The development of Korean Studies and resources at Oxford

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This article gives a brief introduction to the University and its libraries, in particular East Asian studies and resources with emphasis on the history and development of Korean studies and related collections. The article gives details of the various recent projects that have transformed the Korean collection in Oxford into one of the biggest Korean collections in the UK, putting Oxford at the forefront of research libraries on Korea in the West.

The University

As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, Oxford is a unique and historic institution. Oxford is an independent and self-governing institution, consisting of the central University and the Colleges (38 colleges and 6 Permanent Private Halls). There is no clear date of foundation, but teaching existed at Oxford in some form in 1096 and developed rapidly from 1167. Today it enjoys an international reputation as a world-class centre of excellence in research and teaching. It employs over 10,000 academic staff and has a student population of over 21,000.

Oxford University has won eight Queen’s Anniversary Prizes for Higher Education, more than any other university. Oxford was ranked first in the UK and fourth in the world in the Times Higher Education Supplement’s World University Rankings, 2011-2012.

Annual income was £919.6 million in 2010-11. Oxford is one of Europe’s most innovative and entrepreneurial universities: income from external research contracts exceeds £376 million (41%) of the annual income and more than 70 spin-off companies have been created.

For more information please visit: http://www.ox.ac.uk
**Academic Divisions**

There are four Academic Divisions - Humanities; Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences; Medical Sciences; and Social Sciences.

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**Oriental Faculty**

The Oriental Faculty, along with the following faculties and departments, belong to the Humanities Division:

- Rothermere American Institute
- Faculty of Classics
- Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art
The principal areas of study at the Faculty of Oriental studies are:

Islamic World, Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Eastern Christianity, Egyptology and Ancient Near East, South and Inner Asia, and East Asian Studies.

East Asia Studies is divided into three main subject areas, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, and Korean Studies.

Chinese Studies began in 1876 with the appointment of the great missionary-scholar James Legge as its first Professor of Chinese. His critical translations of the Confucian scriptures and other classic texts are still used as a standard reference today. Oxford University has well over 40 academics involved in a wide range of topics in Chinese Studies, and is a world-leading centre for scholarship on pre-modern, modern, and contemporary China. Thanks to a recent generous donation, a dedicated building with a library for China-related study is planned to be built this year and will open in 2014. The new China Centre will bring together academics from across the whole University, co-ordinating activities in all areas of study on China.

Japanese has been taught as a degree subject at Oxford since 1963. The Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies was established in 1981 with a generous endowment from the Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., and since then Oxford has become a major national and international centre for the study of Japan. The University currently has sixteen senior faculty members and three full-time language instructors engaged in research and teaching in fields related to Japan.

Korean language and history are recent additions to the Faculty of Oriental Studies. Some teaching of Korean language was offered intermittently over the years, and a fixed-term University Instructorship in Korean Language was established from January 1994. This was followed by a fixed-term University Lecturership in Korean History from June 1994. Both of these posts were made possible by a generous start-up grant from the Korea Foundation. Over
the decade to 2004, a further grant from the Korea Foundation and generous gifts from Dr. Chong Hee Seung and former Minister Lee Yun Taek have supported Korean Studies and kept it alive at Oxford.

A Master of Studies (M.St.) in Korean Studies was approved in spring 1995 and graduated its first student in the spring of 1996. Since then, a good number of students have taken the degree, some with Distinction. Although undergraduate students could prepare for individual examinations in Korean language or Korean history, from 2003, students of Chinese and Japanese can take three ‘papers’ in Korean: Language, Classical Texts, and History and Culture, effectively constituting 30% of their degrees and allowing them to graduate with degrees in ‘Chinese with Korean’ or ‘Japanese with Korean’. Other undergraduate options in Korean also exist. Students of Chinese can read Korean classical texts in Classical Chinese. Students of Chinese and Japanese can write their undergraduate dissertations on an aspect of Korean history or Korean Linguistics.

In June 2005, the University established a permanent post in Korean History, and in July 2006, a generous endowment from the Korea Foundation and the International Communication Foundation established a permanent post with the name ‘Young Bin Min-Korea Foundation Lecturership in Korean Language and Linguistics’. The establishment of a full undergraduate degree in Korean Studies awaits permanent funding for a third post in Korean Literature; until then, Korean subjects can only be offered as options within existing undergraduate programmes in Chinese and Japanese. Undergraduate interest in Korean Studies is strong and expanding.

