Traveling Back in Time to
KOREA’S MODERN ERA
The Bibliography of East Asian Periodicals (Colonial Korea 1900-1945)

By JEE-YOUNG PARK, Korean Studies Librarian

In Korea and its neighboring nations, the period from 1900 to 1945, known as the modern era, was marked by political transformation and upheaval, as well as a multitude of efforts to transform culture and society.

One of the defining characteristics of this era was the proliferation of modern print media across a number of fields. Periodicals, in particular, serve as important primary source materials that researchers can use to better grasp the complexities of this time of transformation. Librarians at the University of Chicago, Yale University, Princeton University, and the University of Tokyo have collaborated to publish a bibliography that overcomes obstacles faced by English-speaking scholars of Korea and East Asia as they research this period.

Publication of the Bibliography of East Asian Periodicals (Colonial Korea 1900-1945), at https://bit.ly/BibColonialKorea, is the culmination of a two-year collaborative project led by a team of East Asian subject area specialists, Korean studies scholars, Korea Foundation interns, and a PhD student. The project team compiled comprehensive information on a total of 913 periodicals from the period of Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945), the pre-colonial period (1896-1910), and the post-colonial period from liberation in 1945 to the establishment of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in 1948.

Modern-era materials pose a number of difficulties for researchers. Most significantly, older materials are scattered

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THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR at the Library began with a unique sense of anticipation. For me as an individual, this autumn marks the beginning of my first full academic year at the University of Chicago, and I look forward to meeting new members of our community and deepening relationships with those who have long considered the Library their academic home. For the Library as a whole, after two extraordinary years when services were repeatedly redesigned to meet the challenges of the pandemic environment, this year presents an opportunity to begin reimagining the Library and rebuilding for a greater future. In 2022-23, the Library is focused on five strategic objectives that will prepare us for that future.

The most urgent of our priorities is organizational development. Since the start of the pandemic, the Library has lost 25% of its staff. We are now embarking on a year-long recruitment campaign to fill these vacancies, onboard new colleagues, and effectively build a new team. This process is being supported by a review of governance, decision making, and communication across the organization. In parallel, we are undertaking planning for space and collection development, our second priority. Many of our spaces need upgrading to continue to meet the needs of patrons and staff. We are looking to take a coordinated approach to enhancing spaces across campus libraries. This process needs to be led by the development of a service plan that also takes into account our needs for collection management.

Based on these two critical enablers, we are refreshing our approach to academic engagement—our third priority. With the reading rooms open again after COVID-19 lockdowns, now is a good time to reconnect with our patrons, refreshing existing partnerships and building new ones. This includes planning for enhanced services for the College population that has grown substantially over the past years. Closely linked is our fourth priority, the development of new research services, especially around scholarly communication and research data. The Library has a key role to play here, not just with regards to curation of digital research outputs but also in helping faculty and students to manage and share them effectively.

Last, but certainly not least, we are working on a systematic approach to community engagement. Building on existing efforts, we are developing a broader strategy for civic engagement, working in coordination with the University. Our Library is built around the idea that access to information services is making the world a better place—a mission that cannot be restricted just to the campus. This is even more important as our campus is on the South Side, a part of Chicago that has felt the devastating economic and social impact of structural racism. Our aim is to build equitable partnerships with the communities around us, helping to strengthen local communities and expand economic opportunity.

Work on our civic engagement strategy has only just started, but I see many opportunities for the Library. We can expand our work with schools, embedding our extensive collections in teaching and supporting information literacy. The latter could also be a theme in expanded partnerships with public libraries. We have previously worked with public libraries on similar approaches, for example providing training to help librarians deal with healthcare-related queries. I would also hope to explore how Library resources can support local entrepreneurs, in coordination with incubators and other services already in place. Another ambition is to raise funds to offer local apprenticeships in library and information services, providing training opportunities and helping to make our profession more diverse. Most importantly though, we are preparing ourselves for an open and equitable dialogue with our neighbors to identify opportunities that are meaningful to them. I am very much looking forward to that dialogue.
HAT DO IMMIGRATION POLICIES IN PARAGUAY, the impact of the CARES Act, and the security–rights paradox have in common? They are all topics of theses written by social science master’s students that are now available through the Library’s Knowledge@UChicago digital institutional repository.

Over the past year, librarians in the Center for Digital Scholarship have been partnering with the Division of the Social Sciences to provide a way to share and archive the intellectual output from the MA in Computational Social Sciences (MACSS), the MA Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), and the MA from the Committee on International Relations (CIR).

Knowledge@UChicago (https://knowledge.uchicago.edu) is an open access repository service that preserves and shares the scholarly and creative assets of the University. In depositing their work, students learn about aspects of scholarly communications such as embargo, copyright, and creative commons licenses, while increasing the exposure and discoverability of their work.

Starting with a pilot in the Spring of 2021, MA students from the three programs must deposit their theses in Knowledge@UChicago as a part of their academic requirements. Staff in the Social Sciences are able to use the system to check and approve each thesis. It then becomes publicly available unless the student has chosen to apply an embargo or limit access to the University of Chicago community.

