Library Materials and Services at the Harvard-Yenching Library for the Korean Studies Scholarly Community

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ABSTRACT
Through an overview of special in Harvard-Yenching Library, this paper investigates what kinds of primary sources related to Korean Studies in Harvard are available, and how they can be accessible to scholars worldwide. In this overview process of special collections, the following types of materials are examined: Korean rare/old books, manuscripts, old maps, photos and films, and archival collections. While majority of the collections are in Korean, some of old maps and archival collections are mixed with English or other languages including Japanese and Western languages. Some of the specific selected titles are examined as samples in order to display why these are crucial sources to Korean Studies scholars and how valuable these materials are. Research outputs and findings related to the special collections at Harvard-Yenching Library are also reviewed in this paper.

This paper also presents crucial sources and tools for access to the special collections including citations and full-texts, and guides to some important collections but relatively less known to scholars and students in Korean Studies at the same time. Accessibility of the special collections at Harvard-Yenching is another issue discussed in this paper, in relation to on-going digitization projects and microfilming projects of archival collection finding aids and Korean rare/old books.

INTRODUCTION
The Harvard-Yenching Library is one of the most prominent libraries for researchers in East Asian Studies. The mission statement of the Harvard-Yenching outlines the goals of the Library:

“The Harvard-Yenching Library of the Harvard College Library is a preeminent research collection on East Asia. It supports the teaching and research activities on East Asia at Harvard and, to the extent feasible, the larger scholarly community.”

Accordingly, the Korean Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library serves a role in supporting research and teaching programs in Korean Studies at Harvard.

HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY
The history of the Harvard-Yenching Library demonstrates how to the development of its collections has reflected the mission statement. The history of the collections at the Harvard-Yenching Library goes back to 1879, though the Library itself dates from 1928 as an organized library. In 1879, Chinese was first offered as part of Harvard University’s regular curriculum, and a group of Bostonians engaged in the China trade invited Ge Kunhwa, a Chinese scholar from the city of Ningbo in Zhejiang Province, to give instruction in Chinese at Harvard. At that time, the small collection that was bought for his courses, the first acquisitions of Chinese books in any East Asian language at the Harvard
College Library, marked the beginning of a Chinese collection. A Japanese collection was similarly started in 1914 when two Japanese professors, Hattori Unokichi and Anesaki Masaharu, came to Harvard to lecture, and donated several Japanese publications on Sinology and Buddhism to the Harvard College Library. In 1928, these two language collections, consisting of 4,526 volumes in Chinese and 1,668 volumes in Japanese, were transferred to the newly established Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

A Korean collection at the Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute was officially inaugurated in 1951, and the name Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute was changed to Harvard-Yenching Library in 1965 in order to reflect more accurately the expanded nature of the Library’s collections. Currently, within the Harvard-Yenching Library, there are five language collections – Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Western language collections – on East Asia. The management of the Library was transferred in 1976 from the Harvard-Yenching Institute to the Harvard College Library.

At present, the Harvard-Yenching Library is the largest university library for East Asian research in the Western world. The Library’s collections encompass over 1.2 million volumes, including approximately 140,000 volumes in Korean. The Library subscribes to over 6,700 current periodicals and journals, including more than 1,000 Korean journal and periodical titles.

Collections at the Harvard-Yenching Library have been developed mainly in the humanities and social sciences related to East Asia, but the Library has gradually evolved into a research library that encompasses East Asian materials in all fields of the academic disciplines.

The Library allows access to library stacks and reading rooms to students, faculty, scholars and researchers from other universities, colleges, and research institutions if they present a current institutional ID and register at the library circulation desk.

**KOREAN COLLECTION AT THE HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY**

According to the official record of the Harvard-Yenching Library, the Korean Collection at the Library began with 372 volumes from the Harvard-Yenching Institute's Chinese-Japanese Library in 1951. 372 volumes from the Chinese and Japanese collections were identified by Dr. Kaiming Ch’iu, the first librarian of the Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, as old Korean books, and he made the decision to establish the Korean Collection with those 372 volumes since there was already a need for a Korean collection at Harvard.

