The Asia Collection, University of Hawaii at Manoa: 
a History of its Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Collections

By Allen J. Riedy, in collaboration with 
Tokiko Y. Bazzell, Kuang-Tien Yao, and 
Daniel C. Kane

Introduction to Asia Collection

From the earliest decades following the arrival of Captain Cook in 1778 to its shores, Hawaii became a land connected to Asia. By the late 18th century merchants and traders from New England, Russia and Europe were using the islands as a convenient stopover on their way to the mythically fabulous China market. Later Hawaii’s sandalwood forests became a stock in trade for the China market. The sandalwood forests disappeared; whalers arrived and Hawaii became a center of East-West commerce. By the mid-19th century with whaling in decline and the ancient Hawaii land system dismantled, the descendants of the earliest American missionaries to the Islands, turned the land into a vast plantation. Hungry for labor, they imported an army of agricultural laborers from China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. By the turn of the century Hawaii’s population was 75% Asian. As the descendants of immigrant plantation workers migrated to town, the demand for education to compete for jobs increased. Public schools and an extensive system of religious and ethnic private schools both integrated the recent arrivals’ children into the larger society giving them needed skills to compete in an urban economy and helped preserve the heritage of the homeland. By the late 19th century demands for schooling beyond the secondary level became insistent, and in 1907, despite the objections of the more benighted of the planter class, “…that we already have too much education for our cosmopolitan children and, that these children are educated away from labor,” the College of Hawaii was founded, as an agricultural college initially. But even at the time of its founding calls were already being made to transform it into a university.¹

Because of its history and the large population of Asian descent, the study of Asia has been an important part of the University of Hawaii (UH) curriculum almost since its founding. William Kwai Fong Yap, often referred to as the “Father of the University,” in his petition to transform the College of Hawaii into a university wrote, “ Islands located at a point where the civilizations and commerce of the United States, the Orient and the islands of the Pacific meet, are therefore a strategic point for a University unique in its opportunities.”²

The study of Asia as a formal part of the curriculum at the University of Hawaii dates from 1920 when the Board of Regents established the Japanese Department. A couple of years later the Chinese Department was created. In 1935, Gregg M. Sinclair, associate professor of English and future University of Hawaii President (1942-1956), established
and became first director of the Oriental Institute, whose mission was to focus on the study of China, India, and Japan. To support the Institute’s mission, the Oriental Collection was founded. Of the library’s role in Oriental Studies Sinclair wrote:

“Eventually the Library will be our chief source of strength. With an excellent library we may attract scholars of the first rank. It will be to our Institute what the museum is to the Oriental Institute of Chicago. We must, therefore, pay special attention to it, build it up intelligently and greatly. We should try to have every book of any merit published in English on Japan, China, and India; we should also have the basic books of all three countries, with research material in special fields.”

Dr. C.W. Taam became the first librarian of the Oriental Collection and remained with the collection until the mid 1950s. With the establishment of the institute and library, scholarly activities related to Asia and collection building became more systematic and focused and better able to take advantage of the organization of Asian studies in a department dedicated to its promotion. Compared to the major mainland libraries with Asia collections, the holdings of the Oriental Library at this time were modest, but significant growth would occur over the next few decades.

By 1939, building on the impetus of the founding of the Oriental Institute, the university curriculum on Asia had expanded to some 50 courses. The first East-West Philosophers’ Conference in 1939 was one of the early major activities of the institute. According to local historians, it was a significant factor in the decision of the U.S. Congress to establish the East-West Center adjacent to the university campus in 1960. This conference held periodically and jointly sponsored by the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center held its ninth meeting in 2005.

During the war years, Asian Studies at the university went into something of a decline as in the face of wartime demands financial support for the university fell off dramatically. The Oriental Institute disappeared. However, after the war in 1948, on the occasion of a celebration of the university’s 40th anniversary, now-president Sinclair announced his intention to reinvigorate Asian Studies. He formed a new Graduate School of Pacific and Asiatic Affairs. The following year the East-West Philosophers Conference recommenced.

Despite the enthusiasm voiced by Sinclair, the development of international studies at Hawaii was sluggish for a time. With the retirement of instructors during the war years and the fear engendered by McCarthyism in the first half of the 1950s course offerings and library development languished. Further, the quest for statehood and the need of the large population of Asian descent to prove its “Americaness” dampened the revitalization of Asian Studies, particularly the study of the Japanese language which, though very popular prior to the war, suffered from a loss of teachers during the war and was not encouraged after the war, until the latter half of the 1950s.
By the end of the 1950s, the stagnant Hawaii economy came to life and with statehood in 1960 dramatically improved. In the 5 years between 1958 and 1963, 37 new buildings were constructed on campus. Accompanying the construction was a boom in academic programs, among which was a resurgence in international studies. Prior to the war, the university’s major international focus was on China, Japan, and India. Now, towards the end of the 1950s the university’s language offerings, for example, grew from 3 European languages, Hawaiian, and Chinese and Japanese to 7 European languages and three additional Asian languages: Hindi, Indonesian, and Korean.\(^7\)

The makeup of the student body had a huge impact on the university’s offerings. Enrollment increased dramatically beginning in the mid 1950s. In the early 1960s out of a student body of 10,000 students a census showed that just over 50% of those enrolled in degree programs were of Japanese ancestry (versus 32% of the state population) and 14% were of Chinese ancestry (6% of state population).\(^8\) Consisting of almost 2/3\(^{rd}\) of the student body, these students constituted a large ready constituency for heritage language study and courses on Asia.

