

FOURTY-FIFTH ANNUAL EASL CONFERENCE
The British Library Knowledge Centre, London

10-12 September 2025



Minutes
Marc Winter

Wednesday, 10th September

Knowledge Centre, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB

The British Library Knowledge Centre is located on the on the main forecourt outside the British Library building, on the right side of the main entrance. The rooms we will be using are upstairs – please follow the signage.

09:15 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10.30 Opening Session (open to all). *Eliot Room.*

- Opening welcome by Delphine, welcoming remarks by Sara, who provides details concerning the house rules: fire, bathrooms, luggage and wi-fi.
- Opening remarks by Luisa Mengoni, head of the department: The last time EASL was in London, was for the 7th meeting in 1987. Luisa quotes from the minutes of 1987 to give a glimpse of how much has changed.
- Apologies; introduction of participants. Many members could not make it because this is the second week of September, and the semester started already.
- Short introduction round: people stating name and institution.
- Additions to and approval of the agenda.
- Information by Han-Lin and Emma on planned visits: meeting times, meeting points, farewell dinner.

10.30 – 11:00 Group photo & coffee break. *Dickens Room.*

11:00 – 13:00 Internal meeting (EASL members only). *Eliot Room.*

- Minutes of the 44th meeting at Berlin 2024: approved.
- Report of the Treasurer: Cathleen: Balance € 1946,72.-, interest € 4,92.-
- Notes of participants, latest developments of EASL libraries during the past year, current issues, upcoming projects
 - o **Marc Winter** (University of Zurich): Things are coming along in the university library, which was founded three years ago. Cooperation with the central library is working well, at least for Chinese studies. The person responsible is Gian Carlo Danuser. Funding is available for retro-cataloguing and is being used for larger collections such as the *difangzhi* and various *congshu*. We have received a copy of the History of Paintings book series issued by Zhejiang (225 folio volumes), which is a marvellous series of books; the art is reproduced to the highest standard.
 - o **Delphine Spicq** (Collège de France): The Aleph/Alma transition requires data to be amended. About 20,000 records need to be amended; other than that, everything is going smoothly. There have been no budget cuts so far. Following

- some retirements, the number of staff has remained the same. Some items are on loan to China and Paris. The digitisation of rare books, maps, etc. is still underway, and active cooperation with the BnF has been initiated.
- **Line Pattyn** (Ghent University): Ghent is undergoing an Aleph/Alma transition (Alma was launched on 16 September 2025). Building renovations are cutting into library space, but some extra space is available in the basement. The renovations are forcing us to close parts of the library and move some collections to other areas or switch them to deposit services. A merger with other libraries is unavoidable, and the creation of a social and political science library will be discussed in the coming months. The classification is switching to LoC. It's pretty messy at the moment, but we're working on it!
 - **Sara Chiesura** (British Library): R. Lawrence, is the British Library's new CEO, started in January after been Chief Executive of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) from 2019 to 2023. Head of East Asia department, Hamish Todd retired, Sara Chiesura was appointed new Head during the summer. Cataloguer of Retro-conversion Projects prolonged. Several system changes are been implemented as part of the 'Rebuild and Renew' programme which followed the cyber-attack, among which Alma. [New BL website](#) launched in the summer. Digital collections being restored and uploaded in phases. The International Dunhuang Project still active with an exhibition *A Silk Road Oasis – Life in Ancient Dunhuang* in the BL and online. [available on the IDP website](#), like many learning resources ([Buddhism on the Silk Roads](#)' Life in Dunhuang', etc.)
 - **Gian Carlo Danuser** (Zürich Central Library): Gives a general introduces the work flow in the central library and the cooperation with the university, which works pretty smooth.
 - **Simon Hürlimann** (Zürich Rietberg Museums library): Former head of Sackler-Gallery gave his collection to the Rietberg museum under the condition that it is catalogued within 2 years: 95% of this has already been completed.
 - **Mamtimyn Sunuodula** (Oxford Bodleian library): Oxford also got the Zhejiang set. Long-time Chinese collection cataloguer retired, new person works well. Oxford opens the new Humanities Library at the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities. The Chinese and Japanese libraries are not part of the move thus not affected. However, some readers who currently use Chinese and Japanese libraries might use the Bodleian Humanities Library instead as it offers longer opening hours, brand new facilities. The Centre for the Humanities building has extensive open public spaces, catering facilities, a large concert hall, exhibition space and a cinema.
 - **Daniel Stumm** (Heidelberg East Asian Library): Budget reduction, but Central Library is stepping up. New BA program for Korean just started. Cooperation with Nanjing yishu xueyuan: Support for the comics collection. ERC-project on the Chinese comics. December 1st new system for library: OCLC's System WMS (WorldShare Management System).
 - **Marc Gilbert** (Leiden University library): Has to report budget cuts. Special collection needed digitizing. Several new collections (some will be reported next year) such as temple giveaway collections. Donation: diary of a communist journalist from the Civil War.
 - **David Helliwell** (not affiliated): The Zhonghua shuju catalog of the Bodleian was published early this year. For the Serica-Fileserver and the catalog, please go to [serica.ie](#).
 - **Thomas Tabery** (Munich State Library): Budget fluctuated very strongly, which means: regular budget is under pressure. Some funds needed to be spent and so Thomas bought special materials, lately predominantly for the Japanese collection. Thomas was even able to hire someone as a specialist for the Japanese collection.

