

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference
Lund, 12-14 September 2007

The twenty-seventh EASL conference was held in the Old Bishop's House, University of Lund, from Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 September 2007. The meetings were chaired by Hanno Lecher. Professor Roger Greatrex, Director of the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies of the University, delivered a warm welcome speech.

There was a visit to the Centre's Asia Library on Wednesday afternoon, followed by a reception back in the Old Bishop's House in the evening. Both events were hosted by the Centre and presented by Professor Greatrex. On Thursday afternoon a tour was organized of Kulturen, the second oldest open-air museum in the world which consists of historical buildings moved and re-erected, and gardens from both medieval and modern times. The fare-well dinner took place on Friday evening at the Kulturkrogen Restaurant just outside the Museum.

Present:

Matthias Arnold (Digital Resources, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Heidelberg)
Inga-Lill Blomkvist (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies)
Barabara Bonazzi (Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient)
Hiroko Brittain (Document Supply Centre, British Library)
Roger Greatrex (Center for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University)
Xiaolan Nancy Guan (Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology Co. Ltd. Beijing)
Sijia He (Beijing Founder Apabi Technology Ltd.)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Kerstin Herelius (Uppsala University Library)
Mandy Xin Hu (Wanfang Data Co. Ltd.)
Dongfang Jiang (China National Publishing Industry Trading Co.)
Matthias Kaun (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Chunxiao Ke (Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology Co. Ltd. Beijing)
Li-Jen Ku (National Central Library, Taiwan)
Anne Labitzky-Wagner (Center for East Asian Studies, University of Heidelberg)
Hanno Lecher (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden University)
Jing (Joe) Li (Beijing Founder Apabi Technology Ltd.)
Xiaowei Li (Westminster University Library)
Dingfei (Danny) Liu (Wanfang Data Co. Ltd.)
C. C. Lo (Transmission Books & Microinfo Co. Ltd.)
Yiming Ma (Beijing Rare Book Co. Ltd.)
Imke Mees (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln)
Inga Nyman (Asian Library, Stockholm University Library)
Bent Pedersen (Kongelige Bibliothek, Kopenhagen)
Jarmila Přibyllová (National Library of the Czech Republic)
Irène Sandell (Asia Library, Lund University)
Joshua Seufert (Universität Würzburg)

Sue Small (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
Camilla Smith (Stockholm University Library)
Delphine Spicq (Bibliothèque de l'Institut des hautes études chinoises, Collège de France)
Erik Svanström (Asia Library, Lund University)
Katharina Thölen (Chinese Library, Universität Zürich)
Shenxiao Tong (Edinburgh University Library)
Annie Troedsson (Library of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Lund University)
Mark Ulyanov (Russian State Library, Moscow)
Benedicte Vaerman (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven)
Xianghui Wei (China National Publishing Industry Trading Co., Beijing)
Tong Wang (China International Book Trading Corporation, Beijing)
Fenghua Zhao (Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology Co. Ltd. Beijing)
Guifang Zhang (Beijing Rare Book Co. Ltd.)
Naili Zheng (China International Book Trading Corporation, Beijing)

Apologies

Charles Alymer (Cambridge University Library)
Cristina Cramerotti (Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris)
Katarina Feriancikova (Charles University, Prague)
Jie Formoso (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris)
Lars Fredriksson (Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)
Maja Fuchs (Universität Wien)
Gill Goddard (Sheffield University Library)
Martin Hanke (CHINA Buchservice)
Markus Hofmüller (Philipps-Universität Marburg)
Xiyi Huang (Leeds University Library)
Ane Husstad-Nedberg (University of Oslo)
Graham Hutt (Asia, Pacific & Africa Collections, British Library)
Hartmut Lamparth (Universität Bonn)
John Moffett (Needham Institute, Cambridge)
Andreas Mixius (German National Library of Science & Technology, Hanover)
Nathalie Monnet (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris)
Cheng Pei (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris)
Clynis Platt (John Rylands Library, Manchester University)
Renate Stephan-Bahle (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Silvia Sun (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Mamtimyn Sunuodola (Durham University Library)
Frances Wood (Asia, Pacific & Africa Collections, British Library)
Dong Yu (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana)

ACTA

1. Chairman's address

Hanno Lecher opened the conference by remembering fondly Dr Meri F. Trifonenko, late Director of the Oriental Center of Russian State Library, and Ms Ying Lu of Sheffield University Library, both of whom had passed away since the last conference. He expressed deep regret and sympathy over the loss of the two colleagues.

