East Asia Library Re–opening in the Works!

By Ellen Hammond

With the end of the construction phase of the East Asia Library renovation project in February, planning is almost complete for a celebration: a re–opening party on Tuesday, April 17. All members of the East Asian Studies community at Yale will be welcome in the beautifully refinished rooms on the second floor of Sterling Memorial Library at 4 p.m. for the official inauguration. Provost Andrew Hamilton will represent the University for the event.

In the meantime, the reference collections, computer workstations, periodical collections, and study tables in the East Asia Library Reading Room area are already in use. This month, the builders will be touching up some of the finishes, remaining data lines will be activated, and signs put up. In addition, final furniture delivery and installation and the hanging or art works are underway. When the transformation is complete, the East Asia Library will finally be able to function as one of the vital centers for the study of East Asia at Yale, a fitting accomplishment for 2007, the 100th anniversary of its establishment.

Chinese Collection Adds Digital Resources

By Chi–wah Chan

Over the past few years, the East Asia Library has been building up an electronic collection in East Asian studies. The two latest additions to the collection are the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (TBRC) Digital Library and the Digital Dictionary of Buddhism. The TBRC Digital Library offers over 12,000 volumes (a still growing number) of scanned literature in the Tibetan language, primarily Buddhist works. Some works have searchable detailed content outlines and images. The Digital Dictionary of Buddhism is, by far, the most comprehensive in scope and contents of its kind. These two electronic resources complement the existing collection related to Buddhism and provide strong support to both Tibetan and Buddhist studies at Yale.

The e–collection in Chinese studies has been strengthened with several major acquisitions in recent months. First, the Wanfang China Online Journals (COJ) joins the Chinese Academic Journals (CAJ) database (available at Yale for several years) to provide comprehensive access to academic journals in the humanities and social sciences published in China, despite some overlap in contents. Second, the Wanfang Dissertations of China is a good source for getting the results of recent scholarship done in China. Third, the Wanfang Policies and Laws of China, a specialized database in documents related to political policies and legal matters, complements other e–resources of the same kind that are available in the Law School Library.

These new textual databases from Wanfang Data are complemented by other databases already available at Yale, such as the China Data Online and China INFOBANK, which have proven to be excellent sources [see Digital Resources on the back cover]
Rare Book Workshop on Japanese Illustrated Books, 1615–1868

By Haruko Nakamura

Libraries at Yale University holds many beautiful and precious Japanese illustrated books (see one example on the right), including *Nara Ehon* (rare manuscript books of tales luxuriantly illustrated with gold, silver and many other bright colors), playful *Chirimen-bon* (books made of crepe paper in western language for foreigners in the Meiji period) and other rare and beautiful illustrated hand scrolls like *Setsugekka*. Also, a large number of works in our collection are woodblock illustrated books produced in the Edo period, varying from illustrated travel guides, popular novels, and collections of famous artists’ sketch books. While the Library is proud of the significant collection of these illustrated books, many of them have not been well known in our community since they have not been fully cataloged online.

Eager to introduce these treasures to the larger Yale community, Haruko Nakamura, the Librarian for the Japanese Collection, attended the third annual workshop on “Japanese illustrated books, 1615–1868” to learn how to manage, preserve and catalog these illustrated books. The workshop was held at the Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. October 23–27, 2006. The workshop was one of the courses offered by the University of Virginia Rare Book School. It was led by Dr. Ellis Tinios, Honorary Lecturer at the University of Leeds, Research Associate at the Japan Research Centre, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and special assistant to the Japanese Section of the Asian Department of the British Museum.

There were 11 participants in this course from various fields, ranging from librarians, conservators, book collectors and art curators, to writers. Using numerous digital images and illustrated books, the lectures covered such topics as the historical context of illustrated books and prints, printing and book production in the Edo period, and conservation and cataloging issues of Edo period books, etc. Particularly enjoyable was a lecture on “Prints and Books: Production, Sales and Use.” Dr. Tinios enlivened his lecture with digital images of illustrated books from the Edo period, bringing to life the Edo culture of book production and its associated industries. The material culture of the period was literally in front of the students as they studied wood blocks from the collection of the Freer Gallery; these gave a good understanding of actual printing practice in this era. In addition, Dr. Tinios provided a simple, yet comprehensive list of descriptive elements for creating a full description of an illustrated book of the Edo period. This list is a very helpful tool for anyone making inventories of illustrated books. Through discussions about the types of painting and coloring of books and their colophons, publishers and distributors, participants also learned much from Dr. Tinos about the historical and social aspects of illustrated books in the Edo period.

One of many attractions of this workshop was the opportunity to become immersed in the magnificent collection of illustrated books held by the Freer/Sackler Gallery library, a collection curated by Ms. Reiko Yoshimura, head librarian of the Freer Gallery of Art Library. The workshop also included a field trip to the Library of Congress and the National Institutes of Health. At the Library of Congress, Mr. Eiichi Ito presented the LC collections of Japanese rare books, including *gafu*, *ukiyo-e* and *Nara Ehon*. Ms. Jesse Munn, the conservator at the Library Congress, provided some practical guidance on the handling of Japanese rare books as well as their conservation. Mr. Michael North from the National Institutes of Health also showed many rare books, printed materials, and manuscripts, including books with anatomical illustrations and posters on public health issues and medicine.
Reference Notes: One Stop Shopping for Articles?

