

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Korean Studies Centre

The Australian Government Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) is providing funding towards the establishment of a Korean Studies Centre. Submissions have been received, and a decision is expected to be announced soon.

Australian Bibliographic Network

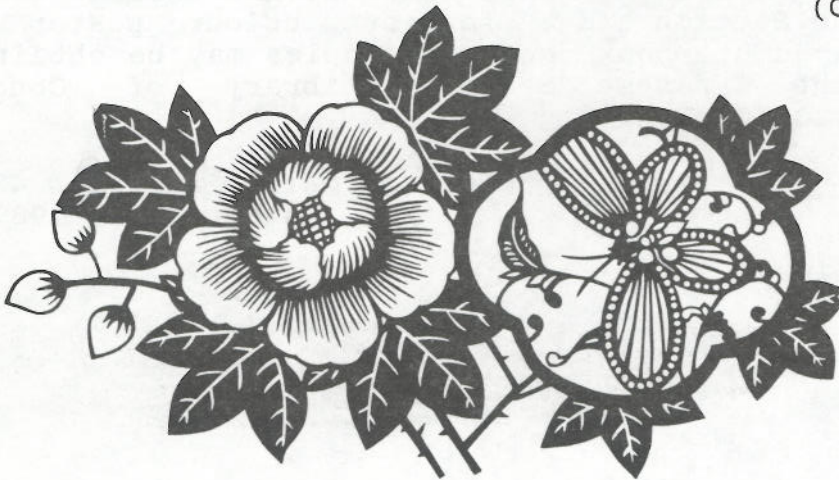
The Library of Congress CJK tapes have finally been loaded onto ABN, minus vernacular scripts, and some 4,000 potential matches with ABN records are being reviewed.

The ABN Office is currently investigating the feasibility of redeveloping ABN over the next few years; one of the items on the agenda for review is a diacritics and multiscript capability.

Macquarie University Library

Macquarie University Library has two new members of staff to handle East Asian materials. Mrs Karen Tse-Lo is joining the staff for cataloguing, reference and acquisitions work with Chinese-language materials, while Mr Philip Lincoln will be performing similar work with Japanese-language materials.

Eugenie Greig
Associate University Librarian
(Cataloguing)



University of Melbourne Baillieu Library

Congratulations to Eiko Sakaguchi, our Japanese Librarian, who has completed the Graduate Diploma course at the Melbourne College of Advanced Education and has become qualified. Well done, Eiko.

Mr Dennis Kishere, a final year student of the Graduate Diploma of Librarianship and Information Science from Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, spent two weeks in the East Asian Collection for his Placement Programme. Dennis' assistance and interest in this Collection was very much appreciated.

East Asian acquisitions

In recent years, areas of Japanese studies at this University have expanded rapidly. In addition to traditional courses in Japanese language, literature and history, there are new courses covering Japanese economic development, law, politics, Asian art and architecture. This development has seen the need to extend the University Library's acquisitions programme. Special efforts have been made to strengthen our Japanese collection.

Gifts and support from outside bodies often came at the right time to meet increasing needs. In 1989, the Library received a grant of A\$14,000 from the Japan World Exposition Commemorative Fund for the purchase of library materials and computer equipment.

Under the Japan Foundation's Library Support Program 1988/1989, this Library also acquired a number of significant Japanese art materials to support the study of Asian art. These include:

Nihon jodo mandara no kenkyu [The study of the charts of Buddhist paradise]. Tokyo : Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan, 1987.

Bunjinga suihin: Chugokuhen [Chinese literati paintings]. Sukusatsuban. Tokyo : Chuo Koronsha, 1985-1986. 10 v.

Bunjinga suihin: Nihonhen [Japanese literati paintings]. Tokyo : Chuo Koronsha, 1974-1979. v. 11-14.

Zenrin gasan: chusei suibakuga o yomu [The Study of Japanese paintings in Mediaeval Ages]. Tokyo : Mainichi Shinbunsha, 1987.

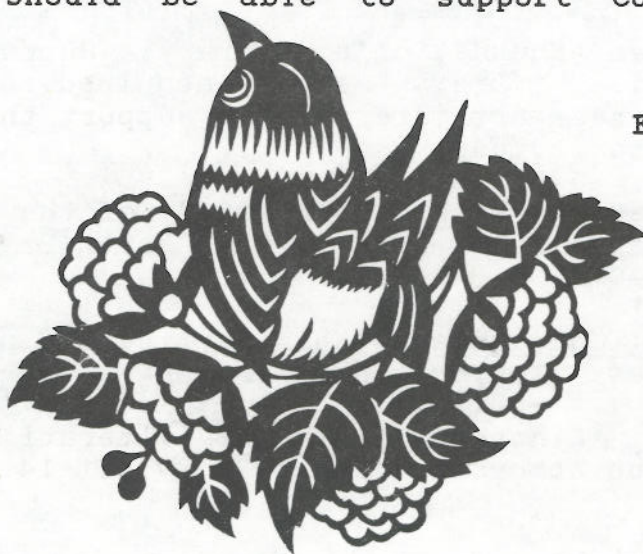
Hokkekyo: shakyo to sogon [The Text of Hokke sect: its philosophy and hand-written sutra]. Tokyo : Tokyo Bijutsu, 1988.

