

Finding the Right Balance

The Changing Realities of Collection Development for Chinese Studies

*CEAL Conference 2022, Committee on Chinese Materials (CCM) -
Print vs. Digital: Towards Balanced Inclusive Collections*

Joshua Seufert, Princeton University, March 23, 2022



Driving Questions

- How do we serve Chinese language materials to a growing and widening groups of patrons on our campuses? And how should this be reflected in our collection development?
- How can Chinese print collection development remain sustainable with growing prices and growing output from China and how do we prevent creating identical collections?
- How do we balance the immediate needs of our users for electronic access with building more diverse and inclusive Chinese collections?
- How should Chinese Studies Librarians deal with the shift from outside-in libraries (taking in commodity documents and supplying them mostly locally) to inside-out libraries (bringing unique and special collections to local and external audiences)?



Structure

- Growing Patron Groups and Immediate Electronic Needs
- Chinese Print Collection Development
 - *The Challenge of Sustainable Print Collection Development*
 - *Coordinated and Distributed Collection Development*
 - *Electronic access and more diverse and inclusive physical collections*
- The Gradual Shift from Outside-In Collections to Inside-Out Collections
- Finding the Right Balance



Needs beyond the EAS Departments

- Chinese material needed across the disciplines
- Chinese International Students
- Chinese Heritage Students
- Language Students
- Chinese-speaking faculty



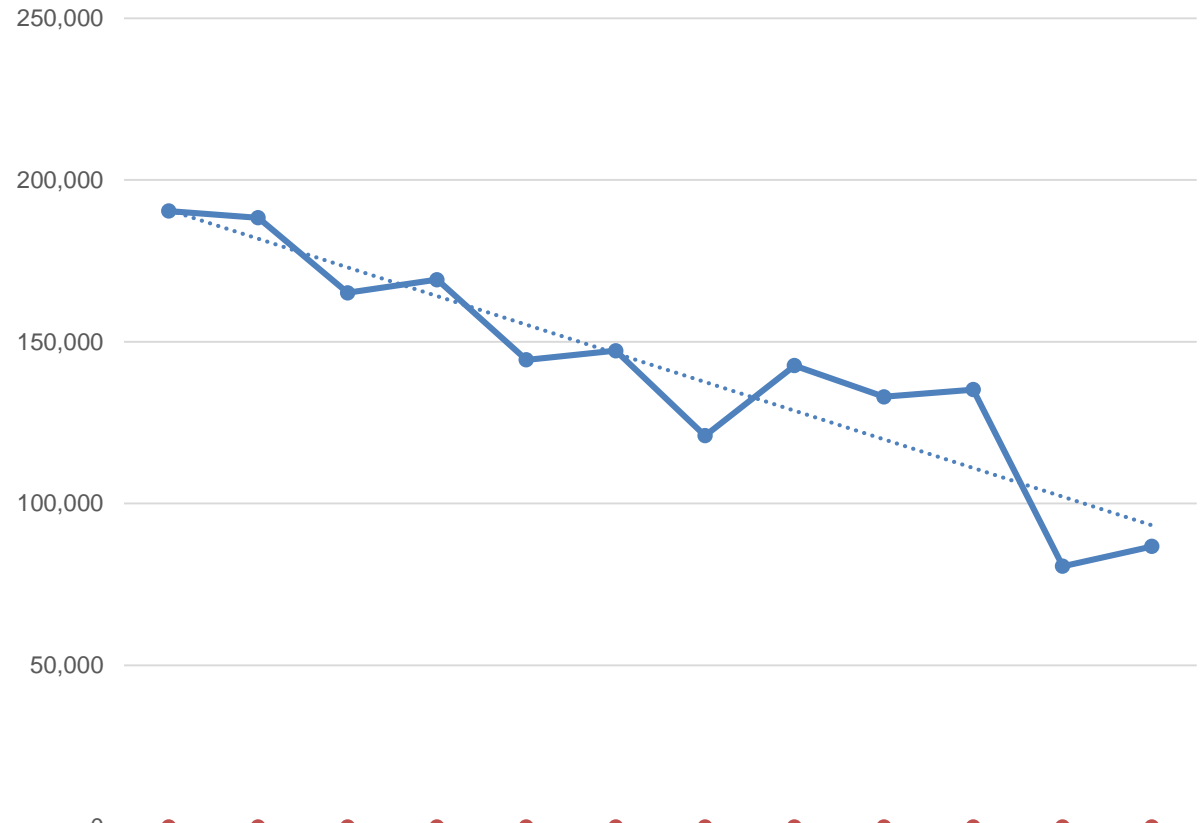
Needs beyond the EAS Departments

- „Users of East Asian Material may be found in every corner and every discipline of the University”
- Supporting Chinese within an academic library setting today means supporting the university as a whole
- Needs mainly in up-to date electronic information