In 1952, Korean language courses were offered for the first time at Harvard with the arrival of Dr. Seo, and Professor Edward W. Wagner became the first faculty member in Korean Studies at Harvard in 1958. At the same time, Mr. Sungha Kim was appointed as the first Korean Librarian at Harvard, and started to develop Korean collections further.

The following two books summarize the history of the Korean Collection at Harvard University and its development thus far:

Within the holdings of the Korean Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library, the following materials are of particular interest to researchers and scholars in Korean Studies:

3.1. Korean rare books

The Library holds approximately 4,000 titles of Korean rare books. The majority of these books are in either printed or manuscript form, originally bound in oriental style (Hanjöck 漢籍) and written in either Hanmun (漢文) or old Han’gŭl (옛한글). The Korean rare book collection includes predominantly pre-1910 publications, but there are also a few exceptions from the colonial period. The majority of the Korean rare book collection was acquired by Mr. Sungha Kim in the 1950s and early 1960s with great support from Professor Wagner of Harvard and Professor Young-gyu Min of Yonsei University, according to Mr. Kim’s report in 1980.

The oldest work within the Korean rare book collection is dated 1222, and the title is Soha Sonsaeng chip 西河先生集, a literary work by a poet from the late Koryo period, Im Ch’un (林椿). In addition to this oldest title, the Korean rare book collection includes approximately 400 titles of local gazetteers; about 400 titles of genealogy records; about 450 titles in Korean religions; and about 450 titles of Pangmok silgi. There is also some classical fiction written in old Han’gŭl, books of medicine, textbooks, and various other topics in the collection.

The entire collection of Korean rare books at the Harvard-Yenching Library was reviewed and annotated by rare book specialists over three years. Mr. Choong-Nam Yoon, the second Librarian for the Korean Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library, published a five-volume set with the results, titled The annotated catalogue of Korean rare books at the Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University, in 2005 before his retirement. The publication information is as follows:


In July 2007, the Korean rare book digitization project began as a three-year project with the support of the National Library of Korea. Works were chosen for digitization if they were not found in Korea anywhere, so naturally the majority of the manuscripts in the Library’s Korean rare book collection were included, along with some rare printed editions. A total of 469 titles and 952 volumes of rare books were identified by two Korean rare book specialists from the National Library of Korea in early 2007 for inclusion in this project as books not found in Korea. As of April 24, 2009, 421 titles/564 volumes of Korean rare books from the Library have been digitized, and all of the digitized images are already available through HOLLIS <http://hollis.harvard.edu>, Harvard’s online catalog, and open to the public.

As an example, the following screen capture shows the cover image of Sukch ’on chea to 宿踐諸碑圖 <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL:1199847>, displayed through PDS (Harvard University’s Page Delivery Service). Korean rare books are scanned from the front cover to the back cover page, regardless whether they are in their original binding format or not. Some books were bound in-house after they were acquired by the Library, while others were kept in their original state, so other cover pages do not necessarily share
the oriental binding format of this title.

The following screen capture shows one of the pages in Sukch’ŏn chea to which contains a detailed map of Korean government offices in the 1800s. Users can print the images in PDF format as they wish.

All digitized Korean rare book titles are browsable in HOLLIS, Harvard’s online catalog, by clicking on “National Library of Korea - Harvard-Yenching Library Korean rare book digitization project” from the following webpage:

http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/korean/part2.html#manuscripts

The link leads to a list of digitized Korean rare book titles sorted by date as shown in the HOLLIS screen capture below. By clicking on “Internet Link” next to each title, a user can see scanned image files of each title:
Some prominent and noteworthy rare book titles in the Korean rare book collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library have been introduced by a well-known scholar, Hŏ Kyŏng-jin. He published a book, *Habŏdū Taehak Yench'ing Tosŏgwan úi Han'guk kosŏdŭl* 하버드대학엔청도서관의한국고서들, in 2003 after spending time at the Harvard-Yenching Library as a visiting scholar. Many other scholars have published scholarly articles based on their research in the Korean rare book collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library.

