

## CEAL STATISTICS 2008-2009:

### AN OVERVIEW

The Council on East Asian Library (CEAL) Statistics is an annual publication of statistical data on East Asian libraries and museum collections. The statistical data includes volumes held, volumes added gross, serial title count, other materials holdings, electronic resources, fiscal support (appropriations, grant and program support), staffing, and services in North America.

Dr. T. H. Tsien (Tsuen-Hsui Tsien, Professor Emeritus, U. of Chicago) published the first of his many collections of statistics in 1959<sup>1</sup> for 1957 data on Holdings of Far East Materials in American Libraries. Twenty (20) collections (8 in the East, 4 in the Midwest, 7 in the West, 1 in Canada) were included in the 1957 survey. Dr. Tsen's leadership in systematically surveying East Asian library resources and publications expanded through the early 1980s.

In 1988 the Task Force for Annual Review and Survey of Library Resources, then chaired by Min-Chih Chou (Cornell), assumed responsibility for the annual CEAL survey and publication. Online data collection and dissemination of CEAL Statistics began in 2000.

In 2010, the database includes more than 50 years of East Asia collection data from 1957 to the present with an average of 50 member libraries participating annually. Of the 51 member libraries in 2008-2009, 48 are university libraries (44 US, 4 in Canada), plus three others: Library of Congress, a museum, and a private research library.

Altogether, the total of East Asian materials for the fifty libraries that reported data for the 2008-2009 CEAL statistics, including eBooks, was 20.6 million (20,560,813). This is 95% more than the 1999 total collection, and 1.14% more than 2008.

It should be borne in mind that since the number of participating libraries varies from year to year, the CEAL total collection may not show a positive growth rate each year (See Table 1). There were in all 19 libraries which did not participate in 2008-2009 survey but which had participated at times in the past. If the last reported collections of those libraries are added in from 1999 to 2008, the CEAL total collection with interpolated data is 22,037,346 of 69 institutions, or 109.08% compared to 1999 collection size.

Overall the collection growth in the past ten years was tremendous and the growth is between 95% to 109%. With or without the interpolated data, the average growth for the period as a whole is over 100%, and total collection size has doubled compared to 1999.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Library Quarterly 32:1 (1959).

<sup>2</sup> In his "Special Reports, East Asian Library Resources in America: A New Survey" T. H. Tsien stated, "The growth of library resources in the East Asian collections indicates a trend toward doubling the total size every ten years since 1930," *Asian Studies Newsletter*, 16:3 (1971): 2. The growth rate has slowed down since the 1970s. With affordable lower cost eBooks, and library space issues, the entire CEAL collection will grow rapidly with eBook acquisitions in this new decade despite reduced collection budgets.

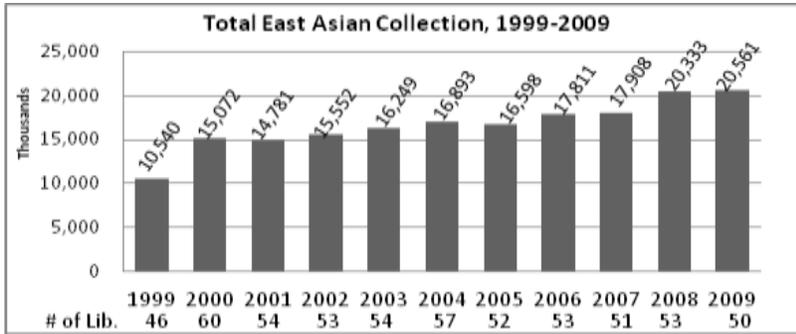


Table 1

The breakdown of the composition of the 2009 CEAL total collections is illustrated in the chart below. EBook statistics have been included since 2007-2008. The growth in 2008-2009 of ebooks in the 26 libraries that reported ebooks was 6.5% over the previous year and is 9% (1,746,396 vols.) of the 2009 total collection. Total holdings of other materials is 4% (914,137) of the collection. Physical volumes still dominate the total collection at 87% (17,900,280) (See Table 2). By funding types, 16 U.S. private universities held 39% of CEAL total collection; 24 U.S. public universities held 40%; 3 U.S. non-universities held a total of 15%; 4 Canadian universities held 4% of the CEAL total collection (See Table 3). [Note: 50 libraries reported collections but only 47 libraries reported fiscal support data.]