- Big exhibition for the Japanese collection (70,000 visitors; supposedly because the “Big Wave of Kanagawa” by Hokusai was on display). Research on colonial collection context.
- **Zhang Ruili** (Manchester university library): database *Zhongguo suwen ku* 中国俗文库 newly subscribed. Also CNKI E-book subscribed. 125 years of a library: new collection gallery.
 - **Youn-hi Hughes** (Sheffield): Budget unchanged, now new subscriptions. No more staff for the cataloguing so no cataloguing activity at the moment. Many university programs are being put together, programs for “Arts, literature and society”. From next year on there will not be a Chinese Studies degrees anymore, just an East Asian Degree with specialization.
 - **Martina Jemelkova** (Olomouc): Cutbacks on cataloguing staff. A paper copy of the *Siku quanshu* will come to Olomouc. Therefore, space for books is an urgent problem. In recent years many Czech researchers passed away and their books often found their way to the library in Olomouc.
 - **Katharina Feriančíková** (Prague Charles University): Cutbacks on staff budget, new buildings. Work on Books in traditional threat binding: only 600 books. Special preservation conditions. Received a book donation from Leiden, about (1000 titles): Mainly modern political poetry.
 - **Miriam Seeger** (Chinese University of Hong Kong): continuous work in making the collection more accessible via re-cataloguing and digitization. The digitized newspapers are expected to be published in spring 2026 and accessible within CUHK network due to copyright restrictions. The CNKI database created concerns because of the “editing” of the materials. Even materials with “perpetual access” disappeared. Therefore, CUHK continues to subscribe approx. 700 yearbooks.
 - **Anthony Ho** (SOAS): Very little change at SOAS library, information mainly about the team.
 - **Romain Lefebvre** (BNF): new head of the East Asian Collection: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, etc. He only just started. The Bussy Saint Georges storage facility is closing, so collections, among which the Pelliot one, sent back to the main downtown BnF Paris storage facility. Big storage facility planned in Amiens, should open in four years. BNF is in the IDP program: next IDP will be hosted in Paris. Pelliot Collection shall in the future be digitized and OCREd. Datalab-project tests this out. In the future a specialist for Tibet will be needed.
 - **Liang Zhong** (LCAO Library Université Paris Cité): Something concerning the “Chinese diaspora 20th century collection” [I didn’t acoustically understand much of what was said and when I enquired, I got no answer; M.W.].
 - **Øystein Johan Kleiven** (Oslo university library): Nothing new. Second year post-NIAS-reality. Nordic and Baltic institution bind together to secure the access to online databases. Digitization on the Platform of the University of Uppsala.
 - **Yan He** (Cambridge): Reports about several collaborations. Just released a Taiping pamphlet collection. [Other information not cleared for the minutes; M.W.]
 - **Zheng Kunyi** (Bonn): General introduction to the collection and the bias for Central Asia. 140 Chinese Science Fiction titles from the 1980s. Hopefully by 2026 retro-cataloguing will be underway.
 - **Anne Sapich** (Munster): Serious budget problems for Munster, so budgets are slashed, and opening hours are reduced.
 - **Cristina Cramerotti** (Musée Guimet): Library in a museum is weird! Guimet is a public library, but interested readers are mainly the curators, if they happen to have an interest shared by the library collection. Big new building for research and resources planned, which will combine the image collection, the books collection.

