Report on the Status of Southeast Asian Studies and CORMOSEA Libraries

The Henry Luce Foundation launched an analysis of the status of Southeast Asian Studies in 2011, in conjunction with an external review of their Asia programs, and commissioned a report by Indonesian scholar, Mary Zurbuchan. Following the completion of the report, a series of meetings and conference calls culminated in a half-day working session at AAS 2013 to chart out a future direction for SE Asian studies in the “post-Title VI era.” Working groups were set up and tasked with writing position papers, which became the basis of discussions at the San Diego Meeting. Judith Henchy (Washington) and CORMOSEA Chair, Jeffrey Shane (Ohio), were invited to represent the voice of US library collections at the discussion. Former SEAC Chair, Justin McDaniel, Mary Zurbuchan, and Luce Foundation Program Director for Asia, Helena Kolenda lead the discussion with some 30 people, including Center directors and language teachers.

This timely meeting mirrored much of the discussion that had taken place amongst CORMOSEA librarians for some time; with a focus on the opportunities offered by increasing digital connectins, and the urgent need for collaboration. Particularly in the realms of library collecting and language teaching, increased focus on regional consortia was encouraged. In a productive follow-up meeting in San Diego, CORMOSEA librarians outlined the specifics of this collaboration, with the development of regional consortia that would collaborate in specific areas: the archiving of pdfs, continuation of the Cornell digital newspaper initiative, and the acquisition of more popular materials from the region not being supplied by Library of Congress. Envisaged consortia would be the existing West Coast SEAWest, the CIC, and an East Coast consortium, not yet defined. (See also CORMOSEA Chair Jeff Shane’s report on the status of future of CORMOSEA collaboration, p. 31)

In this issue:
Myanmar on the Move

Photograph by Judith Henchy
A field trip to Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

By Dahlia Setiyawan, University of California, Los Angeles

From April to June 2012, I conducted follow-up dissertation fieldwork in Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia. This visit involved library research at two sites. The first was the Medayu Agung Library (Jl. Medayu Selatan IV no 42-44, Surabaya 60295; 031-870-3505; MedayuAgung@gmail.com), the second, the library at the campus of a broadcasting, journalism, and public relations junior college, STIKOSA-AWS (http://www.stikosa-aws.ac.id/ Jl. Nginden Intan Timur I/18, Surabaya 60118; 031-596-7164; stikosaaws@yahoo.com).

Both libraries are ideal sites for collecting articles from 1950s-1960s-era Indonesian-language newspapers and/or magazines published in East Java. Highlights of the Medayu Agung library include the first edition of the newspaper Trompet Masjurokat from the private collection of the library’s founder Oei Hiem Hwie, as well as numerous editions of out-of-circulation magazines such as Liberty and Sketsmasa. An extensive range of current publications such as the news magazine TEMPO are also available. The Medayu Agung collection also boasts numerous secondary sources in Indonesian and English as well as a fine collection of the writings of Pramoedya Ananta Toer and the art collection of Indonesia’s first president, Soekarno. The core Medayu Agung staff numbers around 5-6 people, all of whom are as helpful as they are knowledgeable about the collection. Very few of the staff speaks English, so command of Indonesian is a must for researchers wishing to make the most of their visit to the Library. The Library offers a photocopying service to researchers for a very small per-page fee (no more than a few cents) with typically a one-business-day turnaround for receipt of the requested copies. Researchers may also inquire as to the Library’s policy on taking digital photographs of the publications in their collection.

The STIKOSA-AWS collection appears to consist strictly of mass media publications, particularly back issues of the Surabaja Post, once Surabaya’s leading daily newspaper. Historians and others should find this publication (with issues in the collection ranging from the late-1950s through the 1980s) to be a valuable source. However, as the Library has not yet digitalized its collection, one must be prepared to leaf through the bound (and in many cases, deteriorating) volumes of the newspaper. For those researching current events, the Library’s collection also includes copies of present-day local and national papers. Library users are permitted to bring their own digital cameras to take photographs of any articles they wish to reproduce.

Although the STIKOSA-AWS Library staff at present consists of no more than 2-3 people, this includes a recently hired English-speaking full-time librarian. The Library has evening as well as day hours.

As both libraries are frequented by college students from Surabaya’s many universities, they can become very busy during peak business hours. Both spaces do, however, remain largely quiet and productive workspaces even when full. While the STIKOSA-AWS facility is air conditioned, Medayu Agung is not. Although reachable by public transportation, due to the need to make several transfers en route, the two libraries are best accessed by taxi, motorbike, or private car.

Because both of these sites are private libraries, researchers are not required to obtain government research permits to access their collections. However, the STIKOSA-AWS Library requires a letter of intent from the researcher stating his or her professional or academic affiliation, the materials s/he wishes to access, and the dates s/he intends to access the library. Researchers wishing to access the Medayu Agung collection must sign up for a membership (available at the 6 month and 1 year levels) and pay a small corresponding membership fee (around 6 to 8 USD). Medayu Agung users are issued a library card; no library cards are issued to visiting researchers at the STIKOSA-AWS facility.

N.B. For more information on the Medayu Agung library and its founder, Oei Hiem Hwie, see the following 2007 article from the online journal Inside Indonesia: http://www.insideindonesia.org/weekly-articles/hidden-treasures
I. Introduction

Southeast Asian studies has become internationalized in recent years, but Japanese scholarship on Southeast Asia has not been “widely publicized” in research, teaching, learning, and outreach in the United States as well as in other academies. My preliminary fieldwork survey is to explore the Southeast Asian studies programs and scholarly resources at various institutions that offer Southeast Asian studies programs and/or collect Southeast Asia research resources as well as the National Institutes for the Humanities for my comparative study perspective in the field. In the interest of time and space limitations for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Newsletter publication, this briefing aims at highlighting my general observations, special collection research interests, and the next steps of my research journey.

II. Fieldwork Site Visits

To gain a general overview of Southeast Asian studies and relevant scholarly resources in social sciences and humanities, I conducted my intensive site visits at the following institutions in Chiba, Kyoto, Osaka, Tachikawa, Tokyo and Yokohama as my first exploration journey to establish personnel networking for future follow-ups.

Chiba
- Institute of Developing Economies Library

1. Virginia Jing-yi Shih is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) of Kyoto University. She is Librarian in charge of the Southeast Asia Collections at the University of California, Berkeley (USA). She is deeply indebted to CSEAS for its funding support and special thanks are due to the faculty, scholars, librarians, colleagues, and graduate students whom she consulted at CSEAS and beyond for their advice, recommendations or referrals to make her intensive fieldwork in 2012 possible. This is a brief work-in-progress report for information sharing. Please note that all web-based citations in this report are accessible as of January 31, 2013.
2. The National Institutes for the Humanities are one of the four groups of the Inter-University Research Institutes that are regarded as world-class research institutes in Japan. The National Institutes for the Humanities include six national institutions: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, National Institute of Japanese Literature, National Museum of Ethnology, National Museum of Japanese History, and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. Their research library holdings reflect the strengths of their scholarship to meet the research needs of their respective primary clientele. They provide a national perspective of leadership and scholarship that can be applied as a comparative study for Southeast Asian studies.
Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

Kyoto
- École française d’Extrême-Orient (the Kyoto Centre) ⁴
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies and Library ⁵
- Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library ⁶
- Kyoto University (Center for Southeast Asian Studies Library⁷, special rare book collections of the University Main Library, and the Faculty of Letters Library)⁸
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature and Library ⁹

Osaka
- National Museum of Ethnology and Library ¹⁰
- Osaka University Minoh campus (Faculty of Foreign Languages, Graduate School of Language & Culture, Southeast Asian Languages Division and the University Library)¹¹
- Osaka University Toyonaka campus¹² (School of Letters, Graduate Program of Asian History and the University Library)¹³

Tachikawa
- National Institute of Japanese Literature and Library¹⁴
- National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics and Library¹⁵

Tokyo
- École française d’Extrême-Orient (the Tokyo Centre)¹⁶
- Hitotsubashi University¹⁷
- International Christian University¹⁸
- Japan Center for Asian Historical Records¹⁹
- Keio University Mita campus ²⁰ (Keio Institute of Oriental Classics ²¹, Institute for Media and Communications Research and University Main Library)²²

4 http://www.efeo.fr/base.php?code=225
5 http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/welcome_e.htm
6 http://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/asia/entry/about-en.php
7 http://www.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/library/en/summary/ ⁷
8 http://www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/lib/ ⁸
9 http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index_e.html ⁹
10 http://www.mimpaku.ac.jp/english/ ¹⁰
11 http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/access/minoh.html ¹¹
12 http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/access/toyonaka.html ¹²
13 http://www.let.osaka-u.ac.jp/en_index.html ¹³
14 http://www.nijl.ac.jp/index_e.html ¹⁴
15 http://www.ninjal.ac.jp/english/info/ ¹⁵
17 http://www.hit-u.ac.jp/index-e.html ¹⁷
18 http://www.icu.ac.jp/en/ ¹⁸
19 http://www.jacar.go.jp/english/index.html ¹⁹
21 http://www.sido.keio.ac.jp/usage/about_shido.html ²¹
22 http://www.mita.lib.keio.ac.jp/en/ ²²
Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

- National Archives of Japan 23
- National Diet Library, Tokyo Main Library 24
- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and Library 25
- Sophia University (Faculty of Foreign Studies, Department of Asian Cultures 26, Institute of Asian Cultures 27, Graduate School of Global Studies 28 and University Central Library 29)
- Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (School of Language and Culture Studies 30, School of International and Area Studies 31, Faculty of Foreign Studies 32, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa 33 and University Main Library 34)
- Toyo Bunko 35
- University of Tokyo (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia 36 and University General Library) 37
- Waseda University (International Studies Program of Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies 38, Indonesia special collections and University Central Library 39)

Yokohama

- Yokohama Archives of History 40

III. Visit Booksellers and Publishers in Jinbōchō 41

Jinbōchō is well-known as the center for antiquarian booksellers, major bookstores and publishing houses in Tokyo.42 I visited Jinbōchō for an overview of historical and contemporary Japanese book publishing and foreign book importing and exporting business through special order requests. A handful of Southeast Asia-oriented works are available at a few bookstores shelved under world history, oriental history, fine arts,

25 http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/about/index/
26 http://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/program/objectives/obj_fs
27 http://www.info.sophia.ac.jp/iac/
28 http://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/program/graduate_p/G_GS
29 http://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/research/library/about/brief_descriptions
30 http://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/education/slc/
31 http://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/education/sias/
32 http://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/education/ug/
33 http://www.aa.tufs.ac.jp/en/
34 http://www.tufs.ac.jp/library/index4-e.html
35 http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/ToyoBunko-E/index-e.html
36 http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng/
37 http://www.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/sogoto/index-e.html
38 http://www.waseda.jp/eng/academics1/asia_pacific.html
39 http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/index.html
41 http://jimbou.info/access/index.html
42 Directory of bookstores in Jinbōchō: http://jimbou.info/
Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

religions, foreign language learning and teaching, world literature, world maps and travel guides.

IV. Fieldwork Survey Outcomes

1. Retrospective and Current Southeast Asia Newspaper Holdings

Almost all libraries that collect Southeast Asia-related materials subscribe to Southeast Asia newspapers in English and Southeast Asian languages (primarily in Indonesian, Malay, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese) for their primary clientele. Among all, the Institute of Developing Economies Library\(^43\) and the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library\(^44\) have significant holdings of retrospective and current newspapers for public access. It is gratifying to know that Southeast Asia news sources are one of the top priorities in Southeast Asia collection development at Japanese institutions.