In 1960, Congress established the East-West Center whose mission was (is) to “strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States.” Located immediately adjacent to the university campus, the Center’s students, fellows, programs, and financial resources became a catalyst for a major expansion of the study of Asia at the university, which administered it until 1975 when it was removed from university control. Between 1960 and 1975, the Center awarded 25,000 grants and scholarships for degree students, established scholars, and technical trainees from 41 Asian and Pacific countries and the U.S. By 1970, due in large part to the Center’s influence and the establishment of a Peace Corps training center in Hawaii, where it is estimated 90% of all volunteers to Asia passed, virtually all the major languages of South and Southeast Asia had been added to the curriculum. Sixteen courses on Asian art were offered, and the History Department offered 20 courses on Asia, as many as the number in American History.\(^9\) Of the 1675 masters’ and doctoral theses with Asia-related content written at the university from its founding in 1907 to 1994, 1603 of them (95.7%) were written from 1960 on.\(^10\)

During this 15-year period, the Center contributed large amounts of money for acquisitions in its areas of interest and to hire personnel to assist with processing of materials. In 1962 it absorbed, with the university’s agreement, the vernacular materials of the Oriental Library to create the East-West Center Library and expanded its scope to include Korea and all the countries in South and Southeast Asia. In 1970, the East-West Center Library was returned to the University of Hawaii Library.\(^11\) This collection along with two other Asia-related collections on campus became the Asia Collection, consisting in 1970 of about 320,000 volumes. The eight years of stewardship under the East-West Center were very productive ones for the Asia Collection. The number of volumes in the collection doubled. The Center continues its support the present, providing money for acquisitions and personnel.
In 1987 the university reorganized its Asian Studies and other area studies programs into the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies (SHAPS). The centers that make up the school are not degree granting programs, but rather serve to provide leadership and coordination for the multidisciplinary instructional and research programs. However, undergraduate and graduate students are able to obtain the BA and MA degrees through the Asian Studies Department. Students may also obtain graduate degrees in most disciplines with focus on a country or region of Asia.

The University of Hawaii Library does not, unlike many institutions with large East Asia collections, have a separate East Asia library. East Asia collections and functions are within the administrative unit known as the Asia Collection. Currently the Asia Collection consists of 5 collections, somewhat, but not wholly integrated: China, Japan, Korea, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The Head of the Asia Collection acts as the overall administrator and also performs duties associated with his or her Asia-related specialty. Each of the 5 collections is headed by a specialist librarian, with the exception of the Southeast Asia Collection, which also has a ½ time Philippine specialist to serve the university’s Philippines Studies Program. Two library technicians, and students funded by the library and the East-West Center, assist in a variety of tasks: administrative chores, serials routing, ordering, processing, website maintenance, occasional basic reference and various projects, including database entry and scanning. The China, Japan, and Korea collections each have one full-time cataloger and one assistant devoted to cataloging materials in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Until 1981, technical services functions were carried out within the Asia Collection; however, now catalogers and their assistants are administratively a part of the Cataloging Department.

The Asia Collection collects primarily materials in the social sciences and humanities and selected science subjects that reflect cultural traditions or which emphasize socio-economic aspects. In recent years, in response to the growth of the university’s programs on international business the collection has been acquiring more business-related publications. In all, the collection has 700,000 volumes in 207 languages published in 140 countries. English language materials represent by far the largest percentage of materials with almost 200,000 titles, followed by Chinese with close to 100,000 titles and Japanese with about 55,000 titles. India, Japan, Indonesia, and the United States represent in that order the places where most of the titles were published. Each year approximately 25,000 volumes are added to the collection. Currently the collection subscribes to about 1,600 journals, down from the 2,000+ it subscribed to a few years ago, a reduction stimulated by large cuts in the budget of the library. As journals become available in electronic format, print subscriptions are usually cancelled.

In addition to the holdings in the main Asia Collection in Hamilton Library, several thousand rare or otherwise at-risk materials (because of content, physical condition or format) are held in the library’s rare collection or in the restricted access area known as Closed Shelves. Significant numbers of Asia-related audio-visual holdings are held in the library’s Wong Audiovisual Center located in Sinclair Library. Asia maps number several thousand sheets and are located in the Map Collection.
The Asia Collection, along with other collections in the library, suffered significant losses as a result of a flood in October 2004. Most of the losses were to maps, government documents, and materials awaiting cataloging. Estimated East Asia losses numbered about 9,000 titles. The East Asia bibliographers have been actively working to identify and replace as many of the lost titles as possible, but a number of unique and hard-to-acquire items are probably irreplaceable.