- **Friederike Schimmelpfennig** (National University Canberra): General introduction to the library and its scope and goal. The library has many Pacific Studies materials, 600,000 titles on Asia-Pacific area. Recently severe budgets cuts. Many books from scholars. Half of Noel Barnard's books (220 boxes), all of Liu Zongren's books. The shelf space is becoming scarce. Recent flood destroyed other libraries: 135,000 microfilms. Layoffs: recent 4 years: 20% staff reduced.
 - **Cordula Gumbrecht** (Berlin State Library): Starting off with a greeting note: Matthias Kaun sends his regards. The library's Acquisition budget is safe. RFID+ as a new format planned. New funding period also extension of services: Blauer Leihverkehr now also involves Western Language resources on Asia, not just original materials. The Berlin State Library will have to move very soon, because the building is being renovated. New jobs to be staffed: Stabi received many applications (400 applications for one job). *Sammellust und Wissensdrang* was published (copy can be seen). OCR-Project together with Academia Sinica: 2000 printed books and manuscript rare books (e.g. the Unschuld Collection). [CrossAsia talks](#) series continues. Partnership with Korean National Collection for cataloguing the Korean holdings.
 - **Cathleen Paethe** (Max Planck Institute Berlin): The cooperation with Dagmar Schäfer as the professor works well. New projects at the institute: 'Innovations during the Yuan dynasty' (material needed on the Jin, Liao and Yuan dynasties) and the 'Riyong Leishu (日用類書) project', which is being carried out in collaboration with Heidelberg and others. Cathleen discusses finding books on specific projects that will arise, e.g. Tibetan cosmology. Japanese and Chinese games are being purchased.
 - **Benedicte Vaerman** (KULeuven): 600 years anniversary of the university: Nicholas Standard will leave, Mario Cams will replace him. He focuses on map research. New Professor Doreen Emmers (society study). One more year for Cathrine DeFoort. Benedicte will be leaving in the course of next year.
 - **Joshua Seufert** (Princeton University library, report via mail): From September to December 2025 the library is hosting an exhibition curated by Martin Heijdra, Director of the East Asian Library: *Forms & Function: The Splendors of Global Book Making* is highlighting the diversity of global book making traditions it will focus on the continuous transmission and exchange of formal aspects in the world's three major lineages of the book form (cf. <https://dpul.princeton.edu/global-book-forms>, there will be talks and a symposium related to the exhibition (cf. <https://library.princeton.edu/formsandfunction>. In 2024 the library has acquired the Aziz Isa Elkun Collection of Uyghur literary heritage. In January the library hired an Uyghur cataloger to process the collection as part of a three-year project (cf. <https://library.princeton.edu/about/library-news/2024/princeton-acquires-aziz-isa-elkun-collection-uyghur-literature>).
- Reports on other conferences attended:
- SEAL: North American Council. Always with AAS Conference. Sara went to Ohio to attend: 2 Takeouts: Amount of talks about AI and automatic cataloguing, deduplication, summarizing the contents of books in unknown languages for acquisitions. Much discussions about political involvement under the Trump administration.
 - Marc Winter reports about the visit of the Beijing Book fair: visiting the book fair upon invitation involves a lot of "showpony" activities, where foreigners are dragged around to make photo opportunities, but this is all well since we librarians are fed and housed exquisitely and everything is taken care of. Also visiting the

- book fair, itself is a clear “kid-in-a-candystore” moment. It is phantastic seeing all these books and talking to the publishers and just soaking in the entire atmosphere.
- Cathleen (who also attended the Beijing Book fair) also went to the Hong Kong book fair, which has much more of a party character. The difference in atmosphere between the two fairs was staggering. Zhonghua Shuju had a booth at Hongkong, but no one went to see their products. Many booths by religious publishing houses or religious publishers.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 15:45 EALI meeting (EASL members only). *Eliot Room*.

