

**EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE SEMINAR: LIBRARY ISSUES IN VERNACULAR MATERIAL FOR ASIAN STUDIES**

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This one-day seminar, sponsored by the Australian National University (ANU) and the National Library of Australia, was held on 20th February at ANU to discuss the problems and possibilities involved in developing vernacular language Asian collections. Representatives from ten research and tertiary libraries with Asian material were present. Dr Sandy Gordon, the Executive Director of the Asian Studies Council, gave the keynote address in which he outlined possible future directions and levels of Asian studies. Other speakers in the morning sessions shared their experiences of working in Asian collections.

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the recommendations of the Ingleson Report relating to libraries. Comments on Ingleson's recommendations, which included the establishment of a "Bibliographic Network" for Asian studies and an increase in resources to automate the cataloguing of Asian script material, were drawn up and sent to the Asian Studies Council Meeting held in March.

These comments were themselves phrased in terms of recommendations. They were endorsed by the major research libraries with Asian collections and read:

1. A suitable person at senior level be seconded/appointed for a period of three months to investigate ways in which national access to full bibliographic and location data relating to Asian Studies materials may be improved, taking into account existing library services and networks serving the nation.  
Cost: \$13,000, including salary, salary-related and travel costs.
2. A suitable person be seconded/appointed under Project Director above for a period of three months to investigate the feasibility of an automated system/network in Australia for Asian scripts, notably Chinese, Japanese and Korean (in line with Recommendation 28 and Proposal 3 below).  
Cost: \$11,000, including salary, salary-related and travel costs.

3. A sum of \$25,000 be made available immediately to the National Library of Australia to enable the Library to acquire and process Library of Congress tapes of CJK vernacular script data (available since 1987) into the Australian Bibliographic Network and to investigate the accessibility of such data nation-wide via appropriate workstations.
4. Regular internships to be provided for librarians seeking expertise in the field of Asian Studies to receive training at NLA and/or ANU for a period of three to six months. The nature and operation of these internships to be decided after the report arising from Recommendation 1.

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#### **Ingleson Report - APSIG meeting**

The Asia and Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG) of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) held a lunch-time meeting on 20th April, at which Dr Virginia Matheson, who assisted Professor Ingleson in the compilation of the report, explained the background to the report and its current status.

The Asian Studies Council met in March this year and formed a subcommittee to consider the various recommendations. The Council is still accepting feedback; letters in support of the recommendations can also be sent to Mr Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training, since the Council is not in a position to fund every recommendation which may be adopted.

500 copies of the two-volume Ingleson Report have been printed. Each participating institution has been sent a copy; other copies are obtainable from Dr Sandy Gordon, Asian Studies Council, PO Box 826, Woden, ACT 2606.

Editor