Golden Vision
50 Years of the University of Kansas East Asian Collection

Kansas E. Asian Collection

• 1950s Collection established
• 1963 E. Asian Librarian appointed
• 1964 East Asian Library founded

Collection Stats

• 267,600 volumes (2007)
• 1300 periodical titles in print
• 1200 DVDs and VCDs
• Many core web-access databases

The largest East Asian Collection in the Great Plains region (west of Chicago and east of California).
Contents Overview

- The Kansas East Asian studies program
- Collection strengths and history
- Notable librarians
- Current trends and the need for cooperative effort among medium-sized East Asian collections in North America

Kansas Programs History

- 1958: National Defense Education Act (NDEA) Title VI program started
- 1959: KU Oriental Languages and Cultures Department established
- 1961: KU Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) founded

Purpose of NDEA

- To “insure trained manpower of sufficient quality and quantity to meet the national defense needs of the United States.”
- Federal government supported the education of specialists in various disciplines of foreign languages and area studies, and later expanded this support to international education at all levels.

Libraries Established in 1960s

- 1961 Brown, Iowa
- 1962 Chinese Lib Am (S.F.), Ohio State
- 1963 Michigan (E. Lansing)
- Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina
- 1964 Washington U.-St. Louis
- 1965 Illinois, Minnesota, Oberlin, Rochester
- California-Davis, Dartmouth, George
- 1966 Washington, St. Johns
- California-S.B., Florida State, Miami,
- 1967 Oregon
- San Diego, Duke, Indiana, Maryland, others Nebraska, S. F. State, Washington Sate

Kansas East Asian Programs

- East Asian language, culture, history, religion, and political diversity with a concentration on medieval and pre-modern periods of China and Japan; especially history, art history, literature, religion and cultural history of traditional East Asia.
- The study of contemporary East Asia has been added to the traditional East Asian studies since the early 1980s

Kansas East Asian Programs

- Interdisciplinary courses in political science, communication, business, and international law were offered since 1980s in addition to those already existing disciplines in studies of modern East Asian societies to allow more applied employment beyond the training of area specialists for teaching and advanced research.

University of California, Berkeley
Vickie Doll Oct. 19, 2007
Since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, additional emphasis on international and global studies produced strong interest in multidisciplinary studies with connections between scientific and humanistic inquiry across traditional cultural boundaries.

The program has particular strengths in East Asian art history, history, languages and cultures, and theater and film, and is expanding its offerings in contemporary politics, Chinese as a second language certificates, and East Asian legal studies.

Provide the most effective knowledge and information service possible to current and future user needs, and provide and develop access to information and collections as a regional, national and international research resource.

• Content - What Is collected?
• Process - How Is it collected?
• Outcomes - What is the result for the users?

• History, art history, language and literature, philosophy and religion, and sources for the study of social science in the modern period.
• It is particularly strong in the study of the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties (1260-1912), the study of China’s Republican period (1912-1949), the social and economic conditions of post Cultural Revolution China (1975-), and the history of modern China.

History of the Tang, Song and Yuan (960-1368), and Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1912) for art history studies. The collection includes works of individual painters especially of the Yuan and Ming dynasties, museum and exhibition catalogs, biographies and writings of the literati painters, art criticism and historical works on paintings.

Buddhist paintings in studies of Dunhuang mural paintings and history of Chinese calligraphy from the early period of the 6th century to the 10th century are of particular strength.
Chinese Collection

Bruno Schindler (1882-1964) Collection

• 296 titles in over 1300 volumes which concentrate on the thirteen classics of pre-1800 publications.

Chinese Collection

Bruno Schindler (1882-1964) Collection

Some titles in this collection were once collected by the famous German Sinologist August Conrady (1864-1925) whose collector seal “A.Conrady孔好古印” was found in *Yugong zhuizhi (禹貢錐指)*, 1705, among others.

Rare Materials

Rare books in East Asian languages are collected by the Spencer Research Library Special Collections.

Korean-Chinese manuscript sutra *Dafang guangfo Huayanjing* (大方廣佛華嚴經) which was dated 1325.