- Topics: The List of E-books Delphine sent around beforehand. Benedicte and Marc looked at them, but it remains a problem of funding. Marc G. showed interest. We would need 5-6 libraries for a consortium to fund the €2.000/year. The Taiwan list provides 140 e-books for €2.000. Members should please check the list again.
- Next meeting: The future of EALI?
- Program-driven Acquisition: More and more, collection-building is driven by a research project that wants lots of books for any topic, but there is no long-lasting strategy for acquiring books. How to deal with this? Reader-expectancy might be disappointed if subscriptions are kept up only a few years. On the other hands, it might tie funds to buying books after the project has ended.
- E-book first strategy: BL has this strategy (also: Leuven, SOAS). Leiden does as well, but only for English-language publications. Emma explains that BL has the strategy, but not necessarily the infrastructure to actually have it.
- Delphine asks: What will be the future of databases, given the fast change in personnel or technical norms? The only decent return is: look out for format continuity upon licencing. The license contract has to specify the development of format and how the provider will react to that.
- Marc Gilbert proposes to ask vendors to come up with a consortium-solution for EASL-members for e-books. For the next meeting, the secretary is asked to **Include this in the invitation for vendors in 2026. Inform them that we want something like this!!!**

15:55 – 16:40 Tour of the British Library (open to all, registration needed).

Meeting point was at 15:55 at the British Library Information Desk, main building. The tour itself focussed on the architectural aspects of the building and we got to see some hidden angles and really learned to appreciate the building.

**18:00 – 19:00 Welcome Reception (open to all). *King’s Library Gallery, The British Library.*
Thursday, 11th September
*Knowledge Centre, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB***

Second day September 11th 2025

09:20 – 10:45 Vendors’ presentations – Session I (open to all). *Eliot Room*.

→ For the Presentations, see the conference Website

09:20 – 09:35 Ariane Rückebeil (Eastview)

What’s New from East View?

- East Asia Book Vault
- Social Science Monographs from the Social Science Academic Press.
- The “Shanghai Bundle” will go online in October.

- New Archive Editions: The Chinese Soviet Republic (i.e. the Jiangxi Soviet): Materials in Chinese and Russian from the Chinese Soviet Republic 1926-1956, mostly 1931-1934. Documents are tagged (transferred from Microfilm, stored at the Hoover Foundations, Historians tagged the texts), search for People or place names.
- *Jiefang Ribao* 1941-1947 (Hosted by Green Apple, well-OCRRed).
- Manhua-Database: Political Cartoon: Archive 1915-1960.
- Newspaper Archive: Korean Times Digital Archive (Published in Los Angeles in English and Korean (Korean daily, English resumes once a week).
- Open Access Collections: Independent Evening Post, Choya Shinbun, Late Qing and Republican Era Newspapers, South Asian. Access through Gpa.eastview.com
- Global Census Archive
- Global Geography Library
- INDB Finder Pro: Over 400,000 statistic data. Downloadable.

09:35 – 09:50 **Natasha Copus** (AM Digital)

- Introduction of Natasha, introduction to AM (Digital Publisher, specialized on Prime Resource Publishing).
 - New for 2025: China on Film (largest film connections available)
 - British Film Institute, Earliest Films on China (130), 32 of which digitized for the first time. “Minority” Community Films, Environment and landscape.
 - Foreign Office Consulate- and Legion Files for China, module National Archives UK, Module 1: Wars and Treaties, 1830-1895, All FO228 (Foreign Office Files, conversation with embassies etc.) and associated volumes, beautiful visual materials.
 - Others: China, America and the Pacific
 - Area Studies: China and Southeast Asia, Foreign Office Files for China, Socialism on Film, China Trade, Politics and Culture and China Culture and Society.

09:50 – 10:05 **Shu Xu** (Shanghai Library)

- Introduction of CNBKSY
 - New Features: Moving Customers from searching to discovery: Data Visualization, Graph Visualization, Evolution, ChatBKSY. All Graphs downloadable. The evolution tracks the development of a specific title over time.
 - New Resources: Late Qing Periodicals, English and French Language titles, Thousands of new titles in Newspaper Database.
 - Among the e-resources there is a picture gallery (1833-1949).

10:05 – 10:20 **Donna Kuan** (TBMC)

- Japanese Period Newspaper database, introduces for three years now.
- This time: printed books on Taiwanese Religious Life.
- 儒宗神教 光緒17 BIS 民國80年 : 1891-1991
- 神筆草書 => the calligraphy used for amulets, talisman.

