Chinese Rare Book and Special Collections at UW Libraries: Preservation Needs & Actions

Zhijia Shen
University of Washington
Texting China Symposium
Chicago
May 10-13, 2012
Outline

1. Overview of UW Chinese special collections
2. Preservation needs of UW Chinese rare book collections
3. Progress in preserving our special collections
4. Wish list for more collaboration among holding institutions

University of Washington Seattle Campus
Chinese Special Collections

- Ming prints
- Special Collection of Qian Qianyi’s works
- Joseph Rock Collection
- Tibetan collection
- Ancient Chinese books (pre-1911)
- Republican publications
Chinese Special collections largely from UW Faculty

Herbert H. Gowen (1864-1960)
George E. Taylor (1905-2000)
Helmut Wilhelm (1905-1990)
Karl A. Wittfogel (1896-1988)
李方桂（1902-1987）
萧公权（897-1981）
施友忠（1902-2001）
《錢牧齋先生箋註杜工部集》
牧齋初學集110卷 (清)錢謙益撰 明崇禎17年(1644)海虞瞿式耜刊本
《御纂周易折中》 Yu zuan Zhou yi zhe zhong
清康熙54年 (1715)
《楚辭評林》Chu ci ping lin
明成化11年 (1475)
李義山詩集箋注 16卷 (唐)李商隱作; (清)姚培謙箋注
清乾隆5年(1740) 松桂讀書堂刊本
It is heavily annotated by Prof. Hsiao
J.F. Rock Collection

Joseph F. Rock (1884-1962)
《裏塘志略》 Litang zhi lüe
清嘉慶15年 (1810)
雲南通志30卷，卷首
(清)吳自肅，丁煒纂修；(清)謝儼等分修
清康熙30年(1691)刻本
Preservation needs of UW Chinese rare book

- Professional assessment of the collection in order to determine the scope of preservation needs
- Housing/Rehousing – many materials need preservation boxes
- Conservation – many books need repair and reformatting (digitization)
- Storage environment-- current location of rare materials needs improvement and we are planning to move materials to a better location in coming year
- Part of the special materials are not cataloged—need expertise in rare-book cataloging
六書正譌 (元) 周伯琦編注
清同治惜古幀刊本
Conservation: repairing and stabilization
Need housing:
Improve the Storage environment:
Many older collections are not Cataloged:
Progress in preservation of our special collections

• Major cataloging projects: 1990s rare-book cataloging; since 2007, over 45,000 of the 60k “pre-cat” books
• Recalling special collection books from general stacks for better storage environment and security
• Funding secured and space identified for the new EAL Special Collections Room
• Several internal funding for re-housing projects
• Expanding and updating annotated bibliography of special collections building on “A Descriptive Catalog of the Ming Editions in the Far Eastern Library of the University of Washington.”
• Digitization project in collaboration with NCL in Taiwan
Re-housing:
Digitization: in collaboration with National Central Library Taiwan

http://rarebook.ncl.edu.tw/rbook/
Problems identified during digitization:


Wang Jue. “Rare works by Qian Qianyi and other Qing Dynasty Rare books of poetry and literature. Bulletin of NCL. V. 25, no. 2.

A new project currently in progress
Our Wish List

We would like to see more collaboration among holding institutions in these areas:

• Professional assistance in collection analysis to identify unique/rare items at each U.S. institution
• Inventory of un-cataloged rare items at each U.S. institution; assistance with expertise for rare book cataloging
• Conservation/Preservation training for rare materials
• Collaborative digitization projects (supported locally due to rareness of materials) combined with support for basic stabilization/repair of materials to be scanned
• Collaborative approach for cataloging of unique un-cataloged materials
Thank you!

Beckman Reading-room of East Asia Library
University of Washington Libraries