

OVERSEAS NEWS

Asian Studies Newsletter Archives

Comprising an extensive collection of academic and cultural newsletters and association bulletins dealing in whole or in part with Asian affairs and Asian Studies, the Archives have been developed and maintained since 1970 with three primary objectives in mind:

1. The creation of a centralised collection of newsletter-type materials containing information about the growth and state of Asian Studies and Asia-related organisations and about the activities of various institutions and individuals. Most publications on file are in English, French or German, while a growing number are in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and other Asian languages. Many have experienced very limited circulation. Some have appeared as mimeographed or xeroxed format; others more closely resemble professionally printed magazines in their appearance.
2. The preservation of these same materials for long-term scholarly use, especially as libraries and individual recipients of newsletters generally discard them on account of their perceived ephemeral nature.
3. The creation of a database that serves as the basis for the preparation of various bibliographies and reference tools, some of which have already been published.

All work on the Archives has been undertaken by Frank Joseph Shulman on a private voluntary basis, as a long-term service to researchers, students, librarians and the general public.

Well over 1,000 titles from throughout the world are currently on file. These range from *Canada and Hong Kong Update* (Toronto, Ontario), the *Thai-Yunnan Project Newsletter* (Canberra, Australia), and bulletins issued by the Tokyo-based Asiatic Society of Japan and the European Association for Japanese Studies, to *Lettre de l'AFRASE* (Association française pour la recherche sur l'Asie du Sud-Est, Paris), the newsletters of U.S.-China Peoples' Friendship Associations and Japan-America Societies, and such outreach-oriented bulletins as *South Asia News* and *Korean Studies Newsletter*, both published at the University of Hawaii.

A two-part guide to some of these publications, prepared by Frank Joseph Shulman, appeared in the 1974-75 and 1975-76 volumes of the *Asian Studies Professional Review*. A highly selective list of the then currently published academic newsletters focusing on China appeared in the March 1980 issue of the Association of Asian Studies' *Asian Studies Newsletter* and in the June 1980 issue of the *Chinese Librarians Association Newsletter*. A detailed listing of titles relating to Southeast Asia, in turn, has appeared in *Southeast Asian Studies: Options for the Future*, edited by Ronald A. Morse (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1984); while *Asian Studies in the Southeast: A Twenty-Five Year Retrospect*, edited by Kenneth W. Berger (Columbia, South Carolina, 1987), contains a listing of newsletters on Asia published in the southeastern part of the United States. Shulman is gradually preparing for publication of a comprehensive, annotated guide to as many past and current newsletters and association bulletins

as possible that relate in whole or in part of Asia: from the Middle East and India to Japan and the Philippines. For more detailed overviews of the Asian Studies Newsletter Archives in general, individuals should consult the articles by Shulman in the February 1985 and June 1991 issues of the Association for Asian Studies' *Committee on East Asian Libraries Bulletin*.

All files in the Asian Studies Newsletter Archives are open by appointment. Requests for a limited number of xerox copies of individual issues of newsletters are filled at cost whenever possible.

The cooperation of newsletter and association bulletin editors, university centres, various organisations and associations, cultural groups, and individuals everywhere will always be appreciated. We would be grateful to have the Asian Studies Newsletter Archives added on a complimentary basis of mailing lists for appropriate newsletters and bulletins, no matter how irregularly published or limited in distribution they might be. Contributions of back files of publication which can help fill in gaps in existing holding will always be most welcome. Please direct correspondence to:

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Committee on East Asian Libraries Directory

The Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) has recently published an update of its Directory. It is in draft form, and will be re-issued when a substantial number of amendments have been received. The Directory contains details of libraries with East Asian collections, both in the USA and overseas; it also includes information on East Asian associations and consultants. Addresses are provided with telephone and fax numbers and, wherever possible, email addresses.

This is a most useful publication for those interested in this area. Subscribers to *CEAL Bulletin* receive one copy of the Directory as part of their subscription. Further copies can be purchased for US\$10 from Maureen Donovan, Chairperson, CEAL, c/o Japanese Studies, 310 Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH, 43210-1286, USA.

SESAME Bulletin, Multilingual Computing and Multilingual Library Automation

From 1993, *SESAME Bulletin* will be incorporated into the new international journal *Multilingual Computing*, which covers the same multilingual automation interests as *SESAME Bulletin*. The merger enables an even more thorough coverage of this area, and regular features and articles from *SESAME Bulletin* will continue to appear in the new journal.

Many mainstream computer packages in both mainframes and PCs now provide multilingual features in the number of languages and scripts that can be used; however, by contrast, library automation systems provide all too little in the way of

multilingual capabilities, despite libraries having large collections in several languages. All too often, the inadequacies of older library automation systems mean that users with specific language needs cannot find the books they want, and important parts of library collections remain under-used. Because library automation has fallen behind other computing in this regard, new developments are likely to have far reaching consequences for systems librarians. The new journal, *Multilingual Library Automation* seeks to cover this area.

Multilingual Library Automation will be produced on a quarterly basis starting in 1993, at the overseas subscription rate of £32 per annum including postage. It will be available from Multilingual Computing (Europe), 8 Avenue Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 7PG, UK. Payment can be made by credit card; to do so, you need to quote the credit card number and its expiry date along with the other order information.

For telephone orders, ring UK (+44) 423 888432

For fax orders, ring UK (+44) 432 883918

John Clews of John Clews Associates, Harrogate, UK

Melby, Alan K. *Interchange of documents containing non-English text*

This article about the transmission of documents containing non-English characters is featured in the most recent issue of *SESAME Bulletin*, Volume 5 parts 3/4 ([northern] Autumn/Winter 1992), pages 87-99. Because of its potential for document delivery, it will be of interest to librarians and scholars and who use the Internet, although the solutions are still in the experimental stage.

The author discusses the relative merits of transferring documents by fax, diskette, modem and other means of file transmission, and the types of incompatibilities which can occur.

For Roman script languages, the author offers a means of overcoming the problems based on SGML "entities" for providing a standard format of text encoding within the ISO 646 standard. An entity consists of an ampersand, followed by a sequence of letters that are mnemonic for the desired character, followed by a semicolon. This method allows two ways of encoding documents for interchange: one is to use character entities, and the other is to use letters followed by accent entities.

For non-Roman alphabets, a character entity can be defined for each letter of the alphabet. For East Asian languages, it may be possible to define mnemonic or other entities for each Chinese, Japanese and Korean character. There would be a large set of entities enclosed. They could be contained in the format &*Chhhh; where C is a code for the script and the four 'h's represent a four-digit hexadecimal code representing a 16-bit code.