In the present fiscal year, the Library was awarded A\$3,000's worth of materials on Japanese political studies by the Japan Foundation.

Other major acquisitions to be noted are 19 scrolls of facsimile reproductions of Chinese paintings and calligraphy, including rare masterpieces of Kuo Hsi, Shen Chou, Wang Hsi-chih and Su Shih. They are high quality reproductions from the Nigensha in Tokyo, based on the originals held at the national Palace Museum in Taipei.

Library automation

Baillieu has decided to purchase an OCLC CJK350 workstation and the CJK online cataloguing system. The purchase will be partly financed with a grant from the Japan Expo Fund. We are planning to obtain OCLC CJK vernacular records, download them onto the CJK workstation hard disk, and create a CJK database independently from LIBS-100. The romanisation portion of the CJK records will be uploaded onto LIBS-100 and appear on OPAC. The complete CJK records, including the CJK scripts, will be searchable on the OCLC CJK workstation. LIBS-100 software is expected to be further upgraded and the next release should be able to support CJK vernacular scripts.



Eiko Sakaguchi
Lily Hu

University of Sydney Library

RLIN trial

The East Asian Collection (EAC) held a trial on the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) in November 1989. The aim was to find a source of bibliographic records to supplement the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) as a means of cataloguing. We also aimed to test the retrieval rate for Chinese and Japanese materials, to evaluate the usefulness of RLIN records for cataloguing and to provide data for use in assessing the cost effectiveness of a regular RLIN link-up.

Unfortunately the trial was cut short for the following reasons:

- a) There is no established mechanism to download items found in RLIN automatically into ABN at present. Records found have to be created again in ABN.
- b) Personal names, place names and subject headings of records found in RLIN cannot be automatically used without verification for original cataloguing on ABN. Authority work, which is the most time-consuming part in original cataloguing, still has to be done.

Hence it seems pointless to rely on RLIN at present as a means of cataloguing. However, RLIN remains helpful for reference verification. It might be feasible to have RLIN as an additional source of bibliographical records to supplement ABN as a means of cataloguing in the near future. In the meantime, EAC staff are making good use of the computer terminal to search ABN for copy-cataloguing.

Priorities in cataloguing

In striking a balance between reader services activities and cataloguing, EAC staff aim to copy-catalogue newly purchased materials and to put interim records on ABN for items which have no records on ABN. In November and December 1989, we made a positive attempt to combat part of the cataloguing backlogs. A total of 640 titles (approximately 1,200 volumes) were copy-catalogued. These titles catalogued included the whole gift set donated by the Government of the People's Republic of China in 1987 and the new materials purchased since 1987 which have records on ABN. We have started to put in interim records on ABN from March this year. We are delighted to find 10% of items previously not found on ABN

after the loading of the Library of Congress CJK tapes onto the database.

Another envisaged change is that we are considering stopping our order of Library of Congress catalogue cards, as the ordering process is very time-consuming and causes delays in the cataloguing process. We hope to concentrate on cataloguing the EAC in ABN romanised form and to backup our inhouse online catalogue with a shelflist which contains vernacular scripts. However, this recommendation is still being discussed.

The new Korean course

The Department of East Asian Studies, University of Sydney, has started to offer an option in Korean for third year students of Chinese and Japanese in 1990. The course adopts a comparative approach with Japanese and/or Chinese, and focuses on the reading of materials in mixed Korean scripts. The option in Korean proves to be a very popular subject with more than 20 students.

The Korean materials in EAC consist mainly of periodicals and books received in gift and exchange programmes arranged with various Korean libraries and universities. In order to support this new Korean option, the Library has, perhaps, to review our acquisitions policy - to build up a basic reference collection in the Korean language and to expand the English language collection on Korea. However, with the Library budget cut in 1990, the hope of purchasing Korean materials might be difficult to realise.

(NB I would like to point out one printing error in the last issue of the Newsletter. Richard Wong is a language expert in Japanese, which has been mistyped as Korean [apologies - Editor].)

