Library Roundtable, ASAA Conference, Sydney 3-5 July

Dr Amy Chan, ANU Library

Once again, ALRA is organising a roundtable discussion at the ASAA Conference at the University of Sydney (3-5 July). Our theme is: “Beyond Asian Studies and its research material”. In the common pursuit of Asia knowledge and its dissemination, this second instalment of roundtable discussions which was begun at the 2016 ASAA Conference aims to bring together the users of Asia-related research material and those who seek to provide them. Whilst undoubtedly the ‘Asian Studies’ field is changing, so too is the library world. Questions need to be raised about the implications of these changes.

In this roundtable discussion we invite researchers, scholars, lecturers, teachers, students and librarians to bring to the table issues and challenges on and around the topic of research resources: the gradual decline in library subject specialisations, the changing concept of the ‘library’ and its consequential impact on Asian Studies, the need for vernacular material or not, current trans-Asia and interdisciplinary research directions that depend less on Asian-language resources, new library initiatives to promote special Asian collections, and equitable access to Asia-related material nationwide.

Prof Robert Cribb will be discussing what should be the right balance of academic community input into library acquisition programmes; Dr Anita Dewi will be telling us about Monash University Library’s Special Collection Community of Practice in research resources; Dr Amy Chan will raise for discussion the notion of “Digital Asia research”; and Dipin Ouyang will discuss how the national institution, the NLA, can adequately serve a diverse community of users going forward.