

Innovation Creates a Unique Resource for East Asian Legal Research

By Rob Britt, Coordinator of East Asian Legal Services, Gallagher Law Library,
rbritt@uw.edu

For over seventy years, the Gallagher Law Library and its East Asian Law Department (EALD) have found creative ways to support UW Law School research on the legal systems of China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Faculty, visiting scholars, LLM students, Ph.D students, Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal staff, and others at the School of Law have benefited from Gallagher's focus on legal materials from this vital part of the world. Indeed, innovation is part of the DNA of Gallagher Law Library's collections and services.

Innovation began in 1941. Law Library Director Professor Arthur Beardsley (1922 to 1944) arranged with the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington to receive a large donation of Japanese law books from Japan's Ministry of Justice. In one stroke, that donation made the law library the repository of the most modern and up-to-date collection of Japanese legal materials in the United States. A testament to the value of this early Japanese law collection is that soon after the end of the war, the United States Office of Strategic Services borrowed much of it to support their work with the U.S. Occupation in Japan. The books were returned after the Occupation.¹



The beginning of the Asian Law Program under the leadership of Professor Dan Fenno Henderson in the early 1960s prompted Law Librarian and Professor Marian Gould Gallagher (1944-1981) to create a new department in the law library to serve the needs of the faculty and students working in Asian law. With the center's focus on Japanese law, Professor Gallagher encouraged Takika 'Susie' Lee (a graduate student in English working in the law library and fluent in Japanese) to earn her master's degree in Library Science. In 1963 Ms. Lee was hired to staff the law library's new Comparative Law Department.



Lee began to collect materials on Japanese law to support the Asian Law program. For the next 25 years, the Japanese legal collection (along with some Chinese and Korean materials) grew both through purchase and through exchange agreements with the Japanese government and university libraries. Because of this pioneering work, along with the original donation arranged by Professor Beardsley, the law library's Japanese law collection became one of the best in North America.² Even today, only the law libraries at Harvard, Columbia and the Library of Congress come close to the breadth and depth of Gallagher's East Asian law collection, and long-



¹ Mary Ann Andersen, MARIAN GOULD GALLAGHER LAW LIBRARY: AN ORAL HISTORY 93-94 (University of Washington School of Law 1988)

² *Id.* at 101-104.

time researchers say that the services provided are second to none. Ms. Lee played a major role establishing that reputation. Her expertise allowed her to catalog the collection in the original languages, and she provided reference services to Japanese and English language faculty, students, and practitioners. Susie Lee retired in 1988.

In 1985, Penny Hazelton began her tenure as head of the Gallagher Law Library. Under Professor Hazelton's leadership, the law library has continued to expand and refine its support for East Asian legal research. In 1987 Penny hired Rob Britt (a recent graduate of the UW with a Master's degree from the Jackson School of International Studies). It was still the early days of the computer (remember DOS rather than Windows, IBM 8086 computers?). Personal computers had only begun to be integrated with library work in general, let alone with library work that involved Chinese, Japanese, and Korean characters. Always on the cutting edge, Professor John Haley in 1986 arranged for an early model of the IBM Japan PC to be located in the law library. The primary use of this PC was to create printed catalog cards that included Japanese text, a real novelty at the time.



In addition to cataloging the Japanese law books we added to the collection, Rob and his Japanese language skills were put to work in partnership with Professor Richard O. Kummert. Kummert co-taught a course in Japanese corporations with Japanese corporation law scholar Misao Tatsuta. Rob regularly reviewed Japanese print periodicals to compile a bibliography in Japanese. Rob then translated the Japanese article titles and case names into English for Professor Kummert. For nine years, Professor Kummert used this monthly current awareness tool to select articles and cases for his Japanese students to read, discuss, and translate. This innovative service was provided by the library until more convenient access to Japanese legal periodical and case indexes was made available.



Another research tool in support of Japanese legal research was created and published by Rob in the 1990s. As an innovator, and using his language skills and computers, Rob indexed the English translations of Japanese laws published in the EHS Law Bulletin. This important multivolume set did not include an index, and researchers looking for a particular law were forced to search the entire set. The Index Rob produced was printed and sold around the world, making the law of Japan more accessible to legal scholars and practitioners. Even today, this resource sometimes comes in handy when the one English translation available is in print only. Eventually, Japan's National Diet Library (NDL) crated electronic access to a much more inclusive index of Japanese laws.



