

# International Matchmakers:

Connecting People to  
Korean Scholarly Information

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# Focus of My Talk

Impact of Recent Developments in  
Korea on Korean Studies  
Communities Outside of Korea

# Korean Studies Outside of Korea: A Brief History

- First Korean language courses offered in late 1930s & early 1940s
- Korean War in 1950 ignites a national interest in Korea
- Universities begin to offer Korean history and culture courses
- By 1960, six notable Korean collections had accumulated
- Korean Studies in the U.S. flourished since the late 1980s

# Current Status of Korean Studies

- Currently 3,354 Korean Studies scholars exist in 91 countries (source: Online *Koreanists* Directory [www.kf.or.kr](http://www.kf.or.kr))
- China (961 Koreanists), USA (518), Russian Federation (270), Japan (212)

# Korean Studies Collections

- 47 Korean collections exist in North American academic institutions (source: CEAL Statistics, 2007)
- 18 libraries have more than 10,000 vols.
- Combined holdings: 1.1 million volumes

# Korean Collections

- Fastest growing among East Asian (EA) collections
- In 1960, Korean consisted of 0.9% of all EA collections
- By 2007, it has grown to 7%

# Fiscal & Personnel Support FY 2007

- 7.8% of overall EA acquisitions budget
- 13.5% of overall EA librarians
- 11% of overall EA support staff
- Minority of minorities!

# Korea's Strengths

- Information technology
- Digital content

# National “Informatization” Project

- Adopted as a core strategy in the midst of 1997 Korean financial crisis
- “Informatization” means a process of creating an advanced information society
- \$Billions invested on digitizing national knowledge

# Korea's Ambition

To become world's first "Ubiquitous Society" where information can be accessed from "anywhere, at any time, by anyone and anything"

# Current State

- Virtual libraries fast becoming a reality
- Information technology so pervasive that they are not conscious of it

# Impact on International Access

- Abundant free resources accessible from anywhere
- Dissertations, rare books, historic newspapers/documents, maps, movies, statistics, etc. etc.
- Full-texts linked from indexes, bibliographies, table of contents, etc.
- Copyright Management Center enables painless access to copyrighted resources

# Portal Sites to Aid Discovery

- [www.knowledge.go.kr](http://www.knowledge.go.kr)
- [www.dlibrary.go.kr](http://www.dlibrary.go.kr)
- And many other portal sites

# Commercial Databases

- E Korean Studies—a multi-vendor consortium [www.ekoreanstudies.com](http://www.ekoreanstudies.com)
- All academic disciplines (including North Korean)
- Integrated searching
- Expensive!

# Task Force for Collective Negotiation

- Represents all interested libraries
- Organized a free trial period

# To Join in the Collective Deal...

Contact:

**Hana Kim**, Chair

CEAL Committee on Korean Materials, &  
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# Librarians the Matchmakers

The

Korea—Los Angeles—New Zealand

Connection

So ... Fellow Librarians,

Keep On Matchmaking!



# My Time's Up, But...

I would love to hear from you!

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