

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Thirty-ninth Annual Conference Oslo, 4-6 September 2019

The thirty-ninth EASL conference was hosted by University of Oslo, Norway from 4 to 6 September 2019. The meetings were chaired by Maja Fuchs.

During the conference, one library visit, two museum visits and a reception were organised by the local host. On Wednesday afternoon, there was one visit to the Munch Museum. The reception was held at the Professorboligen on Wednesday evening. On Thursday afternoon there was a visit to the Vikingship Museum. The farewell dinner took place on Friday evening at Kafé Celsius.

Present

• Members

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

Sara **Chiesura** (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London)

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

Marc **Gilbert** (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries)

Cordula **Gumbrecht** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Emma **Harrison** (The British Library)

David **Helliwell**

Olivier **Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)

Han-Lin **Hsieh** (The British Library)

Matthias **Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Øystein Johan **Kleiven** (University of Oslo Library)

Hanno **Lecher** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)

Fung On **Lui** (University Library Frankfurt am Main)

Imke **Mees** (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne)

Cathleen **Paethe** (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Line **Pattyn** (Faculty Library Arts and Philosophy Gent)

Helena **Sedlackova** (Palacký University Library, Olomouc)

Joshua **Seufert** (Princeton University Library)

Immanuel **Spaar** (University of Würzburg)

Delphine **Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris)

Thomas **Tabery** (Bavarian State Library, Munich)

Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)

Cordula **Treimer** (Ethnologisches Museum - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)

Bénédicte **Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Marc **Winter** (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zürich)

Min **YU** (BULAC, Paris)

Ruili **Zhang** (University of Manchester Library)

• Guests

Marco **Caboara** (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library Archives)

Shih-pei **Chen** (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Zhemin **Guo** (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Library)

Lan **Wang** (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Library)

Sean **Wang** (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Calvin **Yeh** (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)
Hui **Zhao** (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Library)

- Vendors

Shuming **Bao** (China Data Center)
Catherine **Berry** (Adam Matthew)
Jason **Dai** (Wanfang Data)
Nancy **Deng** (CNPEIC)
Lina **Gerle** (Gale)
Saskia **Gieling** (Amsterdam University Press)
Yaxin **Li** (CIBTC)
Huanglei **Lyu** (Superstar)
Pan **Li** (BCBTC)
Sara **Pellijeff** (Gale)
Ariane **Rückebeil** (Eastview)
Alicia **Tang** (CNKI)
Xueying **Wu** (CIBTC)
Bo **Xu** (BCBTC)
Shu **Xu** (CNBKSJ)
Jason **Yuan** (CNPEIC)
Guifang **Zhang** (BCBTC)
Hao **Zhang** (Zhonghua Book Company)
Yuling **Zhang** (CNBKSJ)

- Apologies

Carina **Enestarre** (Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund University)
Katarína **Feriančíková** (Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague)
Jarmila **Fiurášková** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
Kerstin **Herelius** (Uppsala University Library)
Youn-hi **Hugues** (University of Sheffield)
Uwe **Kotzel** (German Institute of Global and Area Studies - Asia Library, Hamburg)
Anne **Labitzky** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)
Dat-wei **Lau** (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)
Soline **Lau-Suchet** (BULAC, Paris)
Xiaowei **Li** (University of Westminster)
Claudia **de Morsier-Fritz** (Zentralbibliothek Zürich)
Mia **Nilsson** (Asia Library, Lund University)
Ludovica **Price** (SOAS)
Miriam **Seeger** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Gabriela **Tan** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)

ACTA

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

Maja Fuchs opened the conference by thanking the local host for organising the conference, followed by a welcome speech by professor Rune Svarverud (Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, China studies).

Maja Fuchs then extended her warm welcome to all the participants and especially to the new

members who joined the conference for the first time.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference and member reports

The minutes of the 38th EASL conference were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Marc Gilbert presented the Treasurer's report, on behalf of Anne Labitzky. There was an increase of €0.19 in the form of interests for 2018. The total balance is €1,928.42.

4. Report on conferences

There were reports on the following conferences: AAS (Association for Asian Studies) and its Digital Technologies Expo, Beijing Book Fair, visits to 金陵刻经处 in Nanjing (南京), and to 铁琴铜剑楼 in Changshu (常熟), both in Jiangsu Province.

5. News from EASL members' libraries

Inga-Lill BLOMKVIST (NIAS, Copenhagen)

NIAS has a new director, Duncan McCargo. He is a political scientist focusing on SEA, and especially Thai politics.

