

CHINESE-JAPANESE-KOREAN AUTOMATION NEWS

No library in Australia so far has East Asian scripts in their automated library catalogue, although individuals and at least one library have East Asian word processors. The Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) receives tapes containing CJK script; however, it has yet to overcome technical problems before these can be loaded.

The reasons for the delay in the automation of CJK scripts in online Australian library records can be summarised as follows:

- low priority given to multiscript automation by library managers
- lack of standardisation of hardware, romanisation methods and input methods, and uncertainty as to the survival of any particular system
- lack of marketing and support in Australia of hardware and software
- lack of information for decision making
- lack of expertise combining East Asian languages, computing and library skills.

We can attempt to redress the lack of information by including, whenever possible, news of database management systems, library software and word processors which can handle East Asian scripts. In view of the lack of appropriate expertise and systems support, it is likely that Australian libraries will decide to opt for membership of a network.

Editor

DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND LIBRARY SOFTWARE

DOBIS/LIBIS. Readers are referred to the following article for information on the Chinese capabilities of Dobis/Libis:

鄭麗敏

網路功能圖書館整體作業系統: DOBIS/LIBIS =

An integrated online library system with networking functions: DOBIS/LIBIS. 教育資料與圖書館學 =

Journal of Educational Media and Library Sciences. Vol. 24, no. 1 (Autumn 1986): 66-81.

Abstract: The 1.4 version of DOBIS/LIBIS has functions including online searching, acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, serials control and electronic mail. Presently, this system is in use in more than twenty-three countries, including the Republic of China. Moreover, a modified version that can process Chinese

materials is developed by Tamkang University. The database structure of the DOBIS/LIBIS, its functions and characteristics are detailed in this article. (Article in Chinese.)

In Australia, Dobis/Libis is being developed for two Melbourne public libraries for storage, display and retrieval of Greek script. However, it will not at present allow records with mixed scripts to be displayed. The Greek record is expected to consist of full details in Greek with parallel records containing romanised author, title, English subject headings, classification number, dates, intellectual level, language code, country of publication, and fiction/non-fiction code. Both records will be stored in separate files and linked by a unique document number.

from: Stocker, Eve. "Development of Greek automated cataloguing system, Victoria, Australia." Automated systems for access to multilingual and multiscript library materials - problems and solutions: papers from the Pre-Conference held at Nihon Daiqaku Kaikan Tokyo, Japan, August 21-22 1986. Munchen : Saur, 1987. pp. 132-147.

LIBMAN is a Wang library and information management system which can also handle Japanese and Chinese input. Input methods are Pinyin, Hiragana, Katakana, Dragon system, 3-corner code and telegraphic code. For more information, contact VTEC Pty. Ltd., 4th floor, Dixon House, 414-415 Sussex Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

MINISIS is an generalised information management system which can be used for library applications; it runs on the Hewlett Packard 3000 minicomputer and can handle non-Roman characters including Chinese. It is unlikely that local vendors can help with Chinese. However, the Canberra vendor is Systematics Information Systems Pty. Ltd., London Court, 13 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT 2600.

PROFESSIONAL CHINASTAR II products include Chinese and Japanese word processors for IBM PC/AT/XT or System II; they are compatible with database management systems such as dBase III and Oracle. Input is by Pinyin, Hepburn, Zhuyin fuhao, Hiragana, Katakana, Cangjie, Quick Cangjie, telegraphic code and a user-defined method. The vendor is JHL Research Inc., 2552 West Woodland Drive, Anaheim, CA 92801, USA.

STATUS: A Chinese language version of STATUS has been developed initially for the Taiwanese market, the result of a collaborative effort between Computer Power Hong Kong and Wang Industrial Co. Limited (WICL), a subsidiary of Wang Laboratories Inc. WICL will distribute STATUS on the VS range of WANG computers, with

'Ideographic' Chinese language support. The WANG version will be known as IVS STATUS. The work involved an imaginative rethink of the way STATUS recognises and indexes words in a language having 30,000 characters and no natural word breaks. It was performed by Sek-kit Leung under the direction of Dr. Richard Jones at the Computer Power Group (CPG) R & D facilities in Canberra.

In December last year, WICL organised three half day seminars to help launch IVS STATUS. The event was attended by representatives from twenty six Government and private industry organisations. During the seminar, Chinese language STATUS was demonstrated on a powerful database consisting of 45,000 Chinese and English text articles. The first sale has been made to the National Science Council in Taiwan. The partnership between CP Hong Kong and WICL marks the penetration of CP products into Taiwan and also the extension of STATUS capabilities to include an Asian language.

Over the next few months, IVS STATUS will be further developed in the Chinese language through customisation of the menu and rewriting of the user manual. Possibilities definitely exist to expand to Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China, since the WANG VS support for these local languages is derived from the Taiwan IVS system.

CP International Update:
the newsletter of the Computer Power Group
January/February 1988: p.2