**China Collection**

The China Collection contains materials about China, including Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao, and overseas Chinese in Chinese, western and other Asian languages. The core collection, which is selected by the China selector, focuses on the humanities and social sciences. The Science and Technology Department selects science and technology materials for the general collection. Various subject selectors and other Asia selectors select materials about overseas Chinese.

Both the library’s Government Documents Collection and the Asia Collection acquire English language government publications on China. The China Collection acquires government documents from China and Taiwan. The Wong AV Center media selector and China selector coordinate the acquisition of audiovisual materials. The map librarian, in consultation with the China selector, selects and acquires maps on China, which are housed in the Map Collection.

The Collection emphasizes collecting of current imprints, though also attempts to acquire older materials when faculty or students request them. Published monographs, serials, and newspapers make up most of current acquisitions. Conference proceedings, unpublished conference papers, manuscripts, theses and dissertations are acquired selectively.

Microforms are collected when hard copy is not available or replacement of format is required. Major microform holdings are: Chinese newspapers clippings of the Union Research Institute of Hong Kong, Dunhuang Manuscripts held by the National Library of China (formerly the Peking Library), genealogies of Southeast China, provincial government gazettes, and monographs and journals which are not available in hard copy. Examples in English include JPRS and FBIS materials, U.S. Department of State Consular records, and archives of American religious missions to China.

The Collection is especially strong in three areas of history: local history of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), intellectual history of the Republic period (1911-1949), and contemporary China (1949-present).

Qing Dynasty historical materials in the collection focus on local history at the xian or prefecture level of the southeast coastal provinces; genealogies from those geographical areas; provincial histories, especially Guangdong, Fujian, and Taiwan provinces; the Taiping Rebellion; peasant risings; and minority revolts.
For the Republic period the library has a comprehensive collection of academic journals published between the late 1900s and 1930s, which are of particular significance for research in intellectual history. A long run of *Ge min wen xian* (Documents of the Revolution) published since 1953 is on standing order. Complete holdings of the *Zheng fu gong bao* (Government Gazette) at national level from 1911 to 1949, continuing to the present and issued in Taiwan, are in the collection.

The most notable resource for contemporary China is the 1,000+ reels of microfilm issued by the Union Research Institute in Hong Kong of news clippings on politics, military affairs, economy, and education and culture of the People’s Republic of China between 1949 and 1962. Publications on the Democratic Movement in Beijing and Taiwan are being collected as they become available.

Holdings on Chinese language and literature support PhD research in Chinese linguistics and traditional fiction. The Chinese language department focuses its teaching and research programs on Chinese dialects and language teaching. The library has an extensive collection on dialects, including Mandarin, Taiwanese, and Cantonese as well as selected textbooks for purposes of research. The collections of traditional short stories; drama; classical novels, including annotated and critical editions; thematic studies; commentaries; and criticism are extensive and support advanced research.

The China Collection also has significant holdings in other areas of the humanities: Chinese art history, Confucian and Taoist philosophy, Buddhist and Taoist religions, and Peking opera.

Within the social sciences the China Collection is making an effort to enhance the areas of economic reform, rural and urban economic development, and Open Cities. Also targeted for more intensive collecting are: statistics, politics, socio-economic conditions of the Chinese minorities, population problems, and demographic information.

**History**

The China collection of the University of Hawaii at Manoa started in 1922, the same year the Chinese Department was established and Professor Shao-chang Lee (李绍昌) was hired to teach Chinese language and literature courses. The collection began with a modest 350 titles (1,500 volumes) in Chinese and another 650 titles in English on China and Japan.

In 1936, Gregg M. Sinclair founded the Oriental Institute, and Professor Lee was made responsible for the development of the Chinese language collection in the Institute’s new Oriental Library. He helped build a China Studies Program within “Oriental Studies” which he envisioned would make the university an exemplar in the field among universities outside of Japan and China. That same year, Professor Lee took a sabbatical leave to travel in China in search of book donations from prominent Chinese. Upon his return, he reported that he had acquired more than 20,000 Chinese stitched, bound volumes for the Oriental Library. A majority of these gifts were traditional materials on
rice paper, including encyclopedias, collectanea, and publications on history, literature, and philosophy, which formed the core of the Chinese language collection.\(^{13}\)

In December 1937, Dr. Cheuk-Woon Taam (also known as Chao-yuan Tam 譚卓垣), of Lingnan University, Canton, China, was hired to catalog Chinese books. Dr. Tam’s PhD thesis in 1933 for the University of Chicago was *The Development of Chinese Libraries under the Ching Dynasty, 1644-1911*, subsequently published in 1935 in Shanghai in both English and Chinese editions and still later in 1977 reprinted in the U.S. He and his assistant began to process the Chinese collection to make it more accessible to patrons. By July 1938, the library had ordered another 5,000 volumes of Chinese books from Beijing.

