

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Conference
Venice, 9-11 September 2009

The twenty-ninth EASL conference was held at the Department of East Asian Studies of Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia Orientale, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia), Italy, from 9 to 11 September 2009. The meetings were chaired by Hanno Lecher.

A conference reception took place at the Codroma restaurant near the Department on Wednesday evening. There were also two cultural visits organised by the local host during the conference: one to the Cini Foundation (Fondazione Cini, <http://www.cini.it/index.php/it/library>) and its Library of Venezia & East on Wednesday afternoon where members were greeted by Prof. Alfredo Cadonna and Mrs. Carla Bonò, and the other to the Marciana Library (Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, one of the four National Libraries of Italy) on Friday morning where members were shown by Ms Granzotto, head of the manuscript section of the Library, the original manuscript of Marco Polo's last will and testament. There was also a brief tour of the Library of the Department of East Asian Studies within the beautiful 16th century building. The farewell dinner took place at the Al Diporto restaurant on the island of Sant' Elena on Friday evening.

Present

- **Members**

Attilio **Andreini** (Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia Orientale, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia)

Inga-Lill **Blomkvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies)

Barabara **Bonazzi** (École française d'Extrême-Orient)

Hiroko **Brittain** (Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa)

Alfredo **Cadonna** (Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia Orientale, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia; former Director of the Institute "Venice & The East" Fondazione G. Cini, Venice)

Claudia **de Morsier-Fritz** (Zentralbibliothek, Universitäts-, Kantons- und Stadtbibliothek, Zurich)

Feng **Yi** (E.N.S.Lettres & Sciences Humaines, Institut d'Asie Orientale, Lyon)

Katarina **Feriancikova** (Univerzita Karlova v Praze, Prague)

Maja **Fuchs** (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna)

Roger **Greatrex** (Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University)

Cordula **Gumbrecht** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

David **Helliwell** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)

Kerstin **Herelius** (Uppsala University Library)

Xiyi **Huang** (Brotherton Library, Leeds University)

Ane **Husstad-Nedberg** (Oslo University Library)

Matthias **Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Anne **Labitzky-Wagner** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)
Hanno **Lecher** (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)
Xiaowei **Li** (Westminster University Library)
Fung On **Lui** (Library of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe-University)
Imke **Mees** (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln)
Inga **Nyman** (Asian Library, Stockholm University Library)
Lucia **Obi** (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Bent **Pedersen** (National Library of Denmark)
Giorgia **Rinaldi** (Centre of advanced studies on Contemporary China - CASCC,
Torino)
Sue **Small** (School of Oriental and African Studies Library, University of London)
Delphine **Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des hautes études chinoises, Paris)
Renate **Stephan-Bahle** (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Soline **Suchet** (Paris University Library of Oriental Languages)
Erik **Svanström** (NIAS Library & Information Centre, Denmark)
Katharina **Thölen** (Chinese Studies Library, Universität Zürich)
Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)
Benedicte **Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven)
Tanina **Zappone** (Centre of advanced studies on Contemporary China - CASCC,
Torino)
Yu **Zhang** (Institut d'Asie Orientale, Lyon)
Yuzhi **Zhang** (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)

• **Vendors**

Han Dong (China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation.
Beijing)
Han Chunlei (Value-added Information Services Department, NICNP, Shanghai
Library)
Dingfei (Danny) **Liu** (Oripote Information Services, Inc. [Wanfang Data Co., Ltd.],
Beijing)
Junqing **Nei** (China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation.
Beijing)
Anja **van Hoek** (BRILL, Leiden)
Paul **Verhaere** (East View Information Services, Amhem)
Wang Haining (China International Book Trading Corporation, Beijing)
Shu (Gabrielle) **Xu** (Editorial Department of National Index to Chinese Newspapers
& Periodicals, Shanghai Library)
Zhang Guifang (Beijing Rare Book Co., Ltd, Beijing)
Zheng Naili (China International Book Trading Corporation (CIBTC), Beijing)

Apologies

Charles **Alymer** (Cambridge University Library)
Gill **Goddard** (Western Bank Library, University of Sheffield)
Sergei **Kukushkin** (Russian State Library)
Andreas **Mixius** (German National Library of Science & Technology)
Nathalie **Monnet** (Bibliothèque nationale de France)
Irène **Sandell** (Asia Library, Centre for East- and Southeast Asian studies, Lund
University)

