

## Queen's Birthday 2016 Awards

**Dennis Kishere**  
**Monash University [retired]**



Friends and former colleagues were thrilled to read that Mrs Ho Chooi Hon was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours List. She received the OAM for services to the Chinese community and tertiary education.

Many of you will know Chooi Hon, having met her at conferences and library meetings around Australia and overseas.

Before retiring from Monash University Library in 2004 Chooi Hon held various senior positions, including Director of Corporate Services and International Development. Chooi Hon established the Asian Studies Research Library (later becoming the Asian Studies Research Collection) within Monash University Library in 1995. Prior to this, from 1991, she had pushed for the creation of four Subject Librarian positions with responsibilities for Southeast Asian Studies, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies and Korean Studies. Two Asian Studies assistant positions were also added. Along with this, funds were allocated for building up research level Asian language and English language collections to support the Asian Studies programs at the university.

In 2000 Chooi Hon and the ASRL staff received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Exceptional Performance.

Chooi Hon was heavily involved at a national level in Asian Studies library issues. She was involved in the establishment of the National CJK library database which incorporated Asian language bibliographic records in both Romanisation and Asian scripts for the first time. After retiring Chooi Hon became a Research Fellow at the Monash Asia Institute. Chooi Hon was a foundation member and past president of the Chinese Association of Victoria and edited its newsletter for 20 years.

She has written extensively on overseas Chinese and on Asian Studies librarianship.

You can read more about Chooi Hon's awards and her publications at this site:

Shao Center Database on Scholars and Librarians in Chinese Overseas Studies.

[http://cicdatabank.library.ohiou.edu/opac/scholar\\_view.php?bibid\[\]=546&num=1&pagenum=12](http://cicdatabank.library.ohiou.edu/opac/scholar_view.php?bibid[]=546&num=1&pagenum=12)

Both during her professional work and also during her own time, Chooi Hon fought hard for the advancement of Asian Studies in libraries and has done so much for the fellowship and

cultural life of Chinese people in Australia. We all congratulate her on her well-deserved award.

When I contacted Chooi Hon after she was awarded the OAM, she wrote back to me while travelling overseas, “I feel deeply honoured to receive this award. It has been a privilege to work with people I respect and who share my vision.”