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EAST-WEST CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Lynette Wageman Interview Narrative

2-22-2007 interview in Honolulu, Hawaii

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The **East-West Center Oral History Project** strives to capture the Center's first 50 years as seen through the eyes of staff, alumni, and supporters who have contributed to its growth.

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Lynette Wageman

2/22/2007 interview in Honolulu, Hawaii

Personal Background

I was born in Trinidad, West Indies, to parents who were themselves born in Trinidad. I have never asked either of my parents nor my grandparents about their history. It never came up in conversation and it was considered rude to ask such “personal matters.”

Besides, at that time (pre-1955 when I left Trinidad) genealogy was not such a hot topic. So I really don't know exactly which parts of India they came from.

But with my father's name being Jagbandhansingh, we assume that it's from the Punjab, because the “Singhs” are usually the people who came from the Punjab. Both my parents spoke *Hindi*. At that time, they called it *Hindustani*. They spoke this language when they didn't want us to understand what they were saying. My grandparents would sometimes speak to us kids in Hindi even though they were proficient in English. As kids, I and my siblings were not at all interested in learning Hindi. Not at all. Well, I did learn the alphabet in school and this was about my extent of Indian languages.

There were no such “Indian” schools at that time. Because there was a Presbyterian mission school. The Canadian Presbyterian missionaries came down to Trinidad and built schools basically to educate the Indians. Well, that was pretty smart. They wanted to convert the Hindus and Moslems to Christianity, and in order to teach them they had the Bible translated into Hindi. They had their hymn books translated into Hindi, so that when you go to church, you could read and sing the hymns. And so they didn't feel it was anything too new. They just did it. So they felt quite comfortable doing that. Today there are many Hindu and Moslem schools and a large number have gone back to their

former religions.

Anyway, I am the last of four children. My oldest brother -- he's deceased now -- he was a dentist. My sister was in education for kids with special needs. And my second brother is a medical doctor. They were all born one year apart, so after three years, I was born. I was the youngest.

My father was a school principal so we (the children) had to be models for the rest of the school kids. We always had to have the highest grade in our class or else -- the belt.

Growing up in Trinidad was fun. We had no television so we spent lots of time outdoors playing and raiding the neighbor's mango, guava or tamarind trees. At that time Trinidad was very safe.

My parents always insisted on a good education for all of us. To get into a good high school, I had to study hard especially during my last year of elementary school. I was able to get a full scholarship to attend the high school of my choice. The last year of high school I had to take another exam to get into college in England or USA. I passed and chose to study in the U.S. But before leaving Trinidad, I taught at Maha Sabha School (Hindu) for 2 years and saved my money to pay for my ticket to the U.S.

I had a brother going to Georgetown University and a sister who was finishing her grad work at Columbia Teachers College in New York. She chose the college that I attended at Parkville, Missouri. Park College (now Park University) was a small Presbyterian college with only about 350 students, and most of them resided in the dorms.

The good thing about that college was that it had a work-study program. Everybody worked 10 hours a week, so we paid very little for room, board and tuition. That was really good for me because when I was a sophomore, my father died. And so I had to

manage on my own, working 20 hours a week plus attending my regular classes. That is when I started working in the library. I became the student assistant to the librarian. In college. My area was serials (periodicals). She gave me the whole works. You know, I had to do all the ordering, checking in the new issues and preparation for binding -- you know, the whole thing. And then in order to put in extra hours, she assigned me the job of opening the library after dinner and closing it at 10:00 when the curfew was on. So I was at the Reference Desk, too.

So I got to do all of that library stuff, without realizing, you know, where I would end up. At that time, my major was going to be foreign languages. So I was also the assistant to the foreign language department head, and he taught French and Spanish. And so I had to sometimes give tests, make-up tests, and correct tests for the students.

