FOURTY-SIXTH ANNUAL EASL CONFERENCE
Heidelberg, CATS library

2-4 September 2026

MINUTES

Marc Winter

Wednesday, 2nd September
CATS Auditorium (room 010.01.05), Voßstr. 2, Building 4010, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany

09:00 – 09:30 Registration
CATS Auditorium
09:30 – 10.30 Opening Session (open to all).
CATS Auditorium

Local organiser Hanno welcomes everybody and introduces Jochen Apel, director of the university library.

Jochen Apel gives a very friendly introduction to EASL and mentions the history of Heidelberg University, which is Germany's oldest library, founded in 1386. He mentions the Bibliotheka Pallatina, the treasure of Heidelberg Library, which was taken after the catholic conquest of Heidelberg in the 1620s and transported to the Vatican, and which came back from the Vatican in the 19th century, according to negotiation during the the Vienna Congress. The collection of Bibliotheka Pallatina has since been completely digitized. We are going to see some volumes in the University Library's rare book section on Thursday. The library has been digitized in close collaboration with the library of the Vatican. From there he explains the mission and commitment of the university library.
He then moves to the CATS library, mentioning some of its key works and once again welcomes everyone to Heidelberg.

Greeting words from Delphine, who mentions the regular attendees and some less regular who are absent : Youn-hi Hughes, Anne Sapich, Thomas Tabery, Olivier Höhn, Kunyi Zheng, Jekaterina Pavlova, Anthony Ho, Miriam Seeger, Friederike Schimmelpfennig, Yan He, Romain Lefebvre, Datwei Lau and Øystein Johan Kleiven.

Then there is a round of short self-introduction of all present.

Finally and before the break, Hanno provides general information regarding the meeting:
- Visits planned; meeting times and meeting points
- Farewell dinner: details, choosing the meal, payment in the restaurant.

10.30 – 11:00 Group photo & coffee break.

11:00 – 13:00 Internal meeting (EASL members only).
CATS Room 010.00.06

Notes of participants, latest developments of EASL libraries during the past year, current issues, upcoming projects:

Delphine Spicq (Paris, Collège de France) provides an overview of the current issues, primarily budgetary constraints, which are a pressing concern for most libraries. The Collège de France has to dispose of duplicate and triplicate copies stored on the outskirts of Paris, an area that the Collège de France will soon be handing back to the township of Paris. The library is willing to give these books away, but so far nobody in France has expressed an interest in having them. We plan to offer them for donation in Europe. We are currently tackling a shortage of staff; we hope to make some replacements before the end of the year. There have been minor budget cuts so far.
Last November, the Collège de France hosted a conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European Association for Chinese Studies, which was founded in Paris at the Collège de France in 1975.
We have to catalogue our large collection of books, volume by volume, as this has not been done before, since the Alma system requires a record for each physical volume. This means that we have to re-catalogue more than 30,000 volumes so that the collections can be properly implemented into the system. Since 2014, we have been cataloguing into the French University Union Catalogue (SUDOC), and the notices created prior to this will be migrated into the SUDOC once the collections have been catalogued volume by volume. Currently, we are restoring a Jesuit atlas from 1785, as well as the Atlas of the Shengjing hunting ground from 1843, and a scroll written in Mongolian relating to the embassy of a Mongolian prince sent by the Jiaqing Emperor to the enthronement of the 9th Dalai Lama in Lhasa.

Marc Winter (Zürich, University Library): As you may recall, the institute library was integrated into the newly formed university library in 2022. The construct was that there would be a discipline specialist for every discipline called “Liaison Librarians” and there would be media specialists and user services. We were promised the following: Since librarians could work in several roles, there would be a reduction of parallels and basically this thing would pay for itself. Still university funded a starting fund for the first five years.
They hired a library director with the energy of a benevolent youth pastor and who is apparently neither an expert at fighting conflicts nor at finance and bookkeeping. The university directorate member who in charge of the library retired at the end of June wanting to see the university library reduce its budget so that the additional funding used for the starting phase could be reduced again.
The budget demands were of course not met because a central staff suddenly appeared as well as other positions for measuring performance, communication and a whole other variety of other activities that did not involve moving books or interacting with users.
In the first half of the year, matters became serious when the liaison librarian for general history left for the Central Library (better pay) and was not replaced. The argument suddenly became that these liaison librarians were too numerous, too expensive and that they basically useless. The university directorate didn’t want to acknowledge the work that the liaison librarians t had done without a pay rise for the last six years. So many senior members of the libraries felt that the library director left us standing in the rain rather than standing up for us.
So, for the first half of the year 2026 we spent most of our time in emergency meetings, trying to organize opposition to our being pushed into insignificance. This of course meant that fewer and fewer books were being processed. We manage to fend off the immediate danger of being eliminated, but were still stuck with a director that nobody trusts anymore. He has announced that he will stay for an additional year. He was originally due to retire in 2027, but will stay on for another year rather than allow a new start after this complete mess.

