Academic Korean Librarianship: An Overview
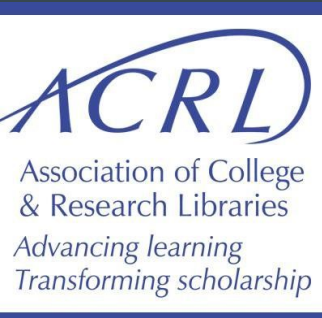
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ACRL International Perspectives Discussion Group
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Yujin Hong, Minsun Kim

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I. Introduction

Introduction 1 - Yujin Hong

- Librarian at the Kyung Hee University (2013 - Present)
- Librarian at the Sogang University (2011 - 2012)
- Teacher Librarian at the Hangaram High School (2010)
- B.A Library & Information Science and Education from Ewha Women's University (2005 - 2009)

- Research interests: Engaging first-year students in information literacy, OER and data mining

- Contact: yujinhong@khu.ac.kr or on Linkedin.

Introduction 1 - Yujin Hong

- Public Services Librarian at Kyung Hee University

  - Supervise central library circulation, ILL and DDS
  - Develop and manage activities in promoting, marketing, and enhancing access to library resources and services.
  - Develop and implement outreach programs that engage library user communities at KHU and beyond.
  - Organize book exhibitions in the central library.
  - Teach library instruction classes in English for undergraduate and graduate students.
  - Participate in the selection, training and supervision of 10 temporary librarians.

My work - **Kyung Hee University**

- Private research university which founded in 1949 by Dr. Young Seek Choue
- Hosted the 1968 conference of the International Association of University Presidents.
- Has 24 colleges, 71 departments and majors, 65 master's and 63 doctorate programs

My work - **Kyung Hee University Central Library**

- Collections: 1,516,742(as of Oct. 2017)
  - Oriental Books: 940,692
  - Western Books: 294,120
  - Paper Journals: 469
  - Audio-Visual Materials: 31,270
  - E-Resources : 315,935 Titles

- Patron(Undergraduate + Graduate): 18,943 (as of Oct. 2017)

- Librarians: 13 (Temporary librarians : 18)

- Facilities
  - Number of branches: 6

    (Central, Law, Medical, Korean Medicine, Music, Art)
  - Total Area : 20, 812m²

- Classification: DDC 22, KCR4

Introduction 2 - Minsun Kim

- Librarian at Sogang University (2010 - Present)
  - Reference Librarian (2014 - Present)
  - Cataloging Librarian (2010 - 2014)

- M.A Newspaper & Publishing, Sogang University
- B.A Library & Information Science and English Language & Literature, Chung-ang University

- Research interests: Reference service, User experience in the library

- Contact: serena@sogang.ac.kr or on Linkedin

Sogang University

- Established by the Society of Jesus as a college in 1960
- Became a full University in 1970
- Consists of 9 college and 12 graduate school

Loyola Library

- **Facilities**
- Two libraries (Loyola Library and Law Library)
- Total area: 16,051m²

- **Collections** (as of Dec. 2016)
- Paper books: 1,195,704 books
- Paper journals: 671 titles
- Audio-video/Microform materials: 33,774 pieces
- Electronic materials: 64 packages, 102,932 titles

- **People** (as of Dec. 2016)
- Users: 17,101 people
- Employees: 30 people (Director 1, Librarian 25, Security 4)

- **Annual Budget** (as of Dec. 2016)
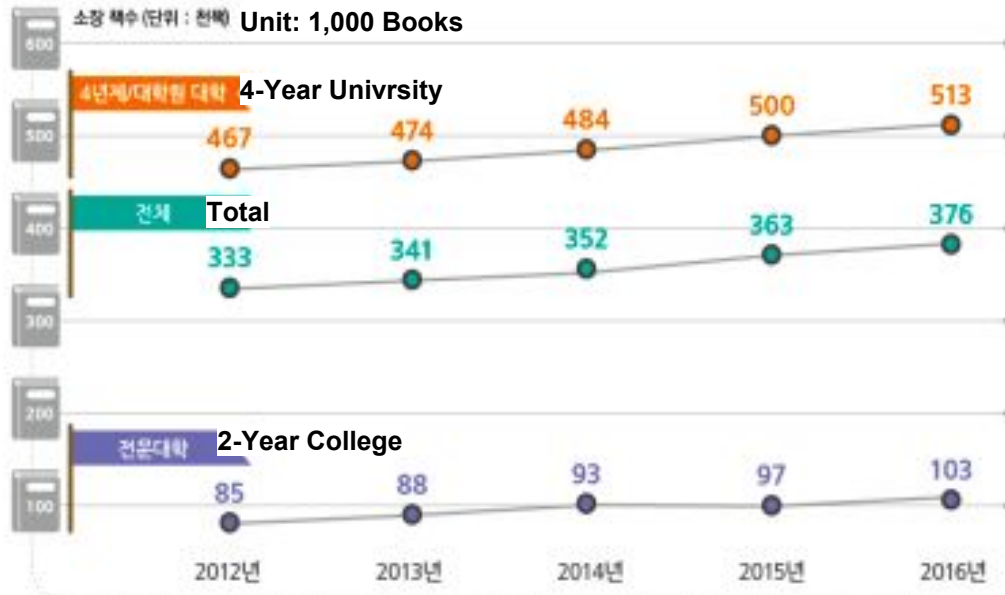- Around 23 billion won (2.3 million US dollar)

