

## EASL Online Meeting 2020 Minutes

The Online-EASL-Meeting took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2020 on the platform Kaltura. The beginning was scheduled for 10:00, but participants seemed eager, for at 9:30 there were already several colleagues chit-chatting. The session was split up into smaller discussion rooms during a short "intermission".

When the meeting started, Participants registered and fully or partly present were (Several colleagues unfortunately had connection problems):

Marc **Gilbert** (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries), President of EASL  
Carina **Enestarre** (Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University)  
Olivier **Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholms universitetsbibliothek)  
Zhang **Ruiling** (University of Manchester Library)  
Thomas **Tabery** (Bavarian State Library, Munich)  
Joshua **Seufert** (Princeton University Library)  
Bénédicte **Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)  
Han-Lin **Hsieh** (The British Library)  
Chia-hsun **Wu** (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zürich)  
Hanno **Lecher** (CATS Library, East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)  
Sara **Chiesura** (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London)  
Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)  
Miriam **Seeger** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)  
Matthias **Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)  
Soline **Lau Suchet** (BULAC Paris)  
Mamtimyn **Sunuodula** (China Centre, University of Oxford)  
Lei **Huang** (CATS Library, East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)  
Gesche **Schröder** (CATS Library, East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)  
Melody **Doumy** (The British Library)  
Katarina **Feriancikova** (Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University in Prague)  
Inga-Lill **Blomkvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Denmark)  
Youn-hi **Hughes** (School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield)  
Klaus **Gottheiner** (Trier University)  
Claudia **De Morsier** (Zentralbibliothek Zürich)  
Charles **Aylmer** (University of Cambridge University Library)  
Loïc Min **Yu** (BULAC Paris)  
France **Besson-Girard** (Département d'études Est-Asiatiques, Université de Genève)  
Øystein Johan **Kleiven** (University of Oslo Library)  
Tan **Wang-Ward** (The British Library)  
Nathalie **Monnet** (Bibliothèque Nationale de France)  
Fung On **Lui** (University Library Frankfurt am Main)  
Marc **Winter** (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zürich), Secretary of EASL

9:50 Marc Gilbert welcomes participants and informs about retirements of members: Imke Mees (Köln) und Anne Labitzky (Heidelberg) retired during the last year. Absentees named and excused. Immanuel Spaar (Würzburg) and Maja Fuchs (Vienna) send greetings.

Marc then provides Information on the meeting next year in Heidelberg. The dates are: September 1-3<sup>rd</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Vote before the 20<sup>th</sup> of September on <https://doodle.com/poll/9sefyg6ci9isepde>

Treasurer sent a short report: EUR 1.928,70 were transferred by Anne Labitzky to Cathleen Paethe our new treasurer

All three functionaries are willing to continue. Elections will be held at the beginning because some might have to leave early. All Confirmed.

**Individual Reports** (Due to connection problems several colleagues could not deliver their report in person. Several reports were sent by mail afterwards and are included in these minutes.)

1. **Miriam Seeger:** StaBi Licensing initiative: Miriam refers to the mail from August 20<sup>th</sup> concerning the European Asia Licencing initiative, which will provide wider access, data-rights and data-mining rights. The State Library tries to extend the rights to include, for instance the *Renmin Ribao* without licencing costs. Uni-Han also free of charge. For information Miriam refers to the Wiki. Negotiations with UNI-Han should be concluded before end of the year. For further questions turn to Matthias or Miriam.
2. **Charley Aylmer:** Cambridge University Library closed its doors to readers on 20 March, for the first time since the Great Plague of 1665, when Newton was obliged to 'work from home' and discovered gravity. Since closure some new services have been introduced: 'click and collect', which allows items to be ordered online for borrowing and 'scan and deliver' which provides scanned copies of extracts from printed items.