Locally, my colleague Lars, who was very good, understanding and tech savvy, also left to find employment at the Central Library, which is understandable. However, the library did not replace him, so we lost 60% FTE and from October 1st I will have double the workload.
Institute news
As far as the collection is concerned, we are facing the prospect of having to move, which will result in significantly reduced shelf space for books. Consequently, we will have to select which books to keep before moving out. Originally these books were to be housed in an external storage facility close to Zürich. However, the relevant persons were convinced that the books and the librarians working on them and being able to read them should stay closer, so the current plan is to find a facility within walking distance, where we can keep our books. No concrete plans have been made so far.
Overall, there is much more uncertainty than there was a year ago or even four years ago. As I have said in previous years, however, the Chinese collection is relatively well-off, because we have a unique collection. The only problem is that we have too few students for such a large library.

Hanno (Heidelberg Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies CATS) Also budget cuts, but Heidelberg is relatively well-off. The budget of the CATS library depends on the institute's budget. But East Asian (Sinology, Japanology, East Asian Art History) disciplines are deeply in the red. Despite all of this, the library manages to get along, although cutbacks on the student assistants were unavoidable. Cutbacks are not so much on the user services, but mainly on the cataloguing assistants. The library got great donations, which were accepted, because they are very special, but current literature and current research are of course underrepresented. Heidelberg has a couple of cooperation programs (Nanjing Yishu Xueyuan, Harvard University) which helps to finance books. Bottomline: Heidelberg is – compared to other institutions – still pretty ok. Heidelberg started using a new library system (Discovery) and they have mixed results with it. New applications to display objects to visitors. Sunhui is on maternity leave, and she is temporarily being replaced by Gesche, who herself is replaced by Britta.

Matthias & Anna (Berlin State Library): First Matthias introduces Anna as a new colleague at the library. He also reports that the Prussian Heritage Foundation is experiencing financial difficulties, but the State Library is financed by German Research Fund, so the is not as bad. Berlin museums, which were all under one organizational roof, are now all independent. Staff turnover is a problem many staff will retire by the mid-2030s and so the future of the institutions is uncertain. CrossAsia and the East Asian department have to renew their application to the German Research Fund for the next five years, which will be challenging. The Building on Potsdamer Strasse will be closed for over 10 years for restoration work. Offices will be moved to a new building. The premodern collection will have to move out. The stacks have been emptied (6 million books) and restauration will start in 2029 or 2030. Various conferences have been held. With the support of Academia Sinica, all pre-modern books have been digitized and made available for full-text search. Academia Sinica was found to have the best OCR-tool. They digitised the Unschuld Collection of premodern medicine. Matthias then reminds colleagues about the CrossAsia email list, which helps to keep people up to date. He also mentioned the possibility of obtaining resources through Blauer Leihverkehr. The restauration of the library building will cost over 1 billion Euro and the financing has to be finalised first. The delay to the restauration work is due to these financing questions. Stabi took a large collection of newspaper microfilms from the Giga Institute in Hamburg.

Han-Lin Hsieh (British Library): The BL is also facing budget cuts. British Library will have a new CEO, hopefully by the end of the year. BL still recovers from the cyber attack of 2023. Han-Lin gives details of colleagues who are assigned new jobs and maybe under the new CEO colleagues will go back to their positions (details, see below). BL is still transferring ALLEGRO catalogue entries to ALMA. The good news is that after the attack, the BL website and catalogue

are finally online again. Manuscript and archive materials pre-1920s there is a searchable catalogue on the website (local solutions), but the data is only up to 2023. Emma is on maternity leave until next supper with Sarah and Han-Lin taking over her duties. Funding was secured to restart the IDP Lecture Series.
Organisational information:
Jiyeon Wood has been appointed as Lead Curator of East Asian collections from 20 April 2024. **Kitty Liu** rejoined the IDP team as IDP Partners and Activities Coordinator from 8 June 2026. **Emma Harrison** is on maternity leave until summer 2027. **Alexavier Iu** continues as cataloguer, Chinese retro-conversion projects, until 31/03/2027.
A new Alma and Primo VE-based Main Catalogue has been launched in December 2025, providing an integrated platform for discovering and requesting the library's published collections. An interim Blacklight-based Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue has also been launched in December 2025, providing public access to searchable records for the library's archives, manuscripts and visual arts collections. A new revamped British Library Website (Bl.uk) has been implanted 40 Chinese manuscript images are available again on the British Library website through Blacklight-based Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue
The IDP symposium and steering group (11 –12 June 2026) brought together IDP partners to discuss the progress around accessibility of Dunhuang and Silk Roads collections within their institutions. The symposium, which was open to the public, was jointly hosted by the BnF and the Musée Guimet on the theme of "Emerging technologies for Dunhuang manuscripts, paintings and artefacts restorations and conservation process".

