

DNC KOREAN COLLECTING MEETING

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The Distributed National Collection (DNC) Korean Collecting Meeting was held on 13 March 1996. It followed the DNC Collecting Agreements for Asian Materials meeting held in November 1995 which had recommended that, given the increasing interest in Korean collections and services, the National Library convene a meeting on Korean collecting and access issues, to include the major stakeholders: the Australian National University (ANU), Griffith University, La Trobe University, Monash University, Swinburne Institute of Technology, the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney as well as the National Library of Australia (NLA). This resolution was supported by the Reference Group established following the 3rd National Roundtable on Libraries and Asia.

The aim of the 13 March gathering was to agree on actions that would formally define future collecting directions and responsibilities among Australian libraries with Korean collections. As background information the DNC Office prepared a *Conspectus report for Korean library collections in Australia* and *Results of the DNC Korean library materials survey*.

Further documentation about the Korean meeting is available on the National Library's Information Server at

<http://www.nla.gov.au/dnc/korea/korea.html>

Present

Ross Coleman, University of Sydney Library
David Combe, Australia-Korea Foundation
Michael Evans, ANU Library
Pam Gatenby, NLA
Andrew Gosling, NLA
Linda Groom, NLA
Chooi-Hon Ho, Monash University Library
Rachel Jakimow, DNC Office, NLA
Cliff Law, DNC Office, NLA
Magdalen Lee, University of Sydney Library
Pam Longley, La Trobe University Library
Jan Lyall, NPO, NLA
Susan Prentice, ANU Library
Professor Tony Reid, ANU - Vice-President, ASAA
Marie Sexton, NLA
Dr Ken Wells, ANU - Korean Studies Association of Australasia

Korean collecting

Discussion of the nature and direction of Korean collecting activity in Australia covered a number of issues. As shown by the DNC Office's Conspectus report and survey the overall national collection and budget for Korean materials is modest. At this stage there are two major players, the NLA and the National Korean Studies Centre with its Korean collection at Monash. As Korean studies is an emerging area it was agreed that this is an opportune time to seek more systematic co-operation particularly to avoid unnecessary duplication of Korean research materials and to provide maximum accessibility to the collections nationally. There was seen to be a possible tension between co-ordination and institutional autonomy. The problem of insufficient staffing with appropriate language and other skills was raised. It was also agreed that additional information needed to be gathered for a better understanding of Korean collecting in Australia.

ANU / NLA draft Korean agreement

Michael Evans and Pam Gatenby outlined the draft agreement which is close to finalisation. They stressed that improved access for users was a crucial element of the agreement. ANU Library saw the agreement as a means of rationalising collecting of Korean vernacular research materials with NLA to minimise duplication of effort and provide for the needs of ANU researchers. Under the agreement ANU would be generally leaving the collecting of Korean vernacular research material to NLA, but in cases where NLA was not prepared to acquire a particular publication ANU would consider doing so. NLA did not see this regional agreement with ANU as abnegating its national role. In discussion of possible gaps in collecting, Dr Wells drew attention to the considerable strengths of NLA's holdings outside the social sciences in areas including Korean history and religion. It was agreed that further work was required to ascertain if and where gaps existed nationally. It was also agreed that it would be useful for the ANU/NLA agreement to include an indication of purchasing commitment in dollar terms.

National Korean Studies Centre (NKSC)

Chooi Hon Ho outlined the history of the Centre which links four Melbourne universities: Swinburne, La Trobe, Monash and Melbourne. The NKSC Korean Studies Research Library was established at Monash in 1992 with ARC funding. Following a further grant in 1994, the Library is now dependent on financial contributions from consortium members, plus additional support from Monash. The NKSC Library Advisory Committee comprising researchers and librarians from consortium members provides collection development and policy advice. The emphasis of the collection is on the social sciences, particularly economics, geography, politics, language and history. In discussion, the issue of overlap between NLA and the NKSC was raised as was the importance of catering for Korean research needs in the humanities.

Resolutions

The resolutions passed at the meeting follow on from the recommendations of the 3rd National Roundtable on Libraries and Asia in February 1995 and the work of the Roundtable Reference Group. The resolutions are:

1. Conspectus:

That libraries attending this meeting assess their Korean vernacular collections using the Conspectus methodology, including information on their preservation commitments.

Libraries should use the Korean language code for recording their data and the scheme developed for Harvard-Yenching classification systems by the DNC Office.

Responsibility: libraries attending the meeting.

Time frame: by June 1997

Comment: subject to suitable guidelines which should be available within a few weeks the participants apart from ANU favoured assessing their Korean collections using Conspectus.

2. Profiling research and business needs:

- (a) That an evaluative study be undertaken of the needs of Korean researchers and Australian business needs and trends related to Korea for the next 5 years.

This should be carried out by a senior researcher who would interview key groups, including leading Australian academics, librarians, heads of chambers of commerce and government officials.