In 1989, Bill McCloy (a librarian with long experience in both East Asian and law libraries) was hired to work with Rob to provide enhanced services to scholars, students, and practitioners in Chinese, Taiwanese, and Korean law. The Chinese and Korean collections were very small, but under Bill's leadership, the Chinese legal collection grew nearly four times larger, while Korean legal materials more than doubled. Bill also spearheaded the adoption of a new Chinese Japanese and Korean text-capable online

library database. Today, adding records with Chinese, Japanese and Korean text to a database of books and other resources seems only natural, but at the time (about 1990), it was a “giant leap” when these databases could store and display records for materials in many world languages and scripts. Bill and Rob input records on the network using a special terminal, with a huge 179 key keyboard! The keyboard allowed the user to enter Chinese, Japanese and Korean characters by keying in a sequence of their constituent shapes. At the time, this system was cutting edge. The law school’s East Asian collections are seen as a model for other institutions, and Bill regularly worked as a consultant to law schools developing their Chinese law collections. Bill retired in January 2008.

Over the years, in old Condon, the sixth floor of new Condon, or in W.H. Gates Hall, many Asian Law LLM and PhD students, JD students from the Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal, and others have used the collections and the reference and research services provided by the law library’s specialized staff. For example, Tay-Sheng Wang (now a law professor in Taiwan) earned his Ph.D in the law school in the nineties using both the Taiwan and Japanese materials for his dissertation. A few students have even worked in the department - David Mao (now a prominent attorney in Shanghai and Vancouver, BC) and Jeanne Zhang both earned LL.Ms in the early nineties. The strong collaborative relationship between these students and Gallagher staff demonstrates the very spirit of cultural and intellectual exchange envisioned by Professor Henderson when he created the Asian Law Program in the sixties.

Creating resources for which we have a special expertise and sharing them through the law library’s website provides convenient worldwide access to East Asian law. The online research guides for East Asian legal systems includes China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Links to the latest online legal resources, including full-text decisions and statutes, can be found on the East Asian Legal Databases page. See: <http://lib.law.washington.edu/eald/eald.html> .

Collaborative partnerships help to maximize the effectiveness and reach of our work. We have always worked closely with the University of Washington East Asia Library, allowing researchers across disciplines to have access to the latest East Asian legal information. And, of course, the rich non-legal collections have always been available to law school students and faculty as well. Historically, we have always relied on donations and exchanges to help collect the latest in East Asian legal materials. In addition to individual alumni donations (of which we are very appreciative), we receive dozens of current legal periodicals through generous exchange arrangements. Just recently, for example, Professor Jonathan Kang coordinated a major exchange program with the Korean Supreme Court and the Law Library. Many important Korean legal works are sent to the law library each year. Other recent arrangements with the Korean Constitutional Court, the Korean Institute of Intellectual Property (with the aid of Professor Toshiko Takenaka), and the Korean Legal Research Institute add many important works to our outstanding collections.

The long tradition of leadership in East Asian legal research has been the hallmark of the East Asian Law Department for over 70 years. Our reputation is worldwide. We have been proud to use our expertise and innovation to help educate 'Leaders for the Global Common Good'.

Quotes from Satisfied EALD Users Over the Years:

Professor Dan Fenno Henderson (1995):

"I want to thank you for your superb support in writing my "lawyers" paper...Many thanks."

A Japanese attorney (1997):

"I just want to thank you for your cordial explanation of my questions regarding Japanese legal research. As I may have told you, I was indeed overwhelmed by the Japanese law materials at UW law library. I look forward to visiting the UW library in the near future. Again, thank you very much for your kind assistance."

Professor Toshiko Takenaka (1998):

"Thank you, Rob...UW's library and services offered by its librarians are the best among all research institutions I have visited. Our Japanese collection beats most Japanese universities. Without your help, I could not survive!"

Professor Donald Clarke (1998):

"...Mary, Bill and Rob put together a four-part lecture series this fall for our students on how to conduct research in the law of Korea, Japan, China and other foreign jurisdictions. As usual, they did the same outstanding job that has come to be par for the course around here. In particular, they generated an excellent set of written materials that, at least for the jurisdictions with which I'm familiar, is unequalled in breadth and depth anywhere. Congratulations and thanks to all for a truly fine job."

Law Professor from Japan (2000):

"You were the first librarian in the UW who really helped me. I did not know a librarian could be such a wonderful resource for us. I learned a lot from you."

Professor Veronica Taylor (2005):

"I wanted to say thank you formally for the really outstanding job that you did instructing the Japanese Law class on research techniques earlier this month. The feedback from the students was very positive, we had 100% participation from the class and the work product that you and Kyoko designed was excellent. From my standpoint this was the most successful library exercise that we have done with the Japanese Law class to date."