

## INTRODUCTION

### CHINA AND AUSTRALIA: LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ISSUES

For this Newsletter, no. 40, which incidentally appears exactly 21 years since our inaugural issue of November 1978, it is appropriate that we are featuring papers from the highly successful forum organised by EALRGA at the Chinese Studies Association of Australia (CSAA) Conference at Murdoch University, Perth on 8 July 1999.

More than half of the 80 scholars and librarians at the conference packed the Library Meeting Room for this lunch time session chaired by the University Librarian, Nada, who has long had a strong interest in Chinese library matters. The success of the session owes much to Nada, to his Chinese Studies Librarian, Sit-ling Tull, and to Professor Tim Wright, the conference organiser. On behalf of EALRGA I would like to wish Nada well in his retirement and also to Tim Wright and his wife Bev Hooper, who are about to take up academic posts in the United Kingdom. Nada, Tim and Bev have all been most active in their support of Asian studies librarianship in Australia.

Appropriately, Tim Wright was first speaker. As Dean of Humanities at Murdoch and President of the CSAA his views on the library needs of Chinese studies academics were of great interest. He stressed both the positive aspects of having world-class Chinese collections in Canberra and the problems for scholars living and working in parts of Australia far from these libraries.

Susan Prentice, Director of Asian Specialist Information Associates in Australia, described the development of the China-Australia Electronic Information Centre, an exciting project intended to disseminate information about Australia in China and at the same time to serve as a gateway for Australian access to Chinese information resources.

Bick-har Yeung, East Asian Librarian University of Melbourne, presented a highly informative guide to the Internet and Chinese studies resources. It has not been included in this Newsletter for reasons of length, but is readily accessible at: <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/asian/Internet-ChiResources.html>

C.P. Tang of the National CJK Service, National Library of Australia and Magdalen Lee, East Asian Librarian, University of Sydney, discussed different aspects of the National CJK Service, surely the most significant development in East Asian librarianship in this country for many years.

The library forum was well received by conference members. The next CSAA conference will be held in Canberra in July 2001, and no doubt EALRGA will be involved again at that time. As you will see, in this issue EALRGA has also been active in library sessions at the Korean Studies Association of Australasia and the Japanese Studies Association of Australia conferences during 1999. We are also planning another joint EALRGA-APSIG library forum at the Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference at the University of Melbourne, 3-5 July 2000.

Andrew Gosling, President, EALRGA  
23 November 1999