A special welcome was extended to our guest participant Mr Ku Li-Jen from the National Central Library, Taiwan.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference

The minutes of the twenty-sixth EASL conference were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Matters arising

The Far Eastern Library, Stockholm -- The situation of the Far Eastern Library in Stockholm was discussed at length. It had just been learnt before the conference that the Library was facing the possibility of severe staff reduction (8 out of 10) and its Chinese collection being transferred to the Library of the Royal Museum. The move was possibly caused by the financial strain arising from the state charge on the use of public buildings. The meeting expressed deep concern about the future of the largest Sinological library in the region and the service impact on users. It was agreed that, although EASL recognised the difference between this issue and the SOAS issue two years before and that it should not interfere in what was essentially an internal affair of Sweden, EASL should write a letter of concern over the issue. The meeting entrusted its Chairman Hanno Lecher with the task of drafting the letter on behalf of EASL, to be agreed by email by EASL members and then to be sent to the relevant authorities for their meeting on 18th September 2007.

4. Introduction and notices of members

-- Xiaowei Li works p/t as Academic Liaison Librarian at the University of Westminster, based at Regent Campus Library. Her duty is mainly to support Chinese studies in the university which includes BA, MA and research activities on Asia. There are about 100 students doing BA in Chinese and other languages in the School of Modern Languages each year, and about 30 students doing MA translations and linguistics, and 3 staff researchers working in area of contemporary Chinese cultural studies. Major e-resources include *Siku Quanshu* on CD-Roms, CAJ and CJP online journals, *Women Studies Symposium (funü yanjiu luncong, 1992-2001)* and *Women Studies (funü yanjiu, 1980-2005)* on CD-Roms. There are also 50 titles of DVD documentary and feature films added in 2007. Due to the limited budget for Chinese studies in the University, it is hard to meet academics' requests for books and e-resources for Chinese studies. (Xiaowei Li)

-- Since the solution to the restructuring problem in 2006 in SOAS, the staff morale is still yet to be improved. The School has asked the Library to create a working group to move things forward. (Sue Small)

-- Center for East Asian Studies at Heidelberg University will set up a new computer and language lab next summer with 40 places for language learning. (Matthias Arnold)

-- Because of the setting up of the new computer and language lab, the Chinese collection at the Center for East Asian Studies (Heidelberg University) will be moved close to Japanese and other East Asian collections by next summer. There is now a €500 fee paid by each student. This is good for the Library, but professors decide on the use of the money. (Anne Labitzky-Wagner)

-- The Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst in Köln will mark its centenary of founding in 2009. The Library is still staffed by only one person. There are exchanges of materials with other museums and libraries, including the Central Library of Taiwan. The financial situation is recovering. (Imke Mees)

-- At the National Library of the Czech Republic, the subject of Chinese studies is high on agenda. Donations of books have been received from Shanghai Library. There is also collaboration with libraries in China and Taiwan, including the Central Library of Taiwan. (Jarmila Přibylková)

-- Katharina Thölen has worked for more than 25 years at the Chinese Library of Universität Zürich, and for the last 9 years also at the Library of the Museum Rietberg Zürich (museum for non-European art). There has been no substantial reduction of financial resources in recent years. The books in the Chinese Library have been reshelved two years ago and again in August 07. Chinese records in the previous Allegro system have been converted to Aleph, using MARC21, vernacular script included. The Chinese library (and the Japanese library as well) have joined the Union Catalogue of the Swiss German academic libraries in Switzerland IDS. (Katharina Thölen)

-- A new librarian has been appointed at Oxford. The Library needs to save £3 million a year with the risk of losing some staff. There are plans to build a large automated book depository. Chinese cataloguing at Bodleian Library is going well. The materials budget is reasonable, but only one third of the total comes from the Library itself ; the rest comes from elsewhere and is short-term. (David Helliwell)

-- Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin is undergoing a major refurbishment. A large part of the collections will move out to a place 30 km northeast of Berlin because of the building work. There will be some delay in the loan service as a result, with only one or two collection times in a week. The move back to the newly fitted Library can happen in 2010. CrossAsia project web site is now available for all German users. Matthias Kaun now also reports to funding institutions for Japanese and South Asian collections. (Matthias Kaun)

-- At Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven, some staffing help has been obtained for the Japanese collection, which is a relief for Benedicte. She is buying a lot of Chinese books with extra funding. (Benedicte Vaerman)