Annie **Troedsson** (Library of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Lund University)
Frances **Wood** (British Library)

ACTA

1. Chairman's address and opening remarks by the local host

Hanno Lecher extended a warm welcome to all participants and a special welcome to Professor Roger Greatrex, Vice President of EACS. Dr Attilio Andreini, our local host, gave a warm welcome speech on behalf of the Director of the Department Prof. Guido Samarani and introduced information about the Department (see Members' reports). Attilio also thanked Beijing Rare Books for their generous sponsorship.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference

The minutes of the 28th EASL conference were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Introduction and reports of members (in sequence order)

-- The Department of East Asian Studies of Ca' Foscari University of Venice has more than 2,000 students – the number accounts for over half of all the foreign language students in the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature. There are 40 staff engaged in teaching and research in East Asian subject areas. The Library of the Department consists of 34,000 volumes or 13,000 titles of monographs, of which more than half (7,000) are in Chinese. There are 200 periodicals. The annual book fund is €40,000. (**Attilio Andreini**)

-- The library of the Sinology at the Goethe-University Frankfurt has a collection of about 30,000 titles. It used to be managed by untrained students. I joined the library on a half-time basis 18 months ago. Since almost a year ago cataloguing has been done in the Pica system. The conversion of the card catalogue and the Allegro catalogue into the Pica system has encountered serious problems. 1/4 of an externally assigned retro-cataloguing data from the card catalogue has to be manually checked because of inconsistencies in the cards. The problem with the Allegro catalogue could be still greater. Also the whole collection has probably to be reclassified with another call number system, because the current one based on an in-house classification at the University of Trier is unsatisfactory. It would take years to bring the library into a proper condition even with a full-time position. At the moment we can afford buying many books. (**Fung An Lui**)

-- There are developments in personnel and IT issues at the Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University. Hanno Lecher began to take up his post as the East Asian Library on 1st September 2009. Professor Rudolf Wagner has retired at the age of 73 but is still working as professor. The library system has migrated from Allegro to Pica. 100,000 records have to be moved to the new system. (**Anne Labitzky-Wagner**)

-- The Chinese collection at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University, is focusing on Chinese yearbooks, history of Chinese law, and academic publications in Taiwan. (**Roger Greatrex**)

-- From the beginning of this year the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek has started cataloguing its CJK holdings directly into the Aleph based Bavarian Union Catalogue. Previously we have put our record directly into WorldCat. So now there are about 55,000 CJK records available in WorldCat and the Bavarian Union Catalogue. With the conversion of our card catalogue into a machine readable form - this will be done in cooperation with CIBTC- our complete CJK holdings will be accessible online by the beginning of next year. Last year we had a small but exquisite exhibition of Asian materials among other big exhibitions commemorating the founding of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek 450 years ago. In addition there was a big exhibition at the Bayerische Nationalmuseum "Die Wittelsbacher und das Reich der Mitte. 400 Jahre China und Bayern" documenting the early and intensive relations between the Bavarian rulers and China. We have contributed to it with some of our precious items and an article in their really excellent catalogue. (**Renate Stephan-Bahle**)

-- The Library of East Asian Studies/Sinology at the University of Vienna) holds about 25,000 books, 50% of which are in Chinese. Focus is on Social Sciences, Modern History, Historiography, History of the Communist Party of China, Modern Literature, and recently also on Law. The retro-cataloguing of books in Western languages is completed (for Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies) and can be found in the OPAC of the University Library of Vienna (<http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at>); the retro-cataloguing of books in original language is still going on, total library holdings in Chinese should be available in the OPAC by summer 2010. (**Maja Fuchs**)

-- The Chinese Studies Library of Universität Zürich is developing collections on Chinese philosophy, literature and classics. (**Katharina Thölen**)

-- The Central Library of Zurich has a book budget of 15,000 euro per year. Lots of materials are in Western languages. One major focus is Social Linguistics. We use the Aleph library system. (**Claudia de Morsier-Fritz**)

-- The important change from the old library system to a new one, Aleph, should take place on 28th September this year at the Collège de France. This change concerns all the 13 libraries, of which the Bibliothèque générale and the bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises are the two biggest. The migration of all the catalogues is under way and will be completed at the beginning of October. My colleague Hubert Delahaye is in charge of it for the Far East libraries on China (81,000 records), Japan (38,000), India (34,000), Korea (14,000) and Tibet (6,500).

