



Cultural Heritage Archive of Kam Minority in China

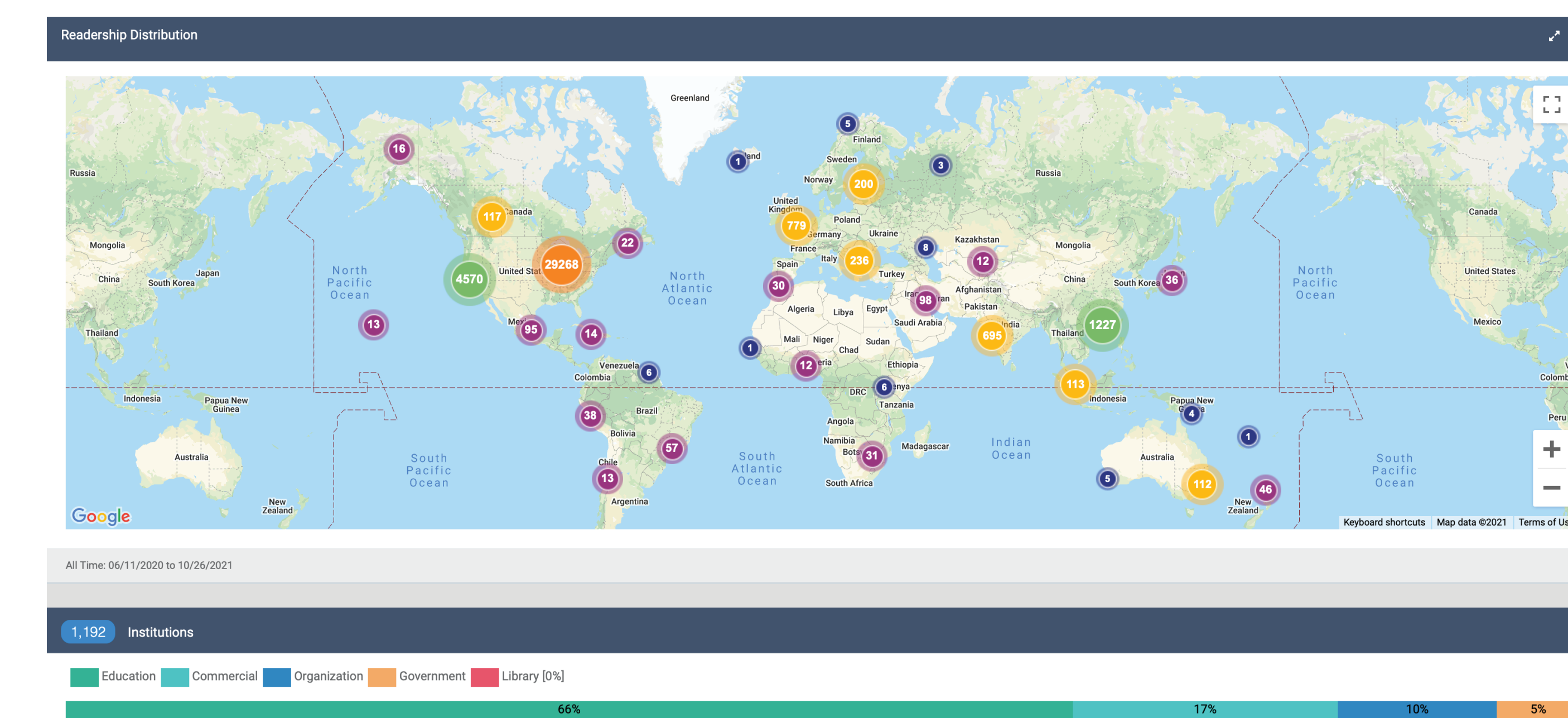
Kam Minority Archive

Marie Anna Lee

Department of Art, Media, Performance and Design
with **Library Digital Initiatives / Michele Gibney**

This project created an online archive of cultural heritage of the little-known Kam minority people in remote Guizhou Province in China. The archive, hosted at Pacific's Scholarly Commons, consists of photographs, video recordings, audio recordings and field notes created by Marie Anna Lee from 2009 to 2014 for the Kam Heritage Project.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/kam/>

