

CEAL Committee on Chinese Materials Annual Report 2011-2012

Summary of activities

Prepared by Susan Xue (Chair)

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I. Introduction

This report covers activities of the CEAL Committee on Chinese Materials (CCM) from March 2011 to March 2012. In its first year of the committee cycle, the CCM has formed its membership, organized the annual sessions successfully, and started several initiatives.

II. Committee Membership

A CEAL election took place in early spring 2011. Susan Xue became the Chair of the Committee on Chinese Materials at the conclusion of the 2011 CEAL Annual Meeting. The formation of the committee membership immediately followed. Many librarians expressed interest in serving on the committee. The Chair selected the committee members, following the principle of a broad and balanced representation, in consideration of geographical location, specialty/research interests, size of Chinese collections, and length of membership in CEAL. The following members were selected and approved by the CEAL Executive Board:

Vickie Doll 傅玉波 (University of Kansas)

Tang Li 李唐 (Yale University)

Ming-sun Poon 潘銘燊 (Library of Congress)

Zhijia Shen 沈志佳 (University of Washington)

Ping Situ 司徒萍 (University of Arizona)

Haihui Zhang 張海惠 (University of Pittsburgh)

III. Committee Annual Programs

The Committee aims at continuing to organize programs at annual meetings to highlight trends and developments in areas of Chinese materials, and present strategies in dealing with challenges brought by those developments. Committee members consulted with CEAL members randomly to solicit ideas and issues that Chinese librarians were interested, to prepare for 2012 annual programs.

In the summer 2011, committee members brainstormed on CCM programs 2012. It was decided that the CCM would organize two sessions – the regular annual program and a forum on digital Chinese content, an event organized by previous CCM that should be resumed. Responded to suggestions of many CEAL members, the forum would be presented by librarians instead of vendors. For the annual program, the theme was agreed upon as *Collection Development for Chinese Studies in Digital Age—Challenges and Strategies*. For the forum, committee members selected six electronic databases that had been released in recent years and not yet purchased by many libraries. The goal of the forum was to share the evaluation and experience of these newly-published databases with the community and provide reference to colleagues who were interested in these databases. Vickie Doll's study on libraries' affordability of electronic databases provides an overview of libraries' budgets and the necessity of consortia purchases.

A call for presentations was sent to the Eastlib in September 2011. Several proposals were received. CCM members reviewed all of them and selected five proposals covering issues ranging from overall publishing trends on Chinese materials, new library business models for ebooks, collecting Non-Chinese materials from China, patron driven acquisition, to cooperation and collaborations between CALIS and East Asian Libraries in North America. Two of the proposals were revised with extensive feedback from the committee members.

The annual program and the forum on digital Chinese content were held in Dominion Ballroom South, Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel on March 14 and 15, 2012. Both programs are available at <http://www.eastasianlib.org/ccm/Program2012.html>.

IV. Committee Activities

Major CCM activities during March 2011 – March 2012:

- a. Brainstormed on activities of CCM in 2011-2012 (April – June). Several initiatives were discussed including 1) CCM webpage maintenance and development. 2) Create a restricted discussion forum/wiki/email list that is not available to vendors, so we could discuss issues related databases, prices etc. 3) Cooperative activities with overseas libraries. One thing was to get Chinese studies librarians to participate in rare book training classes run by the National Library of China. 4) What we could do in collaboration among libraries for getting experts to evaluate rare books, particularly for small/middle libraries? (all members)
- b. Brainstormed on the theme for 2012 annual program (June – September). Several themes were discussed: 1) National consortia for digital resources: feasibility, existing models (Korean resources, Academia Sinica), how to do/who would lead, negotiations, any other issues. 2) How to deal with enormous amount of new publications from China (329,000 new titles in 2010)? Shared print collection? E-books? Develop special collections only? Coordination between libraries? What or any existing models? Best practices in book selections? 3) Rare book evaluation/digitization projects: issues, concerns, practices. (all members)
- c. CCM website update and maintenance throughout the year. The website was updated and the regular maintenance has been operated; the annual programs were uploaded on time. (Tang Li and Susan Xue)
- d. Responded to some CEAL members' suggestion, created a closed online forum for internal discussions related to database purchases and other issues concerning only Chinese studies librarians. (Tang Li)
- e. Approached to Mr. Zhang Zhiqing, Deputy Director of the National Library of China (NLC), to discuss how CCM could help in NLC's overseas rare book survey project (August, Susan Xue).
- f. Contacted Ms. Wang Honglei, Manager of Training Group, Rare Book Protection Center of the National Library of China, to seek possibility for overseas Chinese librarians to participate in NLC's rare book training program. (July – August, Susan Xue)
- g. Contacted Mr. Chen Ling, Deputy Director of CALIS, to discuss possible areas of cooperation and collaborations between the China Academic Library & Information System and East Asian libraries in North America. (September – November, Susan Xue)
- h. Planning and preparation for CCM annual program in March 2012 in Toronto. (January – March, all members)

V. Functions within CEAL

CCM Chair represents the CCM in the CEAL Executive Board. In 2011-2012, the Chair provided input with regard to CEAL business, including the CEAL committee membership approval procedure, JEAL EBSCO license agreement, CEAL annual meeting schedules, and CEAL organization calendar. Representing the CCM, the Chair served on the CEAL Logo Committee, contributed ideas and contacted design departments in the local university to solicit logo designs for CEAL. The Logo Committee selected a design preferred by the majority and had it voted favorably by CEAL members.

The CCM members have paid attention to relevant news and shared resources and news related to Chinese materials and Chinese librarianship with CEAL community through Eastlib and CEAL Blogger.

VI. Collaboration with External Individuals and Organizations

The CCM has started conversations with some external organizations this year, and will continue the initiatives in the coming two years. Training program on rare books and rare book evaluation might have mutual interest between East Asian libraries in North America and libraries in China.

One of the initiatives was possible cooperation and collaborations with the China Academic Library and Information System. Some of the areas that the East Asian libraries may be interested and merit further experiment by individual libraries.

- 1) Cooperative Cataloging, MARC records downloading
- 2) Collaborative Collection Development
- 3) OPAC and Web Portal, resource sharing
- 4) Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery
- 5) General and Specialized Reference Services
- 6) Software Sharing & Technical Support
- 7) Professional Training & Certification

VII. Conclusion

The Committee on Chinese Materials was active during this past year. We had productive discussions, both via email as well as meeting in person in Toronto in March 2012. We successfully organized CCM 2012 Annual Meeting as well as the Forum on Chinese Digital Content. The Committee will continue to seek ways to bring timely information on Chinese materials and Chinese librarianship to CEAL community, address issues the community is interested in, and actively pursue cooperation and collaborations with peers and organizations outside of the US.