

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Overseas staff

Ms Minoru Inahama took up her secondment as the thirteenth National Diet Library staff member at the National Library of Australia since the secondment began in 1965. She replaced Ms Keiko Harada who returned to Japan in June.

Mr Gu Ben of the National Library of China and Mr Kin Dong-Cheol of the National Central Library, Korea, completed their six month placements at the National Library of Australia and returned home.

ANU/NLA Asian collection development coordination

Following a number of meetings, a collecting and access agreement between the Australian National University and the National Library of Australia for Korean materials is close to finalisation, while further detailed work on Chinese and Thai collection development is currently being undertaken.

Meeting on DNC collecting agreements for Asian materials

At the initiative of the 3rd National Roundtable on Libraries and Asia Reference Group, a meeting of major collecting institutions was held at the National Library on 7 November to look at the present situation and further possibilities for collecting agreements for Asian materials.

National CJK Project

National Library Asian Collections staff, in collaboration with the National CJK Project team and members of the other seven consortium libraries, have been heavily involved in familiarising themselves with the test system and providing feedback and suggestions for improvements including more user friendly access, particularly for Japanese and Korean.

Andrew Gosling
National Library of Australia
October 1995

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE BAILLIEU LIBRARY

New Professor of Chinese appointed

Professor David Holm, one of the top Chinese language scholars in Australia, has been appointed the Chair of Chinese at the University of Melbourne with effect from July 1995. Professor Holm has worked for a large international collaborative research project on Chinese ritual theatre and has carried out fieldwork in the Shanxi, Gansu and Guangxi areas.

Visiting exchange scholars

The East Asian Collection is hosting two visiting exchange scholars for 12 months through the exchange program between the Peking University, China and the University of Melbourne. They are Ms Qinfang Xie and Ms Yi Wang. Ms Xie, is the Director of Cataloguing Division of Peking University Library. During her stay in the Baillieu, she will be taking an interest in major developments in the Library which are closely related to her field of expertise, in particular the following:

- The introduction of a new in-house library system INNOPAC which include a CJK module
- The implementation of a NCJK system using the vernacular script in the National Union Catalogue of Australia
- The continued re-development of ABN to provide much broader access to a range of data in a National Data Information System.

Ms Yi Wang is a lecturer in the Dept. of Library and Information Science of Peking University. Her special research interests are Chinese culture and bibliography.

Ms Wang is very interested in the work and development in Baillieu Library. She will participate in several programs in the East Asian Collection:

- The Chinese Collection Conspectus
- Creating the bibliographies for Chinese culture
- Investigating the users' response to the National CJK system.

Expensive acquisitions: SHURI HOKOKUSHO collection

The East Asian Collection has acquired this significant collection of 71 Japanese government technical reports on building restoration for original research into the history of Japanese Architecture. The 71 titles include reports on such major works of Japanese architecture as Himeji Castle,

Nikko Toshogu, as well as a number of government buildings including schools and prefectural offices from the modernisation period.

Bick-har Yeung

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY

New automated system

The Testpac agreement was signed on 29 September 1995 with Innovative Interfaces after great effort by Library staff in the evaluation and testing processes. Training sessions for library staff are now underway. The INNOPAC System will go live on 11 December 1995 with OPAC/ Catalogue, Electronic databases, Circulation, Acquisitions and Special Reserve/ Bookings. The other modules — Serials, Interlibrary-loans, Archive — will be implemented later.

The Library's System Implementation Team, together with East Asian Collection staff, is working on an interface to the National CJK System for our local system. Special vernacular interface software (Multilingual Application Support Service - MASS) is installed in the East Asian Collection. We are looking forward to the implementation of the Library's local OPAC with vernacular scripts when the National CJK System is operational in early 1996.

NDL CD-ROM Line

The Library's Serials Selection Committee has agreed to subscribe to the National Diet Library (NDL) CD-ROM Line (the CD-ROM version of "Zasshi Kiji sakuin") as from 1996 when the printed version will cease publication. The CD-ROM version will undoubtedly improve accessibility and availability of information to library users. The East Asian Collection is looking into the purchase of hardware which is compatible with the NDL CD-ROM Line.

Internet and vernacular scripts

The East Asian Collection has purchased and installed the Chinese and Japanese versions of Twinbridge which works well with Netscape in browsing and searching the Internet and displaying Chinese and Japanese vernacular scripts.

Special visitors

- 14 teachers from China, who are trained to be high-school principals, visited the Library. Various systems were demonstrated to the visitors, namely: the National CJK System's test database, Testpac, ANU's Chinese Serial Database, and the ERIC Education Database. The demonstrations were well received.