In March 1938, several renowned scholars of China studies taught at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In addition to Prof. Shao-chang Lee (李紹昌), there were Dr. Shou-yi Chen (陳受頤) and Dr. Wing-tsit Chan (陳榮捷). In the summer of 1939, Dr. Yuan-ren Chao (趙元任) of the Academia Sinica, Nanking, joined the Oriental Institute and offered intensive Chinese language courses for graduate and upper division undergraduates.\(^{14}\)

As the China Studies curriculum grew, so too did the library. The last Qing emperor Pu-I donated to the library a set of 1,500 stitched volumes of the *Gu Jin Tu Shu Ji Cheng* 古今圖書集成 (*Imperial Records of the Qing Dynasty* published in 1884).\(^{15}\) Other notable acquisitions included the *Zuan zu ying hua* 纂組英華 (*Tapestries and Embroideries of the Sung, Yuan, and Ming Dynasties*, published in 1934), some 40 volumes by the famous Sinologist Herbert A. Giles’ published between 1874 and 1934, and a 3-volume set of *Zhongguo di fang zhi zong lu* 中國地方志綜錄 (*Gazetteers of China, published in 1935*) donated by Dr. Kaeming Qiu.

By July 1938, the Chinese collection began to receive from China on a regular basis the English-language journals *The People’s Tribune* and *The Chinese Recorder*. During World War II, an arrangement was made to obtain books published in China. Also at this time the Oriental Institute’s library was reabsorbed by the university library to become the Oriental Library. Over the next two decades, the university library continued to collect materials in both vernacular and western languages on Asia.\(^{16}\)

The Chinese Revolution of 1949 had an enormous impact on the makeup of the China Collection. For 30 years access to China and its publishing output was restricted. An analysis of the Chinese-language holdings in the collection reveals the skewing of the collection towards publications from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Chinese-language publications published between 1950 and 1979 from Hong Kong and Taiwan outnumber those from the PRC by about 2.5:1. In contrast, books published in mainland China during the 1940s outnumber those published in Hong Kong and Taiwan by 5:1. The 1980s shows a similar, though smaller, reversal in which publications from the PRC outnumber those from Hong Kong and Taiwan by 2:1.
In the 1960s, after its absorption by the East-West Center, two new librarians for the China Collection were hired, Chau-Mun Lau and Susie Cheng. They each remained with the library for over 30 years as bibliographers and catalogers. During these years the library received surplus Chinese-language books from the Library of Congress17 and an exchange agreement with the National Library of China was instituted which continues to this day. The library has been receiving the journals Kao gu 考古 (Archaeology) and China’s Foreign Trade (English journal) via exchange with the National Library continuously for almost 35 years.

Throughout the history of the collection donations from faculty members, organizations, and community members have been an important source of Chinese acquisitions and that remains true until the present day. In 1974, Professor Fang Kuei Li, an authority on the languages of South China and Tibetan inscriptions, gave to the library from his collection almost 300 volumes on Chinese languages and linguistics.18 It is by no means certain, but it may have been due to Professor Li interest in Tibet that the library began collecting via the Library of Congress’s National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC) Tibetan language materials which now run to several thousand volumes.

Since the 1960s, because of particular faculty interest in Taiwan, the China Collection has made efforts to collect fairly intensively on Taiwan, especially government publications. For example, the collection acquires documents from all the executive branches of Taipei City. In 1972 it received a set of 222 volumes of Guo min zheng fu gong bao 國民政府公報 1925-1948. This is an important source for names, dates, and important events of the period and includes general governmental orders and announcements, communiqués, speeches, laws, and appointments.

One of the collection’s more prized possessions is an early edition of Mao Zedong xuan ji 毛泽东选集 (Selected Works of Mao Zedong), published in 1944. This is the earliest and the first genuine collection of Mao’s writings and provides documentary background for a better understanding of the content of Mao Zedong’s thought and the course of its development. This copy, with Mao’s autograph, is on permanent loan from the collection of Paul Domke.

In 1944, Mr. Paul Domke was a member of the US Army Observer Group, better known as the Dixie Mission, which was sent to the headquarters of the Communist Party of China in Yan’an, a remote town in northwestern China’s Shaanxi Province. This was the first official contact between the US government and the Chinese Communists, who were united at the time in the war against Japan. Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and many other leaders met and had long discussions with Mr. Domke and other mission members in Yan’an. Mr. Domke was presented this autographed copy of Mao’s collected works shortly before his departure from Yan’an in 1945.

The Center for Chinese Studies has recently added the study of minorities in China as one of its areas of emphasis. Recent trips by the China selector to China resulted in the acquisition of a number of titles about minorities. One of the more exciting gifts the library has received in recent years is Naxi Dongba gu ji yi zhu quan ji 纳西东巴古籍译
An annotated collection of Naxi Dongba manuscripts donated by the Dongba Culture Museum in the ancient city of Lijiang, Yunnan Province, China, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This 100-volume set presented to the university and library by an 11-member delegation led by the mayor of Lijiang is a complete collection of all existing Dongba religious documents of Yunnan’s Naxi people written in Dongba, the only living pictographic writing system used in the world today.

The genesis of this gift is the relationship University of Hawaii botanist and ethnologist Joseph F. Rock created with the Dongba from 1920 to 1949 when he lived with the Naxi near Lijiang, learning Dongba, translating manuscripts, and studying and writing about the Naxi for National Geographic Magazine. The gift is meant to honor him and is a symbol of friendship and the historical bond between Lijiang and Hawaii.