Chinese Collection

Robert Hartwell (1920-1995) and Marianne Colson Hartwell Collection

One thousand titles of Chinese classics and pre-modern dynasty histories (Tang, Song, and Yuan 618 A.D.-1368 A.D.) and economic history through all dynasties.
Japanese Collection

- Strengths in Japanese art history, modern Japanese history, classical and modern literature, theater and drama.
- Film, anime and comics for popular culture and interdisciplinary studies have added more depth and variety.
- The collection has been supported by external funds and generous private donors.

Japanese Collection

Harold P. Stern (1922-1977) Collection

- Over 1,000 titles of Japanese and Chinese art and art history materials.
- Japanese ukiyoe paintings and hanga.

Japanese Collection

- Art history Ph.D. programs
- Paintings from the medieval to the pre-modern period of Japan covers major picture scrolls produced between the Heian, Muromachi, and the Azuchi-Manoyama periods (794-1603).
- Edo (Tokugawa) period (1600-1868) paintings and Ukiyoe woodblock prints.

Japanese Collection

Japanese history

- Meiji to early Shōwa supports the MA and Ph.D programs
- Socialist/Communist movement with original and reprint issues of journals and monographs published in the 1920s and 1930s
- Japanese Leftwing movements before and after World War II
- Materials on Taiwan, Chōsen (current South and North Korea), and Manchuria (Manchukuo) under the Japanese occupation

Japanese Collection

Japanese popular culture

- Manga and anime
- "In Godzilla’s footsteps: Japanese pop culture icons on the global stage," an international conference on Godzilla held in 2004 at KU.
“The strengths of a library depend first and foremost on its staff, collections and computer power. All these strengths could be united for sharing to create synergy.”

Karl Lo, “CJK, the byte that breeches the dam,” OCLC CJK Users Group 20th Anniversary Celebration, April 8, 2006 (San Francisco, 2006).

Karl’s reports showed his
- Passion toward building the library’s collection
- Excitement in acquiring rare titles
- Cordial collaboration with faculty
- Friendly communication with the library leadership ensured the quality and quantity in growth of the collection.
“Twentieth Century China: Viewed in the First Issues of Some Lesser-Known Periodicals”

• What does it take to make a good collection unique?
• Should a librarian save published work during a time of turmoil with whatever he can get in hand?
• How much added effort should a librarian take to preserve endangered human records for the future?

With his Cantonese accent and his intelligent bright-eyed face, he once said, “Kansas has some treasures (hao dong xi 好東西).” He was all smiles when talking about Kansas treasures in the early 2000s, even after 30 years away from KU. Among his special accomplishments was acquisition of the Schindler Collection in 1965.

Lo had a classical literary writing style with profound sinological training and excellent penmanship. For years, KU EAL staff have came across his hand written cataloging cards made in the 1950s and early 1960s which reflect his upright personality. He wrote every report, letter, and memo as if telling an interesting and important story.

In 1967 he proposed a five-year development plan which exemplified his vision and direction in building the library a step further to reach 100,000 volumes in the collection.
• He was innovative and visionary, with a generous heart to create benefit for all member libraries
• He served on the CEAL Membership Committee in the mid 1960s and never stopped CEAL public service even after his retirement from UCSD in 2002

Advocated for:
• CEAL library technology since 1960s on bibliographic control
• East Asian scripts in online environment (EACC and Unicode)
• Unimarc and beyond MARC
• IP rights

• Much loved and respected by faculty and library colleagues at Kansas during his tenure
• Remembered as a leader with vision and drive
• One who aspired to build a collection into a position of regional and national leadership
1970-1990s

- 1973 discontinuance of NDEA support was extremely detrimental.
- Rampant inflation in Asia, the general shortage of paper products, and the increasing cost of labor forced East Asian book prices up an unprecedented rate.
- A combination of the U.S. currency devaluation and withdrawal of government support caused diminution of the library's purchase power by nearly 70%.
- The library collection growth became smaller despite generous increase in state support.

East Asian Collections Pattern

- 110,169 1st time publication of Chinese books in 2005
  - KU collected only 3% of new Chinese titles published in 2005
- Approx. 80,000 new titles published in Japan in 2006
- Few libraries have the ability to purchase more than 10% of new publications
- What we have been collecting, and will continue to collect in the future, reflects the research and teaching needs of faculty and their graduate students.

Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries

- In their 2006 report, Mary E. Jackson, Connaway, O'Neill, and Loh analyzed ARL member library cataloging data in the OCLC WorldCat database and presented several findings on changing patterns of foreign publication collection practices, including East Asian publications.
  - "All countries combined, fewer than five ARL libraries own copies of any foreign-imprint book represented in WorldCat" the overlap in holdings ranges from three to six ARL libraries.
  - "On average, three ARL libraries hold any given East Asian book and six hold any given book published in Latin America."
  - When they examined imprints from China and Japan and other 8 countries, "On average, holdings from these countries decreased in each of the five-year increments between 1980 and 2004, with the exception of books published in the UK that showed a slight increase."

Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries

"On average, three ARL libraries hold any given East Asian book and six hold any given book published in Latin America."

Is this statement correct?
The above table shows 12 collections with holding sizes above 500 thousand, 11 collections between 200 thousand and 499 thousand, and 8 collections between 130 thousand and 189 thousand. With fewer collections, the size difference in East Asian ARL libraries is greater than the size difference in ARL western language holdings. The top collection is almost 1/6 of the entire 31 collections combined. Therefore, many unique items are held in a few top libraries. These figures distort the East Asian imprint duplication rate of 3. Duplication of items selected from vendor new book catalogs is common among libraries in present days. The data combines all East Asian CJK imprints. The data does not represent specific languages, however, a growth pattern can be seen in almost four 10-year increments between 1964 and 2006.

Conclusion: Challenges to East Asian Collections

- 1950s It was critical for the nation’s lack of understanding of other nations, including East Asia.
- The KU East Asian studies and library collection were founded to support area studies mission.
- Since the end of the Cold War, area studies have struggled through conceptual debates over program definitions and usefulness for national security.
- The traditional study of critical borders, countries, civilizations, history, art, and etc. have been challenged by new identities and nationalism.

Conclusion: Challenges to Area Studies

- Area studies programs to adopt new emphases and directions.
- New trends have been motivated by new funding directions.
- Shift area coverage from specific countries or regions into “inter-area,” “cross-boundary,” “multi-disciplinary” and “transnational” coverage.
- Issue-driven topical studies have expanded to include international, global, and specialized areas not previously covered.

Mention of relevant staff in that field would require the acquisition not just of more of the relevant Chinese language materials, but also of items in Mancha, Uighur, Tibetan, and Mongolian.” —John Dardess, KU Ming Historian

On average, three ARL libraries hold any given East Asian book”
Conclusion: Challenges to Area Studies Librarianship

- Conferences include those in 1995 and 1997 held at Indiana University.
- 2005 Yale Conference and Forum on Global Resources Network (GRN).
- 2006 the Center for Research Libraries and LC Workshop on Developing Collections for International Studies.
- 2006 the Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries.

What new directions are needed for East Asian collections? What are the challenges of collecting resources and preserving the future relevance of East Asian collections?

Conclusion: Challenges to East Asian Collections

Examples of some successful projects
- AAU/ARL/North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) Global Resources Program Japan Journal Access Project
- The University of Pittsburgh’s East Asian Gateway Service for Chinese and Korean Academic Journal Publications
- Portal to Asian Internet Resources (PAIR)

East Asian Successful Global Resource Projects
- Can these East Asian languages collections be treated as an integrated global collection in future collection development?
- Can the multiple copies held by many countries be treated as one global collection with many circulated copies?

Conclusion: Challenges to East Asian Collections

CEAL Statistics
- 2006 fiscal support for North America East Asian collections was 10 million USD.
- A total collection growth from 1964 (30,772,218) to 2006 (16,562,329) is 13,485,111 items, about five times more than 1964 total holdings.

CEAL Committees Collaboration in Collection Development:
The Korean Collection Consortium of North America and the NCC Japanese materials consortium

CEAL language materials committees could collaborate on strategies that eliminate unnecessary duplications to enable libraries to specialize on in-depth collection of materials that might otherwise never be collected and preserved for study.

Growth between 1964 and 2006

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Libraries

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Conclusion: Challenges to East Asian Collections

CEAL Committees Collaboration in Collection Development:

Collaborated collection development can be especially useful for individual scholars.

Electronic resources significantly facilitate global research in East Asian studies. But commercially driven e-resources from East Asia have high prices and quality issues. Government funded scholarly e-resources from East Asia are not available to medium-sized East Asian libraries in North America. Consortia and library organizations have the opportunity to address these concerns of medium and smaller sized libraries.