Going Digital: A New Frontier or a Paradigm Shift? —Post-pandemic East Asian Collections & Services

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Developments in services brought about by the pandemic

- Use of HarthiTrust Digital Library in lieu of the print collection
- Virtual reference services & remote instruction
- Electronic reserves
- Acquisition of digital rather than print materials
- Heavier use of ILL services
- Transformative publishing model for open access

The new library services landscape

- Going digital to the extent possible
- Mass digitization of print & analog collections
- Remote work leads to more online services
- Increased regional & national cooperation, increased aggregation of collections
- Digital preservation & intellectual property management assume new urgency

New characteristics & imperatives

- Highly networked collections: the case of the UC system
  - Conception of UC Collection for East Asian Studies through amalgamation & aggregation of collection resources
  - A single access point & unified search engine—UC Library Search
    - One-stop shopping & discovery
- Ubiquitous access
- Access vs. ownership
- Just-in-case vs. just-in-time (system vs. individual collections)

A fundamental question: Is "e-everything" a new frontier or a paradigm shift?

- Can we afford to go e-everything?

- Why do we still need print collections?

- What are the market limitations & user preferences regarding print vs. e-resources?

  - Market conditions: East Asian publishing is still driven by print

  - Resource allocation, e.g., print vs. digital collection budgets

 - Social sciences & humanities scholars' use of library resources

How can we facilitate a possible paradigm shift in post-pandemic East Asian collections & services?

- Work with suppliers to build up larger digital collections
- Facilitate scope & depth of networked collections
- Open up treasures through ongoing digitization efforts
- Populate shared platforms by integrating special collection materials
- Move from siloed collection building to system-wide access & shared collection platforms
- Buy less, contribute more

Case studies: the Berkeley experience

- Digitizing special collections
- Populating shared platforms with digital assets
- Strengthening the "one collection" idea
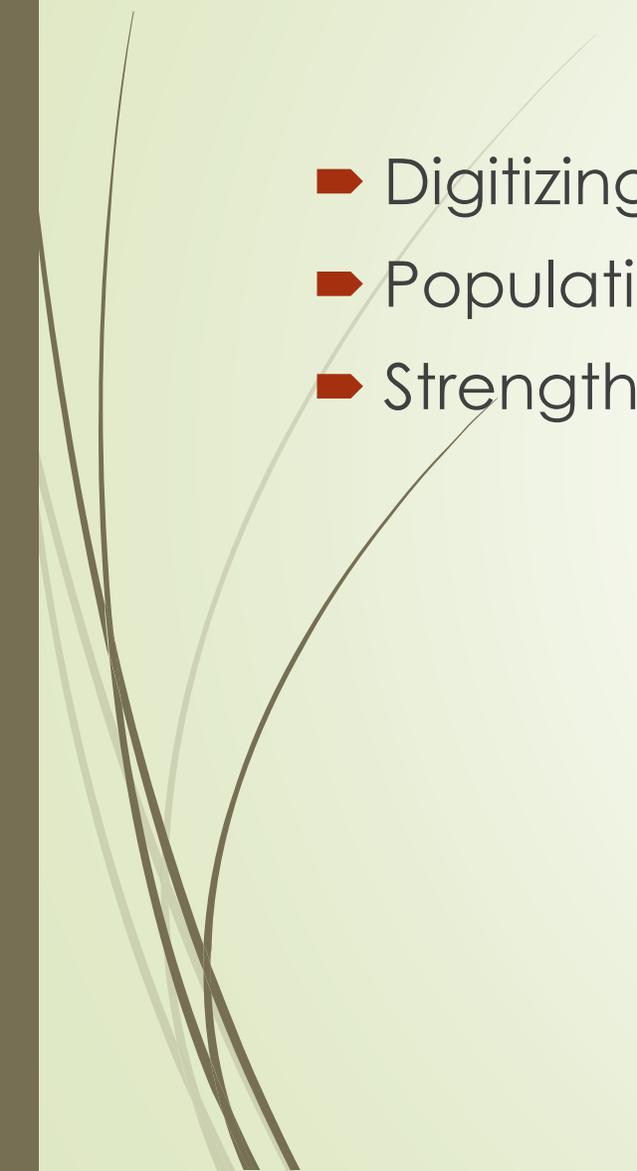
Digitizing & opening up hidden treasures via external collaborations: Chinese collections

- NCL, 2012–17: Chinese rare books & manuscripts from Song & Yuan dynasties through 1795

- Fudan University Press, 2018–20: Chinese rubbings collection

- Sichuan University & Alibaba Foundation, 2020–23: pre-1912 Chinese imprints, 汉典重光

Digitizing & opening up hidden treasures via external collaboration: Japanese collections

- Web philanthropist David Rumsey, 2003, & Council on Library Resources (CLIR), 2017–20: Japanese Historical Maps collection

- Ritsumeikan University's Art Research Center, 2006–8, 2014– : sugoroku collection, copperplate prints; selected manuscripts, Edo printed books; selections from Murakami collection

- National Institute of Japanese Literature, 2017: microfilm of selected manuscripts & Edo printed books

- NCC support, 2018: manuscript genealogies of 140 noble clans

- Hoover Library & Archives: *Nichi-Bei/The Japanese-American News* (1932–41)

Digitizing & opening up hidden treasures via collaboration: Korean collections

- Korean University, 2009: Asami Library & other rare editions & manuscripts

Hosting digital collections

- https://digital.lib.berkeley.edu/

Takeaways

- Opening up collections, particularly copyright-free material
- Digitizing everything
- Focusing on totality of resources available rather than volume counts
- Fostering cooperation & open access
- Fundraising is imperative
- Maintaining a balance between print & digital

Thank you!