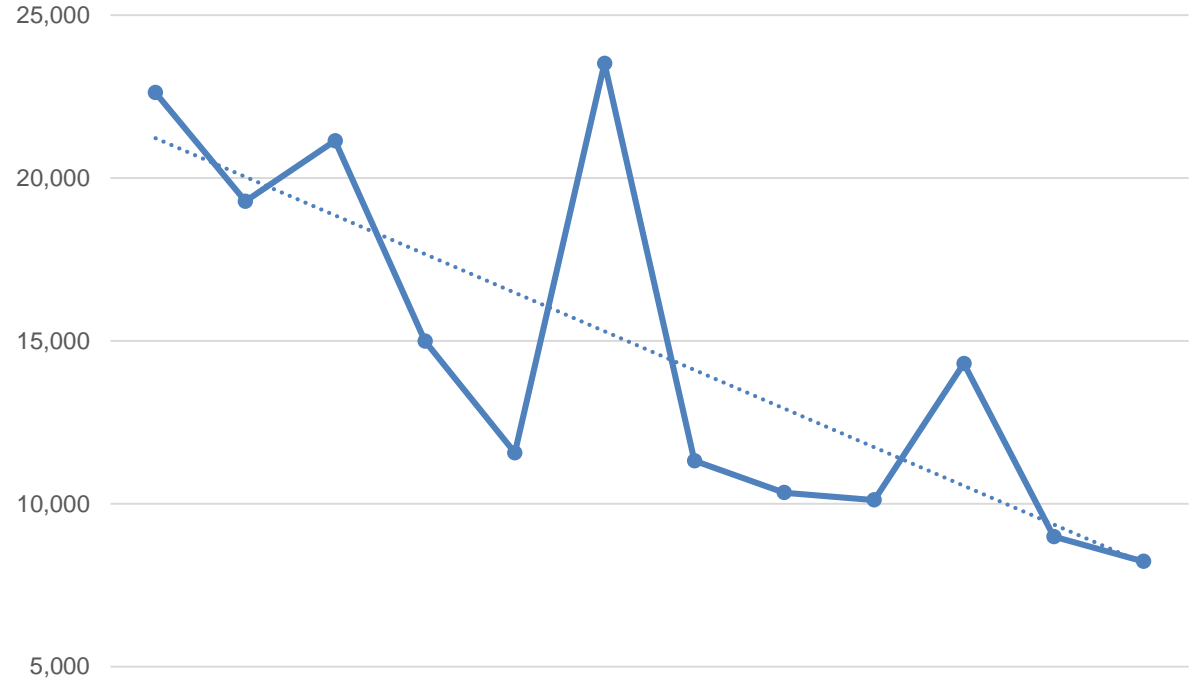
The Challenge of Sustainable Print Collection Development