3.2. Archival collections

There are innumeros archival collections at Harvard, but the following archival collections are particularly relevant to Korean Studies and useful for researchers in the modern and contemporary history of Korea:

3.2.1. James H. Hausman Archive

James H. Hausman (1918-1996) served with the U.S. armed forces in Korea between 1946 and 1981. Born in New Jersey, he was a veteran of World War II. He went to Korea in 1946, but returned to the United States to serve at the U.S. Dept. of Defense in 1950 at the outbreak of the Korean War as an expert on Korean military affairs. He returned to Korea in 1956 and served as a Special Advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command for the next 25 years. Professor Carter Eckert successfully arranged the donation of Hausman’s personal collection. The Archive includes 26 boxes containing Hausman’s correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, official documents, books, videos, etc. The contents of the Archive were mostly collected between 1946 and 1981.

3.2.2. Gregory Henderson papers

Gregory Henderson was a former Foreign Service Officer, a specialist on Korea, and the author of *Korea: The Politics of the Vortex,* published by Harvard University Press in 1968. He served with the United States Foreign Service posted in Korea from 1948 to 1950, and witnessed the Korean War as well as Korea’s political situation before the War. He went back to Korea in July 1958 as a cultural attaché, remaining until 1963.

His papers include materials from the Allied Occupation period to the 1980s, mostly historical materials boxed in 9 cartons including his writings, documents, conference proceedings, correspondence, his lecture notes from Harvard and Tufts, etc.
3.2.3. Gillette papers (1945-1948)

These are the papers of Francis Edwin Gillette who was a top rank government officer in the Kyongsang province from 1945 to 1948, the Allied Occupation period in Korea. The Gillette papers include archival materials relating to the United States Army Military Government in Korea, 1945-1948. They cover Korean politics, Communist and leftist activities, national security, “counter-propaganda,” and administration. The papers also include documents on Korean personalities, summaries of selected articles from the Korean press, memoranda on problems encountered by the military government, documents on repatriation, welfare, and agricultural matters, documents relating to the establishment and operation of military government in South Kyongsang Province, and documents on public information. The Gillette papers are stored in 2 boxes.

At Harvard, finding aids for the archival collections and personal papers can be searched through the online system OASIS (Online Archival Search Information System http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/advancedsearch?_collection=oasis).

3.3. Audio-visual materials

Since the 1990s, visual materials are frequently used for research and teaching programs in Korean Studies at Harvard, and the Library has been acquiring audio-visual materials extensively. Library users have shown especially high interest in and need for Korean feature films, documentary films, and some selected TV dramas, and by the same token, the Library started in 2006 to collect Korean comic books (manhwa) in response to a faculty request.

For the convenience of users in browsing the Library’s current holding lists of these special format materials, the following webpage offers links to the different categories:
http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/korean/part9.html#films

The categories of the Library’s current holding lists are as follows:

DVDs and Videos
- All South Korean feature films 한국영화
  - Horror 공포
  - Action 액션
  - Comedies 코미디
  - Buddhism-related films 불교
  - Animation 애니메이션
  - TV Dramas드라마
  - Documentaries 다큐멘터리
- All North Korean films 북한영화
  - Animation 애니메이션
  - Documentaries 다큐멘터리
- Comic books 만화 (Manhwa)
- Music/Audio materials 음악

In 2008, the Harvard-Yenching Library was chosen to be one of the members of the Hub-Library program of KOFIC (Korean Film Council). From this program, the Library...
received 132 DVDs of Korean feature films and 395 volumes of Korean cinema-related publications to add to the Library’s existing holdings. Currently, the Library holds about 600 titles of DVDs and videos from South and North Korea, and about 200 titles of Manhwa.