So I got a lot of experience with languages. I feel quite comfortable with languages. I left Trinidad in '55, graduated from college in '59. I got married right after I graduated from college. [To] somebody I knew from college, yes. And he hounded me so much that I thought OK but I would not marry him until I was graduated. I got through, and then I said, "OK."

Of course, my parents were not too happy about that. Because he was -- a *haole* (Caucasian) and not Indian. But anyway, that was OK. I was very happy. He had joined the Army right after his graduation in '58.

At that time, all selected young men had to join the Army. We got married in Boston, then went to live in Carmel, California, where Jim attended the Army language school. We lived in Germany for a year and a half, where he worked with intelligence. And what is funny is that while we were there, the Russians put up the Berlin Wall. And we had to

be on alert, ready to leave at any moment.

Because we didn't know what the Russians were going to do. You know, the wall just started to go up, and then we were all alerted. We were warned to act like nothing was going on, because they didn't want to have panic in the local Germans who might try to leave also in case we had to evacuate. Fortunately, we didn't have to leave.

So after our time there, we had to figure out what we were going to do after that.

Life Before EWC

Arrival in Hawai'i

And we were lucky in that the head of the English department at Park College, where I went to school and Jim got his B.A. in English, had kept in touch with us. He was married to a Japanese woman, and he couldn't live in Parkville anymore because he couldn't stand the small-town prejudice toward her, you know?

So he left there and came to Hawai'i, and became the head of the [*University of Hawai'i*] English department, Dr. Summersgill.

So when we were getting out of the Army, he offered Jim an assistantship to study for his master's degree in English. After the cold winters in Germany, we were more than ready for Hawai'i. I said, "Yes, let's go."

When we came to Hawai'i, it was like heaven for me. I just loved it. It was really nice.

Life at EWC

Joining EWC Library Staff, 1962

After Jim got settled into school, I started looking for a job. At a party for new English Department faculty, I met one of the wives who was working at the East-West Center. I think her name was Pat Friedland. She had recently started at the EWC library in

October '62. Anyway, we talked and in the conversation I told her that I was looking for a job but had no experience. I had not worked since I got married.

I mean, I had never worked outside the college environment, like in McDonald's or in a 7-11. All I knew was working in the library. She said, "I tell you what. I think they're looking for people in the EWC library." And so she gave me the name of Dr. *[Raymond] Nunn [first EWC librarian]*. I called and got an appointment for an interview the next day.

We talked and he asked about my background. He asked me if I knew *Hindi*, or any other South Asian languages. So I told him I knew some *Hindi*, enough to read titles and dates, etc. He said, "Well, we're getting all these materials from India, and we have nobody to work on them. Do you think you could do that?" So I said that I could. So he called up the librarian at Park College to check on my work there.

She gave me a good recommendation, saying if she were hiring, she'd hire me right away. He called me the next day and I got the job and I can start right away. That was 1962 in November.

EWC Library/Structure

The East-West Center Library was called Research Collections. The Oriental Library was the name of the Chinese/Japanese/Korean (CJK) language collection which was the core of the Asian language materials that were part of the UH Library. The curator for that collection was Hiroko Ikeda.

[Editor's note: In 1962, the East-West Center was part of the University of Hawai'i. Dr. Nunn was the Center's first library director and was just building what would become the EWC library.]

There was the Oriental Collection (CJK language collection) developed by the University Library staff and housed at Sinclair Library which later came under the jurisdiction of the East-West Center Library. There was also the Research Collections (non-CJK materials) developed by the EWC library staff under Dr. Nunn. These two collections eventually joined together to become the East-West Center Library.

And when I came, I didn't have anything much to do with the Oriental Library. I was working on all the serials that were not in CJK languages. These materials (we called it the Western Language Collection) were housed in Lincoln Hall.

To me, it's always been the East-West Center Library, but the CJK was always known as the Oriental. It stayed in Sinclair Library basement and never, ever came over to Lincoln Hall.

