



Task Force for the Creation of CEAL's Statement on Collection Development and Acquisition Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

In collaboration with
the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and
the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL)

Charge Approved on July 3, 2020 | Membership Approved on July 10, 2020

Term: July-August 2020

Members:

Hong Cheng, University of California, Los Angeles (Co-Chair)
Fabiano Rocha, University of Toronto (Co-Chair)
Chengzhi Wang, Columbia University (CEAL/CCM Representative)
Chiaki Sakai, Columbia University (CEAL/CJM Representative)
Jude Yang, Yale University (CEAL/CKM Representative)
Xiuying Zou, Claremont Colleges (SCSL Representative)
Haruko Nakamura, Yale University (NCC Representative)
Hana Kim, University of Toronto (ex-officio)

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a new operational and budgetary ecosystem for area studies libraries and their neighbouring institutions that collect, archive, and preserve scholarly and cultural heritage. The CEAL community believes that collection integrity and access must be maintained throughout this time.

In solidarity with the concerns raised by our colleagues in the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) in their June 10, 2020, [Task Force Resolution](#), and the Middle East Librarians Association's (MELA) June 22, 2020 [Statement on Collection Development, Access, and Equity in the Time of COVID-19](#), the CEAL President made a suggestion to the Executive Board (EB) to issue a joint statement in partnership with, but not limited to, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Committee on Libraries and Information Resources (CLIR) Executive Council; Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), that highlights the organizations' commitment to diversity and accessibility. Furthermore, the CEAL President made a suggestion for the creation of a Task Force in order to issue a CEAL-specific pandemic statement. These mandates were supported by the EB.

Such that various East Asian governments and publishers have unique points of access—some exclusively in print, others without digital surrogates, others impeded by copyright laws—our scholarly and cultural landscape is influenced by policies that would deter print or rare formats. Oftentimes non-traditional publications are regarded as the most poised to offer a critique of mainstream voices and perspectives, critiques which potentially speak to the diverse needs of area studies library users. Accordingly, the livelihood of East Asian publishers could be changed for the worse should policy stifle their business. We

believe it is of the utmost importance to ensuring the strength and quality of our collections that collection acquisition is maintained.

**Charge:**

The Task Force shall draft a statement outlining a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The response shall take into account: that access to print and non-digitized materials is temporarily sequestered; that there remains an immediate need for short-term access to e-resources; that CEAL is resolved in maintaining the breadth and diversity of their collections and collection development; that most institutions have yet to release their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year; and that as operations change policies will follow suit.

The Task Force shall prepare a statement for EB approval, and upon approval, shall publish it to the CEAL website and seek its endorsement by the AAS.

The Task Force's membership shall include the chair of the Committee on Chinese Materials, the chair of the Committee on Japanese Materials, and the chair of the Committee on Korean Materials, as well as at least two non-CEAL group representatives (such as North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Society of Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL)) in order to exercise collaboration and diversity. In addition, the Task Force shall attempt to recruit a Tibetan Studies librarian as a member. If there is a challenge in recruiting one, the Task Force shall seek inputs from Tibetan studies librarians in multiple libraries.

The Task Force shall submit to the CEAL President its action plan, including a timeline, **by July 17, 2020**.

Please consult CEAL Bylaws Articles VI and XI for guidance.