

OVERSEAS NEWS

Canadian newspapers in Japanese

University of British Columbia is making available on microfilm Japanese language newspapers from Canada: *Tairiku Nippo* (1908-1941), plus surviving issues from 1941 of *Kanada Shinbun* and *Nikkan Minshu*. Contact Norman Arbor, fax 604 822 3893 for details.

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Honglou Meng commentary

David Steelman is working on a project to make Qing dynasty commentary on the *Honglou Meng* available electronically. Chapters can be found on the newsgroup ifcss.org

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Research Libraries Project in USA: Japanese demonstration

The Association of American Universities (AAU) and Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the United States, in [northern] spring 1994 endorsed a common action agenda that emerged from the recently concluded Research Libraries Project. As one component of the tripartite AAU Research Libraries Project, the AAU Task Force on Acquisition and Distribution of Foreign Language and Area Studies Materials was charged to develop and examine options for improving access to and delivery of 'foreign' language materials.

Three demonstration projects were proposed. The demonstration projects targeted research materials that originate in Latin America, Germany, and Japan. The AAU Task Force on a National Strategy for Managing Scientific & Technological Information also proposed a demonstration project centred on STI resources from Japan.

The Japan demonstration project would focus on network-based access to scientific and technical serials published in Japan and on defining a structure for deciding responsibilities for collecting, cataloguing or indexing, and delivery of these resources. The Center for Research Libraries, under the umbrella of ARL and AAU, would provide organisational support for this project.

In July an ARL Working Group on Japanese Scientific and Technical Information was established to guide the design and development of the project. The Working Group was chaired by Don Simpson, Center for Research Libraries. At its first meeting in August, the Working Group narrowed the project scope to Japanese language journals and serials in three high-impact science and technology fields: biotechnology, opto-electronics, and computer-aided manufacturing.

The ultimate "products" of the project were defined as an electronic guide to the Japanese literature on each of the three subjects, perhaps taking the form of a site on the World Wide Web; expanded North American collections of key Japanese serial titles; and electronic delivery services of articles to users. Equally importantly, the project would build the foundation for encompassing additional fields in Japanese science and technology.

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