The Rapid Growth of Electronic Resources in East Asian Library Collections

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Yunah Sung — Korean Studies Librarian / Coordinator of Technical Services

Introduction

Like many other academic libraries, East Asian libraries face with tough financial decisions on how they allocate their resources in this time of financial restraints, while fulfilling the library's ultimate mission of supporting teaching and researching. This study was conducted in light of escalating cost of electronic resources in East Asian languages. By analyzing 5-year (2007-2011) statistical data obtained from 32 East Asian libraries in North America, this study explores what portion of a library's total materials expenditures are dedicated to e-resources and how fast its e-resources expenditures have been growing over the past 5 years.

Methodology

Statistical source of this project is from the annual statistics collected from 53 CEAL member libraries.

For the purpose of this project, statistical data of the total expenditure of e-resources and total materials expenditures from 2007 to 2011 were examined and the data from 32 libraries were analyzed. From 5-year statistical data of 53 libraries, 9 of them were incomplete and 12 of them lack of the e-resource expenditures (British Columbia, Brown, Chicago, Colorado Boulder, Cornell, Emory, Ohio State, Pennsylvania, Southern California, UC Riverside, Washington, Washington, St. Louis).

Background

Founded in 1958, **Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)** is a committee of the **Association for Asian Studies (AAS)**, a scholarly professional association for scholars and students interested in Asia.
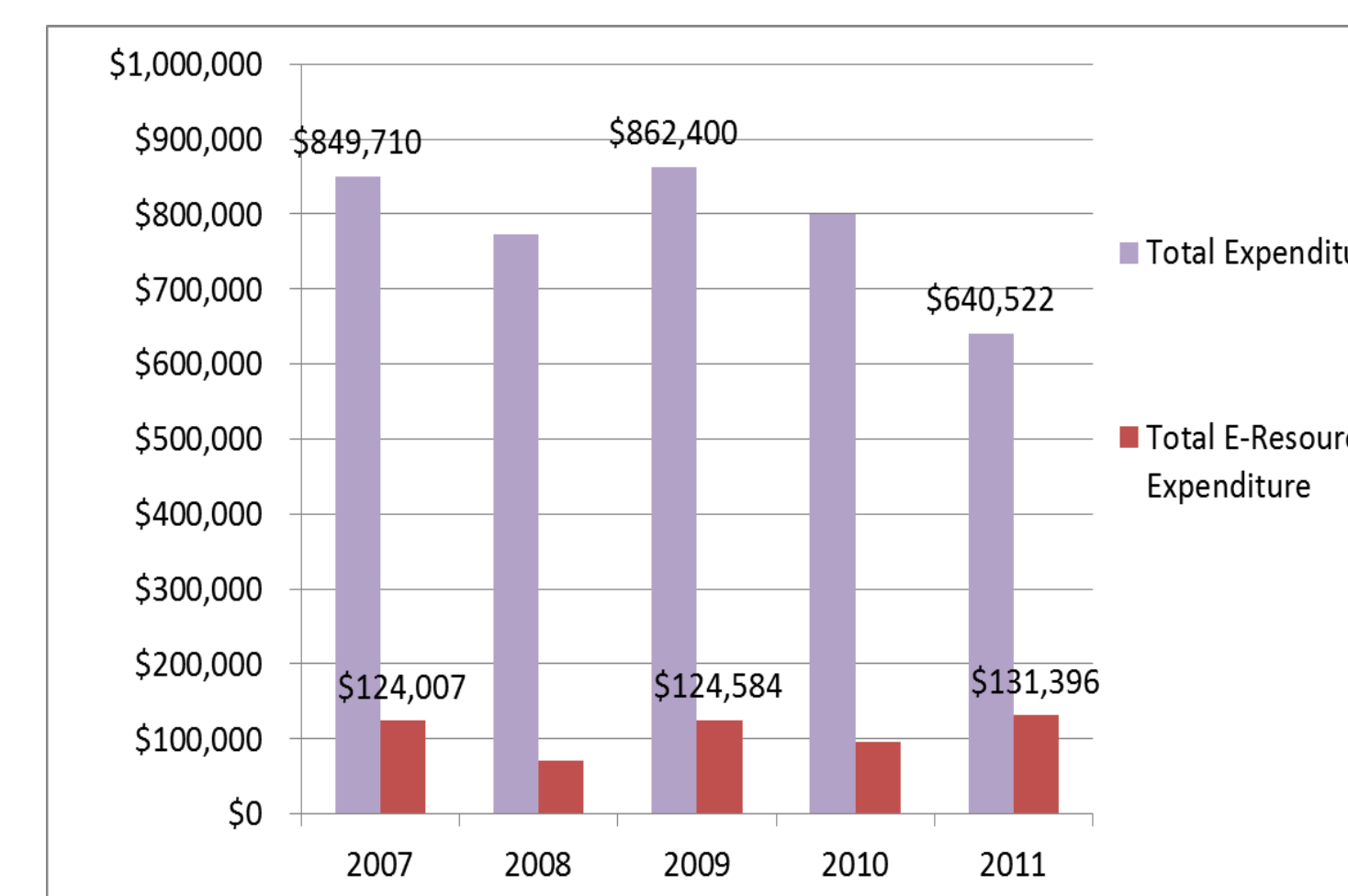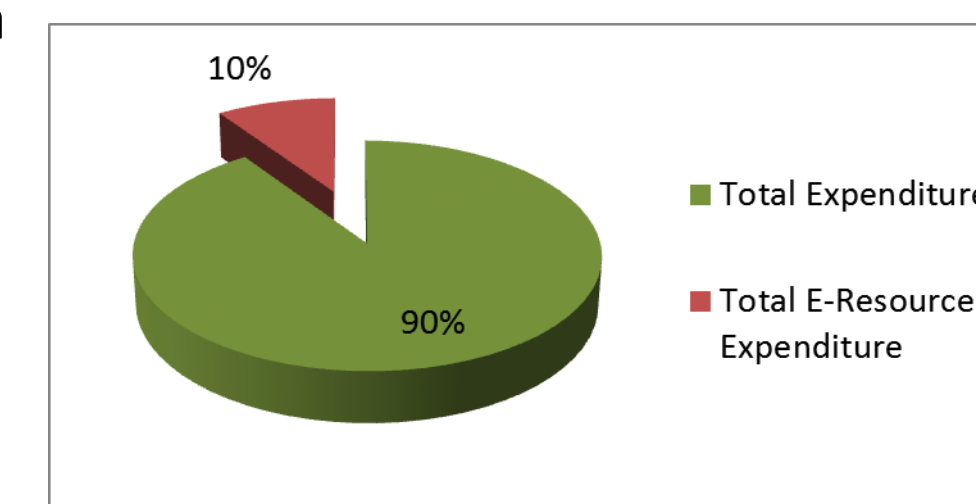
The **CEAL Statistics** is an annual publication of statistical data of East Asian libraries and museum collections (mainly resources in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages), expenditures, staffing, and services in North America. The variety of statistical data collected is similar to that collected by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and is included in ARL's annual statistics.