The data migration should be easily done since we had only one old format and information consistency of the data. The records have to be converted into Unicode (the old format was a specific home made one only in use at our institute). Interrogation with CJK script will be possible (but *fantizi* only) as well as in pinyin. In pinyin words are aggregated by name, common names like *Zhongguo lishi* or *Shuihu zhuan* or *HouHan shu*. The management and cataloguing of acquisitions are entirely computerized. Retrospective computerization of the old catalogue is still underway: there are about 120,000 records for the Chinese collection and a bit more than 80,000

records have been computerized. So far our main problem in installing this new library system was the size of the character which appears far too small on the screen. We haven't found a way to get them bigger so far.

In due time (which could be in four or five years), we would integrate our records into the SUDOC OPAC, the French university library union catalogue.

In other matters: we lost one position as a result of someone's retirement but we couldn't replace her. We still haven't got any budget for electronic resources but I'm working with a high ranking official (a researcher from the CNRS) to try to get something done on the national level. **(Delphine Spicq)**

-- There are not many changes this year at Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven. We received a donation of all the books that belonged to a late professor. There will be a big China festival from the end of September to mid October this year, consisting of 450 high quality program events about China. **(Benedicte Vaerman)**

-- Erik Svanström works at the Library and Information Centre of Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. He is also doing a postgraduate degree in library and information science focusing on information retrieval. **(Erik Svanström)**

-- The Westminster University Library has a small collection for Chinese studies in both Chinese and English. Materials in the two languages are mixed together. We are running out of space and therefore trying to get rid of some old journals. Areas of focus are on art, language, and women and man studies relating to China. **(Xiaowei Li)**

-- SOAS Library has seen many changes (in staff, including senior management team, material budget, collections, building & space, etc) following the implementation of the Library Strategic Plan produced by the Interim Librarian in May 2008. The faculty system has been abolished in the new structure. The Library now has four sections: Teaching and Research Support, Reader Services, Technical Services and Special Collections. I attended the 7th International Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources, 7-10 November 2008, in Macau. **(Sue Small)**

-- Hiroko Brittain has taken over the extra responsibility for the Slavic collection which includes 4,000 books and 2,000 journals. We have to cancel many titles next year due to budget cut. The newspaper collection will be moved from London to Boston Spa January 2010. **(Hiroko Brittain)**

-- There are many changes in Oxford over the past year. We are redeveloping our existing buildings to build a new Humanities Library. The project will take 5 to 7 years. There will also be a new book storage in Swinton. Oxford is also installing the Aleph library system. **(David Helliwell)**

-- The Inter-University Library of Oriental Languages and Civilizations holds around 40,000 Chinese volumes of monographs and 100 current periodicals. Its main areas are Chinese literature, history and linguistics. In the last few years, however, stress has been put on social sciences. One librarian is in charge of the Chinese collections (acquisitions, cataloguing, and indexation) while Occidental collections about China

are covered by another librarian (also in charge of Occidental collections about Japan, Korea and Thailand).

The library is currently undergoing tremendous changes as the BULAC project is making progress. The new library should open in September 2011. Information about which institution shall join the project is found at <http://www2.bulac.fr/en/bulacs-libraries>. Regarding Chinese collections, it means firstly that old catalogue cards are gradually computerized (whereas every bibliographic record from 2001 on has been systematically computerized); secondly an important part of the librarian's work consists of setting up open access collections; thirdly, as part of the BULAC project, a new open source computer system is tested: KOHA (<http://koha.org>). This new project just started this very month and we shall see how the migration of Chinese records proceeds. **(Soline Suchet)**

-- Bent Pedersen is now responsible for all the Asian collections (originally only for Chinese) at the National Library of Denmark. There are 3 full time staff for North America and the whole Asia. **(Bent Pedersen)**

