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# CURRENT STATUS OF EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS IN AMERICAN LIBRARIES 1979/80 (Final Report) 

## BY

CEAL Task Force on Library Resources and Access Chairperson: Thomas C. Kuo (Pittsburgh) Members: James K. M. Cheng (Chicago) Naomi Fukuda (Michigan)

## INTRODUCTION

The new study of the East Asian collection in American libraries was conducted by CEAL Task Force on Library Resources and Access from September 1980 to the fall of 1981 . A preliminary report was published in CEAL $^{\text {C }}$ Bulletin No. 67 (February, 1982). This is the final report.

Like the 1974/75 survey, this study provides new data on the current status of resources, growth rate, geographical distribution, acquisitions, tecinnical processing, fiscal support, personnel, unit capabilities and cost, and automation from 88 collections ${ }^{2}$ in the United States, 3 in Canada, and 1 in Latin America.

Among the collections surveyed, 65 are in college and university libraries, 6 in federal libraries, 6 in public libraries, and 15 in museums and special libraries. The sizes of these collections are radically different; the largest has a collection of over one million volumes, 17 hold between 100,000 and 500,000 volumes, 47 have 10,000 to 100,000 volumes, and 27 have only 1,000 to 10,000 volumes (Table 1).

## HOLDINGS AND RESOURCES

As of June 30, 1980, the total holdings of the 92 collections were $3,130,780$ titles in $7,926,960$ volumes. ${ }^{3}$ Among them $1,678,100$ titles (in $4,698,697$ volumes) are Chinese; $1,286,183$ titles (in $2,829,604$ volumes) are Japanese; 131,881 titles (in 276, 784 volumes) are Korean, and 46,440 volumes are Manchus, Mongol, Tibetan, and other East Asian languages (Table 1 \& Tables 7/9). Due to the inconsistency of measurement criteria among the collections and other difficulties, Western language materials are not included in the tabulation.

86 of the 92 collections have Chinese materials with holdings over 1,000 volumes, 79 have Japanese materials over 1,000 volumes, 27 have Korean materials over 1,000 volumes. Counting by titles, the total holdings of the 92 collections are $53.6 \%$ in Chinese, $41 \%$ in Japanese, $4.2 \%$ in Korean, and $1.2 \%$ in other East Asian languages. Counting by volumes, 59.3\% are in Chinese, 35.6\% in Japanese, 3.4\% in Korean, and less than $1 \%$ in other East Asian languages (Table 1). This indicated that in the past five years, Korean language materials had increased in greater percentage than Chinese and Japanese materials.

As for current periodicals, the total holdings are 45,231 titles: 33.4\% in Chinese, $49.8 \%$ in Japanese, 10.5\% in Korean, and less than 1\% in other East Asian languages (Tables 7/9). Chinese periodicals, however, have increased significantly since the survey because many newly published periodicals in PRC have become available in the last few years.

## GROWTH AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

During the 5 -year period of 1976/80, the total increase of the 92 collections was $1,224,000$ volumes, averaging an annual increase of 244,000 volumes, but an $8 \%$ drop from the previous 5 -year period (Table 2). The downard trend is the inevitable result of rapidly rising cost. For instance, the average cost per volume of East Asian book was $\$ 6.70$ during the previous period, but had risen to $\$ 10.26$ in 1976/80, an increase of more than $30 \%$ (Table 6). More than two-third of the total increase was assignable to the 20 larger collections, which in fact also hold more than two-thirds of the total resources in American libraries. Their average annual acquisitions ranged between 5,000 and 29,000 volumes while the remaining collections added from less than 100 to 3,000 volumes during the same period (Table 4).

It is still true that the geographical distribution of the East Asian Library resources generally coincide with that of AAS membership. In other words, more than $90 \%$ of the East Asian library resources and almost the same percentage of the membership of the AAS concentrate in the New England-Atlantic coast area, the Mid-Western area, and the Pacific area. As a result, the Mountain region and the South Central are less represented.