Number of annually purchased Chinese volumes in CEAL libraries





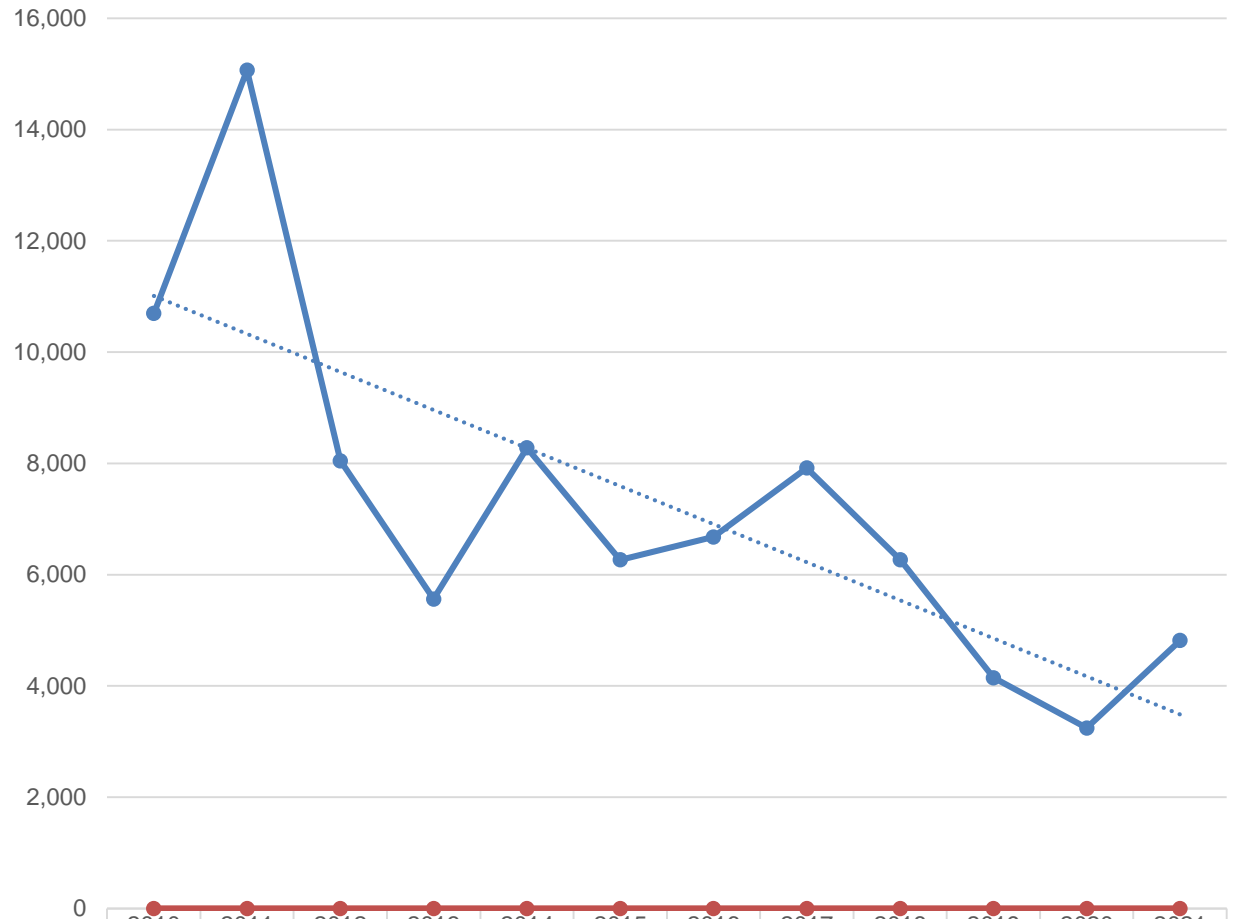
Library of Congress



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of purchased volumes	22,622	19,286	21,146	14,992	11,564	23,524	11,319	10,342	10,114	14,304	8,993	8,227
Percentage of 2010	100%	85%	93%	66%	51%	104%	50%	46%	45%	63%	40%	36%

● Number of purchased volumes ● Percentage of 2010 Linear (Number of purchased volumes)

