Supporting Research Across East Asian Studies: Findings from a Large-Scale Qualitative Study

CEAL PLENARY SESSION
MARCH 21TH, 2018
WASHINGTON DC
Introduction

- The unprecedented research focus on Asian Studies coordinated by Ithaka S+R
- 11 US institutions participated in the research
- 29 librarians for Asian Studies and 12 librarians for East Asian Studies participated in the research
- 169 faculty members have been interviewed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Institutions</th>
<th>Participating Librarians</th>
<th>Librarians' Area of Focus</th>
<th>Total Faculty Interviewed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>Raphy Gabbard</td>
<td>Southeast Asian Studies</td>
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<td>Claremont Colleges</td>
<td>Xiuying Zou</td>
<td>Asian Studies</td>
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<td>Carrie Marsh</td>
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<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>Ramona Islam</td>
<td>Curricular Design and Research</td>
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<td>Kuniko McVey</td>
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<td>Michael Hughes</td>
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<td>University of Maryland, College Park</td>
<td>Cynthia Sorrell</td>
<td>Assistant Head, Collection Development</td>
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<td>Yukako Tatsumi</td>
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<td>University of Colorado Boulder</td>
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<td>Judith A. Henchy</td>
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<td>Azusa Tanaka</td>
<td>Japanese Studies</td>
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Number and Percentage of Faculty Interviewed by Geographic Area of Study

- **East Asia**: 108, 64%
- **South Asia**: 29, 17%
- **Southeast Asia**: 27, 16%
- **Middle East**: 3, 2%
- **Central Asia**: 1, 1%
- **Asia**: 1, 1%
- **Asia**: 1, 1%
Number of Faculty Interviewed by Country of Study

- China: 59
- Japan: 30
- India: 21
- Korea: 14
- No specific country: 9
- Philippines: 7
- Indonesia: 6
- Pakistan: 4
- Thailand: 4
- Vietnam: 4
- Iran: 2
- Myanmar: 2
- Bangladesh: 1
- Cambodia: 1
- East Timor: 1
- Ottoman Empire: 1
- Taiwan: 1
- Tibet: 1
- USSR: 1
Local Reports

- Arizona State University https://repository.asu.edu/items/46520
- Claremont Colleges http://scholarship.claremont.edu/library_staff/60
- Harvard University https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/34956564
- Indiana University http://hdl.handle.net/2022/21920
- Lafayette College http://hdl.handle.net/10385/2288
- Trinity University https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/lib_faculty/92/
- University of California, Los Angeles https://ucla.box.com/v/UCLAreportDraft
- University of Colorado Boulder https://scholar.colorado.edu/libr_facpapers/107
- University of Maryland, College Park https://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/20510
- University of Texas at Austin http://hdl.handle.net/2152/62941
- University of Washington http://hdl.handle.net/1773/41351
Research Practices of Scholars in Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder

Xiang Li, Chinese & Asian Studies Librarian

Key Findings
● More Complex and Multifaceted Information Needs
● Scholar as Collector
● Conservative Adoption of Digital Research

Main Recommendations
● Collection Development
● Library Services
Findings 1: **More Complex and Multifaceted Information Needs**

- Increasing research interests on Asia from all disciplines
- Scholars draw from a variety of disciplines to do their research
- Research has become larger in scope and more complex
- Growing emphasis on cross-cultural analysis and cross-national perspective
Findings 2: **Scholar as Collector**

- Materials purchased from overseas bookstores
- Photocopied materials that were interlibrary loaned
- Materials produced while visiting Asian libraries or archives
- Data collected while conducting field work
Findings 3: Conservative Adoption of Digital Research

- Digital materials are widely accepted and sometimes preferred
- Digital discovery tools are highly valued
- Digital Information management tools are in low adoption
- Digital research methods do not appear to be widely utilized
Main Recommendations: **Collection Development**

- Revise the collection development policy to better support interdisciplinary and multicultural studies
- Encourage scholars to purchase materials for the Libraries during their research trips to Asia
- Encourage scholars to donate their personal collections to the library
- Continue to advance Interlibrary Loan service and enhance borrowing partnerships, especially with libraries in Asia
Main Recommendations: **Library Services**

- Develop training programs on digital research methods specific to Asian Studies
- Work with graduate students to develop digital humanities projects in Asian Studies
- Provide information and/or training on information management and preservation, including those for print and digital resources
- Provide support for identifying and adopting citation management tools that best address Asian Studies scholars’ needs
The Claremont Colleges Asian Studies Faculty Research Practices

Key Findings and Recommendations

Xiuying Zou, Head of the Asian Library
Carrie Marsh, Director of Special Collections and Libraries
The Claremont Colleges: **Institutional Setting and Asian Studies**

- A **consortium** that combines the specialization, flexibility, and personal attention of a college with the resources of a university
- Asian studies deeply rooted in the curriculum
  - One of the earliest Asian studies program among liberal arts colleges
- Rigorous research output along with great emphasis on course development, teaching, and high-touch student engagement
- The Asian Library: Renewed focus and support to Asia studies
Claremont Findings: **Research Focus & Methods**

- Balancing teaching and research in a liberal arts college context
  - Magic wand: “lighter course load”

- Research focus
  - Some ‘traditional’ textual translation and analysis
  - Many intercultural, interdisciplinary

- Research method
  - Some discipline-driven
  - More interdisciplinary in scope and methodology
Claremont Findings: **Information Access & Discovery**

- **Importance of primary sources**
  - “I can’t do anything without going to archives”

- **Liberal arts setting**
  - Not expecting library to own specialized Asian materials they need for their research projects

- **Concern with lack of Asian primary sources**
  - Perspectives are limited even missing in the sources available

- **Acess to primary sources**
  - Heavy reliance on ILL
  - Heavy reliance on traveling to foreign archives
Claremont Findings: Dissemination Practices

- Traditional channels and practice
  - Peer reviewed; academic

- OA channel
  - Support in theory /concept; concerns

- Importance of dissemination to general public and interest
  - “Go beyond just talking to each other; get this information out”

- Importance of making research accessible to Asian scholars
  - Obligation to bridge the “information divide”
Claremont Findings: **State of the Asian Studies Field**

- Expanding in subjects and regions
  - “Rethink what is Asia, what is Asian Studies”

- Challenges
  - Stay focused; limited access

- Opportunities
  - Changing student demographics in Asian Studies class
  - More cross region/country, multidisciplinary projects
  - Rise of digital humanities projects
Recommendations: The Claremont Colleges

- Partner with other subject librarians and strategize ways to meet the disciplinary research needs of Asian Studies
- Proactively connect the collections to faculty research projects and highlight the projects that use Asian Library materials
- Involve faculty in digitizing the library’s unique and rare Asian materials, and make the digitized collections accessible online to the worldwide community of scholars
- Creating and strengthening relationships with libraries and publishers in Asia in order to increase resource sharing in support of faculty research