

OVERSEAS NEWS

The National Library of China has some 13 million holdings, among them 35,000 pieces of oracle bones with inscriptions carved during the 16th Century B.C., more than 2500,000 rubbings from inscriptions on bronze vessels, lutes, stone tablets, some of which date back to the 10th Century B.C., 23 million documents handwritten after the invention of papermaking in the first century A.D., and woodblock and movable type documents produced after the invention of printing in the 6th and 7th Centuries A.D.

The National Library of China has purchased Western Library Network (WLN) software as part of a modernisation and expansion programme; it is planned to have a fully online system by 1990.

WLN Participant. Vol. 6, no. 3 (Winter 1987):pp 1-2.

ICA Video has released an English-language series called 'Writers in conversation' which includes a 34-minute video of Japanese author Kazuo Ishiguro talking about growing up as a Japanese boy in an English culture, and how he first started to become a writer.

Further details may be obtained from ICA Video, ICA, The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH, England, UK.

Gakujutsu zasshi sōgō mokuroku: Wabunhen (Union list of scientific periodicals in the Japanese language) 1985 edition integrates into a single updated listing, titles previously separated into two parts covering the "Natural sciences" (1968) and the "Humanities and social sciences" (1973).

Included in this three-volume work is holdings information, as of May 1, 1983, on more than 38,000 periodicals in the collections of 623 libraries of Japanese academic institutions (national, public and private), government agencies, public organisations, and academic societies except for the holdings of the National Diet Library, which are listed in Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan shozō wa zasshi mokuroku (National Diet Library Catalogue of Japanese Periodicals), 1985.

From Library of Congress Information Bulletin.
Vol. 46, no. 20 (May 18, 1987):pp 205-206.

A Chinese preservation microfilming project, developed by Research Libraries Group (RLG) East Asian Program Committee, was awarded US\$210,191 in outright funds by the National Endowment for the Humanities plus \$30,000 being matched by the Henry Luce Foundation. During the two-year project, six RLG

members and the Library of Congress will film Chinese language monographs, serials, and newspapers published between 1880 and 1949. It was the first time RLG had received a grant from the Luce Foundation.

Research Libraries Group Newsletter no. 13
(May 1987):p.12

"...Recently OCLC has placed greater emphasis on database quality, probably because many large OCLC users jumped ship and joined RLIN. Despite protests by top management to the contrary, OCLC is still a phenomenally "dirty" database and RLIN isn't that much better..."

From: Dwyer, J. "Using online catalogs to stimulate effective library use". Library Journal, Vol.112, no.14 (September 1, 1987):p.135.