All the things that Dr. Nunn solicited from throughout Asia came to the East-West Center Library. *[These were]* in various languages but not Chinese/Japanese/Korean. We had a mailroom that was always bulging.

Public Law 480 Program (PL480)

And remember the PL480 program had started in 1960.

Public Law 480 Program was a bill passed by the U.S. Congress where South and Southeast Asian countries repaid debts by providing books to selected U.S. institutions. We were lucky to have been invited to participate from its very inception. We were one of seven libraries to receive these valuable materials. Our commitment was to catalog the materials and make them available to anyone who wanted to use them. *[The program went through some drastic changes when the money began to run out].*

The problem was that they were just buying up everything. They would just collect

everything. There were no proper guidelines for selection and we could not discard anything because of the contract. We just had to process them.

Building EWC Library

At that time the library was going to buy everything published that an East-West Center Library would have. Our users were scholars, students, and students who came from the Pacific Islands.

You know, when EWC started there were three levels. Three programs, yes. The scholar-in-residence, the regular students and the community development students [*Institute of Advanced Projects, Institute for Student Interchange, Institute for Technical Interchange*].

Something like that, yes. So we were going to collect all the relevant materials, even things from Africa. We thought we would collect basically from Asia to start out. We were planning to get materials from other countries: Australia, Europe, etc. So I was hired to be in charge of the serials and binding.

We were not microfilming at the library, but Dr. Nunn would send people out to the field with camera and film to microfilm important documents and newspapers, like for Okinawa. And for various places in Asia and Europe, he would send people out there to buy all the microfilmed materials available.

He was just an acquisitions person. I mean, he didn't pay that much attention to the cataloguing part. He said, "You can always catalog it later." He would borrow unique materials from other libraries and with their permission, have them filmed on campus. He was building up a really fantastic collection. And I read his interview, and it's true that at one time, we had one of the best collections of microfilm on Asia in the whole

world. We had things that nobody else had.

I have never seen a bunch of harder-working people, dedicated workers, as the staff that was there working with the East-West Center Library. First of all, we had lots of work to do and the world was against us. We were charting new ground with a library where materials were very difficult to acquire and to catalog. We had to be very flexible because there were not always cataloging rules to follow. We were dealing with the umpteen languages of Asia. We were young and inspired by all of this.

I remember Dr. Nunn would give me a long list of serials to order, and he'd be disappointed if I did not send out at least 100 orders per day. He would check on me at the end of the day to see how many I had completed. "How many did you order? 100?" How could I do 100, you know? We had typewriters. Remember, you have to type every address in the top, and "Dear so-and-so, we're interested... Please send us a copy..." You make a mistake and you have to erase, the carbon copy and all of that, so it took a long time.

Definitely a taskmaster. He was rather brusque and not one for small talk. I think he was shy but full of energy. Always "Let's go!"

You know, in the beginning days, it was really very hard. It was not an easy job trying to collect materials from Asian countries and getting them here. I mean, even at Hamilton Library, they were not used to buying materials from abroad, you know. So for us, sometimes it would mean you'd have to go down to the docks and clear customs. I remember once -- we got some packages from China, and they were down at the docks and the authorities didn't want us to clear them because we were at war with China. We had to open all of the packages for inspection.

Library Staff, Early 1960s

There were people in administration like Thelma Kobayashi who took care of the fiscal [matters]. She had a huge log book and she could track every purchase. In the library. And there was Robin [Kenny], the order/acquisitions person. And she did all the acquisitions and ordering.

There were also two curators, Dr. David de Queljoe, curator for Southeast Asia and Dr. Walter Mauer, curator for South Asia. They both worked half-time with EWC and half-time with UH. Jean Tanouye worked in Dr. Nunn's office.

We had Bernie Salmon who typed the catalog cards and Lan Char who was Reference/Acquisitions for Southeast Asia and for "Western Language" (WL) materials for China, Japan and Korea. Pat Friedland and Lynn Knauff cataloged WL materials. I remember Heather Lockwood in charge of South Asia materials.