In 1999 Professor Tseng Yuho Ecke and Dr. Gustav Ecke donated 423 pre-1949 books (510 volumes) on Chinese art and archaeology that they were able to bring out of China. Most of the books are out of print and not widely held in U.S. libraries. Professor Tseng Yuho Ecke continued to donate other books from their collection until 2006 when she moved to China.

Recently the University of Hawaii became one of only 100 libraries worldwide to be included in the National Library of China’s “Window to China” program. Through this program the China Collection receives 200 books per year.

Hawaii’s geographic location and plantation economy drew sizeable numbers of Chinese to the islands in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Later, many descendants of these early immigrants became prominent in business, government, education, and specialized professions. Sun Yat-sen was educated in part in Hawaii and returned to the islands several times to seek support from the local Chinese community for his revolution against Manchu rule in China. Liang Qichao, a political reformer and scholar and opponent of Sun, came to Hawaii to start a movement in opposition to Sun Yat-sen’s revolutionary movement. During Sino-Japanese War of 1937-1945 local Chinese supported relief activities and public works projects in China. This rich history of the Chinese in Hawaii is recorded in the many newspapers, directories, and other publications published in Hawaii for the local Chinese population. Publications dated from 1897 relating to this history are located within the University of Hawaii Library in its Hawaii and Asia collections.

As of June 2006, the Chinese language collection had 150,859 volumes of monographs, 1,260 titles of current serials, 11,766 pieces of microforms, and 636 pieces in other formats. Currently Mrs. Kuang-Tien Yao, previously the Chinese cataloger, is the China specialist in the Asia Collection.
More than 10 years prior to the establishment of the Japanese Studies Program in 1920, one of the first acquisition lists from the university archives enumerates gift books from a member of the Japanese royal family, thus documenting the early strong and enduring link between the university, the library and Japan.

When the University of Hawaii established its Japanese Studies Program in 1920, it became its first formal Asian studies program. In 1921, UH President Arthur Dean appointed Dr. Tasuku Harada (原田助) of Doshisha University in Kyoto to teach Japanese history, language, and literature. Dr. Harada became quite involved in library affairs and in 1926 contacted Viscount Eiichi Shibusawa (渋沢栄一) in Japan to help build the library’s Japanese language collection. Viscount Shibusawa donated 500 yen on the spot and later solicited additional donations totaling 5,000 yen which went toward the purchase of more than 3,000 Japanese books in 1928. Dr. Masaharu Anesaki (姉崎正治) of the University of Tokyo selected these books, which bear a special bookplate depicting the U.S., Hawaiian, and Japanese flags with the name “Japanese Friends in Japan and Hawaii.” In 1932, Gensaku Nakamura (中村源作), a retired Honolulu banker, began working for the library as a volunteer consultant and donated 5,000 Japanese books to the library. He also assisted in cataloging them. While the size of his donation was unusual, his assistance typified the importance Japanese-American students and the local community have placed on helping build the collection.

In 1929 Tadao Kunitomo (国友忠夫) was hired as a Japanese language instructor. He and Dr. Harada in 1930 co-authored Introduction to Colloquial Japanese, a hugely popular textbook, which Yukuo Uyehara (上原征生), a Japanese instructor hired in 1933, revised for a 2nd edition in 1934. Funded in part by the Carnegie Foundation and Japan’s Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai (KBS) [Center for International Cultural Relations], the precursor of the Japan Foundation, the 1930s saw a steady stream of distinguished Japanese visiting scholars to the university. Among the notables were: Rokuro Nakaseko (中瀬古六郎) (1928-1929), Masamichi Royama (朝山政道) (1934), Eiichi Kiyooka (清岡映一) (1936), Shigeji Kimura (木村重治) (1927-1939), Junjiro Takakusu (高楠順次郎) (1939), and Daisetsu Suzuki (鈴木大拙) (1939).

With the establishment of the Oriental Institute in 1935, acquisition of Japanese books markedly increased. In 1935, Gensaku Nakamura went to Japan at the behest of the Institute to purchase books for the library. Reportedly, he engaged in energetic discussions with Japanese government officials, publishers, and others to convince them to give books to the library. In 1936, KBS, as a result of negotiations with Gregg Sinclair, donated 4,000 books to the Oriental Library. Sinclair had advocated previously that the Oriental Institute try to persuade KBS to make it a “depository,” which he believed would then put the university in a better position to win grants and awards from U.S. educational and research foundations. There is no evidence that KBS ever granted such a designation, but the library and university’s long relationship with KBS and its successor, the Japan Foundation, has been a fruitful one up to the present day.
The mid 1930s until the outbreak of the War saw the acquisition of a number of large collections. In 1937, Institute for Pacific Relations (IPR) president Peter Buck recommended that the IPR’s entire library be turned over to the Oriental Library. In 1941, the Hawaii State Library’s Oriental Library transferred to the university’s Oriental Library its Prince Fushimi Memorial Scholarship Society Oriental Library ([伏見宮記念奨学会東洋文庫](Fushimi-no-miya Kinen Shogakkai Toyo Bunko)), a collection of about 2,500 volumes of Japanese books it had received in 1935 from the Fushimi Society. The Society had been established on behalf of Prince Fushimi of Japan who had visited Hawaii in 1907. He was so moved by the warm welcome of the local Japanese community that he donated money for them to use. The local Japanese community set up the Fushimi Society as a vehicle to provide scholarships for study in Japan, make available a collection of Japanese language materials, and compile Japanese language textbooks.