2. Han Nom\(^45\) Special Collections

a) The Toyo Bunko\(^46\)

The Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library), a private research institution in Tokyo, has the most comprehensive and well-preserved Han Nom rare book collection in Japan. Its Han Nom holdings serve as one of the best primary sources for pre-modern Vietnamese studies. All texts are in original version of double leaves, oriental style and elegantly bound in fabric case. The bulk of the Han Nom holdings are gift collections by Mr. Nagata Yasukichi\(^47\) who served as consul general in Hanoi from 1930 to 1933\(^48\) and Professor Yamamoto Tatsuro who was regarded as the pioneering scholar of Vietnamese studies in Japan.\(^49\) Toyo Bunko has the most complete Đại Việt sử ký toàn thư = 本紀全書 = Daietsu shiki zensho (Complete Annals of Great Viet) in various classical Chinese editions for a comprehensive study of pre-modern Vietnamese historiography.\(^50\) Specific titles of the Han Nom collection ranging from classics, history to philosophy and literature are well-documented in the following catalogs that patrons may request to page the items and conduct research onsite in the reading room:

\(^43\) [http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Library/index.html](http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Library/index.html)
\(^45\) Han refers to classical Chinese works while Nom refers to the Vietnamese demotic script derived from classical Chinese.
\(^46\) [http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/ToyoBunko-E/index-e.html](http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/ToyoBunko-E/index-e.html)
\(^47\) The Nagata Yasukichi Vietnamese Collection of 103 items in 695 volumes including Han Nom holdings was transferred to Toyo Bunko in 1934. Source: [Directory Database of Research and Development Activities](http://read.jst.go.jp/public/cs_sgn_010EventAction.do?lang_act1=E&action1=event&sgn_code=5000004291&judge_act1=2).
\(^50\) Hikita Toshiaki 引田 利章. 大越史記全書 = Daietsu shiki zensho. Tōkyō: Hikita Toshiaki, Meiji 18 [1885]. 10 v. The contents include: 1. 越鑑通孝総論 2. 外紀全書 3-5. 本紀全書(呉士連編) 6-8. 本紀実録 9. 本紀続編(范公著) 10. 本紀続編追加(黎僖編). For background information, please see...
Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

- The Han Nom Microfilm Collection: Approximately four standard bookshelves of Han Nom holdings in facsimile reproduction from the microfilm collection of École française d'Extrême-Orient Library in Paris are merged with the Toyo Bunko Han Nom Collection.51

b) Keio Institute of Oriental Classics

The Keio Institute of Oriental Classics at Keio University52 received the prominent Henri Maspero (1883-1945)53 gift collection of Vietnamese studies including Han Nom holdings but the entire collection is yet to be processed for public access. The collection includes Han Nom texts primarily in history and literature, Vietnamese and French monographs, journals and newspapers holdings. The Maspero collection would serve as primary and secondary sources for pre-modern Vietnamese studies at Keio in the future.

c) Osaka University Library on the Minoh campus

The Osaka University Library on the Minoh campus has modest Han Nom holdings of about 20 titles related to Vietnamese history and literature. They serve as useful reference sources for students interested in Han Nom textual readings.

3. Southeast Asia Special Collections

Besides the general Southeast Asia holdings at the institutions that I visited, I would like to highlight a few notable Southeast Asia special collections here.
Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo owns the Tanaka Norio Collection of monographs primarily in Dutch about Indonesian studies and the Takigawa Tsutomu Collection of 2,050 monographs in Japanese and European languages related to Southeast Asian studies.54

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies Library at Kyoto University has four special collections: the Charas Collection55, the Foronda Collection56, the Ocampo Collection57, and the Indonesia Islam Collection that have been highly regarded as valuable sources for Southeast Asian studies.

The Institute of Social Sciences at Waseda University received two renowned special gift collections for Indonesian studies: the Nishijima Collection58 of about 400 volumes regarding the Japanese military administration in Indonesia and the Masuda Collection59 of over 1,200 documents of primary sources for post-independence Indonesia.

The Mauro Garcia Collection60 at the Central Library of Sophia University is a gift collection on Filipiniana studies collected by Mauro Garcia (1906-1982), a Filipino historian and bibliographer. It includes 5,320 titles of monographs and journals primarily in English and Filipino languages and a few items in Japanese and Chinese as well as important documents about the Japanese occupation in the Philippines. The entire collection was professionally cataloged using the Library of Congress classification system. It is highly recommended to contact the respective holding institutions in advance for onsite research access to those special collections.

54 Catalog of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo, 2012: 22-23. English version.
55 Marasri Sivaraks, compiler. Catalog of Thai Cremation Volumes in the Charas Collection, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Library, Kyoto University. 3 v. Kyoto: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, 1989.
57 The Ocampo Collection is named after Professor Ambeth R. Ocampo, a prominent Filipino historian and Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. The collection includes 1,000 volumes of rare books, journals and ephemeral materials regarding the Philippine politics and cultural history.
Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

V. Next Steps

My intensive fieldwork survey covered site visits, data gathering, evaluative analysis of explorations and vis-à-vis informal interviews with relevant faculty members, researchers, lecturers, administrators, librarians, curators and graduate students in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The survey experience has benefited me immensely in framing the next steps of my research project in the following directions in the future:

how best to share my study of Japanese Southeast Asia scholarship and librarianship with the global academic Southeast Asia community through presentations and project initiatives;

how best to create a short-term and long-term intellectual impact on Japanese Southeast Asia collection development enrichment through library acquisitions, gifts and exchanges of scholarly works as well as through potential collaboration with Japanese institutions;

how best to promote and facilitate Japanese Southeast Asia scholarship through print and digital resources via interlibrary lending and open access to the international Southeast Asia community;

how best to articulate and implement my three key points of my fieldwork observations: a) Local resources, global treasures; b) One mission, one community; and c) a Heart, Head & Hands self-motivated principle to better serve the global Southeast Asia constituencies in the field; and

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Research and Information Center for Asian Studies, The University of Tokyo. Gateway to Asian Studies. [http://ricas.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng/asi/index.html]


Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs (Cont.)

Sanjo Hall, University of Tokyo. Tokyo: Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo, 1996.


how best to combine wireless technology and mobile devices and applications in promoting technological and information literacy to make ubiquitous e-learning of Southeast Asia scholarship possible.
Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung

One of the last countries opened up to the world, Myanmar is facing many challenges to develop its human resources. In order to improve human resource development, our current government has made changes and improvements, but many challenges remain. Our ministries of Education and Health along with INGOs and NGOs will play major roles in making these changes.

This paper will emphasize the following topics;
I. Role of Myanmar libraries in human resource development
II. Current education policy on knowledge development
III. Challenges in promotion of knowledge development
IV. Activities of our two foundations, Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation and Nargis Library Recovery, in helping library development.

I. Role of Myanmar Libraries in Human Resource Development

Myanmar’s history of libraries extends back to the ancient Bagan dynasty (11th-13th century A.D). Most libraries then were related to pagodas and monasteries and were known as “Pitika-taik”. Their collections were of palm leaf or paper folded manuscripts.

Modern libraries were developed during the British colonial period: four types can be identified:
1. National Libraries and branches
2. Academic Libraries
3. Public Libraries
4. Special Libraries

1. National Library

The National Library was founded in 1952 after taking over the collection of the Bernard Free Library, founded in 1883 by Sir Charles Edward Bernard, the Lt. Governor of Burma. It is now under the Ministry of Culture. However, the library has not received proper attention by successive governments. Even a proper building was not constructed by the government as it has been moving from one building to another. Therefore, many users today are more familiar with the Universities Central Library than the National Library. Even though it has a good collection of rare books on Myanmar, very few people use them. There is a legal depository requirement for all the local publications, so it has a nearly complete collection of national publications. However, because of budget deficits and improper building facilities since 1962, this library remains unattractive among locals, scholars and officials. A new National Library is being built in the new capital, Nay Pyi Daw, due to open in 2013; over 700,000 books have been collected in Yangon’s and Nay Pyi Daw’s National Libraries. They are considered to be reference libraries, so no borrowing is permitted. Branches of the National Library are in all seven States: Mon, Shan, Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Kayah, and Kayein, and are also connected to State Museums. There are branches in the 7 Greater Regions of Myanmar, such as Yangon, Mandalay and Ayeyarwaddy.

The National Library offers library training courses and a Diploma course which started in 2010. Moreover, digitized versions old texts are shared with the digital collections among State and Greater Divisional libraries. It has received grants from ASEAN COCI to digitize rare books. At new National Library Act is being drafted and will be passed by Parliament this year.

2. Academic Libraries

Among academic libraries, Rangoon University Library was the first and earliest founded, in 1927; it is now a research and reference library. It once was reputed to have the best collection in South-east Asia of historical and cultural materials. Destroyed during the Second World War, it was afterwards renovated and reopened in 1951, then reorganized as the Universities’ Central Library (UCL) in 1964 according to a new education system.

During the military Socialist Government era (1962-1988), new libraries were developed in the Yangon University. The faculty of Yangon University were divided into Institutes e.g. Institute of Medicine, Yangon Institute of Technology, each with academic libraries. Due to financial constraints, only a few new foreign books were bought. Severe budget cuts in education retarded growth of these libraries as new books and journals could not be purchased. After 1988 when even less emphasis was given to
education, library development was stifled. During this period, new university libraries were built in different states and divisions; they were stocked with few books; funds were not allocated. However during this current 2012-13 budget year, library budgets have been doubled, a sign the current government values educational development more highly.

The Universities Central Library (UCL) has the best collection in Myanmar of rare and ancient manuscript collections in the form of Palm Leafs and Paper Folded Manuscripts. Microfilm and digital projects funded from abroad, along with conservation support, have preserved them in good condition. UCL has exchange programmes with 12 overseas universities libraries, and hence has the best collection.

Apart from UCL, there are currently (164) academic libraries. They are under 13 different ministries, such as the University of Medicine, Science and Technology Universities, etc. The funds for state-run libraries come from the respective ministry’s budget which is very low. For example, the annual National Library budget is only about Kyat four million (about US$ 5,000 annually). Lack of funding means these libraries buy very few foreign language books. In fact, many libraries rely entirely on donations, which prevent them from subscribing to online databases or online eBook resources. However, the current government is finally emphasizing the importance of online libraries. We hope donors will help us gain access to these expensive online databases.

Because of the lack of new books in State libraries, most readers rely on private libraries such as the British Council Library and the American Centre Library in Yangon & Jefferson Centre in Mandalay, in addition to small private libraries in smaller cities, such as Saya Zaw Gyi Library in Pyarpon & Insein’s Dr. Chit Maung Library. Many of Myanmar’s 1,800 monastic schools have libraries as well. Poor students normally go to these monastic schools and these libraries require much help.

4. Special Libraries

Myanmar has special libraries as follows:

- Department of Medical Research (both Upper and Lower Myanmar)
- Library under Department of Promotion and Propagation of Religion
- Library under Public Affairs Commission
- Traditional Medicine Library
- Library at Central Research Organization

In addition to these four types of libraries, Myanmar Library Science Course which is administered by the Ministry of Education generates qualified librarians. Moreover, Myanmar Library Association (a local NGO), also plays a crucial role in training of qualified librarians.

Myanmar Library Science Course

Even though there are many challenges, Myanmar still has over 800 qualified professionally trained librarians who graduated from the Myanmar Library Science Course, founded in 1974 by Dr. U Thaw Kaung. At present, these courses are conducted in all major universities of Myanmar and award the Diploma, B.A, M.A and Ph.D in Library Science. These librarians are qualified to work either in university or school libraries. Some of them are even working in oversea UN organizations and Library of Congress.
**Myanmar Library Association**

Myanmar Library Association is a local NGO under the sponsorship of Ministry of Culture; it plays a crucial role in continuous training of the librarians in Myanmar. It was founded as a local NGO in 1994 by Dr. U Thaw Kaung also. Its purpose is to conduct training courses for librarians, to share information and stimulate public awareness about the role of libraries and librarians. It conducts library training courses every 3 months. Anybody can enroll in these courses and basic training is given for new local librarians. Each course lasts for two weeks, and occasionally foreign librarians give talks and offer training to librarians. Since it is an NGO, it has more flexibility in linkage with foreign organizations.