Magdalen Lee
East Asian Collection Librarian
University of Sydney Library

Australian National University Library

Exhibition of Taiwan publications

The ANU Library is planning an exhibition of Taiwan publications, to be held at the ANU early in 1991. The exhibition will be sponsored by the National Central Library in Taipei. Titles for inclusion in the exhibition will be selected by the ANU. This will be the first exhibition of Taiwan publications to be held in Australia. Following the exhibition, the exhibited material will be added to the ANU Library's East Asian collection. Members of the Chinese Studies Association of Australia are encouraged to propose items for inclusion in the exhibition. Proposals should be referred to Susan Prentice, Senior Librarian, East Asian Studies, Asia and Pacific Division, ANU Library.

Chinese Universities Exchange Scheme

Library scholar Ms Gao Min from Peking University Library returned to Peking at the beginning of February after a year in the Asia-Pacific Division of ANU Library. Gao Min was at the ANU on a Visiting Fellowship for one year, awarded by the Chinese Universities Exchange Scheme which encourages and supports the exchange of scholars between ANU and Peking University. Gao Min was the second library scholar to be supported by the scheme. Her predecessor in this field, Dong Xiaoying, from Peking University Library Science Department, was at ANU Library from 1986 to 1987.

Collection of yearbooks

Due to user demand, the ANU Library is gradually building up a comprehensive collection of Chinese yearbooks. The yearbooks fall into two major categories - topical and geographical - and include some titles from remote areas of China which are not normally available through the usual commercial channels. Recent additions also include a series of statistical material published on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This series provides, in some cases for the first time, statistics concerning the economic development of individual cities and provinces during this period.

Susan Prentice
Senior Librarian
East Asian Studies, Asia and Pacific Division

National Library of Australia

Chinese serials project

This project was outlined in the November 1989 issue of the Newsletter. The aim is to include the Library's approximately 5,000 Chinese-language serial titles on the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). Good progress is being made and it is expected that current titles will be completed by mid-1990.

Retrospective conversion of Japanese monograph catalogue

In March of this year, the shelflist of the Japanese monograph catalogue was microfilmed by the AMARC company, preparatory to converting it to machine readable form for loading on to the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). The shelflist will be searched against OCLC database first for matches. These records will be used to add to ABN. The remaining records without OCLC matches will be keyed by AMARC, using only the romanised part of the record. It is hoped this project will be completed by the end of the financial year.

Pre-war Japanese books on ABN

Recently a number of collections of older, uncatalogued Japanese books in the National Library's Asian Collections have been added to the National Database. This is part of an ongoing plan to make as much Japanese material as possible searchable through ABN. Most of these new records are in detailed interim form, i.e., searchable by author and title but not by subject. They represent an improvement over the often very sketchy temporary records in the card catalogue. Moreover, all the books in these collections have been searched against Library of Congress (LC) records and many have been fully catalogued using LC data. The hit rate has been quite high.

The collections are as follows:-

Beyer, which contains much material on South and Southeast Asia, especially the Philippines and Japan's southward drive, published in the 1930s and 1940s. There is a number of works on Japan's nationalism as well as a few Japanese studies of Nazi Germany published during the same period.

Kegan Paul, which contains a number of illustrated novels and non-fiction works from the late Tokugawa period as well as some early Meiji illustrated books.

A newly discovered collection of different editions with commentary of the Imperial Rescript on Education (*Kyoiku chokugo*) and related materials published in the 1930s. This collection also has materials on Japan's nationalism of that era.

Another newly discovered collection of reports from the Mitsubishi and Mitsui Groups, and the Yokohama Specie Bank from the 1930s; and a small collection of popular literature from the 1930s.

Nakano collection of works on economics, most published in the 1930s and 1940s.

Simon collection, a small collection on Chinese language.

Some miscellaneous material from the Library of the Hoover Institution.

At present a large pool of material acquired by the Library in the 1950s and 1960s is being input. Much of it is being fully catalogued as there is a high hit-rate against LC. It includes many company histories, works on literature, economics, art and biography.

All Japanese materials are on ABN as well as the current intake (since 1985). Once the above collections have been completely added (still to come are the Sakakibara and a large collection of biographies) and the retrospective conversion project completed, nearly the entire Japanese collection will be on ABN. Only a small proportion of the blanket order will remain to be added.

Korean serials project

The project for the inclusion of the Library's Korean-language serials on ABN has been completed. Details are included in the article on the NLA Korean collection in this Newsletter.

Staffing

Staffing of the East Asian Sub-section has recently been increased with the addition of another Administrative Service Officer Grade 2 (ASO2) for the Chinese Unit and an extra ASO2 for the Korean Unit.

Visitors

Distinguished visitors to Asian Collections have included Dr Kan Lai-bing, Librarian of the University of Hong Kong, a delegation from the China Federation of Literature and Art Circles (CFLAC), led by the writer Feng Jicai, and Ven. Mahinda of the Australian Buddhist Mission.

Andrew Gosling
Chief Librarian, East Asia
N. White
Japanese Unit, Asian Collections
National Library of Australia

