

# Selected Timeline of the UW East Asia Library: 1937-2017

**1937**

The history of the East Asia Library at UW officially began with the reception of a \$4,200 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the purchase of Chinese language materials for the department of Oriental Studies.



**1940**

A \$4,300 Rockefeller grant for the purchase of Chinese books doubled the size of the collection.

**1941**

A \$1,200 grant was received from the Rockefeller Foundation for the cataloging of Chinese and Japanese materials.

**1943**

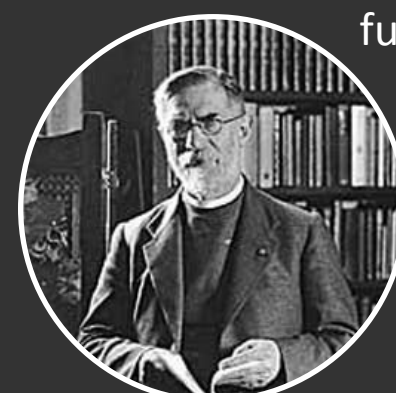
UW participated in the American Library Association's program of competitive purchase in China and received \$1,000 for such acquisitions.

**Early 1940s**

The Korean collection began, with donated books from UW students from Korea.

**1945**

\$2,000 was received from UW's research fund for the purchase of Herbert Gowen's personal library.



The Far Eastern Institute was established with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, which included \$20,000 to purchase Chinese materials and \$10,000 to purchase Japanese materials.

**1947**

The collection was formally named the "Far Eastern Library" (FEL) and became a branch of the University's main library.

Ruth Krader was appointed as the first curator of FEL.



George Kerr's personal library was purchased, forming the basis of the Japanese collection.



The FEL collection was moved to a temporary wooden building next to the main library, often called the "unheated shack."

**1950**

The Far Eastern Library moved to the basement of Thomson Hall.

**1952**

The Tibetan language program began at UW, and FEL began to assemble what would become one of the finest collections of Tibetan materials in the world.



**1954**

FEL purchased Joseph Rock's personal library of rare Chinese materials.



**1955**

The Far Eastern Institute received a grant of \$250,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the study of Northeast Asia; some of the funds were allocated to the Far Eastern Library.

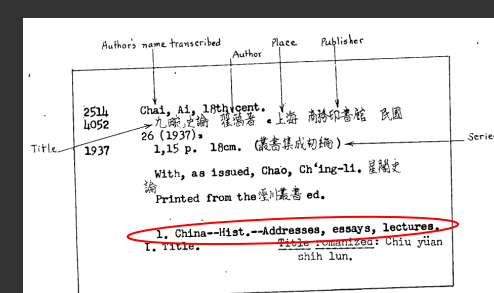
**1957**

Hellmut Wilhelm's personal collection of rare Chinese books was purchased.



**1958**

For the first time at FEL, subject headings are added to card catalog records.



**1961**

Major remodeling of the Thomson Hall basement greatly expanded FEL and improved conditions within the library.



FEL obtained over 1,500 Chinese publications from the People's Republic of China, expanding its holdings of Chinese language periodicals.

**1973**

UW received \$1 million grant from the Japanese government to develop the Japan Studies Program, including some funding to grow the Japanese collection.

**1975**

Construction was done to renovate the former Law Library into a new home for FEL.



FEL changed from a language-based to a service-oriented collection, consolidating the bulk of UW Libraries resources on East Asia into the FEL collection.

**1976**

The Far Eastern Library became the "East Asia Library" (EAL) and moved into its new home—the newly renamed Gowen Hall.



EAL's serials holdings became searchable online.

**1977**

EAL's collection budget reached \$80,000 and its holdings grew to 215,000 volumes.



EAL was also establishing itself as a leader in cataloging technology for Asian materials.

**1980**

The first librarian sent from the People's Republic of China to the U.S. for training came to EAL; more librarians from China, Japan, and Korea would follow.

**1980-1981**

EAL completed its Automated East Asia Serials Catalog Project, creating an online searchable database of its serials holdings and distributing the database to other libraries to attach their holdings as well; this laid the groundwork for a union catalog of serials.

**1981**

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.



**Late 1980s**

Approximately 100,000 volumes were purchased from the Universal Book Company in Hong Kong (the largest single purchase by an East Asian library in North America), increasing EAL's Chinese collection by almost 60%.



**1989**

EAL's budget grew to \$222,044 and the library received staffing increases in all areas for the first time in almost 20 years.

**Early 1990s**

A large-scale project was carried out to reclassify and reshelve EAL's materials using Library of Congress call numbers.

Records were added to the online catalog so users can search for materials that have been acquired but not yet cataloged.

The East Asia Library Endowment Fund was established.

**1993**

Major grants were received from the Korea Foundation and the Japan Foundation.

