
Dongyun Ni
University of Hawaii-Manoa

Michiko Ito
University of Kansas

Ellie Kim
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Anlin Yang
University of Wisconsin

Vickie Fu Doll

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

This Report 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.
Council on East Asian Libraries

Prepared by the CEAL Statistics Committee, 2022–2024

Dongyun Ni, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Michiko Ito, University of Kansas
Ellie Kim, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Anlin Yang, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vickie Fu Doll, Advisor, Librarian Emerita, University of Kansas

This comprehensive five-year comparative analysis spans fiscal years (FY) 2019 through 2023, encapsulating a critical period that includes the pre-COVID era, the duration of the COVID pandemic, and the subsequent post-COVID phase. This range has been deliberately selected to provide insights into the evolving landscape of libraries specializing in East Asian studies in North America.

In this report, a fiscal year refers to a one-year period (12-month cycle) by organizations for accounting and budgeting purposes. For most institutions participating in the CEAL statistics surveys, this period runs from July 1 of the preceding year to June 30 of the year being referred to as the fiscal year. Canadian institutions, however, adhere to a different cycle, starting on April 1 and ending on March 31.

Purpose
This report attempts to provide quantitative analysis on collections, public services, fiscal support, and staffing, and to highlight the impact and transformations within the specialized collections for East Asian Studies in response to unprecedented challenges.

Methodology
The comparative study was undertaken by the CEAL Statistics Committee in January and February 2024, focusing on four major areas: collections, expenditures, personnel, and public services. The area-specific analysis is distributed among the committee members, with collections examined by Ellie Kim and Dongyun Ni, expenditures by Anlin Yang, and personnel and public services evaluated by Michiko Ito. Dongyun Ni also oversees the compilation of the entire report. Special appreciation is extended to Vickie Fu Doll for her invaluable insights and contributions towards the finalization of this report.

Data sources
The data utilized in this analysis have been gathered from a series of annual reports produced and published by the CEAL Statistics Committee. Each report contains data
collection and analysis in the specific fiscal year, offering rich and well-organized information for this longitudinal study. Specifically,


**Data selection criteria**

To ensure a comprehensive and accurate representation of trends and patterns over the five years, we applied the criteria as follows:

Collections: This category includes data from libraries that have consistently participated throughout the five-year period or have data missing for no more than a single fiscal year. To maintain the integrity of our longitudinal analysis, institutions failing to provide data for two or more years were excluded. Where data points are missing, values from the previous fiscal year have been used to calculate statistical continuities.

Fiscal Support: The data for this category is sourced from libraries/collections that consistently provided five-year data on appropriations, regardless of whether their fiscal support data contribution. This data selection criteria reflect the idea that appropriations are a fundamental budget source, with fiscal support presenting a more fluctuating and varied aspect. By incorporating this diverse fiscal support data from these entities, we can more comprehensively represent the overall trend in the total budget.

Personnel and Public Services: These two areas strictly contain data from libraries that have reliably participated in each fiscal year encompassed by this analysis. This criterion ensures that the analysis is both reliable and consistent.

In addition, individual institute's data that was changed irregularly and abruptly were scrutinized with particular attention to ensure accurate trend analysis. The investigation includes review of notes associated with significant data fluctuations, reaching out institutions for re-confirmation on any dramatic changes in data points. Such anomalies may arise due to various reasons, including modifications in data collection methods, misinterpretations of the data requirements, or actual changes in collections stemming from special circumstances. Due to these irregularities, the data from the affected libraries has been excluded from the trend analysis to maintain the integrity of the overall growth pattern observed in the remaining institutions.
Findings and observations

Overall participation

During the five-year review period, the number of participating institutions each year has been consistently within a range of 38 to 44. Among the 42 major East Asian libraries/collections in North America that participated actively and continuously in the annual survey, three are Canadian university libraries, and 39 are based in the U.S. These U.S. institutions include 17 private universities, 21 public universities, and the Library of Congress as a non-university entity. The average participation rate for these institutions was notably high at 96.19%. The primary challenges to full participation were personnel changes and library system transitions.

Library collections

Monographs added

From the total titles and volumes added among 40 libraries for each fiscal year from FY2019 through FY2023, we can see that a total of 193,965 titles and 293,598 volumes were added in FY2019, indicating the highest addition of volumes over the five-year period. It was accompanied by a decrease to 140,644 titles and 213,498 volumes added in FY2020, which could suggest a slowdown or change in acquisition, likely due to the impacts of the pandemic, followed by a steady recovery in the subsequent years for titles added. By FY2023, the total volumes added have not returned to that pre-covid level of FY2019, potentially pointing to a lasting impact of the pandemic on collection development in the post-pandemic era.

