

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

CEAL PLENARY SESSION
MARCH 21TH, 2018
WASHINGTON DC

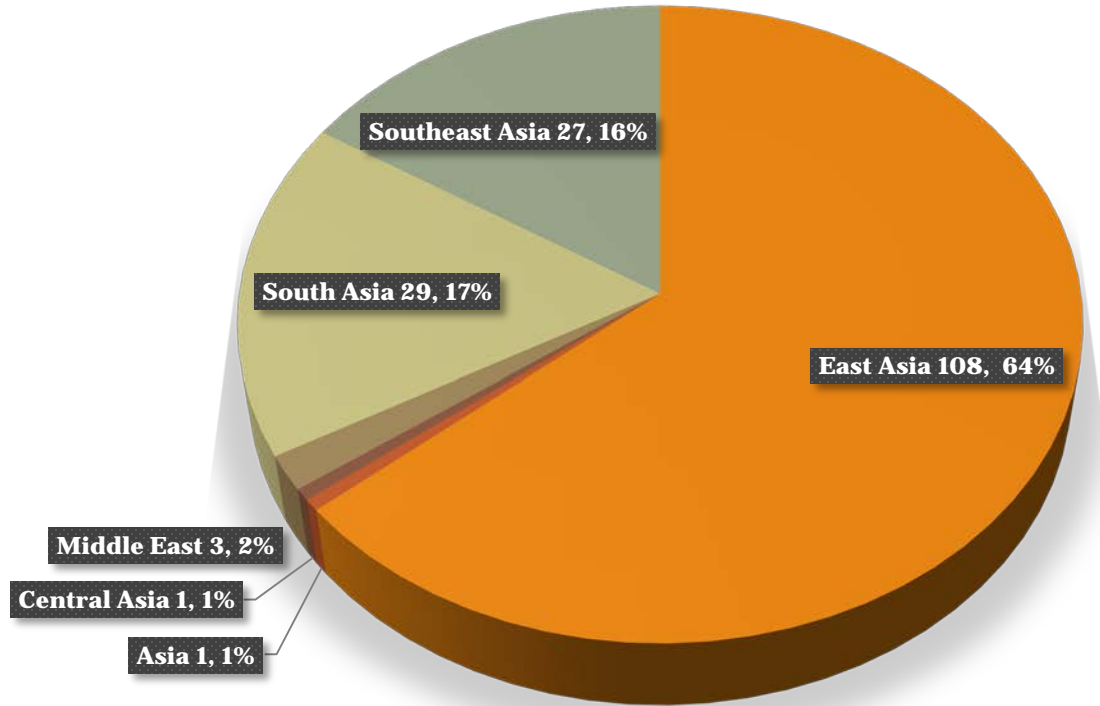
Introduction

- 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

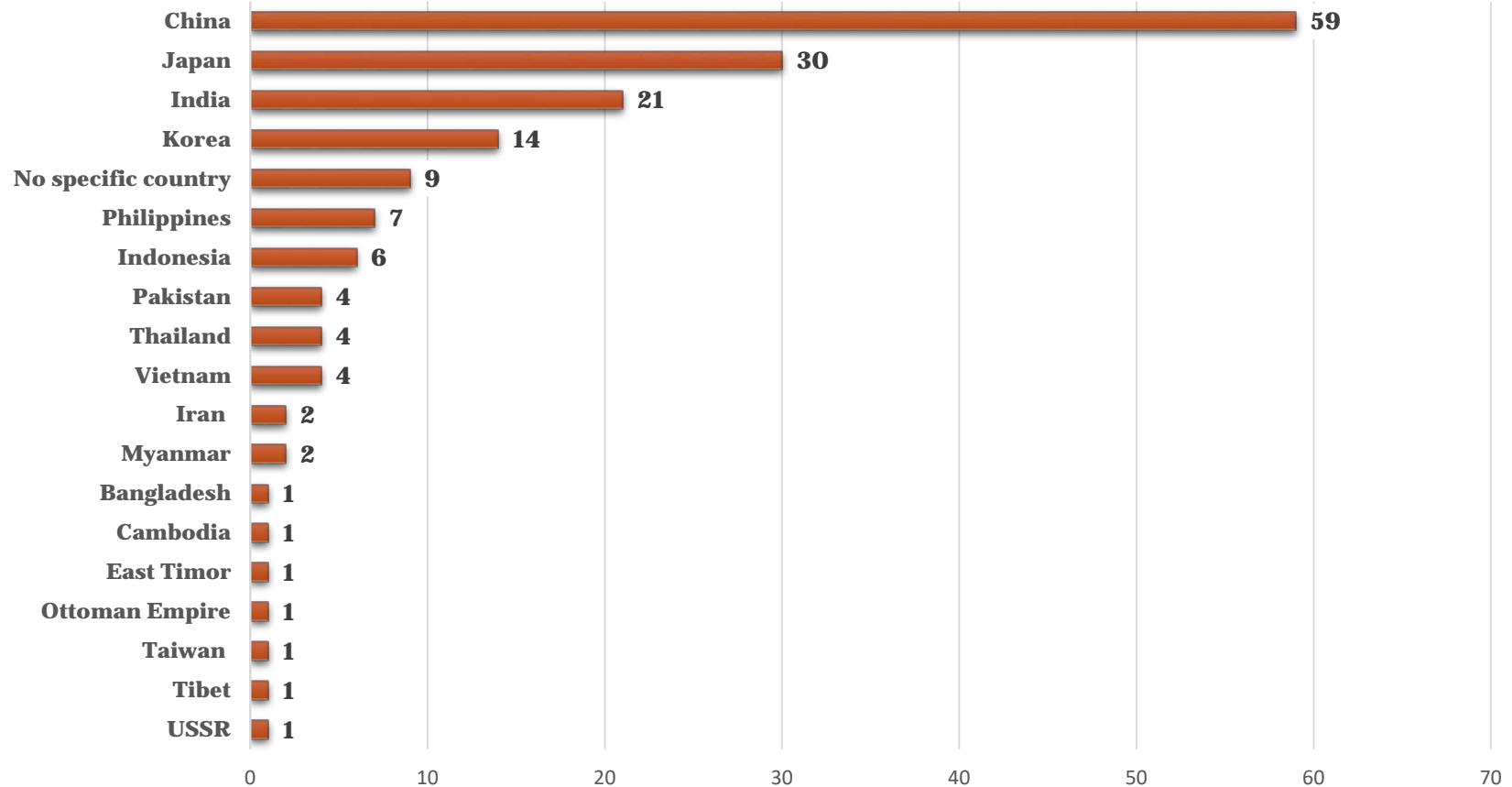
Research Team

Participating Institutions	Participating Librarians	Librarians' Area of Focus	Total Faculty Interviewed
Arizona State University	Raphy Gabbard	Southeast Asian Studies	15
Claremont Colleges	Xiuying Zou	Asian Studies	16
	Carrie Marsh	Special Collections	
Harvard University	Ramona Islam	Curricular Design and Research	16
	Kuniko McVey	Japanese Studies	
	Michael Hopper	Middle East Studies	
	Richard Lesage	South and Southeast Asian Studies	
Indiana University	Karen Farrell	South and Southeast Studies	11
	Brian Winterman	Information Literacy & Assessment Librarian	
Lafayette College	Lijuan Xu	Asian Studies	6
	Post-doctoral fellow	Instruction	
Trinity University	Michael Hughes	Instructional Librarian & Assistant Professor	9
University of Maryland, College Park	Cynthia Sorrell	Assistant Head, Collection Development	13
	Yukako Tatsumi	East Asian Studies	
University of Colorado Boulder	Xiang Li	Asian Studies	12
University of California, Los Angeles	Su Chen	East Asian Studies	34
	Jade Alburo	Southeast Asian Studies	
	Hong Cheng	Chinese Studies	
	Sanghun Cho	Korean studies	
	David Hirsch	South Asian Studies	
	Tomoko Bialock	Japanese Studies	
University of Texas at Austin	Mary Rader	South Asian Studies	15
	Bonnie Brown Real	Collection & Research Assessment	
	Meng-fen Su	East Asian Studies	
University of Washington	Judith A. Henchy	Southeast Asian Studies	24
	Zhijia Shen	Chinese Studies	
	Deepa Banerjee	South Asian Studies	
	Hyokyoung Yi	Korean Studies	
	Azusa Tanaka	Japanese Studies	