Mamtimyn Sunuodula (Oxford): the libraries have been restaffed. The Oxford library has appointed a subject librarian specialising in Chinese and Korean. Several key figures in the leadership of humanities library have retired. Collection development: a new series "China and the Modern World" has been started. There is a reluctance to buy online Chinese resources resulting in increased spending on paper books. Oxford has acquired the Newspaper Database and the Zhonghua Gujiku from Zhonghua Shuju. The rare books and special collection include substantial collection of manuscripts and rare books and the catalogue has been finally launched. There is a catalogue for Chinese, but also for Japanese and Manchu books. Digitisation: the entire manuscript collection has been digitized. Funding for the digitization is still been sought; the library is engaging in fundraising activities. He then tells details about certain books which were donated a long time ago, the earliest donated by a bishop in the 15th century. Mamtimyn started a lecture series, inviting speakers and securing funding, giving details on the separate lectures. The library plans an exhibition on Edward Backhouse in 2029.

Ruili Zhang (Manchester): Following strong usage and positive feedback from academic staff, our Library has renewed its subscription to the CNKI E-Books service. The collection includes over 9,300 high-quality titles from China's leading scholarly publishers, with full text access and downloadable volumes to support teaching, research, and Chinese humanities studies.
The John Rylands Research Institute generously funded Dr Zhaokun Xin's project, *Subversive or Transgressive: Censoring Culture in China at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century*, through a Pilot Grant. The award enabled access to the Chinese Special Collections, archival research, digitisation of key materials, and a related workshop hosted at the John Rylands Library immersing participants in the archival hub. The workshop fostered international collaboration, broadened the project's original scope, and will culminate in a special issue on censorship in late imperial and modern China, with many articles engaging with works preserved in the Chinese Special Collection at the John Rylands Library.
The University of Manchester Library has published *Imagine2035*, its ten-year vision for the period 2026 to 2035. This project, engaging 200 colleagues, has been shaped by listening to students, researchers and partners across the University and beyond. It sets out how Britain's third-largest academic library system intends to deliver the University's *Manchester 2035* strategy and to contribute to the international conversation about the future of research

libraries.The full strategy can be viewed on the Library website.

Katarína Feriančiková (Library of Far Eastern Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague): Six departments of Faculty of Arts, including the Department of Sinology and the Library of Far Eastern Studies have to move to a new building. Since initially only five departments should move, there will be definitely lack of space. The move will start in April 2027. We prepared 2000 volumes for open shelves and try to finish cataloguing of books in traditional Chinese binding, which will be moved first, together with books printed up to 1861.

Mart Tsernjuk (Tartu): General introduction to the situation in University of Tartu: institute libraries still exist; for example, the Institute of Foreign Languages and Cultures has its own library. The main university library currently houses the TRCCS, the personal archive of Linnart Mäll (1938-2010), and the UNPO archive. The Centre for Oriental Studies, located in the university's main building, holds the largest collection of Asia-related books. The majority of these are related to Buddhism, including the Chinese and Tibetan Buddhist canons, as well as the Pali canon in both the original language and in translation. The Asia Centre has been moved to a new building, very central within the university.

Eva Tang-Michael (Leipzig University: Also massive budget cuts. Many positions will not be refilled as staff retire. Meanwhile, the library is transitioning to a new system, 'FOLIO,' by 2028. In early August 2026, the branch library of area studies hosted a university summer programme group, where the children learned to write Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic characters.

Cristina Cramerotti (Paris Musée Guimet): A new research center is being planned. More on this during Friday's presentation. The year got off to a disastrous start: library had to close because no staff could be found to replace those who had retired. The library now hired an archivist.

Marc Gilbert (Leiden): The library also faces budget cutes but the acquisition budget for China Studies remains stable. The Leiden Chinese Queer Collection (presented in London) received various donations and attempted to acquire materials from China, Taiwan, Singapore and Chinese communities worldwide. Marc himself was away from the library for several months this year. The digitisation of another batch of materials from the Collection of Unofficial Poetry from China began this year and will continue next year. An event is being organized for April 2027 to celebrate the 5th batch of materials added to the online collection. The Van Gulik Archive is available online. His diaries have been digitized (they are more like agenda than diaries). They are difficult to read as Van Gulik wrote in microscript, they have therefore been transcribed and translated into English. We plan to make the diaries, their transcription and translation available online. On Friday, a new collection from the Leiden special collection, the Wiedenhof Yingbi Collection, will be introduced.

Joshua Seufert (Princeton): Due to budget cuts and Martin Heijdra's exhibitions on global book forms, Joshua was unable to come to London in 2025. Much has changed due to financial pressure, both nationally as well as in the institution. For the first time in Princeton history, an academic department was closed at Princeton due to financial pressure. There also were cuts in travel budgets and students' assistants working hours. The East Asian program stepped up to support for the East Asian Library to fund student assistant hours. Cao Shuwen a specialist in Chinese rare book cataloging retired last year and the library has just hired a new Chinese language cataloger starting September 1. Some positions at the East Asian Library remain unfilled, which means that subject librarians often must take on front desk duties. On July 1, Martin Heijdra was appointed the inaugural Curator of East Asian Rare Books at the Special Collections Department of the main library and Joshua has been promoted as the new director

of the East Asian Library. Several senior positions at Princeton University Library are currently vacant. A new Associate Dean for Humanities and a new Had of Special Collections are being sought. Yale has recently joined the ReCAP partnership that already consisted of Princeton, Columbia, Harvard, and New York Public Library. Current digital projects of the East Asian Library include digitization selections of the Chinese medical collection which will be published in collaborations with Guangxi Shifan Daxue Chubanshe. The third and final year of the Uyghur cataloging project is due to start in January 2027 and the more information on the Uyghur collections will be presented on Friday.