**II Current Education Policy on Knowledge Development**

As mentioned earlier, the current government is making many changes and improvements on knowledge development. As of 31st March 2012, the current government celebrated its first anniversary and noted the followings changes in knowledge development:

a. Education budget has been raised from 2.4% in 2010-11 to 4.7% in 2011-12. Total of Kyat 310,401 Millions (US$ 340 Millions) in 2011-12 has been raised to Kyat 617,214 Millions US$ 740 Millions in 2012-13 fiscal year. This increment is almost double of last year. Everyone welcomes this improvement, however, this budget is still low compared with other countries in Southeast Asia. According to economists, a developing country like Myanmar should allot at least 14-20% of the total budge to the education sector.

b. Private School Law has been passed. With this law, private schools can open and students can attend these schools and sit for government exams. Previously, students had to attend state schools to make their attendance official, then also attend these private schools for real study. No longer is it necessary to attend a state school.

c. At the higher education level, one more year has been introduced. Under the new system, students must study for four years instead of three to get a degree, which is the international standard, a welcome change.

d. Salaries of teachers working in rural and remote areas was increased two-folds since April ’12. Under the present scheme, most teachers are getting about US$ 60 per month, but even this low pay is not guaranteed to every teacher.

e. English proficiency skills have improved. At present, TOEFL-like test is a prerequisite for all the MA and Ph.D students.

f. Openness is improving as we link up with overseas universities from the West, for instance, a John’s Hopkins University program will reopen (JHU had a center from 1955-1962). Moreover, foreign professors are returning to teach at universities; one German professor is teaching at the Geography Department in the Yangon University.

g. There are plans to get online education via internet. However, the country will need help from outside as the budget will not pay for expensive online databases.

h. More state scholars will be sent abroad as the government is putting more focus on linkages with western world.

i. More openness in the parliament can be seen, as Members are raising questions about education, most of which have been answered by the Minister of Education.

**III Challenges in Promotion of Knowledge Development**

Even though Myanmar has an official 95% literacy rate and various efforts were made on library development, we have so many challenges in promotion of readership in our libraries.

3.1) Due to development of technology (ICT), many students are spending their time on internet chatting or playing computer games. They are not developing reading skills.

3.2) Because of low funding, very few libraries are equipped with quality books. Most books in Myanmar libraries are outdated or damaged.

3.3) Due to the tough examination system, students do not have time to read or study extracurricular materials. Most are fully occupied with exam preparation; attending school and private tutions sessions until late night, so they have no time to read for pleasure.

3.4) Lack of electricity in rural areas makes rural libraries inefficient. Most rural people only
MYANMAR LIBRARIES (Cont.)

have free time at night, so readership will be increased if electricity becomes more reliable. (* 70% of total population is living in rural area)

3.5) Poverty (currently 26%) is another important factor which keeps students from finishing their education. Most villagers should pass the 4th Standard but there is a very high percentage of dropouts as families need children at home to work. At present, eight million students are attending primary, middle and high schools all over the country, but only 400,000 students are attending universities. In other words, only 5% of students attain a university education which in itself is very problematic.

3.6) Even though a library may be properly set up, it often fails to run properly due to lack of a proper library board, or other governing body.

3.7) This year’s education budget of 4.7% of the total government spending is very low compared with our neighboring countries, and most funds are being spent on construction of universities and colleges, very little investment is made on teacher training and library development. Therefore, in relation to budget, we are more interested in how the budget is going to spent than how much budget is going to allocated for education sector.

3.8) Lack of experienced teachers: UNICEF recently conducted a survey of over 200 primary schools in Myanmar and found many teachers use rote learning techniques, called “Chalk and Talk” or “Passive Learning”. Questions are rarely asked and if asked they are normally closed questions rather than open-ended. Teachers rarely recommend library use as a resource.

3.9) Very low teachers’ salary: Myanmar teachers until this year were paid around Kyat 25,000 per month (about US$ 30), among the lowest in the world. To sustain themselves they must give private tuition outside school hours; too many teachers survive only through private tuition.

3.10) English proficiency skills are still very low.

3.11) Current average schooling is less than (4) years comparing with 10 years in neighboring countries, due to high dropout rates in rural areas.

3.12) Teachers/Students Ratio: There is severe inequality in teachers/students ratios. In the rural area, the ratio is 1:30, while in urban schools the ratio can be 1:70 or more, especially at the more famous schools.

Role of Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation(MBAPF) and Nargis Library Recovery Foundation(NLR) in Knowledge Development

Brief History of MBAPF and NLR

Myanmar was hard hit by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008 and over 130,000 people perished during the cyclone. Among the damage and destruction, over 2,000 libraries and schools were destroyed. MBAPF was contacted by friends of Myanmar around the world. One was Dr. John Badgley, a Burma specialist and retired curator from Cornell University Library who had surveyed our university and college libraries in 1987-88. Dr. Badgley searched for donors of books and in December, 2008, persuaded a large online book seller, Thrift Books, to donate a million books. Nargis Library Recovery (NLR) was formed after Nargis in USA with board members comprised of seven retired professors, businessmen and philanthropists. It gained tax exempt status as well as a license of exception to the severe US sanctions against Myanmar. MBAPF has been formed in Myanmar with a board comprising of senior librarians, businessmen and influential persons in 2002 to preserve books and assist libraries. Dr. Badgley and I serve on the boards of both organizations.

I would like to thank to my father Dr. U Thaw Kaung. As Chairman of the foundation he offered guideline and advice on foundation activities. As mentioned earlier, he is also recognized as the “Father of all librarians” in Myanmar, for his vast knowledge, contacts and enthusiasm to help the country’s libraries. He founded the Myanmar Library Science Course, the Myanmar Library Association and served as chief librarian for Universities Central Library for over 40 years. His works were recognized by many overseas organizations, and he won the Fukuoka Academic Prize in 2007, the first to be awarded to a librarian in Asia. With combined efforts of NLR and MBAPF, funds for shipping of containers were obtained by NLR’s Board Members. Initially the American President Line donated container berths for 300,000 books and were targeted to cyclone-affected areas in the Delta; however we
MYANMAR LIBRARIES (Cont.)

have expanded to cover the entire country with our activities.

**Mission Statement**

Foundation was formed with the following mission statements.

- Provide global knowledge throughout the country by distributing over a million books.
- Reconstruct over 2,000 libraries damaged by Cyclone Nargis.
- Equip libraries with not only books but desks and benches as well as laptops and shelves.
- Enhance community support via library reader workshops—to host workshop & follow-up training by professional librarians and teachers.

**4.3 Partner Donors**

Currently, these donors are supporting our programme.

1. Thrifts Books, U.S.A
2. Opportunity Foundation, Thailand
3. American President Line, U.S.A
4. University of Washington Libraries
5. Cornell University Library
6. Institute of Southeast Asia, Singapore
7. National Library of Australia, Australia
8. United Nation Women’s Guild of Vienna
9. Montana Library Association
10. World Vision, Myanmar

**Current Activities of NLR and MBAPF**

- Sorting books by subject and donate to needy libraries. Currently, over 750 libraries have received over 500,000 books from the foundation. 400,000 books are in English and 100,000 books are in Myanmar language.
- Funds raised by selling 30% of English books to buy new Myanmar language books for those libraries in towns & villages where English levels are low. These funds are raised through Book-Buffets arranged by Myanmar Book Centre’s staff.
- Select libraries for reconstruction and repair. We constructed a library/community centre in Thin Kan Gon village in Lutputta Township with assistance from UNWA, and over thirty village libraries funded by World Vision in Bogale Township. Numerous student-managed libraries exist because of our book donations, and even funds for renting space in

some instances.

- Library Training Course: With support from Myanmar Library Association, we are able to give training to village librarians. Training on “How to run a small library” has become very popular among our librarians.
- Library Readers’ Programme: With the support from volunteer from UK Australia and the USA, we are promoting English language proficiency skills such as presentation, negotiation, communication and debate skills trainings in communities, both in small cities as well as Mandalay and Yangon.
- Teachers Training Workshops: As mentioned earlier, lack of experienced teachers with proper teaching skills is one of the major challenges in Myanmar. In 2011, three teachers training workshops were conducted by Sue Simpson from USA and Gayle Holmes from Australia in Bogalay, Mandalay and Yangon. They created very dynamic workshops on effective use of simple reading books as well as how to plan lessons and be creative in the classroom. Their workshop methods are new for Myanmar teachers and who thoroughly enjoyed the training. They already are being used in their classes. Responses to Library Readers workshops has been very good, so more workshops will be conducted within 2012 and in the future, if we can secure additional funding.

**Type of Books**

Donation from Thrift Books consists of wide area of subjects such as Children Books (Kids to Teen Readers), Self-Development Books, Reference Books, Fiction and Non-fiction and Higher Academic books. Most are used books still in good condition and usable in Myanmar. At present, we have imported 600,000 books and another 400,000 books are yet to be imported. These books are appreciated by the urban libraries, community centres and school libraries receiving them. The CEO of ThriftBook visited Myanmar and has agreed to a donation of another million books in the future.

Other university libraries donated academic and reference books. Two US University Libraries have gift programs and were willing to join in our project: Cornell University Library and University of Washington Library; additionally, the Institute of Southeast Asia in Singapore and the University of Canberra, as well as private scholars around the world have contributed books to the project. They are especially valuable for our university libraries which have
MYANMAR LIBRARIES (Cont.)

been scarcely funded.

As mentioned earlier, 30% of donated books are sold, with permission from donors. The purpose of selling these books is to raise funds to buy Myanmar language books. Our books are sold in book fairs called “Book-Buffets” where customers buy bags, which they fill as full as they can. These are exciting events for people in cities where English language books are in demand, but very hard to find. Our motto is “Right Books to Right People” so that Myanmar language books can be purchased with funds we raise, then donated to rural libraries.

Partners

In order to run effective operations in library development, MBAPF partners with many other local NGO, INGO and local volunteers: with World Vision, Tharapar Library, Active Youth, Kanbawza Youth and other local NGOs. We also partner with Community Service programs at International Schools which are active in volunteerism. Distribution of the books, usage of books, teachers training workshops, and library readers programs are assisted by these NGO and INGO volunteers.

We also partner with influential persons and monks in library development; examples being Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw and Venerable Dhammapiya Sayadaw, who support our foundation activities. Because of their help, more people are aware of our activities. Moreover, these Sayadaws emphasize in their preaching the value of reading.

Finally, our key and most important partner is Nargis Library Recovery Foundation based in USA. They have been a continuous supporter and donated most of the books, which enables us to run our foundation activity smoothly.

Our key challenge is to raise fund for shipping books, which costs over US$ 6,000 for one 40-foot container for shipping to Myanmar. American President Line donated the freight charges for our first six containers; subsequent shipping has been paid for by our board of directors.

Donated Libraries

Careful selection of the libraries is a key factor in donating of our books. Reliability of the library, accountability and transparency of the donated libraries are considered key factors to be considered to donate. Moreover, presence of a strong library board and effective librarians are also important factors in success of a library. Supporting letters from an influential person or a monk are necessary to get donated books. After donation, proper photographic evidence and also follow-up by foundation staff is necessary. A requirement for libraries is that the books must be accessible on open shelves, and that equal access to the books be given.

We have found two types of librarians: Some librarians are readers but do not want to share, they always protect their books. But, other librarians are good readers plus they are willing to share and offer good customer service. We prefer to deal with the latter type of the librarian because success can be gained with this type of librarian. A librarian should not only concentrate on books but also should be creative and should offer good customer service. Therefore, the role of efficient and effective librarians is very important in successful running of a good library.

