



CEAL Statement on the National Library of Australia's Asian Materials Collecting Strategy

May 28, 2020

On behalf of librarians and library professionals in the field of East Asian Studies, the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) wishes to express its grave concern over the National Library of Australia's recently announced plan to eliminate acquisition of Japanese, Korean and Mainland Southeast Asia-related materials published outside of Australia, to make cuts to the Chinese, Indonesian, and the Pacific collection strategy, and to close the Asian Reading Room at the National Library of Australia. We urge the National Library of Australia to halt this damaging course immediately.

We note that the Asian Collections of the National Library of Australia –including those on Japan, Korea and mainland Southeast Asia– are among the strongest in the world, having been built up over many decades of far-sighted and substantial investment. These collections make the National Library of Australia a treasure for global Asian Studies, and are a major national asset in Australia. The Asian Collections play a vital role in the growing exchange of information between Australia and Asia.

We call on the National Library of Australia to maintain a comprehensive Asian materials collecting strategy, and appeal to the federal government of Australia to provide adequate funding to enable the Library to maintain the breadth, depth and integrity of its Asian Collections.

We would like to urge you to take action by signing the following online petition:

<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/petition-to-the-director-general-national-library-of-australia>.

Respectfully yours,

金河那

Hana Kim

President

The Council on East Asian Libraries

About the Council on East Asian Libraries

CEAL is a committee of the Association for Asian Studies. CEAL is the largest international professional organization in the field of East Asian Studies librarianship. It was founded in 1958 as the Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East, building on earlier organizations going back to 1948. The objectives of CEAL are to serve as a forum for discussions about issues of common concern relating to East Asian libraries and East Asian Librarianship, to formulate programs for the development of East Asian library resources, services, and systematic organization of all types of recorded information and knowledge, and to promote interlibrary and international cooperation in East Asian librarianship.