Other large collections of books were acquired either through acquisitions trips taken by faculty members with funding from the Institute or through gifts from local Japanese Americans or from friends and institutions in Japan. Of particular note, the family of Bishop Emyo Imamura (今村恵猛), the influential first bishop of the Buddhist sect Honpa Hongwanji in Hawaii, donated 2,800 Japanese books from his collection to the library in 1939. The family donated more of his books later.

In addition to print materials, from the late 1930s to the early 1940s, KBS sent to the Oriental Institute and the Japanese Department sets of lantern slides, of which approximately 600 slides eventually made their way to the library. The typical slide is 3 ¼ x 4 inches in size. The majority are black and white positives of Japanese paintings, sculptures, landscapes, and architecture. The slides are accompanied by a 5-volume catalog *The Japanese Arts through Lantern Slides* published by KBS to “help to explain the history and characteristics of each art.” Somewhat later, the descendants of the local Japanese leader Takie Okumura (奥村多喜衛) donated to the library a collection of 1,000 lantern slides he had collected in the late 19th century. These slides contain images of hand painted landscapes, illustrations of traditional stories and moral teachings, and photographs of Japanese architecture.

The library’s current Japan specialist, Tokiko Bazzell, is directing a project to digitize all these slides and put them on the web.

In 1964, Dr. Masato Matsui (松井正人) was hired by the East-West Center to be the Japanese Studies Librarian. Matsui remained in this post for 35 years and oversaw the remarkable expansion of the Japan Collection’s holdings and the transfer of the Japan collection back to the university. Over the course of his tenure, Matsui published 14 library reports and bibliographies, many of them funded by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission. Among those was *Japanese Performing Arts: an Annotated Bibliography*, which reported on the superb collection developed over the years in response to the creation in 1951 of the university’s renowned Asian Theatre Program. Recent important additions on the performing arts include gifts of Japanese theater manuscripts from Stanley Kaizawa and long-time former director of the program James Brandon. *Nan’yo (South Seas): an Annotated Bibliography* describes a body of Japanese materials which reflect the university’s interest in the Pacific, Southeast Asia, and Japan. The often rather obscure, but immensely important, official reports and books which comprise this collection document Japanese interest and activities in these regions.

The year 1964 was also significant for the acquisition of the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection on the Ryukus. Aided by donations from the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii, the university was able to purchase Hawley's Ryukyu collection. The Sakamaki/Hawley Collection has over 5,000 items, consisting mostly of Ryukyu source materials. The Ryukyu materials (over 2,000 copies/936 items) were collected by the late English journalist Frank Hawley (1906-1961) and are complemented by the personal collection of former University of Hawaii professor Shunzo Sakamaki. When Frank Hawley died in 1961, Prof. Sakamaki contacted the family and started negotiating the purchase of the collection. This collection, along with previously collected works on the Ryukyus and subsequent acquisitions, make Hawaii’s resources on the Ryukyus the best in the world outside Japan. Essays by Mitsugu Sakihara (崎原貢) and the bibliographies in *Ryukyu: an Annotated Bibliography* describe the history of Okinawan studies in Hawaii and the U.S. and resources available at the University of Hawaii. Also see the Japan Collection’s Sakamaki/Hawley Collection website at: http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/special/sakamaki/index.htm

One year prior to these events, the East-West Center Library secured the Glenn Shaw Collection consisting of over 6,000 items, mostly in Japanese and dating from as early as the Edo period (1603-1867), but also significant numbers of books in English and Shaw’s own writings and translations. Shaw lived in Japan from 1913 until 1957, with the exception of the War and immediate post-war years. He held various academic, journalistic, and governmental positions during his years in Japan. Of particular note was his association with modern Japanese writers whose works he translated. His huge collection, which the university inherited when the East-West Center Library passed to the Asia Collection, documents a significant portion of 20th century Japanese history, political, cultural, and literary. The books Shaw gave to the library are not housed as a collection, but are identifiable from bookplates inserted in each of the books.

By the early 1970s the Japan collection was ranked 6th nationally, in part due to the flush cash resources of the university and the East-West Center and in no small measure to the energy of those in Japanese studies and the library to secure donations in kind and in cash. This situation prevailed throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, by which time the collection had grown to 90,000 volumes in Japanese. Donations continued apace with the gift by the widow of the novelist Toshiyuki Kajiyama (梶山季之) of his 7,000-volume library. The collection features works on Korea; Japanese emigration documents covering North and South America, Hawai‘i and Southeast Asia; materials documenting Japanese colonization activities in Manchuria, Taiwan and Southeast Asia/Pacific; historical, political and economic books on Japan from the Edo to post-World War II period; and Mr. Kajiyama’s own works with source materials http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/special/kajiyama/index.htm).
Another notable acquisition was the collection of early 20th century Japanese language school textbooks from a local Japanese language school. These schools were a source of extreme (racially motivated) controversy in the early 20th century, and the textbooks they used are valuable source documents about the schools and social climate in Hawaii at that time.