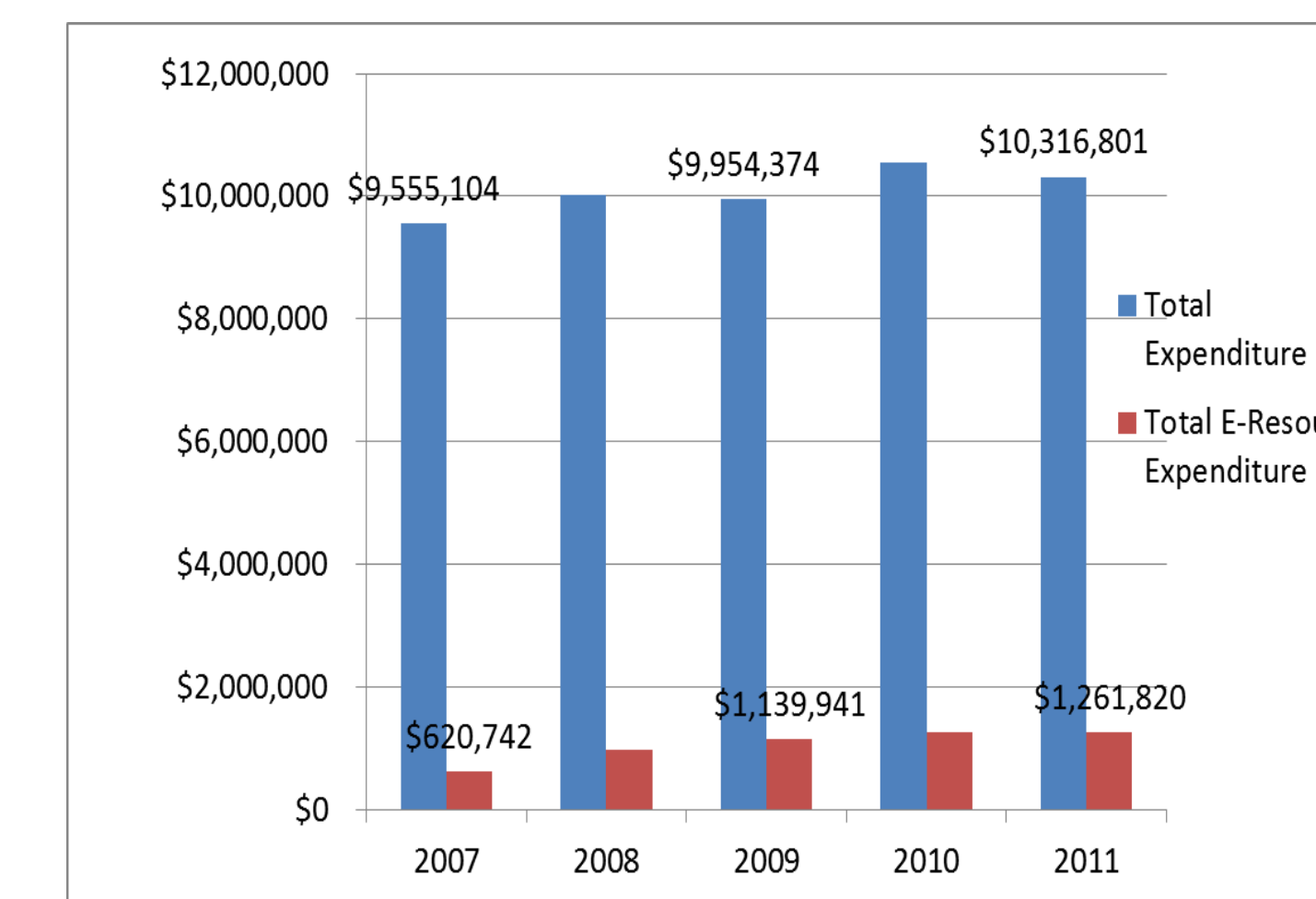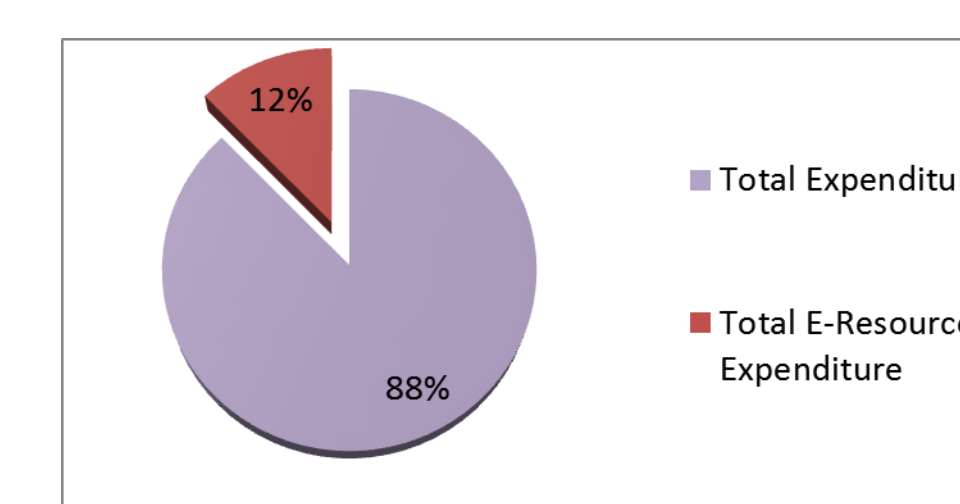## Electronic Resources vs. Total Materials Expenditures, 2007-2011

