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Hsi-chu Bolick: A Tribute on Her Retirement

Hsi-Chu Bolick 黃熹珠 retired at the end of 2021 after a distinguished career spanning 30 years, two-thirds of which were at the University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC).

Born in Hsinchu 新竹, Taiwan, Hsi-Chu received a B.A. in Social Education with a minor in Journalism from National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei. In 1985, she acquired an M.A. in Applied Linguistics and, in 1987, a Master of Library Science, both from Indiana University.

Before Hsi-Chu joined UNC Libraries, she worked as Catalog Librarian at Wabash College, Indiana (1987-1989) and Indiana University Libraries (1991-1992). In 1992, she was appointed as the East Asian Cataloger and Acting East Asian Bibliographer at UNC.

From 2002 to her retirement as Librarian for East Asian Studies, Hsi-chu has persistently built and developed the East Asian Collection and its library services to support the scholarly activities in the UNC community. Through her dedication, she has expanded the East Asian Collection through collaborations and successful grant applications. A noteworthy one was a $90,000 grant from 2013-2016 to help UNC Libraries acquire major electronic databases, e-books, and art materials from Taiwan. Due to her hard work, from 2009 and on, UNC has also been a regular recipient of the Korea Foundation’s Support for Korean Studies E-resources.

From 2008 to 2009, Hsi-chu, the primary trainer, implemented a national pilot project for shelf-ready service partnering with a Chinese vendor. This project drew national attention because of its innovative idea and implementation complexity. Its success enabled the streamlining of technical processing and expedited public access to new acquisitions. In addition, from 2012 to 2013, Duke and UNC were able to create a shared Korean Librarian position through the Institutional Collaborative Initiative.

Among many of her published articles, book chapters, book, and conference presentations, the following are representative and notable:

Hsi-chu is a joint editor of the statistics reports “Current Status of East Asian Collections in North American Libraries.” published in the Journal of East Asian Libraries, 114, 117, and 120. This is a Statistics Task Force project of CEAL.

The article, “Problems in the Establishment of Non-unique Chinese Personal Headings with Special Reference to NACO Guidelines and Vendor-Supplied Authority Control,” was published in Library Resources and Technical Services (April 1999). This is one of the earliest articles focused on analyzing non-unique Chinese personal headings in cataloging Chinese materials.

She also wrote, in Chinese and English, the history of the East Asian Collection at UNC, “The East Asian Collection of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,” which was included in Collecting Asia, East Asian Libraries in North America, 1868-2008 (2010).
She is the co-author of *Catalogue of Chinese Ancient Books in Duke University Libraries; Catalogue of Chinese Ancient Books in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Catalogue of Chinese Ancient Books in Elling O. Eide Library* (美國杜克大學圖書館中文古籍目錄; 美國北卡羅來納大學教堂山分校中文古籍目錄; 美國灣莊艾龍圖書館中文古籍目錄) published in 2017 by Zhonghua Bookstore in Beijing. The book was the winner of the 2017 Chinese National Publishing Association (CNPA) Distinguished Rare Books Award.

Over the course of three decades, Hsi-chu has served in various leadership roles in professional and national associations. She has served both as a member and also chaired various committees such as Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Resources (NCC), Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL), and OCLC CJK Users Group, including most notably:

Manager of the CEAL Eastlib listserv since 2008


Member-at-Large, CEAL Executive Board (2000-2003)

Chair, OCLC CJK Users Group (2005-2007)

Chair, CEAL Statistics Task Force (1996-1999)

In addition to her demonstrated leadership, Hsi-chu has played a significant mentoring role to junior librarians and her assistants. Her support has been influential in advancing the careers of many junior East Asian librarians.

"Hsi-chu really has been a role model for an active, inquisitive, collaborative, and supportive colleague."¹ We thank her outstanding contributions to and accomplishments in the field of East Asian librarianship and will miss her presence among us dearly. We wish her a fulfilling, healthy, and enjoyable new chapter of life.

*Submitted by Wen-ling Liu*

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¹ Sharon Domier. Email to Eastlib listserv, October 18, 2021.