In Hawaii, as elsewhere, the 1990s saw a deterioration in the fiscal resources of the state with consequent loss of funding to the university and the library. The Japan Collection was particularly hard hit for reasons not entirely clear; it fell in national rankings from 11th in the late 1980s to 16th by the year 2000. Despite the Collection’s inability to purchase new materials at the rate it would like, the interest and work of UH faculty members, librarians, community supporter ensured that donations continued.

In 1993, through the mediation of a UH faculty member, the university and library acquired a large collection of social movement materials from Koji Takazawa (高沢皓司), a freelance journalist, editor, and writer who participated in the New Left protest movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s. From the website (http://www.takazawa.hawaii.edu/) of the collection:

The collection contains 1,800 books and over 9,000 issues of magazines, 1,200 serial titles, and the majority of which are not available in any other library. It also contains pamphlets, manuscripts, clipping files, trial documents, handbills, letters, audiovisual materials, folders of miscellaneous materials, and artifacts.

The collection’s greatest strength lies in its primary materials from the many New Left social movements of the 1960s through 1980s. These materials comprise a running record of most of the major political and social conflicts in postwar Japan, both domestic and international. They include: conflicts over the American military presence in Japan; Japanese response to the Vietnam war; student movements; citizens’ movements and environmental movements; women’s movements; minority rights movements involving indigenous groups and groups traditionally discriminated against; movements concerning Korean and Chinese resident in Japan and foreign workers; peace movements; labor movements; anti-emperor movements; movements against airport construction and land appropriations; prison reform and anti-death penalty movements; the reversion of Okinawa and other Okinawan movements; movements related to Japanese policy in North and South Korea; and Japanese involvement in liberation movements in the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America.
In 1999 Tokiko Y. Bazzell became the Japan specialist in the library. That year the noted author and Japanologist Oliver Statler donated 60 archival boxes of correspondence, research notes, manuscripts, source materials, brochures, clippings, postcards, maps, art prints, photographs, slides, films, and audiotapes along with 109 boxes of books to the library (http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/special/statler/index.htm). A year later the family of Japanese lecturer, and later Chair of the East Asian Language Department, Yukuo Uyehara, who was hired by the Oriental Institute in the mid 1930s, donated 2,000 books from his library to the Japan Collection. Under Tokiko’s guidance the Japan Collection has developed a rich collection of Shashi materials (self-published company histories) using grants from the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) Multivolume Sets Program (MVS) and other funding agencies to finance their acquisition (http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/company/index.htm). The Shashi materials support an outstanding international business program at the university.

Great and really good collections have a common characteristic: they have deep roots in community – that community may be a nationwide academic one which particularly values that collection and views it as a national treasure or the community may be a local non-academic one seeing the collection as part of its cultural heritage. These communities channel to the collection resources which the institution itself or state are unable to provide, be they financial or in kind. What is particularly striking about the Japan Collection is the pride so many in the local community have in the collection. Their extraordinary labors on behalf of Japanese Studies and the Japan Collection span the entire life of Japanese studies at the University of Hawaii from its inception in 1920 to the present. The efforts of these individuals have made what would otherwise be a good collection into an exceptional collection. Within the past year, the State of Hawaii has approved the creation and funding of a Center for Okinawan Studies, an effort jointly spearheaded by the Japan faculty within the university and the local Okinawan community. The center’s creation promises to further enrich Japanese studies at the university and the library collection supporting the study of Okinawa.

Korea Collection

Though Koreans had first arrived on Hawaii's shores in 1904, primarily as immigrant laborers to work the sugar plantations, the emergence of anything like Korean studies was long in coming. Despite Gregg Sinclair’s efforts to develop Asian Studies at the university, records indicate that it was 1949, nearly fifty years after the arrival of the first Koreans in Hawaii, twelve years after the establishment of the Oriental Institute, and four years after the liberation of Korea from Japan, that the University of Hawaii began formal language instruction in Korean. These first courses were taught by Mr. Kwandoo Park. As with the university’s other Asia area studies programs, the establishment of the East-West Center in 1960 stimulated growth in Korean Studies.

In 1972, with over a dozen Korea-specialist faculty located in several departments across campus, the university formally established the Korean Studies Center. 1980 saw the formal institution of a Korean Studies curricula within the newly-formed Center for
Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS) and for the first time the establishment of a second position for Korean history in the History Department. The completion in 1980 of the $1.5 million Korean Studies Center Building, funded jointly by the Republic of Korea, the State of Hawaii, and the local community, brought a new visibility, physical presence, and vibrancy to Korean Studies at the university. Thanks in part to ongoing generous funding from the local Korean-American community and the Korean government, the Center for Korean Studies has thrived and become one the university’s bedrock international programs. In 1995, the Korea Foundation made a $1 million grant to the center and promised an additional $1 million if the university raised a matching $1 million. Local businessman and Center director Chung Lee led a campaign successfully raising the matching $1 million, thereby giving Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii a $3 million endowment, which the center uses to support research and instruction as well as library activities.

