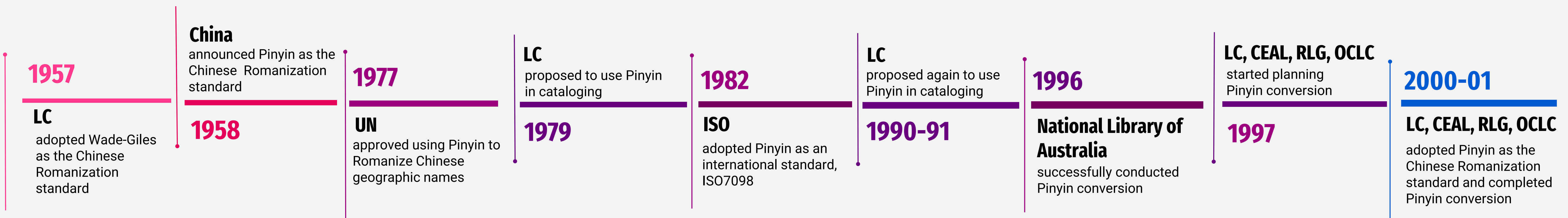


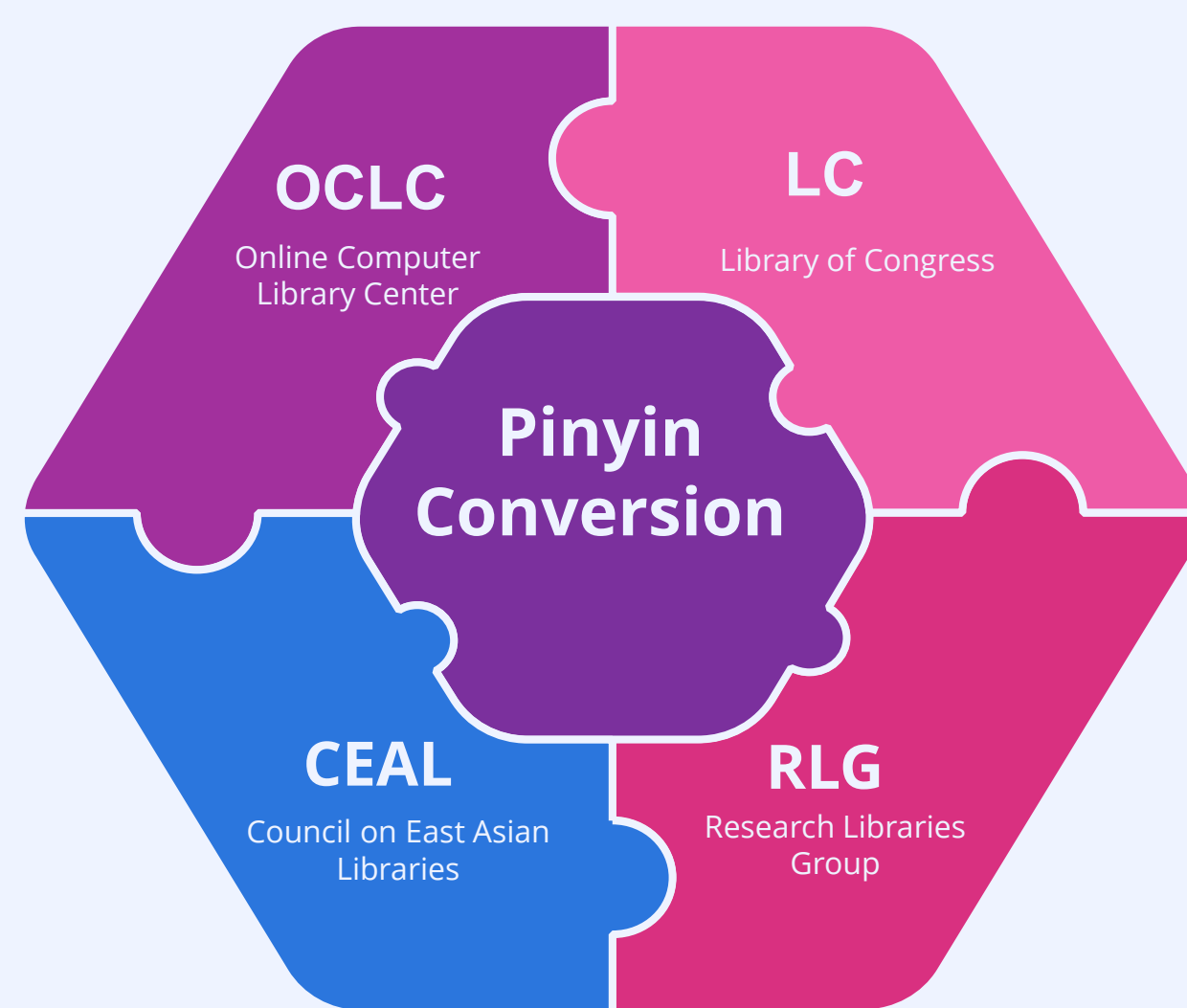
ONE LANGUAGE, DIFFERENT ROMANIZATION RULES: THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PINYIN CONVERSION PROJECT