II. Academic Libraries in Korea

II-1.
Statistics & Qualifications

1. Statistics & Qualifications

The average number of books of university libraries in recent 5 years

소장 책수 (단위 : 천책) Unit: 1,000 Books

4년제/대학원 대학 4-Year Univrsity

467 474 484 500 513

전체 Total

333 341 352 363 376

2-Year College

85 88 93 97 103

2012년 2013년 2014년 2015년 2016년

Average annual increase of about 10,000 books

Number of books borrowed per student: 7.2 books

Source : 2016 Statistical Analysis of University Libraries. KERIS

1. Statistics & Qualifications

Changes in the ratio of purchasing costs by type of data for the last three years

자료구입비 비율

- **E-Resources**: 61.1% (2014) → 64.4% (2015) → 64.9% (2016)
- **Books**: 27.2% (2014) → 25.0% (2015) → 25.3% (2016)
- **Periodical**: 10.0% (2014) → 9.3% (2015) → 8.8% (2016)
- **Non-Book Resources**: 1.6% (2014) → 1.3% (2015) → 1.1% (2016)

2014년 2015년 2016년

The ratio of purchasing e-resources among total purchase costs is increasing every year after exceeding 60% since 2014.

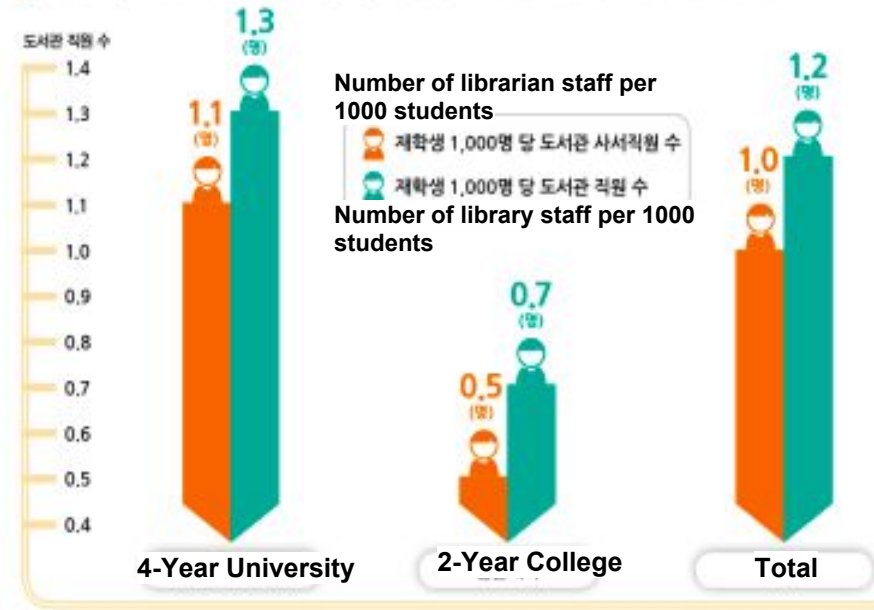Source : 2016 Statistical Analysis of University Libraries. KERIS

1. Statistics & Qualifications

Number of librarian per 1,000 students in university libraries :
1.2 average

Source : 2016 Statistical Analysis of University Libraries. KERIS

Comparing the number of library staff and librarian staff per 1,000 students in university library

(그림 10) 대학도서관의 재학생 1,000명 당 도서관 직원 및 사서 직원 수 비교

도서관 직원 수

Number of librarian staff per 1000 students
재학생 1,000명 당 도서관 사서직원 수
재학생 1,000명 당 도서관 직원 수
Number of library staff per 1000 students

