

CEAL Executive Board Retreat (San Diego, 2013): Report & Selected Comments

Executive Board members participated in a retreat prior to the CEAL meeting in 2013. The goal was to think about the role of CEAL and decide on directions for the organization over the medium-term. The members identified five key themes of interest. However, when the members focused on actual action items, three topics clearly drew the most support. The following report, prepared by consultant Karen Smith-Yoshimura, summarizes the results of the voting and top goals that emerged.

Retreat Results (by Karen Smith-Yoshimura)

Primary goals identified by the Executive Board members:

1. Narrowing the gap between librarians and the scholarly community, and promote information sharing with the scholarly community. I would combine these two as they are closely related, in which case it received the most votes (Selected by 16).
2. Improve the quality of the annual meeting (Selected by 11).
3. Provide more online training opportunities and archive them (Selected by 10).

Affecting a subset of the CEAL members (but one that some executive board members clearly feel passionate about) is leveraging the “CEAL brand” to negotiate e-resource deals. This would be to negotiate the *terms* of such deals – individual CEAL member institutions would still need to follow their own respective procedures to enter into a license agreement with the vendor and pay for a subscription. I suggest you make this distinction clear, something like: “Negotiate the terms for CJK e-resources that individual CEAL member institutions could choose to subscribe under.”

I. Top Issues: Making CEAL more effective

Assessment 4
Member dues & their use 2
Get grants 3
Strengthen CEAL- AAS relations 3
Streamline admin tasks/ activities 0
Preserve CEAL history 0
**Improve quality of annual meeting 11
Breakdown C- J- K group barriers 0
Succession planning for "functional" committees 1
Better use of technologies 0
Increase level of activity outside annual meeting 1
Faculty advisors 0
Website! 4

II. Top Issues: Improving Operations/activities of our members' collections/ libraries

RDA issues/ impacts 0
Regional collaboration for East Asian materials (reference, ILL, cataloging, acquisitions) 4
*Negotiate E-resource deals 6
Collaborative collection development/ preservation 2
EA- related special collections 1
Sharing digital resources 0
Organizing Geo- temporal information related to East Asian Studies 0
Joint acquisitions trips 1

III. Top issues: Outreach to EAS students, scholars, and organizations

Outreach internationally 0
**Narrow the gap between librarians and scholarly community 8
Promote East Asian studies 0
**Promote information sharing with scholarly community 8
Encourage cross- language, cross- border exchange 3
More outreach programs 1

IV. Top issues: Collaboration and outreach to library organizations nationally and internationally

Identify promising models for collaboration and adopt them 1
Collaborate with library organizations on open access 0
Provide solutions to library standards related to CJK issues 1
Mainstream East Asia concerns 4

V. Top issues: Improving quality, effectiveness, and quantity of East Asian Studies librarians

Improve mentorship program 0
Advocate for profession 0
Help recruit new professionals to the field 2
**More online training opportunities (and archiving them) 10

EB Member Comments from pre-Retreat Survey

Comments related to Priority One: Serving Scholars

[We should] facilitate the two-way communication between CEAL and AAS.

[We need to] find out more of what scholars want from us: a faculty/library joint meeting.

Most of our key objectives/activities are highly organized and effective. However, it is time to make more effort to directly support students and scholars in East Asian Studies. We are too distant from

these constituencies: CEAL needs to devise ways to communicate more directly with them and create avenues to better support them directly rather than indirectly through CEAL librarian membership.

Comments related to Priority Two: Annual Meeting

Drop pre-conference and post conference workshops/training sessions that could be done through webinar. Drop most lecture style presentations, and use more panel discussions and round table talks. Consider breaking into smaller interest groups for current topics, issues, and best practices. We need to have much better annual programs by creating coherent vision, identifying key issues and challenges, and raising our members' horizons and perspectives through different means (outside speakers, well-defined annual meeting themes, better planned programs, etc.).

We need to do more "border crossing" in terms of building effective collections and service programs (such as crossing CJK barriers and creating synergy by unifying issues and solutions). The current full-day plenary with opening plenary, collections plenary and services plenary are a beginning step, we need to institutionalize some reform and change.

I want to see CEAL function like similar national organizations, most notably ARL in its meeting format, communication, effectiveness, and measurement of success.

Offer workshops on using new resources, especially online databases, to AAS attendees (scholars and students). Develop the CEAL website into a more comprehensive and functional resource guide targeting the national community of East Asian Studies.

I think it is time that we look for ways to urge the OCLC Users Group meeting to be combined somehow with the Committee on Technical Services, the NCC meeting with the Committee on Japanese Materials, and the Korean Consortium meeting with the Committee on Korean Materials. These are all meetings held in conjunctions with the CEAL meetings, with some level of corporate or foundation support, so we cannot really control whether they meet separately or not. Even so, they each tend to draw the same audiences. Having duplicative meetings in a crowded week makes it difficult for special interest meetings to find time slots or to attract sufficient audiences to sustain themselves. As a result, initiatives that might become promising forums for new or minor but still valuable areas of interest get stifled.

Continue to evolve our annual meeting program to improve its quality and effectiveness. Budget some of our unspent balances for this purpose and think generally about better use of members' dues.

Comments related to Priority Three: Training (Online)

Offering more web-based training programs - some CEAL committees have begun to offer webinars, which I think is very helpful.

We could hold more webinars for training and workshops throughout the year. Subject experts could provide knowledge/information sharing upon request to have small group discussions, mentoring, to exchange ideas, through brown bag topics every other month via webinar or via email discussions.

CEAL should identify promising national and international cooperative models and initiatives and foster them as an ongoing agenda. Training and mentoring can be part of its cooperative programs.

Other Selected Comments:

We're a small organization but we still seem separated in many ways; try to think of ways to develop our sense of shared purpose and common goals.

Break barriers between languages and cultures among three CJK groups/areas.

We have not used CEAL consortia power to negotiate with vendors over outrageous price increases or prices or conditions. Really hope that CEAL can organize e-resource N.A. consortia purchasing negotiations. A few big libraries can afford products at outrageous prices but smaller libraries cannot without negotiations. If CEAL could negotiate a tiered price structure from the beginning it could save the great time and energy required for many separate negotiations. Can we work as a group? Negotiate e-resource pricing and terms for its member libraries as a CEAL consortium. Work with vendors to set up e-resource standards (incomplete contents, pulling off contents, unpredictable subject aggregation, etc.)

Collaborate on collection development and digital preservation of CJK materials including e-resources.

Address special collections and archives (what do we do and how do we do it differently?)

Share digital resources across campuses (we do this to some degree now).

Work with CJK national libraries, international and national organizations to promote and cooperate on open access. Send delegates to CJK library conferences to promote open access.

Some CEAL members have been working on behalf of CJK governmental interests and other organizations in conjunction with official CEAL meetings. Exclusive membership, closed meetings, and the use of non-official meeting language should not be held under CEAL authority at conference time unless it is open to all membership.

Acquisition trips could be organized once every 3 years, or every other year. It is better for a small working group or study group to travel together for the same subject area.

I think CEAL is currently focusing too much on the annual conference. We should try to find some other meaningful things to do in between the conferences.

More publication and research that advocates for East Asian library collections and services; we need to collect data and conduct research to compare changes before and after to evaluate whether the changes have a positive impact as administrators intend.

We should seek ways to establish closer ties to the mainstream national library organizations (ALA, ACRL, etc.), both to keep East Asian librarians' awareness of the current library trends sharp and to offer East Asian libraries' perspectives on key library issues.

[We should] leave our "silo" behind by engaging more with other area studies librarians (both Asian studies and other) and national and international library organizations.