

UNEXPECTED JOURNEYS, SHARED DESTINATIONS

The European Network of Korean Resources Specialists



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF KOREAN RESOURCES SPECIALISTS

Outline

- Why ENKRS?
- Network workshops and info
- ENKRS in 2025: some statistics
- Current endeavours and roadblocks
- Goals for the future
- About Leiden's DPRK poster database
- Resources



Why ENKRS?

- So far:
 - *1981: EASL (European Association of Sinological Librarians)*
 - *1989: EAJRS (European Association of Japanese Resources Specialists)*
- Sharp rise in student numbers in Korean studies (2012 – current)
- Many ‘accidental Korean studies librarians’
- Founding of ENKRS in Berlin 2018 – Freie Universität Berlin and Korea Foundation Berlin Office
- Second one-day meeting in Sheffield 2019



Multi-day network workshops

- Leiden 2023: Collect, Connect and Catalogue
- Paris 2024: Unlocking Korean Collections to the World: Digitization, Research and Teaching support
- ***upcoming*** Olomouc 2025: Korean Studies Librarianship and Digital Humanities: Opportunities and Challenges for Librarians in Supporting the Next Generation of Korean Studies Scholars (May 22nd – 24th)



ENKRS in 2025

- 32 member institutions spread over 15 countries
 - *Germany: 6*
 - *France: 5*
 - *UK: 8*
 - *Czech Republic: 2*
 - *Denmark, Serbia, Hungary, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Finland, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Romania.*
- Online listserv +90 people subscribed
- Online informal meetups every other month
- Active outreach to other institutions with Korean collections



Current endeavours and roadblocks

- Working with KF and AKSE for broader access to E-resources
- HUB initiative for local support and cooperation
- Sending surplus books to member institutes
- Pooling information on free resources and tutorials on databases



Goals for the Future

1. Provide networking opportunities
2. Information dissemination
3. Facilitate communication
4. Collaboration
5. Funding opportunities
6. Member support



ENKRS could have made this better: Leiden's DPRK poster database.

- 2012: 'hey want to make a database/website?'
- 2024 (!): the posters are finally accessible online for the world
- Over 1200 propaganda posters from the DPRK, 1952 - 2010
- A long list of very preventable issues.....



What we wanted v.s. what we got

- Many issues could have been prevented if other Korean studies colleagues were consulted beforehand
- Even ‘accidental Korean studies librarians’ have a wealth of experience on such projects
- It could have been a collaborative project with other institutions with access to DPRK posters
- In the future:
 - *adding other posters held by ENKRS members to Leiden’s database (?)*
 - *Sharing experiences with colleagues wishing to undertake something similar*
 - *Maybe an OMEKA website?*



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Resources



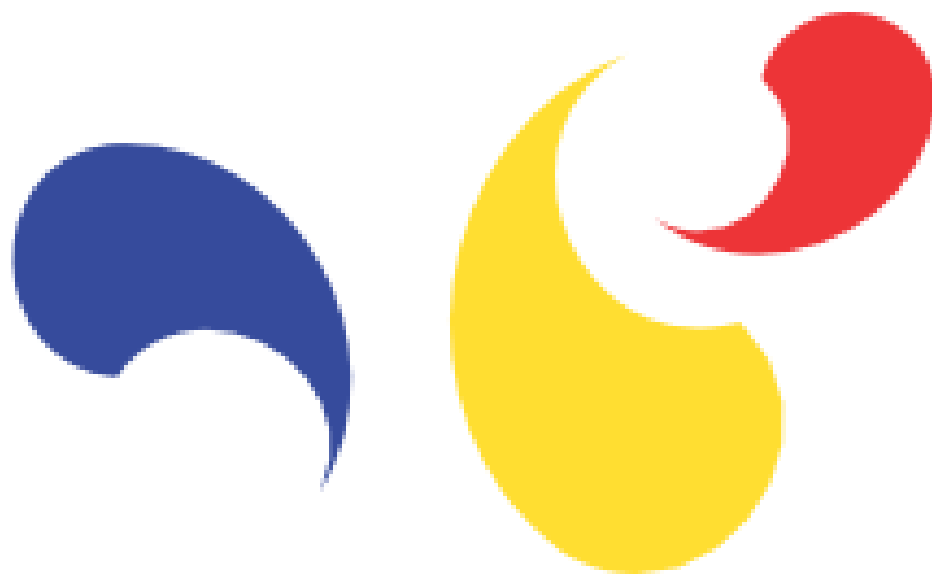
ENKRS website and listserv



Gender distribution in posters analysis (Benjamin Young)
<https://shorturl.at/UBgBt>



North Korean Propaganda Posters at Leiden University Libraries



THANK YOU