Small Collections (13): Alberta, Arizona, Arizona State, Binghamton, Brigham Young, Far Eastern Research Library, Florida, Indiana, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, North Carolina, Oberlin College, Penn State, UC Santa Barbara
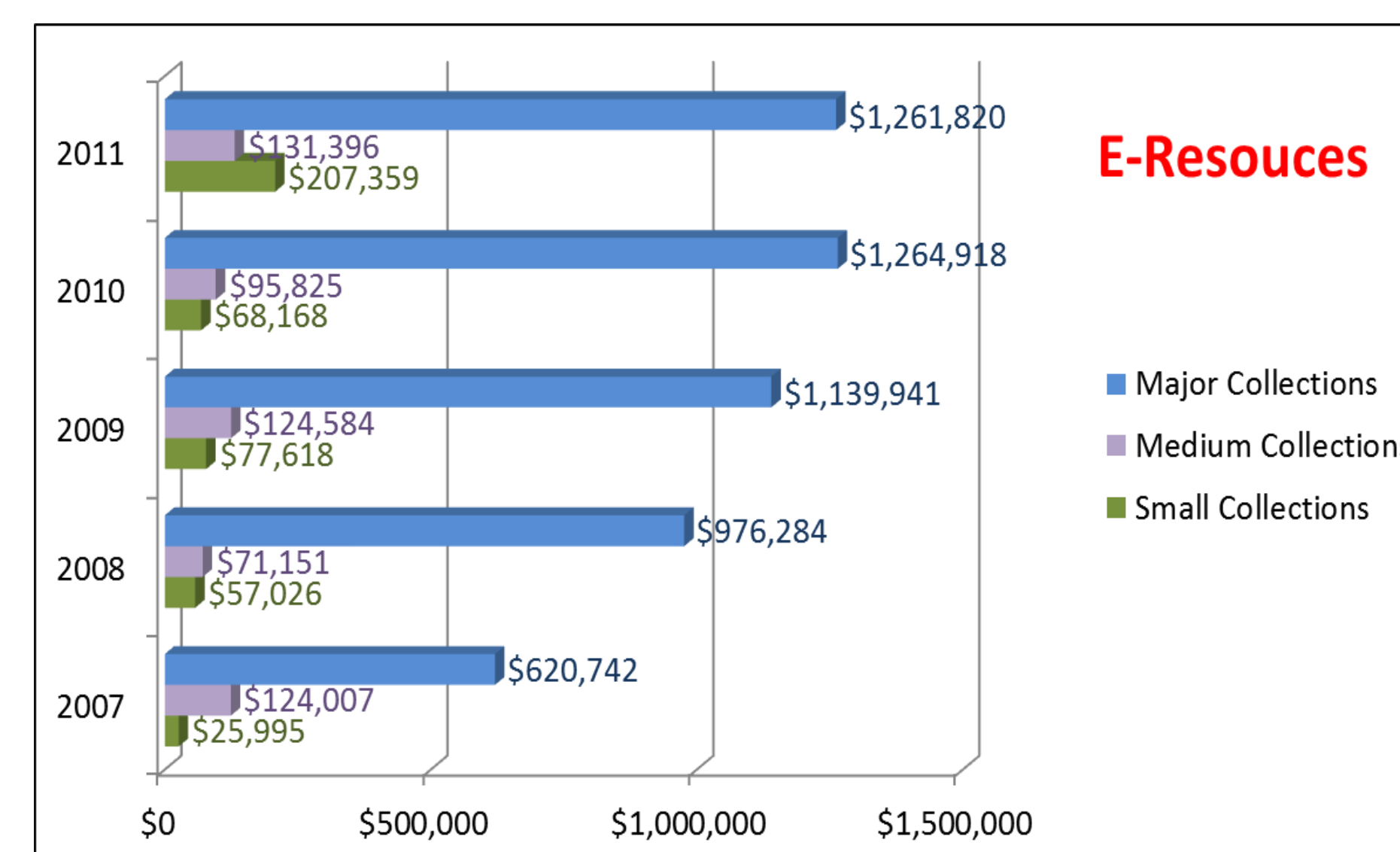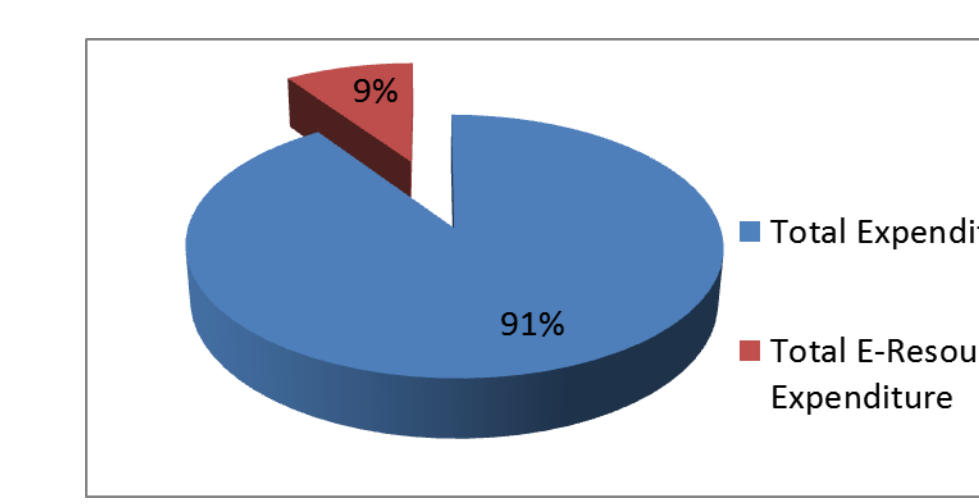
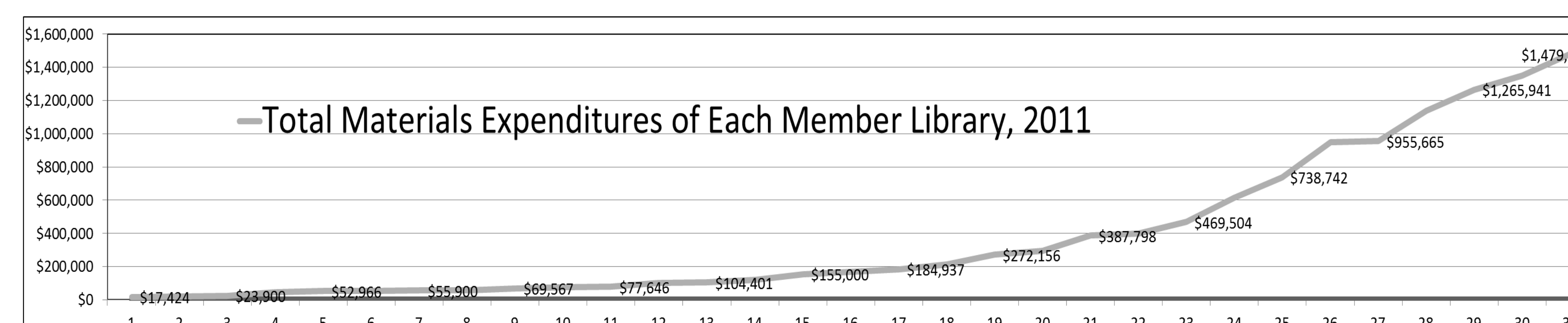