NIAS has continued Nordic funding until 2023 but the budget for 2021-2023 has not been decided upon.

About the AsiaPortal: A webpage with information on special collections for Asian studies in the Nordic countries is under construction. The western language journals which were cancelled in 2014 are being replaced as much as possible by OA journals.

Sara CHIESURA (British Library)

The exhibition "Writing: Making Your Mark" - co-curated by Emma Harrison - took place until August 2019.

New colleagues have recently joined the team and there are now 4 curators of the Chinese collections (Sara Chiesura, Emma Harrison, Melodie Doumy, Han-Lin Hsieh). 1 part time cataloguer (Ching-Yuet Tang) is working at the retro-conversion of microfiche and card catalogues of pre-1912 printed material into electronic records (Aleph - MARC 21), while 1 part time cataloguer based in Boston Spa (Lin Wei-Chen) is going through about 1600 boxes of material (mostly serials) from the Hong Kong legal deposit collection. She is currently creating a spreadsheet to be ingested in Aleph and she sits with the Serials team.

The conservation and digitization of nearly 800 Lotus Sutra manuscripts in Chinese from the Stein Collection has started, funded by the Bei Shan Tang Foundation. The project will provide online access for scholars and the public to the digitised images of Lotus Sutra scrolls with enhanced catalogue records.

A major exhibition on Buddhism will open in October 2019 and will include East Asian material. A major learning website called "Discovering Sacred Texts" has just been launched and it includes several items from the Chinese collections, particularly on Buddhism. It is freely accessible at <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts> and it features articles, digitised material, videos and teaching activities for schools.

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

Colleagues are getting used to ALMA; two additional staff working part time were hired to help with retro-cataloguing in Chinese and Japanese. Regular staff member responsible for the Japanese

Studies collection will reduce worktime from October and will retire next year, which means more responsibility and administration work for Maja.

Marc GILBERT (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries):

Leiden hosted the ICAS11 conference last July and the library organised two pop-up exhibitions showcasing its EA and SEA collections.

An international symposium titled New Perspectives on Chinese Writing was organised last May with a presentation of related documents from our collections.

Leiden joined the Naxi manuscript project carried by the Foundation for Dongba culture and digitised its 33 manuscripts. The UNPO collection pilot is completed and will be launched in November.

Three new digital resources have been acquired this year: Dunhuang documents (敦煌文獻庫), Song tomb inscriptions database (宋代墓志铭数据库) and Foreign Office files for China, 1919-1980.

Cordula GUMBRECHT (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

A meeting of the interest group on licensing was hosted last June (15 participants).

The library is working at the optimisation of Crossasia services.

The main cataloging system is changing to a more complicated format but the old metadata will remain searchable. This will also apply to e-books. The digital library has moved to new IIF standard.

A private collection has recently been partly acquired, it includes Chinese and Manchu titles.

Grammatik des Klassischen Chinesisch by Prof. Ulrich Uger, the most comprehensive work on the topic in western languages, is now available in e-book format on Crossasia.

Three new colleagues have joined the team.

Olivier HÖHN (Stockholm University Library, Asia Library)

Integration of branch libraries goes on, and two libraries are still independent, one of them being the Asian Library. According to the Head of the department of Asia- Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies, the Asia Library will continue its activities for at least the coming four years.

The Stockholm University library's main focus is now on the so called Open Science and the strengthening of Open Access publishing

The number of Chinese studies students remains stable with 41 new students for a total of 99 registered students this year.

Øystein Johan KLEIVEN (University of Oslo Library)

Since September 2019 the library has a new director. A project proposal is being written for a better understanding of the holdings of printed materials. Participation in the Zhonghua Book Company program on pre-modern Chinese books is still being discussed.

Hanno LECHER (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)

Libraries of the three East Asian Institutes together with the South Asian Institute's Library have been moved to the new building (CATS = Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies) and the collections (7 linear km of books for East Asia) are now available to users in open stacks.

The preparatory work was itself a huge project, especially the reshelving of the books, due to the fact, that East Asia collections from 9 different locations had to be merged. The new loan system was also complicated to implement and there are still a few issues to address with the new building. A large collection of Chinese comics has been received and is now being digitized.

The library lost one staff member.

