

News from the East Asian Collection, University of Melbourne Library

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East Asian Collection
The University of Melbourne Library

New Acquisitions

The highlights of new arrivals for the East Asian Collection featured more than one hundred Chinese books on “sewing and clothing” published between 1950 and 1970. The sewing and clothing collection comprises of books in the following categories: sewing machines, sewing machine user manuals, repairs and maintenance, sewing equipment, tailoring, tailoring patterns, dress making and design, and clothing.

Japanese new books have included (as mentioned in more detail below) a selection of brightly illustrated rare books. In addition, there are some sugoroku (dice) game sheets, and other visually pleasing materials. In the general collection we have added many DVDs, especially popular films, for one academic researcher’s current work, and we have built up our collection of law-related materials as well.

East Asian rare and special collection exhibitions

1. The Harry Simon Collection

Selected items from the Harry Simon Collection will be on display at the Asian Studies Research Collection, Monash University Library from February to March 2014.

More information about the Harry Simon Collection, please visit the following link:
<http://cat.lib.unimelb.edu.au/record=b5051134~S30>

2. Japanese rare books new acquisitions

In late 2013 the third floor display area was host to a selection of rare books new acquisitions.

The most important were items such as a fold-out map of two of the main five travel routes in Edo period Japan, the Tōkaidō and the Kisokaidō (approx. 1750) and a cookery book dealing mainly with vegetable and fish dishes, which is a reprint of an earlier (early 1800s) book.

Other colourful acquisitions include advertising items such as hikifuda, or fliers, which advertise general stores alongside stirring images of knights on horseback or figures from history, and an almanac for the year Showa 9 (1934) which gives the calendar in both Japanese and Chinese dates and includes a blank space where the business could add their own details.

Also on display was a two-volume set "Picture book of a prosperous household" (Ehon Sakaegusa) from the early 1800s, and an illustrated book on sericulture from 1873, Yōsan jujitsu.

3. Asian Libraries in Melbourne exhibition: Asian Art and script

From 10 February to 28 March the Baillieu library, University of Melbourne, will host a joint exhibition by the Asian library collections from Melbourne and Monash

universities. The ground floor cases will display treasures concerning Asian art, and the third floor cases will show examples of calligraphy and script.

A full report on this collaborative endeavour will be included in the next issue of EARLGA News.

“List of Asian Studies Databases Subscribed to by Australian Research Libraries”: a survey conducted by the Asian Libraries in Melbourne (ALIM)

The survey was updated in December 2013 and is available to access from the following link: (<http://alim.monash.org/subscribed-asian-studies-dbs.xls>)

ALIM started conducting this survey on an annual basis since 2007. Users researching Asian countries found this survey extremely useful to locate Asian studies subscribed databases by Australian libraries. This year the survey format has been modified according to feedbacks received from customers.

1. There are 6 pages in the attached Excel workbook, namely: Asian Studies, Chinese Studies, Indonesian/Islamic/SEA Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies and South Asian/Tibetan Studies.
2. Each institute library is having a column to add in their subscribed databases.

Staff Development

Bick-har Yeung attended the 2013 Workshop for International Librarians organised by the National Central Library Taiwan in October last year. A brief report of the Workshop is published in the current issue of the EALRGA Newsletter. During the workshop, participants were introduced to a large number of tremendously useful databases produced by major Taiwan research institutions. Some of these databases can be accessed remotely by overseas users, some required registration to login and some can only be accessed by users in Taiwan.

Returning home, Bick-har put all these electronic resources together in a spreadsheet providing users a one stop shop access. The link for downloading is: <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/asian/taiwanresources.xlsx>