

OCLC CJK CATALOGUING  
AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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On May 2, 1991, in conjunction with the E-Library (Electronic Library) Seminar held at the Computer Services Centre of the Australian National University (ANU), a demonstration was given on the use of the OCLC Chinese-Japanese-Korean (CJK) workstation for online cataloguing of East Asian language material. The demonstration drew a relatively large audience and created considerable interest among those attending.

ANU Library was the first in Australia to start negotiations with the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., for the introduction of the OCLC CJK online cataloguing system in Australia. ANU Library is now actively utilising the cataloguing capabilities provided by the system.

The system is being used, initially, for the editing and copy cataloguing of Chinese, Japanese and Korean monographs and for the production of catalogue cards. Understandably, the success of copy cataloguing depends on the hit rate of the corpus of records being searched. For the Chinese language monograph collection at ANU, the hit rate is highest (around 75 percent) for monographs published during the period 1976 to 1989. The hit rate diminishes for monographs published before or after that period. The overall hit rate for Japanese monographs is about 60 percent. Online original cataloguing on the OCLC CJK system is being avoided for the time being in view of the high telecommunication connect charges. (I was given to understand that an experienced cataloguer in the United States can take up to an hour to catalogue a book online using the 'new record' work sheet!)

Before 1991, all East Asian language monographs were catalogued using the Harvard-Yenching classification. With the advent of OCLC, these monographs are now being catalogued using Library of Congress Classification (LCC), since, in a majority of cases, LCC numbers are provided in the OCLC records. Retro-conversion of the existing Harvard-Yenching stock will not proceed until appropriate resources are made available.

Essentially, the OCLC CJK cataloguing system consists of a CJK350 workstation with three specific hardware components:

the graphics board, the CJK character-generating board and an internal fixed disk. It also has a display unit and an OCLC keyboard. The printer used is the Toshiba P351SX printer, since the OCLC CJK software is configured exclusively for this printer. A Netcomm modem is also used for the telecommunication connection to OCLC.

Before editing or copy cataloguing can be carried out, the OCLC Online Union Catalogue must be first be searched for CJK records. A record can be searched on one or all of the four derived search keys: title, personal name, corporate name and name/title, or on numeric search keys, such as the International Standard Book Number (ISBN). Our experience has shown that the most successful way to retrieve a CJK record is by a title search key, a personal name/title search key or by ISBN. We first search the romanised version of the CJK record with the "M300" input command via MICOM. The romanised record shows the OCLC control number and indicates the presence or otherwise of an LCC number. But, more importantly, it indicates whether the record contains CJK vernacular data by displaying a 066 field in the record. Since only copy cataloguing is carried out at the moment, a romanised record without a 066 field would serve no useful purpose.

Once a record has been identified as containing full CJK vernacular data, it can easily be retrieved on the OCLC control number supplied in the record, using the "CJK" input command, and downloaded over the telecommunications line. After editing, the CJK record can be stored in the CJK file on the fixed disk. A maximum of 30 records can be stored on the disk. Only records containing vernacular characters are stored there. These 30 records can then be copied onto a diskette to make room for more records on the fixed disk, and also for offline printing of catalogue cards at a later stage.

Because of the time difference between Australia and the United States, searching and cataloguing is restricted to weekdays from Tuesday to Friday, and between early morning and 1 p.m., Australian Eastern Standard Time. Staff commencing work at 9 a.m. have, at best, four hours to work any weekday other than Monday. Summer time in eastern Australia means an extra hour for searching.

Cataloguing output has been substantially increased since the introduction of the OCLC CJK system into the Library. However, despite its ease of use, the system is, at times, unnecessarily complex. For instance, lacking a general keyword search capability, the system only allows searching by the first four characters of a title in the title-derived search key. Thus, a title beginning with characters such as "Chung-hua jen min kung ho kuo" (People's Republic of

China), or "Chung-hua min kuo" (Republic of China), results in a large number of false hits. Even though the system allows for a loop search capability in circumstances such as this, it is still a matter of concern for the library since it adversely affects telecommunications costs.

The printing of LCC numbers on catalogue cards is another area of concern. At present, the system allows call numbers to be printed in an eight-character column at the left-hand side of the card. LCC numbers with more than eight alphanumeric digits cannot be accommodated by the system. To have the record properly printed, we have either to modify the class number or to find an alternative class number for the record.

All in all, the system works quite well. Cataloguing productivity has increased and staff morale is high. As an added feature, we have been able to use the system for cataloguing and printing cards for Vietnamese materials.