We are donating books not only to state run academic libraries, the national library, special collection libraries, private libraries, and monastic school libraries, and but also to many village libraries: over 750 libraries have received our books. Even though we started with the aim of donating books to delta areas where cyclone hit, we are able to donate to all the States and Divisions at present. Our foundation became one of the biggest private NGOs donating the highest numbers of books in Myanmar.

THANT THAW KAUNG HOSTS A BOOK FAIR IN YANGON
MYANMAR LIBRARIES (Cont.)

Challenges

Our main challenge is raising funds for shipping books from the USA to Myanmar. Each 40’ container costs US$ 6,000 from the US to Myanmar. We are importing 3-4 containers a year. Each container has about 50,000 books. In other words, it costs only 0.12 Cent to ship a book from the USA. Storage was another challenge: MBAPF bought two empty containers to store books in our Yangon office compound.

Other minor challenges are choosing the right libraries and creating accountability at each library. Sometimes, our donated books are not well used and they are kept locked up. This is one of our major concerns in Myanmar society, as librarians feel that the books are expensive and they cannot afford to lose them. We educate them to understand that we will replenish the stock if the books are kept by readers. We have to persuade the librarians to let the kids touch the books, feel the books and read the books whenever possible. We need the kids to love the books.

Forming a legal NGO is another challenge. Up until now, no new NGOs have been given permits to run officially by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Therefore, there are many organizations in Myanmar which are not recognized by the government. But, all these organizations, including ours, do not care and run their operations this way. In fact, all most domestic NGOs have full support from local communities as well as most ministries. For example, our MBAP Foundation has recognition and supporting letters from the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Education.

Censorship is also another challenge for our Foundation. Because I own a commercial company, Myanmar Book Centre, which has been in the book trade for over 15 years, all the imports are done using our commercial company name.

Future Goals

NLR and MBAPF have become the largest book donors over the last three years. Apart from our foundation, Asia Foundation is the only another organization which also contributes English language books to Myanmar. If funding is available, we would like construct more libraries all over the country. Moreover, we continue to donate more Myanmar language books as they are more needed in village libraries. Current activities of teachers’ training workshops and library reader’s programmes will be expanded.

Conclusion

We are honoured to be part of this team of two foundations, which has helped develop knowledge among my countrymen. Myanmar will need a lot of human resources in the near future, as we become more transparent and strive to meet international standards. That is why we are proud of what we are able to do now. We do hope that more foreign investment and assistance will flow into the country, and that we can partner with other foreign organizations or INGOs interested in developing the education sector of Myanmar.

One of the last countries opened up to the world, Myanmar is facing many challenges to develop its human resources. In order to improve human resource development, our current government has made changes and improvements, but many challenges remain. Our ministries of Education and Health along with INGOs and NGOs will play major roles in making these changes.

Daw Ah Win & Prof. David Leuthold, directors NLR open a new library
Other News from a changing Myanmar

By Judith Henchy

As changes in Myanmar have reached the front pages of the US press, and tourists begin to favor the country as a new frontier of Southeast Asian exoticism, the evolution in the publishing and academic environments are no less stunning. NGOs, government aid agencies and foundations are rapidly partnering with the US academy to assist in what is seen as the potential for lasting democratic change and the establishment of strong civil society institutions. There is no doubt that libraries and information producers are at the heart of these developments, and what had previously been considered the rather peripheral work of organizations such as the Myanmar Library Association, have suddenly become central to many of these infrastructure- and civil governance-strengthening initiatives.

Changes in the Publishing Laws

The Myanmar Times reported in the September 3-9, 2012 that censorship laws and statutes controlling private publishing would be relaxed. In an interview Information Minister U Aung Kyi told Myanmar Times Editor Zaw Myint on September 2nd that he supported abolishing the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law and predicted that daily publishing licenses would be issued to the private sector early in 2013.

In response to a question about the demands from print journalists for the relaxation of the law, the Minister had this to say:

I agree that this law should not be retained. I am reviewing the draft of Print Media Law, which includes a provision for the repeal of the 1962 law. It is understood that when the new media law is enacted, the 1962 law will be repealed. Meanwhile, I am considering two courses of action for proceeding with the Print Media Law. One is to submit it to the hluttaw, as originally planned, so it will be enacted as soon as possible. The other is to have it reviewed by journalists and experts to consider possible amendments so that when it is finally enacted it meets international standards. I am yet to make up my mind because I am new to this role and I do not think I should act with haste.

That is why I am taking my time.

It is my sincere belief that daily [private sector] newspapers are essential for a democratic country. I will do my best to ensure that the private sector publications can launch dailies. But before that happens we need some reforms, especially in terms of the institutional capacity to provide for such a development. These reforms are needed first, not necessarily all, but some. When the institutional capacity exists to provide for daily licences, they will be issued. While we are making the necessary preparations on the government side, those in the media sector should continue with their planning for daily newspapers. In terms of institutional capacity, there are some matters that need to be discussed in detail, including with journalists. For example, if the Print Media Law comes out late, I think that in the meantime we need to discuss such issues as a code of practice and professional ethics. We have not yet discussed these matters. But if we make progress on these matters, I anticipate that licences for daily newspapers will be issued early next year.

That is my goal but I cannot achieve it alone. It will have to be done in cooperation and coordination with other organisations as well as journalists and media experts. We can expect that this process will result in a lot of different ideas, arguments and debates in the interest of the people. Our focus is to serve the interests of the people and the President has already announced this strategy. It is because the people’s interest has to be taken into account that I cannot say exactly when daily newspaper licences will be granted. But if the necessary preparations are made I estimate they might be granted early next year.

In response to a question about critical comments from the Myanmar Journalists Association regarding the recently established Myanmar Core Press Council, the Minister continued:

One of the main priorities on my mind after I was
Other News from a changing Myanmar

appointed Information Minister was the issue of the Core Press Council. I am seriously considering ways to ensure that the council is an organisation that is trusted by the people. I want to ensure that the council carries out its functions properly, fairly and honourably. Similar organisations exist around the world and we studied them in 70 countries. A press council should be a self-regulatory organisation. That is why I am considering how I can help the council so that it functions according to international standards. I want the council to function as a self-regulatory body with rules and regulations that are trusted by all.

However, the Minister faced protests from journalists in May for favoring new press legislation restricting speech critical of the 2008 military constitution. The Committee to Protect Journalists has said that praise of the relaxation of censorship on Myanmar is premature, as jostling over the new legislation continues in a parliamentary session that began on June 25th 2013.

No matter what the regulations are preventing private sector publishers from competing with the government-run papers in the daily market, there is little doubt that publishers are taking full advantage of the relaxation of censorship laws to publish prodigiously in the weekly and semi-weekly markets. In a recent trip to Myanmar the author noted the proliferation of news and cultural newspapers, both in Yangon and Mandalay.

Library Projects

In the wake of the new liberalization has come a surge of interest amongst foreign governments and NGOs, as well as the private sector, in the information sector in general and particularly in higher education as a fulcrum of a new information economy.

Interest in digital products and digitization is growing, increasing demand on libraries to provide enhanced access to collections. A grant from the Open Society Foundations to the LuDu library in Mandalay (the site of the historical leftist Ludu Press), for instance, has enabled them to purchase a high quality book digital photography set-up. Discussions have taken place with the Librarian there and various CORMOSEA members about acquiring access to those digital materials. Other collaborative projects are being supported by the Open Society Foundations, including a libraries IT initiative. Another collaboration, involving the Universities of Washington, Arizona State, Northern Illinois and Rutgers, resulted from an academic delegation to Myanmar in early 2013 organized by the Institute of International Education. Members of the delegation included faculty who work on Myanmar, as well as high level administrators with responsibility for international affairs, and university presidents. Although no librarians were included amongst the delegation, one of the priorities to emerge from the visit (which was able to visit a significant number of academic institutions in Yangon and Mandalay) was library collaboration and exchanges. Four institutions with strong teaching programs on Myanmar formed a coalition to follow up on this priority, and will be working with the Myanmar Library Association to invite library administrators and practitioners on short-term study tours and longer internships at the participating institutions.

As the publishing world opens up and travel restrictions are eased, Libraries are increasing their acquisitions of not only materials in Burmese, but in the minority languages of Myanmar, predominantly Mon and Shan. Chris Miller, formerly the Southeast Asian Studies Librarian at Arizona State University Libraries, now Curator for the Cross Cultural Dance Resources Collection at the ASU School of Dance, worked with CORMOSEA colleagues to develop the long-availed table for transliterating Shan, as described in his piece below.
Other News from a changing Myanmar

Shan Romanization Tables
By Christopher Miller, ASU

Responding to enthusiastic support and strong encouragement from Fe Susan Go and Virginia Shih to develop a table for the transliteration of Shan script for the purposes of cataloging a growing backlog of acquisitions at Arizona State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Washington, I first agreed to take on the project over the summer of July 2010. Admittedly, progress at first was slow-going due to many of the same factors and considerations that trouble most of the other Southeast Asian script tables. There are an inherent set of challenges and sacrifices measured by the desirability of composing a table that in its rendering of Romanized "equivalents" produces a legible transfer of the Shan script while maintaining the primary technical requirement of future machine reversibility back to the Shan script. In fact, no small part of the delay involved a serious discussion about then upcoming (and now even further-progressed) Shan unicode development that could allow for immediate cataloging in Shan script. In the end, though, we soldiered ahead with the Shan table.

Over the course of a year', I formulated a series of five draft tables in collaboration with an independent scholar of the Shan language, Nance Cunningham, then living in Chiang Mai, Thailand (displaced from but since returned to her home in Yangon, Myanmar). Those early drafts accomplished 80% of the work needed to compose the table and saw early feedback at a CORMOSEA meeting and from a series of researchers who work with the Shan language, notably Thomas Hudak, Chit Hlaing Kris Lehmen, Nicole Tannebaum, and Jane Fergusen. Additional support and feedback were generated by Shan projects in the UK, most notably from Dr. Andrew Skilton of the School of Oriental and African Studies - University of London (SOAS) and Dr. Gillian Evison of The Bodleian Library - Oxford. While Nance focused on the refinement of legibility issues among Shan readers, I struggled over diacritical markers, predominantly driven by tone indicators and finals, requiring the assignment of seemingly appropriate and available symbols from the extended MARC Latin set. On this issue in particular, Sujira (Noi) Meesanga at the University of Michigan provided critical insights and deserves a claim to co-authorship of the table.

By early 2012, the work had attracted the support and key input of Jotika Khur-Yearn, librarian in the Southeast Asia collections at SOAS. Not only did Jotika play a crucial co-authorship role in helping Nance and me resolve a debate that had grown around three consonants that defied clear Romanization, he also incorporated into the table an extension of Pali characters recently introduced into Shan publishing. Jotika's rich contributions to the table pushed us through the critical and problematic stages of our final draft submitted to the Library of Congress and ALA.

The review process was courageously and expertly directed by Bruce Johnson, who steered a small but insightful collection of both technical and linguistic feedback to Jotika, Nance, and me. At this point, technical support and testing from the Library of Congress office in Jakarta, led by Waryn K.I. Martijanti and Will Trucello, added a measure of solidarity for the finalized table ahead of final approval in July 2012.
In September 1993 the United Nations presented the University of Wisconsin-Madison with the complete archive of the world’s first peacekeeping radio-station: Radio UNTAC. Starting in February 1992 the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) lasted 18 month, culminating in the country’s first nationwide, free democratic elections. The archive’s holdings represent the history of this decisive time in Cambodia, the UN mission and the electoral process. Based on research conducted in 2011 and 2012 this report will provide a brief overview on the contents of this archive.