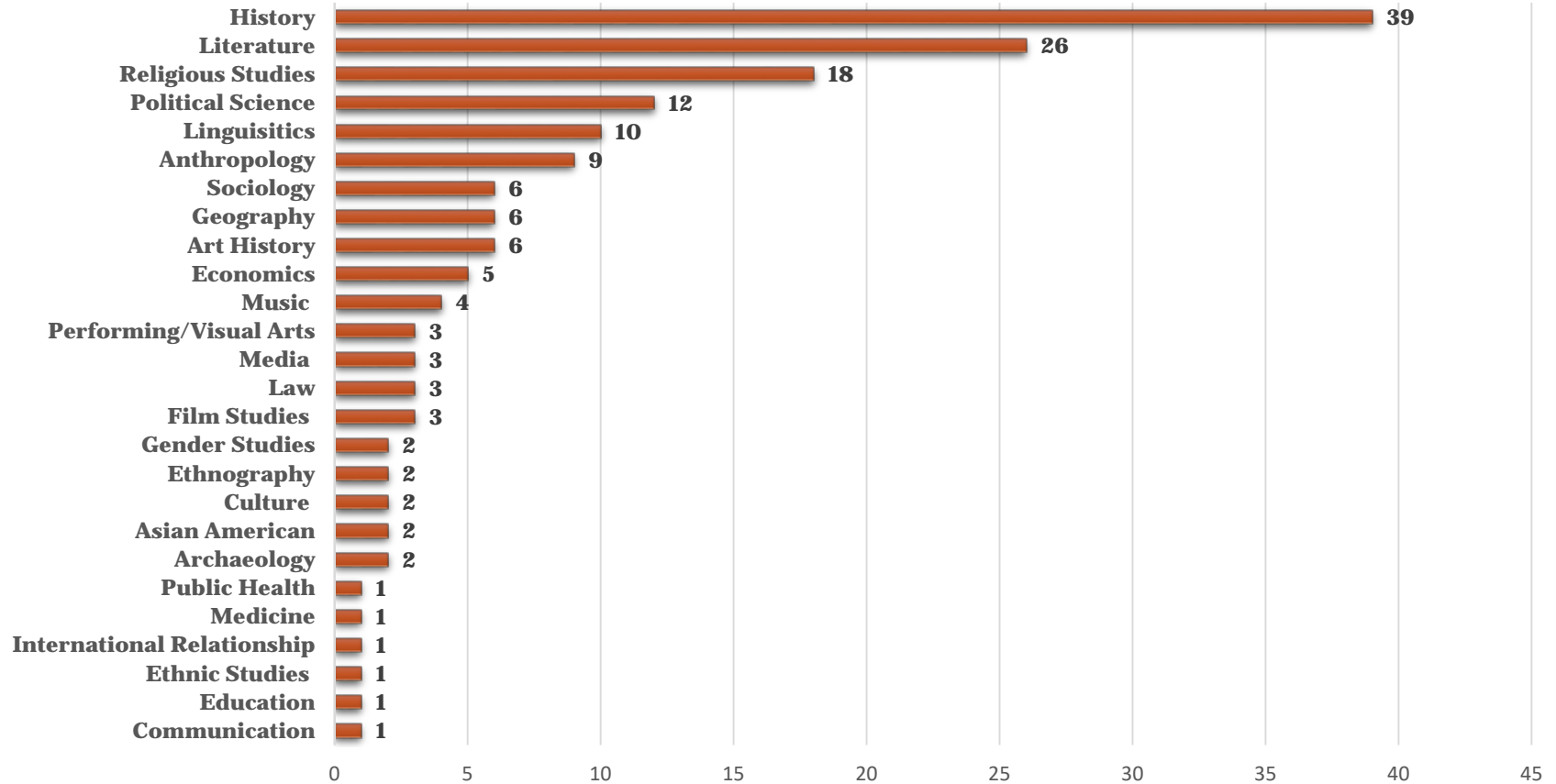
Number and Percentage of Faculty Interviewed by Geographic Area of Study



Number of Faculty Interviewed by Country of Study



Number of Faculty Interviewed by Discipline



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



University of Colorado
Boulder **Libraries**

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

**DIGITAL
RESEARCH**

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
- **Access 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