

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

VALA 7th Biennial Conference

At the VALA 7th Biennial Conference: "Drinking from a Fire Hose", which was held in Melbourne from November 9th to 11th 1993, Professor Yamada Hisao, Director of Research and Development at the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS), presented a paper called "The Prospect of CJK Technology and Future Information Services in the East Asian Region".

The VALA papers are obtainable from LaTrobe University by gopher over Internet. To view them, point your gopher client as follows:

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Name=VALA Conference Papers
Type=1
Port=70
Path=1/Library Services
Host=gopher.latrobe.edu.au
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National Korean Studies Centre (NKSC)

The National Korean Studies Centre Research Library was founded in 1992 and is located at the Monash University Library. In August 1993, the Korean Studies Librarian, Ms Jung Sim Kim, and the Associate Librarian (Information Resources Development and Utilisation), Mrs Ho Chooi Hon, made a brief visit to South Korea. The primary objective of the trip was to publicise and promote the Korean Studies Research Library, and to establish a gift and exchange programme with the major libraries in the country.

Jung Sim Kim
Korean Studies Librarian

Monash University Library

Mr Ding Heng Zhong has joined the Main Library on a part time basis. He will be mainly engaged in acquisitions, receipts and pre-cataloguing work involving Chinese language materials.

On 29th October Mr Cao Baohui of the National Library of China, currently working at the National Library of Australia, visited the Main Library. He was particularly interested in discussing automation and interlibrary loan.

On 20th October Dennis Kishere attended the Australian Graduate School of Management seminar on Sources of Asian Business Information at the University of NSW.

Dennis Kishere
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Griffith University Library

Overseas visitors

The Library hosted two groups of overseas visitors.

The Honourable Lee Min-Sup, Minister for Culture and Sport of the Republic of Korea, paid an official visit to Griffith University, including the Library, on Tuesday 26 October, 1993. He was accompanied by:

Mr Kim Tao-Hun, Secretary to Minister Lee
Mr Kwak Young-Jin, Director, International Exchange Division
Mr Cho Yong-Ho, Cultural and Information Attaché
Ms Judi Holgate, Commonwealth Visit Co-ordinator
Mr Mike D'Arcy, Manager, Aussie Sport International
Mr Graeme Roberts-Thompson, Senior Protocol Officer,
Premier's Department

The Party was escorted for a library tour by Ms Janice Rickards, University Librarian, and Ms Elsie Leow, Asian Studies Librarian.

A group of Chinese Directors of Libraries from the People's Republic of China visited the Division of Information Services on Monday 18 October, 1993. They were shown around the Library by Ms Elsie Leow who explained and demonstrated to them the latest information technology equipment installed in the library.

National CJK Library Project

Griffith University and the University of Queensland have become recent participants in the National CJK Library Project. Griffith's representatives are Jeanette Rosengren, Manager of the Cataloguing Section and Laura Stone, Library Systems Administrator.

LibLink - public access to UQ/QUT catalogues

Griffith University Library has installed the LibLink (QULOC) system which links the computer catalogues of the universities of Queensland (currently covering the University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology) and gives access to a vast range of materials via a common search interface.

Three of the Griffith campus libraries already have public area computer terminals dedicated exclusively to LibLink access. Nathan has two, while Mount Gravatt and Gold Coast campuses have one each.

External users of the Griffith computer catalogue can also access LibLink, whether by network (local area or AARNET) or via a modem. At present, LibLink use is restricted to the same hours as external use of the computer catalogue: 4:00-9:00 am each day Monday-Friday, and all day on weekends.

This new service will benefit all intercampus and interlibrary loan users.

Elsie Leow, Griffith University Library

University of Sydney Library News

Chinese Book Exhibition

The Center for Chinese Studies and the National Central Library, Taipei, donated to the East Asian Collection about 250 volumes of recently published Chinese books in Taiwan. They cover a wide range of areas: philosophy, economics, history, religion, social sciences, education, politics, law, language and literature, art and architecture. An exhibition of these books was arranged in the Library. The exhibition was officially launched by Professor Mabel Lee (Head of the School of Asian Studies) and Dr. Neil Radford (University Librarian) on 25 August 1993 in the presence of Mr Tang Wang (the representative from the Sydney Office of Taipei Economic Cultural Centre), academic staff and students of the School of Asian Studies and library staff. The exhibition was on display until the end of October 1993.

Australian Centre for Classical Chinese Studies

The Chinese Studies in the School of Asian Studies of the University of Sydney has received a grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, Taiwan, to establish the Australian Centre for Classical Chinese Studies. I am pleased that \$8,000 per year for 3 years will be allocated to the Library, both for the purchase of Classical Chinese materials and employing library staff to catalogue the materials. The grant will certainly enhance the strength of the East Asian Collection in Classical Chinese materials.