-- Leeds University Library: 1. The library fund for Chinese material is not cut for 2009-10 but I am requested to make a 10% saving; 2. We purchased 80 core titles of National and provincial e-yearbooks from Apabi. Some titles and volumes fill in the gap of our yearbook collection; 3. The extension project of Edward Boyle Library (student library) will begin in 2010, aiming at a multi-functioned modern complex. **(Xiyi Huang)**

-- There has been restructuring at Stockholm University Library. I am now also assisting the Department of Collection Management and therefore spending less time on Chinese resources. We recently bought more books to support a new professorship in East Asian art. **(Inga Nyman)**

-- NIAS is a Nordic institution supporting research on Asia in the Nordic region and we have 26 partner universities/research institutions. We do not acquire printed material in Asian languages for our library collection, but we do coordinate access to licensed Asian language and western language e-resources for our partner universities, on their request. Access is provided via www.asiaportal.info. NIAS has a new director who is a North Korea specialist and that we are working on developing the online Barha Nordic Asia Research Community. **(Inga-Lill Blomkvist)**

-- The Library of the Museum of East Asian Art (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst) is a one-person library. Someone helps but not on a permanent basis. I therefore have to do almost everything. We can buy used books with credit card. The Museum and the Library are celebrating the 100th anniversary this year. We are buying all the new books on private funding. We are still using the Allegro system – there is no plan to move to something else. The city has 8 important museums to support. Archives storage sank by 50 meters because of subway construction. 50 percent of the materials have been rescued, but there are still materials 13 meters deep. The cultural budget has been cut by more than 30 percent. **(Imke Mees)**

-- Kerstin Herelius is working part time as Chinese Studies Librarian doing cataloguing and information service at Uppsala University Library in Stockholm. **(Kerstin Herelius)**

-- Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies (Institut d'Asie Orientale) is developing digital resources for Chinese studies. An internal digital library is being built for research fellows and PhD students. **(Feng Yi)**

-- The Oslo University Library has the only Chinese collection in Norway, with 37,000 Chinese books and 75 print journals. The Chinese Department has 8 teaching staff and 80 students every year. **(Ane Husstad-Nedberg)**

-- Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin is now using Pica as its library system. There are 400,000 Chinese and Japanese titles already in the Pica OPAC platform. Matthias convenes a national working group for setting up standards for cataloguing CJK materials for Germany. We are also starting to digitise our collections which will be freely available for German institutions. German institutions also have free access to over 700,000 e-books from China provided through Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. **(Matthias Kaun)**

-- The Library of the Cini Foundation has two parts, one for the East such as China and India and the other for the Institute of Venice and Europe. There is only one librarian looking after the collections which are not developing. There are about 40,000 books. This is a private foundation with a long history and was set up through the generous donation of all the property by the Cini family. **(Alfredo Cadonna)**

-- The BULAC library will have a new catalogue based on Koha, a free software which is already used in many libraries. They are migrating data from Millennium to Koha. The EFEO Library will probably have its records in the BULAC catalogue. Although EFEO will not be giving all of our collections to the new library, it will give to the BULAC books which are not anymore related to our scientific policy; for the Chinese collection we'll give them all the books relating to literature, history, philosophy, history of science and we'll keep all the books concerning art, architecture, archaeology, religion, history of books and anthropology. **(Barabara Bonazzi)**

-- Changes & activities at the Institute of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Philosophy & Arts, Charles University, Prague, in 2009: 1) Lower budget (approximately 10 % less than in 2008); due to planned lower budget for science in general in the Czech Republic it is possible, that the budget of our institute for the year 2010 will be even lower than this year. 2) Two more part-time cataloguers, one working 6 hours / week and the other c. 20 hours / week. 3) Assistance in an exhibition dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement organized by Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation International Sinological Center in Prague. **(Katarina Feriaticikova)**

-- Edinburgh University's Main Library building is halfway through its £60 million redevelopment to meet the library needs for teaching, learning and research for the 21st century. The future location of the East Asian Collection is not yet known. The Library material budget for 2009 has been protected. It has been decided that the Chinese books in the Confucius Institute (about 1,000 in total) will be catalogued into

the University Library system and be classified in the Library of Congress scheme as the rest of the University Library's Chinese Collection. (**Shenxiao Tong**)