- Four librarians from Chiang Mai University, Thailand, visited the Library. They are in the process of choosing a new automated system. They were shown the NCJK Testpac and were impressed by the MASS interface with III, which can also be applied to the Thai language.

Magdalen Lee

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Appointment of the Korean Librarian

Ms Hee Soog Shin has been appointed the Korean cataloguer in Technical Services. She graduated with a Library Science degree from South Korea and a Masters degree in Librarianship from the University of New South Wales (1994). She has had six years' library experience before joining Griffith University Library as a full-time librarian. Ms Shin now handles all our Korean-language materials including selection, acquisition and cataloguing.

Asia Fellowship

Ms Marilyn Beamish, the Manager of Information Development and Delivery in our Division of Information Services, is one of 14 people to be awarded an Asia Fellowship. The Fellowship, awarded by the Australian Chamber of Commerce, DEET and the Australia-Asia Council, provides an opportunity for Australian professional men and women to undertake a short-term placement in Asia in order to complete a project of commercial significance.

Ms Beamish will leave for Vietnam in December to identify and develop commercial opportunities for Griffith's library and information technology.

Elsie Leow

ANU LIBRARY

It has been a busy period in the East Asian area of the Australian National University (ANU) library. Several important developments have occurred of which the most memorable have probably been the official launch of the ANU's Chinese Serials Database and its CLIRNET (Chinese Library and Information Research Network) by Senator Gareth Evans in August.

Launch of the Chinese Library and Information Research Network and the Chinese Serials Database

Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Foreign Affairs, launched two ANU Library projects involving international cooperation between the National Library of China and the ANU Library at 11.30 am Wednesday 30 August in the McDonald Room, the Menzies Building, ANU Library.

The BFO files on China represent the most comprehensive English-language documentary source on events in that country to be found anywhere. They reflect the quality of observations reported by veteran observers with a tradition of representing British interests there for many decades. They also draw upon a much wider network of representatives across the country than that of any other Western government. Besides official involvement, which extended as far as control of port customs collections, there was private British business involvement in virtually every leading sector of the Chinese economy - railroads, shipping, banking, mining, and manufacturing most notably - well beyond that of any other foreign power.

The current collection comprises the unedited BFO Political Correspondence on China in the Public Record Office. The collection has been filmed on 35mm silver-halide microfilm. Each part of the series is accompanied by a detailed printed guide which includes a reference bibliography as well as author and subject indexes.

Other Developments

NACSIS trial

Science and social science information from Japan is available through the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) service to ANU Library users for a trial period of one year from August 1995 to July 1996 in the R.G. Menzies Building of the Library. Use of the service is free to all staff and students of the ANU during the trial period.

The Japanese NACSIS service, which began primarily with science information and is now increasingly adding social science information, consists of 31 databases covering a variety of disciplines, mostly in Japanese with some in English (for example, a Dissertation Index of doctoral theses submitted to all Japanese universities, a Union Catalogue of books in both Japanese and European languages held in university libraries in Japan, as well as summaries of materials of the Meiji Restoration.)

Users may download data from searches onto their own floppy disc formatted for a Macintosh.

NACSIS, of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, was inaugurated in April, 1986. NACSIS is one of the inter-university research institutes which serve all university researchers in Japan. Presently 542 computers and other facilities located in 243 universities are interconnected via 31 nodal universities to the NACSIS packet-switching network. The international link with the United States is to be augmented from 512 Kbps to 2 Mbps, while a dedicated line through the United States to the British Library in London has been installed and most recently NACSIS has been establishing a dedicated line to Thailand.

The Library invites users to evaluate the service during the trial period.

Toyokeizai donation

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of its foundation, the Toyokeizai publishing company has selected the ANU as one of a small number of major research centres outside Japan to receive a donation of books and journals which have been published by their company over the years. The ANU library has accepted the donation on behalf of the Australia-Japan Research Centre at the ANU. The donation is estimated to be worth approximately A\$40,000 and will be spread over the next 10 years. Other countries in the Asian region to receive an offer include Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Russia, Indonesia and mainland China.

The library's acceptance of this donation is expected to further strengthen the ANU's resources for the study of Japanese and international economics.

Technical Developments

Apart from the launch of the Chinese Serials Database and CLIRNET initiatives, the ANU has been pursuing a number of other technology-related projects.

1. CJK-capable terminal in public area of the Menzies building

Early in the year OPAC access was provided in the foyer of the Menzies building, enabling retrieval in the vernacular script of the growing number of CJK records in the ANU Library catalogue.