By Tao Yang

What is the place to go for journal articles? This is one of the frequently asked questions librarians receive on the reference desk. When people ask this question, they often have in mind a tool that can retrieve articles in most (if not all) journals that the library subscribes to, very much like what Orbis, the online catalog of Yale University Library, does for books. Although this is a brilliant idea, such a tool is yet to be developed.

Take Orbis itself as an example. Orbis has the bibliographic information of the books in all the Yale libraries (except Law library), but concerning journal articles, Orbis has only the information about the journals, not the individual articles within them. Therefore, researchers may use Orbis to find articles only if the source journals have been identified through other means, but they cannot search for articles directly in Orbis.

Is Google Scholar (GS), then, the one-stop shopping place for articles? As a web-based search engine specializing in scholarly literature, GS can retrieve article citations in many different subject fields. In addition to links to other related articles, GS can also provide a link to the full text, if the full text is available through library subscription. However, GS has quite a few known flaws, including its weakness in covering social sciences and humanities. So, even though Google Scholar is handy for conducting a quick survey of many topics, it is far from an ideal tool to perform comprehensive search for articles in East Asian studies.

The more established subject bibliographies or indexes usually have more comprehensive coverage of the subject area than Google Scholar. As an essential resource in Asian studies, Bibliography of Asian Studies Online covers Western-language articles (and other types of sources) on East Asia as well as South and Southeast Asia. Other online disciplinary indexes or bibliographies may also be important: Historical Abstracts for historians, MLA Bibliography for language and literature researchers, Anthropological Literature and Sociological Abstracts for social scientists, and so on. However, even these well-regarded subject indexes have their own limitations, mainly in terms of keeping up with most recent publications.

So, in order to keep up to date, browsing current journal issues, either the print copy or the online version, is still a valid approach. A list of online journals was posted on the East Asia Library homepage to facilitate such browsing (see the screenshot below). Some journals only have issues up to several years ago (these journals tend to be only covered by JSTOR), but most journals on that list do make their most recent issues available online.

Although there are many resources available for finding journal articles, none of them can really function as a one-stop shopping tool. Instead, conducting a comprehensive search of journal articles requires the use of a variety of tools that have different pros and cons. It is a somewhat time-consuming process, but it also offers a unique opportunity for the researchers to evaluate different resources critically.

(All the online resources mentioned in this article can be accessed from the Yale University Library home page.)
Building a world-class library collection

By Haruko Nakamura

Our library collection is a living entity, nurtured by its many users. Just this past year, several experts in the field of Japanese studies have honored the Japanese collection by contributing unique resources. President Peter Gilli of the Japan Society of Boston made a significant contribution of over 150 titles from his personal library. Most of these books are related to Japanese literature and include the first editions of some books, such as *Bungei hyōron* by Kobayashi Hideo. Henry Smith, Emeritus professor of Japanese history at Columbia University and the director of Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS) also provided us with about 150 books from his personal library. They range in subject from urban cultural development in Japan to the famous Japanese anime, *Neon genesis Evangelion*. The Japanese collection was also fortunate to receive 20 years of the Japanese film magazine "Kinema Junpo"

from journalist Yano Shigeyuki, a private collector in Japan. In addition to the magazine, he donated ephemera related to Japanese film, such as cinema handbills and pamphlets. Others helped identify and solicit resources for the collection. Katsuyuki Hori, an aficionado of Japanese film, shares his interest through personal book donations, consulting regularly with librarians on the resource needs of the library, and editor/publisher Takeshi Yasuda sought donations of books and ephemera from among his colleagues and friends. In addition, there are the more hidden, but also very significant, library users' contributions to the library: suggestions of places to hunt for materials, recommendations of books bearing cutting-edge research, and little whispers about trendy "hot" subjects from users who have deep subject knowledge provide invaluable assistance in making Yale's Japanese collection pre-eminent.

Staff Profile: Acquisitions Staff

By Tao Yang

This issue's Staff Profile features three members of the East Asia Library's acquisitions team: Baolan Wu, Mary Bradway, and Kazuko Yamaguchi (from left to right in the picture here). They talked about their daily work and their perspectives on the changes in the library for this article.

The team of three plays an important role in supporting the development of library collections. Their essential duty is to place purchase orders after the collection development librarians decide what books to purchase, and process them upon receipt from the vendor. This seems to be nothing extraordinary, but given the very large number of books that the Library receives each year, especially from China and Japan, ordering and receiving them requires both efficiency and accuracy. Each acquisitions staff member has her own area of focus: Japanese materials for Kazuko, Chinese materials for Baolan, and Western-language materials related to East Asia for Mary. Mary also processes all the vendor invoices coming to the Library.