There was Douglas Tan who was sent on extended acquisition trips to Asia – quite a character. There were a few cataloguers/acquisitions personnel who were over at the CJK collection in Sinclair. I think there was Mr. Su for Chinese, Mr. Kanda for Japanese and Mr. Ushio for Japan/Okinawa. I spent relatively little time with the staff over in the CJK Collection because I was overwhelmed with my own work. Of course, we met for meetings and special occasions.

UH/EWC Library Relations

[Editor's note: Wageman was asked about the relationship between the UH and EWC staff.]

We were upstarts, you see, because first of all, I don't think any of us had a library degree. The only person with a library degree when we started was Lan Char.

But they knew what they were doing. They had worked as librarians, but they didn't have the degree. So you could well imagine what the professionals at Hamilton Library (HL) were saying. "Hmm," nose up in the air. "You know, these upstarts, what do they know."

There was a lot of money coming in, federal funds administered by the State [*of Hawai'i*]. So they didn't like that either. Of course we tried not to duplicate materials already in HL [*Hamilton Library*], but we could order anything we wanted and they couldn't because we had the funds and our acquisition process was simple.

We sometimes were able to order and receive materials promptly – like expensive special reference materials and other time-sensitive materials.

Attending UH Library School

Ralph Shaw came to start the library school, and be Head Librarian of UH. He was really a hot wire. I mean, he was just a go-getter. Everybody was kind of scared of him because he was so brusque, and nobody knew as much as he did. He had a big ego.

After the first semester of library school began, I decided to take one class. I went to sign up, and he said, "Oh, no. You have to make an appointment to see me before I let you take a class." So the next day I went to see him and we talked. Then he asked me what I was doing and where I was working. After responding he said, "Well, what would you say if I offered you an internship?" A scholarship.

I told him I wouldn't know what to say because I have to go and talk it over with my boss, Bob Stevens. He was the director at the EWC Library then. Remember I had come to sign up for one course.

Dr. Shaw said, "Well, why don't I call him now?" So he called him up right away and

asked Stevens if he had any objection to my accepting the internship. Dr. Stevens didn't have any objections if I could find someone to take over my work. Well, I had an assistant, Julie, who was quite capable of taking over during my leave. So it was settled. So I went to school fulltime, with a stipend. I requested a leave of absence and took a year and a half, and got my library degree [*master's*], the first graduating class in 1966. And when I came back to the Center, I was offered the position as a Western Language Cataloger.

Joyce Wright as EWC Library Director

Joyce Wright was the head of reference at the University's Hamilton [Library]. She had recently returned from Seattle. I think she had taken a leave of absence from HL and gone back to Seattle. She returned when the EWC Library was being developed. It seemed to me that she was not very happy with our library and the set-up. Well, we were a mixed-up group with the CJK Collection and staff in the basement of Sinclair and a group of non-librarians (except for Lan Char) setting up a new library at Lincoln Hall using the Library of Congress cataloging system. She might have been a bit suspicious of us.

But then – she later became director of the EWC Library. I think Bob Stevens encouraged her to take the position of head of the EWC Library as he was planning to return to the Library of Congress. And remember that Sumiye Konoshima was the administrative assistant since March '63 so it was going to be a smooth transition. So Joyce came over to EWC from Hamilton Library.

You know, she changed and became a very good advocate for us. I suppose she had learned enough about us and recognized a good career move and also, I think she wanted

to get out from under Ralph Shaw at Hamilton Library. She was very good. She fought for the good of the staff and the EWC Library. It seemed that there was always an uphill battle for funds and for space.

I was at the Center through three library directors: Nunn, Bob Stevens and Wright. Until 1970, when the big split occurred. *[Editor's note: Wageman is talking of the splitting up of the EWC Library between UH and EWC – in 1970, when EWC re-structured.]* And that was quite traumatic.

