

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES' NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Overseas staff

National Diet Library secondment

Ms Keiko Harada, who has been on secondment from the National Diet Library (NDL) at the National Library of Australia (NLA) since mid-1992, returned to Japan at the end of June 1995, and was succeeded by Ms Minoru Inahama. Minoru is the thirteenth NDL staff member to work with the NLA Japanese collection since the secondment began in 1965.

National Library of China

Mr Gu Ben is currently on a six month placement to NLA, assisted by the Australia-China Council. He has been working with the Chinese collection, including involvement with the China Japan Korea (CJK) Project, attended the Asia-Pacific Library Conference in Brisbane, and is attending the Chinese Studies Association Conference in Sydney in July.

National Central Library, Korea

Mr Kim Dong-Cheol is also on a six month secondment to NLA, supported by the Australia-Korea Foundation. This is the first staff exchange between the National Central Library (NCL) and NLA, and follows a one month placement at NLA earlier this year by Mrs Lim and Mrs Noh of the National Assembly Library, Korea. Mr Kim has been active in assisting with the Korean component of the CJK Project, represented Korea at the recent Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), and attended the Brisbane Asia-Pacific Conference.

NLA Information Server

The NLA Information Server was recently officially launched by Senator Tierney and the Hon. John Langmore. The Server includes a section on Asian collections and services, with details on Chinese, Japanese, Korean and other Asian language collections, plus other Asia-related resources. The URL is:

<http://www.nla.gov.au>

3rd National Roundtable on Libraries and Asia

Following successful Roundtables in May 1991 and March 1993, the third such meeting was held at NLA on 16 February 1995 and attracted over 70 librarians, academics and officials from all mainland states and territories. The major documents associated with the Roundtable, including the agenda, issues papers and the text of resolutions are available on the NLA Information Server under Asian collections at the URL:

<http://www.nla.gov.au:80/dnc/asiart/issues.html>

[The Resolutions are also reported in full elsewhere in this newsletter. - ed.]

Visitors

Recent distinguished visitors to Asian Collections have included Mr Naotake Ito, Head of Acquisitions, National Diet Library, and Mr Tsutomu Satoh, also of the Diet Library, who was on secondment at NLA from 1977 to 1980; Ms Izumi Kode, Librarian, International House of Japan; Professor Jiang Kanzheng of Khabarovsk, Russia, who is Rector of the Jiang Institute; Mrs Grace Cheng (formerly of the NLA), the Chief Librarian of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority; and Mr Samuel Liu, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia.

Overseas Visit

During April, Marie Sexton, Principal Librarian, Asian Collections, visited the Library of Congress while attending the Association of Asian Studies Conference in Washington, DC, as well as other associated meetings. She also visited the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library and the School of Oriental and African Studies Library at the University of London.

Andrew Gosling
Chief Librarian, Asian Collections
June 1995

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Project 1: The Chinese Serials Database

Project One is a cooperative project between the Australian National University Library and the National Library of China to create a searchable database of tables of contents of selected Chinese serials accessible via the Internet. Utilising the National Library of China's rich collections and the Australian National University Library's technological expertise, the database will provide access to serial titles, article titles and authors in the Chinese

vernacular script via pinyin romanisation, English translation and keywords. The project targets the wealth of information in Chinese language serials in the major social sciences fields which are not covered by existing databases. A bilingual approach will provide access to information from and about the Chinese world to a wide international business and scholarly community. Document delivery on request will be an integral feature of the project. As part of an agreement concluded between the Australian National University and the National Library of China in December 1994, two trainees from the National Library of China will be trained at the ANU in Information Technology related to the project from July through September 1995.

China-Australia Research Libraries Information Network

This proposal builds on the already extensive personal and technical links between the Australian National University Library, the National Library of China and other major libraries in China. Funded by a substantial grant from the Australia-China Council, the project involves upgrading the already established Internet link between the ANU and the NLC and at the same time establishing an Australian Electronic Information Centre in the National Library of China. This Centre will act as a platform for the dissemination of information about Australia whilst also serving as a gateway for Australian access to the rich resources of the National Library of China and ultimately through it, to other sites in China. The Centre will be accessible to users throughout China via computer networks, or directly through the Centre's facilities in the National Library of China. Australian and international users will eventually be able to access the catalogues of the National Library of China and other major Chinese libraries via the Internet link.

Staff news

Two employees of the National Library of China (in Beijing), Mr Hao Shaozhen and Ms Zhuang Jing, will be arriving in Canberra on the 8th of July for training and work experience for a period of three months at the ANU. Training will be conducted largely in the Coombs Computing Unit of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies/Research School of Social Sciences with some time being spent with the Chinese Serials Database project in the East Asian Collection Management area of the Library. The training is being conducted under the terms of an agreement between the National Library of China and the ANU Library in relation to the co-operative development of a Chinese Serials Database, the prototype of which is now available on the Internet at the following URL:

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/AsiaSerialsTOC.html>

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY

New Automated System

Over the last one and a half years the University of Sydney Library staff and the University community were involved in the process of analysing a range of proposals from automated library system vendors. In November, 1994 there was unanimous agreement that the system INNOPAC offered the best solution for the University of Sydney Library. The System Project Team was formed to negotiate contract with Innovative Interfaces in conjunction with the System Steering Committee. The contract was signed with Innovative Interfaces in early April 1995.

Every member of staff will have the opportunity to be involved in the implementation process, participating via Module Teams and Task Teams. The implementation commences in April 1995. The System will go live with OPAC, Cataloguing, Acquisitions and Electronic databases by December 1995. The other modules, Special Reserve, Bookings and Interlibrary loans, will be implemented in March 1996.

Library Restructuring

The Review of the Library made a number of recommendations. Organisational restructuring is one of the recommendations being looked at now. Two guest speakers (Helen Hayes, University Librarian, University of Melbourne and Janine Schmidt, University Librarian, University of Queensland) had been invited to address library staff relating their experiences in organisational changes in their own library. The library forums and guest speakers are designed to raise the awareness of staff about the principles of organisational change and the types of options which can be considered.

With this background, Heather Howard, Director of Quality at the University of Adelaide, has been invited to facilitate the library restructuring process. A number of staff workshops are scheduled in May 1995. Participants will have the opportunity to explore what should be preserved of the present arrangements and what should be changed. After the workshops, Heather Howard will compile a report outlining the major issues arising from the workshops, so that they can be taken up during the next stage of the discussions.

Staffing

When the National CJK System is implemented, a half-time staff will be employed in the East Asian Collection for a year to assist with the new system.

Magdalen Lee, East Asian Collection