Mary is going to celebrate her 40th anniversary at Yale Library in September. She has seen many, many changes over the years, all for the good. Mary is especially thrilled with the renovation project because this will be the first major change to the East Asia part of the SML building as far as she can remember.

Kazuko just passed her 20 years milestone at Yale last October. She recalls a time when the typewriter was the prevalent technology. The days are long gone! when she was exhausted from working on the typewriter, pulling heavy drawers full of catalog cards, and writing characters on order sheets.

Baolan has been at Yale for only eight years, so to her the changes are not as dramatic. Baolan did witness the switch from the previous library system to the current Orbis when she worked for the Fiscal Support Team in the Acquisitions Department of SML. Moving to the East Asia Library is a nice personal change to Baolan because now she can utilize her Chinese language skills on her daily job.
Curatorial Notes

During a December 2006 trip to Taiwan, Associate Curator Sarah Elman met with the Secretary General of the Gender/Sexuality Rights Association, Taiwan, Ms. Ping Wang, a representative from the Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association, Mr. Ashley Wu, and Professor Josephine Ho, a distinguished scholar on GLBT issues, to discuss Yale University Library’s initiative in collecting archival materials related to the GLBT rights movement. They all expressed interest in working with the East Asia Library to collect materials from Taiwan. Further discussions will be carried out in the spring to establish the mechanism for future cooperation. (S.E.)

Librarian for the Japanese Collection Haruko Nakamura traveled to Tokyo in November 2006, joining Roberta Pilette, Head of the Preservation Department at Yale University Library, who gave a presentation on mass de-acidification of books at the Japan Library Forum held in Yokohama. After the Forum, the two were invited to various libraries and institutions including the National Diet Library, Hitotsubashi University Library, and the National Archives of Japan, to observe preservation processes for Japanese library materials. The pinnacle of the tour was a visit to the Archives and Mausolea Department of the Imperial Household Agency in the Imperial Palace. Bobbie and Haruko observed the traditional and yet innovative techniques of repairing ancient documents and were invited into the state of the art storage vaults lined with cedar that use no mechanical heating and cooling systems and were designed to protect treasured books and manuscripts. On behalf of North Haruko visited publishers and vendors such as Oya Bunko to negotiate database licensing terms. She also visited other university libraries including Tokyo University, Tsurumi University, and Keio University to establish communications and collaborations between the East Asia Library at Yale University and libraries in Japan. (H.N.)

In spring semester of 2007, Chi-wah Chan, the librarian for the Chinese collection, is offering a seminar class entitled “Materials and Methods for Research in Chinese Studies” (CHNS 400). The very same class will be offered again in the spring semester 2008. (C.W.C.)

A Komonjo/Kuzushiji Workshop will be held at Yale from July 15 to August 11 with Umezawa Fumiko of Keisen University in Tokyo as the lead instructor. She will draw on pre-modern printed books, scrolls, and manuscripts in Yale’s Beinecke Library for teaching materials. Professor Umezawa teaches in the Department of Japanese Language and Culture at Keisen University in Tokyo and is an expert in the area of Tokugawa history and religion. She will lead participants in the reading of the kuzushiji texts while also providing an overview of hentaigana, sorobun, and the basics of kanbun. The Workshop will consist of four weeks of morning classes at the Beinecke Library and informal afternoon sessions at the East Asia Library. (E.H.H.)

A team of researchers and photographers from the Korean National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage led by Dr. Daenam Park and rare book expert Dr. Jeongsup Lee visited Yale in December to examine and photograph the Korean rare book holdings in the Beinecke and East Asia Libraries. They subsequently compiled a complete bibliography and a description of the 62 works examined. In addition, they have supplied images taken of all the texts. East Asia Library staff will work with staff at the Beinecke to include these images in the Beinecke Digital Library. (E.H.H.)

Curator Ellen Hammond has been appointed a member of the US Panel of the US–Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON) and a Commissioner of the Japan–US Friendship Commission. CULCON is an advisory panel to the governments of Japan and the U.S. that is dedicated to furthering the cultural and educational aspects of the bi–national relationship. The US panel consists of 12 government officials and members from the private sector who meet with their Japan Panel counterparts every two years for the purpose of making recommendations to their respective governments. The Friendship Commission is an independent agency of the US government responsible for administering a government trust fund, income from which is used for the promotion of scholarly and cultural activities between Japan and the United States. (E.H.H.)
for obtaining statistical figures on various aspects of Chinese society. In addition, two fulltext electronic collections of pre-modern Chinese texts, CHANT and Siku Quanshu, have been available at Yale for several years. While CHANT is a collection of Chinese texts from antiquity to the sixth century, Siku Quanshu is an electronic version of the largest collectanea ever compiled in China.

In the coming fiscal year, the Library will pay particular attention to collecting online reference tools, such as digital dictionaries, indices, traditional Chinese encyclopedias, etc. The East Asia Library is, however, continuing to build its overall e-collection in East Asian studies, aiming at acquiring high quality products that would complement its printed collections and enhance support of the research community at Yale.

(All the online resources mentioned in this article can be accessed from the web address given on the right.)