Berkeley

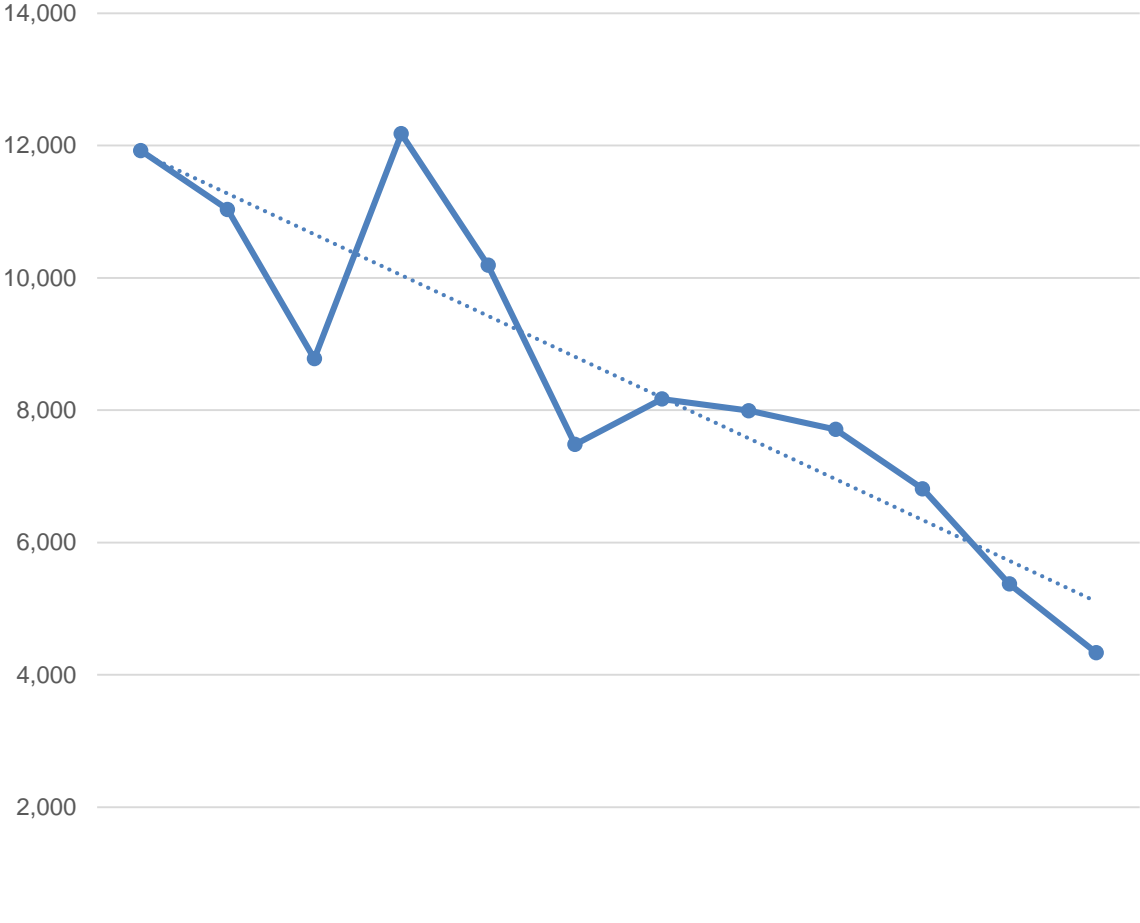


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of purchased volumes	10,694	15,067	8,047	5,561	8,279	6,265	6,678	7,916	6,268	4,148	3,244	4,817
Percentage of 2010	100%	141%	75%	52%	77%	59%	62%	74%	59%	39%	30%	45%

● Number of purchased volumes
 ● Percentage of 2010
 ⋯ Linear (Number of purchased volumes)



