New Publications

Compiled by Ayako Hatta
Monash University Library

- Title: Internationalising Japan: discourse and practice
  Author(s): edited by Jeremy Breaden, Stacey Steele, Carolyn S. Stevens
  Print ISBN: 9780415735704
eISBN: 9781317817970
  Publisher: Taylor and Francis
  Series: Routledge Contemporary Japan Series
  Publication Date: 24 Apr, 2014

The origin of this monograph was the 17th Biennial Conference of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA), held at the Melbourne Law School in July 2011. The theme of the conference was 'Internationalising Japan: Sport, Culture and Education'. It attracted a diverse group of scholars and other participants and included three keynote sessions, 56 panels and three poster sessions. The chapters in this book were first presented at the conference.

Like any nation engaged in global trade, diplomacy and cultural exchange, Japan is internationalising. It is also being internationalised by the growing transnational flows of people, goods and ideas that are the hallmarks of globalisation. As both a subject and an object of internationalisation, Japan is changing from within and without. It is not possible to comprehend internationalisation as a simple matter of ‘Japan’ engaging with the ‘international’. Rather, internationalising Japan is a multidirectional, heterogeneous process that does not fit comfortably within any single conceptual framework. Internationalisation is a point of convergence for us to examine themes such as economic change, the meaning of social status and transformations brought on by modernity. Transcending conventional dichotomies and stereotypes held by the popular press about Japan’s internationalisation project, this book employs these themes to explore the synergies and discords of internationalisation, and highlights the processes and agents of change, both passive and active.
Early last year, I was invited to write an article about the activities of Asian Libraries in Melbourne (ALIM) for the journal, *Ajiken World Trends*. The invitation came from three librarians from the Institute for Developing Economies (IDE) in Chiba, Japan who were visiting Monash library to investigate international trends in library services for Asian materials outside Japan. They were very interested in our Asian Studies Research Collection with its specialist librarian in each area of studies, and they were especially interested in the activities of ALIM, which is the collaboration between ASRC and the East Asian Collection at the University of Melbourne.

In my article (which is written in Japanese) I describe the background, history and some of the current projects of ALIM. ALIM was formed in 1993 under the need for increased resources but a limited fund for Asian collections. ALIM shares collections and information specialists’ knowledge and experience to assist users of both institutions. We have continued to collaborate and cooperate in collection development and access, and exchange of information to support our users under the Melbourne-Monash protocol. The increase of immigrants and international students, particularly from Asian countries, has impacted on Asian languages education in Australian schools, as well as current trends in Asian studies and research. Business translation, political economics, mass media, popular culture, global studies and other 'borderless' studies of Asia are now under the spotlight. The greater pool of expertise from subject specialists from both libraries has been successful to conduct classes for the students, and purchasing resources with the interlibrary term loan for the other library. The closer relationship has been benefitted to avoid duplicated materials in both collections and enabled to collect more comprehensive coverage of research materials in Melbourne. We also attend conferences for Asian studies and for each study in Australia to form library sessions to discuss and exchange information with academics. The joint exhibition, "Asian Arts", was one of the recent activities to present rare and special items from the Asian collections of the Melbourne and Monash University libraries.