ACQUISITIONS, TECHNICAL PROCESSING

Even though the acquisition has declined during the 1976/80 period, the technical processing was further behind. During this period, only 229,082 of the 245,000 volumes acquired were cataloged (Table 2). This means that the yearly backlog of the new acquisition was some 6\%. Thus, at the end of this period, 105,324 titles in 325,794 volumes were uncataloged (Table 4). For selection and acquisition, the average capability rate per person (including the non-professionals) is 2,950 volumes a year (Table 6). Based on this analysis, an average bibliographer, assisted by a non-professional, acquired between 3,500 and 4,000 titles (in 5,000 to 6,000 volumes) per year. Compared with the previous period, the acquisition unit capability remained unchanged.

The average cataloging rate per person in this period had gone down significantly when compared with the previous period (1971/75) - from 1,000 titles (in 1,600 volumes) to 715 titles (in 1,103 volumes) per person. The exact reason for the decline is not known, but two areas may provide some answers. First, different collections may compute in different fashions. Second, the number of catalogers had declined by $7 \%$. According to the current standard, one professional cataloger assisted by one clerical worker, could process an average of 1,500 titles (in $2,500 / 3,000$ volumes) a year.

LC printed catalog cards were still the most important tool in cataloging. According to this study, the adoption of LC printed cards varied greatly from collection to collection - $10 \%$ to $95 \%$ used it for cataloging Chinese materials, 30\% to 100\% for Japanese, and $26 \%$ to 100\% for Korean (Table 4). The average rate is 54\% for cataloging Chinese materials, $69.9 \%$ for Japanese, and $69.6 \%$ for Korean, and $64.5 \%$ for all languages. Comparing with the report of the previous period (1971/75), the utilization of LC cards has increased in all languages.

## PERSONNEL

There were 438 full-time equivalent (FTE) librarians working in 62 of the reporting collections in 1979/80. This figure included 204 FTE persons working with Chinese materials (46.57\%), 164 with Japanese (37.44\%), 31 with Korean (7\%), and 39 with other East Asian languages (9\%). 81 FTE person (18.5\%) were involved in acquisition, 191 (43.6\%) in technical processing, and 167 (38\%) in public services. 233 (53\%) of the total staff were professional librarians, and 205 (47\%) were supporting personnel (Table 5). The size of the staff of individual collections also varied greatly: the largest one, namely, the Library of Congress, had 75 full time staff while the smallest collection employed only one person. Some 12 major collections employed between 10 and 30 FTE.

During this period, there were only 19 professional openings (Table 5), which is less than half of the vacancies in the field some ten years ago. Needless to say, this was the impact of budget restrictions.

FISCAL SUPPORT AND UNIT COST

During the $1976 / 80$ period, there was only a moderate increase in financial support for East Asian collections. The total expenditures of all reporting collections were more than 38 million dollars, which is only 4 million dollars more than the earlier period. This increment is less than one-third of the $1971 / 75$ increase ( 14 million dollars) over the 1966/70 period. The average annual cost of materials was 2 million in $1971 / 75$, and slightly over 2.5 million in $1976 / 80$, showing a $27 \%$ increase. The average annual expenditure for personnel was 4.5 million in 1971/75 and 5 miliion in 1976/80, showing a $11 \%$ increase. However, there was a $74 \%$ decrease in other items, such as equipment, supplies, postage, telephone, travel, and others (Table 3). Compared with the 1971/75 period, the sources of revenue from the institutions as well as the foundations showed a downward trend; but the fiscal support from the government had doubled (Table 3). There is no doubt that inflation has caused the acquisition programs to decline - $25 \%$ decrease in Chinese materials, and 33\% in Japanese materials (Table 2).

The unit cost of materials for $1979 / 80$ was $\$ 9.88$ per volume for Chinese, \$21.37 for Japanese, and $\$ 8.72$ for Korean, with an overall cost of $\$ 14.25$ per volume. The unit cost of acquisition was $\$ 5.83$, and the unit cost of cataloging was $\$ 14.50$ per volume or $\$ 22.39$ per title, making the total processing cost at $\$ 20.53$ per volume (Table 6). Therefore, the total cost of material, acquisition, and cataloging was $\$ 34.50$ per volume. Based on these figures, the ratio between material cost and operating expenses was $1: 11 / 2$. In other words, for every dollar spent on material, one and one half dollars was spent on salary.