Stanford

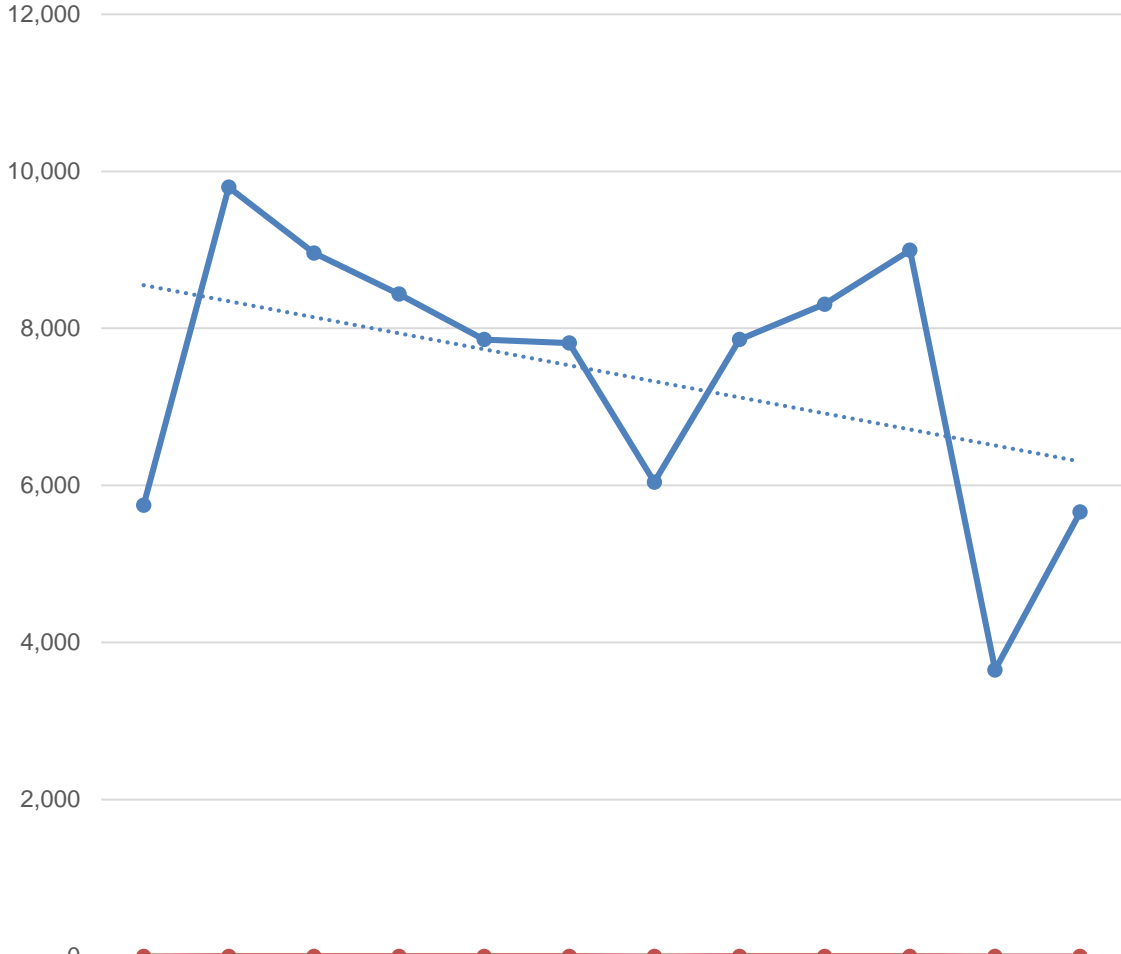


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of purchased volumes	11,925	11,035	8,779	12,180	10,192	7,482	8,169	7,994	7,711	6,814	5,375	4334
Percentage of 2010	100%	93%	74%	102%	85%	63%	69%	67%	65%	57%	45%	36%

● Number of purchased volumes
 ● Percentage of 2010
 ⋯ Linear (Number of purchased volumes)



