

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Thirty-eighth Annual Conference Würzburg, 5-7 September 2018

The thirty-eighth EASL conference was hosted by University of Würzburg, Germany from 5 to 7 September 2018. The meetings were chaired by Maja Fuchs.

During the conference, two library visits, three museum visits and a reception were organised by the local host. On Wednesday afternoon, there was one visit to the Siebold Museum and its library. The reception was held at the Siebold Museum on Wednesday evening. On Thursday afternoon there were two visits, one to the Martin-von-Wagner Museum and the other to the Residenz Würzburg. The farewell dinner took place on Friday evening at the Buergerspital Weinstuben.

Present

• Members

Inga-Lill **Blomkvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Denmark)
Sara **Chiesura** (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London)
Melodie **Doumy** (Stein Collection, The British Library, London)
Maja **Fuchs** (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna)
Thomas **Gaiser** (Universität Tübingen)
Marc **Gilbert** (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries)
David **Helliwell**
Kerstin **Herelius** (Uppsala University Library)
Olivier **Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)
Amir **Kahana** (Freie Universität Berlin)
Matthias **Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Øystein Johan **Kleiven** (University of Oslo Library)
Anne **Labitzky** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)
Dat-wei **Lau** (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)
Hanno **Lecher** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)
Michael **Leibold** (University of Würzburg)
Linna **Lu** (Technische Informationsbibliothek, Hannover)
Fung On **Lui** (University Library Frankfurt am Main)
Kornélia **Major** (Library of the Institute of East Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University)
Claudia **de Morsier-Fritz** (Zentralbibliothek Zürich)
Cathleen **Paethe** (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)
Line **Pattyn** (Faculty Library Arts and Philosophy Gent)
Wolfgang **Schmitz** (Central Library, University of Würzburg)
Raina **Schote** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Helena **Sedlackova** (Palacký University Library, Olomouc)
Miriam **Seeger** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Joshua **Seufert** (Princeton University Library)
Immanuel **Spaar** (University of Würzburg)
Thomas **Tabery** (Bavarian State Library, Munich)
Gabriela **Tan** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)
Cordula **Treimer** (Ethnologisches Museum - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)
Franziska **Trempler** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz Ostasienabteilung - East

Asia Department)
Bénédicte **Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Rolf **Wassermann** (Siebold Museum)
Marc **Winter** (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zürich)
Min **YU** (BULAC, Paris)
Ruili **Zhang** (University of Manchester Library)

- Guest

Xiuying **Zou** (Claremont Colleges Library)

- Vendors

Catherine **Berry** (Adam Matthew)
Jason **Dai** (Wanfang Data)
Sophie **Han** (CNKI)
Zhaohua **Li** (CSSP)
Mingdi **Liu** (CEPIEC)
Huanglei **Lyu** (Superstar)
Pan **Li** (BCBTC)
Ariane **Rückebeil** (Eastview)
Shan **Shan** (CIBTC)
Eva **Wantzen** (Brill)
Yin **Wang** (CSSP)
Xiaosen **Wang** (China Data Center)
Aizhen **Zhang** (Superstar)
Guifang **Zhang** (BCBTC)
Hao **Zhang** (Zhonghua Book Company)

- Apologies

Carina **Enestarre** (Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund University)
Katarína **Feriančíková** (Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague)
Jarmila **Fiurášková** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
Emma **Goodliffe** (The British Library)
Cordula **Gumbrecht** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Soline **Lau-Suchet** (BULAC, Paris)
Xiaowei **Li** (University of Westminster)
Imke **Mees** (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne)
Mia **Nilsson** (Asia Library, Lund University)
Rita **Németh** (IN-EAST University of Duisburg-Essen)
Lucia **Obi** (Foundation International Youth Library, Munich)
Delphine **Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris)
Dong **Yu** (Vatican Library)

ACTA

1. Chairman's address and the welcome speech by the host institution

Maja Fuchs opened the conference by thanking the local host for organising the conference, followed by a welcome speech by Roland Altenburger (chair of Cultural History of East Asia,

Würzburg).

Maja Fuchs then extended her warm welcome to all the participants and especially to the new members who joined the conference for the first time.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference and member reports

The minutes of the 37th EASL conference were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Anne Labitzky presented the Treasurer's report. There was an increase of €0.19 in the form of interests for 2017. The total balance is €1,928.23.

4. Report on conferences

There were reports on the following conferences: AAS (Association for Asian Studies), CEAL (Council on East Asian Libraries), EACS (European Association for Chinese Studies), ENKRS (European Network of Korean Resource Specialists).