## CONCLUSION

Professor T. H. Tsien characterized the state of the $1971 / 75$ period as "a general state of stagnation and retrenchment."4 At the writing of this final report, the development of East Asian collections in American libraries had declined. Almost all collections have decreased their acquisitions. Most of them not only maintained their status quo, but left some vacancies unfilled. That was ${ }_{5}$ why so few vacancies were posted during the entire period under studied. ${ }^{5}$

Perhaps more profound problems other than the East Asian collections themselves command serious consideration. The area study programs, particularly East Asian studies suddenly became a popular academic program in many universities in the 1960s because of the massive NDEA and other financial support from the Federal Government and private foundations. As a result, many new East Asian collections were created and the old ones strengthened. However, the Federal Government's action created a phenomenon rather then actual aid. As Professor T. H. Tsien printed out, "although the outside funding in support of the libraries has been about $10 \%$ of the investment, the encouragement in the form of matching or developmental fund stimulated the institutional initiative." 6 In the early 1970s, the NDEA programs were suspended and private foundations also restricted their grants. Those changes definitely reoriented East Asian study programs toward a non-expansion stage. Thus East Asian collections progressed from stagnation to declination.

There is no doubt that the 8 million volumes of East Asian materials in American libraries is the best outside of East Asian countries. How they will be maintained, developed, and used would not be the decision of East Asian librarians alone. Scholars in the field and the vision of the administrators of the related universities will play a significant role in characterizing the future of those collections.

As for the operation and technical services, it is the responsibility of East Asian librarians to improve and solve many of the related problems, such as cooperation among East Asian collections in acquisition and resource sharing to improve unit capabilities and costs, preservation and conservation, better training of East Asian librarianship, and automation for East Asian collections. Those questions had been raised by Professor T. H. Tsien in the $1971 / 75$ study, 7 but 1ittle had been done in the past five years.

In this changing time, the most important and urgent matter is the promotion of automation for East Asian collections. Because of the efforts of the Research Library Group, Inc., some East Asian collections had already taken action. Other would follow suit in time. Nonetheless, some basic questions still remain unanswered. For instance: to what extent will the East Asian libraries of various sizes adopt the RLG? In what situation would a collection need its own data base to convert its catalog cards and other bibliographical information into the automation system? How does the RLG system relate to other automated systems of the university library? How to define the goals, style, format and sequence of user instructions with online catalogs? How to predict the yearly cost of the RIG system which seems to fluctuate significantly? Perhaps those questions can be answered only by East Asian librarians who are also information science experts.

1. The Task Force on Library Resources and Access was appointed by CEAL Chairperson in September, 1980. Its original plan was to publish a preliminary report in the summer of 1981 , but regrettably the report has been delayed until the spring of 1982 because some questionnaires were not returned until the fall of 1981. In addition, due to the lack of financial support, all details had to be worked out by Task Force members.
2. Among the 91 collections in the United States that reported for the previous study, 7 collections did not report this time, and one jointly reported with another collection of the same institution. On the other hand, 5 collections which did not report last time did this time.
3. The average ratio between title and volume is $1: 28$ for Chinese materials, $1: 2.2$ for Japanese, $1: 2.1$ for Korean, and 1:2.5 for all languages.
4. Tsien, Tsuen-hsuin. Current Status of East Asian Collections in American Libraries, 1974/75. Washington, D.C.: Center for Chinese Research Materials, Association of Research Libraries, 1976. P.6.
5. Table 5.
6. Tsien, Tsuen-hsuin. P.7.
7. Ibid. PP.7-8.