Gian Carlo Danuser (Zürich, Central Library): GC introduces the Swiss Union catalog (SLSP = Swiss library Service Platform) and the problems associated with it. However, the catalogue itself works. The problem lies in displaying stocks in an online catalogue. How do we deal with a heterogeneous catalogue? The university library is facing the problem of having more and more closed stacks, meaning users cannot go and actually see the books for themselves and we are working hard to make people understand what to expect from a book (enrichment of catalogue entries). Cooperation between Central Library and the university Library is still "loose" at this time.

Liang Zhong (Paris, Université Paris Cité): Liang works at the library of the Department of Languages and Civilisations of East Asia (LCAO), which holds four collections in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese.

Wang Jingjing (Institute Monumenta Serica, Germany): Introduces the Sankt Augustin library and collection. 2/3 of the collection is in Chinese. Major issue for the next couple of years will be digitization. A new director has been chosen in 2026.

EASL INTERNALS

Minutes of the 45th meeting (London), which is not available online right now due to the website being down. Any remarks: no. The minutes are accepted.

Report of the Treasurer (Since Cathleen was not present, Delphine read out the statement): Saldo by September 1st 2026: € 1950,45.- Interest by December 31st 2025: € 3,73.-

Reports on other conferences attended
Marc W. talks about the Taiwan conference in January and February. The conference was organized by the National Central Library and the event involved a visit to the newly opened National Archive in Linkou outside Taipeh and the Taiwan Book Fair. During the conference, fiver in-depth presentations were given:

- AI Applications in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Scientific Research
- AI-enhanced Approaches to Taiwan's Digital Databases and Publishing Content
- The Cutting-edge AI Knowledge and Its Application to Empower Library 4.0
- Knowledge Graph and Generative AI as Complementary Technologies: Pointing to New Directions for Knowledge Organization and Reference Service
- Al In Scholarly Communication & Knowledge Infrastructures

Marc then details the concept introduced there of "Library 4.0", which refers to a library in which apparently AI tells readers what other readers have used when researching on the same or a similar subject.

Mamtimyn: attended the conference on Materiality of books and prints from the Ming dynasty at UCLA: It was a hands-on workshop for librarians and students, teaching them how to handle these materials. Mamtimyn suggested organizing more events to discuss about rare books and

special collections. Nothing has been finilised yet, but there may be other workshops organized in the future. Mamtimyn promises to keep us informed.

Matthias: Attended AAS, joining Brill's booth, so they did not organize a panel, but joined in the booth. Booths are not that expensive. Matthias calls it "real fun" to attend AAS like this. It makes sense to communicate this way and Berlin State Library might go to AAS next year again. Joshua suggests an EASL-Booth at AAS.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break
14:30 – 15:45 EALI meeting (<u>EASL members only</u>)
CATS Auditorium

There are no issues concerning EALI. We discussed ways to deal with doubles and triples in the library. Hanno shares that the CATS library sells doubles for €2 (more expensive books cost a little more). He sells books to East Asian natives who have a strong affinity with books. So most of the books are sold to native speakers.

In Paris, Delphine makes people sign a waiver when they donate books. Mami puts them on a trolley and they are gone. Marc says that in Zurich it is difficult as nothing is taken from such carts. They are considering setting aside duplicates for visiting academics. Joshua agrees, saying that they did the same thing when he was in Oxford, citing Dudbridge's collection as an example. This collection went first to Würzburg and then to Olomouc.

Delphine suggests asking institutions, such as the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, for travel money to come to EASL, which could also be used to finance shipping doubles within Europe amongst EASL institutions. The idea of creating a list of duplicates on the website is dismissed as impractical. Instead, colleagues should post on the EASL mailing list if they have any doubles they wish to dispose of.
Another topic: London was well received (meaning full attendance) whereas Heidelberg was not. Is there anything we could or should do about this? The best approach would be to ask colleagues personally. It would be a good idea to contact institutions that have had a change in staff. Marc proposes contacting the heads of the Chinese departments.

There are 137 subscribers to EASL-List. How can we make the meetings more attractive? Joshua suggests circulating the list of speeches well in advance of the meetings so that colleagues can approach their superiors and show them which presentations will be given. He also suggests putting speeches up on the website.

For the next year: the secretary should send out a Call for Papers asking colleagues to announce their contributions by March 1st so that we can put them on the website. This might help colleagues to apply for travel money.

We could also send a mail to EACS, to see if we can use a "library's corner" in the EACS newsletter.

Matthias on licensing: Berlin has shared consortia with Nordic countries. He invites other institutions to join in consortia agreements with Berlin. He invites people to join one of the consortia Berlin has negotiated, similar to what he offered the Nordic countries.