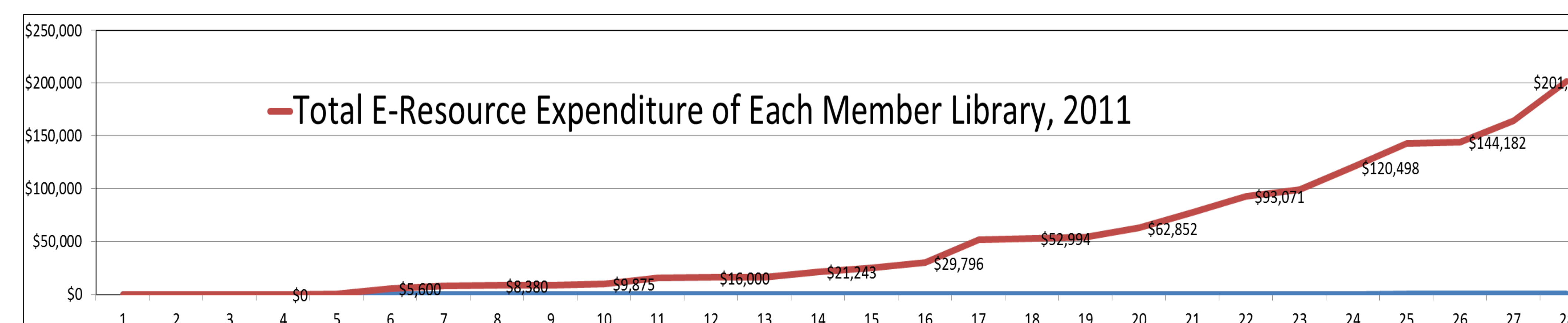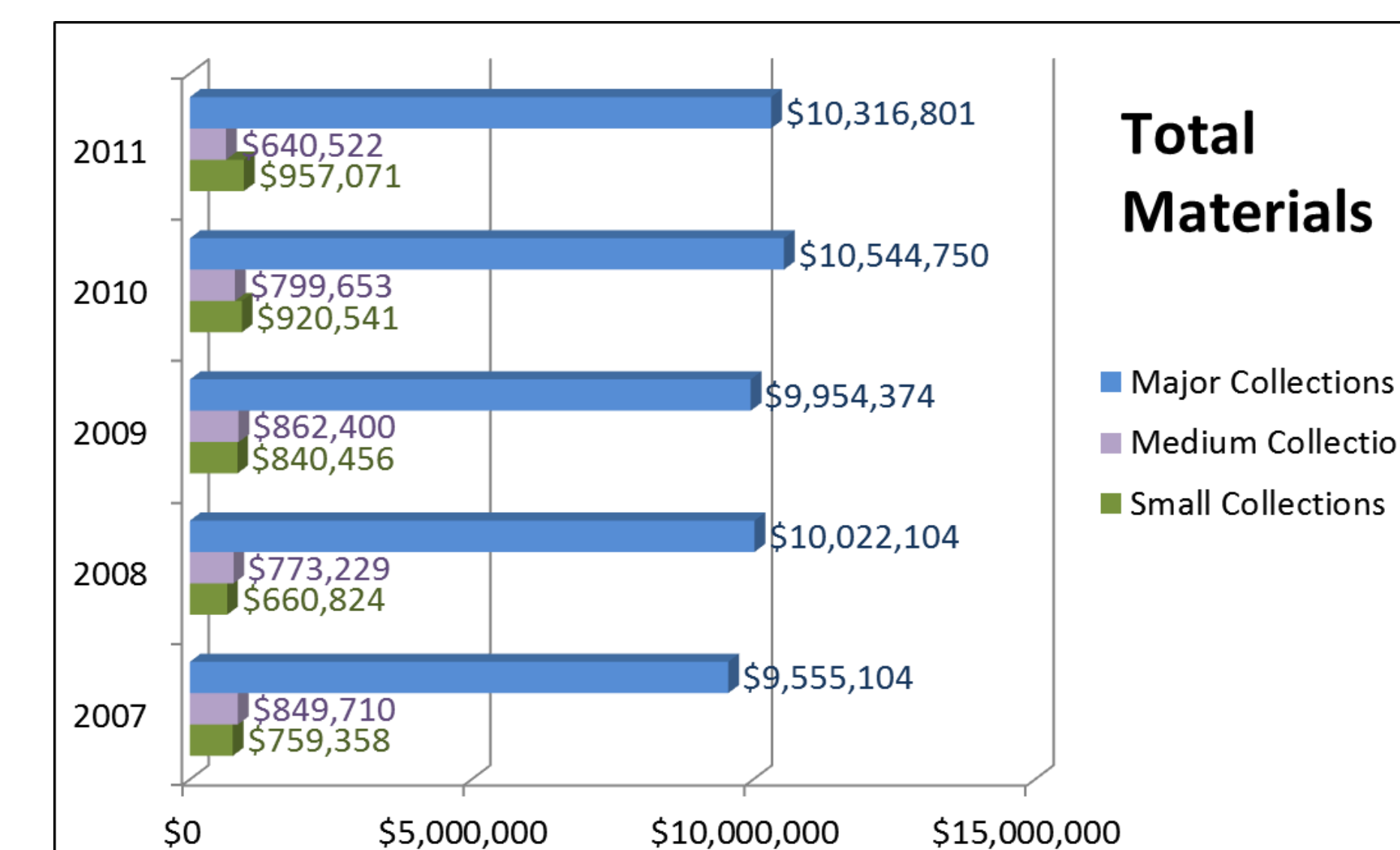**Medium Collections (6):** Georgetown, Illinois-Urbana, Kansas, Texas Austin, Virginia, Wisconsin

