Bibliography of East Asian Periodicals (Colonial Korea 1900-1945)
Institutional News

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I am pleased to share the news that the Bibliography of East Asian Periodicals (Colonial Korea 1900-1945) has been created and the site is currently live at https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/collections/bibliography-of-east-asian-periodicals-colonial-korea-1900-1945/

This comprehensive bibliography contains 913 periodicals from the colonial period (1910-1945), pre-colonial period (1896-1910), and post-colonial period from liberation in 1945 to the establishment of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 1948, covering subjects in every field—politics, economy, industry, society, literature, education, religion, women, children, medicine, science, friendship societies, etc. Through data compilation, organization, and research, the bibliography outlines each journal’s identifying information, including region of origin, bibliographic details of publication, regions of distribution, and current accessibility status. Additionally, the bibliography provides a brief description of each publication.

In Korea and its neighboring nations, the period from 1900-1945, known as the modern era, was marked by political transformations and chaos. These changes did not remain limited to the realm of politics but extended into a multitude of efforts to transform culture and society as well. As evidence of these efforts, one of the defining characteristics of the colonial era was the proliferation of modern print media across a number of fields. In particular, periodical publications serve as important primary source materials through which to better grasp the complexities of this era of transformation.

Materials from the modern era pose several difficulties. The most significant reasons are that older materials are scattered sporadically throughout multiple regions and locations, which makes identifying them more challenging; additionally, many sources are written in mixed Chinese-Korean script, which means that even scholars with knowledge of Korean and Classical Chinese must invest significant time to read and understand the texts. Motivated by such challenges, the Bibliography project began with the goal of facilitating the research activities of Korean and East Asian studies scholars in English-speaking regions. It was expected that the bibliography would enable these scholars to more effectively use a vast archive of Korean-, Japanese-, and Chinese-language primary sources, and more easily identify holding institutions of those periodicals and magazines.
The Bibliography of East Asian Periodicals is the culmination of a two-year-long collaborative project supported by the University of Chicago’s Provost’s Global Faculty Award for FY22. I would like to acknowledge the great efforts of our project team of East Asian subject librarians, Korean studies scholars, and Korea Foundation interns.

Submitted by Jee-Young Park