2. Development of other Internet Resources

The East Asian Collection Management team is compiling a list of telnet and/or World Wide Web addresses of libraries around the world which have significant Chinese holdings. The initial results of our work were posted on the WWW in May this year at the following URL:

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVLPages/AsianPages/ChineseLibr.html>

The initiative has included trialing of various softwares which enable access to international on-line catalogues in Chinese script, including the MacBlue Telnet software for the Macintosh. The work is on-going and any comments, suggestions, revisions or additions are always welcome.

In another development, the Chinese Serials Database has been improved with the addition of links to other Chinese newspapers and serials available on-line elsewhere in the world.

3. Participation in the National CIK project

As the lead institution in the national CIK Project, the ANU Library has continued to play an active role in the development of the project since its inception, most recently through testing of the Testpac and MASS software. Two representatives from the Institute of Systems Science of the National University of Singapore (which is responsible for MASS) visited the ANU Library in October.

4. Exploration of WWW resources relevant to Chinese studies.

Monitoring resources on the World Wide Web relevant to the information needs of the ANU academic community have been conducted.

ANU-NLA Collection Cooperation

During the year work on the comparison of Chinese collections at the ANU and the National Library of Australia (NLA) continued with a view to the eventual establishment of formal collecting agreements.

Delegations and Visitors

Throughout the year the ANU library welcomed a number of distinguished visitors and delegations including visits by a delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, a visit to the library by Mrs Ngian Lek Choh, Deputy Director of Public Services at the National Library of Singapore, a Chinese Embassy delegation comprising Prof. Liu Dianqiu, Counsellor; Mrs Shan Huifang; Mr Zhou Jinfu, First Secretary and Mr Wang Chuangang, Second Secretary (Education). The visit included a welcome and introduction to the library, demonstration of the ANU-NLC co-operative Chinese Serials Database and other Internet resources relevant to China or Chinese studies.

July 10 - September 13: 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, Mr Hao Shouzhen of the Serials section, and Ms. Zhuang Jing from the Foreign Liaison section were trained at the ANU in Information Technology related to the Chinese Serials Database and CLIRNET projects.

ANU Library also welcomed Mrs Wu Ku Rui-lan (Acquisitions Librarian, National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan) and NLA exchange librarians, Mr Kim Dong-Cheol (National Central Library, Seoul, Korea) and Mr Gu Ben (National Library of China, Beijing, P.R. China). Their visit included an introduction to the Library by Colin Steele, a briefing by the Bibliographic Records Unit and the Monograph and Serials Acquisitions unit, afternoon tea with the ANU library's Asian Studies library staff, a discussion with Asian staff on problems relating to Asian vernacular computing and a demonstration of some Asia-related Internet resources.

ANU Library was also visited by Hong Kong businessman and philanthropist Mr. Tsui and party, accompanied by group of ANU China specialists and Chinese students studying in the Master of Business Administration and Biology programs. The visit included a briefing on the National Asia Information Centre by Colin Steele, a demonstration of ANU's Chinese Serials Database on the Internet and inspection of the ANU Library's Chinese collection.

Other visitors welcomed by the East-Asian Collection during this period included Asian Studies Library Award recipients, work-experience students and inter-state academics.

ANU visits overseas

1. February - 6 March: visit by Susan Prentice, Senior Librarian (East Asia) to China. Whilst in China, Susan held talks with the Head of the Library Bureau in the Ministry of Culture in regard to the CLIRNET initiative and with the National Library of China in relation to the Chinese Serials Database project. She also visited the Shanghai Municipal Library and Zhongshan University. Susan then presented a paper entitled "Pushing the Frontiers of the Internet in a Cooperative Chinese Database" at an International Seminar on Chinese Document Database Project in Guangzhou which was subsequently revised and published in Vol. 18 No. 3 of the *Asian Studies Review*.
2. September 23 - Oct 1: Trip to Beijing and Hong Kong by the Senior Librarian (East Asia).

Whilst in Beijing, Susan continued negotiations on the CLIRNET initiative, concentrating on the first stage of the project which involves the establishment of an Australian Information Centre in the National Library of China in Beijing. Susan also finalised several outstanding issues in relation to the ANU-NLC's Chinese Serials Database.

Whilst in Hong Kong, Susan presented a paper entitled *Digital silk roads - Australian Asian connections* at the First Asian Information Meeting which was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 27-30 September. The presentation included a demonstration of the newly-launched Chinese Serials Database.

New staff members

The ANU library has been pleased to welcome two new staff members to its ranks during the year. Darrell Dorrington takes up the position of Collection Assistant (China) and Gao Jie takes up the position of Chinese Serials Database indexer.

East Asian Collection Management Staff
November 1995