Chinese printed accessions have been severely disrupted and an increased emphasis on digital publications is to be expected in future. Two significant additions have been made to the Cambridge Digital Library: the manuscript of a Chinese Harmony of the Gospels by Jean Basset (1662-1707) of the Missions Etrangeres in Sichuan, which is in the same hand as the New Testament translation recently found in the Biblioteca Casanatense in Rome, and some new material on the visit to Cambridge of Duke Zaize (1868-1929) on 24 May 1906, including a newly discovered photograph and four contemporary press reports.

Conservation activity has concentrated on a set of large epigraphical rubbings formerly in the possession of Alexander Wylie (1815-1887) and a newly acquired collection of rubbings made by the Rev AF Lutley (1919-1975), a CIM missionary in Chengdu. While working from home I have been reconstituting the catalogue of the Chinese collection of Sir James Haldane Stewart Lockhart (1858-1937), Civil Commissioner of Weihaiwei (1902-1921). These books were acquired after his death and incorporated into the general collection. Notable features are a complete set of local histories (difangzhi) of Shandong Province (now in the British Library) and a number of presentation copies from notabilities such as the Duke Confucius. The original card catalogue now in the National Library of Scotland has been digitised and will eventually be made available online.

3. **France Besson-Girard:** In Switzerland, everyone had to leave the office starting March 16th. There was a kind of panic among the teachers and students... and me... We had to find issues how to overcome this new situation without being able to go in the library, pick up books and scan them for the students or teachers. It has been a very interesting adventure. I have now more than 100 ebooks which is extremely new in the field of Chinese. Everyone discovered that to have some knowledge of immaterial data was important too and how to get access to. As a result, I will be involved in teachings of methodologies of Research for the Japanese Department as well as the Chinese one, this year.

The library was closed until beginning of May where some people (researchers, students, ...) were able on appointment to pick up the books they ordered online at a centralized desk. Beginning of June, the library re-opened, with the normal timetable. We follow the preventative measures of the government. For the library, I am concerned by problems that you probably faced someday, the reclassification of the library, with a move of all the collections in new premises end of 2022. This time, all the collections of Humanities will be gathered together with a classification system based on the Dewey System, but enhanced

locally. We have a reorganization globally in the library which tends to diminish the quality of approach/treatment of the collections.

4. **Inga-Lill Blomkvist:** There is a new director at NIAS (Duncan McCargo). The Funding institutions will be transferred and re-organized. Maybe severe budget cuts will have to be faced. Financing after 2023 very uncertain. More "investment" in research might be requested. A webpage for the "Special collection in the northern libraries" is being built. The future of NIAS is again uncertain. We are since many years funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), but from 2021 NIAS and four other institutions under NCM will have our funding moved to NCM's institution for research and research cooperation, NordForsk. We are now in a four-year funding contract, which covers the period until the end of 2023. The total sum of funding for our five institutions was to be kept stable during the whole contract period and then in 2024 there would be a non-exclusive call for funding we could apply for. Now we have new information about two alternative scenarios: that we either may have our funding up to 2024 heavily cut, or there will be no call we can apply for in 2024.

NIAS has a new director since more than a year, Duncan McCargo, a Southeast Asia specialist. Duncan will work to develop the research section of NIAS which will most likely necessitate budget cuts for the services of NIAS, such as our e-resources collection and NIAS Press.

In 2013 University of Copenhagen established the Fudan-European Centre for China Studies, located at NIAS, in partnership with Fudan university. University of Copenhagen has this summer regrettably unilaterally chosen not to prolong the partnership on the centre.

We have been and are still working on a Special collections section of the AsiaPortal, providing information on special collections with Asian material in the Nordic countries.

As many others we have at NIAS invested in online activities and there is also a Nordic Asia Online section on the AsiaPortal featuring e.g. Nordic Asia Podcasts

The Gendering Transformations conference which NIAS is arranging together with the National Central Library in Taiwan as part of the TRCCS cooperation, has been postponed until October 2021.

