

REPORTS

National Roundtable on Libraries and Asia

A National Roundtable on Asian Collections was held at the National Library of Australia on May 3rd, 1991, attended by heads of libraries with Asian collections and their Asian specialist staff, as well as some non-librarians with an interest in Asia. The aim was to discuss current developments in the light of the *Report on Libraries in Institutions of Higher Education* and identify possible national strategies relating to Asian materials in Australian libraries.

Professor John Ingleson provided an overview of Asian studies in Australia. After further introductory sessions supplying background information on issues in collection development, bibliographic control and access, and reference and information services, attendees divided into groups focusing on these areas. Their tasks were to identify current barriers to access to materials and information, to determine achievable actions which would progressively eliminate these barriers, and to recommend priorities for action and suggest means by which each action could be achieved.

From questionnaires already returned by libraries and from the discussions, it was clear that cataloguing backlogs, the lack of online support for vernacular scripts, romanisation standards, availability of records, quality control, and staffing difficulties for libraries with small Asian collections were all matters of concern.

In the short time available, some recommendations for action were produced. These were as follows:

Resolution 1

That a Working Group be formed by the NLA, ANU and other interested parties to prepare a proposal for a feasibility study on the need for an Asian Studies library resource network.

Such a body might act as a clearinghouse for information and be a focus for a range of activities for the next 5 to 10 years. The activities of the resource network would include sharing of information; liaising on the development of ABN and the National Bibliographic Database for multiple script handling, the Distributed National Collection, and collection development activities such as conspectus and the preparation of collection development policies and training,

staffing, referral and consultancies services, insofar as they relate to Asian library resources.

Resolution 2

That NLA undertake a survey of libraries or other bodies willing to provide paid-for contract services for cataloguing, information services or acquisitions for Asian materials, including Roman and non-Roman scripts, and of libraries interested in using such services.

Resolution 3

That NLA should ask libraries for copies of the collection development policies related to Asia, including policies on script languages [sic], and then undertake to distribute them to other libraries in some form.

Resolution 4

That, in seeking funds relating to recommendation 1.7-11 of the *Review of Library Provision in Higher Education Institutions*:

- (a) interested libraries should consult to develop a proposal for funding which would offset or partially offset the cost of leased line access to overseas databases such as OCLC and RLIN; and
- (b) the three institutions with large cataloguing backlogs (the Australian National University, the University of Sydney and the National Library) should jointly develop a proposal for funding to offset or partially offset the cost of cataloguing the backlogs of Asian language materials.

Resolution 5

That the National Library, the Australian National University the University of Sydney and the University of Melbourne meet to explore the concept of a shared local system which would support CJK and other vernacular script data.

Resolution 6

That the National Library consider seeking funds under recommendation 1.7-15 of the *Review of Library Provision in Higher Education Institutions* to allow CJK vernacular script data to be stored (though not necessarily displayed or searched) on the existing ABN system so that it might be delivered to local systems which can display and search such data.

Resolution 7

That ABN consider identifying institutions to have responsibility for authority control of name headings in designated Asian languages.

(Note: the wording of the resolutions is as received. Some punctuation only has been edited. - Editor)

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1991 CEAL Meeting (Highlights)

Dr Yeen-mei Wu reported on the University of Washington's experience of the "Twenty-Five Dynastic Histories Full Text Database." This database is the first to be installed outside Taiwan and it is the first full text Chinese database in the world. It is a breakthrough in sinological research. Described were the searching methods and samples of search strategy. The Harvard Yen-ching Library will be the second library in the United States to install this database.

The National Diet Library's Collection of Meiji Era Books, Microfilm Collection, published by Maruzen Company, was introduced by the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials. This Collection was exhibited during the CEAL Meeting. The Company announced that five sets of the Collection would be donated to major American East Asian libraries. Harvard Yen-ching would receive one set.

Innovative Interfaces Inc. marketed its product INNOPAC, which is at the moment the only library system to support CJK vernacular scripts. The first library, the University of Hong Kong Science and Technology Library, is now implementing this system and has successfully displayed CJK characters on their OPAC. Some famous libraries, including Ohio State University Library, Rutgers University Library and UC - St. Diego Library in the States, are planning to switch their local system over to INNOPAC. Deakin University Library is the first library in Australia to adopt this system.

The Library of Congress proposed its draft "Pinyin word division guidelines" for discussion.

Mr Karl Lo, East Asian Librarian at UC - St. Diego, has developed a software package which can automatically convert Pinyin to Wade-Giles and *vice versa* by keying in romanised Chinese characters. Mr Lo was very generous and copied his

programme for other East Asian libraries. Those who are interested can write to Mr Lo at UC - St. Diego.

OCLC CJK350 Users' Group Meeting, 10 April 1991

Over 40 people, mainly librarians who were users of the OCLC CJK350 system (the Chinese-Japanese-Korean online cataloguing system of the Online Centre for) within the United States, attended this meeting. The revised version of the bylaws of the Group was voted upon and the OCLC CJK350 Users' Group was officially established on that day. Mr Eugene W. Wu, Librarian of the Harvard Yenching Library, was elected as the first Chair of the Group and Mr Wu appointed a Nominating Committee to nominate a slate of names to stand for the positions on the Group's Executive Board, including a Vice Chair, a Chinese Officer, a Japanese Officer, a Korean Officer and a Member-At-Large.

The objectives of the Group are as follows:

1. To encourage and facilitate the exchange of ideas and information between the members of the Group, the Library of Congress and similar user groups.
2. To advise OCLC on problems, programs, and policies that affect library services in East Asian studies.
3. To promote co-operation among OCLC CJK350 users and to maintain standards for use of the OCLC CJK350 system.
4. To provide a forum for discussion of East Asian library issues as they arise and formulate official positions for the Group on these issues in response to proposals or surveys by other library groups.

1991 OCLC CJK350 Update Meeting, 12 April 1991

As of March 31, 1991, there were 54 CJK350 systems installed at 33 institutions, 28 in the United States and 5 in overseas countries including Australia, Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan.

As of January 1991, OLUC contained a total of 456,068 CJK-language coded records and as of March 1991, 302,464 contained CJK vernacular data.

OCLC has decided to develop a second generation CJK system, tentatively names CJK PLUS. Listed below are some of the new features of the CJK PLUS:

1. No more use of the proprietary ECI-board in the workstation. The East Asian Character Code (EACC)

character font information of the 24x24 matrix is to be stored in the software programs instead of the hardware chips.

2. Use of window capabilities based on the MS Windows application software program.
3. Character retrieval is to be modified by eliminating artificial divisions between subsets of scripts.
4. The CJK Phrase Bank file is to have a window browsing mode for fast CJK data entry.
5. An enhancement to the CJK character input codes.
6. Batch printing of labels with Roman data only will be included.

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