-- Hanno Lecher has left his position as Librarian of the Sinological Library of Leiden University and, as of 1 September 2009, taken up a new one as Head of the East Asian Library at Heidelberg University. The Chinese Library in Leiden became part of the University Library from January 2009. There will be budget cuts for both staffing and book funds for Chinese studies due to the new distribution model. His most urgent responsibility in Heidelberg will be to bring the three libraries of Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies and East Asian Art History together, move them into a new building within the next five years, and migrate their current catalogue records to the South German union catalogue SWB and the local system of Heidelberg University. (**Hanno Lecher**)

4. Treasurer's report

There was no income in 2008 except for an increase of €9.22 in the form of interest. The amount that Martin Hanke handed over in August 2009 was therefore €1,852.58.

The new Treasurer suggested that there should be two people having access to this account. The bank has required the other person also has to present him/herself to the bank. It was agreed that Hanno Lecher, being now in Heidelberg, would assist Anne as the second account holder.

5. Vendor presentations

5.1. Beijing Rare Books

Zhang Guifang reported that their company now had business relationship with libraries in America, Australia, Japan and Europe. Their online order system (www.bookchinese.com) is now available for 24 hours every day with brief MARC records free of charge. She also explained the procedure of the online book order service. In answer to members' questions, she confirmed that it was possible to print out orders, export orders to Excel or send them by email. They also accept credit card (including foreign credit card) payment.

5.2. CNKI

Victor An made a presentation on "Series solutions for your Chinese collections from CNKI" and introduced their Google-like integrated platform. CNKI can now provide more flexible services for smaller institutions and for consortium deals. Their copyright cleared content keeps growing. For example, they have signed exclusive contracts with 700 top Chinese journals. CNKI's resource coverage now includes 9,000 full-text journals back to 1915, dissertations and thesis from 511 universities, 500 newspapers, 11,000 conference proceedings, 1,767 yearbooks, and 1,972 reference works. These resources are integrated with each other. They can also offer print-to-online service. In answer to members' questions, Victor confirmed that it was now possible to subscribe to reference works by title or by package or through one-off purchase. Subscription to yearbooks can also be by title but it has to be the whole run. The vanishing 500 titles or so in the past year was due to copyright issues.

5.3. Wanfang Data (Oriprobe Information Services)

Danny Liu presented the new open resources bibliographical service provided by his company, one in legal access (CLASS) and the other in business reference (ChinaBref). Both are bilingual. Libraries can apply for free membership and access is granted within 24 hours. Full-text articles can be ordered and provided on demand. Wanfang Data is now providing over 6,000 full-text journals which can be subscribed to by title or by package. New full-text resources include People's Daily, *Sibu congkan* (full text searchable) and online *Shike* (stone inscriptions). In answer to members' questions, Danny confirmed that they accept individual staff or students' order from their 'article on demand' service. The cost is \$20 per article for individual customers outside China and payment can be made by credit card. The one-off purchase for *Sibu congkan* is about \$9,000 plus \$500 a year for database maintenance fee. The cost for *Shike* is \$3,000 plus \$200 a year.

5.4. Shanghai Library

Gabrielle Xu presented Shanghai Library's *National Index to Chinese Newspapers & Periodicals* database (www.cnbkysy.com) and the full-text *Late Qing Dynasty Database* – their service platform and service model. The paper index was launched in 1955 and the digitisation began in 1996. Content coverage is from 1833.

5.5. East View Information Services

Paul Verhaere introduced China related databases available through East View. Their partners include CNKI, Apabi, Digital Heritage, China Law Info, and University of Michigan. MARC records for *Siku quanshu* could be purchased from East View.

6. Presentations of EASL members

6.1. "Digital Libraries in Taiwan" by Feng Yi.

The presentation was based on Feng Yi's findings on her two-week trip to Taipei in February 2009. There seems to be no clear central production of databases in Taiwan as in China. Digital resources there are more diverse, scattered and with considerable overlapping. The presentation gave a sketch map of various resources such as catalogues and indexes, e-books, dissertations, e-periodicals, historical materials and digital library providers in Taiwan. Some of the databases are free.