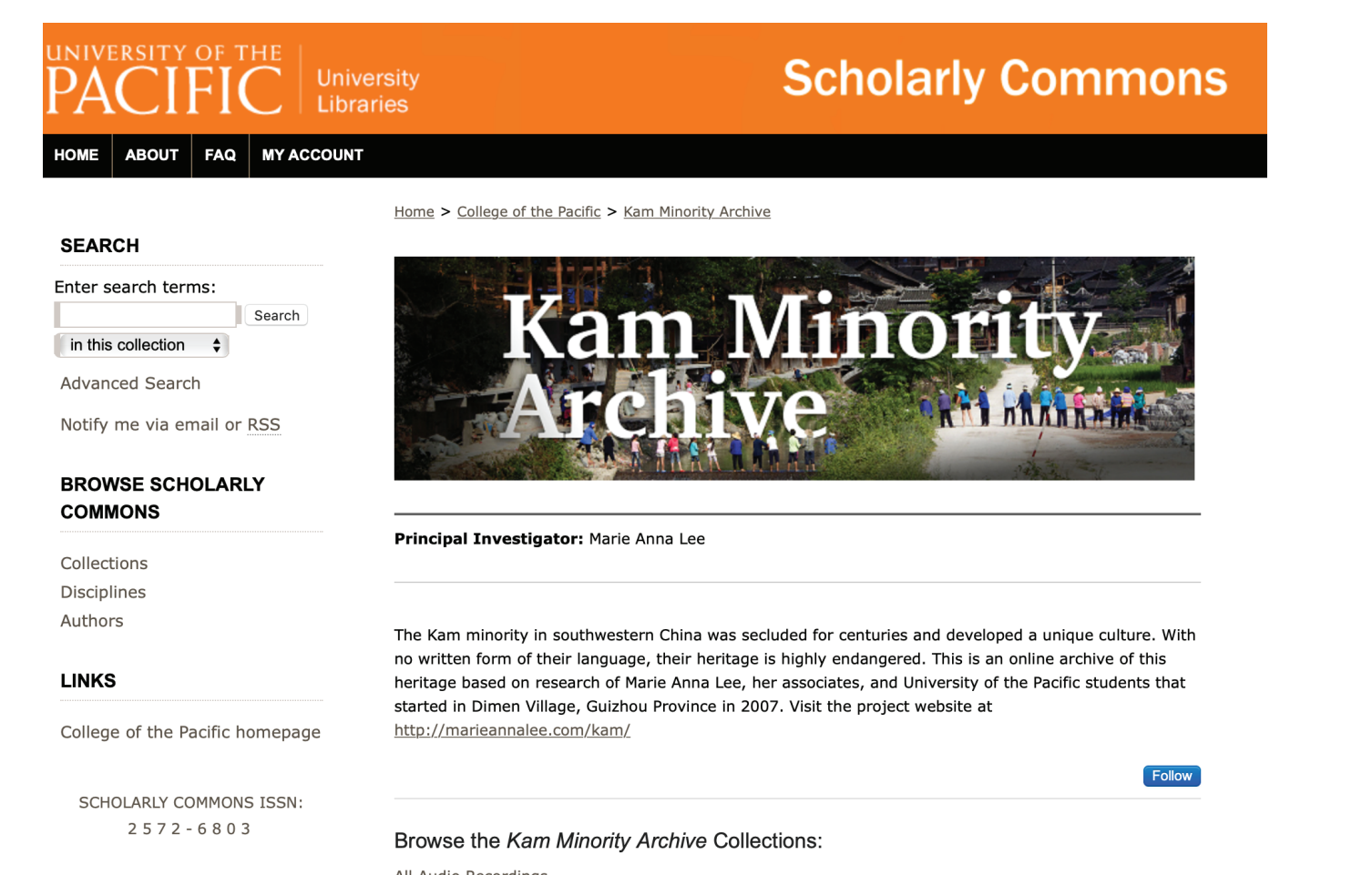


Many thanks to

- Library Digital Initiatives Staff**
- Michele Gibney, Head of Publishing and Scholarship Support
 - Lillian Hom-Imada, Metadata & Cataloging Specialist
 - Rachele Caouette, Access Services Specialist

- Library Digital Initiatives Students**
- Jamie Chesbrough '21
 - Kaitlyn Imada '22
 - Munachimso Aghasili '23
 - Alexis Gerbino '21

- Photo editing / Art & Media X**
- Nic Chen '21
 - Angelique Doti '21
 - Mayu Otsuka '23
 - Umm-E-Salma Zaman '23



Kam people / Surrounded by deep mountains of Guizhou Province in south-western China, the Kam minority village of Dimen was secluded from the surrounding world for centuries and developed a unique culture. With no written form of their language, their heritage was suddenly endangered when the young generation lost interest in their traditions.

Introduction / The main objective for the Kam Heritage Project has been to preserve the Kam heritage and make it available to the Kam people

as well as researchers and the public. Lee has collected the data and published her findings but the bulk of the data was not accessible. This project is creating an online repository that researchers, interested public as well as the Kam people can access and build on.

Progress / So far, over 3000 photographs and videos have been uploaded to the Scholarly Commons archive. There have been over 43,000 downloads/visits to the archive since its conception in June 2020.

Process / In spring 2020, art students started editing photographs. Pacific then went remote. The University Library and its staff took on the cataloging task, describing and tagging each photograph and video. Marie Anna Lee edited the bulk of the photographs and videos and reviewed and revised the cataloging data. Media X students edited the photographs as well.

Archive Contents / The author has worked with the community of Dimen village in China to preserve its cultural heritage since 2007. The raw

collection now consists of over **40,000 photographs, 1,150 video recording and 100 audio recordings and field notes.**

Manuscript / Lee published her findings in manuscript *Kam Women Artisans of China: Dawn of the Butterflies* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing: 2018.)

The project was funded by the Scholarly/Artistic Activity Grant and the COP College Research Fund.