**1994**

UW joins with 5 other universities to form a consortium to receive continued funding from the Korea Foundation.



The East Asia Library budget tops \$400,000 for the first time.

**Late 1990s**

The library catalog was fully converted to an online format.



Support for Chinese characters and other East Asian scripts were added to the online catalog.

**1997**

The EAL reading room was named the "George M. Beckmann Reading Room."



**2000**

On October 1, EAL (along with libraries across North America) switched from the Wade-Giles Romanization to Pinyin for cataloging Chinese materials.

**2001-2006**

From July 2001 to June 2006, the East Asia Library undertook a CIK serials project to complete cataloging and processing of all Chinese, Japanese, Korean serials.

**2002**

EAL acquired a substantial amount of space in Kane Hall to use as auxiliary stacks.



**2003**

30,000 monographs were transferred from Gowen stacks to Kane Hall.



In July, the estate of Yasuko Endo donated \$58,333 to create an endowment for the purchase of Japanese materials.

A centralized CIK CD-ROM server, accessible via the UW Libraries network, was successfully installed.

**2003-2005**

An outsourcing project to re-catalog the old Chiu Collection was successfully undertaken.



**2004**

Kane Hall Auxiliary Stacks were opened to the public for the first time.

**2005**

Kane Hall Auxiliary Stacks increased to 154,494 volumes.

**2006**

The first in-house digitization project at EAL took place with the Korean Liberation Space Collection.



The first issue of the East Asia Library Newsletter was published.

**2006-2010**

The "Window to China" Book Donation Program & Exhibition of the 30th Anniversary of the US-China relations took place.

**2007**

Two major gifts—the personal collection of Prof. James Palais and the Mandang collection of Korean music-related materials—were received.



A major weeding and shifting of the collection from Gowen to Kane was carried out.

**2007-2008**

\$120,000 was received from the Tateuchi Foundation for a Japanese Cataloging Project, supplemented in the next years by an additional \$144,000.

A project took place to catalog and process the Palais materials.

The Chinese Rare Book Project took place, cataloging and consolidating these materials.

**2008**

Wi-Fi becomes available in the EAL reading room.

**2008-2010**

A major copy cataloging project for Chinese and Korean materials takes place, reducing EAL's cataloging backlog by over 12,000 volumes.



**2010**

The first EAL Lunar New Year Open House was held.

**2010-2013**

EAL digitized a total of 382 titles of Chinese rare books in collaboration with the National Central Library of Taiwan.

**2010-2015**

The Japanese Pre-cat Cataloging Project, funded by the Tateuchi Foundation, took place, cataloging over 5,000 titles of rare Japanese materials.



**2011**

\$50,310 was received for EAL's Taiwan Endowment.

**2012**

A total of 5,028 manual check-in records were converted to MARC format via the "MARC Check-in Records Conversion Project."

EAL opened its new instruction/group study space on Floor 2M.

**2013**

EAL completed an organizational realignment along function lines, replacing the previous structure of language sections.

EAL received a significant gift of 18,603 volumes of Korean graphic novels.

**2013-present**

Booksori, a program of monthly book talks in Korean, is organized by and held at EAL.



**2014**

The Taiwan Resources Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) was established at EAL in collaboration with the National Central Library of Taiwan.

Two major EAL Japanese exhibits were hosted in the Allen Library.

**2014-2015**

UW and the University of British Columbia (UBC) carried out a two-year project "Discovering Modern China" to catalog many rare and unique hidden Chinese materials.



**2014-present**

EAL's oral history project, "History through Memories and Stories" documents the history of members of Chinese immigrant communities in the Seattle area.

The Tateuchi Visiting Librarian Project was launched with a grant of \$104,000 from the Tateuchi Foundation, and the first librarian arrived from Keio University in February 2015.

**2015**

In February, EAL welcomed its first visiting librarian from the Korea Foundation's Global Librarianship Program.



In March and April, a series of events relating to Korean graphic novels was held, the highlight of which was the "Manhwa Bang" ("comics room") exhibit in the Allen Library.

**2015-2016**

EAL undertook a major collection shift and reorganization of the auxiliary stacks in Kane Hall.

**2015-present**

The Korean Pre-cat Cataloging Project was initiated to reduce the backlog of uncataloged Korean materials.

**2016**

In March the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies and the Council on East Asian Libraries was held in Seattle for the first time, and EAL helped with the local arrangements for activities taking place on the UW campus.



In July the EAL's "Korea Corner" opened on floor 2M; the space was renovated thanks to a gift of \$38,500 from the Korean Consul Office in Seattle.

**2017**

The East Asia Library celebrates its 80th anniversary.

**1940s**

**1950s**

**1960s**

**1970s**

**1980s**

**1990s**

**2000s**

**2010s**