



University of Pittsburgh

Building North Korean Collection: the Case of the East Asian Library at the University of Pittsburgh

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Main Points

- Why NK Materials
- When / how did the collection begin?
- What has been acquired?
- Characteristics and unique strengths
- Issues and concerns
- Publicity on the collection



Why NK Materials?

- Characteristics of the Korean studies program at Pitt
 - Language and literature; Multi-disciplinary study in Korean history, society, political and economic systems, and unification studies, South-North relations.
- A channel to understand NK history and tradition, why it behaves the way it does today



Difficulties in Acquiring NK Materials

- No direct access to NK publishing market and book trade
- No existing study on NK publishing market and book trade
- Very few dealers / vendors handling NK materials
- A closed door indeed!



Building the Connection:

- The special relationship between China and NK enables some Chinese vendors' access to NK materials
- Yanji's geographical position and physical affinity / bordering with NK provides it with unique access to NK materials
- Trips by Hong Xu to Yanji City, China (Oct., 2004, May 2006, Sept., 2009)
- Gift and exchange agreement with Yanbian U (May, 2006)
- First shipment in 2008
- Additional vendors for other formats of materials





Funding Support

Materials Purchased	Amount
Books	\$16,000
Film DVDs	\$10,000
Journals	\$9,000
Total	\$35,000



What Has Been Acquired

Format	Item Count
Books	500 volumes
	82 title
Journals	2,786 issues
Movies	211 items
Music CDs	38 discs
School Textbooks	12 volumes
TOTAL	3,547









Characteristics and Unique Strengths

- Variety of formats and subjects
- Rarity and uniqueness

Pitt is the sole holder of

- 19 out of the 82 journal titles
- 68 out of the 211 film DVDs



NK Journals by Uniqueness

Other Holdings	Title Count
0	19
1	9
2	9
3	7
4	3
5+	35
Total	82



NK Journals by Subjects

Subjects	Title count
SciTech	18
literature	17
sciences	12
medicine	9
agriculture	5
arts	4
education	4
language	4
pictorials	4
SocSci / general	3
economics	2
philosophy	2
historiographpy	1
Total	82







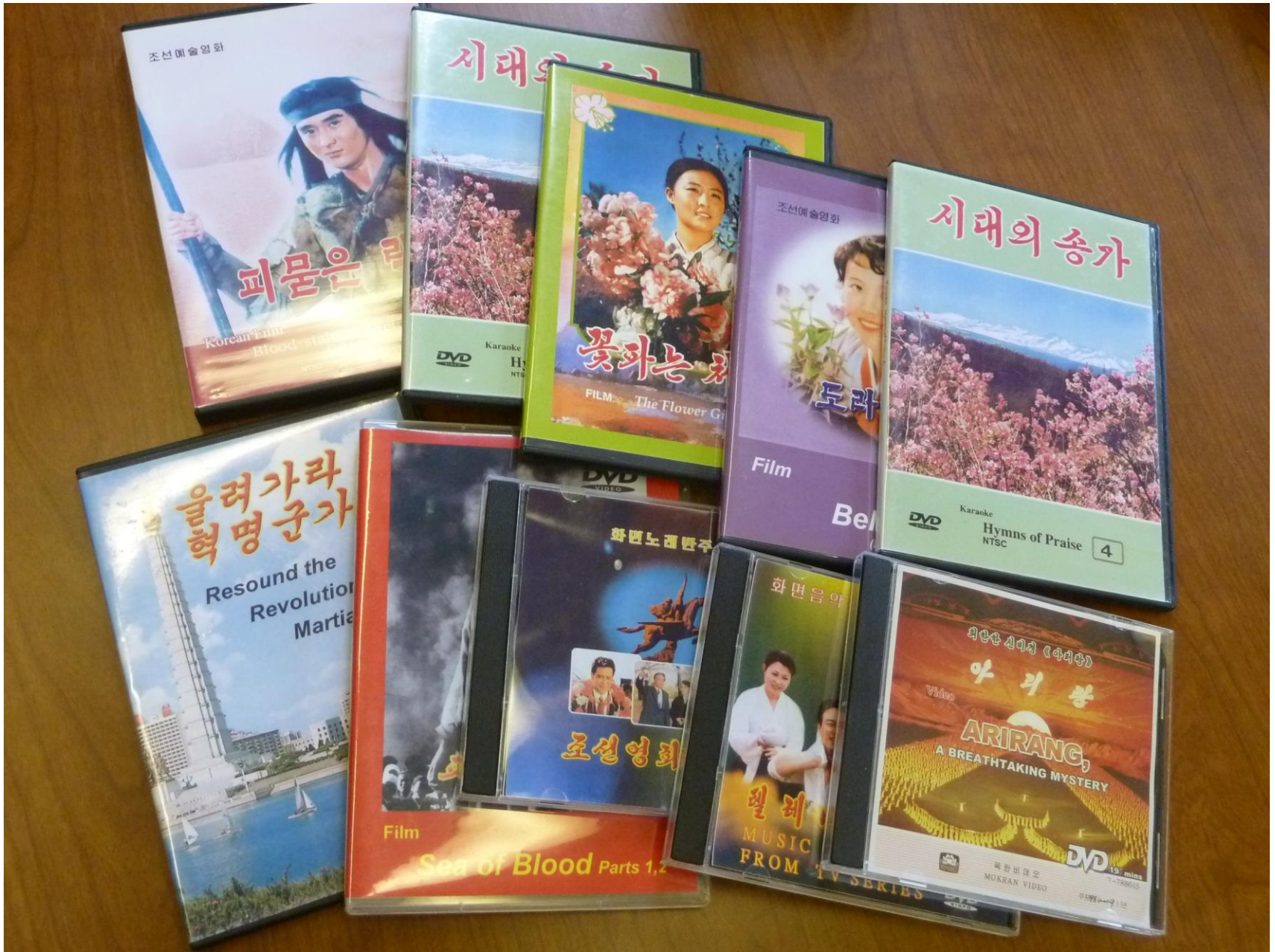
NK Film DVDs, by Rarity

Other Holdings	Title Count
0	68
1	55
2	48
3	13
4	14
5+	13
Total	211



NK Film DVDs, by Year

Year	Title Counts
1940s	1
1950s	5
1960s	7
1970s	17
1980s	45
1990s	46
2000s+	90
Total	211





Issues and Concerns in Collecting NK Materials

- No direct vendors in North Korea for first-hand information
- NK's domestic politics, economic situation, and unstable foreign relations and policies
- Sustainable funding support
- Preservation concerns



Publicity and Usage

- A feature article in University Times in 2011
<http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=17040>
- A feature article in PITT Magazine in 2012
- Media advisory on North Korea by PITT's News & Media department in 2013
http://www.news.pitt.edu/experts_North_Korea
- LibGuide to the North Korean Collection:
<http://pitt.libguides.com/KoreanStudies>



THANK YOU !

感謝 !

감사합니다!