

**Collecting Non-Chinese Materials from China: Needs, Methods, and Issues**  
**Jidong Yang**  
**Head of Asia Library, University of Michigan**

Abstract:

As a nation composed of 56 ethnic groups, China produces a large number of publications in non-Chinese languages such as Tibetan, Mongolian, Uighur, and Manchu. Studies on the history and cultures of Chinese ethnic minorities have long been an important part of the modern humanities and social sciences of Europe and North America. In the United States, a dozen or so institutions actively support academic programs and research focusing on non-Han peoples living in today's People's Republic of China. However, except for Tibetan language materials (especially those published in Dharamsala, India), the collection of non-Chinese publications from China has long been one of the weakest areas in research libraries in this continent, due to a variety of factors including the lack of cataloging staff with sufficient knowledge of the related languages. In this presentation, I would like to stress the academic value of Chinese minorities materials, to discuss the recent trend of publication, and to suggest models for cooperation among CEAL member libraries in the future collection and processing of those materials.