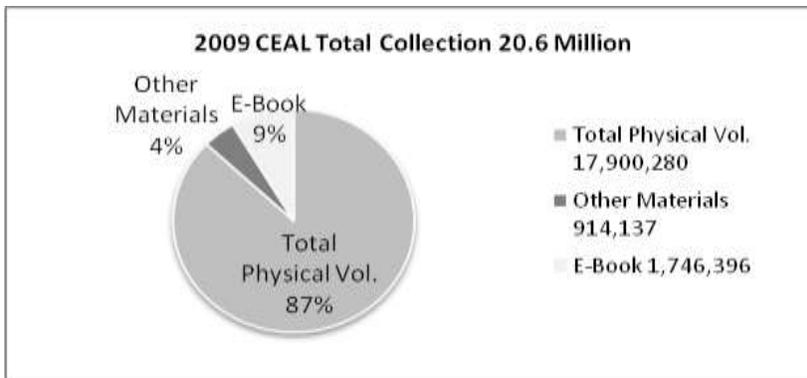


Table 2

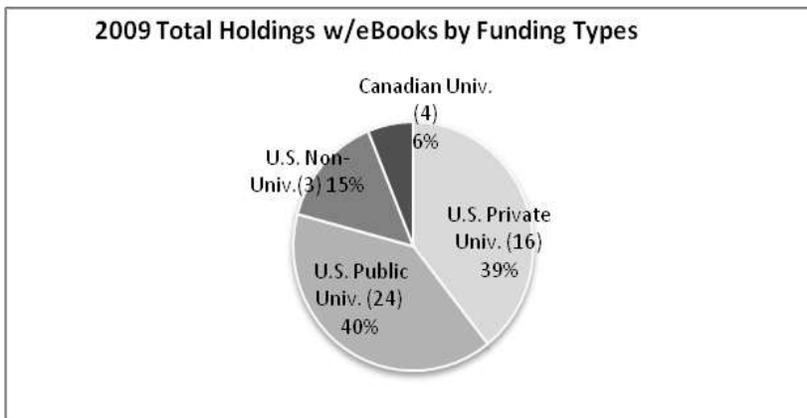


Table 3

The total 17,900,280 physical volumes by language includes 9,505,946 Chinese (53%); 5,689,687 Japanese (32%); 1,282,193 Korean (7%); and 1,422,454 Non-CJK languages (8%) materials (See Table 4).

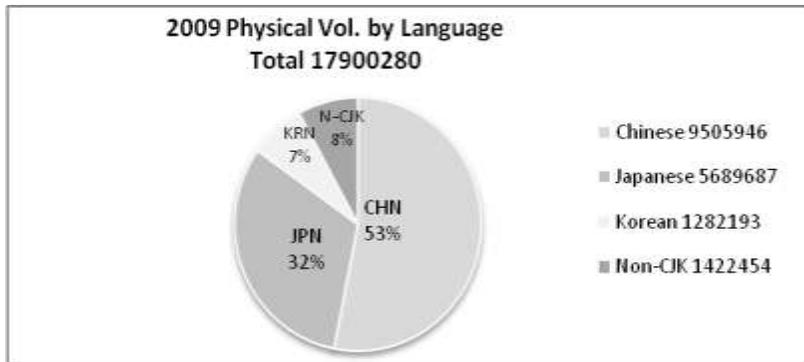


Table 4

Total fiscal support for 47 reported libraries in 2008-2009 was almost \$17 million compared to 41 libraries reporting \$9 million in 1999 (See Table 5). About 74% of the budget came from parent institutions, 22% from foundations and endowments, and about 4% from institutional program support. [Note: one library reported one total figure without breakdowns.]

CEAL 2008-2009 budget support was about 4% of the ARL \$4.1 billion total for 123 libraries in 2007-2008. In spite of the U.S. economy downturn since 2008, CEAL 2008-2009 support increased 4.25% compared to 2007-2008. In 2008-2009, 16 reporting private academic libraries with a total of \$8.86 million (\$8,864,459.40) accounted for about 52.2% of total reported CEAL fiscal support. Those private academic libraries have had moderate growth for the last three years, +10.07% (2006-2007), +7.00% (2007-2008) and +2.61% (2008-2009) respectively.

Twenty four (24) reporting public funded university libraries had fiscal support of \$6 million (\$6,008,738.16), or 35.38% of CEAL total fiscal support. Unfortunately, they have had three consecutive years of budget reduction, -0.72% (2006-2007), -4.67% (2007-2008), and -0.68% (2008-2009).

The three reporting U.S. non-university libraries had a total support of \$1.2 million (\$1,191,560.00) or 7.02% of CEAL total fiscal support. Similar to the public university libraries, their budget was reduced in the last three years at -8.42% (2006-2007), -10.03% (2007-2008), and -38.53% (2008-2009) each year compared to the previous year. The others are 4 Canadian universities which represent 5.41% of CEAL fiscal support with a total fiscal support of \$0.91 million (\$917,956.48) (See Table 6).