## TABLES

1. Holdings of East Asian Materials in American Libraries as of June 30, 1980
2. Growth of East Asian Collections in American Libraries, 1869-1980
3. Fiscal Support of East Asian Collections in American Libraries, 1965-1980
4. Acquisitions, Cataloging and Arrearages of East Asian Materials in American Libraries, 1979-1980
5. Personnel Support of East Asian Collections in American Libraries, 1979-1980
6. Unit Capabilities and Cost of East Asian Materials and their Processing
7. Current Status of Chinese Collections in American Libraries, 1975-1980
8. Current Status of Japanese Collections in American Libraries, 1975-1980
9. Current Status of Korean Collections in American Libraries, 1975-1980

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| of nos. | (23,000)* | - | - | - | - | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Herask | 3,500 | - | - | - | - | - | - |  | : | : | : | : |  |
|  |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - - |  |
|  |  | - |  | - |  | $\square$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | (460) | 1.19 | 1.50 | 2 |  | ${ }^{2}$ | 2.80 | $:$ | $:$ | ${ }^{2}$ | 2.50 4. 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | : |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Caroltas | ${ }^{43,617}$ ( |  | 2.00 | 2.093 | 1.33 | i.2s | 0.6 | 2.40 | 0.3 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 2 | 2.104 .10 | i |
| aberis |  | 4.1 | $42!$ | i.1s |  | $0.70$ | ; | 0.10 | $\therefore 1$ |  |  | - |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0.40 |  |  |  |  | - | - |  |  |  |
|  | 13,419 | 1.70 | , |  |  | is) |  |  | - | - | , | 0.78 1.75: |  |
|  | -0,470 |  | 1,71) | 0. ${ }^{(1)}$ | 2.4) | (c.73) | (1.1) | (1.12) | 1 |  | ? | $0.23{ }^{2.25}$ | : |
| Prtabich | 9.976 | 2, 814 | 2,20) | 2 | 2 | 2.50 | 3.75 | 1.73 | - | 1 | 4 | 2.30 4.80 | : |
| rrioction | 17, 19 | 13,13, | 6.15 | (2.0) | (4.) ${ }^{\text {a }}$ ) | (1) | (1, ${ }^{0}$ ) | (4.8) | (0.10) |  | 1.40 | 1.70 16.10 | - |
| cormatior | . 41.412 | 319 | is | (0.6) | (0.4) | (1.6) | (1.02) | (1.02) | - | (0.31) | 0.35 | 2 2.51 | - |
| corse Dont.m. | . 10.118 | 318 | 160 | 0.4 | 0.43 | 0.96 | 0.50 |  | 0.5 | 0.50 | ? | 0. 50 2.50 | - |
| misaert itero st . | P0, $(5,3)$ | 2,700 | 2.18 | 0.50 0.80 | 0.23 | 0. 0 | 0.1 | 0.15 | : | : | 0.3 | 0.72 | - |
| lee Pres, 3 S. | (6, $0 \times 0$ )* |  | , | 0.20 | 0.23 | 0.1 | 0.31 | 0.35 | $:$ | $:$ |  | 0.210 .6 |  |
| Ic. Joma. | ${ }^{4, \infty}$ | 1.380 | 3.423 | -0 | - | - is | - | - | $\bigcirc$ | - | - | - - |  |
| Costester | - 24.3000 | 1,112 | ${ }_{1,48}^{1+12}$ | 0.07 | 0.41 | 0.13 | 0.43 | 0.26 | 0.16 | : | 0.23 | 0.60 0.4) | - |
| cotote Dopt.LIV | - $3.48000 \times$ | 1.050 | 1.60 | : |  | ? | 2. 6 | 0.5 | : | : |  | 1 3 | : |
| Tesat | 46,676 | 3,084 | 3,460 | 0.70 | 0.45 | 1.10 | 1.15 | 1.80 | . |  | 1 | 1.45 2.45 | : |
| torcato. | ${ }^{160,767}$ |  | 1,60s | 1.15 | 6.80 | 3.15 | 3.13 | 4.75 | 1. 0 | 2. 0 |  |  | - |
| Mristates (3y | 30, say* | - |  |  | b |  | , | - | $\cdots$ | 2.8 | - | - | : |
| Tar 2.412. | 266,203 | 1,4*6 | 1.204 | 3.20 | , m | : | 6.80 | s.so | 2.40 | 0.10 | , | 10 13 | - |
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| (St. Lesto) | 13,74 | 1, $\times 1$ | 1,391 | 0.0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| maniogton |  | 1, $\times 1$ | 1,301 | 0.80 | 1.0 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.60 | - | - | 1 | 4 | - |
| seste. | 2,5004 |  | - | - |  | (2) |  |  | - |  | - |  | - |
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|  | riger | froe provion | ces repert | at mer | -dats. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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thate 6


