

1973

In August, UW was one of ten universities to receive a \$1 million grant—the largest ever from a foreign source—from the Japanese government to develop its Japan Studies program. Some of the money went to library acquisitions, greatly increasing the Japanese collection budget for the following year.

1959

The U.S. federal government announced the formation of Title VI centers (UW's Far Eastern Institute was one), which could apply for federal grants to support international studies. The Institute received its first Title VI grant, for \$21,260, the following year.



1975

The Law School moved out of the building then called Condon Hall, and the Far Eastern Library was approved to move into the space vacated by the law library. Before that could happen, major renovations needed to be made to the stacks and reading room.

In November, the FEL was changed from a language-based collection to a service-oriented collection, meaning that the library would house almost all materials on East Asia, regardless of language.

With its highest budget to date, new acquisitions for the year topped 12,000 volumes, and the total collection size grew to over 180,000 volumes. However, due to insufficient budget for staff, as many as 62,000 of those remained uncataloged.

1977

By this year the East Asia Library was receiving a collection budget of \$80,000, a net growth of 100% over the previous eight years. The total size of the EAL collection surpassed 215,000 volumes, and the library was establishing itself as a national leader in technology for the cataloging of Asian materials.



Late 1980s

EAL purchased around 100,000 volumes from the Universal Book Company in Hong Kong—the largest single purchase by an East Asian library in North America. This huge acquisition grew EAL's Chinese collection by almost 60% and its total holdings by close to 30%. Cataloging these materials would prove a decades-long undertaking.



1980 – 1981

Funded by the Ford Foundation, EAL completed a project to put its serials records with holdings into an online searchable database. EAL also provided physical copies of the database (in MARC format with handwritten Asian scripts) to over 90 libraries in the U.S. and internationally. This was a major step toward a national union catalog of East Asian serials.

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1961

A major remodeling of the Thomson Hall basement temporarily ameliorated the library's space problems—doubling stacks capacity, tripling reading and research space and providing new office facilities for library staff. It also improved lighting and air circulation.



The same year, FEL was able to receive over 1,500 Chinese publications from the People's Republic of China. This greatly expanded the library's holdings of mainland Chinese periodicals, which at that time were challenging to acquire.

1976

On April 8, the library officially moved into its new home. Along with the move, the library's name was changed to the "East Asia Library" (EAL), reflecting semantic trends in the field of Asian studies. The building itself, formerly known as Condon Hall, was renamed Gowen Hall in honor of Herbert H. Gowen, founding scholar of Asian studies at UW.



At this time, the East Asia Library was at the forefront of library technology and advancements in automation. In November, the library demonstrated how its serials holdings could be searched remotely—the first such online access to the UW Serials database and the first demonstration of any East Asian database online to a national organization.

1980

The first librarian to come to the U.S. from the People's Republic of China for training arrived at EAL. In subsequent years, librarians from Japan, Korea, and China would come to EAL for training. For many, the university's advocacy of library technologies made it an attractive place to learn.

1989

For the 1989-1990 year, EAL's budget was \$222,044, well over a 100% increase from ten years prior. The library received staffing increases in all areas and levels—its first staff increase in almost twenty years. With the new staff, EAL could begin to make real progress with its large cataloging backlog.

1981

In December, EAL received a ¥4,000,000 (\$19,050) grant from the Japan-US Friendship Commission for Japanese acquisitions. Additional grants were received in 1990 and 1992.



EAST ASIA LIBRARY 1937-2017

Celebrating 80 Years of Supporting the East Asian Studies Community

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