According to an inventory completed by Dacil Q. Keo in August 2007 the Radio UNTAC collection consists of 2462 paper documents, 333 audio cassettes, 350 open reel tapes and 1417 digital audiotapes. The vast majority of paper documents are scripts, written in preparation of the daily programs. Radio UNTAC had been established to provide the Cambodian people with reliable information on the ongoing peace process. The daily news section was thus focused on the political developments in the country and included interviews with UN key personnel, as well as official UN statements and announcements. The mission was unprecedented in many regards, one being the extensive powers accorded to UNTAC in the holding of the country’s elections. Unlike in previous international missions, the UN was mandated to organize and conduct the nationwide elections instead of only supervising them. It was one of Radio UNTAC’s most important tasks to motivate the Cambodian people to cast their vote despite ongoing fights between the four conflict factions. The program scripts reflect these efforts: the listeners are given detailed instructions on how to register and participate, there are interviews and statements aimed at reassuring the people of the secrecy of their vote, while educational programs inform the people about their new rights and responsibilities as voters. In accordance with the United Nation’s mandated task of establishing a neutral political environment prior to the elections, Radio UNTAC provided the representatives of the newly registered political parties with a forum to present themselves to their electorate.

Apart from these programs dedicated to the mission and its tasks, Radio UNTAC also broadcasted reports on the overall development in Cambodia and the lives of its people. These particular program scripts include interviews with Cambodian entrepreneurs, reports about schools, hospitals or health organizations and a section dedicated to arts and culture in Cambodia. Several educational programs present mine-awareness campaigns, or provide the listeners with information on how to prevent common diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and dengue fever.

The program scripts are stored in folders and boxes and organized according to their date of broadcast. Overall, the quality of the documents is very good. As the programs had to be intensely vetted before going on air, there are several, slightly different versions of each script. Radio UNTAC broadcasted in Khmer only. Especially in the start-up phase of the radio station, the scripts were nevertheless prepared in English and sometimes French, before being translated into Khmer. Most of the scripts are therefore written in two languages.

Radio UNTAC recorded all of its life broadcasts on digital audio tapes (DAT). Due to the unavailability of a DAT player at the time of my research, I cannot give any detailed information regarding the content or quality of these sound recordings. Both open reel and audio tapes mostly contain sound material gathered in preparation of the programs, including the recordings of interviews with UN officials or Cambodian party representatives, programs of foreign broadcast stations, such as VOA or BBC, as well as jingles. As the labels contain only scarce information regarding the content of the individual tapes, the audio material is organized according to the type of the recording medium. In all of the tapes I listened to the sound quality had significantly suffered, probably due to the long storage time.

Despite ongoing efforts to digitize and catalogue the Radio UNTAC Archive, its holdings are to date only accessible to visitors of the Memorial Library on campus. The paper and audio material is organized according to dates and media types. There is no accompanying information regarding the content of individual documents or tapes. Research on specific issues is therefore likely to be very time consuming. Scholars interested in working with the material should contact the SEA head librarian Larry Ashmun for more detailed information on the accessibility of the material.
Henry Luce Foundation funds an initiative to encourage translation from Southeast Asian Languages

An award of $40,000 to the Translation Project Group of the Southeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies in March 2011 has made a significant impact on the world of Southeast Asian translation. It enabled the establishment of the A.L. Becker Prize for Southeast Asian Literature in Translation in 2012, with an official launch at the Toronto AAS Awards Ceremony, and a reception that followed a panel discussion of Becker’s contributions to the field of translation studies. The inaugural prize was awarded posthumously to Vietnamese American translator Huynh Sang Thong at that event in 2012, and the first competitive award was made to Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongphaichit for their translation of the Thai classic Khun Chang Khun Phaen in March 2013.

A.L. Becker Prize for Southeast Asian Literature in Translation

The official launch of the Becker Prize took place at the AAS Awards Ceremony in Toronto, March 2012. AAS President Prof. Robert Hefner announced the Prize with a description of A.L. (Pete) Becker’s contributions to the field of translation studies. An honorary award of the inaugural prize was given to Huynh Sang Thong posthumously for his extensive contributions to Southeast Asian studies through translations of Vietnamese classics. Hefner read the wonderful citation for Thong written by Prof Emeritus Alexander Woodside, who also received the award on behalf of Thong’s family. TPG Chair, Judith Henchy and Mary Zurbuchan organized a panel at the 2012 meeting in honor of Pete Becker, and a launch reception was held after the panel. Both the panel and the reception drew an audience of about 40 people.

The panel, “Leading Beyond Translation: A. L. Becker and the Interpretation of Southeast Asian Literature and Performance,” was sponsored by SEAC and highlighted the work of Pete’s former students: Patricia Henry, Nancy Smith-Hefner and Tom Hunter. The panelists talked of the enduring importance of Becker’s influence in their own work. The reception program included remarks by Judith Henchy, Mary Zurbuchan, Ronit Ricci, with contributions from Keith Taylor, Laurie Sears, Tom Gething, Robert Hefner and others. The Awards ceremony, the panel and the reception were attended by Prof. Judith Becker, widow of the late Pete Becker, and several members of the Becker family.

Translation Subvention Program

Besides supporting the establishment of the Becker Prize, a sum of $30,000 was allocated to support new and on-going translation work. These translation subvention awards were announced in the AAS Newsletter in Fall 2012. Nearly thirty inquiries about the subventions were received, and 13 final applications: 4 from Thai texts, 4 from Vietnamese, 2 from Burmese, and 3 from Indonesian. Six awards, below, were made to a variety of projects that committee members felt best met the qualifying criteria for the award, including their potential to contribute significantly to undergraduate teaching about the Southeast Asia region.

Members of the Committee were: Judith Henchy (Chair), John Marston, Caroline Hau and Oona Paredes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annie Tucker</th>
<th>Cantik Itu Luka (Beauty is a wound) by Eka Kurniawan.</th>
<th>Indonesian novel, widely acknowledged as one of the major Indonesian writers of his generation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Goss</td>
<td>King Rama I’s Ramakien</td>
<td>New critical edition of the Thai Ramayana. Collaboration with Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Borton</td>
<td>Vo Nguyen Giap’s Nhơn dân mà ra (From the People Onwards)</td>
<td>Book length work by this famous Vietnamese general covering periods of his early career not available in translation elsewhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Carbine</td>
<td>Burmese/Pali</td>
<td>New critical editions of the Kalyani inscriptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexey Kirichenko</td>
<td>Burmese</td>
<td>Burmese manuscript text on monastic practices of hat-wearing.</td>
</tr>
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University of Washington Acquires the Robert Jones III Collection on Indochina

The Robert Jones III Collection on Indochina is a significant corpus of materials amassed by the former Foreign Service Officer during his long sojourn at the US Embassy in Saigon at the height of the conflict in Vietnam, 1966-1975. Reportedly the longest-serving officer to have returned from the war, Jones was a serious bibliophile who collected not only the contemporary materials readily available to him on the street in Saigon, but actively sought out books in the antiquarian market and even forged relationships with brokers in what was at the time the hostile Democratic Republic in the North. The result of his long career as a book collector, both in Southeast Asia, and following his return to the US, is probably one of the most comprehensive and diverse collections of materials on Indochina in French, Vietnamese and English to be found anywhere in private hands. The collection comprises over 3,500 book titles, many of them extremely rare, and some 10% of which are not held at all in any libraries represented in the OCLC database. Amongst these rare titles are items as diverse as literary works in French or Vietnamese by writers from the 1930s to the 1960s, treatises on colonial law, climate, agriculture, geography and history. The largest and most valuable concentrations of materials amongst the book titles, however, are the Vietnamese and French literary titles, and the English language materials related to the US conflict in Vietnam. As a civilian officer serving in the CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development) administration of the US military operation, Jones had access to internally distributed documentation and reports; included in his collection are six boxes of his working files and photographs relating to his CORDS work, particularly his involvement in the creation of the computerized Hamlet Evaluation System (one of Secretary of Defense McNamara’s attempts to win the war through systems analysis). Besides the books and files, the collection contains an extremely valuable archive of journals, mostly dating from 1960s and 1970s Saigon. While many of the over 80 journal titles are represented only by scattered issues, over 20% are as complete, or more complete, than any holdings in US libraries.

The collection also includes editions of many French and Franco-Vietnamese writers from the early and mid-colonial period whose work demonstrates the progression from early colonial literary exoticism to a new Francophone literary genre much admired in post-colonial scholarship for its critical insights into war, dislocation and loss. For instance, Pham Duy Khiem’s *Mélanges* appears not to be held by any US institution. The Jones collection is particularly valuable, however, for its focus on Vietnamese and Franco-Vietnamese authors writing in the late colonial period, during the Franco-Viet Minh War (1946-54) and into the period of US engagement. These works are less known and not widely held.

Amongst the important French writers represented in collections are the names of Jean Ajalbert, Albert de Pouyouville (Mat Gioi), Jehan Centrieux, Clotilde Chivas-Baron, Cung Giu Nguyen, Albert Vivies, Jean Hougron, Jean Marquet, Pham Van Ky, Pham Duy Khiem, René Crayssac. The collection also contains origi-
Collections News

by French archaeologists, Indochina became the aesthetic center of the French empire, with Saigon portrayed as the “pearl of the Orient,” and the nearby temples of Angkor a favored destination. The Bob Jones collection reflects these early domestic attempts to sell the colony at home, in its collections of travel narratives, art and architecture pictorial works and city guides. Of particular importance at this moment of modern transition was the notion of movement: it was the era of the automobile, and of train travel, and the beginnings of air travel. Another characteristic of the age was the idea of leisure itself: it was a time when colonial officials living in Indochina were persuaded to use their modest means to travel within the colony, and wealthy metropolitan city dwellers from Paris arrived to visit the temples and hunt big game in the jungles.

The Bob Jones collection includes a number of rare and unique texts on game hunting from the 1920s and 30s, and on trains and travel, including automobile itineraries from the 1930s, and a collection of timetables and brochures from Air Vietnam and Royal Air Cambodge from the 1960s.

The collection is, however, remarkable in the scope of its coverage. As a collector, Mr. Jones was both knowledgeable and remarkably discerning in his ability to predicting the value of what at the time may have been perceived as commonplace ephemera. It is noticeable that he collected not only the literary works of the most prominent writers of the 20th century, in both French and Vietnamese, but that he acquired a number of curiosities that will provide great richness to future social histories that are now providing new depth to the historiography of Viet Nam. In this new area of historical and literary scholarship our understanding of what constitutes an archive has also shifted; moving away from official records of governments and parties towards cultural and aesthetic productions. Such textual artifacts are exactly what are found in abundance in the Bob Jones collection; not just literary productions reflecting all eras of 20th century Vietnamese life, Northern and Southern, but the peripheral aesthetic products of the everyday: fashion magazines, health and wellness treatises, bodybuilding magazines and other tracts referencing the leisure industry. Among these leisure activities are most prominent those associated with tourism and travel. Particularly in the wake of the “discovery” of the temples of Angkor in 1861 by French archaeologists, Indochina became the aesthetic center of the French empire, with Saigon portrayed as the “pearl of the Orient,” and the nearby temples of Angkor a favored destination. The Bob Jones collection reflects these early domestic attempts to sell the colony at home, in its collections of travel narratives, art and architecture pictorial works and city guides. Of particular importance at this moment of modern transition was the notion of movement: it was the era of the automobile, and of train travel, and the beginnings of air travel. Another characteristic of the age was the idea of leisure itself: it was a time when colonial officials living in Indochina were persuaded to use their modest means to travel within the colony, and wealthy metropolitan city dwellers from Paris arrived to visit the temples and hunt big game in the jungles.

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New Resources News

Library of Congress Bangkok reported on provincial newspapers from its regular field trips in Thailand

During these trips we often find local newspaper, mostly 12 pages, bimonthly that deals primarily with local news (some may cover regional news). These newspapers offer a window into the small regional communities that might otherwise be overlooked.

Many of the local newspaper are published on the day of the Lottery Announcement, to maximize sale. Thus their content is light at best. On average larger province would have about 10 local newspapers, only one or two of those will have sufficient quality required by LC. Smaller province may have 3-4 newspaper, of which none might have the quality required by LC.