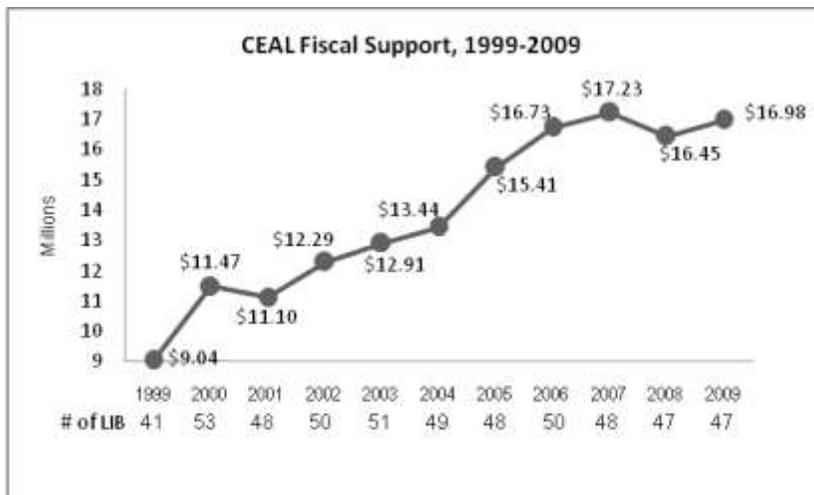


Table 5

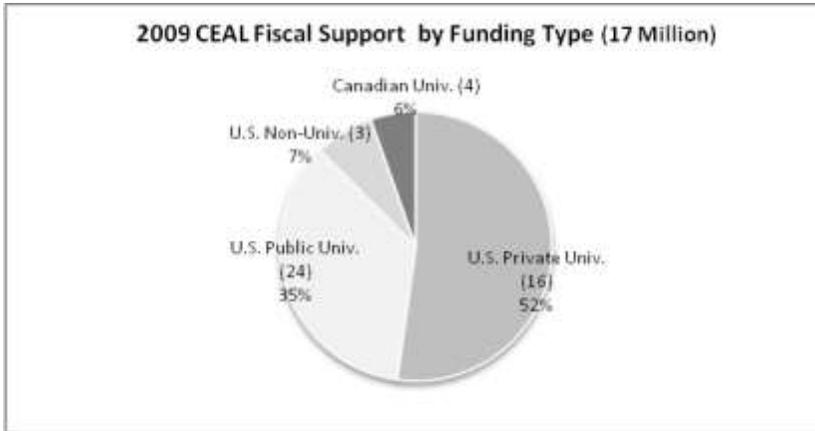


Table 6

Fifty one (51) collections reported a total of 460.61 full-time FTEs. These include 168.18 professionals (37%), 162.43 para-professional or clerical members (35%), 70.94 student assistants (15%), and 59.06 others (13%) (See Table 7). Total FTEs decreased 19% in 2008-2009 compared to 2007-2008. The decline from previous years includes many regular retirements (and early retirements), position reductions, personnel budget cuts (including student budget), and the popularity of outsourcing (See Table 8).

Among 51 reporting libraries, 8 had outsourced cataloging/processing during the reporting year, and 3 had outsourced both cataloging/processing and acquisitions. The working force has shifted to vendors and other contract cataloging and OCLC Technical Processing services in recent years.