5. **Sara Chiesura:** The British Library buildings in St Pancras and Boston Spa closed to the public due to the COVID-19 emergency on Wednesday 18 March. Staff have been working from home where possible, and curators have been focussing on remote enquiries, remote cataloguing and data manipulation/preparation, online conferences, electronic resources, web presence (including blogs and social media), research, training, and personal development. We communicated with each other and colleagues with Zoom or Skype for Business, and we have held regular meetings, including departmental meetings online. New acquisitions have been put on hold until further notice.

The British Library has gradually opened its building again to the public on the 22 of July, with only some Reading Rooms open, on a pre-booked basis. No manuscripts or restricted material have been issued during this period. Some events have been held online. On the 1st of September, the British Library has reopened more spaces, including the free exhibition space "Sir John Ritblat Gallery: Treasures of the British Library", the temporary exhibition "Hebrew Manuscripts: Journeys of the Written Word", and the Members' Room.

The main activities in the Chinese Section are:

- a. Retro-conversion and cataloguing projects  
Our pre-1912 and Hong Kong Copyright projects are currently on hold. Ching Yuet Tang and Wei-Chen Lin have both left the Library and the possibility of new recruitment will be reviewed after the COVID-19 emergency.
- b. We are currently assessing the feasibility of resuming projects such as LibCrowds crowdsourcing and allegro conversion whilst working from home.

- c. Digitisation: Lotus Sutra manuscripts digitisation project (2017-2022)  
Funded by the Bei Shan Tang Foundation, this project aims to conserve and digitise 793 Chinese Lotus Sutra manuscripts from Dunhuang and make high-res images available on <http://idp.bl.uk>. Currently, conservation and digitisation work is close to 50% completed; images will be gradually published online until the end of the Project.
- d. Buddhism exhibition and conference – The Chinese section helped to deliver tours, web content and other activities to support the recent exhibition on Buddhism, which closed on 23 February 2020. This included a conference, held on 7-8 February and entitled ‘Unlocking Buddhist Written Heritage’. A series of online recordings of the conference is now available online here: <https://soundcloud.com/the-british-library/sets/unlocking-buddhist-written-heritage>
- e. Digitisation: Chinese manuscripts:  
Or 1234 御筆十全記, Chronicle of ten successful campaigns by the Qianlong Emperor  
Or 2667 御制實心行政說, Treatise on the Art of Government by the Jiaqing Emperor  
Or 6682 御筆知過論, A Treatise by the Qianlong Emperor  
Or 6702 御筆十全記, Chronicle of ten successful campaigns by the Qianlong Emperor  
Or 6703 御筆讀洪範, Emperor Qianlong's essay and reflections after reading the Hong Fan  
Or 7604 御制玉釜佩詩, Imperial jade-axe ornament poetry  
Or 7605 御制詩, Imperial poetry  
Or 7857/1 四庫鴻文: 乾隆御覽制寶, Six miscellaneous essays by Emperor Qianlong  
Or 7857/2 四庫鴻文: 乾隆御覽制寶, Six miscellaneous essays by Emperor Qianlong  
Or 9430 皇朝禮器圖式, Illustrated Regulations for Ceremonial Paraphernalia  
Or 11357 升沁承敬, Volume five of the ‘Elegant compositions’ of Emperor Jiaqing  
Or 11358 精西展裕, First part of a poetry work by Emperor Jiaqing  
Or 11359 聖駕再旨盛京詆褐, Tribute to Emperor Jiaqing  
Or 12960 欽定四庫全書: 墨客揮犀, Chapters 1 to 5 of a collection of biographical anecdotes  
Or 11539 Chinese export album, 19th century  
Add MS 10592 Manifestations of Buddhist Saints illustrated on leaves of ficus religiosa  
Add MS 11746 Heart Sutra and Diamond Sutra with illustrations on leaves of ficus religiosa
6. **Carina Enestarre:** Sends greeting from Mia Nielsson. The Asia Library moved to other premises in Lund the 1 of January 2017. And we are still there together with The Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies.  
The first of January 2019 we (Mia and I and the Asia library) were moved organisationally to an other faculty Humanities & Theology. The library is still in the same place in the Centre, Mia and I are also still the subject librarians. We have a new supervisor and about 23 new librarian colleagues. Carina works 50%, Maja 80%.  
Library currently open for students, closed for visitors.  
During autumn 2020 the Asia Library will have much shorter opening hours due to the pandemic and because the Asia Library will be used as a classroom.