Intellectual Innovations

Cataloguing/Classification of Asian Material/Collaboration with Library of Congress

One of the contributions I think we made in the library field was with reference to the cataloging of law books. There was no developed Library of Congress law schedule for Asia. “K” was the classification for law in general. We devised a simple way to catalog Asian law materials. We used “K” for the classification, then cuttered by the country, e.g. “I” for Indonesia, but then we added a number to it. So it became K .I54 (or .I34 for India), then we again cuttered by the author and then by title. We were able to process many Asian law books this way.

The EWC Library administration – actually it was Dr. Nunn – realized that the library collection was going to be quite large and varied. Many collections on the mainland had already switched to the LC classification system, so they were quite forward-looking and opted from the start to use LC classification.

Alan Kamida came in '64 as the head of cataloguing for CJK and WL. He had graduated and worked at Rutgers and was quite experienced in the LC system. At that time ('64) Bob Stevens was the new director of the EWC Library. He had come from Library of

Congress (LC). He requested that the LC staff examine the quality of our library's cataloging. They agreed that it was good quality and decided to include our records in the National Union Catalog published by the Library of Congress.

They accepted our cataloging, but didn't always accept our call numbers designation.

There were so many things that we had to learn by trial and error. There was not much written about Asian librarianship. Dr. Nunn was great at acquisitions and he thought the materials could always be cataloged later. He believed that we have to purchase the materials now. We were getting lots of Russian materials on Asia but we had no one to catalog them. Finally we got Ruth Denney to come catalog on a part-time basis. Later we had Pat Polansky, as a student assistant, working on the *[Russian]* cataloging backlog.

But we had a whole lot of materials coming on exchange programs and they had to be cataloged. For example, we had to decide on cataloging rules for the Thai materials.

And for some of the romanization of Asian languages, you know, getting ready for the computer.

We had a whole lot of problems in cataloging that Hamilton Library staff didn't have to deal with. We had to deal with all kinds of variations and thanks to Alan Kamida -- he was very much on it. Because of him we had excellent working relations with the cataloging staff at Library of Congress, so we could call them and ask for rules clarification. We had to set up a lot of authority files for the names and worked closely with the Library of Congress.

And I know Joyce Wright worked extensively to get the Thai Romanization tables set up, and you know Lan Char worked on it, too. Nowadays many large university libraries have materials on Asia. At that time, our library was unique. We were breaking ground.

And, one nice thing about being in Lincoln Hall was that the scholars were on the first floor and then on the second floor was the Institute of Advanced Projects which included the Translation Project. The scholars would come up and use our collection and take materials back to their offices.

You could look over the railing [*of the open atrium-like center of the building*] and you could see whatever interesting was going on in the hallways. And the EWC Press was also on the second floor. And so you had all this stuff going on. We had the third and fourth floors. And so it was like a busy community going on. And it was fun!

Institutional Transitions

Splitting up the EWC Library and Staff

Well, as with most libraries, ours kept growing and growing and growing. We were participating in special acquisition programs from South and Southeast Asia and materials were arriving in boxes daily.

And we were running out of space. We had two Quonset huts out near where the Women's Campus Club Thrift Shop and UH Credit Union are now. We moved a lot of books and stored them there. Books that were not heavily used – like the law materials. We could retrieve them when needed. So space was a big problem. Lincoln Hall was not built for a library. It was meant for living quarters for the scholars. Each room had a bathroom and a closet. We stored back issues of our serials in those rooms. I think the library split was the result of an agreement between the University and the EWC. They were changing their focus.

East-West Center was changing its focus. EWC administration felt that the EWC was too much like all the regular federal-funded institutions or universities in the U.S. They

wanted to be seen as different. They decided to focus on problem-oriented areas. Which were Communication and Population. Culture and Learning.

So when we heard about the disposition of the library, the staff was devastated. Again, you know, I was on one of the lower levels there. I really don't know much about what was going on at the administration level. This was the time when they did all their negotiations about the library and giving Kennedy Theatre to UH.