table 7
Current status of chinese collections in american libraries
1975-1980

table 8
Current status of japanese collections in american libraries
1975-1980


Thate

1913-1040

| Hintry | boldinge <br> Kome. <br> Yelumes | $\int_{\text {xiarefore }}^{4}$ |  |  | 197-140 | Cunlexa/ 17\%/RO |  | Pratelepay |  | Haffion |
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|  | 30 20 | : | 1 | $:$ | , | - | : | , | (10) | 0.10 |
| As. Art Mes.) |  | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | , | (10) | 0.01 |
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| Irown |  | 25 | 3 | 3 | 211 | ${ }^{203}$ | 42 | - | : | 1 |
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| lean Disege. |  | : | , | (3) | -1) | $\because$ | (192) | (6) | ${ }^{(120)}$ | - ${ }^{(1)}$ |
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| Ceorgetowe | 130 | 18 | , | ; | 100 | 3 | 100 | , | , | : |
| Larverdetanchina | 43,413 | 2,396 | 129 | 2,202 | 2,043 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marverd Lav | (530) | is |  | 7.202 | ${ }^{2.083}$ | 1,88) | 2,132 | $\cdots$ | 30 | 3.7 |
| tioueoto | 22.072 | 37 | 208 | 1,119 | 1,233 | 796 | 1.033 | (500) | 1,000 | 1.25 |
| Hoover | - | - | - | - | - | : | : | : | $\checkmark$ | - |
| ${ }^{11115014}$ | 1,340 | - | 10 | 19 | 11 |  |  | : | : | : |
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| cates Div. | 58.011 | 78 | 1.492 | 4. 321 | 3,133 |  |  | 12 |  |  |
| Pat F . Lav | 6,200 7,846 | 2 | 32 | ${ }^{301}$ | + 368 | 9 |  | 12 | $\cdots$ | ${ }^{1.80}$ |
| Les. Ang. P.LIt. | 5,848 | : | 36 | 92 68 | 1.768 762 | 40 | 636 262 | (13) | 150 | 2.10 |
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| Kotrop, Mis. ( $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{Y}$, ) Kextco | 7.) ${ }^{13}$ | : | : | 3 | 20 | 20 | 20 | , | , | 0.31 |
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| Sorth Carolins | 162 | : | is | $i$ | io | , |  |  |  |  |
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| Mriscatoe |  | 27) | " | 29 | 236 | - | - | 100 | 900 | 0.10 |
| Mocheater mas. | 141 | - | $\stackrel{3}{2}$ | ; | - | - | - | - | - |  |
| Eutgert M. | $4 \infty$ | : | ${ }_{17}^{2}$ | ? | 30 | , | , | 26 | (32) | 0.80 |
| ten Diego Btet. | : | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | : |
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| St. John's. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ Seette | - | - | - | $\cdots$ | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| hetee luall | - $\begin{array}{r}260 \\ 800\end{array}$ | $:$ | $10^{1}$ | ${ }_{100}^{20}$ | ${ }_{10}^{29}$ | 88 | ${ }^{24}$ | ${ }^{21}$ | ${ }^{27}$ | (0.16) |
| teete Dept. Lib. | $(100)$ | - | , | 10 | 0 | 8 | $1 \infty$ | : | : | : |
| Texst | 304 | - | i | - | - | - | - | - |  | - |
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| vasisictos (sumte) |  | (2) | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - |
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| Per m. Lib. | 24,225 $(1,300)$ | 162 | $\stackrel{80}{-}$ | 1,573. | 1.716 | (200) | (400) | (3, 111) | (9,000) | 2.60 |
| Waehington | 10 |  | , |  |  | - | - |  |  |  |
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