Columbia

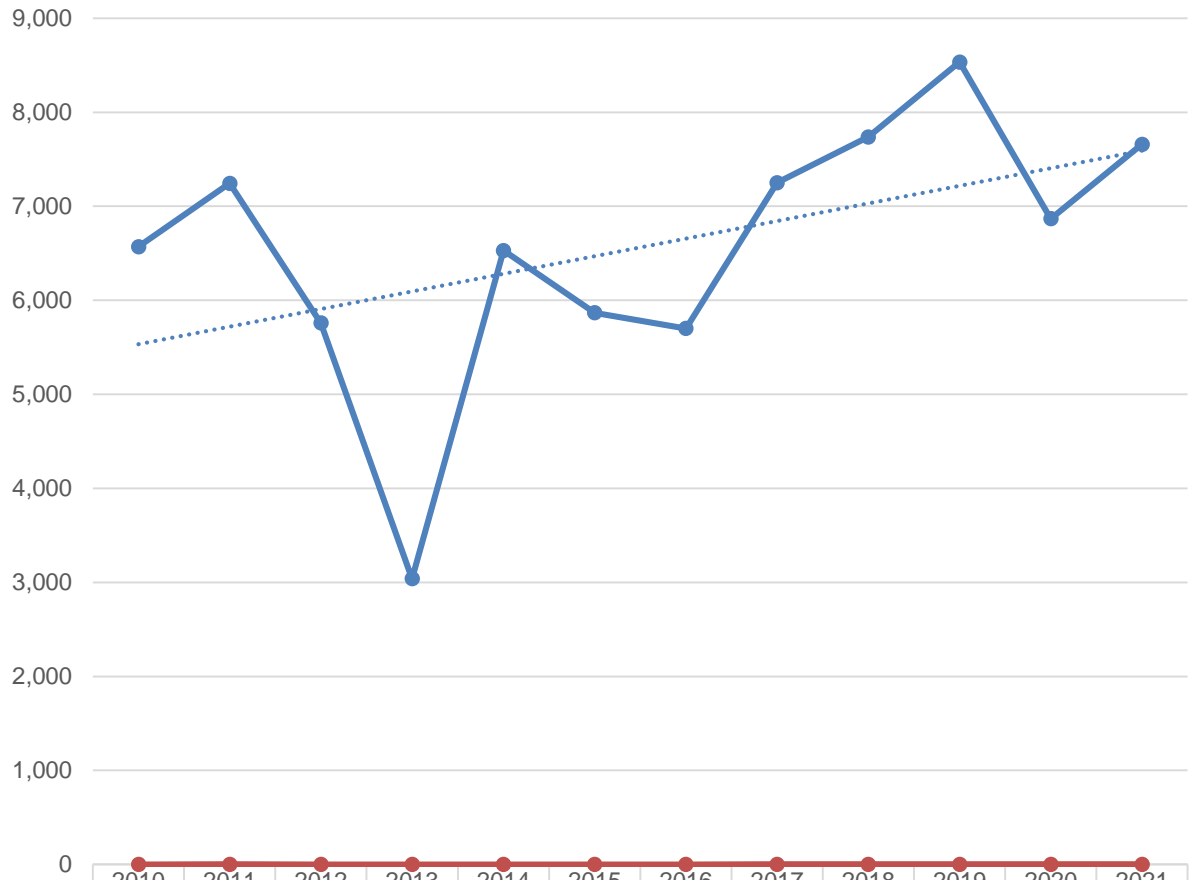


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of purchased volumes	5,747	9,798	8,961	8,436	7,858	7,813	6,043	7,858	8,309	8,995	3,649	5,661
Percentage of 2010	100%	170%	156%	147%	137%	136%	105%	137%	145%	157%	63%	99%

● Number of purchased volumes
 ● Percentage of 2010
 ⋯ Linear (Number of purchased volumes)



Michigan



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of purchased volumes	6,570	7,245	5,759	3,039	6,529	5,867	5,701	7,251	7,738	8,534	6,868	7659
Percentage of 2010	100%	110%	88%	46%	99%	89%	87%	110%	118%	130%	105%	117%

● Number of purchased volumes
 ● Percentage of 2010
 ⋯ Linear (Number of purchased volumes)



