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From the President

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From The President

While we are busy preparing for our Annual Conference in Toronto in March, thanks to the work of our beloved editor Gail King, the Table of Contents of the new issue of JEAL is on my laptop screen and it is the time for me to write the president's message again.

Thinking about what CEAL has accomplished in 2016 and what it will face in 2017, I believe the contents of our coming annual conference with its theme of "Challenges and Opportunities: East Asian Librarianship Today and Tomorrow" will be beneficial to our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the CEAL Executive Board for their insightful advice, suggestions, and, most importantly, truly dedicated and innovative work during the process of forming the conference program.

Reviewing the contents of this JEAL issue, specifically, "The CEAL Statistics 2015-2016 For North American Institutions Collected and Compiled by the CEAL Statistics Committee", reminds me of the huge contributions made by many of our members working behind the scenes, who collected and managed these important data sets. These data sets represent our achievements and show our professional relevance in a measurable way. So my gratitude goes to everyone who has been working and contributing all these years and a special thanks to Vickie Fu Doll, the Statistics committee chair, for her leadership in organizing and managing the CEAL statistics. You have made our profession more distinguished.

Finally, in this issue the report by Ellen Hammond titled "Innovation Grant Report" will shed a brief light on the unprecedented grant program. The CEAL/Mellon Innovation Grant Program, led by Ellen and supported by our members, is the first of its kind in CEAL history and has led to some of the most innovative projects in our field. These projects epitomize some of the newest challenges and opportunities for our profession. We plan to give a more detailed program on these projects in our 2018 annual conference.

2016 was an eventful year. 2017, with more challenges, is already here. Let's meet our challenges and grab our opportunities.

Jim Cheng
CEAL President