Apart from quality, small local newspapers also have problem regarding continuity and professionalism. Many are run by just one or two person. Many do not have a subscription channel. Very few of them stay in publication for more than a year or two. In short, only a few local newspapers in Thailand offer sufficient content of interest to justify collection considering current resources. Those that do are being collected by the LC already.

Newspapers reported by LC

Northern Region
Chiang Mai Mail. Twice-Monthly. (subscribed by LC)
Chiang Rai. เซี่ยงไถ่ Twice monthly. 12 pages (subscribed by LC)
Chaidaan Niu. จักรีนิวส์ Twice monthly. 12 pages (subs by LC)
Thai Niu. ไทยนิวส์ Daily. 16 pages (subscribed by LC)
Chiang Mai Express. Twice-Monthly. 28 pages (NST)
Chiang Rai Thurakit. เชียงรายธุรกิจ Monthly. 12 pages (NST and recommend to keep for LC)

Southern Region
Siang Tai Raiwan. เซี่ยงไทวัน Daily. 12 pages. (subscribed by LC)
Phuket Gazette. Weekly. 52 pages (subscribed by LC)
Samat Niu. สมาร์ทไนวส์ Monthly. 20 pages (subscribed by LC)

Nansuphim Nakhon Chiang Rai. นันสุภิรมนากขอนช่างไชย Twice monthly. 12 pages. (NST)
Chiang Rai Niu. เชียงรายไนวส์ Monthly. 16 pages (Rejected by LC)
Chiang Rai Thaim. เชียงรายไทม์ Monthly. 12 pages (NST)
Phayao Phraet. พะเยาแพะ Twice monthly. 12 pages (NST)
Lanna. ล้านนา Twice monthly. 12 pages (Rejected by LC, Chiang Mai)

Central Region
Sang Tawan. แสงตะวัน Monthly. 12 pages (NST, Nakhon Sawan)
Sawan Niu. สวรรค์นิวส์ Twice monthly. 12 pages (NST, Nakhon Sawan)
Hokankha Chanwat Nakhon Sawan. หอการค้าจังหวัดนครสวรรค์ Monthly. 12 pages (NST, Nakhon Sawan)

Northeastern & Eastern Region
Phattaya Mail. Weekly. 60 pages (subscribed by LC)
Siang Phuphan. เซี่ยงภูพาน Twice Montly. 16 pages (subscribed by LC)
Thoet Thai. เทิดไท Monthly. 16 pages (subscribed by LC)
Bangsean. บางแสน Weekly. (Rejected by LC, Chonburi)
Istan Phiot. อีสานโพสท์ Twice Monthly. (Rejected by LC, Khon Kaen)
Khao Thai. ข่าวไท Monthly. (Rejected by LC, Nakhon Ratchasima)
Prachakhom. ประชาชน (Rejected by LC, Ubon Ratchathani)

Praknakhon, ประชาคม Monthly. 20 pages (subscribed by LC)
Samila Times. สมิหลาไทม์s Weekly. 12 pages (subscribed by LC)
Phak Tai Fokat. ภาคใต้โฟกัส Twice monthly. (NST, Songkhla, recommended keep for LC)
Chao Tai. ราชาเดิม Every 5 days. (NST)
Andaman Phot. อันดามันโพสท์ Twice monthly. 12 pages (Rejected, Phuket)
Phak Tai Thude. ภาคใต้พุทธบัตถ Twice monthly. (Rejected by LC, Phuket)
Phuket Post. ภูเก็ตโพสท์ Twice monthly. (Rejected by LC, Phuket)
Thai Tai. ไทยไท Twice monthly. (Rejected by LC, Nakhon Si Thammarat)
Thakkgai Pak Tai. ไทคั้กไก่ภาคใต้ Twice monthly. (Rejected by LC, Songkhla)
Thang Thai. ทางไทย Twice monthly. (Rejected by LC, Songkhla)
New Resources News

SEAM Approves proposal by Ron Renard to collect and film provincial newspapers from NE Thailand

Justification for Project

In recent years, and unlike trends in many parts of North America and Europe, the number of newspapers in rural Thailand has increased exponentially. In the north of the country a recent survey identified sixty-three newspapers, including dailies, weeklies, bi-weeklies, and others. All but one are in Thai and cover almost all the provinces in the region except Sukhothai and even include three local districts.

The focus of most of these papers is local news with a sometimes sensational approach dealing with scandals, accidents, gossip, and crimes and usually accompanied by lurid or eye-catching front page photographs. In addition there are reports on local government projects and activities, ample photography of local personalities, editorials and occasional think pieces, as well as a considerable amount of advertising.

All in all they provide an indigenous perspective on local life. Although the level of reporting and news-writing may not always reach international standards, the information in the papers represents the local way of life, problems, and successes. While other media, such as pocketbooks often written by local personalities, captures a portion of this information, these newspapers offer the most comprehensive record of a great deal of provincial and village activities. There is ample unique data here of use to anthropologists, historians, linguists, and other scholars.

Collecting these newspapers is problematic. Despite the increased use of computer graphics in newspaper production in Thailand there are three newspapers in the north with a fully accessible online version (Nunthaburi News, Nan Daily News, Phayao Rat). The two from Nan appear only online.

According to the director of the Chiang Mai University Library, no print newspaper in the region relies entirely on computer graphics. Instead they use a lithographic process, the result being that it is not possible to acquire computer files containing complete copies of any of these newspapers.

There is considerable value in this material, almost none of which is being collected by any library or other agency. Reasons include budgetary and storage space constraints, the diversity of publications, a lack of interest by librarians in these publications, and difficulties in obtaining a reliable supply. As a result only the Chiang Mai daily, the Thai Niu (Thai News) is received by any library out of the country (and that in hard copies). The Library of Congress, with the permission of Thai Niu, is microfilming the paper and making it commercially available. Except for this, and even when storage is not an issue, such as for the online newspapers, no one is collecting them probably at least in part because their availability is unknown to librarians.

The most viable and secure method for collecting the print newspapers is (as seen in LC’s project with Thai Niu, to microfilm in a way that allows for digitization in the future. Subscribing to seven titles is proposed, representing four provinces all in the upper north of Thailand. This will both provide a reasonably tight geographical focus but will cover provincial and district publications and areas in the center, north, and east of the region. Furthermore the selected papers include the only English title in the region as well as one with a focus on economics. A number of the selected papers are dailies of longstanding while others are issued at different intervals.

Newspapers Selected for Filming

Chiang Mai Province

Chiang Mai Post, Semi-Monthly. 12 pages
Thurakit Phak Nua. 12 pages

Chiang Rai Province


Lampang Province

5. Khon Muang Nua (title means Northern Thai People), recommended by locals—in 18th year. Weekly. 20 pages

Nan Province

6. Nua Nan (Northern Nan) Semi-Monthly. 17 pages

Phrae Province

7. Phrae Khao (Phrae News) Three times monthly. 12 pages
New Resources News

Library of Congress continues to archive election websites

Call for Cambodia elections sites

New LC digital initiatives include: web harvesting sites for archival purposes. We are now working through Cambodia Election 2013 web archiving project. This is a part of ongoing process to cover general elections in Southeast Asian countries, which includes the Indonesia General Elections 2009, Philippines Election 2010, Burma/Myanmar Election 2010, Laos Election 2011, Vietnam Election 2011, Thailand Election 2011, Burma/Myanmar Election 2012, Timor Leste Election 2012 and on going Philippines Election 2013 & Malaysia Election 2013.


Our web-harvesting project is to maintain a wide neutral coverage of internet sites from: government, political parties, NGOs, the press and independent observer’s blogs.

I would like to ask for your assistance in suggesting any interesting and in-depth websites about the Cambodia Election 2013. Herewith we provide the websites list that we have been captured so far for your reference (see below). We believe that many websites are captured yet, and I welcome your suggestions. We can be reached by telephone at 62-021-3144944 and by e-mail at jakarta@loc.gov or telephone at (63) 21684945/5077 and by e-mail at linges@locjkt.or.id

Short summaries of the two portal of the Indonesian Journals: By Nurjadi Jasmin, Library of Congress Jakarta Office

The Indonesian Scientific Journals Database (ISJD) http://jurnal.pdii.lipi.go.id/. Maintained by the Indonesian Scientific and Documentation Center (PDII - LIPI). It has over 8000+ scientific journals, full text. But as of January/February 2013, LIPI has stop providing full text at the request of the publisher or author, due to concern in plagiarism. It will reconsidered providing the full text once it got formal agreement with the sources.

The other one, Portal Garuda, now changed its name into The Indonesian Publication Index (IPI) is designed for browsing, indexing, abstracting, monitoring and improving the standard of scholarly publications in Indonesia. It is estimated that there will be over 2000 Indonesian journals for inclusion in the IPI database.

University of Wisconsin Announces Additions to SEAiT

I’m very pleased to announce SEAiT’s two most recent additions, both dealing with Laos (during the "Secret War" period).

1. Indochina War Refugees in Laos, 1954–1975—Documents and Reports

As noted in the introductory page of this uniquely special, approximately 2,500-document resource, its "contents are drawn mainly from the collections of Frederic [Fritz] Benson and Ernest Kuhn, both veterans of the USAID/Laos Refugee Relief program spanning the years 1965-1975, and researched, compiled, organized, and scanned by Frederic Benson." His e-mail is included. http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/SEAiT_USAIDLaos

Review of the National Archives of Singapore in Dissertation Reviews

Dissertations Reviews online has started providing reviews of archival collections. Below is one posted recently on the Singapore National Archives.

P.J. THUM (National University of Singapore), review of the National Archives of Singapore http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/2247
CORMOSEA Libraries News

Cormosea Collection Development Meeting Minutes, March 2013

The focus of the early part of the meeting was ebook development in the region, and the invited speaker, Trina Ong, Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Press in Singapore.

E-Publishing Reports from CORMOSEA members

Vietnam (Hao Phan)


Thailand (Larry Ashmun)

Chulalongkorn intends to have a couple of ebook attempts or initiatives. Claims to have biggest deal coming for e-collection of magazines.

Philippines (Jeff Petersen)

There is not too much happening in the Philippines just yet, but it is starting to pick up. Some schools have instituted tablets. There is a company called Flipside that has gotten into e-publishing. They are currently working with Ateneo, and feel optimistic about the future, since Filipinos love to read and have also shown enthusiasm for tech related devices like Blackberries, iPads etc. Cost has been a barrier, but this could be changing. Vibal Foundation, hosted by Anvil Publishing is also moving ahead with some e-publishing. Vibe is the first electronic bookstore in the Philippines, and they have already converted many out of print books into e-books. They can make available local out of print titles.

Trends in E-Publishing in Southeast Asia – Trina Ong

Philippines is not doing a lot with e-books; Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore – Publishers are developing at different rates. Singapore is launching ahead. They try to get as many books in Singapore available in different formats. We will see many more coming. e-pub format is preferred over PDF. ISEAS has digitized entire backlist; all material is available. In Singapore e-books are widely available. Malaysia is moving slowly waiting for sales to increase before investing more: mainly e-textbooks pushed by the government. There is an initiative to provide e-books for all schools. Indonesia has quite a few e-book stores there. Gramedia in Indonesia has moved into e-books. What is the government doing? Indonesia has been complicated. For school children to download material they had to access the website, and most had to go to a public place. Access was not even available in all schools. They now use a new model. When they just stuck stuff up on the web, an enterprising company would just print them all and sell them.

What about libraries? Libraries have limited tech capacity in Indonesia. Malaysia is more advanced. Access to e-content depends on platform.

Why are publishers dragging feet? They are not certain of their return on investment. It costs technology, enhancements, upgrading. Staff must do more to keep e-content available. There are pages and pages of contract, you almost have to sign your soul away. It is a slow steep learning curve for publishers, and there is a lack of expertise.

