SEAM’s Mission

The Southeast Asia Materials Project (SEAM) is a membership-funded program that aims to preserve and provide access to rare or unique resources from Southeast Asia. SEAM provides member institutions with better coverage of research materials related to the study of Southeast Asia by filming or acquiring films of these materials and making them readily available.

Member institutions fund SEAM projects and acquisitions through an annual membership fee. Representatives of member institutions meet annually to discuss project proposals, and projects and purchases are approved by the membership.

SEAM was established in 1970 through the collaboration of the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), a component committee of the Southeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and is administered by CRL.

Collections

SEAM’s microform collections form a large pool of historical, political, linguistic, economic, and geographical data and primary source materials not available elsewhere. Its rich holdings include: more than 300 historic newspapers from every country in the region, in national, regional, English and other Western languages; similar numbers of historic journals and government serials; and thousands of historic manuscripts.

SEAM materials can be searched in the Center for Research Libraries’ online catalog (http://catalog.crl.edu/) or in WorldCat. Additional information about the collections, including holdings lists, guides, and indexes, can be found at http://www.crl.edu/area-studies/seam/collections.

Membership

Membership in SEAM is open to any institution or nonprofit organization maintaining a library and whose interests coincide with the project. Full members are assessed an annual membership fee of $800. New members are also assessed a one-time fee (currently $800) to support access to the historic collection of SEAM material. SEAM currently has 26 national and international institutional members.

All SEAM materials are available for loan—via interlibrary loan, fax, or electronic document delivery—to member institutions without restriction and in accordance with CRL’s lending policies.

For more information about membership or to inquire about joining SEAM, please contact Judy Alspach at the Center for Research Libraries at: jalspach@crl.edu.