1.4
1.3
1.2
1.1
1.0
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4

1.1 (명)   1.3 (명)
4-Year University

0.5 (명)   0.7 (명)
2-Year College

1.0 (명)   1.2 (명)
Total

1. Statistics & Qualifications

- Three categories of librarian Licences

  - First-grade professional librarian
  - Second-grade professional librarian
  - Paraprofessional librarian

Most university librarians holds First or Second-grade librarian licenses. But **acquiring MLIS is not required.**

- Grades are determined by education. A university or college degree is required, but completion of a library academy would also be acceptable.
- There are a total 86,404 librarian licenses issued as of October 31, 2016. (2,421 for First-grade professional, 52,107 for Second-grade professional, 31,876 for Paraprofessional)

II-2.
Current Issues

Issues 1. E-Resources Subscription

Approximately 60% of the collections budget is spent on e-resources purchases since 2014

Issues 1. E-Resources Subscription

Library material purchase budget only takes approximately 0.8% of total university budget since 2013

Source: Research Information Statistics System(Rinfo)
www.rinfo.kr

Percent of the whole university budget for library material budget: %

Average percent of the whole university budget for library material budget: %

4-Year University 2-Year College Graduate University Average
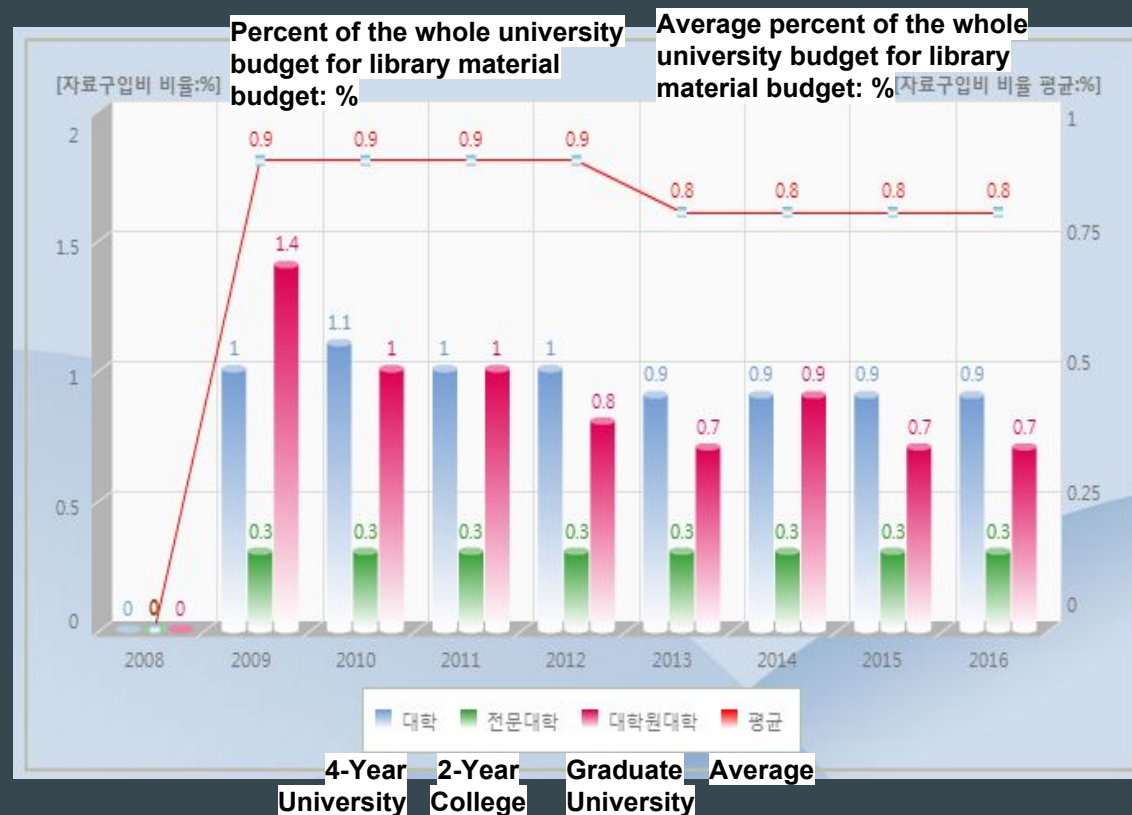
Issues 1. E-Resources Subscription

"From now on, Korea should also carefully review the academic information circulation system and turn it into the most desirable direction at the national level and establish a strategy so that it will not be absorbed into academic information in developed countries(곽동철, 2016)."

- **Background**
- Reduction of the library material budget and increasing subscription cost
- Unpredictable of exchange-rate fluctuation and KRW depreciation (Need to pay each country's currency)
- The proliferation of national-led consortiums : ACE, KESLI

- **Result**
- Caused some consortium items to be broken down, subscription termination
- Provided inefficient academic resources as a package which is not even used.