![Figure 1. Total number of monographs added.](image)

Within the acquisitions of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other language monographs, the Chinese consistently features the largest number of titles and volumes added. However, in terms of proportion, its growth is slow compared to the other language collections. The Japanese collection experienced a surge in its proportional share in FY2021 and then
remained relatively stable, averaging around 25.50% in the following two years. The Korean collection has shown minor year-to-year variations, showing stable growth. On the other hand, the non-CJK collection has seen a steady increase in its share except FY2021, reaching its highest proportion in FY2023.

![Figure 2. Proportional representation of total volumes added by language (40 libraries).](image)

Most participating libraries (39) have constantly filled out data for serial titles in print and other formats, however, 5 libraries were eliminated from the trend analysis due to irregularities of data changes. The data from 34 libraries indicates a consistent upward trajectory in the total title count in print and other formats over the five-year span, marked by significant increases in FY2020 and FY2022, where the annual growth rates were 13.87% and 13.83%, respectively. A slight reduction in the pace of growth is observed in FY2021.
In contrast to the serial data for print and other formats, a smaller number of libraries have consistently reported data for electronic serials. Moreover, more significant fluctuations have been identified in the data for electronic serials in the five-year period. To improve the quality and reliability of data input, there may be a need for a robust data tracking and alert system.

Beginning with 805,317 electronic journal titles across 27 libraries, FY2019 serves as the pre-pandemic baseline. From there, we observed a rapid increase in electronic journal titles, with the number climbing steadily over the following three years and reaching its peak in FY2022. This consistent expansion reflects a strategic shift towards digital resources, a move...
likely propelled by the need to support remote learning and teaching during the pandemic. The small decrease in total e-journal titles in FY2023 might be attributed to a partial return to in-person activities and budgetary constraints as institutions began to balance their collections following the emergency spending during the height of the pandemic.

**eBook titles**

The least number of libraries submitted eBooks survey among all collection-related forms, indicating difficulty in getting reliable counts for eBooks in many libraries. After reviewing and selecting libraries that have been constantly providing data on eBooks, we further eliminated one more library that had a large reduction of eBooks due to its unique circumstances.

![Total Titles of eBooks (29 Libraries)](image)

**Figure 5.** Total titles of eBooks (29 libraries).

Among the 29 libraries, the total number of eBooks has shown a substantial increase in titles over the five-year period, with the most significant growth occurring in the first three years. The cumulative growth rate increase slows down in the last two years, suggesting a stabilization of the growth trend.

**Total physical volumes**

From FY2019 to FY2023, there is a continuous growth in the volume count each year among 40 libraries providing physical volumes data, indicating consistent growth in the print materials collection (at average rate of 1.37%). The peak annual growth rate at 1.81% in FY2021, followed by the second highest rate of 1.31% in FY 2023.
Taking a closer look at the total print materials by languages (table 6 & 7), there is an overall trend of steady growth across all language collections. As shown in the chart below, the non-CJK category showed remarkable growth (7.43%) in FY2021, which may warrant further investigation to understand the underlying reasons.

Among Chinese, Japanese, and Korean collections, Korean collections have seen consistently higher growth rates than Chinese and Japanese materials, suggesting a focused expansion in this area. Chinese collections have seen steady but more modest growth compared to the others, which might reflect a more mature collection that requires selective additions rather than broad expansion.
Grand Total Holdings

In terms of grand total holdings among 30 libraries, there has been steady growth in volume in this five-year period, with the highest annual growth rate of 20.50% in FY2020 and the lowest of 0.45% in FY2023.
Figure 10. Grand total holdings by type of materials (30 libraries).

Figure 11. Annual growth rate by type of materials (30 libraries).

Significant growth is seen in this five-year period, with the number of eBooks from 7,211,940 in FY2019 to 16,836,818 in FY2023. The data shows a strong adoption of eBooks in FY2020. The growth rate peaked at 70.66% in FY2020, which is likely a direct response to the pandemic, as institutions pivoted to digital resources to accommodate remote access. The growth of eBooks then dramatically decreased to 36.17%, then over the following years to 3.29% in FY2022, ending at 0.40% in FY2023. The subsequent decrease in growth rate could indicate a stabilization of eBook collections after the initial expansion.
Physical volumes have grown steadily, though modestly, which could reflect ongoing yet conservative investment in physical collections, possibly due to a shift in focus towards digital materials.

Numbers of physical materials in other formats have decreased over the review period, suggesting a possible reevaluation of the types of materials deemed valuable for the collection.