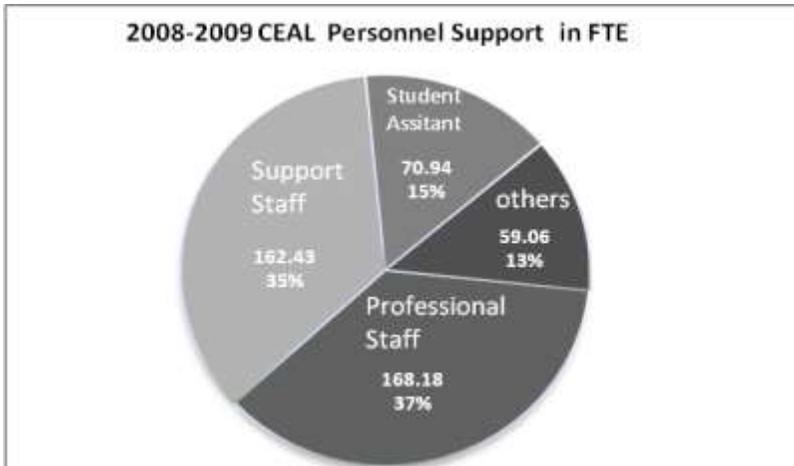


Table 7

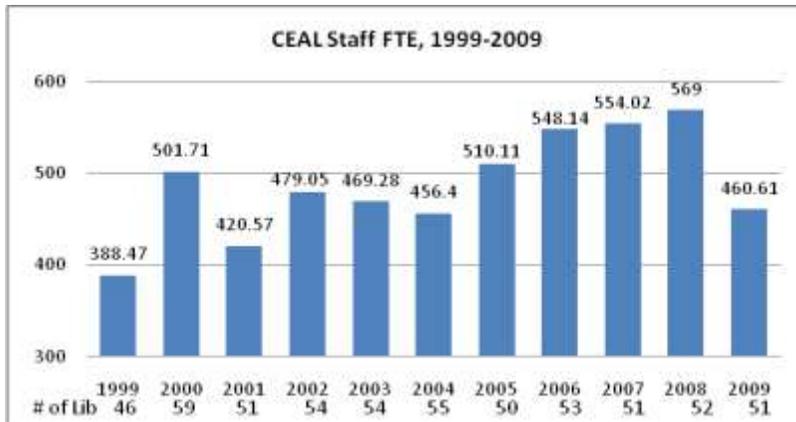


Table 8

Interlibrary loan activities grew rapidly during the last decade. However, in 2008-2009, 19 reporting libraries' lending dropped 14% to 17,659 from 20,626 in 2007-2008. While accessing of electronic resources continues to increase vastly, borrowing activities remain stable. CEAL ILL transactions by 19 reporting libraries had an average 3 to 1 ratio of lending to borrowing (See Table 9). The need for returnable materials (books, DVDs, microforms) for East Asian studies is still large.

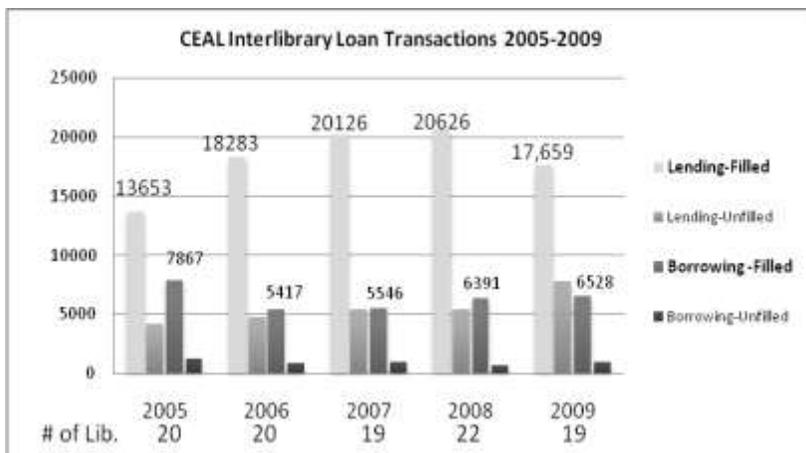


Table 9

Enhancements to the CEAL Statistics Database for the coming year have been in progress. System programming was changed right before 2010. All online forms were redesigned with side-by-side instructions with links to access the last five years data for reference. A new feature for data verification provides green check marks to verify sub-total and total cells; orange exclamation marks appear as a warning of all inaccurate subtotal and total cells. The new program allows more flexibility to run reports in the Excel spreadsheet, and footnotes can be included in all reports.

At top of the member page, a new link provides the survey coordinator with a combined table view of all the data they have input through the online forms. This additional view allows the coordinator a quick view of what has been entered without clicking through each form.

Data interpretation in Table 5, Serial Titles: Purchased and Non-Purchased titles, was modified in accordance with ARL serial title changes. Two categories are collected: purchased and non-purchased, all in title counts. For purchased titles, the instruction is to "report the total number of unique serial titles, NOT SUBSCRIPTIONS, that you currently

acquire.” It includes “Electronic serials acquired as part of a bundle or an aggregated package should be counted by title, even if they are not cataloged, as long as they are made accessible by the library.” Non-purchased titles include gifts, ceased titles, cancelled titles, titles in microform, and titles in collection but not “purchased” in the reporting year. New cells have been designed for electronic journal titles for the coming year. Refer changes to *ARL Statistics: Redefining Serial Counts and Remaining Relevant in the 21st Century* (<http://www.arl.org/bm-doc/rli-262-stats.pdf>).

Several quick views were added to Additional Information on the password access member page. Besides the previous CEAL Statistics Ranking page, members can have access to Quick Views pages for My Institution; Yearly Statistics and Growth of Materials Rate; Fiscal Support (annual accumulated and median); Fiscal Support Yearly Statistics and Growth Rate; and Detailed Views of CEAL Statistics Data. The detailed views contain original and derived statistical data that is not readily available in the public portion of the website, such as rate in percentage of change and CEAL median. It is also possible to view data change over a period of time starting from 1957 to the current reporting year.

CEAL Statistics annual survey needs your participation and support for the collected data to be useful. It is the place for your own collection, staff, and service data to be stored, archived, and made accessible with no cost to member libraries. Through the CEAL Statistics online, the public and CEAL members can access 50 years of East Asian collection data, study the collection development history, budget trends, collection growth, personnel, and service information.

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