Fung On LUI (University Library Frankfurt am Main)

There is a project to move to a new library along with other institute libraries in two years' time. Discussions are currently held to decide on the shelving of the books in the new facility (open or closed stacks). Preparatory work is now being done for the implementation of a new loan system. Retrocataloging is nearly finished and collaboration with Zhonghua shuju is still being discussed.

Imke MEES (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne)

The number of incoming material is growing thanks to contact with art dealers. For a long time it has been complicated to cope with the cataloguing due to lack of staff and infrastructure but the situation is improving thanks to the help of a part time assistant since September 2019.

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

The position of the subject librarian became permanent. Only one staff is able to catalogue in Chinese. Many mistakes need to be corrected in the catalogue.

Line PATTYN (Faculty Library Arts and Philosophy, Gent)

The new library opened last year and 50 different collections (13 km of books) were moved into the same building. The structure of the organisation has been modified accordingly and Line is now part of research and support team but remains the main contact person for Asian studies department. The team is now trying to address the new challenges: relevance in the new context, relevance as a location, reorganisation, OA initiatives, support to scholars and students, development of digital skills.

Helena SEDLACKOVA (Palacký University Library)

The Asian library and the have now a large budget for new books. The department of Asian studies is also growing and contributes to the cataloging.

There is a reflection on a new building to host some kind of international house, not only for academics and students but also secondary schools, kindergartens). A proposal was made for an international library that would include the Asian library and department of Asian studies.

Joshua SEUFERT (Princeton University)

Princeton University Library has signed an agreement with a Chinese vendor to provide new monograph acquisitions as shelf ready books, including cataloguing and processing.

ReCAP, the Princeton offsite storage facility is shared with New York Public Library, Harvard and Columbia. Major parts of the collections stored there are now considered as a shared collection between the partners. There will therefore be increased collaboration among the partners in selecting and adding materials to this shared collection.

In 2017 a *shanben* catalogue was published, from November on a new project will start for cataloguing the *putong guji* (1797-1911) this project will also make these works discoverable in the online catalogue.

A new digitization project of rare items has been launched with the National Central Library in Taipei. The scans will in the future become available on the Princeton digital library platform (<https://dpul.princeton.edu/>).

Over the last years the East Asian Library has scanned tables of content of a larger number of big sets. These scans are now also available on the Princeton digital library platform as East Asian Library Supplementary Materials. The scans are available as IIIF and can be downloaded or linked to individually (as catalogue enrichment) from outside Princeton.

As part of the Ivy-Plus Libraries Confederation a new web-archiving project has been launched together with Zhou Luo (Chinese Studies Librarian at Duke University) in order to archive webpages of Chinese independent documentary makers.

Immanuel SPAAR (University of Würzburg)

One librarian from the central library is collaborating with the Chinese department and a student assists to process Chinese acquisitions

An significant donation has been received from professor Glen Dudbridge, Oxford.

Delphine SPICQ (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises)

A new director was appointed last year. All ten libraries of the College will soon be moving back to the former location and calculation will be needed for the reshelving of the collections. Five kilometers of books are going to be put back in stacks, a small part, but bigger than in the previous lecture room, will be in open stacks in the new lecture room.

The colleague for Chinese acquisitions is retiring and new staff will be hired.

A new catalogue of shanben (rare books) will be published by the Zhonghua shuju next year. There is also a project for the publication of the guji held in our library with the same publisher.

The library is currently digitizing the rubbing collection and 1500 items are available in Salamandre (digitized online library) and more rare books are being added to the digital collections.

An old Mongol manuscript has been restored and is now in the process of digitization.

Difficulties with the search of Chinese resources in the OPAC are new due to a change of IT organization on the PSL (Paris Sciences et Lettres, the universities' hub the Collège de France is now part of) level. We hope it is going to be resolved soon.

The library has received the donation of an exam paper dated to 1895 from American Chinese who had the opportunity to buy back their ancestor's Palace examination paper. A small ceremony will be organized next year when the item is going to be delivered. The exam paper will then been digitized and added to the online digitized library Salamandre.

Thomas TABERY (Bavarian State Library)

The acquisition budget has increased in 2019.

The Zhonghua shuju catalogue project is making slow progresses and the digitization of the Yao collection has just started.

Shenxiao TONG (Edinburgh University Library)

The library has now access to the complete series of the Republican Era periodicals (Shanghai), complete series. A 5% budget cut applies to all budgets due to the unknown future of the EU research fund and to the fluctuation of the pound.