The overall trend shows an increasing reliance on digital resources over time, likely influenced by changing user preferences and the convenience of digital access, especially highlighted during the COVID pandemic. The aggregated totals reflect the combined growth of all materials, with a clear impact from the inclusion of eBook volumes.

Fiscal support

As budget management varies greatly among participating libraries, the number of contributors varies across each section. The graphs for Appropriations, Endowments, Grants, and Program Support display a seamless five-year sequence of data from various libraries and collections, showcasing consistent funding trends over this duration.

Appropriations

The appropriations section features data from 31 libraries/collections with a continuous 5-year data.

![Appropriations Data per Annum from 31 Libraries/Collections](image)

**Figure 12.** Appropriations data per annum from 31 libraries/collections.

The appropriations peaked at $12 million in FY 2022 after a decrease from $11.68 million in FY 2019 to $10.40 million in FY 2021, then slightly declined to $11.78 million in FY 2023, suggesting a response to specific needs during the pandemic with a return to near-normal funding levels thereafter.
Endowments

The section on endowments includes data from 17 different libraries/collections. It includes 7 private libraries/collections, and 10 public libraries/collections with a continuous 5-year data.

![Endowments Data per Annum from 17 Libraries/Collections](image)

**Figure 13.** Endowments data per annum from 17 libraries/collections.

Given that the endowments are not consistently extended to each individual library or collection over a five-year period, the number of participants with five-year data on endowments is smaller than those libraries and collections consistently receiving appropriations over the same five-year span. The endowment saw a drop from $2.05 million in FY 2019 to $1.03 million by FY 2021, likely impacted by the pandemic’s economic effects. There was a recovery in the following years, culminating in a rise to nearly $1.97 million by FY 2023, indicating a post-pandemic financial rebound.

Grants

For the grant, it contains 18 libraries/collections. It includes 7 private libraries/collections, and 11 public libraries/collections with continuous 5-year data.
Considering that grants have not been allocated to each library or collection throughout the five-year period, the pool of participants with five-year data on grants is smaller compared to the libraries and collections that have consistently received appropriations during the same timeframe. The grant funding shows a decrease from $512,090 in FY 2019 to $329,145 by FY 2023, with minor fluctuations in between, indicating a downward trend over the five-year period, possibly reflecting post-pandemic shifts in funding availability or priorities.

**Program support**

Regarding program support, data has been gathered from 9 libraries/collections with continuous 5-year data. It includes 2 private libraries/collections, and 7 public libraries/collections data.
Since program support has not been distributed to every library or collection over a five-year period, the group of participants with five-year data on program support is relatively smaller in comparison to those libraries and collections that have received steady appropriations throughout the same period. The program support shows a slight increase from FY 2019 to FY 2021, a sharp rise in FY 2022 possibly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A decrease in FY 2023, yet still above pre-pandemic levels, indicating a new baseline for the value of program support.

**Total budget**

The total budget comprises both appropriations and fiscal support data (including endowments, grants, and program support), sourced from 31 libraries/collections. It includes 10 private and 21 public entities. These participants have consistently provided appropriations data over five years. While the fiscal support may vary because of diverse reporting practices across libraries, the trend in total budget can still be reliably traced. This is primarily because appropriations form the foundational element of the framework.
The data reveals stable library appropriations over the five-year period, with minor fluctuations. Appropriations started at $11,831,545.25 in FY 2019, dipped in FY 2021 to $10,397,880.33, and then recovered. Fiscal support varied more, peaking at $794,542.00 in FY 2022 but decreasing to $665,839.00 by FY 2023.

**Personnel support**

33 libraries that have contributed data from FY2019 to FY2023 are selected to analyze the condition of personnel support. Outsourcing activities are excluded from this analysis.

The grand total personnel support was the highest in FY2020 and radically declined to the following year, from 359.63 to 287.69. Although the total full-time equivalent (FTE) recovered slightly, the number declined again in FY2023. In addition to the retirement of faculty and staff, several libraries experienced reorganizations and library closures due to renovation in FY2023. Such organizational transformations, along with the associated disruptions, might negatively affect the total FTE.
From FY2020 to FY2021, the total FTE of faculty and staff combined declined from 258.1 to 237.42. The decline is harder for students and “Others (staff in the parent institution significantly involved in processing and servicing East Asian materials or hired for special projects related to East Asian Studies)” as they dropped from 69.71 to 31.12 and from 31.82 to 19.15 respectively. Although the proportion of these FTEs remains small, this implies that the faculty and staff need to cover or drop work due to the loss of human resources.
Public services
City/State level lockdown started in early March, around when the Trump Administration declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020. Most of the university libraries closed their buildings to the public until around early summer. In the Fall 2020, many libraries opened their doors again, but the usage was restricted, which negatively affected their public services.

