



["OLD" CONDON HALL (GOWEN HALL)]

As the Far Eastern Library's collections continued to grow through the late '60s and early '70s along with new programs in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature (and increasing interest in Asian studies nationwide), the movement for new and expanded space for the department and the library gained momentum.

Space in Thomson Hall was increasingly insufficient for all of the library's materials, and many books were still stored in ad hoc locations across campus, causing frustration for users and staff. For many years, however, no satisfactory solution could be found.

Around this time, the Law faculty began to feel the need to expand their own programs and felt that they had outgrown their facilities in Condon Hall (built in 1933). Negotiations began in the early 1970s when it became apparent that the Law School was moving to a "new" Condon Hall and that "old" Condon Hall would be "up for grabs."

In the end, the University agreed with the Asian studies faculty that old Condon would be an excellent location for the growing Asian studies programs and library. In early 1976, after extensive remodeling of the building, the library—along with the Asian Languages and Literature and the Political Science departments—moved into their new space, soon to be renamed *Gowen Hall*.

After decades of struggle to rectify its space problem, and thanks to the tireless efforts of many—including Kenneth Allen, the Associate Director of the University Libraries; George Beckmann, Director of the Institute of Far Eastern and Russian Studies; and Karl Lo, Curator of the Far Eastern Library—the library had finally found its new home.



"Old" Condon Hall (later renamed Gowen Hall), ca. 1950

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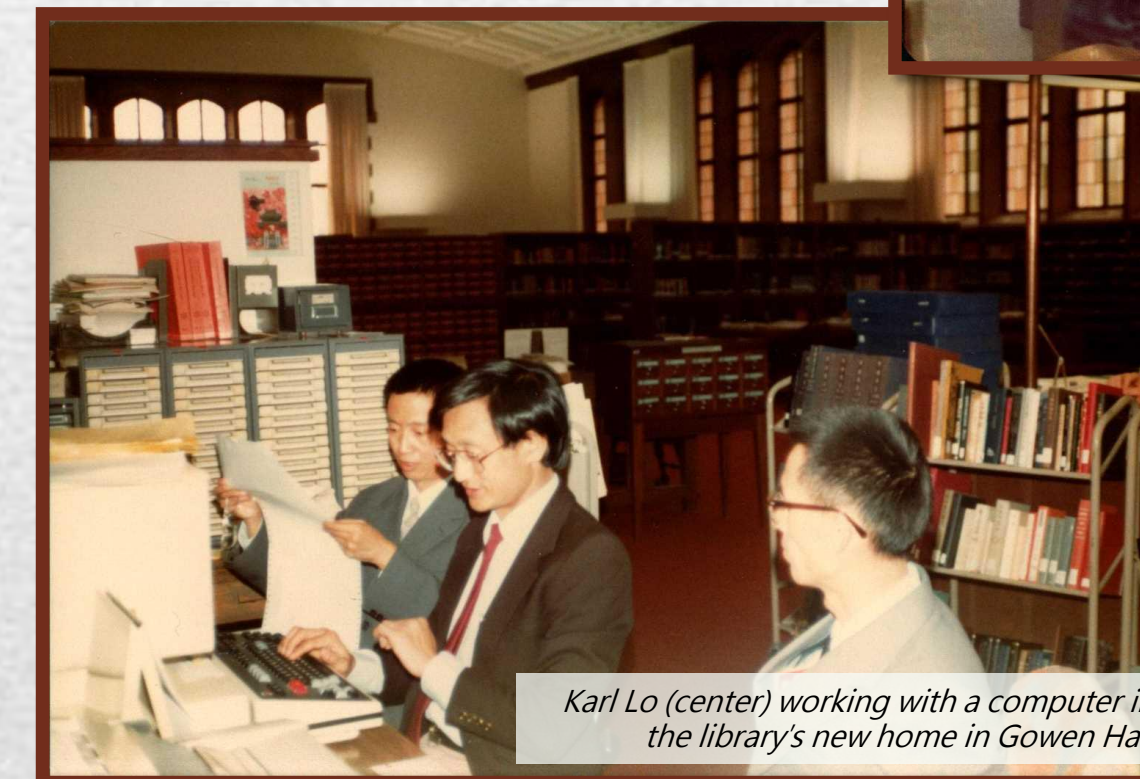
Main reading room in the law school's library, ca. 1933.