The Challenge of Sustainable Print Collection Development

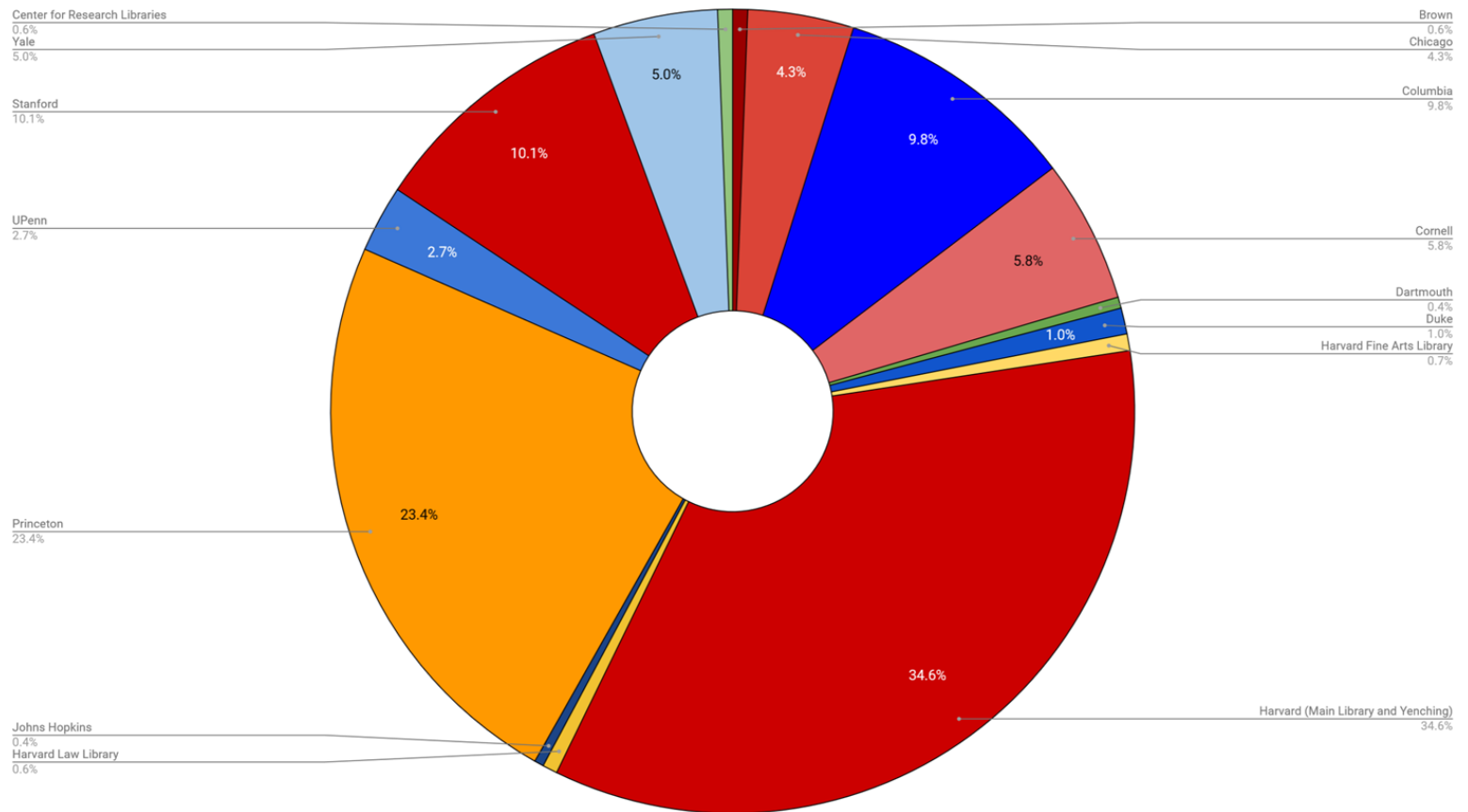
- Censorship of e-resources
- Shareability of Collections vs. Access as a Service

>>> Coordinated and Distributed Print Collection Development



The IPLC Chinese Big Sets Platform

Chinese big sets holdings February 2022 (IPLC + CRL)



Recent Examples of ReCAP Co-operative Acquisitions

- 故宮博物院藏清宮南府昇平署戲本 450 vols. (Columbia, Princeton)
- 四庫提要著錄叢書 1,000 vols. (Columbia, Harvard, Princeton)
- 大倉文庫粹編 230 vols. (Columbia, Harvard, Princeton)
- 歐洲馮氏藏中國古代版畫叢刊 100 vols. (Harvard, Princeton)



