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## From the President

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## **From the President**

Happy Lunar New Year of the Tiger! The Year of the Tiger represents the 3rd animal in the 12-year cycle of the zodiac calendar. The tiger is regarded as the king of all wild animals and brings the qualities of bravery, strength, vitality, and generosity to the coming year. I wish that these qualities visit you in abundance.

Looking back on the last two years as I write my last message as President of CEAL for the Journal of East Asian Libraries, I am very grateful to have been offered this opportunity to serve the Council and the CEAL community, gain precious experience working closely with the amazing Executive Board and CEAL members, and learn from our community. My presidency started with the pandemic. COVID made my presidency unusual, even unique. Over the last two years, all of us have been experiencing a tremendous amount of uncertainties, changes, and challenges amid COVID-19. During the same period, I also witnessed how resourceful, innovative, inspiring and collaborative our community is to cope with all the challenges and support one another. It has been my great pleasure serving the members of CEAL as your President. I thank you for that privilege. Thank you very much for all of your support and dedication!

### ***Virtual 2022 CEAL Annual Meeting***

The CEAL Executive Board, committees, task forces, and program organizers have been busy developing the annual meeting program for the CEAL community. This year, once again, CEAL has made the difficult decision to hold the 2022 CEAL Annual Meeting virtually (March 17-18 and 21-23, 2022) due to the continuing serious health risks, travel restrictions, and the complicated logistics of running an in-person meeting caused by COVID-19. Due to many complications that we could foresee, we have decided to go with a virtual format. We believe that this format will ensure broad CEAL community participation during these pandemic conditions. Over the last summer, the CEAL Executive Board has discussed and approved the following CEAL 2022 plenary theme that I put forth in my role as CEAL President, "The Path Forward: the New Post-Pandemic Normal". This 2022 theme is within the overarching theme for 2020-2022, "Beyond the Traditional" that was shared with you in 2020.

Based on this theme, on March 21, the plenary sessions will feature the Presidential Plenary, "The Path Forward: the New Post-Pandemic Normal." During the period of 2020-2021, institutions in higher education, including academic and research libraries, have gone through tremendous transitions, and have continually adjusted library services to cope with the COVID-19 global pandemic. Academic and research libraries have created a range of new ways (resources, services, programming, etc.) to fulfill their mission of supporting the teaching, research, and learning of faculty and students. While area studies libraries, including East Asian Studies libraries, have experienced many difficulties in collection development, access, and equity during the pandemic, many initiatives have been generated by East Asian libraries and their community. What legacies of the COVID-19 pandemic will we want to continue with as we shape the post-pandemic library? What lessons have we learned through the pandemic that can be retained to better serve the East Asian Studies

community? What is the new “normal” going forward for us? What challenges have become even more evident as a result of the pandemic that will need to be continually addressed? What new possibilities/pragmatic approaches are there for East Asian libraries? This session will allow the CEAL community to explore and foster new ways of working among libraries and their professional associations, organizations, and institutions.

The panel will have four keynote talks: “From Devaluation to Decolonization: Libraries, Protest, and Hope in a Trans-Apocalyptic World” by Dr. Adriene Lim, Dean of the University Libraries, University of Maryland; “Drunk on Data: the Psychology of Scarcity and Its Impact on Library Decision-Making” by Dr. David Magier, Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Collections & Research Services, Princeton University; “Pandemic Effects and Collection Direction” by Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President, Membership and Research, Chief Strategist, OCLC; and “Cooperative Work and the “New Normal” by Michael Furlough, Executive Director, HathiTrust Digital Library.

The CEAL Executive Board members, committees, task forces, and program organizers have prepared their programs in line with the above theme to generate engaging discussions and explore innovative approaches and strategies together. The 2022 CEAL Annual Meeting will bring us together once again during these tough times. Rich pre-conference programs (March 17-18) and inspiring committee sessions (March 21-23), await you. The schedule for the CEAL 2022 Annual Meeting can be found on the CEAL Homepage ([www.eastasianlib.org](http://www.eastasianlib.org)). I look forward to virtually welcoming you all to the Annual Meeting in March!

### ***2022 CEAL Distinguished Service Award***

On behalf of the CEAL Executive Board, I am delighted to announce that Dr. Peter Zhou, Director of the C. V. Starr East Asian Library at the University of California, Berkeley, is the recipient of the 2022 CEAL Distinguished Service Award. The award will be presented on March 21, 2022, at a virtual award ceremony during the CEAL Annual Meeting’s Business Plenary session. This prestigious award honors an individual CEAL member who has made significant contributions to East Asian librarianship and to the East Asian Studies community. We invite you to extend your congratulations to Dr. Zhou on being honored with the award. Beyond his many accomplishments, Dr. Zhou is acknowledged by his colleagues as a visionary leader, a strong advocate, and a valued partner in initiatives spanning the East Asian library sector, as well as a prolific scholar. We congratulate him on his achievements and thank him for his ongoing service and dedication to our field and beyond. Warmest congratulations to Dr. Zhou for this well-deserved honor. The award raises the flag of excellence for CEAL and sets an outstanding example for CEAL members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Zhijia Shen, Chair of the Task Force for the 2022 CEAL Distinguished Service Award, and to all the Task Force members for their remarkable dedication and thoughtful work.