Copyright issues

We have contracts with authors, none of them have provisions for e-books. They must go back to the author and ask if it can be issued. Then if the book has images, then you have an issue. Some will say no. So then you can’t publish the whole book. Publishers fear copyright infringement. It’s very hard to convert from print. It is also hard to know how to price the e-books.

One concept: An e-book is put on a library list available for browsing with a limited number of browses. After that, it lets the library know it must buy it if it wants it. So the library will know if it is used a lot before buying it.

Social Science Data and SEA - Alan Hicken

Where are the Ben Andersons of today? Prof. Hicken feels that the field is diminished, with junior faculty in sociology and political science now victims of divisions within departments, and a focus more on rational choice models than on empirical and culturally based evidence. He thinks this was the golden age of social science research. When we talk about data what do we mean? Columns of
numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. There are many kinds, like ethnographic thick description that add context to numbers. In Southeast Asia we don’t have much preformatted data available, but it is growing. There is much in Singapore, but they don’t let you have it. Social scientists working in the region are forced to be pretty creative.

Political Science is after comparison. People love Ben Anderson’s writing. Not new stuff, but he puts it in context. No numbers, but comparison. Often you can’t get at what you want directly, but must use proxies. For example, in the Philippines some areas get more stuff from the government. If you ask them they will just lie.

How can libraries be more helpful?

First, people are pleased and grateful for the work we do. I’m quite satisfied overall. But we wish we could have things we don’t have. Getting data at subnational level would be really helpful. We need local data. Access to local newspapers and publications is greatly desired, and local theses and dissertations. The data exist but not curated. We need to encourage governments to regularly deposit data somewhere. Can we get at least hard copies if not electronic? Closer collaboration between area studies and statistics, need more cooperation and knowledge on the part of libraries. We need an archive of SEA data.

Where do we go from here? A discussion with CORMOSEA Chair, Jeff Shane

Having been duly re-nominated as Chair, and with the return of summer and the lovely peace and quiet that comes with it. I thought that I would take this opportunity to resume our discussion on the prospects for collaboration among our respective institutions, and with the possible result of formulating a grant proposal.

Where did we leave off? If memory serves, our discussion centered on three proposed projects. The first involved harvesting and storing select PDFs from the web. The second concerned the newspaper archive at Cornell. The third proposed project originated as a possible solution to apparent gaps in CAPSEA’s coverage of specific materials, such as provincial reports, and subjects, among them popular literature. The first and second proposals are straightforward and can be easily justified. The third proposed project is a little more convoluted and needs to be fleshed out, which is what I would like to try to do below.

Simply for the sake of convenience, let us refer to this third proposal as the "CAPSEA supplemental plan." The discussion out of which this idea originally emerged was wide-ranging and tacked and veered between talk of provincial reports and newspapers from Thailand and Burma to popular literature throughout SEA. The conversation all boiled down to one concern: the CAPSEA program is unable to acquire all that we would like it to acquire, the simple reason being that some of the materials that we would like CAPSEA to acquire are out-of-scope for LC. Hence the need for some kind of supplemental plan or program to shore up the apparent weaknesses of CAPSEA in an effort to ensure better coverage for our libraries. If we are to try to rectify this void in CAPSEA coverage we need to break it down in terms of material type and country of origin. If, for example, we would like to acquire more provincial reports and other materials from up-country Thailand and Burma, we could, as mentioned in previous emails, discuss this need with an alternative source, such as Ron Renard in Chiang Mai. As long as Ron, for instance, is willing to provide this service, working with him on collecting supplementary materials from Thailand and Burma would be a relatively simple affair.
Where do we go from here?  A discussion with CORMOSEA Chair, Jeff Shane

Where it gets to be a bit problematic is when we try to expand the range of this "supplementary plan" to other countries or include a wider variety of material types. Obviously, if we try to cover more ground we will need to identify and secure the services of other private individuals in different countries to collect materials on our behalf. Will has mentioned that in Africa, for instance, he has worked with the AORCs and other private vendors to expand acquisitions for participants.

In sum, this "CAPSEA supplemental plan," if you will, raises a number of questions. It could be useful in shoring up or offsetting some of the shortcomings of CAPSEA's coverage. To make the program manageable, however, I think we would need to be careful not to over-extend ourselves. Perhaps needless to say, we also need to consider the costs involved. Many of us are already finding it increasingly difficult to pay our LC bill, let alone cover additional expenses.

Where do we go from here? Personally, I am open to discussing any or all of these or other possible projects. In my view, the PDF and newspaper archive projects, if properly planned, would be very doable. If we set realistic goals and perimeters, "CAPSEA supplemental plan" also has merit. I am willing to play a role in facilitating or coordinating these or other initiatives. However, if we are to be successful we will all need to work together. Once we are able to reach an agreement on how we should proceed and which if any of these projects we decide to carry out, I will send an email out on the CORMOSEA list-serve to inform and encourage others to participate.

I would like to pick up this thread where I left off yesterday…

The second point of discussion during our Friday meeting (March 22) had to do with the collection and preservation of PDFs. If I recall correctly, what we concluded was that we should begin with something of a pilot project. Crawling the web and collecting PDFs produced in or on Southeast Asia is a herculean task. We have to start small, perhaps with only one country and by limiting our search to specific types of documentation, websites or subjects. It will require a concentrated, collective effort. At the same time, we all agreed that it is not necessary or perhaps even advisable to organize ourselves in same regional groupings or consortia proposed for collection development. We also agreed that SEADL ought to be repository for the PDFs.

The third and final point or project discussed during our Friday session concerned the digital newspaper project launched by Cornell. Although we were unable to draw any clear conclusions on how to proceed or which of our institutions would be involved, it seems that we have decided that we may need to focus more on making agreements with the smaller, provincial newspapers rather than the larger national papers in SEA. Judith mentioned that she thought that there were quite a few Burmese publishers that might be interested in working with us on this project.

With regards to the matter of possible future Luce funding, the consensus seemed to be that Luce might be favorably inclined to fund all three of these projects. I think that if we are able to flesh out both the PDF and newspaper projects that Luce, or other funders, may be interested. I am not so sure that funders would be keen on supporting us with respect to the first initiative, that is, sub-contracting selectors in SEA to collection materials not acquired by LC. Of course, I could be very wrong.

So where do we go from here? If everyone is up to the task of reviewing our respective country and subject profiles I certainly have no objections. But I would like to have some consensus on this, because it will involve quite a bit of work.

Thanks, J. Shane

Current CORMOSEA Officers
Jeff Shane, Ohio University, Chair, CORMOSEA
Susan Go, Chair, CORMOSEA Collection Development Sub Committee
Apikanya McCarty, Cornell, Chair CORMOSEA Technical Processing Sub Committee
Judith Henchy, Editor, CORMOSEA Bulletin
Virginia Shih, UC Berkeley, Chair, SE Asia Mircoform Project
Report from the Southeast Asia Collection, Northern Illinois University Libraries
by Hao Phan, SEA Curator

The Southeast Asia Digital Library project
(based at Northern Illinois University Libraries)

Due to budget cuts in 2011, the US Department of Education eliminated the Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program. Hence, the four-year TICFIA grant to be received between 2009 – 2013 for the Southeast Asia Digital Library (SEADL) was reduced to a two year grant. This resulted in the loss of about $380,000 of funding. However, TICFIA provided one year of a no-cost extension to all TICFIA projects, including the SEADL. The extension was needed for some of the project partners of the SEADL to complete their digitization work.

Beginning in 2005 with the first four-year TICFIA grant of $780,000, the SEADL built a substantial collection of digitized library materials coming from Southeast Asia. As of today, the SEADL website features about 60,000 digital objects, including 26,000 images of books, 2,000 images of journals, 26,500 images of manuscripts, 4,300 photos, 440 video files, and 1,000 archival materials. A few thousands more digital objects were recently sent to the SEADL by projects partners, including digitized books, photographs, and archival materials. These additional materials will be added to the SEADL in the near future when the SEADL webmaster position, which has been vacant for about a year now, is filled.

The abrupt elimination of the TICFIA program created challenges for the SEADL. It forced some of the project partners to carry out their work with funding less than the intended budgets and to meet a shorter deadline. It also eradicated funding intended for the directors of the SEADL to travel to Southeast Asia to manage the projects on site, and for a meeting of all directors of the project partners intended to take place in Thailand in 2013. This meeting would help promote the SEADL in the region and build networking among the Southeast Asia project partners. Nonetheless, all projects were concluded successfully, only with some reductions in their scopes.

Regarding the future of the SEADL, the NIU Libraries’ administration has made a commitment to the maintenance of the website and its growth. With the end of TICFIA program, it is now time for the SEADL management team at NIU, along with COMOSEA members, to look for new funding sources to continue adding digitized materials to the project. Scholars, librarians, and individuals owning Southeast Asia library collections, either in digital or non-digital formats, are encouraged to work with NIU Libraries to share their collections on the SEADL.

The Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection at NIU

In January 2012 the curator of the collection made an acquisitions trip to Vietnam. In July 2012 the curator received a grant of $14,440 from the Endangered Archives Programme funded by the British Library to conduct a pilot program on the preservation of Cham manuscripts in Vietnam. This preservation project will take place between July 2012 and July 2013.

The Southeast Asian Studies program at NIU

In August 2012, Dr. Judy Ledgerwood of the Department of Anthropology, a Cambodian Studies scholar, became Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University replacing Dr. Jim Collins who had stepped down to become Senior Advisor for International Engagement to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The center is currently planning activities for the celebration of its 50th anniversary next year.

"Imaging Cambodia," the first international Cambodian Studies conference took place at NIU during the weekend of September 13th through the 16th of 2012. More than 60 papers were presented at the conference, with the renowned Cambodia scholar David Chandler as the keynote speaker.

The 10th International Burmese Studies Conference, organized by the Center for Burmese Studies at Northern Illinois University, took place at NIU during the weekend of October 5th through the 7th of 2012. Approximately 100 papers were presented at the conference.

October, 2012
Library of Congress Jakarta, Celebrating 50 Years

October to June FY2013 Report

Library of Congress Jakarta is celebrating 50 years of operations this year. Millions of publications have been supplied and used by your students and faculty leading up to this golden anniversary celebration.

Today we are entering a challenging transition from a paper to a digital environment. Library of Congress’s concept of a future hybrid digital-printed collection model affects CAPSEA participant libraries. A significant amount of staff acquisitions, cataloging and preservation is now devoted to digital acquisitions as a result of that policy, which enables enhanced content access from unique regional publications. For the CAPSEA community, however, the policy creates major challenges of shared access beyond the Library of Congress.

In spite of sequestration funding and manpower reductions the staff managed to increase monographic acquisitions, which for the first three quarters for LOC reached 12,116, surpassing the entire year of the 1998 benchmark of 8,085. CAPSEA monographic acquisitions also increased. Single serials pieces acquired significantly declined, however, reflecting tighter selection criteria, decreased budgets and increased availability of materials online. Increased selectivity is reflected in a 40% rejection rate of Indonesian vendor offerings and higher rejection rates from the other country programs.

Early this FY the Kuala Lumpur office team attended the Kuala Lumpur Children’s Literature Festival, held at the Arts and Social Science Faculty, University Malaya. This is the first Children’s Literature Festival organized by the Kota Buku, a government-linked body set up this year to invigorate the Malaysian book industry. The office acquired some interesting children materials noted in a CAPSEA circular. While in Thailand during the first quarter, the major event was the signing of an agreement to set up a Cambodian bibliographic representative. Without any advance notice the Embassy in Singapore ended access to the modified military mailing system to the Jakarta Embassy. We had to find an economical alternative to continue sending materials.

The seconded quarter focused on outreach activities. We produced e-reports on new publications and news to reach out to end users; area studies faculty groups are receiving these new tools and in return assist us in finding new acquisitions sources, especially born digital works. We prepared several reports that were presented at the annual participant CAPSEA meeting. As part of the LC transformation to a digital focus, there was extensive Washington consultation with LOC’s digital (OSI) team for technical and quality assistance, and with LOC’s legal experts on how to handle digital materials. In the area of web crawling we completed the acquisitions of URLs for the 2013 Philippine parliamentary elections and are currently capturing URLs for the joint OvOp offices Islamic political groups, and for the July Cambodian elections.

