

## International Visiting Librarians

The University of Washington East Asia Library has a long tradition of hosting international visiting librarians, to the benefit of both the visitors and the library. These visitors contribute to EAL operations, sharing their expertise in various areas, and themselves receive training and learn about UW Libraries services during their stay. In 1961, the library welcomed Ke-hong Park, a visitor from the Foreign Librarians Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the Library of Congress. Up until this point, what was then the UW Far Eastern Library had no Korean librarians or professional staff, only intermittent student helpers. Thanks to this program, Mr. Park served as Korean Librarian for a period of 11 months, focusing on organizing and cataloging the growing collection of Korean materials that had been acquired.

For the whole of 1970, the Far Eastern Library hosted Tsuyoshi Nakamori, a visitor from Japan's National Diet Library. He served as a collection development advisor, particularly as regarded Japanese government documents.

1980 was a milestone year for visiting librarians, when the first librarian ever sent from the People's Republic of China to the United States for training came to the UW East Asia Library. That decade also saw two librarians from Japan, two from Korea, and three more from China come for training at UW. This was mainly due to the East Asia Library's work in developing and adopting emerging library technologies—for example, in incorporating Asian-language scripts into library databases and search systems.

Over the next 27 years, many more international visiting librarians would follow. Some have short stays of only a few months, while others remain at EAL for a year or longer. For example, from January 2015 to May 2016 EAL hosted Boyue Yao, Professor and Chinese rare-book librarian of Peking University Library in China. Prof. Yao was brought on through the international collaborative project “Discovering Modern China: UW and UBC Collections” funded by a Council on Library and Information Resources grant to catalog traditional Chinese books, rubbings, and pieces of artwork.

EAL is currently participating in two on-going visiting librarian programs: the Korea Foundation's Global Librarianship program and a pilot project for Japanese visiting librarians funded by the Tateuchi Foundation. So far, EAL has hosted three visitors from the Korea Foundation program (Kyungsuk Yi, Kangsandajeong Lee, and Chang wan Moon) and two from the Tateuchi program (Yuko Fujimoto and Mariko Kawamoto). New librarians from both programs will arrive in 2018. The visitors work on projects and receive training according to their areas of interest and the needs of EAL.