Review of the University of Sydney Library

The University of Sydney Library is currently under review with specific terms of reference relating to the role of the Library, its ability to meet users' needs, the role of information technology, the organisation and management structure and funding, etc. The convenor of the Review Team is Professor Mairead Browne, Professor of Information Studies of the University of Technology in Sydney. The Review Team received 109 written submissions. A number of submissions are related to the East Asian Collection. The Library sees the review as a very positive initiative which will assist the Library in future arguments for resources and in refining priorities.

Special visitors

The five-member delegation led by Mr. Sun Chengjian, the Deputy Director of the National Library of China, visited the University of Sydney Library after visiting other Australian libraries. Two members were from the provincial libraries of Shanghai and Guangdong - Mr He Dayong and Mo Shaoqiang. The other two members were from the Ministry of Culture - Ms Gu Xiuzhi and Ms Jia Lu. The delegation was accompanied by Mr Xu Tao, who is Vice-Consul for Education and Consulate-General for the People's Republic of China in Sydney, and Mr Wang Jida, who is a visiting staff member at the University of Sydney's Office of International Development.

The delegation was received by Dr Neil Radford (the University Librarian), Ms Barbara Troy (Deputy Librarian) and Margaret Sheppard (Public Programs Librarian) and was accompanied by Ms Louise Watters (Acquisition Librarian) and Magdalen Lee (East Asian Collection Librarian). Topics of common interest were discussed. The delegation was particularly interested in automation and information technology. Mr Sun also inquired about the feasibility of initiating staff exchanges with our Library. The good news is that donations of Chinese materials will be forthcoming from the Consulate-General of China in Sydney as a gesture of good will.

Two other groups of visitors from China visited our Library on 1 July and 31 August 1993. One group had a special interest in finance and economics. The other group consisted of members from diverse backgrounds -- academics, engineers, economists and statisticians.

Seminar Series and cultural activities

A number of overseas speakers were invited to participate in a Seminar Series in second semester, organised by the School of Asian studies, University of Sydney.

Mr Yang Lian, a Chinese poet, currently Writer-in-Residence in the School, presented a reading of recent poetry in Chinese with English translation on 30 August 1993. Mr Gao XingJian, a well known playwright in China, read selections from recent plays on 16 September 1993. Mr Gao was at the University of Sydney directing his play "Between Life and Death" at the Centre for Performance Studies.

The Japan Cultural Centre in Sydney hosts regular cultural events including film shows, books and painting exhibitions. Workshops on tea ceremony and Japanese painting are also organised. The Doshin Cultural Centre, based in Hokkaido, will be invited to Sydney from 1 November 1993 to host a wide range of activities including ikebana, calligraphy, handicrafts, dancing and koto music. Students studying Japanese will find these cultural activities very interesting.

Besides attending this seminar series, I participated in two special functions -- the National Day Celebration organised by the Taiwanese Office in Sydney on 8 November 1993 and the one-day seminar "China Day", organised by the China Education Centre, Faculty of Education, University of Sydney, on 17 October 1993.

Magdalen Lee
East Asian Collection Librarian

National Library of Australia

National Library of China staff exchange

Mr Cao Baohui of the National Library of China completes his one year secondment to the NLA at the end of November 1993. The training and work experience placement, supported by the Australia-China Council, has mainly involved online cataloguing of Chinese materials in the Asian Collections area. He also spent some time in the Maps Section cataloguing Chinese maps held by NLA, as well as brief placements in Document Supply and the ABN area. During October he visited the University of Melbourne and Monash University libraries to look at their East Asian and other collections and services.

CONSAL IX Conference, Bangkok, 2-7 May 1993

Marie Sexton presented a paper on the National CJK Project at the CONSAL IX Conference, which was attended by many librarians from Australia and the region.

Asialib

Following discussions involving the National Library, Australian National University and others, the Asialib electronic mailing has been established as a vehicle based in Australia for communication about Asian library matters. To date there are more than 50 Australian and overseas subscribers to Asialib.

Silver Jubilee of National Library building

As part of the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the opening of the National Library of Australia building in August 1968, many people visited Asian Collections on Open Day (15 August) when there were special tours, exhibitions and demonstrations of Asian script word processors. A book entitled The People's Treasures containing a chapter on the Asian Collections was issued by the Library, and there was a major exhibition with the same name featuring major collections at NLA including the Harold S. Williams Collection on Japan, the Braga Collection on the Portuguese in Asia and others. During the week of celebrations a lunchtime concert of Japanese music with Moko Eade of Asian Collections playing the koto was well received. The Asian Collections area also held a lunchtime reunion for present and former staff members of the Section which was attended by forty people

NLA Strategic Plan 1993-1998

The NLA has issued a draft Strategic Plan for comment. The Plan strongly emphasises Asian and Pacific collections and services, greater collaboration with national libraries and others in the region in areas such as preservation, staff exchanges and visits.