5. News from EASL members' libraries

Inga-Lill BLOMKVIST (NIAS, Copenhagen)

The future of NIAS remains unclear but a decision is expected at the end of September 2018. The budget is stable and extra funds were received from Fudan University. In May 2018 a MoU was signed between the TRCCS and the Asian Library of the Copenhagen university. It concerns a book donation, the access to E-resources and the contribution to the rare books and special collections union catalogue. An important project of cooperation between all but one of the major university libraries, including the former Royal Library/Copenhagen university library, concerning backend services, including e.g. acquisitions, a common catalogue, is in full development in Denmark since last year. The name of the new merged library is The Royal Danish Library. The former Royal Library/Copenhagen University Library does not have any subject librarian with knowledge of any of the Asian languages anymore. Lund University Library has made available a catalogue of materials from the Cultural Revolution collected by sinologist Michael Schoenhals. The collection has been archived but not digitized. The items are made available for visitors by agreement. [The Michael Schoenhals Collection - China during the Cultural Revolution](#).

Sara CHIESURA (British Library)

Luisa Mengoni, sinologist and former curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum, became head of the department. A curator for the Chinese collection has been recruited and the acquisition budget is generous. In the recent years the Chinese department has been well supported by the management.

Maja FUCHS (Library of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)

Vienna has started to use Alma a year ago while the Austrian union catalogue started to use it only in April 2018. This created an inconvenient situation causing problems with data exchange between catalogues, but has been improving.

Thomas GAISER (Universität Tübingen)

There are plans (on paper) to reorganise the Institute combining Chinese, Japanese, Korean Studies as well as Islamic Studies etc. The information "for local use only" in the new union catalogue is not correct, orders can be sent to Thomas directly and he will handle them. Not many books in Chinese are bought, his position will be removed after his retirement.

Marc GILBERT (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries):

The Asian Library was officially opened on September 14, 2017. This will be commemorated every year with the organisation of the Asia day, focusing on one Asian country or area. The Asian Library improved its visibility Online (FB, Twitter, new interface for its digital collections, special collection blog, etc.)

More E-resources are accessible, thanks partly to the TRCCS program. A comprehensive Chinese language collection on Chinese law was donated (it covers most major fields with introductory texts as well as major monographs, and also case law). A special budget is dedicated to the acquisition of Manchu books. A pilot project has been launched to digitize the collection of Unofficial poetry journals from China. The library also received a donation to enrich its Chinese special collection.

Kerstin HERELIUS (Uppsala University Library)

The renovation of the library will last for one more year. A new cataloguing format is being used but is rather time consuming. Improvements are expected. Kerstin will retire in late 2019 and will probably not be replaced by someone who masters Chinese although the staff at the Chinese Department really appreciate to collaborate with a librarian mastering Chinese and wants to continue so.

Olivier HÖHN (Stockholm University Library, Asia Library)

The centralisation project goes on and one branch was recently closed down. Solutions were found for three others branches. The Asian library will be integrated to the main building building in the future but the exact time frame remains uncertain. Stockholm experiences the same cataloguing problem as Uppsala.

The number of students enrolled in Chinese studies is decreasing while more students are interested in Arabic and Korean studies. A retired Japanese colleague is helping with the retrocataloguing and treatment of Chinese donations.

The subscription to Elsevier has been cancelled. The acquisition policy is only based on active orders from students and teachers and very few Chinese books are purchased. Interlibrary loan is heavily used.

Amir KAHANA (Freie Universität Berlin)

Since 2017 the library uses Alma, the cataloguing is done in Aleph and Primo is used as cloud; this combination generates problems with non-Roman scripts. New staff was hired for digital projects and a workshop will be organised on data management for non-Roman scripts.

Matthias KAUN (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Berlin has worked with European partners on a proposal to improve access to E-resources in Europe, change licensing practices, provide new tools. Evolution is necessary but changes are complicated on institutional level for local institutions. The proposal Horizon 2020 was rejected by the EU but a modified version of the proposal might be submitted in March 2019.

A large collection of Korean premodern texts was received from a private German collector. In Krakow, a small Korean collection was discovered. Stabi is planning to show holdings in Japanese in NACSIS.

A Wiki system was launched in 2017 on the national level to improve the cataloguing in CJK. Humboldt Forum will open in 2019, from 2020 on a hand-carved wood block dating from mid-17th century will be on display there after having been digitized.

