

## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

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The following is the text of an advertisement promoting the Asian Studies Library Awards (ASLA). These are modest amounts for library-based research on Asia in Australia which are available to post-graduate researchers. The idea grew out of the survey of trends in Asian Studies and was supported by the NLA, ANU and the ASAA. The ASAA has been asked to manage the project in cooperation with RSPACS, ANU.

George Miller  
Australian National University Library

### ASIAN STUDIES LIBRARY AWARDS (ASLA)

As part of the Commonwealth Government's program to increase Australia's effectiveness in the Asia-Pacific region, it funds awards for postgraduate students and junior university staff members to undertake library-based research on Asia in Canberra and other centres with well-endowed Asian studies collections. The objective is to make more effective use of existing library resources as a practical contribution to an increased awareness and understanding of Asia in Australia.

Under the Asian Studies Library Awards (ASLA), which are administered by the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA), modest grants will be made to enable researchers to travel to centres with Asian collections to undertake library research.

#### ELIGIBILITY:

The awards are intended for those researchers who are based at a distance from the major Asian collections in Australia. Applicants must be enrolled for postgraduate studies at Masters and PhD level or be junior teaching staff who are undertaking research projects. They must have permanent resident status in Australia. The recipient must receive some financial support from their own institution during the period of library research. This may be in the form of a current scholarship, normal salary provisions or supplementation specifically for the library research.

#### BENEFITS:

The awards are intended as a contribution to the cost of travel and accommodation in undertaking the library research. Funds are available at the following rates:

- \* up to \$800 to scholars from Western Australia, Northern Territory and North Queensland;

- \* up to \$500 to scholars from South Australia, Southern Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria;
- up to \$250 to scholars from New South Wales.

The benefits will be paid as a lump sum.

**SELECTION:**

Selection will be based on academic merit and eligibility. Preference will be given to applicants who have held neither a National Asian Languages Scholarship nor an Australian Award for Research in Asia in the past four years.

**APPLICATIONS:**

Further information and application forms are available by writing to:

The Project Coordinator  
ASAA Asian Studies Library Awards  
Collection Management Division  
Library, A.N.U.  
Canberra, ACT 0200

The closing date for receipt of applications is 31 August 1994.

This award is funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Training and administered by the Asian Studies Association of Australia and the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University.

**National Library of Australia's *Current Awareness Bulletins***

The National Library of Australia's latest Asian Collections Current Awareness Bulletin, IE 508: Japanese language materials: monographs (Issue no. 43 June 1994) has been issued. Current Awareness Bulletins are issued irregularly and are free on request.

**Survey of databases on Asia**

The Asia and Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG) of the Australian Library and Information Association has been awarded a grant by the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services (ACLIS) to undertake a project to conduct a survey of databases on Asia.

The aim of the project is to uncover, describe and critically assess electronic databases on Asia accessible from Australia. It is hoped that the results will be available in the public domain and that a printed guide to the databases will also be published. A small sub-committee consisting of Anthony Ketley, Susan MacDougall and George Miller has been set up to manage the project.

The APSIG committee has contracted the task to Nereida Cross of SILAS, University of New South Wales. Nereida has considerable experience working with electronic sources of information on Asia, particularly Southeast Asia. It is expected she will be working on the project during the next few months and the deadline for the completion of the project is later this year. An important part of the project is determining how the database can be kept up-to-date in future.

Nereida has put a message on Asialib defining the parameters of the project and the databases she will be assessing. She has requested information from interested Asialib subscribers.

Should you wish to contact her for further information, her email address is N.Cross@unsw.edu.au

George Miller  
Australian National University Library

### University of Sydney Library

#### **Review of the University of Sydney Library Updates**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor intends to establish an "implementation team" to oversee implementation of the Review of the University of Sydney Library Report's recommendations. The membership of the committee is not yet finalised but will encompass the Administration, the academic staff and the Library. It is hoped that the first meeting will be in May.

#### **The Library's Automation Project**

The Library is in the process of selecting a new automated system and is confident of having the support of the University. In December 1993, the consultants RMG/CAVAL were appointed to assist the Library in the choice and installation of a new automated system. The New System Project Steering Committee was set up to maintain an overview of the entire project. To ensure the necessary input from library staff, volunteers were called for and 16 Task Forces have been set up, each one dedicated to a particular facet of the integrated system. The East Asian Collection Librarian participates in two Task Forces -- Character Set and Cataloguing. Both large open meetings and individual Task Force meetings were held. The draft Request for Proposal (RFP), provided by RMG/CAVAL, was worked on. The RFP was issued by the University at the end of April 1994 and the installation of the new automated system was envisaged to take place in early 1995.

#### **Special visitors**

Professor Li Huiguo and Ms Zhong Wanyi from the Centre for Documentation and Information in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

visited the University of Sydney Library and the School of Asian Studies on 30th March, 1994, after visiting other Australian libraries in Victoria and Canberra. Arrangements were also made for the guests to visit the Chinese Section, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the School of Information, Library & Archives in the University of New South Wales. The visitors also spent an afternoon in the State Library of New South Wales.

The Delegation was particularly interested in automation and information technology, the training of librarians in universities, co-operation and exchange of materials. Topics of common interest were discussed and the visit was mutually fruitful.

Magdalen Lee  
East Asian Collection Librarian  
University of Sydney Library

### National Library of Australia

#### **Staff matters**

Mr Cao Baohui returned to the National Library of China (NLC) at the end of November, and it is hoped to have another member of NLC staff seconded to the National Library of Australia (NLA) during the next financial year. Ms Keiko Harada, the current National Diet Library secondee, will be at the NLA until March 1995. Mr C.P. Tang is on higher duties on the Australian Bibliographic Network Help Desk from late April to the end of July 1994. Mr Phuong Tonthat is the proud father of a daughter - Olivia - born on 29th April.

#### **Third National Roundtable on Libraries and Asia**

Following extensive consultation, in particular on the Asialib mailing list, the dates for the Third Roundtable have been set for Thursday 16 to Friday 17 February 1995. The Roundtable will be held at the NLA. The Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) through its President, Professor Colin Mackerras, is seeking to encourage academic staff as well as librarians to attend the meetings.

#### **Visitors**

Distinguished visitors in recent months have included Mr Leo Voogt, Secretary-General of IFLA, who showed interest in the National CJK Project and other Asian library matters in Australia; Mr Li Huiguo of the Center for Documentation and Information of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Mr Mack Williams, Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea; Mr Terry White, Director of the Australia-Japan Foundation in Tokyo, and Miss Hisamatsu, Librarian at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo; a group from the Korean Culture and Arts Foundation in Seoul led by Mr Moo-Chol Lee; Mr Jiang Tie Zhu, Deputy Director, Economic System Reform Committee of the Shanghai Municipal Government.

## Publications

The monthly *National Library of Australia News* now includes a quarterly international supplement. The April 1994 issue contains an article by Canberra journalist Virginia Cook entitled "Beyond boundaries" which is about the NLA's relationship with the National Library of China. The next international supplement in July is to include a piece on the National CJK Project. A short article by Andrew Gosling on NLA use of OCLC for Asian and other cataloguing was included in the *OCLC Newsletter* of March/April 1994 and is reproduced elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Andrew Gosling  
Asian Collections, National Library of Australia  
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