The Asia Library now has parts of a new collection:

The Michael Schoenhals Collection - China during the Cultural Revolution

<http://www.alvin-portal.org/alvin/view.jsf?pid=alvin-record%3A163262&dswid=-7273>

(Alvin is a Swedish catalogue) Parts of the collection is at the main Lund University Library, and a part concerning the Asia Library.

Since we now are in a much larger organisation there are less possibilities for us to attend conferences and other meetings outside of Lund. Because of this we unfortunately have not been able to attend EASL either.

7. **Maja Fuchs:** University of Vienna, Library of East Asian Studies: Library was closed for users from mid-March until end of June; since May ordering of books for loan was possible, books could be picked up at certain times. Since July, access to library for users, from October on, regular opening times are planned (at the moment).

Retrocataloguing is getting on well, with one part-time colleague and myself working on it, should be completed by the end of the year.

My colleague who is responsible for the Japanese Studies collection and figured as the head of the library, will retire by the end of the year, I will be her successor; some administration tasks we have shared over the past year already, according to plans I will take over from next year on.

Prof. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik will retire end September but still give some lectures; a new professor is appointed from September 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Rosella Ferrari, before at SOAS.

8. **Marc Gilbert:** Has been working at home since March. Library remained open for “basic services”, Reading room open at 20% of capacity, so staff is also allowed only 20% and Marc goes to the office one day a week. Last year an exhibition of the special collection curated by students was held. In October 2019 there was a Taiwan Month. Book donation from Taiwan with a lecture. “One person one Book” initiative from travelers from Taiwan to the Netherlands.

Digitation extended on a new segment of the library (poetry journals), will be online shortly. Official visit in Shanghai planned and cancelled, Trip to Rome also cancelled (Kick-off meeting for “Chinese heritage in Europe”) Mainly for museums, Leyden the only library. There might be money for digitization.

9. **Olivier Höhn:** Asia library is now the only branch library left in Stockholm. In spring the Asia library was closed, now open 2 afternoons a week. Department decide for themselves, how much teaching will be online. Asia department has decided to have all teaching online. Strict reduced service, now slightly opening again. Relying more and more in interlibrary loan.
10. **Youn-Hi Hughes:** All library sites have been closed since March. Replacement by e-books wherever possible. Loans by mail possible. They force digitization. All teaching is online. Staff works from home, re-opening still under discussion.
11. **Matthias Kaun:** After lockdown there is a general “back to office” starting September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Blauer Leihverkehr was closed, now open again. Department for South East Asia was moved to East Asia department. StaBi Tried to find solution for Digital Humanities. New licenses were made possible: 300,000 might be made available, large digitization, OCREd 100’000 pages. Digitized Manchu collection made fully available.
12. **Øystein Johan Kleiven:** The library has had a new director since one year, apparently works well, Øystein expressed being very happy with the new director.
13. **Hanno Lecher:** Regrets not having EASL in Heidelberg in 2020, but is happy to have us there next year.

The Library has been closed from mid-March but is open again since mid-May, but with restrictions (limited number of reading spaces, walking directions only one way, some services cancelled altogether, such as group working rooms, OPAC terminals etc.).

Part of staff could do home office, but most of the time we were present on campus. There is still a huge backlog to deal with since our move to the new building last June.

Staff has been reduced since then as planned (minus 0,5 fte), but since Anne retired by end of June her position (1 fte) has not been replaced yet. She will be replaced, however, but exact conditions have to be settled first. Huang Lei and Gesche Schröder as new staff for the Chinese collection.