Øystein Johan KLEIVEN (University of Oslo Library)

The library will participate in the Zhonghua Book Company program and they will send a team to Oslo to work on the collection (150 Chinese books pre-1911, not digitized, only a catalogue is available).

Anne LABITZKY (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)

More students were trained to catalogue new material. The retrocataloguing project is still going on but the work on the titles in the reference room is completed.

Dat-Wei LAU (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient)

A new circulation module is being shared with BULAC.

Hanno LECHER (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)

The university is fusing different Asian related institutes and libraries into CATS (SWB and GD – CATEM plus).

The new building is almost finished and moving will take place in March 2019. The new library will include the former Chinese, Japanese, and East Asian art institutes and the ethnology and SEA libraries. The collections will be in open stacks. The number of loans keeps increasing, probably as a result of the retrocataloguing. The staff will need to learn a new cataloguing method since two regional union catalogues will merge.

The library has acquired the Chime collection on Chinese music and started to digitize its AV material.

Michael LEIBOLD (University of Würzburg)

The library has been attended to by teaching staff and students. A position is currently vacant and a new colleague is expected at the end of 2018. The workflow will then be reorganised. The library received a book donation from Oxford.

Linna LU (Technische Informationsbibliothek)

TIB is specialised in technics and sciences. A delegation from the Chinese Academy of Sciences visited the library and discussed potential cooperation.

Fung On LUI (University Library Frankfurt am Main)

The library has been contacted by Zhonghua Book Company to catalogue 100 titles. Lui worked full time for 2 years to resorb the backlog and to catalogue imprints. There are plans to build a central library for small institutes such as Sinology.

Kornélia MAJOR (Library of the Institute of East Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University)

This “one person” library has recently received a donation on Japanese economics. They are doing retrocataloguing.

Claudia de MORSIER-FRITZ (Zentralbibliothek Zürich)

The library does not hold much CJK material since the priority is given to electronic resources on the national level, especially for series and journals.

Cathleen PAETHE (The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

The position of the subject librarian in this “one person” library might become permanent. Old Chinese maps not available in Germany have been purchased and are being digitized.

Line PATTYN (Faculty Library Arts and Philosophy, Gent)

The merging of various branches is completed and the main library's holdings reach now 13 linear kilometres. The workflow has been reorganised and Line is responsible for the Asian, the anthropology and the political science collections.

Helena SEDLACKOVA (Palacký University Library)

Gabriella Tan has recently been hired. The number of users is increasing and a book donation has been received from Oxford. A budget is available for the acquisition of (e-)resources for Asian studies.

Joshua SEUFERT (Princeton University)

Princeton is looking for a new East Asian cataloguing team leader. In 2017, a catalogue of the Shanben (published 1796 and earlier) was published in collaboration with the National Library of China Publishing House. The Princeton collection of oracle bones is currently being digitized with RTI imaging technology and will be available via CADAL. Since August 2018, the library has a new platform for its digital library that also includes about 200 editions of Chinese books. All the material is available via a IIIF viewer. Individual images can be downloaded and whole books can be downloaded as PDF. One relatively rarely known collection at Princeton University Library is the Cotsen Children's Library. Its collections include about 50,000 mostly illustrated children's books from the Ming dynasty to the present. The ReCAP facility that has long been used for collaborative storage by New York Public Library, Columbia University and Princeton University has been joined by Harvard University. The three original partners now not only share the storage space, but also share their collections and users can order materials from all three collections as if they would belong to their own institution.

Thomas TABERY (Bavarian State Library)

The library has been contacted by Chinese institutions to develop projects around its special collections. One project concerns the Yao manuscripts but these documents are not in a good condition and need to be first restored according to the library policy. A second project concerns the collection of Chinese rare books in collaboration with Zhonghua Book Company and Shandong University. The library has provided a list of bibliographical data and the Chinese parties should send a cataloguer.

Shenxiao TONG (Edinburgh University Library)

The library budget will increase by 6.4%. A donation of 300 books from Taiwan was received following the exhibition in Glasgow during EACS. There are some undergoing negotiations for a TRCCS but space issue must first be addressed. All the East Asian collections are on compact shelving but the maximum capacity has been reached. The library might move back to static shelving and offside storage is being considered. There are lots of rare Chinese books.

Cordula TREIMER (Ethnologisches Museum - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)

The state museum exhibition will move to a new location but not the library. Shelfmarks are being changed and retrocataloguing done for all languages due to the merging of two libraries.

Bénédicte VAERMAN (East-Asian Library, Leuven)

The library (reading room and collections) is being relocated in a different part of the same building.