Next EALI meeting: do we need it? A Majority find it makes more sense to prolong the internal meeting.

Marc W. offers the secretary's position. He will be 60 years old next year. So within the next

one to two years he will vacate the position, and he invites colleagues to thing about whether they want to take the position as the EASL secretary. The duties are sending out invitations, keeping track of registrations and updating the website. During the meetings, the secretary keep minutes of the meetings. The search is on for someone to take the secretary's position ideally by 2027.

Joshua introduces the Eide library in Florida (in response to the invitation).

16:00 – 17:00 Tour of the CATS Library (open to all)
Meeting point at 15:55 in CATS Library foyer
Library Tour by Gesche Schröder
18:00 – 19:00 Welcome Reception (open to all).
CATS Auditorium

Thursday, 3 September

CATS Auditorium (room 010.01.05), Voßstr. 2, Building 4010, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany

09:30 – 10:45 Vendors' presentations – Session I (open to all).
CATS Auditorium

09:30 – 09:50 **Yu HU (CIBTC)**: Introducing new products and services.

- PRINT Introducing OSPOL (Online Selection Platform for Overseas Librarians: PDA system (Patron Driven Acquisition).
- PRINT Inventory Sale: Publisher' overstock at significant discounts
- PRINT Daily Picks: 5 Handpicked title every day.
- PRINT Database: Enhanced display with comprehensive database resources
- PRINT MARC Records: Two tiers: Tier 1: Basic Record (no additional costs); Tier 2: Customized Fully customizable records.
- DIGITAL Resources: Xianxiao academy 先晓书院.
- DIGITAL Resources: China Social Sciences Library 中国社会科学文库. Prices start at € 3700.-
- DIGITAL Resources: Keledge 可知: Aggregated platform, Pricing based on selection. No minimum purchase.
- DIGITAL Additional digital resources: 宋代墓志铭数据库, 三晋石刻大全铭数据库, 北朝墓志全集据库. 明代集部文獻數據庫.
- Aidubao: Customizable periodicals: choose 30/50/100 titles for € 1150/€1650/€2300
- Guoji shudian 国际书店: Actual bookstore with over 100 events every year: Author talks, book salon etc.
- Book donation program: Curated program for overseas institutions to promote Chinese culture (partly government program) books and digital resources.

09:50 – 10:10 **Jeff FAN** (United Digital Publications – *lianhe baike* 聯合百科)

- Taiwan academic classics – Lumen – the global Hakka culture database.
- 臺灣漢學雙璧: Cultural Gems: Palace Museum Journals, Sinica Sinoweb – Academia Sinica as digitized versions.ys
- Twelve collections in 3 categories
- Lumen: A discovery layer over collections you already own: AI interface. Open Access AI interface, using plain language. Ex: "What Manchu-language archives survive?". There is a vocabulary gap feature: when searching "naxi" you also get "Mosu" results.
- Global Hakka Cultural Database: 全球客家研究.

10:10 – 10:30 **Jason DAI** (Wanfang Data)

- Wanfang Data update:
- Status of Resource Development: Number of journal titles increased 3,98%, SSC journals: 6% ; China Dissertations SSC: 6,43%; Conference proceedings SSC: 5,62%2, Local Gazetteers: increase 7,42%, China Laws and Regulations: increase 4,72%
- New China Local Gazetteers: Unique resource: July 2026: over 71,000 volumes of special e-books compiled after 1949: New search: multi-dimensional retrieval: paragraph-search in books searchable from one search-box. Book readable in original form.
- AI-enhanced retrieval: "intelligent accelerator" for document processing.
    - Multilingual adaptation: https://globe.wanfangdata.com.hk/app/knowledge
    - Wanfang International Website: Automatic machine translation: Chinese full-text articles translatable into English
    - Paragraph comparison reading mode for machine-translation.

10:30 – 10:50 **Ariane RUECKEBEIL (East View):** What is New from East View?

- List of Partner Publishers: CNKI, *siku quanshu*, Japan News etc. etc.
- Social Science Yearbooks: 中国社会科学鉴数据库: Collection of yearbooks published by the CASS
- Digital Research Platform for Esotheric Studies: Excavated Texts, Minority Languages, Dunhuang, Ethnography. 冷门绝学数智化研究平台. (Data coming From CSSP)
- East Asia Book Vault: About 11,000 e-books. One platform for e-books from East Asia. Higher education press 高等教育出版社.
- Japan Times: GPA Platform gpa.eastview.com/jati
- Xinhua Ribao (Chongqing editions) from Green Apple: Newspaper 1938-1947: legal daily of the CCP I KMT-ruled areas: 32321 issues
- Archive of the Mao Era – 2026 offer: Data range 1949-1976: rich descriptions and metadata on the Mao Era: Government reports, maps, military reports etc.
- CNKI AI Support
- Global Census Archive (More countries added!)
- Thousands of New Print Books: Full-Marc Records available in Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Mongolian.

10:50 – 11:10 Coffee break.
11:10 – 12:10 Vendors' presentations – Session II (<u>open to all</u>).
CATS Auditorium.