-- Starting in March this year, there has been no specialist Chinese librarian at Universität Würzburg. Instead, the departmental staff look after the Chinese collection. Areas of study include archaeology, and there has been a bachelor's degree program since last year in economic and social issues of China. Cataloguing of Chinese resources is done by pinyin rather than by original scripts. (Joshua Seufert)

-- Mr Sergei Kukushkin has been appointed as Director of the Oriental Center, Russian State Library, following Dr Meri F. Trifonenko's death. The National Library of China will be sending two specialists to Moscow to help cataloguing the Chinese rare books. (Mark Ulyanov)

-- There are about 8,000 Chinese books in the Asia Library of Lund University. Everything is in the online Catalogue. (Irène Sandell)

-- Edinburgh University Library is undergoing a major refurbishment, but the Chinese collection won't be affected till 2009. There is now a collection of 600 Chinese DVD films, all catalogued. Bibliographical records for the 4,600 Apabi e-books will also soon appear in the online Catalogue. (Shenxiao Tong)

-- The organisational structure of the Library of Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden University, might change considerably in 2008. The currently independent library might become part of the University Library, or might combine with the current Japanese and Korean libraries, to form a single CJK collection. The financial situation is not yet clear, but there is fear of losing staff. Conversion of the Chinese bibliographical records into Aleph, the system used by the University Library, will be underway probably after October. Unlike the practice of the Library of Congress, pinyin syllables will be completely de-aggregated. Authority for personal names will not follow LC, either. (Hanno Lecher)

-- Erik Svanström has worked as a cataloguer at the Asia Library, Lund University, for four years. He is doing a postgraduate degree in library and information science at the moment and hopes to complete in two years. (Erik Svanström)

-- The National Library of Denmark has now 8 full-time staff for Oriental studies materials including Jewish, Indian and South Asian, but more resources are allocated for China and Middle East. (Bent Pedersen)

-- The cost of rent for buildings is high (almost 5 million SEK a year) for Stockholm University Library. After the proposed reduction of the Far Eastern Library, reference collections will be moved here, but it is not known yet what to do with the material. (Inga Nyman)

-- All European language books at Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient have been catalogued. Cataloguing of Chinese books has started this year. The database of the Chinese rubbings held in the most important French and European libraries has been created with the financial support of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation. (Barabara Bonazzi)

-- There are about 250 titles and 2.000 volumes of rare books and about 80.000 titles of Chinese books (out of 160.000 for the whole Chinese collection) already implemented into the online catalogue at Bibliothèque de l'Institut des hautes études chinoises, Collège de France. There is not much money for purchasing databases, though the situation may change. Next year or after a new library system Aleph will be adopted thanks to the funding by a rich American. There is only one person for cataloguing Chinese materials, with a total of 8,000 titles. The collections are to move from the 4th to 1st floor. Space is tight. (Delphine Spicq)

-- Hiroko Brittain now also works with Slavonic materials as well as for CJK. There is a shift of emphasis in budget towards Chinese at their Centre: in the past 70% was on Japanese and 20% on Chinese; now it is 50% for each. The Centre will use robot for fetching books when the new storage building is completed and functional in early 2009. 70 staff members had been offered redundancy options. (Hiroko Brittain)

5. Reports on conferences and meetings

Matthias Kaun reported that he went to the CEAL (Council on East Asian Libraries) conference in the US for the first time in March 2007. It was exciting experience. The conference was well organised. About 200 professionals attended, mostly from universities on

the east coast. There were lots of discussions on e-resources, but not on financial matters. East Asian librarians there reply on well trained cataloguers who just follow rules.

6. Treasurer's report

Martin Hanke's report was presented in absentia as he was not able to attend the meeting: since last year's report, there was no additional income except from 9.15 Euro from the bank interest. The EASL money therefore grew from 1,825.06 Euro in 2006 to 1,834.19 Euro this year.

7. Vendor presentations

7.1 CNKI user group meeting

There are now 400 libraries across 20 countries using CNKI resources. Two new resources have been added to the existing databases: *China Yearbooks Full-text Database* and *China Reference Works Online*. A free trial was offered to all EASL members for the month of September which was later extended to the end of October. CNKI representatives also answered questions about the recent full-text access problems experienced by some EASL members. It is understood that information on the entitlement for full-text access is indicated in the colour of the disk icon on the left site of each search result. CNKI can now provide China MARC records for CAJ titles.