Lucy Gan, University of Toronto Libraries; Yao Chen, University of Chicago Library;
Xiang Li, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries; Chengzhi Wang, Columbia University Libraries



Our Project

2001-2021



- Uncovering the history
- Celebrating the legacy
- Seeking reflection and inspiration
- Exploring community building

Oral History Interviews (2021-2022)



Martin Heijdra
(Princeton)



Peter Zhou
(UC Berkeley)



Cathy Yang
(LC)



Guoqing Li
(Ohio State)



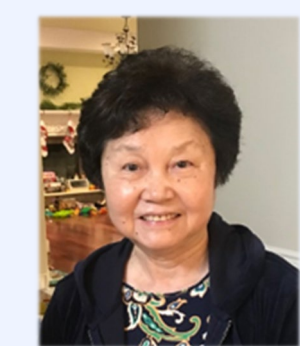
Xiaotong Wang
(Oregon)



Shi Deng
(UCSD)



Philip Melzer
(LC)



Amy Tsiang
(UCLA)



Yu-Lan Chou
(SCC Public Library)



Sarah Elman
(Columbia)



Hsi-Chu Bolick
(UNC-Chapel Hill)



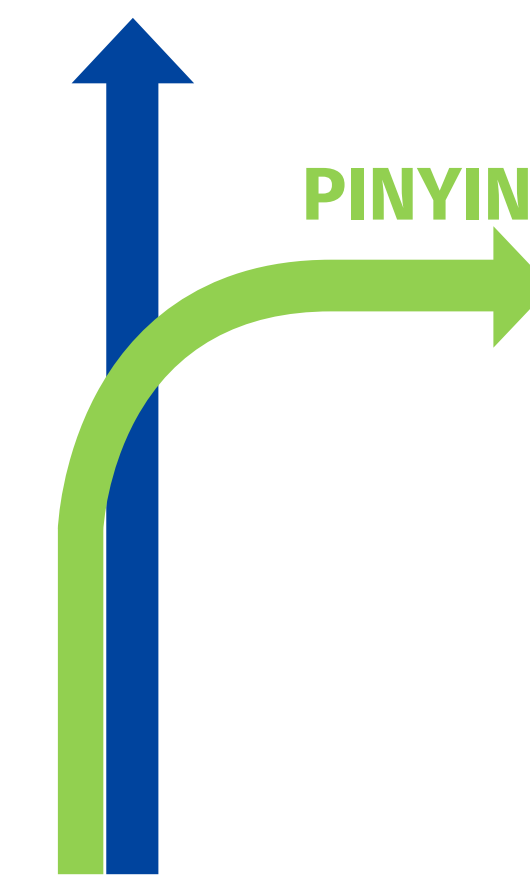
Shuwen Cao
(Princeton)

Chinese Romanization and North American Libraries

Wade-Giles (adopted in 1957)

- ✓ Easy for Western users
- ✓ Conventional standard
- ✗ Use of the same letters to represent different sounds
- ✗ Frequent use of diacritic marks
- ✗ Changing user needs
-

WADE-GILES



Pinyin (adopted in 1999)

- ✓ Accuracy and clarity
- ✓ International ISO standard
- ✓ Pinyin eco-system: scholarly & non-scholarly
- ? Task impossible? Conversion of accumulated bibliographic records
- ? Reliable computer technologies
- ? Chinese Romanization Guidelines
- ✗ Politics and sentiments
-

Pinyin Conversion Project, 2000-2001

Key Players:

- LC – Initiator and leader
- CEAL – Coordinator of the network of East Asian Libraries
- RLG & OCLC – Bibliographic utilities

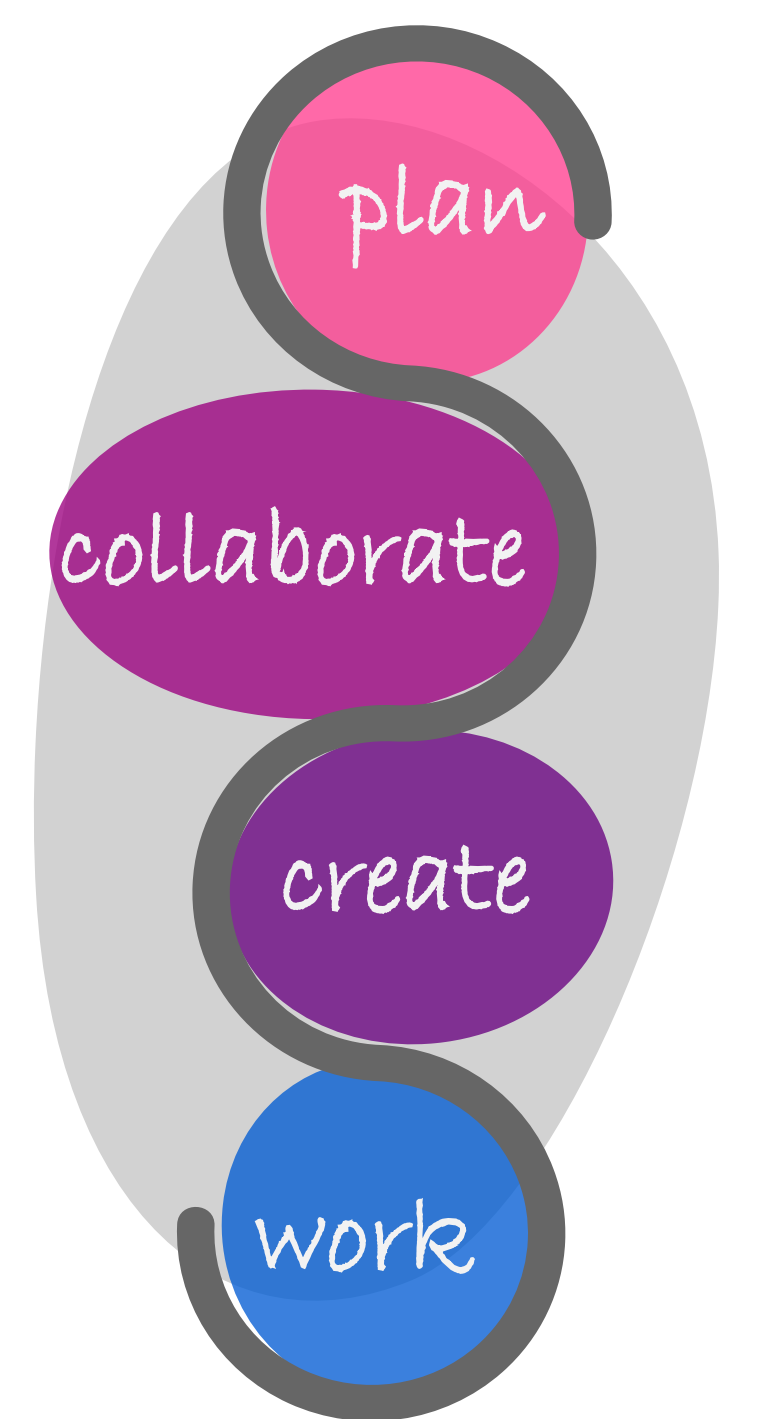
Major Timeline:

- Aug. 1, 2000: Moratoriums on Chinese language authority work and the cataloging of Chinese materials
- Oct. 1, 2000: **Day 1**, when Pinyin officially became the standard for Chinese Romanization in library operations
- Oct. 1, 2001: **Day 2**, when RLG and OCLC started to convert bibliographic backfiles

Major Accomplishments*:

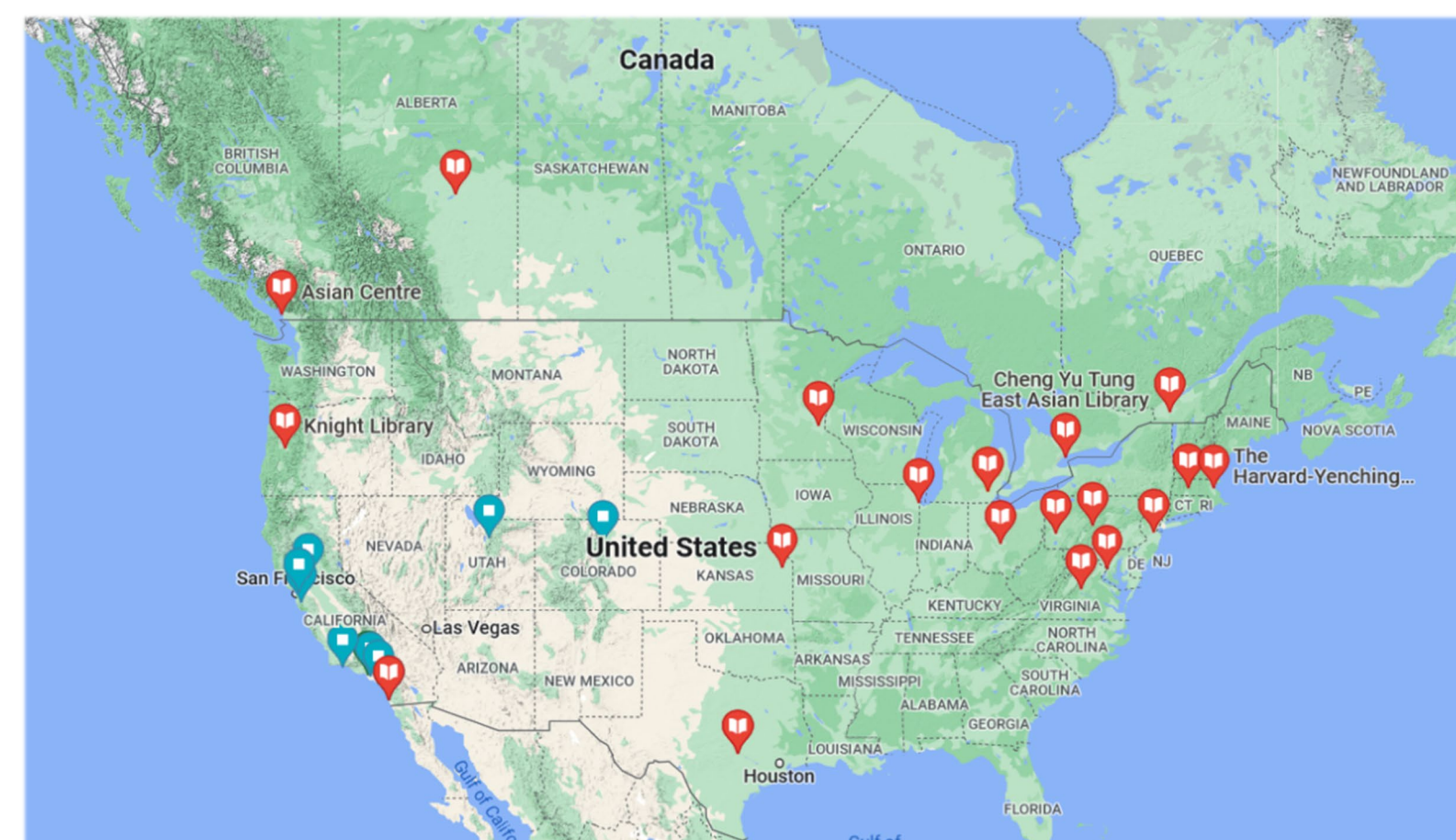
- Chinese Pinyin Romanization Guidelines
- Conversion of over **15,900 authority files**
- Conversion of over **3,200,000 bibliographic records**
- Conversion of individual libraries' bibliographic records

* Melzer, Philip. "The Pinyin Conversion Project and the Challenge of Cleaning Up Afterward." *Journal of East Asian Libraries*, no. 175, 2022, Article 5. Jun. 1, 2023, <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2022/iss175/5>.



Let's Work Together,
Let's Library

Reflections



Professional Sustainability:

- Adapting to evolving information ecosystem
- Building the East Asian Library community
- Being open-minded and keeping learning

Embrace Changes,
Embrace New Technology and Possibilities!