11:10 – 11:30 **Claire FENG** (CNKI)

- Selected holdings: Classics & cutting-edge scholarship from thinker books – Zhonghua shuju.
- Selection of high-value collections in recent years: Zhejiang Cultural Historical Memory Series, Essential Clinical Series of TCM, Comprehensive Collection of Modern Mongolian Documents, Collected Essays on the History of Chinese Sculpture.
- Ladder of Success??? Ho Ping-di? From 1962! YES Digitized Version.
- Also: powerful relations: kinship, status Imperial Examinations Fu-Prose in the Tang Dynasty, Collected Commentaries on the Four Books.
- Optimized English Interface & Services
- Refined VPAT-based Accessibility Support.

11:30 – 11:50 **Lorelei DAI** (Shanghai Library)

- One city, many names: Republican era transcriptions of foreign names in its

unregulated and therefore flowing beginnings.

11:50 – 12:10 **Wen GONG** (CASS library)

- Recent Developments at CASS: The Opening of the museum of archaeology in 2023
- Cass Library and branches: Library reaches 7 million volumes: 中国社会科学院大学图书馆. Ancient Book Collection: Over 110,000 volumes. Local Chronicles, Dissertation Library: 610,000 volumes. Library of the University of CASS: 600,000 volumes.
- Data Resource Platform: National Center for Philosophy and Social Science Documentation (NCPSSD): www.ncpssd.cn, Xi Jinping thought on socialism platform
- International Exchange and Cooperation: CASS hosted the World Conference on Classics: Classical Civilization Studies.

12:10 – 13:30 Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00 Guided tour of the Völkerkundemuseum vPST (Ethnographic Museum) (open to all).
15:30 – 16:15 Guided tour of the University Library Special Collections (open to all).

Friday, 4th September

CATS Auditorium (room 010.01.05), Voßstr. 2, Building 4010, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany

09:20 – 11:00 Members' presentations – Session I Minority languages (open to all).
CATS Auditorium

09:30 – 09:50 **Delphine Spicq**, College de France (Paris): *"The Manchu and Mongol collections of the Chinese library of the Collège de France"*:
The talk is just about the Manchu Collection. The Mongol collection is very small. The collection consists of 220 volumes: Calendars, almanacs, dictionaries etc. Translations of Chinese books. Ex: 清文三國志, 御製勸善言. Also written ritual instructions by the *Qianlong*-emperor in Manchu. This book was translated into French: Louis Langlès *Rituel des Tatar-Mandschoux*. Later severely translated by Prussian orientalist Julius Klaproth. Collection of Dharanis, magic spells and chants in Manchu, Mongolian and Tibetan. Finally the 寶訓圖註.
Second half of the talk is about provenance. The provenance is in the context of the Jesuits, who had to learn Manchu before they learned Chinese. Other missionary activities also required learning the Manchu language. Abel Rémusat after 1824 was also responsible for Chinese and Manchu books at the predecessor of the BNF and since he was a professor at the Collège de France he might have taken individual books from one collection to the other. Paul Pelliot was also responsible for bringing some Manchu books into the library. Pelliot was caught up in the Boxer war, later (1809 Pelliot) discovered the Mogao Ku in Dunhuang, died unexpectedly in 1945. Louis Hambis (1902-1978), a successor of Pelliot, taught Chinese and Manchu. He also has a large collection of Russian, Tibetan, Mongol and Sogdian books. Arnold Vissière (1858-1930) also night have contributed to the Manchu collection. Still open to research.

09:50 – 10:10 **HAN Lin-hsieh**, British Library (London): *"Provenance research on the Naxi (Mo-so) manuscript in the British Library"*
These collections were secured by the consul to Tengyue (Bhurma). There are a

few texts from the Han dynasty, slightly more from the Tang to Qing dynasties, and some from 1954. During the Han dynasty, the area that is now Naxi was known as Moshayi (摩沙夷). 1878: The first Naxi items were added to the British Museum collection. The BL has a total of 223 Naxi texts. Translations (Eng + Chi): 20; Short (Eng + Chin): 18; Translations from Chinese: 27 items. There are also four glossaries and two paintings.
After seeing Joseph Rock, the British Consul Stanley Wyatt-Smith (in Tengyue from 1927 to 1931) purchased Naxi items for the US and searched for Naxi documents to bring to the UK. Since 1972, all Naxi documents have been held by the British Library, although some labelled as 'Mosu' were only recently identified as Naxi.
The collection also includes paintings of Naxi women by Stanley Wyatt-Smith from the 1930s. Han-Lin then demonstrates how the collection is managed, i.e. how it is organised under the shelf mark 'Moso' with an n.c.