TBMC has a plethora of textual resources connected to Taiwanese traditional religious concepts, also Mazu-religion, personal healing by religious wisemen, talisman medicine etc. etc. almost 100,000 books.

10:20 – 10:35 **Steve Liu** (CNKI)

- CNKI AI-Function Kit (*cf* presentation), introducing the most accessed AI functions, AIGC Detection: Detection of AI-suspicious content (Academic misconduct). Steve compares CNKI AI to Scopus, Scispace, Kimi and Metasco.

- AI Data: Intelligent Statistical & Analytical Platform.
- API Service: Unlocking scholarly metadata for research access.
- AI Magic Frame: Digital interactive human, introducing services, neatly made images of an AI, fitted in size to be a AI-companion to readers in a library.

10:35 – 10:50 **Lancy Wang** (Hyweb Knowledge Co)

E-book repository: Top-partner for e-books in Taiwan. Established in 1998, the company has 400+ employees

HyRead ebook: World's largest Traditional Chinese Text Cloud (?)

Also: Audiobooks, Videobooks, Text-to-speech functionality and multi-media e-books.

HyRead EASL Consortium Plan 2025: Each library: €2000 for 140+ permanent e-book titles, more added as membership grows. Each library pre-selects up to €3000.- worth of titles. Contact information in the presentation

10:50 – 11:15 Coffee break. Dickens Room.

11:15 – 12:30 Vendors' presentations – Session II (open to all). Eliot Room.

11:15 – 11:30 **Hanchao Yin** (NLC Beijing Guojia Tushuguan)

- The Construction in Ancient books
- New book by Hanchao on China's Library Classification system:
- Chinese ancient books resources database
 - o Ncl.cn/enweb 中国古籍资料库
 - o Ancient book resources (URL in presentation)
 - o Read.ncl.cn for the Guji Ku. Total 100,000 items.
 - o International Dunhuang Project Database (IDP) => National library has a link to the IDP
 - o Chinese Ancient Oracle Bone artifacts online resource : 13,000 plus oracle bones.
 - o Chinese New Year's posters database.
 - o Archive of historical photographs.
- Intelligent Service platform for Chinese Ancient books
 - o Automatic punctuation.
 - o Name entity recognition

11:30 – 11:45 **Guifang Zhang** and **Guo Xiaoxiao** (Beijing Zhenben)

- Library Service Management System: 北京珍本科技电子商务平台: general introduction to the functionality and particular services of the system.

11:45 – 12:00 **Daniel Yang Li** (Alain Charles Asia Publishing)

- Britain-based Alain Charles introduces (formerly Sinoist Books).
- Sionist books offers Chinese literature in translation, defining "Chinese" open, i.e. books from Taiwan, oversees and diaspora.
- Where to order: ProQuest, Ebsco, Askews.
- QR-code for the extended catalogue in the presentation.

12:00 – 12:15 **Wen Gong** (CASS)

- Promote academic exchange and cooperation!
- Introduction to CASS: 6 academic divisions, 42 research institutes, 113 national academic institutions.
- Short introduction to the 中国考古博物馆 in Beijing, which is run by CASS. The museum also features a library with books on: Xi Jinping's thoughts, CASS academic repository

local gazetteers, ancient classics.

- National centre for philosophy and Social Science Documentation (NCPSSD).
- 27 Million data items, 8,3 million individual users, 90,000 institutional users in 197 countries and regions.

12:15 – 12:30 **Chunyan Shu** (Brill De Gruyter)

- Brill/De Gruyter's latest product: the scholarly editions database: Digital Library of Chinese Classics: Text and Commentaries of Confucianism.
 - o 510 titles = 200 mio characters = 282 volumes (140,000 pages), another 160 titles to be added (titles from Korea, Japan).
 - o 458 classical titles plus excavated texts.
 - o characters manually typed and images created, to avoid OCR mistakes.
 - o Texts punctuated by researchers (no AI).
 - o The Scholarly Editions also contains Latin texts, Greek texts, Arab texts, now also Chinese texts.
 - o Text can be exported in different formats.
 - o The texts are enriched with the dictionaries embedded in the texts.
 - o Demovideo available on Youtube ([LINK](#))
 - o Official launch of the database October 1st.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 14:45 Presentation of East Asian items from the BL collections (open to all)
Foyle Room, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB

Meeting point at 13:25 at the British Library Information Desk, main building.

