



The Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia  
A committee of the Southeast Asia Council (SEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS)  
[www.cormosea.org](http://www.cormosea.org) | [www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org)

**CORMOSEA Subcommittee on Technical Processes**

**Wednesday, 25 March 2020**

**3 – 4 pm EST Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Jade Alburo (University of California, Los Angeles), Larry Ashmun (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Fe Susan Go (University of Michigan), Gregory Green (Cornell University), Judith Henchy (University of Washington), Richard Lesage (Harvard University), Apikanya McCarty (Cornell University, Chair and Recorder), Zoë McLaughlin (Michigan State University), Carol Mitchell (Library of Congress - Jakarta), Rohayati Paseng (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa), Jeffrey Shane (Ohio University), and Virginia Shih (University of California, Berkeley)

**I. Southeast Asian Language Cataloging Update**

**1) Burmese language**

There are more Burmese publications in Buddhist literature and general literature available for library acquisitions. Burmese cataloging has become a priority at the University of Washington (UW). Harvard, Michigan and Wisconsin also collect Burmese materials. It has been a challenge to hire a cataloger to catalog Burmese materials. Christopher Miller at Arizona State University helps Harvard catalog their Burmese materials. Some graduate students at Michigan and UW can help with Burmese cataloging. Fe Susan Go mentioned that University of Toronto has a large Burmese community. CORMOSEA might be able to recruit someone from Toronto to help with Burmese cataloging.

**2) Khmer language**

Apikanya McCarty is cataloging the Khmer backlog that they received from Wanna Net in Cambodia. Apikanya suggested to edit the name authority records as most of them were created based on the older version of the Library of Congress Khmer Romanization table, which is inconsistent with the new version. Carol Mitchell suggested Apikanya to work with the Library of Congress - Jakarta staff on this matter.

**3) Lao language**

Larry Ashmun reported that the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library has been using the Backstage Library Works for Lao outsourced cataloging but the cataloging quality is far from satisfactory.

**4) Vietnamese language**

The Vietnamese cataloger at the Library of Congress - Jakarta Office has retired. The Vietnamese cataloger at the University of Washington will retire soon. Berkeley and Harvard have used the Backstage Library Works and OCLC for Vietnamese outsourced cataloging.

Jeffrey Shane suggested to hire a cataloger for cooperative Southeast Asia cataloging but CORMOSEA thought it would be a difficult recruitment. Virginia Shih suggested that outsourced cataloging is one effective option to improve access to ongoing backlogs even if the cataloging quality is not highly desirable. Other options are to hire

students with Southeast Asian language expertise or recruit volunteers from the local community which is not always reliable.

## II. University of Washington (UW) Southeast Asia Cataloging Update by Laura Tuck<sup>1</sup>

- I continue to perform copy and original cataloging of Thai language materials on a half-time basis. I also contribute to the Library of Congress NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program) and SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program).
- Our Near East cataloger performs Indonesian and Malay materials cataloging in addition to his primary geographic area.
- We have sent some Burmese materials to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for outsourced cataloging through the BTAA (Big Ten Academic Alliance)'s cooperative cataloging partnership.
- Our search for a Vietnamese language cataloger was unsuccessful. One option we are considering is team cataloging for Vietnamese materials, that is, teaming an experienced cataloger with a Vietnamese-speaking assistant.
- UW Libraries are a member of the Linked Data for Production 2 cohort. In that capacity, we made significant experiments with Sinopia.<sup>2</sup> First an RDA application profile was created, allowing multiple derivative profiles to describe specific types of resources, like DVD-Video, monographs, maps, etc. These application profiles are mainly used in Sinopia to create data entry forms on top of Sinopia. Four groups of catalogers then used those forms to enter RDA data as RDF (Resource Description Framework) linked data (RDA-RDF). Thousands of triples have been produced and we will continue contributing triples to Sinopia well into June 2020.

### Questions:

- 1) Are Southeast Asia catalogers using LC GFT (genre/form terms) and LC DGT (demographic group terms) in their records? How have they been useful?
- 2) Have any Southeast Asia catalogers been involved in the testing of Sinopia? What are your experiences?
- 3) From last year's CORMOSEA technical processes meeting minutes: "*Rich Richie announced that OCLC now allows Khmer and Lao scripts so we are free to add these parallel fields to our bib records.*" Are catalogers now adding parallel fields in these scripts? Do they appear uncorrupted in OCLC?
- 4) From last year's CORMOSEA technical processes meeting minutes: "*A working group will be formed to explore further the best practice for formulating Khmer names in authority records. Larry Ashmun and Apikanya McCarty will spearhead this project.*" Has a decision been made about best practices regarding authorized Khmer names?
- 5) Is the SEATECHSERVICES listserv useful? What is its stated purpose? Is it reaching its intended audience?
- 6) It was mentioned in an email in December 2019 that some LC records are lacking proper diacritics. I am not aware of this issue. Can someone give examples and/or explain the situation?
- 7) I have other questions and some tips specifically for Thai language catalogers. Should I email them directly?

---

<sup>1</sup> Laura Tuck was unable to join the Zoom meeting. She sent her update and questions on April 3, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Sinopia is an open source, cloud-based linked data editor program. <https://sinopia.io/>