10:10 – 10:30 **Hanno Lecher**, CATS Library (Heidelberg): *"CATS Library's collection of Yao Manuscripts"*
Hanno first introduces the Yao people and reminds us of their migratory history throughout South China and Southeast Asia. During the Vietnam war, the Yao people sided with the U.S. and moved to Thailand after the war. Bottom line: big migration history during the last 250 years. Thus, they included many rituals and religious beliefs from their surrounding and also adopted Daoist aspects, talismans etc. Some of these rituals date back to the Han Dynasty, which is very rare. For these rituals they use manuscripts, which themselves are powerful objects, that can turn on you as reader or support you. The texts are direct representations of the divine words which are in them. The manuscripts need to be handwritten and copied in a ritually charged fashion. In the end the manuscripts have a "open-the-eye" ritual which puts these manuscripts into power.
The Yao-manuscripts in CATS amount to 220 or 221. Originally collected by Baarent ter-haar, which got the manuscripts from a Tourist guide. Half the manuscripts are in Leiden, the 221 which is the other half, are here in Heidelberg. Hanno assumes that these manuscripts are usually not on a pile and therefore must have been collected in Northern Laos before getting into ter-Haars hands. Many manuscripts are in dire conditions. One of the oldest is from 1751, there is one older manuscript. Hanno shows examples, among them texts with graphs, others with left-outs because these are powerful spells which cannot be written down (for fear of the paper catching fire!).
Hanno explains how the manuscripts could be digitized with the help of connections, luck and a PhD student in anthropology who helped and he provides insight into the problems and challenges involved. The manuscripts were-digitized in a total of two months. The Leiden and Heidelberg halves of the collections should be reunited virtually, because they really are an entity. The Leiden ones have not been digitized yet. Realisation pending but hopefully immanent.

10:55 – 11:20 Coffee break.
11:20 – 12:30 Members' presentations – Session II Minority languages (<u>open to all</u>).
CATS Auditorium

11:20 – 11:40 **Katarina Feriančiková**, Faculty of Arts, Charles University (Prague): the *"Fragments of PRC Minority Languages in the Library of Far Eastern Studies"*
There is a small collection at the Library of Far Eastern Studies, Charles

University, Prague: Numbers: 101 printed publications: 99 monographs, 2 periodicals. Languages: Mongolian (1), Manchu (1), Uygur (2), Yi (2), Tibetan (5), Korean (11), Russian (79). Katarina then introduces some of the publications in greater detail. The Yi-text was translated as a MA thesis by Nina Kopp (née Vozkova) in 2006. Online Version available, see the link in the presentation. In Tibetan the texts are dictionaries and an encyclopedia plus one story, translated from Chinese. Russian texts: propaganda 25, dictionaries 17, Fine arts 8, prose 4 and others: 1 each.

11:40 – 12:05 **Cristina Cramerotti**, EFEO (Paris): *"The new Guimet library's databases"* NO PPT-PRESENTATION. Cristina announces her talk, which uses no pictures. The museum will have a Centre for foreign resources, which will be called the Villa Guimet. There will be a reading room for 20 people and space for rare books and archives. The reading room has space for 180 meters of books. Anything that doesn't fit in the storage will be kept outside. Construction will begin in 2028, with the aim of reopening in 2030. The second project is the creation of a research platform where all the databases are aggregated. This appears to be a venture into the unknown, involving consideration of their target audience and the tech wizard who will tie it all together. There is also discussion about what should be on the platform, which is becoming increasingly burdened with duties and creating a huge workload for IT specialists. She then draws larger and larger circles around the issues that arise: uniformity of cataloguing standards, questions of provenance, and so on. The board decided to use automated machine translation for texts, but this produced unsatisfactory results. They found that they must enrich the data with pictures.

[11:40 – 12:05 **Miriam Seeger**, Chinese University of Hong Kong (HK): *"Digitising the USC Newspaper Collection. Making Chinese Regional Newspapers (1946-1972) Searchable"* Scheduled as an online-talk, this contribution was unfortunately cancelled by speaker on short notice.]

12:05 – 12:30 **Marc Gilbert**, University of Leiden (Leiden): *"WYC: Gems from Daily Writing"* WYC (read: wick). Marc discusses how writing practices evolved after fountain and ballpoint pens were introduced, i.e. ying bi 硬笔. He also talks about the evolution and meaning of handwriting, and its decline in the electronic age. This is why Jeroen Wiedenhof started the WYC (Wiedenhof Yingbi Collection). The WYC attempts to view Chinese manuscripts from different perspectives, including textual and calligraphic, and considers the aesthetic value of manuscript collections. There are several examples of Yingbi writing.
The following are several aspects of the manuscripts' materiality and writing practice. Marc searched the collection, starting with the Collection of Unofficial Publications from the 1950s onwards, and then turning to diaries. He planned to continue using Red Guard materials, but this proved politically difficult. There are also deciphering issues, such as unofficial signs that could be misread as characters. Yingbi texts may represent the final iteration of a long-standing tradition of handwritten Chinese texts, which, despite the advent of electronic pens, has endured for centuries.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break.