For more information about the Oriental Studies Faculty and Korean Studies, please visit:

http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/

and

http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/ea/korean/index.html

Today the number of students of Korea-related studies has reached around 25. Incidentally the number of Korean nationals studying at Oxford has been steadily increasing over the years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>144 (South Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>134 (South Korea) + 4 (North Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>132 (South Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/9</td>
<td>125 (South Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/8</td>
<td>111 (South Korea) + 6 (North Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/7</td>
<td>95 (South Korea) + 12 (North Korea)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics provided by the Information Office, University of Oxford
The University’s many libraries contain the largest and most diverse collections for the support of teaching and research in any institution of higher education in the United Kingdom. Its main research library, the Bodleian Library dates from 1602 and is globally acknowledged to be one of the greatest libraries in the world. It has been a library of legal deposit for 400 years and members of the University and scholars from afar have a reasonable expectation of satisfying a very high proportion of their library needs somewhere within Oxford’s libraries. The Libraries, which together form Bodleian Libraries, is the largest university library system in the United Kingdom. It contains more than 12 million printed items, in addition to 30,000
e-journals and other materials in different formats. It adds to stock an average of well over 1000 items per day throughout the year.

For more information please visit: [http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

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**East Asian Collections**

Chinese language books were among the Library's earliest acquisitions after its foundation in 1602 and numbered over 100 volumes by the end of the 17th century. Nowadays, Oxford has one of the finest Chinese book collections outside the Far East. It is also one of the largest and fastest-growing Chinese collections in Europe. The total of its holding is around a quarter of a million items. Japanese language books were also acquired from the early 17th century and now Japanese holdings have grown to about half the size of the Chinese collection.

**Korean Collections**

Korean language collection started in the late 19th century and was built up in the 20th century. The collection has been steadily growing in size and coverage into the 21st century. In 1990 it numbered 2,860 titles (approximately 5,000 volumes). It expanded to about 6,000 titles by 2000 and has now well in excess of 10,000 titles (approximately 30,000 volumes). Among the earliest accessions are a group of Bibles
translated into han’gŭl by John Ross and donated by Reverend Solomon Ceasar Malan in 1885. Other significant donations came into the library sporadically between 1896 and 1930 from Bishop Mark Napier Trollope, who first went to Korea in 1890. These items include two important manuscripts, one of which is a painted procession of the funeral of King Yŏngjo (1694–1776) and a set of four volumes with depictions of figures from the Chinese past: emperors, philosophers, and poets. The bishop also donated a noteworthy collection of sixteenth- to nineteenth-century printed Korean texts.

The most recent notable acquisition is from Monsignor Richard Rutt. This gift is a large donation, which arrived at the library in October 2008. It is composed of about 2,000 items. The collection is the larger part of Rutt’s personal library and offers an impressive scholar’s collection. Included in the collection is a collection of items related to James Scarth Gale (1863–1937) which the Monsignor obtained from Gale’s family while preparing Gale’s biography. This includes Gale’s unpublished works, translations, and letters. There is also a small collection of important books on linguistics, notably one entitled Terminations of the verb 하다, a very rare book. Currently there is no other known surviving copy anywhere in the world. Other items include a cloisonné dish made and signed by Princess Yi Pangja.

Other languages

There are about 12,000 titles in western languages as well as over 400 journal titles. The earliest work in a European language on Korea is Hendrik Hamel’s An account of the shipwreck of a Dutch vessel . . . with the description of the Kingdom of Korea. Oxford has two French editions; both were published in Paris in 1670 by Chez Louys Billaine (TAY Main Libr VET.FR.I.A.149) and Chez Thomas Jolly (ASC Gallery h.12.24). Other interesting works include Basil Hall’s Account of a voyage of discovery to the west coast of Corea . . . (1818) (BOD Bookstack 4º BS. 308); John M’Leod’s Voyage of His Majesty’s ship Alceste, along the coast of Corea, to the island of Lewchew: with an account of her subsequent shipwreck (1818) (BOD Bookstack 8º R 152 BS. [1]).

After the opening of Korea to the West in 1882, great numbers of books on Korea’s history and geography, as well as maps, began to appear in the late nineteenth century. The library’s map collection includes maps showing routes made by such well-known travellers as Isabella Bird Bishop (1831–1904). The Bodleian possesses a copy of her Sketch map of central Korea (D23:5 [1]) and her General map of Korea and neighbouring countries (D1:4 [78]). Both were published in 1898 and include Bishop’s first and second journeys. There are also maps showing Captain A. E. J. Cavendish’s route. Captain Cavendish (1859–1943) was one of the few travellers who gave first-hand, detailed accounts of the area around Paektusan (‘White Head Mountain’, C. Changbaishan) in the nineteenth century. Cavendish’s Sketch map of Korea (D23 [101]), which shows his route, was published in July 1894. The library also has the second edition (D23 [117]), published a month later in August 1894 by the same publisher, which includes treaty ports and main roads as well as his route.