Coordinated and Distributed Collection Development

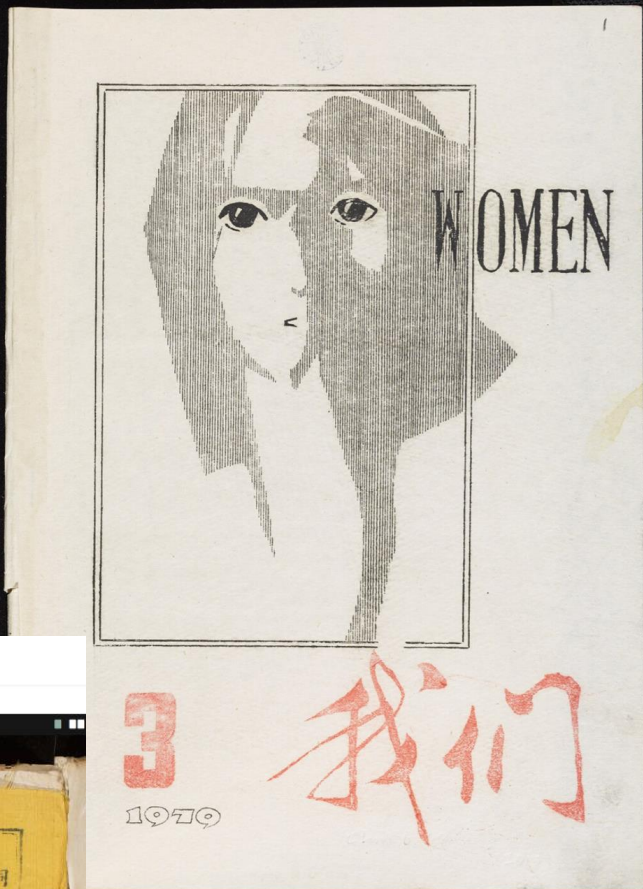
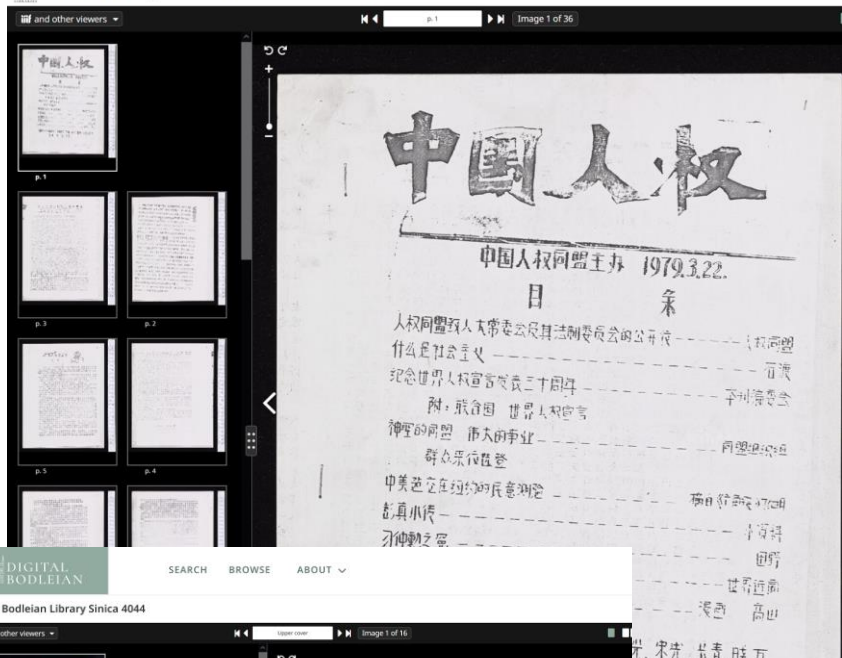
- Growing Similarity of Collections
- Statement of Collection Intents
 - Zhiqing/Sent down youth > Dartmouth
 - Villager Gazetteers > Pittsburgh
 - Dance > Michigan
 - Chinese Film > Columbia
- Documenting ongoing Collection Development



Electronic access and more diverse and inclusive physical collections

- Diversity and Inclusion in Chinese Collections
- Connection between the Share of Print and Diverse Collections
- Diversity in Collections
 - Overseas Chinese Communities
 - Chinese Minorities and their Languages and Scripts
 - Counter-cultural Undercurrents
 - Ephemera of Political, Social, or Religious Background
 - Collecting what is not Collected in China
- Historical Parallels
- “The Value of Rubbish”





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The Gradual Shift from Outside-In Collections to Inside-Out Collections

- Visible Trend
- New Opportunities for Collection Building
- Going Beyond Rare Books and the Academic Monograph
 - Teaching Samples
 - The Uniqueness of Common Items
- Learning from the Collection Habits of Scholars



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This collection

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Unofficial Poetry Journals from China

Publishing outside the System in Post-Mao
China

TODAY!
今天

SINOL UNPO 2 3 1979



[○ Show all items](#)

Unofficial Poetry Journals from China

Unofficial or “underground” poetry publications—especially journals, but also one-off multiple-author anthologies and individual collections—play an important role in contemporary Chinese culture. They are comparable to Soviet-Russian *samizdat* publications, and to the “little magazines” often associated with early modernism in the West.

The Leiden University collection is internationally unique. It was built by Maghiel van Crevel, who donated it to the library in 2006 and has continued to add new acquisitions. The help of Chinese poets and scholars has been invaluable throughout.

Related content

[How to use this collection](#) fl

[Unofficial Poetry Journals from China \(web lecture\)](#) fl

[From China with Love: Unofficial Chinese Poetry Journals in the Leiden](#)



Finding the Right Balance

- Building Unique Collections today
- Communicating Ongoing Collection Focus
- Current and Future Research Needs – Locally and Globally

>>> Only if collections are brought together by librarians today will they be available for researchers in the future



Thank You!

Questions?

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