14:55 – 15:30 Walk to the British Museum, Great Russell St, London WC1B 3DG, Room 33.
Meeting point at 14:50 at the British Library Information Desk, main building.

15:30 – 17:00 Guided tour of the Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery, British Museum (open to all)

Friday, 12th September

Knowledge Centre, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB

09:20 – 11:00 Members' presentations – Session I (open to all). *Eliot Room.*

➔ **For the Presentations, see the conference Website**

09:20 – 09:45 **Marc Gilbert** (Leiden University Library), *The Chinese Queer Collection*

The Leiden Collection aims to document queer culture in East Asia, particularly in the Sinosphere. It covers topics ranging from LCQC identity and family life to legal situations and cultural experiences. Marc introduces some prominent researchers, as well as the first openly gay Chinese poet, Mu Cao (b. 1974). The Netherlands is also home to the largest queer community in Europe.

Marc discusses the specific problems with displaying this information in the catalogue. For instance, the key terms of Homosaurus demonstrate a significant US bias, inadequately depicting specific East Asian gay and queer terminology. He also discusses how to obtain metadata on pictures taken decades ago, such as who is depicted, who took the picture and what technology was used. He also asks whether it makes sense to store data for a long time before publishing it, once all the metadata has been received.

Leiden has 3 TB of material from the Beijing Queer Festival, which provides the material

foundation for much documentation.

Marc also mentions a Queer Collection Workshop held in Leiden and provides a URL. He concludes by presenting a crowdfunding campaign for the Leiden Chinese Queer Collection (URL provided in the presentation). So far, €1,410 has been raised through crowdfunding.

09:45 – 10:10 **Marc Winter** (University of Zürich), *Liangzhu Jade Objects and how they might have been made*

After visiting the Liangzhu Archaeological Research Facility in Hangzhou, this presentation will introduce the work of local researcher Xu Shifu, who attempted to create jade objects using technology that was likely available during the Neolithic period, when the city that is now the Liangzhu site was a cultural centre in southern China. It shows the techniques he came up with to drill, saw, polish and carve jade using only Neolithic tools.

10:10 – 10:35 **James Liu** (Royal Asiatic Society), *The Royal Asiatic Society and its Chinese Connection*

James, the Archivist at the Royal Asiatic Society (founded in 1823), introduces the Society's interest in China, as evidenced by the publication of *Epigraphia Sinensis, or The Art of Writing Chinese Characters Correctly* (1824), in which 92 rules for writing Chinese characters "correctly" were established. Sir George Thomas Staunton (1781–1859) was a sinologist and translator who produced the first translation of the Great Qing Legal Code. He was interested in diplomatic representations and trade. In 1745, a Latin–Chinese dictionary was published. It was the work of Catholic missionaries in Beijing. It was published after the ban on Christian missionaries.

He introduced the Chinese library and its catalogue to the society. There are also collections, e.g. the Angus C. Graham Collection and the Hippisley Collection (a customs officer in China).

The society also has several late 19th-century glass slide collections, including Views of China (ca. 1860–1920), the Howel Collection (Views of China, Japan, and the Philippines), and the Aurel Stein Collection (e.g. Wang Yuanlu in front of the Dunhuang caves). There is also an art collection. Notable collections include the Morrison Collection of New Year pictures and the Thomas Manning Collection (1772–1840), the first British man to travel to Tibet. He donated a sketch of the 9th Dalai Lama. Finally, the presentation provides a URL for the collection and social media.

Today, the Society organises lectures and exhibitions, provides loans and grants, and publishes the Society's journal. It gives people outside the academic sphere of universities access to information on East Asia.

10:35 – 11:00 **Mérodie Doumy** (The British Library), *Reception and digital legacy of the exhibition 'A Silk Road Oasis; Life in Ancient Dunhuang'*

Introduction to the exhibition 'A Silk Road Oasis: Life in Ancient Dunhuang'. Fifty-three manuscripts were displayed alongside printed documents, pictorial works, and other artefacts, such as a star map. A soundscape was also part of the exhibition, created using the Chinese database for traditional music in Beijing. The Sound Art Museum in Beijing helped to create 'Sound Points'.