6.2. "Database: China and the West" by Katharina Thölen

The database (<http://idoasdb.unizh.ch/oas>) is based on a project initiated in 2003 by Mrs. Anne-Marie Werner and supported by the University of Zurich. It provides a biographical and bibliographical index to sources relating to cultural, intellectual, and religious forms of contact and exchange between China and the West. The database is in German though source languages can be all the major European languages as well as Chinese which are translated into German. Access is free.

6.3. "On a recently identified *Promotion Chart* (陞官圖)" by David Helliwell

The *Promotion Chart* was recently identified in Bodleian Library, Oxford. It was a sophisticated game which was printed in 1840 (Bodleian Library / sinica 420/2). David also presented *Gang jian jia zi tu* (鋼鑑甲子圖, Bodleian Library / sinica 352), a chronological chart of the Emperors of China from B.C. 424 to A.D. 1705.

6.4. “Barha Online Community” by Inga-Lill Blomkvist

The free online Barha Nordic Asia Research Community (<http://barha.asiaportal.info>) has been developed for students and researchers among the 25 members of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies for information and collaboration. There is personal space, blog, twitter and group creation facilities for registered users. It contains open publications but there is no file sharing facility yet. Students can use Barha to find other students working on the same subject, which is particularly useful for distance learning students. It is also for the whole Nordic region as it is funded by the governments.

6.5. “Johnston Collection Project” by Sue Small

SOAS Library has received funding from the Sino-British Fellowship Trust in order to facilitate scholarly access to the books in the Johnston Collection. At present, the individual items in the Johnston Collection (16,000 items in all) are scattered among the Library’s stock, chiefly in the China Section. The project will enable staff to remove the Johnston books from where they are currently housed and to reassemble the collection, thus making it a discrete, coherent collection and more accessible to scholars. The Chinese collection of Sir Reginald Johnston (1874-1938) was donated to the SOAS Library after his death in 1938.

7. Discussions on EASL affairs

7.1. EASL participation in 2010 EACS meeting in Riga

Professor Roger Greatrex (Vice President of EACS) reported that at the EACS Board meeting a week before, both the current and outgoing President of EACS suggested that EASL give a round table or some other format of presentation on Chinese studies resources to the EACS conference to be held in Riga, Latvia in July or August 2010. The exact topic would be for EASL to decide. Any EASL member would be welcome to attend the conference with a payment of the normal conference fee of €60 (€30 for students). The EACS membership fee would be waived.

EASL members welcomed the EACS proposal and suggested that a discussion panel instead of a round table session might be preferred. David Helliwell and Matthias Kaun expressed willingness to go on behalf of EASL. It was suggested that the EACS conference fee for EASL members should be waived because it would be unlikely for them to be reimbursed by their institutions for attending the extra conference. Concern was also expressed about the possible low level attendance to an EASL session at the EACS conference.

Professor Greatrex agreed to report back to the EACS Board about the EASL suggestions (i.e. the panel idea and waive of the conference fee) and promised to work to ensure participation.

7.2. CJK cataloguing in German Verbände and classification systems for Chinese collections

Matthias Kaun reported on the recent developments in cataloguing CJK resources in Germany. There are several union catalogues in Germany. There is a need to set up a common standard by German cataloguing rules. To do this, a working group was established in June 2009 with representatives from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Discussions were held on cataloguing rules for titles and authors. A second meeting will be held in October to formulate rules on geographical names, etc. There will also be exchange of standards on union catalogues in Germany with America.

On the question of *pinyin* transliteration, discussions of the working group in Germany were in favour of total de-aggregation, but a final decision is yet to be made. In France, as Barbara Bonazzi reported, all libraries except the National Library of France and École française d'Extrême-Orient are following America's Library of Congress rules on *pinyin*. Oxford, on the other hand, will follow China MARC rules when moving from Allegro to Aleph, i.e. *pinyin* will be used only for title and author, according to David Helliwell. David also demonstrated [SOLO](#) (Search Oxford Libraries Online) – a search and discovery tool for the Oxford Libraries' huge collection of resources including the Bodleian Library's Allegro Chinese catalogue.