Visitors

During October the National Library was visited by two Chinese library delegations; the first was a delegation of Chinese library directors on 13 October, led by Mr Sun Chengjian, Deputy Director of the National Library of China. The other delegation, which arrived on 25 October, was from Shenzhen and led by Mr Yun Weicheng, Vice Director of Shenzhen Cultural Bureau.

Mrs Gertrude Williams visited in September and donated further items for addition to the Harold S. Williams Collection on foreigners in Japan. Dennis Kishere of Monash University Library spent a day in the Section looking at Chinese collections and services.

Visit to Japan

During October Marie Sexton, Principal Librarian of Asian Collections, visited the National Diet Library, the Australia-Japan Foundation Library, the Institute of Developing Economies, JICST and NACSIS.

Andrew Gosling
Chief Librarian, East Asia
27 October, 1992



Australian National University Library

[Through an oversight some of this news was omitted from the May issue of the *Newsletter*. - apologies, Editor.]

Vale David Lu

Friends and colleagues in the ANU Library were saddened to learn of the death on 21 June 1993 of Mr David Lu. Library staff who knew him paid their last respects to David at his funeral at the Canberra Mosque on 22 June.

David was a member of staff for many years, his association with the Library dating back to the early years of the Chinese collection. His paintings still hang on the walls of the Menzies building. Those of use who knew him will remember him with fondness as a librarian and scholar, writer and poet, artist and calligrapher, singer and dancer, mentor and friend.

Y.S.Chan retires from the ANU Library

Y.S Chan came to the ANU Library in 1972 from the Urban Council Public Library in Hong Kong where he was in Librarian-in-charge of the Kowloon Public Library as well as the Technical Processing Division of the Library System.

His initial appointment at the ANU Library was funded as part of a Ford Foundation grant to the Contemporary China Centre to develop the ANU Library collection to support research and teaching on contemporary China.

His role was later expanded to incorporate the entire field of Chinese Studies, and subsequently as Head of the Asian Studies Division the whole of Asia, and then Pacific Studies when the Division was renamed Asian and Pacific Division; and, finally, as Head of the Collection Development Division (Asian and Western) the whole of the ANU Library Collection.

When Y.S. joined the Library, Asian Studies was a very small scale operation with a small team and relatively modest budget. He was responsible for the development of what is now regarded as one of the three best collections of its type in the World (Canberra Times 14 July 1993).

Y.S. retired from the Library in December 1992. However, he has not gone very far, just across the lawns to the Coombs Building where he is a visiting fellow in the Division of Pacific and Asian History, and from where he continues his research and writing on Chinese publishing and librarianship, and makes frequent trips to "the Chinese World" to pursue his other interests.

Resignation of H.C. Li

At the same time, the ANU Library was also sorry to lose H.C. Li, popularly known amongst the ANU community as Ho Li. After seven years as the Japanese Librarian, he decided to return to his previous position at the Barr Smith Library, Adelaide University. His knowledge of Japanese studies and

his readiness to assist the users with their library needs made him a well-known and respected figure amongst the ANU academic community.

Visiting Librarian from China

The ANU Library has recently resumed a programme which brings visiting librarians on exchange from China for a period of training and work experience. Ms Gao Fan, from the National Library of China, is the latest exchange librarian in a programme which dates back to 1980 and which has brought a total of sixteen librarians from the National Library of China as well as provincial and academic libraries. A major aim of the programme is to broaden the individual's knowledge and experience of libraries and librarianship, specifically through an understanding of library systems in Australia and, in particular, the role of the academic library in a new environment.

Ms Gao arrived in Australia on 13 November 1993. She will be visiting other ACT libraries and, it is hoped, selected libraries in Sydney before returning to China in May. She succeeded Ms Hu Lijuan, who spent the period February to August 1993 in the ANU Library.

Other staff changes

The ANU Library has also been sorry to lose this year the services of Li Lungwah, Renata Osborne and Josephine Lam. Renata left to take up a position in Serials at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), Li to take up an academic appointment at National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan, and Josephine to run own business in electronics.

Library software

The ANU Library will be implementing Innovative Interfaces Inc.'s INNOPAC, its new library system, in January 1994. The new system incorporates a CJK capacity.

Chinese orders online

All orders for Chinese language material placed since the beginning of 1993 are accessible online via the Wade-Giles romanised title. Anyone with AARNet access can therefore now obtain information about material in either Chinese or Japanese ordered for the East Asian collection.

Susan Prentice
Collection Management Division
(Asian and Western)