The exhibition was expected to attract 12,500 visitors, but it was visited by around 30,000 people, one third of whom were first-time visitors. Audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

There was also a symposium on Dunhuang. You can watch the presentation on the IDP YouTube channel, and the exhibition is still available online through the IDP website.

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break. Dickens Room.

11:15 – 13:00 Members' presentations – Session II (open to all). Eliot Room.

11:15 – 11:40 **Xi Chen** and **Shi Deng** (UCSD Libraries), *The Sally T. WongAvery Digital Collection of Chinese Materials at the UCSD Libraries: Digitisation, Cataloguing, Metadata Creation, and Content Overview*.

The two colleagues introduced the collection as part of the university, which has over 45,000 students. There has been collaboration between UCSD and Cambridge University since 2023. Sally Wong and her late husband both studied at these institutions, and they donated to them to further collaboration.

Xi Chen then introduces the items in the collection. The collaboration cost US\$365,000 over three years for the two institutions. This includes digitisation, as well as meetings between team members, librarians, and students from both institutions. The collaboration will conclude in 2026. There are several collections: Chinese News and We Chinese, two newspapers by Overseas Chinese in California.

Another is the Anti-Confucian Book Collection and the Carol Pletcher Collection on the US Women Scientist China Study Tour.

Shi Deng then discusses the creation of metadata for the collections.

11:40 – 12:05 **Yan He** and **Blazej Mikula**, (Cambridge University Library), *The Sally T. WongAvery Digital Collection of Chinese Materials at Cambridge University Libraries: Digitisation, Cataloguing, Metadata Creation, and Content Overview*.

Introduction to digitised and catalogued collections:

Oracle Bones at Cambridge

A total of over 700 oracle bones were acquired in Weixin between 1908 and 1911 and donated to the Cambridge University Library by Lionel Hopkins.

Taiping Pamphlet Collection. The metadata scheme includes:

- VIAF for name authority
- LCSH for subject heading
- Internal search/Local SH/NAF
- Rubbing Collection.

Blazej then talks about the Cultural Heritage Imagining Laboratory. They create 3D reproductions of the oracle bones, for example. They mainly take photos with high colour accuracy as part of the digitisation process. They use Phase One IQ4 cameras. He then explains the workflow for items, which is, of course, specific to each object. He goes on to explain the photography and 3D scanning processes for oracle bones in greater detail.

12:05 – 12:30 **Katarina Feriančíková** (Charles University of Prague), *The legacy of the sinologist and theatrologist Dana Kalvodová*

First, there is a short introduction to the Library of Far Eastern Studies at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague, which explains the origins of its holdings (purchases and donations).

First, there is a brief overview of the Library of Far Eastern Studies at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague, explaining the origins of its collections (purchases and donations). The researcher's work is then introduced, focusing primarily on prose literature and dramas. Kalvodová donated around 200 items, primarily books, most of which were published in the PRC in the 1950s. These include musical scores, such as opera scores from an opera performed in Yangzhou. Also included are the 'Da yu sha jia'. (打漁殺家). There are also many dance records, such as the Dance of Friendship from Tibet.

12:30 – 12:55 **Cristina Cramerotti** (Guimet Museum), *The Villa Guimet scheme*

The initiative is to create an international centre for East Asian arts. Starting as a resource centre, it then became a research centre and finally an institute. It is now known as the 'Villa Guimet' (the name of the research centre). Its purpose is to preserve and promote the collections.

Key collections include the Paul Pelliot Collection, the Hackin Collection (named after the

archaeologist who discovered the Bamian statues) and the Hippolyte Franchin Collection. Projects include the HikarIA project on early Japanese photographs. Christina also discusses the long to-do list and cleaning up older records.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30 Members' presentations – Session III: Provenance and circulation of material (open to all). *Eliot Room*.

14:30 – 14:55 **Øystein Johan Kleiven** (University of Oslo), *A Tibetan manuscript and its origin in the Sino-tibetan kingdom of Chakla*

Øystein discusses the details of a Bön manuscript in the style of an adventure story. There are three parts to the story: in 1936, the manuscript came to Oslo.

Provenance: These manuscripts were kept by the King of Chakla for 700 years and were brought from Tibet by the missionary Theo Sørensen (1873–1959). Chakla is located near the modern-day city of Kangding (Dartsedo in Tibetan) in Sichuan. Sørensen studied Chinese and Tibetan, but his conversion rate as a missionary was very low (one conversion every 840 days on average). As a geographer and ethnologist, Sørensen was highly respected and was a member of the Royal Geographical Society.