Major Collections (13): Columbia, Duke, Harvard-Yenching, Hawaii, Michigan, Pittsburgh, Princeton, Stanford, Toronto, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego, Yale

Total Expenditures By Group 2007-2011

Conclusion

The study demonstrated that a group of small collections (Annual total materials expenditures under $75,000) has spent an average of 10 % of the budget for e-resources, and 11 libraries out of 13 have spent less than $10,000 per year for e-resources. In consideration of the fact that most of the e-resources, such as e-journals, indexes/abstracts, and CD-ROM serials, are provided by vendors at a high cost of subscription fee, these libraries are predominantly relying on the print collection.

E-resources expenditures for the medium size libraries (annual total materials expenditures under $250,000) demonstrate a year-to-year fluctuation, rather than a steady growth. This could be an indication that the libraries are trying to balance the budget between the print collection and the electronic collection. Further research is needed to find whether the growth rate of its print collection fluctuates accordingly.

This study also found that the e-resource expenditures for a group of major collections (annual total materials expenditures over $250,000) have increased 103% (from $620, 742 to $ 1,261,820) over the past 5 years, whereas the total materials expenditures increased only 7.3 % (from $9,555,104 to $10,316,800).

In general, the study clearly indicates that a majority of East Asian libraries have been challenged by limited financial resources and increased demands for the e-resources in East Asian languages, as growth rates for e-resources continue to far outpace the growth rates for the total materials budget.

Library