The genesis of the Korea collection dates from 1938 when prominent local Korean doctor You Chan Yang (1897-1975) generously donated to the library a collection of rare Korean books in memory of his wife who had died the previous year. In 1951 Dr. Yang was to become the South Korean ambassador to the United States under the presidency of Syngman Rhee, whom he considered a close friend. The Yang collection of books is currently held in Korea Special Collections. A few years later in 1943 the Korean American Cultural Association contributed a number of books to the still small but growing collection. The following year the association made similar donations which started collections at the University of California, American University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Chicago. Among the cultural aims of this association, founded in Los Angeles in 1939, was “establishing Korean libraries in American universities. Advertisements were published in Korean newspapers for donations of books.” Gregg Sinclair, president of the University of Hawaii, was elected chair of the association’s library committee in the early 1940s.

Development of what would become the Korea Collection became more systematic in the early 1960s thanks in no small part to the Cold War and the ideological standoff on the Korean peninsula. When the East-West Center took over the Oriental Library in the early 1960s, it made a conscious decision to expand its holdings on Korea. In 1964, the Korea Collection had grown to nearly 3,000 volumes, a growth pattern that shadowed a trend in Asia collections throughout the U.S. In 1968, Mr. Yong Kyu Choo, formerly with the East Asiatic Library of the University of California, Berkeley, joined the University of Hawaii’s Social Science Research Institute as its Korean bibliographer and also assisted the East-West Center in developing its Korean collection. In 1969 Sam Suk Hahn joined the university as a part-time Korean Collection bibliographer and continued in this position until his retirement in 1992. The establishment of the Center for Korean Studies in 1972 spurred further development of the Korea collection. As the focal point for the study of Korea at the university, its programs guide collection building in Korean studies. It has also been a source of financial and personnel support for the library. Its generous financial contributions to the library have been vital to the development the collection. In the past, it regularly “loaned” Korea specialists to the library to help in processing and
collection development. Until 1992, when the library hired Dr. Kyungmi Chun as its full-time Korea specialist, the Korean Studies Center partially funded the library position.

By 1985 the Korea Collection had grown to nearly 30,000 volumes. Important acquisitions during this period included the Asami Collection on microfilm in 1982, the Kyujanggak microfilm collection in 1984, and a major grant of books from the estate of Robert Kinney, who had served for much of his diplomatic career in Korea. In the 1980s University of Hawaii professor of Korean History Prof. Yong-ho Ch’oe accompanied Sam Hahn on several acquisitions trips to Korea, during which they often visited used book dealers. This period saw the acquisition of a very rare collection of documents from the Japanese colonial period, the Chosŏn Ch’ŏngdokpu Chungch’uwon/Chosen Sotokufu Chusuin.37

The Korea Collection covers a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social science with emphasis on economics, history, language, literature, linguistics, politics, and sociology. Since 1994, the collection has participated in the Korean Collections Consortium of North America, a cooperative acquisitions program funded by the Korea Foundation. Annually, the foundation gives the library an assortment of monographs, serials, and audiovisual materials as well as money for acquisitions. Within this program Hawaii has assumed responsibility for collecting materials on the island of Cheju-do, architecture, urban studies, social conditions, traditional music, history to 1392, nationalism, public health, and publications on Korea and Koreans published in Europe, Russia, and Hawaii. As of 2005, the Korea Collection held nearly 60,000 volumes, 400 serial subscriptions, 1,600 microforms, and nearly 500 audio-visual titles, including a growing collection of Korean feature films.

Among the Korea Collection’s more notable holdings are microfilm copies of many notable collections. These include:

- The collection of Dr. Imanishi Ryu (今西 龍, 1875-1932), a noted Japanese scholar who specialized in the study of Korean historical sources, currently owned by Tenri Central Library, Japan. His collection entitled Imanishi Hakushi shū Chosen Chōsenbon 今西博士集 朝鮮本 (Korean historical resources) contains mostly works produced during Korea’s Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910)
- Kyujanggak 규장각 朝鮮國 皇家圖書館 (Chosŏn Dynasty Royal Library)
- Microfilm from the C.V. Starr collection at Columbia University

Another important holding of the Korean collection is a 429 volume collection of partial manuscripts of the of the Japanese Governor General of Korea (Chosŏn Ch’ŏngdokpu Chungch’uwon/Chosen Sotokufu Chusuin 조선총독부 중추원 朝鮮總督府 中樞院).

In 1995 the late University of Hawaii professor of Korean literature, Dr. Marshall Pihl, bequeathed his collection of rare Korean books to the Korea Collection, where they now form a part of the special collections. The Pihl Collection is notable for its rich holdings of books written in the Korean phonetic script (hangül), which was rarely used before the 20th century.
Advances in digital technology have increased exponentially the potential for access to Korean language material both current and historical. The library subscribes to four Korean online databases providing access to thousands of Korean journals, primary historical and literary source materials, and reference collections. The development of digitization projects in Korea by major archives and research centers has also made available a rich storehouse of traditional sources.