- The manuscript itself: The project aims to establish the age of the manuscript. What material was it written on, etc. The project involves the complete digitisation of the roughly 2,000 folios (double-sided). The project is a collaboration between Hamburg's manuscript centre and the École des hautes études in Paris. Findings: The script is in gold with a silver lining around it. Was yak brain used for the black background on which the gold was written? Findings: Certainly, buffalo was used, so it could not have been produced at a high level. Whether yak brain was used is still uncertain. The folios consist of two pieces of paper glued together. Scribal practices: Erasures, insertion marks, corrections, various types of script, adjusting the margins to the text, beginning marks and shad marks (full stop and end of sentence marks). The age of the manuscript is approximately correct. It contains information about the King of Chakla, a kingdom established in 1407. In Chinese nomenclature, a king was considered a *tusi* 土司 (local commander).

Provenance: The manuscript came to Sweden. The king was imprisoned in the 1920s, escaped and then committed suicide. During this period, the manuscript came into the possession of Theo Sørensen, who spent another ten years in Beijing. The story of how it was transferred has not yet been solved.

14:55 – 15:25 **David Helliwell** (retired, Bodleian library), *Some Thoughts on Provenance*

Provenance: The origin or earliest known history of something. For books, it is the question of when a specific book was added to the collection.

Three documents on provenance:

1. The preface to David's catalogue.
2. His catalogue survey on [David's website](#). The provenance of the books in the library can be discovered here. However, books have a history before they come into the possession of a library. He provides examples of this.
3. The best way to research provenance is to use the seals of former owners (there are 975 owner seals on his [website](#)).

15:35 – 16:00 **Thomas Tabery** (Bavarian State Library), *Research of possible colonial collection contexts at the Bavarian State Library*

First, Thomas provides a brief overview of the Oriental and East Asian collections at the Bavarian State Library. The library was founded when Johann Albrecht Widmanstetter's (1506–1557) books were purchased.

In 2021, the history of the collection was extended to include Oriental and East Asian holdings.

Thomas then introduces some of the sub-collections.

He takes a closer look at Georg Reismüller's journey to China in 1927. Reismüller travelled to China after being promised a professorship, which was not established before 1939. A student of Richard Wilhelm, Reismüller travelled to China to purchase literary materials for studying Chinese. The library director, Hans Schnorr von Corolsfeld (1862–1935), supported this and provided Reismüller with 20,000 Reichsmark to purchase books in East Asia. Reismüller travelled to Beijing, Tokyo, Nanjing and Shanghai, purchasing a total of 18,500 books in 17 crates, which increased the library's Chinese holdings by over 150%. The State Library presents all the results of its provenance research on its website.

16:00 – 17:00 Internal meeting (EASL members only). *Eliot room.*

- The Future of EASL

Attendance numbers in 2024 were low, but the problems seem to have been solved given the attendance of this year's conference.

- Recreate the logo: the current logo is slightly grainy. It was created in Würzburg, so we will ask the colleagues there. Delphine has since created a new logo, which can be found on the website.

Venues for the next meetings: Heidelberg during the first week (2nd to 4th) of September

- Add non-EASL members to the server list. Generally, colleagues don't see a problem with it, and since EASL members are on the EASL list, this could be seen as hostile behaviour. Let's add these people.

- Removing fax numbers from the website directory. Ruilis's phone number needs to be removed! All fax numbers should be removed from the website.

We limit vendors' delegations to three people.

- Members' registration: we could introduce a registration deadline. The preliminary agenda will be sent out with the second call for registration. There will be an earlier deadline for people who want to present (1st August) and a deadline for participants (15th August).

For visits, we introduce the 'Members First' rule, meaning members can sign up first and vendors must check if there is space. The reason for this is that vendors have more free time during the EASL meeting.

- Themed sessions for members' presentations? Not necessary. However, if an interesting topic can be suggested, perhaps based on the collection, this could be considered. Suggestion for 2026: minority languages.

- Election of Secretary, Treasurer and Chair. All three are willing to serve for another year, and all are confirmed: Delphine as chairwoman, Cathleen as treasurer and Marc Winter as secretary.

17:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 Farewell Dinner (open to all)

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