

CJK Scripts on ABN

At the September 1992 meeting of The Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) Standards Committee, the implications of the ABN 'bumping' hierarchy for Chinese, Japanese and Korean scripts were discussed. Mindful of ABN Office plans to allow CJK scripts to be stored on the National Bibliographic Database (NBD), the Committee was keen to preserve CJK scripts in MARC records, whatever their source. These changes would be 'folded' into the project to load the CJK data to the NBD.

ABN News No. 65, September-October 1992: 7

Chinese, Japanese and Korean library system planned

Five Australian universities and the National Library of Australia are currently involved in a co-operative proposal for the implementation of a nationally shared automated library system for Chinese, Japanese and Korean language resources. The Australian National University is the lead institution, and the other universities involved are the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Murdoch University. The aim of the proposal is to seek a solution until such time as languages written in their own scripts are catered for by the Australian Bibliographic Network.

At present, card catalogues are maintained for materials in Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) which limit access, particularly remote access to this important research resource. Automated systems are now available which can handle ideographic scripts and the potential exists to establish a nationally shared database which will greatly enhance access to the major Australian collections in these languages.

A submission has been made by the libraries concerned to the Australian Research Council (ARC) for funding of this proposal. The proposal involves the issue of a Request for Tender (RFT) in the first half of 1993 which would be widely circulated in Australia, Asia and North America with a final choice made from a number of possible automated systems in mid-1993 and implementation in 1993. Each member of the consortium would also make a contribution in addition to the funding sought from the ARC, particularly for equipment such as terminals and printers. The result of the submission is expected to be known late in 1992.

The current submission follows an earlier grant during 1992 to the Australian National University on behalf of the consortium for "Assistance for a study into suitable processes to be used in managing Asian Studies collections."

The National Library, the University of Sydney and the University of Melbourne also contributed funds. These funds were used to engage RMG/CAVAL, a Melbourne based library consultancy firm. RMG/CAVAL developed and issued a Report for Information (RFI) in April 1992. Evaluation

of the responses to the RFI indicated that there were a number of vendors developing CJK library systems which could be suitable for use as the basis of the proposed shared system.

At this stage it is intended that a meeting on the CJK project will be held early in 1993 involving the six libraries concerned plus other interested institutions. The aim of this workshop would be to ensure that the participants and others are kept fully informed of developments and to clarify requirements.

