral Dissertation on Korea, 1903–2004”, which the University of Michigan Press has agreed to publish upon its completion. It includes brief notes about the academic backgrounds and Western-language master’s theses of as many of the authors as possible. (An updated 280-page overview that includes 150 representative entries is available upon request as a PDF file.) An estimated 2,000 of the 15,000 bibliographical entries in this work are for dissertations that deal in some way (either extensively, only in part, or at times just tangentially) with China and the Chinese. Over 2000 entries also deal in some way with Japan.
and the Japanese. This is to be expected in view of China’s longstanding interaction with and cultural influence on Korea and Japan’s historical engagement with Korea, the large number of theses written about East Asia and about Asia, respectively, as regional entities that include coverage of China, Japan and Korea, and the many studies about Asian Americans that deal with Chinese, Japanese and Korean Americans. In addition to Doctoral Dissertations on Asia: An Annotated Bibliographical Journal of Current International Research, which was published by the AAS from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s, this cumulative bibliography on Korea will be the latest in a succession of book-length bibliographies of dissertations that they have compiled, annotated, edited and published since 1970 on Japan and Korea, China and Inner Asia, Hong Kong, Burma, Malaya and Malaysia, and South Asia.

Following its completion, they expect to devote time to organizing and placing under some form of bibliographical control their Asian Studies Newsletter Archives, an extensive (but not comprehensive) paper-based collection of ephemeral newsletters and bulletins issued from the late 1960s to the early 2000s that was started in the 1970s and that also deal in part with China, Japan and Korea. Many of these publications are useful resources for documenting the development of Asian Studies and the activities of numerous faculty, students, administrators and members of the general public.

For the present time, Frank and Anna Shulman will continue to reside in College Park, Maryland, near the campus of the University of Maryland. They may be contacted by e-mail at: fshulman@umd.edu, and through the US mail at: 9225 Limestone Place, College Park, MD 20740-3943.