Zhen Yuan, who currently works as a research professional at the Chicago Booth School of Business, deposited his thesis “Impact of Cares Act Stimulus on Consumption: Evidence from Zip Code Level Transactions” in August 2021. A year later it had already been downloaded 135 times.

In addition to making the students’ research available to a broad audience, deposit in Knowledge@UChicago makes the paper more easily citable by giving it a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). DOIs provide a unique and permanent way of referencing academic articles by creating a persistent link that can then be used by other researchers when citing the paper.

A map in Zhen Yuan’s thesis on the impact of the Cares Act stimulus shows the distribution of Zip codes in the treatment group and control group.

Hana Okamoto, who received her MA from the Committee on International Relations, deposited her thesis “Solving the Security–Rights Paradox: How to Re-Imagine Individual Politics Within the Confines of National Security” in August 2021. It has since been cited in an article in IEEE Access by scholars from the University College Dublin and Sultan Qaboos University. Facilitating this kind of global impact for our students has been a goal of this initiative from the start, and it is gratifying to see it starting to happen.

The next phase of this collaboration is to provide these same opportunities to past students. The project team is also developing a workshop and informational materials to help students learn the value of openly sharing their research, while also understanding how to navigate issues related to publishing plans and ethical concerns or risks related to certain types of data or research. This will accomplish another goal of the project—not only to give students this opportunity but also to teach them about copyright, open access, and other issues related to participating in the ecosystem of scholarly communication.
WHAT IMPACT DID THE LIBRARY HAVE ON YOUR ACADEMIC STUDIES AT UCHICAGO?

Having the use of a world-class library to support my graduate studies at UChicago was foundational to my academic success. I was truly amazed at the extent of the collections and the depth of the resources at the University of Chicago Library. From my first week on campus through the completion of my thesis on political and religious dissidence in early modern England, I depended extensively on those resources. My time in the Regenstein stacks and in Special Collections—where I studied history texts and memoirs written around the time of the Rebellion of the Northern Earls in 1569—are some of my fondest memories of UChicago.

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IT’S IMPORTANT FOR UCHICAGO ALUMNI TO GIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY?

My experience at UChicago was transformative, not only because of the professional opportunities it created but also because of the intellectual growth it stimulated. I believe alumni giving is the surest way to guarantee the University can continue to make a difference for students and for society.

YOU ARE A GENEROUS SUPPORTER OF THE LIBRARY. WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO MAKE THE LIBRARY PART OF YOUR PHILANTHROPY?

The Library was an integral part of my experience at UChicago, and its staff, collections, systems, and spaces contributed greatly to my success as a student and my growth as a person. And in the 20 years that have passed since I was on campus, the developments in library science and the greatly expanded possibilities for the role of the library in education have made my commitment to support the UChicago Library even stronger.

TORSTEN REIMER, NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN AND DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, HAS HIGHLIGHTED HIS PRIORITIES IN THIS EDITION OF LIBRA. ARE THERE ANY INITIATIVES THAT YOU ARE PARTICULARLY EXCITED ABOUT?

I’m thrilled with the University’s selection of Dean Reimer and believe that all of his priorities reflect the centrality of the Library in the University experience. In particular, I’m eager to see the Library pursue his initiatives around community engagement. UChicago is a world-class institution in a world-class city, and there are ways in which the ties between the two can be strengthened. There are also areas in which the city needs help; the resources of the Library could be leveraged to provide that help in truly productive ways, to the lasting benefit of the community and the University.

WHAT MAKES GIVING TO THE LIBRARY YEAR AFTER YEAR A REWARDING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU AS A DONOR?

It is gratifying to me as a donor to see the tangible impact my support can have as I have watched collections develop, facilities expand, and resources deepen. I’m inspired to continue to give because I want to see what else we can accomplish.
Thank you.

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sporadically throughout multiple regions and locations, which makes identifying them challenging. Additionally, many sources are written in mixed Chinese-Korean script, which means a significant amount of time must be invested in reading and understanding them.

Motivated to respond to these obstacles, the project team gathered information on magazines dealing with Korea and regular and irregular publications, including yearbooks, school bulletins, and organizational mouthpieces. Regionally, focus was placed on those published in Korea, Japan, and China, with a small number from Russia and the United States also included. The greatest possible variety of subjects was surveyed, including literature, politics, society, education, economy, industry, children, medicine, science, friendship societies, and religion.

Two members of the project team, Yale University Korean Studies Librarian Jude Yang and I, led a three-week field research trip to South Korea in April 2022 to verify items which could not be collected remotely or from U.S. universities. We visited six archival centers and university libraries and met with experts in the field to gain knowledge about a large number of sources from China about which only titles were known.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the Bibliography is the creation of a scholarly resource that covers a diverse range of subjects and includes short descriptions for each magazine. By romanizing and translating each publication’s title and subject-related information, we have ensured that English-speaking scholars will be able to effectively utilize the Bibliography. Additionally, we include location information links which connect users to WorldCat, thus saving researchers time otherwise spent searching for holding information.

This project was supported by the University of Chicago’s Provost’s Global Faculty Award for FY22, the Korea Foundation, and the University of Chicago Library’s Hanna Holborn Gray Graduate Student Fellowship program.