Matthias Kaun reported that the German consortium for CNKI databases was set up in 2003 with the help of funding at the national level. CAJ is one of the best used databases with, for example, 91,000 logins in 2007. There were always 10 to 50 concurrent users (out of 100 allowed) in Germany. Berlin has agreed to host CAJ and the server was expected to start to run by the end of 2007 after the pdf problem is solved.

7.2 Apabi user group meeting

Apabi has launched new databases such as e-newspapers (including *People's Daily*), e-art museum, and China e-reference online, and China e-yearbook online (including *Zhongguo tong ji nian jian*). There will be 15 databases by the end of 2008. the latest version of the Digital Library (localised e-book platform) is 4.0 and the latest Apabi Reader is version 3.1.

Shenxiao Tong reported that the MARC records received from Apabi (now being provided by CIBTC) would be uploaded very soon into the online Catalogue.

7.3 Wanfang Data

Danny Liu and Xin Hu presented latest resources on the Chinese government, the Communist Party of China, The National People's Congress, the Chinese People's Political and Consultative Conference, Policies and Laws of China, the Chinese People's Liberation Army Daily, etc. There will be a gazetteers database in early 2008. Subscription model can be flexible, either by individual title selection or by packaging. Chinese Studies Online (CSO) is now available in Berlin.

7.4 Transmission Book & Microinfo Co., Ltd.

Mr C. C. Lo presented a range of digital resources for Chinese and Taiwanese studies from his company founded in 1981. They include ancient Chinese work series, Taiwan study series 1850-2007, newspaper series 1910-2007, Taiwan literature series 1898-1945, and general study series. Mr Lo welcomed requests for trial.

7.5 Ms Zhang Guifang from Beijing Rare Books Co. Ltd. also gave a brief introduction to their services.

8. Guest presentation

8.1 The National Central Library of Taiwan

Mr Li-Jen Ku, Director of Bibliographic Information Center at NCLT, gave an overview of the National Digital Archives Program and the digital content services of NCLT. Further information can be obtained from <http://www.ndap.org.tw/>. Access to their databases is free, but subject to agreement and setting up of an account. Mr Ku also circulated an exchange program of the NCLT inviting overseas library and information professional staff.

9. Presentations of EASL members

9.1 As introduction Hanno Lecher showed a short film, "First IT Professional". The film can be viewed at Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMa3QBqf3t4>.

9.1 A printed paper on digitisation of sinological literature in French, by Cheng Pei (Oriental Literatures and Art Section, Bibliothèque nationale de France), was distributed. The contents for digitisation include both sinological literature in French and French translations of classical Chinese texts, through the period starting from the first Christian missionaries up until the beginning of the 19th century. A collaborative project by the National Library of China will contribute Chinese literature on French or European sinologists and their works.

9.2 Matthias Arnold, Heidelberg, presented *Thesaurus Linguae Sericae – an historical and comparative encyclopaedia of Chinese conceptual schemes*, or word meaning in different contexts. The project was started by academics in 1988. The database is still in development and the web interface is not fully ready yet.

9.3 Inga-Lill Blomkvist and Anja Møller Rasmussen, of Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, presented *Asia Portal* (www.asiaportal.info), a research portal or information hub of modern Asia focusing on social and economic issues. It provides services to researchers, students, government officials, and journalists, etc. The project involves 23 member institutions and classified and annotated free internet resources, news, information on Nordic research and activities on Asia, and access to online journals and databases which are available in full-text only to the member institutions. It is based on Web 2.0 concept, i.e. members of the public can register to contribute information on the portal. It was launched on 12 October 2007 but is under constant development.

9.4 Barbara Bonazzi, Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, presented the *Database of the Chinese rubbings held in the most important French and European libraries*. The database has been created with the financial support of the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation and under the direction of Prof. Jean-Pierre Drège. Richard Schneider created the database program and design of CD's display program. The collection of Collège de France, being the largest, holds

more than 1264 rubbings, including over 700 epitaphs from the Tang dynasty. The web site (<http://www.efeo.fr/estampages>) is essentially in French, but will have English. It uses aggregated pinyin for transliteration.

10. Discussions on EASL affairs

10.1 EASL – EACS relationship

Hanno Lecher read out a letter from Dr Roel Sterckx, General Secretary of EACS inviting an EASL member to give a presentation on Chinese resources in Europe at the EACS Conference in August 2008. The travel cost for this member would be met by EACS. The letter also invited EASL to make a panel at the Conference if possible.