Regional Field trips were taken to Brunei, Malaysia: Ipoh and Perak; Thailand: Central Region, Northern Region, and Southern Region; and Indonesia: West of Indonesia, including Bandung, Lampung, Riau, North Sumatra, and Aceh. Our expert in Rangoon was detailed to the Department of State map acquisitions team to accompany them to the new capital. Important cartographic materials were acquired, giving scholars and officials more knowledge of the changes occurring. We acquired other materials of topical importance from around the region: for example on the Rohingya from Myanmar, Ahmadiyah from Indonesia, Bersih2.0 movement from Malaysia and publications from southern Philippine groups. In
the middle of the year 2013, we revised almost all of our acquisitions agreements with our suppliers which more clearly define LOC and CAPSEA subject collection needs. In response to requests at the CORMOSEA meeting in March we revised in-house selection so that participants had additional options for the acquisition of literature.

LOC staff worked with CAPSEA faculty and students to assist with acquisition of less known but important local materials from their places of research. These were provided to both LOC and CAPSEA. We expanded resource gathering by coordinating Indonesian regional trips with CAPSEA partner KITLV.

In the third quarter staff focused on printed and digital works relating to physical space; architecture, historical landmarks/buildings, local culture and boundaries in Southeast Asian countries. As the regional democratic and economic conditions improve—with an increased interest in trade opportunities for the U.S. and foreign investors—there is an increased focus on geographic boundaries and national identity. Regional trips were taken in Thailand and Indonesia. Cartographic materials from several countries including the Philippines were offered to participants and we acquired texts on the South China Sea and Sabah boundary challenges.

Staff increased the number of circulars for CAPSEA participants, anticipating surpassing last year’s record breaking figure of 160. These selection tools give CAPSEA librarians more control over acquisitions receipts and budget expenditures. The CAPSEA program still maintains the lowest CAP cost recovery percentage, projected to be 22% for FY14. The Bangkok office prepared its 2nd Cambodian circular and a revised Cambodian serial list is expected to be out in the 4th quarter FY14 for CAPSEA.

LOC catalogers attended RDA online training and conducted many RDA tests in preparation for fully cataloging in RDA, the Resource Description & Access. We started implementing RDA from 1 April. Jakarta and Bangkok have eliminated their backlog of cataloging of 2011 materials, while Manila is scheduled to finish by the end of FY2013. From third quarter in order to finish the cataloging faster, we increased the number of items cataloged at a minimum level, but also increased the number of digital table of contents (DTOC) added. We wanted to insure that CAPSEA works did not become cataloging backlog items.

To better use budgets without compromising quality more cataloging training was instituted. In order to control the quality of cataloging in the representative offices, Jakarta continued doing the virtual training for catalogers in its representative offices by using telephone line and instant messengers formats.

We believe one of our suppliers from Vietnam’s south will be able to create RDA vendor records, as we have been receiving from the north. We anticipate that our first bibliographic representative for Cambodia’s shipment will soon reach LOC Bangkok. He is being trained to create RDA records and we anticipate having our first Cambodian CAPSEA program by the end of this FY. LOC Bangkok sent LOC Washington several test files of parallel script Thai records and we expect results of this review before the end of this FY.

Southeast Asia Libraries News

Library of Congress Announces New Asian Division Chief

In March 2012 Library of Congress announced the New Asian Division Chief. Dongfang Shao, director of the East Asia Library at Stanford University since 2003, was appointed chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress.

"With his broad knowledge of scholarly research on East Asia and his familiarity with both analog and digital academic resources housed in East Asian libraries throughout North America, Dr. Shao will continue to build and refine the collections and services of the Asian Division to serve the information needs of Congress, scholars and researchers," said Associate Librarian for Library Services Roberta Shaffer.

EFEO Opens New Library in Chiang Mai

The new library of the EFEO Center in Chiang Mai was inaugurated on the 28th of July 2012 by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, in the presence of Monsieur Gildas Le Lidec, French Ambassador to Thailand and Franciscus Verellen, Director of EFEO. Jacques Leider, head of the Chiang Mai Center and Cristina Cramerotti, libraries director for EFEO, introduced the Center and the new library to the visiting officials.

Southeast Asia Library Group Meeting

The SEALG Annual Meeting 2012 was held in Cambridge and London from July 6 to 7, 2012, in collaboration with the 87th South Asia Archive and Library Group (SAALG) Conference. It was the first time that the SEALG held an Annual Meeting in collaboration with the SAALG, providing an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and experiences with members of the SAALG, which is a UK based association of enthusiastic South Asian librarians and archivists. Some of them are also involved in Southeast Asian librarianship due to the nature of the collections they look after.

The SEALG news list closed as from 1 October 2012. At the most recent AGM it was decided to open a blog in order to reach a wider audience. Thanks to the efforts of Doris Jedamski, the SEALG Blog is now live at http://southeastasianlibrarygroup.wordpress.com/. To continue to receive updates from our group, conference and event announcements and other information regarding Southeast Asian librarianship, please sign up top the blog as soon as possible. In addition to this, you may have a look at our homepage www.sealg.org, where you also will find regular updates.
Ch’ng Kim See

Ch’ng Kim See announced her retirement as Head of the ISEAS Library, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, as of 28 September 2011. Kim See was appointed to this position after her pioneering predecessor, Patricia Lim stepped down. It was hard for us to imagine that anyone would be capable of meeting the standards of professionalism, service and dynamism that had characterized Pat’s career. However, after nearly 23 years at the helm, it was clear that Kim See too had proved herself to be an influential force in Southeast Asian librarianship.

In her notice to colleagues, Kim See noted how much she had enjoyed administering and managing ISEAS Library, particularly her networking activities with institutions, professionals and individuals. Indeed we will remember Kim See for her extraordinary ability to bring together coalitions of colleagues across continents to work on common problems—indexing, preservation and cataloging. She was an enthusiastic supporter of our SEAM activities and a dominant partner in the SEACAP preservation consortium that we established in 2000 to coordinate the region’s preservation issues.

Citing her wish to have more time to pursue other interests which had been postponed for too long, Kim See also notes that she intended to stay on at ISEAS as Consultant to the ISEAS Private Archives programme on a part-time basis for one year.

Kim See noted that her successor is long-time colleague and friend Ms Zaleha Tamby who has been Senior Librarian for a number of years. Ms Zaleha is familiar with the services, programmes and collections of ISEAS Library. She will provide the continuity, as well as take the ISEAS Library’s development and services to another level. She may be contacted at zaleha@iseas.edu.sg, Tel: (65) 68702441.

Allen Riedy

Allen Reidy retired from his position as Head of the Asia Collection at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, at the end of December 2012. Prior to his move back to Hawaii in 2003, Allen had a distinguished career as the Curator of the Echolls Collection on Southeast Asia at Cornell University. In the early days of digitization, Allen was successful in securing IMLS funds to digitize travel narratives about Southeast Asia, now available as the东南Asia Visions collection. Allen was active as a CORMOSEA member throughout his tenure at Cornell, serving as CORMOSEA Chair from 1996-99, and as CORMOSEA representative on the BAS Board of Advisors from its inception. Allen will be fondly remembered for his boisterous participation in SEAM and CORMOSEA meetings. We wish him a long and happy retirement.
In Memoriam

Edita Baradi, Yale University

Yale University released the following tribute to Edita Baradi, who Southeast Asia Librarian Rich Riche described as a great friend of the Southeast Asia collection: “Edita’s passion for librarianship and in particular vigorous stewardship of the Economic Growth Center Collection at Yale, has served and will continue to serve scholars worldwide. Those she has helped have gone on to head countries, universities and a host of NGOs; it is not possible to over estimate the extent of her influence. In her capacity as Head of Technical Services at the Yale Social Science Library, Edita helped facilitate research in all areas of the social sciences. Requesting specific library materials is the easy part, Edita made sure that items actually got to Yale from all parts of the globe in all formats, subject areas and languages. Like Ginger Rogers, she danced backwards in high heels while others often got more credit.”

Brenda Moon, Secretary of the UK S.E. Asia Library Group

Patricia Herbert reported the sad passing of Brenda Moon, who was Secretary of SEALG, while she was at the University of Hull Library under Philip Larkin. She compiled *Periodicals for South-East Asian studies: a union catalogue of holdings in British and selected European libraries* (London: Mansell, 1979; 610p). Moon in her later career was Chief Librarian of the University of Edinburgh. Her obituary in The Independent notes: In Hull, at the Brynmor Jones Library, she served under Philip Larkin, who wrote a poem "The daily things we do" which he laid on her desk in February 1979 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the library's opening. He had also written, at her behest, a poem about libraries, "New eyes each year", which was produced on the Hull handpress for the same occasion.

Anthony Hardy, University of British Columbia

Anthony Hardy, the Indonesia bibliographer at UBC, passed away at his home, May 25, 2011. Eleanor Yuen noted that “he was a lovely man, who will be missed at UBC.” Judith Henchy noted that he has been responsible for the Indonesia collection at UBC for as long as she has been involved in the various West Coast library consortium activities with the UBC program and library. This is a sad blow for Indonesian collecting on the West Coast.

The UBC Library Human Resources has the following announcement: “Anthony, originally from Indonesia, completed his Master’s degree in Library Sciences from the University of Indonesia. He worked as deputy head of the central library of the Atma Jaya Catholic University in Jakarta before deciding to relocate to Canada. In November 1990, Anthony joined the UBC Library as Indonesian language Bibliographer in the Asian Library; a position he held to the present date.

On behalf of all of us at UBC Library, we extend our deepest sympathies to Anthony’s wife, his children and extended family members. He will be remembered fondly and missed.”
Professor Paul W. J. van der Veur, Ohio University

Ohio University announced the sad passing of Prof. Paul W. J. van der Veur in Canton, Ohio, on January 20, 2011. He was 89. Prof. van der Veur was one of the key figures in the establishment and expansion of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Ohio University and the Southeast Asia Collection in the Ohio University Libraries. Prof. van der Veur and Lian The-Mulliner, the first Southeast Asian Studies Librarian in the Ohio University Libraries and later the first Curator of International Collections, were instrumental in building the Southeast Asia collection, almost from scratch. He also played an important role in the development of the Center as an important node in academic publishing on Southeast Asia. His early life was closely intertwined with the colonial history of Indonesia and the Second World War in Southeast Asia. One of the first cohorts in the famous Southeast Asia program in Cornell University, his teaching and research career took him across the world, from the United States, to Europe, and Australia, in addition to Southeast Asia. His work spanned political and social science and history. Tributes to him were written by former colleagues and friends, including Kent Mulliner, Lian The-Mulliner, Prof. Norman Parmer, Prof. Drew McDaniel, Prof. Ronald Burr, and Keng We Koh. (Photo from AthenOhioToday.com)

Lan Hiang Char, 1929-2012

Our beloved CORMOSEA colleague Lan Hiang Char, retired Southeast Asia Librarian at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Library, died on February 19th 2012. Ch’ng Kim See, former Director of the Library at ISEAS Singapore, wrote the following tribute to Lan Char:

I have known Lan Char for over 34 years. She was a most dedicated, devoted and knowledgeable professional who would unselfishly impart all that she knew. She contributed to several professional standards, especially on Southeast Asian cataloging. She was enthusiastic about everything that she did, at work and play, and her high spirits and friendliness rubbed off on others. She was generous, caring and thoughtful and never failed to respond to calls for her views and help. Even in retirement she would continue to share and participate in library activities and conferences. Lan Char was a great role model! Dear Lan Char will be sorely missed!

Lan Char with Hawaii colleague Shiro Saito
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