As for visual images, Harvard’s online system VIA (Visual Information Access http://via.lib.harvard.edu/via/deliver/advancedsearch?_collection=via) allows users to search and view digitized images online. Slide images are also searchable through VIA by keywords. The following screen capture shows one example of a digitized image brought up by searching for Diamond Mountain (Kumgangsan); the image was taken in 1918 by a Western photographer, Ernest Henry Wilson.

3.4. North Korean materials

From the beginning of the Korean Collection at Harvard, Librarians for the Korean Collection have put much effort into acquiring North Korean materials as well as Korean materials published outside of Korea, especially those published by Korean-Russians, Korean-Chinese, and Korean-Japanese. Many Korean-language periodical titles published in Russia have been obtained in microfilm format by exchange with the National Library of Russia in the 1990s, and some unique North Korean materials, including North Korean textbooks, were acquired from the Yenbian area. According to Mr. Choong-Nam Yoon’s book Habadū Yench’ing Han’gukkwan Charyo yŏn’gu, the Korean Collection of the Harvard-Yenching Library contains approximately 3,500 titles of North Korean materials. Mr. Yoon worked consistently to collect North Korean materials from the Yenbian area, especially from the Yenbian University Library, and was able to acquire copies of approximately 500 titles of North Korean scholarly materials on history, literature, and law published in the 1940s and 1950s.

There are also more than 200 titles of North Korean animation films, feature films, and documentary films available for users.

3.5. Online resources

The Library subscribes to the following Korean Studies online databases:

Journal article full-text databases:

DBpia
There are many other individual titles of PDFs online, such as *Chosŏn haengjŏng* 조선행정, *Iliche ha ch'onsi ch'ejegi chŏngch’ae k saryo ch’ongsŏ* 일체하헌시체계조기총책사료첩, and so forth.

Harvard’s research guide webpage for Korean Studies, “Digital Resources for Korean Studies,” lists all subscribed databases as well as some useful freely available online resources; its URL is as follows:

[http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/korean/](http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/korean/)

The following screen capture shows the webpage:

![Digital Resources for Korean Studies](http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/korean/)

**Access**

All titles in the Korean Collection at Harvard appear in Harvard’s online catalog, HOLLIS Classic (<http://hollis.harvard.edu>), regardless of their cataloging status. All ordered items and ordered-received items are also found in HOLLIS Classic.

Recently, Harvard Libraries implemented a new version of HOLLIS (<http://discovery.lib.harvard.edu>) for better access and more convenient searching. It is still a beta version, but soon all Harvard online catalogs, including VIA, OASIS, and HOLLIS, will be searchable through HOLLIS as a one-stop portal searching system. The new system seeks to provide easy and convenient access to Harvard Libraries’ holdings regardless of their format.
The following screen capture shows the search results for Korean history:

For the Harvard-Yenching Library’s newspaper titles, the Library has designed a finding aid for searching newspaper titles by language, region, and other publication information. Its URL is as follows:

http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/harvard-yenching/collections/newspapers/search.cfm

This finding aid is particularly useful when users do not have specific titles in mind, but want to search by language or region only with broadly defined categories. The following screen capture shows the search results for Korean newspapers in the Korean language published in Korea:
Travel Grant Program

The Harvard-Yenching Library offers an annual Travel Grant Program in order to assist scholars from outside the metropolitan Boston area in using Harvard-Yenching's collections for research. Priority consideration is given to scholars at institutions where there are no or few library resources in the East Asian languages, and no major East Asian library collections are available nearby. Detailed information can be found on the following webpage, and around October of each year, the travel grant program announcement is posted to the Korean Studies Listserv:

http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/harvard-yenching/travel_grant_program.html

Each academic year, five grants of $400 each in Korean Studies are awarded on the basis of merit to faculty members and to graduate students engaged in dissertation research. Each grantee is also provided with free photocopying privileges for up to 100 sheets.

REFERENCES


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