14:00 – 16:00 Members' presentations – Session III: Minority languages (<u>open to all</u>).
CATS Auditorium

14:30 – 14:50 **Joshua Seufert**, Princeton University (Princeton): "BUILDING A MINORITY LANGUAGE COLLECTION - THE CASE OF THE UYGHUR COLLECTION AT PRINCETON"

Situation – Acquisition – Cataloging – Sources in Princeton and related collections – Development of academic interest. In U.S. only Harvard and LoC have Uygur collections over 500 volumes. Uyghur materials fall in the gap between East Asian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Slavic Studies and are therefore often not sufficiently covered by libraries. What is different in Princeton? It has a large Chinese collection on Xinjiang. The existing collection of Uyghur material was scattered and unfocussed. So, the question came up, what an East Asian Library has to collect: Only CJK or how much do we have to have minority languages represented in the collection. Princeton Chinese library came there in 1935, Chinese department was only opened in 1950s. Joshua then explains details about the development of acquisition of Uyghur material, relying on the support of Joshua Freeman to provide contact to Aziz Isa Elkun, a Uyghur poet.

The Elkun collection thus has strong literary and historical focus and includes Uyghur material in Arabic, Latinized, and Cyrillic script (150 titles published in Kazakhstan). Other donations have since been added to the collection (Jaz Dautcher, Erika Gilson, Joshua Freeman, individual authors). Cataloguing: search for money within the university to finance cataloguer position. After finding resources within the university, a person was hired for 3 years. Current situation: 900+ titles of which over 160 are unique to Worldcat. Second largest collection in North America. Princeton welcomes donations of Uyghur material. The project also had additional results, it supported inclusion for Uyghur transcription on the ScripShifter project at the Library of Congress https://bibframe.org/scriptshifter#.

14:50 – 15:10 **Anna Stryjewska**, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin): *"New Ways of Content Discovery: The CrossAsia Newspaper Research Companion"*

This presentation ncludes a live search. After a short introduction to CrossAsia Anna presents a new service: Newspaper Research Companion (NRC). The difficulty lies in the fact that newspaper data are scattered across archives (databases) in different languages. Currently of 70 million articles from 253 newspapers in German, English, Chinese, Russian 1785-2026. It allows for semantic search (not just keyword search), which means the query understands the intention, without being a chatbot. It allows cross-lingual discovery. No hallucination!

Live try: www.crossasia.org/nrc Anna explains the search functions and options and gives a clear insight into the search functions and finding options (Summaries, further filter, saving the search, downloads).

15:10 – 15:30 **David Helliwell**, Bodleian Library (Oxford): *"On ephemera"*

As the last presentation of the day, David talks about ephemera extraordinary sources of daily life, often and too easily discarded. He offers no presentation, just a couple of links for this presentation: EASL 2026 Heidelberg https://serica.ie/EASL2026/EASL2026Heidelberg.html

List of uncatalogued ephemera, to be seen on EASL 2026 Heidelberg.

This starts from the John Johnson collection. He understood ephemera as "anything that is printed but is not actually a book". Several examples: death notice, prostitute advertisement, anti foot-binding leaflets, wall-posters etc.

Afterthought: David mentions three colleagues from the UK who passed away in 2026: Beth McKillop (BL, V&A; Obituary in the Guardian: Beth McKillop obituary | Art | The Guardian), Howard Nelson (BL, Founding member of EASL), Charles Aylmer (Cambridge). He also passes on greetings from the two former and now retired colleagues Cathy Thoelen and Renate Stephan.

15:30 – 16:00 Questions and discussion

16:00 – 17:00 Internal meeting (EASL members only).
CATS Auditorium

- Venues of next meetings: Prague 8th to 10th or September 2027 (Munich 2028, open for 2029). Marc G. points out that he announces EASL should come to Leiden in 2031 for the 50th anniversary of EASL.
- Chinese collections and their translations: There are many bad translations. Should we collect these or not? A good example is the translation of the *Zizhi tongjian* by machine. If it is a AI translation, acquiring the book might also give the wrong incentive to create more such translations. It makes sense to avoid buying translations, unless specifically wished for and not done by AI.
- Election of Secretary, Treasurer, Chair. Post the request on the list with all the arguments. Delphine, Marc W, and Cathleen are reconfirmed for another year.
- Any other business

1. Server for EASL-Website: EASL.org domain name belongs to Stabi. Stabi pays the server, which is a commercial server, Mr. Tobolski pays for. Matthias suggests not to wake sleeping dogs. Since the domain belongs to Stabi, switching to a new server could create problems. Long-term: how do we finance this? Ask Tobolski for User statistics. Solution: remain with Tobolski for another year. CC Matthias in order to maybe get ftp-access. Marc suggests to contacts EACS and ask them if they would not want the EASL page linked to them.
2. Joshua: Topic for next year's presentations: Religion! EASL Mailing list: send a call for paper, also to Eastview, maybe H-Asia. Deadline: March 1st of the new year.
3. Matthias: Reconsider reshuffling the agenda, rearrange things to different days.
4. CASS: allow them or not? Keep the structures: 3 people, presentation in English etc. Maybe ask them to talk about selection of newspapers, Open Access etc. 7

17:00 – 18:30 free time.
18:30 – 20:00 Farewell Dinner (open to all).
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https://marktstuebel-heidelberg.geo.io/