And, you know, that's where the split really occurred.

Because of the split, we were given choices if we wanted to stay with the East-West Center Library or go to the University library. But there were only a few positions available at UH and fewer at EWC.

When we were told that we were going to move to Hamilton Library, that night I sneaked into the building. I got all this black crepe streamers and put them all over – hanging over the railings from the 4th to the 1st floors. The next morning when people came in, they were all surprised. I mean, everybody was feeling sad. It was just the breaking up of a whole community.

So Alice Harris opted to go [*with EWC*], Sumi also stayed. Alice Harris went with Population [*Institute*]. Bill Feltz never really worked with us, but he was hired for handling Culture and Learning [*Institute library*].

I think Rita Hong and Marian Inouye went to the EWC as support staff. We had to go through our library collection (not CJK or other Asian language materials) and select books that dealt with the relevant topics for the new EWC collection.

Well, Sumi and Alice did most of the selection. Some of us pulled the catalog cards to match the selected books. Well, some of us who were going to the University had to

work hard at not being upset at seeing some of the books leave. But it was OK because we knew that they were being very, very selective, because they didn't have enough space in their new quarters either. EWC was going to depend on us at UH to support most of their research.

When the split occurred, UH took over the entire staff of the CJK Collection. In their negotiations, there were slots for most of the EWC Library staff except for Kathy Yoshimura and myself. We got our "walking papers" from the EWC. Fortunately, I knew Stanley West. He was in charge of Hamilton Library then. I knew him personally quite well.

Kathy Yoshimura was then in charge of the EWC serials. He was very nice to us and he gave one of the vacant Science and Technology positions to Asia Collection so that I got a position. Much to the dismay of the Sci/Tech Dept. He also found another vacant slot for Kathy. We considered ourselves very lucky.

So in 1970, more or less, the majority of the East-West Center Library went to the University. Because EWC didn't want any of the language materials. The Center kept English language materials relevant to their new problem-oriented focus. Alice Harris was a cataloger, so she could handle the new acquisitions.

Did you know that before the decision to separate the collection, the EWC had plans for a new library building? It was going to be adjoining Hamilton and connected with a tunnel. It would be right next -- you know where the cafeteria is? We had the plans all drawn up. Sumi Konoshima and others had worked really hard on it. We had chosen all kinds of things for it, and that's where we were going to move the EWC Library. But it never happened.

All this change came about and plans were scrapped. We never got the library. I think that's part of why EWC decided to give the library materials to Hamilton.

Creation of UH Asia Collection

When the move actually happened, it was quite traumatic. To fit our collection (former EWC materials) into Hamilton Library, the UH Library administration wanted to take the collection and just integrate everything [*EWC materials with UH materials*].

But fortunately, a lot of the students who had used the East-West Center Library in Lincoln Hall got together and protested and protested for a few days. And said they didn't want it integrated, they wanted to keep it as a unit. And there was enough protesting going on that we were able to stay separate as an Asia Collection.

There was no Asia Collection at UH before that because all their area books were integrated. You know, their Western language books on Asia were in the general collection. And they had very little Oriental, you know, CJK stuff.

The unique thing about the Asia Collection is that it's the only collection with combined CJK and Western language collections as one department. I must point out that the Western language collection here [*UH*] contains materials in all languages but CJK. It includes languages from South and Southeast Asia, Europe, etc., but no Chinese, Japanese or Korean.

But it's under one administration. Whereas in all the other libraries -- university libraries at Berkeley, Columbia, Pennsylvania, Stanford, Harvard, Yale, etc. -- they all have a separate CJK collection. Whereas, here, it's under one administration, even though the books are in a CJK language collection. When we moved to Hamilton, the two collections – the former EWC library materials that didn't stay with EWC and the CJK

language collection formerly in Sinclair Library basement -- became solidly one collection: the Asia Collection.