There was a debate about the need to use *pinyin* at all. Those who were against it argued that it is no longer difficult to enter Chinese characters for retrieving Chinese records on the part of users; Those who were in favour of keeping *pinyin* argued that not all library systems allow Chinese character input for searching. Matthias Kaun believed that it would and should become possible to retrieve records in *pinyin* without seeing *pinyin* in displayed records.

Matthias Kaun was expected to report back to the next EASL conference on developments with regard to CJK cataloguing in Germany.

7.3. Future of libraries

Prior to the start of this conference, Hanno Lecher had circulated web links to two articles to stimulate discussion about libraries' future and how to face it: Vivienne Waller, "[The relationship between public libraries and Google: Too much information](#)" in *First Monday* 14.9 (7 Sep 2009) and Anja Møller Rasmussen, "[Library collections in transition: the future of books in libraries](#)" in *ICAS Newsletter* 6 (Jul 2009). The topic was brought up at the meeting but there was no sustained discussion.

7.4. EASL homepage

Hanno Lecher led the discussion about the EASL homepage and the EASL Wiki which he had created, as a test, with the agreement of the last EASL conference for membership directory and database information. Views were divided about the usefulness of the EASL Wiki. Some colleagues thought it could be the best way to keep the membership list updated, and technically it was not difficult to use. However, there was also concern over the existence of two EASL web pages and the

questionable appropriateness of using a commercial service for the Wiki. It was suggested that the easiest way to update the membership list would be for members to email the changes to the Secretary directly.

It was decided that Hanno Lecher would look into the possibility of having a member institution host the EASL Wiki free of charge instead of using a free commercial service as it was being done now.

Matthias Kaun confirmed that the current EASL homepage was being maintained at the expense of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin for the cost of the server.

7.5. European consortium for CNKI databases

Katharina Thölen reported that the current European consortium for CNKI databases consists of 6 members: National Library of Denmark, Catholic University of Leuven, Leiden University, University of Zurich, Stockholm University and Vienna University. Now that Stockholm and Denmark are leaving to join the Nordic/Scandinavian consortium and the prospect of French institutions forming their own consortium, there will be lack of enough members for the European consortium next year. The remaining 4 members may have to end up paying more.

Matthias Kaun confirmed that there was no need for a German consortium (as Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin is providing access to databases centrally).

Inga-Lill Blomkvist confirmed that the Nordic institutions did try to inform other European colleagues when negotiating with CNKI. They would still like to be in the European consortium. Bent Pedersen also expressed willingness for his National Library of Denmark to be considered as part of the European consortium.

David Helliwell reported that in England, the consortium for CAJ was created by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The current consortium subscription to CAJ will expire in 2012. Unlike other European institutions (who deal with CNKI directly), CNKI databases in the UK are provided via East View.

It was agreed that members should continue to work together for their common interest while negotiating with database suppliers. It was decided that any EASL member who would like to indicate willingness to join the European consortium should let Matthias Kaun know.

8. Elections

Both Hanno Lecher and Shenxiao Tong proposed an election of a new Chairman and new Secretary, having served in their respective positions for three years. There followed a proposal for Maja Fuchs to be the new Chairwoman, for Shenxiao Tong to continue as Secretary for just another year to help with the transition, and for Anne Labitzky-Wagner to continue as Treasurer. The proposal was approved by the meeting.

The new Chairwoman and the members at the meeting extended warm thanks to Hanno Lecher for his leading role, great work and special contributions as Chairman over the past three years, and wished him well in his new post at Heidelberg.

9. Next conference

As a tradition, the annual conference would return to Leiden (where EASL was founded in 1981) on every tenth anniversary. Because of the recent changes and special circumstances Leiden cannot host the meeting next year. The Thirtieth Conference will be hosted by Feng Yi at Institut d'Asie Orientale, Lyon, from 8 to 10 September 2010.

The Twenty-ninth EASL Conference closed with an expression of thanks to Attilio Andreini and Librarians of his Department Daniela Gandin and Cinzia Trentinaglia for their excellent arrangements. It was appreciated that this was the first conference to be hosted by a non-librarian academic colleague.

Shenxiao Tong
EASL Secretary
8 April 2010, Edinburgh