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INSTITUTIONAL AND MEMBER NEWS

Western Conference, Association for Asian Studies, September 17-18, 1999, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho: Several hundred Asian studies scholars and librarians converged on the friendly campus of Boise State University last September 17-18 to engage in dialogue and discussion of topics relevant to Asian Studies and Asian American Studies. A total of thirty-six panels representing these areas were presented.

A library panel, entitled “So, What Difference Do All These Make?: From Print to Electronic Resources and from Wade-Giles to Pinyin,” was one of these panels. Organized by Ai-Hwa Wu of Arizona State University, the panel was in the format of a roundtable discussion, with three East Asian studies librarians initially reporting on library programs in place and on recent and future developments in library services for East Asian studies. The audience was then invited to join in the discussion. The three presenters were Gail King of Brigham Young University, Zhijia Shen of the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Ai-Hwa Wu of Arizona State University.

Gail King began her report with an overview of recent developments in the fields of Japanese and Korean electronic resources. She also described coordinated efforts undertaken to date Japanese and Korean studies librarians to improve access to resources in order better to East Asian studies users. She prepared and distributed two handouts giving a very useful update on activities of interest and web sites for scholars of Japanese and Korean studies. For example, for Japanese studies, a trial agreement between ten U.S. and seven Japanese university libraries was to begin in October, 1999, for 9 months; Japan Public Opinion Location Library was made available at http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu; an excellent webpage for Japanese newspapers is accessible at http://www.library.umass.edu/subject/easian/shinbun.htm. For Korean studies, a “Best” webpage of select sites arranged by subject is available at http://www.khan.co.kr/best/society2.htm; a Korean version of Amazon.com, at http://www.bookpark.com.

Zhijia Shen gave a brief history of Si Ku Quan Shu 四库全书 and summarized the background and magnitude of the production of its digitized edition, which was issued by the Chinese University Press in Hong Kong since last year. Her library has already purchased a copy of the product’s image version. The database can be searched by character as well as by pinyin. A library needs to have both the image version of 175 CD-ROM disks and the full-text version of 10 disks to reap the full benefit of the database.

Ai-Hwa Wu covered the developmental stages and the present and future plans of the Library of Congress and other libraries in North America for switching from using Wade-Giles to pinyin scheme for romanizing Chinese language records. She also identified and delineated some of the major problems that would be expected with the switch. She encouraged the audience to keep informed with the progress made of the switch by contacting the librarians at their own institutions. The audience was further reminded that their awareness of this coming event would better prepare them for the change.

Several concerns were expressed and several questions were raised by those in attendance. These questions included what guidelines for pinyin word division have been adopted by libraries, and which romanization scholars should begin using for citing references or preparing a bibliography for
inclusion in their works. A question was also asked about the Gateway Service Center of Chinese Academic Journals offered by the East Asian Library of the University of Pittsburgh, and all were encouraged by what this free-of-charge document delivery service could do especially for Chinese studies scholars.

(Ai-Hwa Wu, Arizona State University)

New Chinese Studies Librarian at Duke University: Ms. Zhaohui Xue has a joint appointment as Chinese Studies Librarian for Perkins and the Library at the Law School at Duke University. Ms. Xue has been working at Perkins for several years, first as Reserve Manager and then as Gift Manager. Prior to that, she was Deputy Direct, Office of Archive Bureau, Sichuan Province China. Her publications include (with Zhongren Zhang) The Management of Township Archives in China (in Chinese) (Beijing: China Archive Press). She holds a B.A. in Chinese history from Fudan University in Shanghai; a Certificate in Archive Management from Sichuan Province, and an M.L.S. from the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University. Her telephone number is 919 660-5803 and her email address is Zhaohui.Xue@duke.edu.

(Kristina Kade Troost, Duke University)

Article on Qiu Kaiming: Readers will be interested in the article 袁开明与哈佛燕京学社汉和图书馆 by Zhang Xiang 张翔 on Qiu Kaiming and his career at Harvard-Yenching Library that appeared in Tushuguan zazhi 图书馆杂志 1999 No. 8 (Vol. 18, No.8): 47-49.