The Asia Collection is unique, now, in that all of it is in one place, even though there are two collections and are shelved in two sequences. It is one unit under one administration. I've been at Hamilton Library since 1970 until I retired in 2001.

Life After EWC

UH Hamilton Library

I was a cataloger when I moved to Hamilton Library. A few years later, I was promoted to the position of South Asia Specialist, in charge of reference, acquisition and managing the PL480 materials.

I knew what we didn't have so I could fill *pukas [holes]* in the South Asia Collection.

The faculty would come to me with special requests. You know, library work might seem routine but still, you're dealing with different people every day with different research problems to solve. There were scholars elsewhere sending emails asking for certain things that they don't have in their library. And even the faculty members here would call and say they need such and such. And I would get a whole bunch of relevant books together that, you know, they should look through to get whatever it is they needed, because I couldn't read some of the languages, so I enjoyed doing that.

Then Joyce retired in 1987 and we did not get a permanent head [*of Asia Collection*] until I became head in 1991.

Joyce Wright came with us after the split, yes. She had been tenured before, so she had no problem in the move. She was tenured with the University, but some of us were not so we all had to apply for tenure and compete and be accepted by a whole new group of

librarians. Fortunately most of us received tenure on our first try.

We had a separate cataloging department in the Asia Collection with Alan Kamida in charge. After a few years, this cataloging department was dismantled and absorbed into the cataloging department of Hamilton. All the technical services part was moved down there. But we had a special cataloger [*in cataloging department*] for our Korean, Chinese, and Japanese language materials.

The Asia Collection became basically acquisitions and reference. At first serials weren't separated, but the records eventually were moved. They are now located next to Hamilton Library's general serials collection in the technical services area. We had Asia Collection staff work on them there, but it has now become completely part of the library's Technical Services Department. Over the 20 or so years since the move, the Asia Collection staff has become integrated into the HL Staff.

I still sometimes feel that the other departments do not quite understand us. There is so much pressure for book acquisitions money, and books from Asia are not that expensive. But as the Asian countries develop, the cost increases and the shipping cost is sometimes more than the cost of the book. Also except for East Asia, there are few electronic resources, so each book has to be purchased individually. If the book is not purchased when it's listed, it is seldom reprinted thus becoming unavailable.

Now compare that to Sci-Tech materials. Science and Technology researchers depend mostly on journal articles which are usually found in an electronic database. Their books and resources are very expensive so they are always looking for an even bigger chunk of the book budget. So there's always that question of why does Asia Collection need to have more money especially when we want to purchase something special.

Asia Collection/EWC Support

At the book allocation meeting, it was a fight for money, yes. It was a good thing that the East-West Center helped support us financially sometimes. But even with that, there would be long discussions as to who should handle the book funds. I felt the Asia Collection had a stronger connection with the EWC so I wanted to handle it. I succeeded. All EWC orders were filtered to me so I could designate into which collection it would go and I notified the EWC of the arrival of the material if so indicated.

[Editor's note: Through an agreement between the EWC and the University, the EWC pays the University to allow EWC students and staff to use the library and for some book acquisitions.]

We would house it in either Asia Collection, Sci-Tech or the General Collection. By subject matter. We were always glad to get the extra money because we could buy materials that we couldn't purchase otherwise. Some philosophy materials and religious texts that we just couldn't afford normally. Material that would strengthen our collection and serve, for example, scholars who come here for research and the East-West Philosophers Conference.

While I was head of Asia Collection, I never received any *[East-West Center money for librarian salaries]*. That money went directly to the Hamilton Library administration. They managed that money. I think it was used for student help and other services from which the EWC benefited, like inter-library loans and photocopying of articles for EWC researchers.

I think they *[Hamilton librarians]* look on the EWC Collection as a private collection. Or like a corporation collection. It's there and I know some of them know they could use

it but they would have to ask if they could come and use it. It wasn't just open to just anybody walking in and using it.

