

SURVEY OF THE USE OF NLA EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS DURING 1985

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1. Introduction

This survey was carried out in order to gain a clearer picture of the subject requirements of those using the National Library's East Asian language collections. The languages studied were Chinese, Japanese and Korean, in which the Library has major holdings.

2. Subjects

Use of the Library's East Asian materials by remote readers can be gauged fairly accurately from the completed interlibrary loan and photocopy forms retained in the Orientalia Sub-section. Subject coding these forms is, however, a time-consuming task as many contain no classification number.

Assessing the subject use of East Asian materials read in the Library is more difficult. Although statistics are compiled for all Chinese, Japanese and Korean monographs, serials and newspapers used in the Orientalia Reading Room, these figures are not broken down by subject. Call slips have been kept for only a small minority of these items. However some idea of subject use can be obtained from the General Reference Service Enquiry forms completed by Orientalia staff.

3. Statistics

Detailed statistics expressed in percentage terms are attached for Chinese, Japanese and Korean materials used during the 1985 calendar year. Figures are given for interlibrary loans, photocopies and reference enquiries. The loan and photocopy statistics are based on satisfied requests and do not include requests which were not met.

4. Assessment of Statisticsa) Chinesei) Use in the Library

Based on the reference enquiry forms the greatest use of Chinese materials within the Library was in the fields of Economics, History, Fine Arts and Politics and Government. Major users were academics, government officials and members of the general public.

ii) Interlibrary Loans

41% of loans were for Language and Literature. History was also heavily used, followed by Economics, Politics and Government, and Fine Arts. Major borrowers were academics, the Chinese Embassy and members of the Chinese community.

iii) Photocopies of Serial Articles

Here the subject use appeared to be quite different from that for items read in the Library or borrowed. Technology and Science were the most used subject, followed by Politics and Government, Medicine

and Economics. Users included companies, e.g. BHP and CSR; government departments and research bodies; hospitals and universities.

b) Japanese

i) Use in the Library

Economics, History, Fine Arts and Technology were in heaviest demand in the Library, according to the reference query forms. Major users were academics, government officials and the general public.

ii) Interlibrary Loans

Heaviest use was made of Language and Literature (19%), History, Sociology, and Economics. Major users included universities, the Japanese Embassy and the ABC.

iii) Photocopies of Serial Articles

The pattern of use here was markedly different from the figures for readers in the Library and monograph loans. 36% of Japanese photocopies made were made for Medicine, 30% for Technology and 12% for Science, totalling 78%. Major users included companies, e.g. BHP and Comalco; government departments and research bodies such as CSIRO; hospitals and universities.

c) Korean

i) Use in the Library

According to the reference forms the Korean material most used in the Library was in the areas of Economics and Politics and Government, followed by Language and Literature and Library Science. The main readers were academics, government officials and the public.

ii) Interlibrary Loans

Language and Literature was the most used subject, followed by Sociology, Technology, History and Fine Arts. Materials on Economics, Geography, Politics and Government and Law were also borrowed. Major borrowers were universities, the Korean community and Radio 3EA Melbourne.

5. Conclusion

These figures should not be interpreted as a precise measure of use. They refer to only one calendar year (1985) and do not include a full subject coverage of East Asian materials read in the Library. Nevertheless they do suggest some interesting patterns of use, which could be checked by further studies covering a longer period. In future more detailed subject statistics will be kept for East Asian materials consulted in the Library.

Some generalizations may be made. According to these figures the most consulted subject within the Library in all three languages was Economics. With some variations, History, Fine Arts and Politics and Government were also heavily used inside the Library. For

Chinese, Japanese and Korean interlibrary loans Language and Literature was clearly the most popular subject, with History, Economics and Sociology also in strong demand. In contrast 78% of Japanese and 38% of Chinese photocopies sent to other libraries were in the fields of Medicine, Science and Technology.

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TABLES

USE BY SUBJECT OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGE MATERIALS 1985

1. Chinese Reference Query Forms

Total queries: 498

Economics	16%
History	14%
Fine Arts	13%
Politics and Government	12%
Library Science	8%
Language and Literature	7%
Sociology	5%
Technology	5%
Geography	4%
Education	4%
Science	2%
Religion	2%
<u>Other</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total	100%

2. Chinese Interlibrary Loan Forms

Total loans: 795

Language and Literature	41%
History	17%
Economics	7%
Politics and Government	6%
Fine Arts	5%
Library Science	4%
Geography	3%
Bibliography and Reference	3%
Medicine	2%
Technology	2%
<u>Other</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

3. Chinese Photocopies

Total photocopies: 141

Technology	16%
Science	13%
Politics and Government	12%
Medicine	9%
Economics	9%
Language and Literature	8%
History	7%
Philosophy	6%
Sociology	5%
Fine Arts	4%
Library Science	3%
<u>Other</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total	100%

4. Japanese Reference Query Forms

Total queries: 474

Economics	16%
History	16%
Fine Arts	15%
Technology	13%
Bibliography and Reference	7%
Language and Literature	7%
Library Science	5%
Politics and Government	5%
Music	3%
Education	2%
Religion	2%
Sociology	2%
<u>Other</u>	<u>7%</u>
Total	100%

5. Japanese Interlibrary Loan Forms

Total Loans: 648

Language and Literature	19%
History	17%
Sociology	16%
Economics	14%
Fine Arts	8%
Politics and Government	8%
Technology	3%
Religion	3%
Education	2%
Library Science	2%
Medicine	2%
<u>Other</u>	<u>6%</u>
Total	100%

6. Japanese Photocopies

Total photocopies: 428

Medicine	36%
Technology	30%
Science	12%
Economics	5%
Library Science	5%
Fine Arts	4%
Religion	2%
History	2%
Language and Literature	2%
<u>Other</u>	<u>2%</u>
Total	100%

7. Korean Reference Query Forms

Total queries: 62

Economics	23%
Politics and Government	22%
Language and Literature	11%
Library Science	10%
Bibliography and Reference	7%
Religion	7%
<u>Other</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

8. Korean Interlibrary Loan Forms

Total loans: 145

Language and Literature	29%
Sociology	22%
Technology	12%
History	12%
Fine Arts	10%
Economics	7%
<u>Other</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total	100%