### ***2022 CEAL election***

One highlight of the Annual Meeting is the announcement of CEAL election results. I want to thank all those who agreed to run in the 2022 elections for the positions of Vice President/President-Elect, Member-At-Large (Japan), and Member-At-Large (Korea). I hope

all CEAL members will take the opportunity to vote. Special thanks go to the 2022 CEAL Election Committee (Chair: Fabiano Rocha) for their hard and excellent work in handling the nominations and preparing the ballots. I would also like to thank the Library Technology Committee (Chair: Tang Li), Membership Committee (Chair: Xiang Li), CEAL Secretary (Xiuying Zou), and Treasurer (Keiko Hill) for their great teamwork in preparing and implementing the election.

### ***2022 Leadership Development Video Project***

As part of our efforts in supporting our members' growth and development in this rapidly changing world, I have asked Xiang Li, Chair of the Task Force on CEAL Leadership Institute 2021 (2018-2021) and Chair of the CEAL Membership Committee, to head the Leadership Development Video Project which will involve creating a series of videos that highlight the learning outcomes of the CEAL Leadership Institute 2021 and creating contents on leadership theories, practices, and skills that are relevant to East Asian Studies library professionals. We plan to release the videos during the CEAL 2022 Annual Meeting week.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Xiang Li for her creativity, passion, and dedication to our members' growth with this very meaningful project.

### ***Other updates on task forces and Executive Board membership***

In addition to initiatives or projects listed above, in the first year of my presidency, I appointed several task forces to undertake charges that were identified as urgent businesses impacting the organization, our members, or our field: 1) [Task Force on Creating CEAL Sponsorship and Fundraising Guidelines and Best Practices](#), 2) [Task Force for the Creation of CEAL's Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 3) [Task Force for Review of the ERMB \(Electronic Resources Metadata Standards Best Practices=Task Force on Metadata Standards and Best Practices for East Asian Electronic Resources\)](#), 4) [Task Force for Reconstruction of the CEAL Mailing List Archive](#), and 5) [Taskforce on CEAL Leadership Institute 2021](#) (which was originally established in 2018 by Zhijia Shen, former CEAL President, 2018-2020). Thanks to the splendid leadership of the chairs of each task force and the dedication of their members, most of the task forces have successfully completed their assigned charges.

With respect to **the Task Force for Reconstruction of the CEAL Mailing List Archive's** work, it has been realized that the workload of rebuilding the lost archive will require one more year. Thus, its term extension has been approved by the Executive Board for an additional year (until May 2023). This work will ensure that we will be able to make it accessible to CEAL subscribers and can facilitate the long-term preservation of the archive.

Furthermore, the Executive Board has recently approved **the CEAL Listserv Switchover Plan and Timeline** submitted by Tang Li, Chair of the Library Technology Committee (LTC). In 2020, the CEAL EB concluded that it would be best to move Eastlib to another platform in order to have more control over CEAL communication tools as the University of North Carolina (UNC) had announced a plan to discontinue listservs, including the CEAL listserv, Eastlib, on their server. Thus, following up on UNC's plan, Tang Li, LTC Chair, has been asked

to investigate the mailing list switchover plan. By May 2022, CEAL plans to complete our switchover of the current listserv to Google Groups. The switchover work is currently underway, led by Tang Li, working closely with our UNC colleagues. I would like to thank Tang Li for her hard work and strong commitment, and our UNC colleagues for their unwavering support during this transition.

Lastly, our long-time and inspiring Executive Board member, Vickie Doll, University of Kansas, Chair of the Statistics Committee retired in December 2021. With this membership change, we welcome Dongyun Ni, University of Hawaii at Manoa, as the newly appointed Chair of the Statistics Committee (2022-2024), effective January 1, 2022. I would like to share my sincere gratitude to Vickie Doll for her immeasurable service and contributions over the last two decades and thank Dongyun Ni for stepping up for this important role during the transition period.

We are extremely fortunate to have all of these terrific colleagues serving and contributing to our organization and field. As I have illustrated above, the CEAL is run by many wonderful colleagues like yourselves. So, I would like to express my gratitude to you for that.

### ***JEAL current issue***

In our Spring issue, we feature engaging reports on innovative collaborative instruction models and inspiring stories of collaborations in digital humanities, as well as our comprehensive annual CEAL statistics. This issue also includes two illuminating reviews: "Imperial China and the West Part II" and "Song Yongyi: Mao Zedong he wen hua da ge ming: Zheng zhi xin li yu wen hua ji yin de xin chan shi." You will also find news about our CEAL members (retirements, In Memoriams, and the announcement of the recipient of the CEAL Distinguished Service Award for 2022). I invite you all to read our colleagues' informative and inspiring works.

Finally, I would like to repeat my closing remarks that I shared in the last JEAL issue because it is worth repeating during these extraordinary and unprecedented times caused by the global health crisis. The hardships and setbacks of the pandemic have shown how capable our CEAL colleagues have been at achieving our goals and supporting each other. I am very proud to be a part of this community. Again, it has been my great honor serving the members of CEAL as your President.

Hana Kim

Your CEAL President