It was recognised that in the past, participation by EASL members in EACS conferences required that they join EACS membership first. Previous EASL presentation at EACS conferences didn't seem to have received enough interest and enthusiasm. However, the EACS intention was sincere. It was also felt, after the SOAS event, that it was important for academics and librarians to work together and support each other. It was also regarded as a good opportunity for us to raise awareness of what EASL members were doing in their role to support teaching, learning and research.

The meeting unanimously agreed on Matthias Kaun going to the EACS Conference in August 2008 to make a presentation on the role of Berlin State Library in support of Chinese studies in Germany. The meeting also agreed that it was up to individual members to decide whether they would like to join or organise such a panel as suggested by EACS.

10.2 Cataloguing of Chinese rare books in Europe

Progress was reported both in the UK and in Russia.

David Helliwell reported that the National Library of China had agreed to support a project to catalogue the pre-modern Chinese books in UK libraries, starting with those in the British Library. Early in 2008, NLC would send one or two professionals to access the size of the task, and to establish a technical link between BL and NLC. After the pilot project, appropriate funding for the project itself would have to be found. China MARC will be the standard. Final bibliographical data will be free to the public. There are about 5,000 such books at Oxford, of which about half have been catalogued, and a similar total at the BL.

Mark Ulyanov felt that the UK experience would benefit Russia, where NLC were sending two professionals in 2008 to the Russian State Library for cataloguing the Chinese rare books there.

10.3. Vendor presentations, user group meetings and donations

The importance of having vendor presence and having good working relationship with them was recognized. However, concern was expressed about vendor presentations taking too much of the EASL meeting time. This conference also saw the emergence of two user group meetings. The meeting agreed that:

- We should continue to have 'private' sessions for internal discussions.

- Vendor presentations should be limited to half a day with no more than 15 minutes for each presentation.
- We should continue to welcome vendors to participate in the opening session, visits and Friday evening dinner.

No decision was made on user group meetings.

The conference received a donation of 500 Euro in cash from a vendor. The money was passed on to the local host. The meeting agreed that EASL should always remain independent and never receive any form of donation from vendors towards its activities. However, if the donation is for the local host to help with the conference cost, it is a matter between the local host and the relevant vendor(s).

10.4 EASL web – local library information and minutes

Matthias Kaun reported that the information on local libraries in EASL web was badly outdated. It would be possible to create a web form for members to use for updating information on their local libraries. The meeting agreed that we could use OGEA for local library information, and therefore it was not necessary to keep the local library page in EASL web.

The issue of whether minutes currently in EASL web should be password protected was discussed. No decision was reached, and therefore it was agreed that we keep the status quo for the moment.

11. Miscellaneous

-- Cataloguing. Bent Pedersen asked about experiences with Aleph. Zürich has just started using Aleph 16 which is not very stable with Twinbridge. BL uses Aleph 17.

-- Apabi MARC records. David Helliwell reported that the quality of their records was not good. Shenxiao Tong reported that Edinburgh had received improved records and was ready to upload into OPAC. Usage data can be obtained from the admin web site created by Apabi.

-- Shenxiao Tong asked about the copyright issue for digitisation for local use. At Leiden, it was forbidden to make an e-copy. It was stated that the copy right is subject to local laws.

-- Berlin purchased *Ji ben gu ji ku* at the end of 2006. There are 100 users per month on average. The consortial price was quoted as £20,000 for each member.

-- General dissatisfaction was expressed about *Ren da fu yin bao kan zi liao* acquired from Chen Taiping. The European consortium for this resource will end in 2008. There was no agreement yet on whether to renew.

12. Elections

Hanno Lecher and Shenxiao Tong were asked to continue in their respective roles as Chairman and Secretary, and Martin Hanke to be Treasurer for another year.

13. Next conference

The next conference will be held from 10 to 12 September 2008, either in Universität Wien or in Zürich. Vienna would be the first choice. Hanno Lecher would contact Maja Fuchs; failing that, Katharina Thölen has kindly offered to be the host again. Joshua Seufert also kindly offered Universität Würzburg as a possible backup.

The Twenty-seventh EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Iréne Sandell and Erik Svanström for their excellent arrangements; and to Professor Roger Greatrex and his Centre for their full support.

Shenxiao Tong
EASL Secretary
February 5, 2008, Edinburgh