



10-31-2022

## From the President

Hong Cheng

*University of California - Los Angeles*

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

---

### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Cheng, Hong (2022) "From the President," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2022: No. 175, Article 2.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2022/iss175/2>

This From the President is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

## From the President

The year 2023 is coming with high expectations for the East Asian library community. After three years in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community is undergoing recovery and revival with many activities and programs on the horizon.

After three years of online annual conferences from 2020 to 2022, now we are actively planning and preparing the first onsite annual conference since the pandemic in Boston in March 2023. Although the pandemic has not completely subsided, we are moving toward a new normal for the organization. The CEAL Executive Board (EB) initiated the preparation of the 2023 annual conference after the conclusion of the online annual conference in March 2022. On July 18, 2022, EB approved the Plenary Theme of the CEAL 2023 annual conference, *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: the East Asian Library in a Changing World*, which states that “On the path to recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic, the world is facing more challenges from international wars, social unrests to natural disasters, under which the principle of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) become even more crucial to the educational institutions including the East Asian libraries. The plenary session of the 2023 CEAL annual conference is to explore and foster new and creative ways to achieve DEI in resource and service development, as well as in teaching and research, of the East Asian libraries, in response to the changing world. The session is aiming at unveiling new perspectives linked to the emerging domestic and international issues and discovering approaches workable to the East Asian library community and its organization.” We hope the onsite annual conference will start a new page in CEAL history.

In addition to the plenary sessions, all the CEAL committees are planning programs for the first onsite annual conference since the pandemic. I want to especially mention that the Committee for Electronic Resource Metadata Standards and Best Practices (ERMB) will present a program during the regular session for the first time. As my predecessor Hana Kim indicates, ERMB was initiated in March 2013 as a special task force under the supervision of the CEAL Executive Board, under a general charge of investigating best practices for the creation, manipulation, and management of electronic content and metadata for East Asian language resources, as well as in addressing issues as how electronic resources move through their life cycle from selection to user access. In the past eight years, the ERMB Task Force fulfilled its goals by organizing preconference workshops at CEAL annual conferences, initiating international collaborations, and coordinating cataloging projects to facilitate access and discovery. The current EB decided to elevate the ERMB Task Force to a standing committee with an elected chair on June 15, 2022. This decision recognizes the long-term role of ERMB and confirms the collaboration between public services and technical services in e-resource metadata issues, an emerging need during the digital era. We will see the new standing committee’s first regular session program details in a couple of months, along with all other committee programs of the 2023 CEAL annual conference.

Concerning the forthcoming annual conference, I would like to ask everyone’s attention to a unique program, the international conference of *The Tools of the Trade: The Way Forward*, which is organized by Harvard University and co-sponsored by CEAL. The Conference will have plenary sessions, at which leaders of libraries and research centers in China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Buddhist studies, as well as Europe and North America, will

address their respective strategies for development. The conference expects these sessions will spark comparisons and contrasts, mutual learning, and considerations of improving connectivity across national boundaries. There will be workshops that discuss new technologies, methods, and data sources, as well as exemplary projects to introduce tools, platforms, databases, and platforms. The conference is a rare opportunity for librarians and research faculty to work together, and the EB encourages all East Asian library colleagues to participate.

Besides the annual conference and other official events, the CEAL community organized several activities in the past months, such as celebrating Librarian Emeritus Eugene Wu's 100th birthday. Librarian Emeritus Eugene Wu was a pioneer in the development of research sources for modern and contemporary China studies for four decades. As the Curator of the East Asian collections at Hoover Institute and the Librarian of the Harvard-Yenching Library, he presided over the growth of two outstanding East Asian collections. His career was closely associated with the growth of the CEAL community, which is well presented in his article on CEAL History. At his retirement in 1998, CEAL presented him with an award honoring his extraordinary achievements and leadership in the field of East Asian librarianship and scholarship, and his many contributions to CEAL. Librarian Emeritus Eugene Wu is a legend of the East Asian library community, and his career is revered by the East Asian studies librarians in North America and promises to be an enduring inspiration for generations of East Asian librarians to come. Right before his 100th birthday in July 2022, the CEAL community presents an electronic card to honor Librarian Emeritus Eugene Wu with 100 congratulatory messages and historical photos, which were printed and bound into a birthday gift book. Librarian Emeritus Eugene Wu passed away twenty days after his 100th birthday. He said in his last message to the CEAL community, "The final printed copy arrived a few days ago while I was in the Stanford Hospital. The outpouring of love, care, and friendship was overwhelming, and it touched me deeply. If there is a way to say thank you to all of them, please do so for me."

As the CEAL Executive Board and committees are intensively preparing for the 2023 annual conference, I hope I can bring you more details about the programs next time. I deeply appreciate the efforts of the EB and committee members, and the support from CEAL members and colleagues. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Boston.

Hong Cheng, PhD

President, Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)