Professional Activities

Well, after the East-West Center years, after becoming a South Asia specialist, I started participating in professional international organization activities. First of all, there was the Association for Asian Studies. The South Asia group was one part of five groups that made up the library section. There was a Southeast Asia group, a China, Japan and a Korea group.

I was quite active with the South Asia group and was chair of the Executive Committee for many years. I was also on the Executive Board for the *Journal of Asian Studies* for a number of years. I quite enjoyed that.

Besides doing that, Dr. Nunn invited me to contribute to the *Bulletin of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians*, a publication and an organization that he was instrumental in starting. This goes back many, many years, probably to 1965. They've debated that word a number of times and many of the European members wanted to stick with it. Anyway, Dr. Nunn came up with the idea that there should be a bulletin that would have articles about libraries with Asian collections. He was the editor for a long time and he asked me if I would be willing to participate and provide a bibliography of reference books on South Asia...books from our Asia Collection.

I agreed to do it because I was always looking for ways to let others know about our great collection here in Hawai'i.

And so in 1977 I started *Reference Sources on South Asia*. It was an annual publication.

I made a list of all the reference books, with annotations, for Asia in general, and then for

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal until I retired in 2001. The last meeting I attended was in Budapest. It was quite nice. I chaired one of the panels and was acknowledged for the work I had been doing for the *Bulletin*.

Retirement

Now I'm retired, and too busy to do my housework. *[laughter]* Now that I'm retired, I'm involved with the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society. I was president of that group for a number of years. I am a member of Lyon Arboretum and I help them out with their plant sales and whatever they need to be done. And I volunteer with the Friends of Hawai'i State Library. For the actual sale, yes, but I go every week and I'm in charge of the foreign language section, selecting and pricing books for the sale. Not the CJK, but all the other languages. *[laughter]*

And I volunteer -- I'm a docent at the Hawai'i State Art Museum on Hotel Street downtown.

EWC's Impact

On Career, Perspectives

The EWC set the tone for my career. It expanded my universe. Having started at the East-West Center, I met a lot of students. After I left the EWC and started at the UH library, EWC students who were doing their Ph.D. would come and talk to me. They would be from the East-West Center or with some connection there, and I would help them get the books that they needed and would order special research materials for them, or whatever. Not necessarily for South Asia, but from all areas of Asia. They'd come specifically to see me.

So I'd get materials for them, and when they were going through their troubled times

when their research was not working out right or they'd be homesick or just “down,” I would invite them up here [*to her Manoa home*] and cook dinner for them. And, you know, make them feel OK. And so the East-West Center has been sort of part of my life all the way through ‘til the end, and having started with the books there in Lincoln Hall and then moving over to Hamilton Library with the same books, you know, how could I not be influenced by EWC?

I've made lots of friends that I met through the East-West Center, and lots of scholars come back to look for me, and to chat, and visit. That's a big part of my life.

When I tell people that I worked at the EWC, or I mention the words East-West Center, people are always impressed. I think the East-West Center has some sort of intellectual aura or something. I mean people are really impressed. I think I represented the EWC well at conferences, etc. About my influence on the Center... I don't think there was much. Maybe in a round-about way by assisting and providing research materials for the scholars-in-residence who published articles and books at the EWC. That reflected well on the EWC Library. Somehow, I don't think the EWC administration recognized fully the contribution, the tremendous amount of work and the dedication of the early library staff.

What I want people to remember is that I really enjoyed my work. I really enjoyed being a librarian, and I always looked forward to going to work. There was always something new that I could find; most times just answering a reference question. You just know the word maybe, but then the patron wants something more, and then you start looking, and you find out all kinds of interesting facts about the subject. So I hope I somehow reflected that enjoyment of working in the library, and helping people with their research.

And compassion, too, in trying to understand not only their research problems but also their personal problems. That I was kind and generous.