Presentation and participants
20 libraries that have contributed data from FY2019 to FY2023 are selected for this analysis. The number of presentations and their participants were highest in FY2020. Then both numbers declined in FY2021 and FY2022, most likely due to the fact that many schools offered hybrid courses and libraries operated with space usage restrictions until early 2021. The number of workshops and participants increased in FY2023, reflecting these schools and libraries gradually returned to normalcy. However, the total number of presentations and participants has not returned to the level of FY2019, pre-pandemic period.

![Graph](image)

**Figure 19.** Number of presentations and their participants (20 libraries).

Reference
19 libraries that have contributed data from FY2019 to FY2023 are selected for this analysis.

In general, the numbers were high in FY2019 and FY2020 but radically dropped in FY2021. Although the number slightly recovered in FY2022, it dropped again in FY2023.
Figure 20. Total reference transactions (19 libraries).

Figure 21. Total reference transactions by individual libraries (19 libraries).

Table 21 shows the number of references from FY2019 to FY2023 by those libraries selected for this analysis. Each line indicates a unique library. It is interesting to note that those libraries that have lower reference numbers didn’t experience radical changes while those which had many references experienced radical changes and continued declining in FY2023.
Circulation

17 libraries that have contributed data from FY2019 to FY2023 are selected for this analysis. Needless to say, due to the library closures and usage restrictions, the number of circulations radically dropped in FY2021 and then jumped up in FY2022. The total circulation number in FY2023 is lower than in FY2022.

![Figure 22. Total circulation counts (17 libraries)](image)

Table 23 shows the circulation number of these 17 libraries. Most of the libraries follow the general trend. Some libraries experienced large declines, probably due to the library closure for renovation.

![Figure 23. Numbers of circulation by individual libraries (17 libraries).](image)
Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

14 libraries that have contributed data for both lending and borrowing from FY2019 to FY2023 are selected for this analysis.

![Figure 24. Total borrowing and lending requests filled (14 libraries).](image)

The number of lending hit bottom in FY2021 but showed a steady recovery. On the other hand, borrowing remained low and keeps declining. However, this may be partially due to the change of ILL systems. One library staff member states that they share their storage with other consortium libraries, and when patrons borrow (or request copies) from other libraries’ collections from the shared storage, they are not counted as ILL. The resource-sharing system has changed rapidly; therefore, tracking only the number of traditional ILL services may not effectively reflect more active and diverse resource-sharing.

Conclusion

The preceding analysis has provided a multifaceted view of the trends and shifts in the collections, services, staffing, and financial support of libraries specializing in East Asian studies over a period marked by significant global upheaval. The data indicates a robust expansion of collections, particularly in digital resources, which underscores the libraries’ adaptability to the changing informational landscape and user needs during the pandemic. While physical collections have seen consistent growth, the acceleration in eBook acquisitions notably reflects a strategic pivot to support remote access during periods of restricted physical interaction.

Fiscal patterns have revealed resilience amidst volatility, with endowments and program support demonstrating recoveries posting the initial pandemic downturn. The trend in appropriations and total budgets indicates an adaptation phase, with the potential establishment of new baselines for funding that may carry forward into the post-pandemic era.

Staffing has encountered challenges, evident from the large drop in full-time equivalents (FTEs), and the number has not recovered, indicating that staff shortage has remained.
The Pandemic and lockdown made a large impact on the area of public service as shown in the decline of reference interactions and circulation. The resilience of the libraries is notable, however, as they navigated through closures, space usage restrictions, and transitions to remote and hybrid service models. The recovery in presentations and participants in FY2023 suggests a return to pre-pandemic engagement levels is underway, albeit gradually.

Interlibrary loan (ILL) data reveals a complex picture, with lending recovering but borrowing continuing to decline, potentially indicating a shift in resource-sharing dynamics. This area, along with others impacted by systemic changes and renovations, warrants ongoing observation to understand long-term trends post-pandemic.

In conclusion, the East Asian libraries/collections in North America have not only withstood the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic but have also displayed a significant degree of agility in responding to the evolving needs of their patrons. The growth rates across collections—although variable—highlight an ongoing commitment to expanding and diversifying library resources. The increase in eBook volumes, in particular, points to a strategic shift towards a more digital-forward collection approach. However, the reduction in other materials and the dynamic shifts in funding and personnel support reflect a period of assessment and realignment that may continue to shape library strategies in the coming years.