This room was renovated to become the East Asia Library reading room. The chairs and tables pictured here are used in the EAL reading room to this day, and the vaulted ceiling was also preserved.

Photo source: The Washington Alumnus, Vol. XXIV, No. 8, February, 1933.

The Far Eastern Library preparing for the move from the Thomson Hall basement to Gowen Hall, December 1975.

Pictured: Karl Lo (Head of the Far Eastern Library) and Janet Schleh (secretary)



Karl Lo (center) working with a computer in the library's new home in Gowen Hall

Reading room in Gowen Hall, ca. 1976. On the left, users consult the card catalog for the location of needed items.

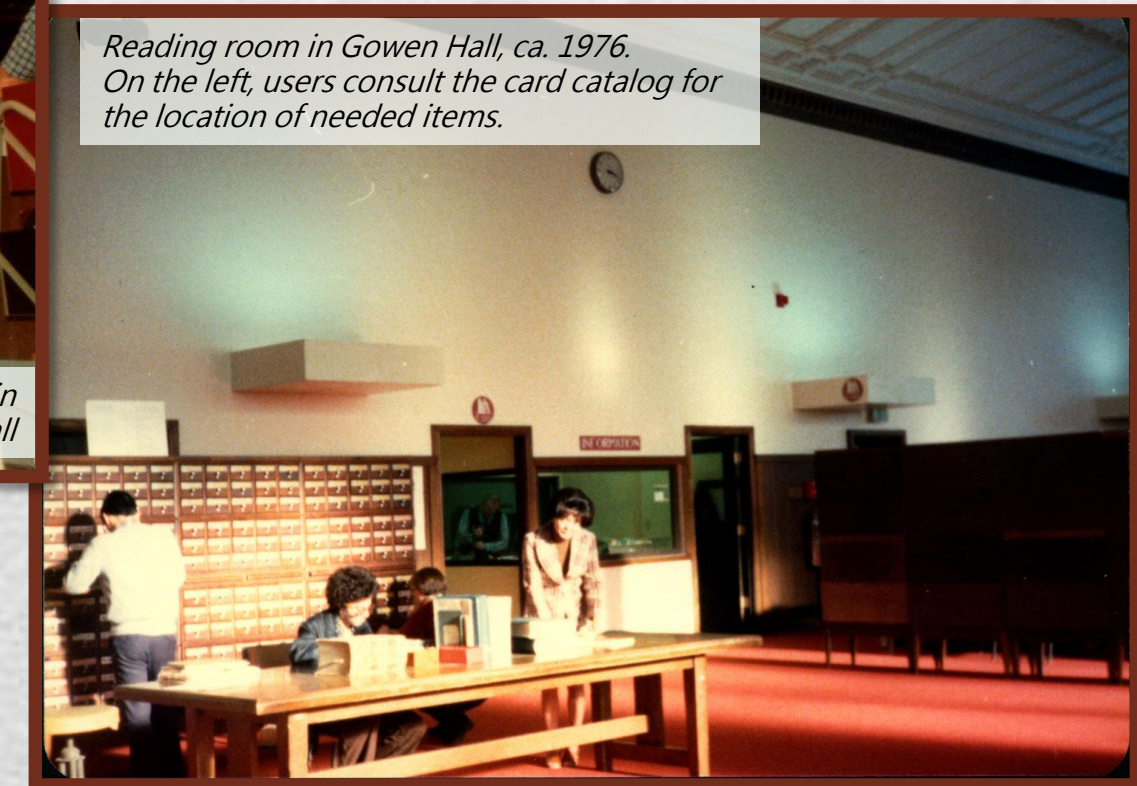


Exhibit box at the EAL entrance, 1976.

Pictured: Karl Lo, Teruko Chin, Iwao Matsushita, Merry Tsukamoto, Tom Kaasa, Scott Eddy Harrison.

