

CHINESE-JAPANESE-KOREAN AUTOMATION NEWS

**National Library of Australia:
User requirements for vernacular scripts on the new ABN/
OZLINE system**

A questionnaire surveying user requirements for vernacular scripts on the ABN/OZLINE system was distributed by the National Library of Australia to selected libraries in the second week of December.

In its *Request For Information* issued to the information technology community in September 1991, the National Library of Australia indicated that an important requirement of any new national bibliographic information system would be its ability to support those character sets most required by users. In addition to the extended Roman character set, it would be highly desirable for the system to support Greek, Cyrillic, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Korean, and desirable for it to support further character sets such as Hebrew, Devanagari and Thai. It would also be desirable for the system to have the capability to support a multilingual interface.

The National Library hopes to follow up its *Request For Information* with a draft *Request For Proposal* or restricted *Request For Tender* in 1992. If and when the time comes to specify the user requirements for the new system in detail, and to assign priorities for development, the Library will need more precise information about the potential users of vernacular data and what their language and information requirements are. The questionnaire has been designed to help gather such information.

If your library has not already received a copy of the questionnaire, and would be interested in participating in the survey, copies may be obtained by ringing the ABN Help Desk on the toll-free number 008 02 6155. Any other queries should be directed to the ABN Systems Development Librarian, Judith Pearce, on the same number, or directly on (06) 262 1577.

The deadline for receipt of returns is 31 January, 1992. An analysis of the returns will be published in the January/February issue of ABN News.

Judith Pearce
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OASIS CJK Project

As reported in previous issues of the *EARLGA Newsletter*, Softlink, which produces the OASIS database software, is currently involved in a joint project with Griffith University, the University of Queensland, and Jiejing to develop a CJK library system. The feasibility study has now been completed; it is hoped that, funding permitting, the project will proceed.

OASIS is already extensively used as library software in Australian schools. The CJK version is aimed at English speaking libraries which need to catalogue materials in Chinese, Japanese and Korean using the original scripts. The Jiejing system supplies several input methods, including a stroke order method with relatively few keystrokes. It is said to be quick to learn for anyone who can write Chinese or Japanese characters, and not require lengthy training.

Softlink is also developing a multilingual version of OASIS which will allow the user to select one of several different languages or to create their own language. Different workstations on the same network may operate in different languages.

Softlink Times, July 1991 [p.3]
and
Bruce Edwards, Griffith University Library