Thanks for the make-shift conference. Student assistances also have not been replaced. So there is a large backlog. Open again since mid-May, reduced access for people.

14. **Nathalie Monnet:** Only present, no report
15. **Claudia De Morsier:** Zurich University will reorganize the library situation, so Central Library is working on the “embedded library” and what that might mean. So the mode of cooperation is uncertain, but cooperation on a personal level works well. From October 2020 there will be a catalog freeze and no acquisitions between October and November.
16. **Shenxiao Tong:** Edinburgh is similar to what other colleagues said. Lockdown from mid-March and re-opening early August. Loan-regime was: Users order online and pick them up at the library building. From September 14<sup>th</sup> partly reopening with reduced work-space. Still using book-quarantine for 72 hours. Semester begins in 2 weeks. Library Budget might be reduced. Last year Edinburgh acquired the *Siku Quanshu*-series from Diaolong (Including *Xuxiu Siku Quanshu*. Digital Heritage (Eastview) subscription was cancelled. Shenxiao Managed to buy *minguo*-periodicals from Shanghai library. TRCC lecture series may be online in November. Student surfaces have been reduced. Copyright issues with movies, because streaming poses copyright problems. (Leyden works on the streaming-problem as well).
17. **Lui Fung On (Frankfurt):** After the brief complete shutdown the Central Library returned to function gradually quite successfully. The library of the sinology profited from this facility as it is located inside.  
But recently two persons who work in our magazine, where the uncatalogued materials are stored and now treated for the coming removal to the new library, were tested Corona positive. After two weeks quarantine and no sign of symptoms for a few days a person went back to work this Monday without a control test. I hope we would be fine, or you would read about us in the newspapers.  
Probably we would move to the new build library 2021/2022, with other smaller institutes for languages and culture. The building shell has been made ready recently. I have been cataloguing the bigger collections like *congshu* all the time. But it seems I would not be able to finish all before the removal. Our collection of ancient books remains unattended. I don't favor the solution with Zhong Hua Shu Ju, as it poses unsolved problems for us. No decision was made yet.  
I would like to oversee the removal. But regularly I have to retire August in a year. The professor would prefer I stay longer, but the new director of the university library would prefer to engage someone new for the start in the new library.
18. **Thomas Tabery:** The first time in years our acquisition budget for new publications has significantly increased at the beginning of last year. But then a few months later, fortunately and unexpectedly the same happened in the field of antiquarian acquisitions. We received an unexpected high amount of money that allowed us to buy some outstanding antiquarian objects from private collectors and from antiquarian art galleries. For example we could buy quite a number of very beautiful and exquisite Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints and woodblock printed illustrated books.  
The Zhonghua shuju catalogue project is making no progress. The measures we agreed on were not put into effect so far.  
The digitization of 70 Yao manuscripts, commissioned by the Zhongshan daxue in

Guangzhou, was completed successfully.

Apart from that we were busy organizing the shut-down and the reopening of the reading rooms and all kind of other corona related issues. Most of us were working from home for a few weeks from around Easter but since July we are back to office.