Issues 2. School administration attitude towards librarians

"It is common that Librarians at Private University move to administrative offices(김지홍, 2011)."

- **Reason**

- Lack of budget by tuition freeze and decrease of students → Reduce employees → Send librarians to administrative offices
- Lack of understanding librarians' specialties → Send young and competent librarians to main administrative offices

- **Problem**

"Academic librarians are 1,255 less than 10 years ago. Lots of Universities send librarians to other administrative offices, and send temporary librarians or even part-time job students to libraries(백수현, 2014)."

- Poor library service or management can be caused by staffing problem

Issues 3. Enact "The Academic Library Promotion Act"

*"University librarians responded that big issues related to the university library
is the Academic Library Promotion Act(노영희, 2016)."*

- **Background**

- "The Library Act" focuses on public libraries and the National library

- **Contents**

- Covered of the obligation, management, work, personnel, a committee for library management, facilities and resources, promotion plan for academic library assessment, etc.

- **After the enactment**

- Enacted "Enforcement ordinance of the Academic Library Promotion Act"
- Started to change school regulations to reflect the Act
- With minimum limit guidance, some are worried of academic libraries are being worse

III. Specific Services

III.-1.
RISS & FRIC

RISS (Research Information Sharing Service) http://www.riss.kr

- An academic research information service operated by Korea Education & Research Information Service (KERIS) which is a department of education funded since 1998
- Provides various academic information such as domestic journals, overseas journals, monographs as well as theses

- Number of Theses: about 1,960,464
- Since 2007, KERIS has been distributing a system called dCollection to universities nationwide.
- Theses registered through dCollection will be transferred to RISS within the scope of the original text agreement.

RISS

| Writing thesis | Submitting thesis to dCollection | Each university and KERIS validates thesis | Transfer Theses from each university's dcollection to RISS server | Full text free use via RISS |

FRIC (Foreign Research Information Center) http://www.fric.kr

- Support small and medium university libraries and researchers who are unable to meet the demand for expensive foreign academic information
- The university selected as a support center for foreign academic journals provides the original journals in its own journals for the students of other institutions as well as the researchers of other institutions.
  (50% of the journal subscription fee is supported by the government and supported investment budget)

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- 10 FRIC support centers are in operation.

III.-2.
Research Service
: North Korean Studies

Research Service: North Korean Studies

- **North Korean Studies in Sogang University**
  - North Korea Politics in the Department of Political Science, Graduate School
  - Department of North Korea Studies and Unification Policy, Graduate School of Public Policy

- **General services for North Korean Studies**
  - Acquisition, Cataloging, Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery, etc.

Research Service: North Korean Studies

- **Provide materials published in North Korea**

  - Closed Materials(특수자료)
    Materials which contains below
    a. Political or ideological materials published by North Korea or anti-government organization
    b. Content is to propagate North Korea or anti-government organization
    c. Content is to propagate Communism
    d. Content is to deny the legitimacy of South Korea or liberal democracy

  - Permission to be a Closed Materials Institution(특수자료 취급기관)
    Institutions can only apply with below purposes
    a. To study and research
    b. Agencies where need to import or offer materials for other Closed Materials Institutions
    c. Institutions where need to handle Closed Materials for work

    Regulated by the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development

Research Service: North Korean Studies

- **Closed Materials Service in Sogang University**

- Resources: 1,978 books (as of Dec. 2016)
  a. Books: 1,508 books
  b. Paper journals: 1 title(Rodong Sinmun), 468 books

- User Service
  a. Reading: can read in the designated place after checking the identification
  b. Borrowing: can borrow during 30 days after checking the identification and writing the oath
  ※ Only 3 people read 10 books and 1 person borrowed 1 book in 2016

- Report to the Government
  a. Annual report about the status of use and collection
  b. Regular report to check the process of the service and the facility followed by the manual

Research Service: North Korean Studies

- **Useful website for searching North Korea information**

- 통일부 북한자료센터 (North Korea Resource Center, Ministry of Unification)
  http://unibook.unikorea.go.kr
- 북한정보포털 (North Korea Information Portal, Ministry of Unification)
  http://nkinfo.unikorea.go.kr
- 통일부 (Ministry of Unification)
  http://www.unikorea.go.kr
- 국방부 (Ministry of National Defense)
  http://www.mnd.go.kr
- 국가정보원 (National Intelligence Service)
  http:/eng.nis.go.kr

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Q & A

Yujin Hong at yujinhong@khu.ac.kr

Minsun Kim at serena@sogang.ac.kr