The cataloguing backlog for East Asian collections is increasing due to the lack of manpower (part time cataloguer) ; the colleague in charge of Sanskrit is retiring.

A Center for Buddhism could be created and affiliated to East Asian studies.

The UK East Asian studies conference was hosted in Edinburgh at the same time as the EASL conference.

Cordula TREIMER (Ethnologisches Museum - Museum für Asiatische Kunst)

In May last year Lars-Christian Koch was elected joined director of the Ethnological Museum and the Asian Art Museum, responsible for the exhibitions at the new Humboldt Forum (to be opened in September 2020). Vice director Alexis von Poser was elected and will start his work in October 2019. He will be responsible for the "Forschungscampus Dahlem", which will incorporate the two museums plus the Museum Europäischer Kulturen (Museum of European Cultures) and the Institut für Museumsforschung (Institute for Museum Research) with a strong partnership with the Freie Universität (Free University) Berlin. This year it was also decided, that the Rathgen-Forschungslabor (Rathgen Research Laboratory) will move to Dahlem within the next 2 years. Plans for these changes are currently being made and preliminary ideas on the building modifications were published in July. As a consequence, holdings of these institutions' libraries will be united to create the third location of the Kunstbibliothek (Art Library), comprising about 250 000 volumes. It is not clear, when the renovations will begin and where. Currently a third of the holdings are not housed in the storage rooms, but in the offices of the curators.

In the near future, the Art Library's project to change the call number system to RVK (Regensburger Verbundklassifikation = Regensburg Library Network Classification) is carried on within the Ethnological Museum and the Asian Art Museum. In November 2018 Andreas Gräff started as project leader along with the librarian, already working on the project since February 2016. Their contracts end in December 2019 but there is hope for an extension.

At the Ethnological Museum, the colleague responsible for journals and library exchange retired at the end of August, and the head of the library will retire in January 2020.

As the vacancy in the RVK-project was not filled, acquisition and use of the reading room were consolidated in the Ethnological Museum at the beginning of 2019. Official opening hours were Monday to Thursday 9 am to 4 pm, but were shortened to Tuesday to Thursday from September 2019.

Bénédicte VAERMAN (East-Asian Library, Leuven)

The library has moved to a different floor in the same building. There is now more space for the collections with 3.5 km of books in open stacks. This project was carried out by students.

Improvement is still needed in the new reading room but the books are now better available to users.

Marc WINTER (University of Zurich, Chinese Library)

An application for funding with the Korean Foundation for retro-cataloging Korean-language books was successful, the KF financed a first year of a three-year project. Application for a second year has been handed in.

A internal project "fit for the future" has been launched, the objective of which is the amelioration of catalogue data according to RDA-rules before the organizational changes which will occur in 2021 or 2022. All institute libraries will be merged to form a university library. All Swiss library networks will be integrated into one to form a "Swiss Library Service Platform" (SLSP), starting in 2021, which will then use Alma. Therefore in late 2020 cataloguing will stop for 6 weeks.

Min YU (BULAC)

Two exhibitions were organized last year. The first one was set up on the occasion of the reading night (La Nuit de la lecture) in January, which is an annual event organized in all libraries located in Paris. This exhibition was devoted to Chinese classical literature on the theme of the Monkey King. It was accompanied with a theatre performance in the reading room, which was a great success to our readers and their children. The second one was on the theme "Public places and protest movements". For China, of course, it was to present books, documents and photographs on the occupation of Tiananmen Square in 1989, of which it was the thirtieth anniversary.

During the past two years, acquisitions have been redirected towards contemporary China, mainly on its recent history in politics, sociology, anthropology, etc.

Next year, the library website will be renewed, and the description of the Chinese collection will be enriched. In addition, an interdisciplinary and transnational classification by theme on selected open access books will be experimented.

Ruili ZHANG (University of Manchester Library)

There have been a number of projects in the last few years supported by Manchester University library, the John Rylands Research Institute and the Manchester Confucius Institute.

There is a new catalogue of our Chinese collections published by Beijing Normal University last year. The title of the book is 英國曼徹斯特大學約翰瑞蘭茲圖書館中文古籍目錄 (Bibliography of Ancient Chinese Books Held by the John Rylands Library of the University of Manchester, United Kingdom), which was edited by Guoying Li, Xiaowen Zhou and Xianrong Zhang. A pdf version is available online here: <https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/s/df87s8>. In the next year we hope to incorporate this into the main library catalogue.