19. **Joshua Seufert:** David Helliwell sends his best wishes to all the colleagues. He is still working on his rare book catalogue and hopes to finish the work by the end of the year. He looks forward to the next EASL meeting in Heidelberg. In Princeton the digitization project with the National Central Library is still ongoing. The scans will in the future become available on the Princeton digital library platform (<https://dpul.princeton.edu/>). Work on the project to catalog all our *putong guji* (1797-1911) and publish a new catalog of these works has started. Princeton is cooperating with Lin Yiming a specialist of the Academy for Rare Book Preservation 古籍保护研究院 of Tianjin Shifan daxue. Lin Yiming has stayed at the East Asian Library for several months. The cataloging work is still ongoing, and we hope that Lin Yiming will be coming back to Princeton soon.  
Over the last year I have started to build a unique collection of archival Handbooks of Provincial, City and County archives in China. Princeton now has about 380 such guidebooks. About 3/4 of these books are neibu and not widely collected in the West. I presented on the collection at CCM at CEAL online in March and the slides are available on the CEAL website. The collection is being georeferenced and the table of contents of these guides are being scanned and added to the library catalog as catalog enrichment which will allow researchers from around the world to request scans of sections of of the guides via interlibrary loan. Recently I have recently been awarded a grant by the local Center for Digital Humanities to create a searchable index for these guidebooks and the work on this project is ongoing. Together with Xue Zhaohui from Stanford I have also started a new webarchive for Greater China Archival Resources. The webarchive focusses on the websites of Chinese national, provincial, city and county archives and will go online in in late September early October on the Archive-it platform.
20. **Mamtimyn Sunuodula:** Administratively some changes have occurred in Oxford. The Oriental department has grown more independent from humanities. He works in the China Center Library, where David is still doing voluntary work. Cataloging has now been reorganized. Efforts for the Integration of the Allegro catalog into the library catalog are under way, the former Allegro-catalog will be searcheable in SOLO. Budgets have not been affected. Digitization of Yao-manuscripts has been completed. Pre 17<sup>th</sup> century Chinese books shall be digitized. Hoping to get back to office by mid-September, at least one day a week.
21. **Bénédicte Vaerman:** Not many news: Moving out of the old stacks, reading room too. Now new open stacks. In February there was a stir-up of the fire-police, so new stacks were closed because the new stacks are not fire-safe. All new stacks closed again towards users. Many scans in the meantime and now books can be sent out. Library as a platform and information center services has been reduced thusly. Budget allows less and less databases.
22. **Marc Winter:** As Claudia stated, the library situation in Zürich is to be fundamentally reformed, a central organization "University Library of Zürich" has been founded, Rudolf Mumenthaler (former director of the university library in Lucerne) has been appointed director. The terms of cooperation between the university library and the institutes and between the non-university foundation of the Zentralbibliothek and university library is a matter for ongoing discussion. All librarians will be reorganized to no longer be employees of the departments or institutes, but rather all employed by the university library. There are many meetings, which also went on online during lockdown.  
In the Chinese library a cooperation with TRCC has been negotiated (mainly by Chia-hsun) and will be signed and celebrated in a ceremony by the end of the year. The Chinese

department acquired the Series *Zhongguo yuyan wenzi yanjiu jikan* 中國語言文字研究輯刊 with currently 268 volumes. Retro-cataloging is slower due to many meetings. With respect to the catalog freeze in October there were many old ALLEGRO-catalog entries which could be partly reformatted or otherwise worked on during the lockdown period. With the new semester on September 19<sup>th</sup> opening hours are back to regular and work space limitations have been lifted.

23. **Loïc MIN Yu**: Relaunched website. For this a detailed description of the collection and the library. Electronic research database has been set up. He did 2 Online training courses: improvement. Library should be open from next week again.

24. **Zhang Ruili**: Not much to say: Due to Corona-Virus The Three Emperors Library (1661-1796) has been postponed. Return to campus project going on.

After the individual reports, there was discussion:

- Several institutions have a problem with logging on to CNKI databases. Little substantial help from CNKI, in Leyden the old URL works better. CAJ and China Core Newspaper are difficult to reach. Census database and Data inside: Only links to the old versions. Cross-database searches are impossible right now.
- Chinese PhD-Students appear to have a second assignment: getting information on Chinese studies. Leuven, Leyden and Zurich similar: It appears as if students had an assignment to photograph title pages of pre-1911 books.
- Shenxiao asks if at any other institution DVD for Online Streaming is possible. Apparently not the case.
- With respect to next year: Will there be a Online Sessions for next year for colleagues who cannot attend? Hanno is willing to try this out. Marc G. says: we will discuss this with respect to next year and let you all know in advance.

16<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 Marc Winter