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From the President

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From the President

The year 2023 is passing with hope and challenges in the field of East Asian libraries. The Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) appreciates all the support and contributions from the members and friends. With many activities and programs on the horizon, we are looking forward to a splendid future in 2024.

I am particularly pleased to report that, after the first onsite annual meeting since the pandemic this year in Boston, the CEAL Executive Board (EB) is actively preparing for the 2024 annual conference in Seattle. On July 27, 2023, EB approved the plenary theme of the CEAL 2024 annual conference as follows:

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Impacts on the East Asian Library

Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly generative AI, posts challenging impacts on the field of the East Asian library. The current approach of the library field toward the rise of AI is adaptive and purposeful, and the library associations, professionals, and patrons are involved in making sure AI is incorporated into the library's processes and services in a complementary and ethical manner. Nevertheless, the newest development of AI not only provides a positive opportunity for the East Asian library to adopt cutting-edge technologies for resources and services but could also shake the foundation and restructure every aspect of the library.

The plenary session of the 2024 CEAL Annual Meeting will explore various impacts of AI on the field of East Asian librarianship, and seek a strategic vision for the profession in this new era. Through keynote speeches and townhall discussions, the plenary session will focus on the challenges, concerns, and unique aspects to the library field, with the objective of providing a comprehensive overview and stimulating discussions.

Although applying AI technology to library services has been at the forefront of the East Asian library field in recent years, this is the first time to explore the general impact of AI on the field, which could lead to fundamental changes. The plenary sessions will invite keynote speakers and presenters from the AI industry, information education, journalism, and East Asian studies, demonstrating various perspectives that may affect the field of the East Asian library field.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the CEAL committees are presenting programs related to various areas. The Committee on Chinese Materials (CCM) will explore the issue *How AI Is Transforming the Work of Chinese Studies Researchers and Librarians*, while the Committee on Japanese Materials (CJM) will look at *Working with Japanese Resources in a Fast-Changing Environment with AI* as the program theme and Committee on Korean Materials (CKM) will focus on *Korean Studies Librarianship and AI*. We can expect these presentations and discussions will reflect the practices and thoughts connecting with our daily work with Chinese, Japanese, and Korean resources and services.

Other CEAL committees will focus more on specific library functions, and provide workshops directly related to AI. The Committee on Library Technology (CLT) presents *Crafting Effective Inquiries in ChatGPT: A Hands-on Workshop for East Asian Librarians*, which will offer much-needed practical training. In addition to organizing a poster session with a

theme the same as the plenary session, the Committee on Public Service (CPS) offers a workshop titled *Tips for Addressing AI in the East Asian Library Classroom*, giving specific advice for library instruction with AI technology. The Committee on Technical Processing (CTP) proposes a program titled *Use of AI in CJK Metadata Processes*, looking at approaches to real-world practice. The Committee for Electronic Resource Metadata Standards and Best Practices (ERMB) presents a program theme, *AI and Digital Integrity*, emphasizing more on metadata standards than AI applications.

In brief, from the plenary sessions to committee programs, the 2024 CEAL Annual Meeting presents a focused theme on AI, and CEAL members are encouraged to participate in these explorations and discussions, especially through the membership forum, organized by the Membership Committee. Artificial Intelligence could affect the East Asian library field for generations, and this annual meeting will certainly serve as a first response.

As the CEAL Executive Board and committees are intensively preparing for the 2024 annual meeting, I hope I can bring you more details of the programs next time. I deeply appreciate the efforts of the EB and committee members and the support from the CEAL members and colleagues. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Seattle in March 2024.

Hong Cheng, PhD
President, Council on East Asian Libraries