In the last year storage of the collections has been improved. The next stage is to start a condition survey and update the location of items on our internal collection management system.

The Manchester Confucius Institute provided funding for a very detailed report, highlighting some of the most significant strengths and individual items of importance. You can find a blog post and link to the report here: <https://rylandscollections.wordpress.com/2019/02/05/a-comprehensive-variety-the-chinese-collections/>

The next goal is to mount an exhibition at the John Rylands from September 2020 to March 2021, which will focus on the 'Three Emperors period' (1661-1796). However there is still much work to be done in other areas like missionary activity in China. Anyone interested in working on the Chinese collection can contact Mrs Zhang Ruili or Special Collections Research Engagement Manager Miss Julianne Simpson via email: julianne.simpson@manchester.ac.uk.

6. Presentations of EASL members

The following presentations were given by members and guests:

- Marco Caboara (University of Science and Technology, HK): "The first carto-bibliography of Western printed maps of China and accompanying website"
- Inga-Lill Blomqvist (NIAS), Marc Gilbert (Leiden University Libraries), Joshua Seufert (Princeton University): "Free datasets for Chinese Digital humanities"
- Chen Shih-pei (Max Planck Institute): "LogArt Shine and Rise"
- Sean Wang (Max Planck Institute): "LogArt Shine and Rise"
- Matthias Kaun (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): "Licensing activities and beyond Licensing Issues"
- Emma Harrison (British Library): "Writing: Making your mark"
- Cordula Gumbrecht (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): "Andreas Müller's Typographia Sinica on its way from the Great Elector's Palace to the Humboldt Forum"
- Shexiao Tong (Edinburgh University): "From the Iron-Lyre-Copper-Sword Library to the Library of the Miscellany: private book collecting for the public good since the late Qing dynasty (铁琴铜剑楼)"
- Marc Winter (University of Zurich): "Zhonghua Dadian"

7. Session on Open Access

As a pilot project, a session on Open Access was organized and the following presentations were given, followed by a discussion:

- Catherine Berry (Adam Matthew): Platform Quartex – OA materials
- Inga-Lill Blomqvist (NIAS): OA Journals
- Wang Lan (CASS): "Research on the Strategy and Practice of Promoting Open Access in Professional Libraries in China: NCPSSD (专业图书馆推进开放获取的战略与实践研究——以国家哲学社会科学文献中心为例)"
- Stine Marie Barsjø (University of Oslo Library): National OA strategy / Plan S
- Prof. Mette Halskov Hansen (University of Oslo): A researcher's view on OA

8. Discussions on EASL affairs

8.1 Topic afternoon

The session on Open Access was considered an interesting initiative and session on specific topics will be on the agenda from next year onwards. The topic will be discussed via the mailing list and chosen according to the specificities of the host institution. Ideas for future sessions are: moving

libraries, information literacy for East-Asia, embedded librarianship (liaison librarian), etc.

8.2 Participation at next EACS conference 2020

The Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin will participate in the Leipzig meeting and might organize a workshop.

Considering the interest during the Glasgow meeting for material culture and special collections among others, EASL will try to present a panel on rare books or Digital Humanities; participation on the individual level is more likely to happen. Members can use the EASL logo.

8.3 Licensing activities

An Interest group met in Berlin last June to discuss options for a European consortium for E-resources. Proposals have been received for a few products and Berlin will discuss them with the group in order to find a way to make an offer as a consortium.

8.4 Korean and Japanese studies meetings

EASL, EAJRS and AKSE members could learn more from each other. Organizing a common meeting is a possibility that raises many issues (agenda, logistic, budget, etc.).

The boards of these associations should initiate a discussion. EASL should also discuss with the board of EACS to explore the possibility of holding their meetings at the same time whenever possible.

9. Elections

Maja Fuchs and Marc Gilbert resigned from their respective position as Chairwoman and Secretary. Marc Gilbert was elected Chairman and Marc Winter Secretary.

Since Anne Labitzky, current treasurer, will retire in 2020, Cathleen Paethe was elected Treasurer in order to allow a smooth transition.

10. Next conference

Thanks to Hanno Lecher's invitation, the fortieth annual EASL conference will be held September 2-4, 2020 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

The invitation from Gent for 2021 is confirmed.

The thirty-ninth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Øystein Johan Kleiven for his excellent arrangements.

Marc Gilbert EASL Secretary, November 4, 2019, Leiden