

## A Message from the President

by Rebecca Wong  
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In last year's EALRGA Annual General Meeting, we briefly reminisced the history of the EALRGA. This led to the conversation on how to strengthen communication to better facilitate exchange and collaboration among all those who are interested in East Asian library resources in Australia. Established resources such as the *Asian Studies Subscription Databases* maintained by [ALIM](#), or the initiative of creating an inventory on Congshu (Chinese Collectanea) are valuable collective references for resources users and librarians.

The results from the survey of "*Asian Librarians in Australia*"<sup>i</sup> conducted by ALIM in 2013 revealed the increasing trend of non-specialist library staff providing Asian studies information resources. This has brought forward the need for a more open communication network to facilitate and expedite peer support and information exchange.

This year's *Annual General Meeting* was held on 8 July 2014 in conjunction with the *Asian Studies Association of the Australia Biennial Conference* in Perth. We appreciated the special support given by the host library in the University of Western Australia. This meeting was conducted using video conferencing and connected a total of 19 librarians on site in Perth with remote sites in Canberra and Melbourne. The round table session of the AGM explored the topic *Landscape of Asian Studies Librarianship in Australia – organization models, roles, and partnership* by taking stock of latest organizational and structural changes in the Australian National University, Monash University, the National Library of Australia, and the University of Melbourne and their implication on East Asian library services. Through the experience of the University of Western Australia, we also gathered better understanding of the challenges and needs of peer support from non-specialist librarians who take on Asian studies as one of the subject services. Among the ideas generated was the establishment of a listserv to enable EALRGA members to communicate more easily and this is now in action.

The discussion on preferred means of partnership and exchange also brought up the idea of expanding the EALRGA to incorporate librarians and individuals with any interests in South & South East Asian resources. Building upon EALRGA's well-established foundation, this potential expansion brings in and supports interests in wider area studies along with an opportunity to align our Group with the latest organization models to deliver ongoing leading practice.

We are keen to engage in these new conversations and look forward to your engagement with interest.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://www.ealrga.org.au/newsletter1401/1401\\_hall\\_1.html](http://www.ealrga.org.au/newsletter1401/1401_hall_1.html)