In addition, there is a collection of materials related to missionary work in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. These materials include the private correspondence of Bishop Trollope from 1891 to 1929, as well as letters received and sent between 1889 and 1928 from the archives of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. There are also bound copies of ‘Morning Calm’, the diocesan newsletter from 1890, as well as photographs related to missionary work.
The library also acquires Japanese publications relating to Korean studies, and has some 700 titles as well as a few periodicals. Although not as big as other East Asian collections, it is still one of the biggest Korean collections in the UK and indeed in Europe.

Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon (Copyright Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford)
BSF opened in October 2010 and will house up to nine million books.
Locations of Bodleian Library’s Korean Collections

Korean materials, according to their natures and contents are housed in various locations.

**Korean Research Collection** (Both Western and Korean Language)
The research collection was previously housed on the central Bodleian site and has been moved to the new Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon. Books may be requested to be read in the reading rooms of the Oriental Institute Library and the Institute for Chinese Studies Library.

**Korean Teaching Collection** (Both Western and Korean Language)
Material on Korea required for teaching purposes at the Oriental Institute is kept in the Oriental Institute and the Chinese Studies libraries.

**Japanese Koreanology**
Works in Japanese relating to the study of Korea have also been moved to BSF and are made available through the reading rooms of the Oriental Institute Library and the Institute for Chinese Studies Library.

**Korean Art and Archaeology** (Both Western and Korean Language)
Works relating to Korean art and archaeology are housed in the Eastern Art collection at the Sackler Library.
Korean Manuscripts and Antiquarian Printed Books
These are housed in the Special Collections at the Radcliffe Science Library temporarily until 2015, when the New Bodleian Library will open as the Weston Library. The Special Collections will then be relocated to the Weston Library.

Korean Maps
Maps are made available through the reading room of the Duke Humphrey’s Library.

Missionary Documents
Materials related to missionary work in Korea are housed in the Rhodes House Library.

Catalogues

Western and Korean language works are catalogued on SOLO (Oxford Libraries' Catalogue). Original script internet access is available to sources in Korean as well as western languages.

[http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley)

For more information regarding Korean collections please see the recent publication:

Recent developments of the collections

The Korean Studies collection has been developing fast in the past few years in Oxford due to a succession of projects.

Project 1:

In 2008, the Bodleian Libraries received a generous donation, and a project (2008-2009) was set up to develop the information resources for Korean Studies and to improve service to those interested in Korea. This led to a number of significant enhancements including the finalization of a complete Korean online catalogue; the acquisition of over 3,000 monographs and several important journal titles; the retrospective conversion of about 3,000 volumes of monographs and serial runs (from card catalogues); and the clearing of a backlog of about 1,000 volumes, to improve access to the collection. Also significant donations received include the large donation of about 2,000 items from Monsignor Richard Rutt in 2008 and the gift of an important collection of recently published books and reproduced manuscripts (112 titles in 400 volumes) from the Kyujanggak Royal Library, presented by Dr Lee Jang-moo, President of Seoul National University in 2009.
**Essential actions taken in carrying out the project:**

Librarians met up once a month with Korean Studies teaching staff for advice and direction, particularly the acquisition of materials.

A part time project assistant (6 hours per week) was recruited, and the time equivalent to two days per week of two existing members of staff from the Oriental section was allocated to the project.

Assessment of information needs for Korean Studies was conducted within the University in the widest sense. This involved talking to Korean Studies teaching staff and people with interests, as well as circulating messages to all departments of the University to find out what materials are required and assess the trends in Korean Studies.

Important materials (monographs, journals, and e-resources) were identified and acquired from the findings of the above, and through gleaning ideas for information provision for Korean Studies from peer institutions as well as various specialists’ catalogues.

An online subscription to the Korean Studies Information Service System (KISS) for journal retrieval was established. This was upgraded to E-Korean studies since 2010 with subscription fees partly supported by the Korea Foundation.

Searches of materials using original scripts (Korean or Chinese characters) were made possible through the SOLO facility, the library’s main search engine.

The collection was made more accessible by clearing the backlog of about 1,000 volumes of unprocessed printed materials in Korean. Records of over 3,000 volumes of monographs and serial runs (from card catalogues) were retrospectively converted to improve access to the collection.

**Closer link with other institutes nationally and abroad:**

Closer working relationships with other institutions that have Korea-related collections were developed and visits were made to all UK institutions with Korean Studies programmes (SOAS and Sheffield) and the British Library as well as the Korean Cultural Centre, UK.