Marc WINTER (University of Zurich, Chinese Library)

The retrocataloguing is still going on. A new colleague will start working part-time since Marc will have a teaching position for a day per week.

The Korean material selected in the 1980s has never been catalogued. If the project is approved, students of Korean Art History will proceed them with the support of the Korean foundation. A preproject for the restructuration of the libraries has been published and the impact on the Asian collections will be significant. The future of the physical collections is uncertain. The library will start using Alma in 2019-2020 with a view to contribute to the new Swiss union catalogue.

Min YU (BULAC)

An exhibition on Chinese culture will be organised next year.

Ruili ZHANG (University of Manchester Library)

The digitisation of lantern slides created by missionaries in China has been completed. The cataloguing of this kind of material is rather difficult.

The CAJ subscription has been upgraded.

The main library will carry out a major moving project, reorganising the book stacks into a user friendly system. The library aims to complete the project in December 2018.

Xiuying ZOU (Claremont Colleges Library)

The collections of the library support the Asian studies program of 5 colleges and are built upon a few historical collections. The current focus is more upon historical collections and the development of services for the community. The library has participated in the nationwide survey organised by Ithaka, and has interviewed 16 faculty members. The compilation of an illustrated descriptive catalogue of 600 Chinese titles has reached the final stage of proofreading.

Two archival collections were recently acquired: the manuscripts of a modern HK writer who immigrated in the 70s, and the family papers of once former Claremont mayor, Peter Yao.

Delphine SPICQ (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises) shared by e-mail the following information:

The IHEC library, along with the rest of the libraries of the Far Eastern Institutes of the Collège de France (China, Korea, India, Japan and Tibet), is still relocated outside Paris, in Nogent-sur-Marne. It should move back to the old location, rue du Cardinal Lemoine, in June-July 2019.

Stranded in this nice but remote place outside Paris, readers don't come.

The current budget remains the same, but was reduced a couple of years back, therefore acquisitions are affected. The digitization of the collection of rare books, scrolls, oracle bones and rubbings is still under way.

One stack attendant retired this year and two persons work only halftime.

The library is now cataloguing into the SUDOC and has a new online catalogue Omnia (http://omnia.college-de-france.fr/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?&vid=33PSL-CDF_V1) shared with PSL (Paris Science et Lettres). All the old notices (about 120 000) haven't yet migrated into the SUDOC database.

6. Presentations of EASL members

The following presentations were given by members:

- Melodie Doumy (British Library): "Presentation on the Stein collection, recent IDP developments, current projects"
- Lu, Linna (TIB Hannover): "East Asia Department at the TIB"
- Zhang Ruili (UL Manchester): "Chinese Special Collection of Manchester University library"
- Marc Gilbert (Asian Library, Leiden): "The Leiden Collection of Unofficial Poetry Journals: Not Just Today, But Tomorrow"
- Kornélia Major (Budapest): "Hungarian sinology"
- Zou Xiuying (Claremont College, CA): "The rare book and archival collections related to East Asian studies housed at the Claremont Colleges Library"
- Miriam Seeger: "New repository and licensing"

7. Discussions on EASL affairs

7.1 Treasure

Since Anne Labitzky, current treasurer, will retire in 2020, a new treasurer will be needed.

7.2 EASL's logo

The logo designed for the Würzburg meeting has been approved and the association is allowed to use it.

7.3 Internal meetings

It was decided to open the Wednesday morning “internal meeting” to guests but this session remains inaccessible to vendors. Sensitive topics will be discussed during the Friday afternoon “internal meeting” session, open exclusively to EASL members. Members willing to discuss sensitive topics are invited to inform the board early enough so that enough time is allowed during the session. The treasurer's report will now take place on Friday afternoon.

7.4 Participation at next EACS conference 2020 was briefly discussed

8. Elections

The meeting accepted that Maja Fuchs, Anne Labitzky and Marc Gilbert would continue as Chairwoman, Treasurer and Secretary.

9. Next conference

Thanks to Øystein Johan Kleiven's invitation, the thirty-ninth annual EASL conference will be held September 4-6 2019 at the University of Oslo Library, Norway.

The invitation from Imke Mees to hold the 2019 meeting in Köln was cancelled due to private and professional reasons. The invitation from Heidelberg for 2020 will be confirmed next year and Gent offered to host the meeting in 2021.

The thirty-eighth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Michael Leibold and Immanuel Spaar for their excellent arrangements.

Marc Gilbert EASL Secretary, December 21, 2018, Leiden