Our Team



Lucy Gan



Yao Chen



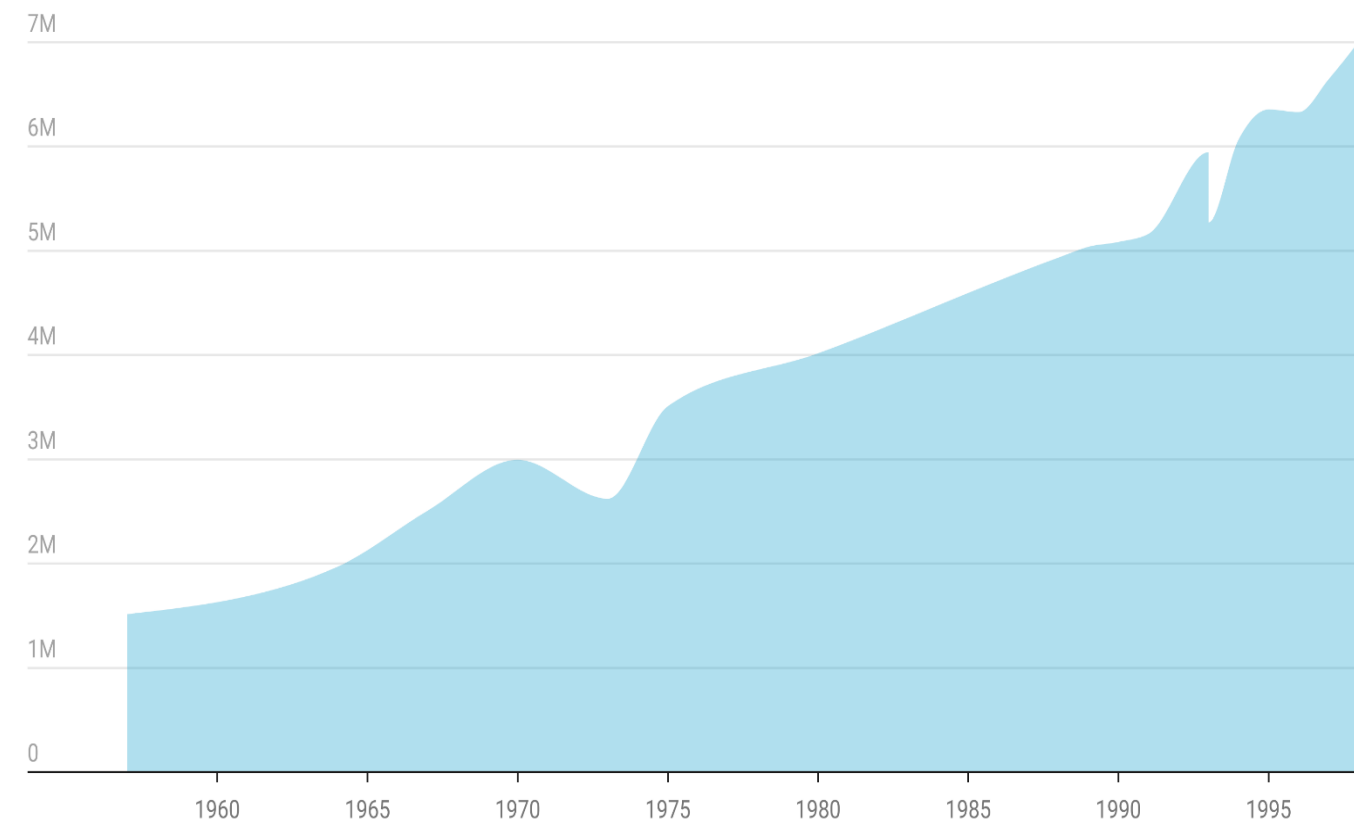
Xiang Li



Chengzhi Wang

Growing Chinese Collections

Total Physical Volumes Held - Chinese



北京
Pekin
Peking
Beiking
(PY) Beijing

毛澤東/毛泽东
(WG) Mao Tse-tung
(PY) Mao Zedong

鄧小平/邓小平
(WG) Teng Hsiao-p'ing
(PY) Deng Xiaoping

CEAL: Total Chinese Physical Volumes Held, 1957-1998, <https://ceal.ku.edu/table/advanced>