A cooperative agreement was signed with Seoul National University following a meeting on 6 June 2008 with Prof. Yoon Hiwon of Seoul National University. The University was later visited by Dr. Jang-Moo Lee, the President of Seoul National University, on 17 March 2009, to present the Bodleian Library with a collection of books and reproduced manuscripts (112 titles in about 400 volumes) from the Kyujanggak Royal Library.
The photograph depicts the presentation of the gift by Dr. Jang-Moo Lee, the President of Seoul National University and Dr. Sarah Thomas, Bodley’s Librarian, a keen supporter especially for East Asian Studies and resources.

**Project 2:**

In order to keep up the momentum with earlier developments, another project (2010-2011) was set up and funded by the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea to promote Korean cultural objects possessed by the Bodleian Libraries and the museums of the University of Oxford. The project was contracted for one year and consisted of two parts: the exhibition and the publication. The “Korean Treasures” exhibition (26 August – 26 September 2011) was held at the Bodleian Library, and *Korean Treasures: Rare Books, Manuscripts and Artefacts in the Bodleian Libraries and Museums of Oxford University* was published in November 2011.

The project uncovered many important books and artefacts related to Korea acquired by donations throughout the long history of the Bodleian Libraries and the museums of the University of Oxford. Due to an early lack of specialist knowledge in Koreana, many of these Korean items were largely neglected. The publication of *Korean Treasures* sought out these items and presented them together in a single volume for the first time. Notable items include the court painting scroll (*ŭigwe* 儀軌) of the funeral procession of King Yŏngjo (英祖, 1694–1776); a presentation edition of a book given by King Yŏngjo to his son-in-law; a group of documents issued by Emperor Kojong (高宗, 1852–1919) between 1885-1886 to confer various titles to his civil and military officials; a sundial made by the famous maker Kang
Min(姜潤, 1830–1898) for Emperor Kojong; a ceramic dish made and signed by Princess Yi Pangja (李方子, 1901–1989) as well as a rare example of a suit of armour, an ornate helmet of the early 18\textsuperscript{th} or 19th century, a general’s quiver and arrows, and many more.

The poster of the “Korean Treasures” Exhibition displayed at the entrance to the Divinity School, Bodleian Library, where the exhibition was held from (26 August – 26 September 2011).

Although the publication project was contracted for one year, there was actually only six months possible for the preparation of the manuscript. Three months had to be allowed for
Still, the publication was completed in good time.

In order to find out what other treasures there are in other collections in Oxford, a lot of time was spent visiting various departments, searching through catalogues, and talking to various curators. Once certain important items were identified, the advice of experts was sought to ascertain whether the items are genuine. The research required close contact with a wide range of Korean Studies scholars and important institutions like the National Library of Korea, Kyujanggak Royal Library, Seoul National University, National Museum of Korea, and so on.

**Project 3:**

In March 2012, a successful bid was made to the National Library of Korea to begin a project entitled “Window on Korea”. The project will provide the Bodleian Libraries up to 4,000 volumes in the first year (2012) and 200 volumes per year during the next five years (2013 – 2017). In addition, the National Library of Korea will also provide equipment funding up to USD 13,000. The Bodleian Libraries will provide a designated space and staffing for the project and prepare and hold an official opening ceremony. The most important result will be the augmentation and amalgamation of the holdings on Korea.

The Bodleian Libraries has made available at the Oriental Institute Library a designated room of approximately 100 square metres. There are 55 stacks (bookshelves) providing over 400 metres of shelf space. In addition to the above space, in the designated room, there are about 15 square metres of space planned for a multi-media room. This is an excellent and timely project to further the development of Korean Studies and the Korean library.
collections in Oxford. It offers the opportunity to expand the collection to cope with the steady increase in student numbers and the coverage of subjects taught as well as bringing all necessary Korean materials (reference, newspapers, teaching, audio visual, and research materials) into one location at the Oriental Institute where Korean courses are taught. This is an exciting time for the development of Korean Studies and resources and will firmly establish Oxford as one of the important centres for Korean Studies in the west.

The print collection and online subscriptions have been generously supported over the years by the Korea Foundation, the National Institute of Korean History, the Northeast Asian History Foundation, and the Academy of Korean Studies, as well as by such benefactors as Mr Zvi Meitar. Significant donations such as the gift of an important collection of recently published books and reproduced manuscripts from the Kyujanggak Royal Library, Seoul National University in 2009.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for their support. We are also very grateful to the National Library of Korea, the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea, and Seoul National University for their support of recent projects.