The potential provided by electronic networking to existing sources and gaps in this information should be assessed.

- (b) That the report on the study be used by the Korean Working Group to establish the present situation and the value of setting up electronic networking, formal supply arrangements and the need to fill gaps in the totality of the holdings of Australian libraries.

The Group should consider approaching the Australia-Korea Foundation and/or the Korea Foundation for funds to make improvements identified in the study. The funding should include the costs associated with bibliographical access to any material acquired to fill gaps. Potential additional sources to fund establishment costs of electronic links such as Telstra, or other communication suppliers, should be considered.

Responsibility: the Korean Working Group (a working group of librarians and academics set up by NLA, in co-operation with the ANU and the Melbourne consortium) to prepare funding proposals for the Australia Korea Foundation and the Korea Foundation and other outside bodies.

Time frame: initial contact with sources such as the Australia-Korea Foundation, Korea Foundation and other outside bodies (as appropriate) by mid-1996 in order to establish their levels of interest and their funding cycles.

The evaluative study to be undertaken in late 1996/first half 1997 and to be completed no later than June 1997.

Results to be considered and followed up by the Korean Working Group by the end of 1997.

Comment: it was agreed that the existing survey by the Korean Studies Association of Australasia and work by the Australia-Korea Foundation could be utilised as a first step in the proposed study of research and business needs. David Combe of the AKF was present for this item and outlined relevant AKF activities.

3. Alternative sources of supply of documents:

Information should be collected by the Korean Working Group on the present state of links with Korea related to research and between libraries. Existing supply arrangements of books and other materials from Korea should also be assessed.

The potential for improved supply of books on loan or photocopies of library materials from Korean libraries, based on formal supply arrangements, should be considered.

Responsibility: the Korean Working Group.

Time frame: by the end of 1996.

4. Collection development policies and collecting agreements:

That a statement be prepared by the DNC Office on current collection development policies, collecting strengths and future intentions of the libraries represented at the meeting in order to have a cohesive view of the state of Korean vernacular collecting. (Use should be made of the information already supplied to the DNC Office for this meeting).

That NLA and the National Korean Studies Centre, Melbourne, should define their collecting responsibilities through a formal collecting,

supply and access agreement, using the NLA/ANU Korean vernacular agreement as a model.

Finalisation of the agreement should wait until the completion of the survey of needs (2 above)

Responsibility: the Korean Working Group and the DNC Office.

Time frame: (a) statement on present situation by early 1997 (b) collecting agreements when the results of the survey of needs has been assessed and considered.

Comment: it was agreed that the survey of needs (Resolution 2) should be carried out prior to attempting to define roles through further collection agreements. NLA and Monash expressed interest in principle in an agreement. Monash would raise this with the NKSC Library Advisory Committee.

5. **Bibliographic access:**

- (a) **National CJK System**: that libraries with Korean vernacular materials undertake to contribute cataloguing and location data to the National Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) System:

- NLA
- ANU
- Monash University
- Griffith University
- University of Sydney

Responsibility: libraries with Korean vernacular collections

Time frame: when the National CJK system is implemented.

- (b) **National CJK OPAC**: that libraries provide direct access by users to the CJK OPAC.

Responsibility/Time frame: As for (a)

- (c) **Cataloguing backlogs**: that all libraries with Korean collections describe and quantify their backlogs of cataloguing, identifying the most important parts of the backlog, and report it to the Korean Working Group. Funding should be sought to take action to catalogue these materials on the National CJK System.

Responsibility: defining backlogs - the DNC Office will use data collected for meeting on 13 March as much as possible plus obtaining clarification of which entries are in manual and machine-readable form.

Time frame: by end June 1996

Responsibility: funding - Korean Working Group should develop a strategy for adding these to the National CJK system by funding the cataloguing the most important materials first from an outside body.
Time frame: by mid 1997 (dependent on progress with addition of KORMARC data to the National CJK system - see (e) below).

- (d) **KORMARC data:** that NLA investigate the feasibility of loading the National Central Library (Seoul) KORMARC data to the National CJK system and develop an options paper on possible source of funding.

[Brief information on KORMARC: 600 - 700 000 monograph records; records created since 1983; date of imprint since 1945; no romanisation, in script only; 70% in Korean script, 20% Chinese, 5% Japanese; being created at the rate of 50 000 p.a.]

Responsibility: NLA

Time frame: by December 1996

- (e) **KORMARC data:** that, subject to the results of the KORMARC feasibility study and options paper, libraries with Korean vernacular collections support an application by NLA for funding from an outside source to cover the costs of acquiring and loading the KORMARC data to the National CJK system.

Responsibility: libraries with Korean collections (ANU, Griffith, Monash and Sydney Universities) and NLA.

Time frame: by mid-1997, if to be a RIEF application.

- (f) **contract cataloguing:** that a contract cataloguing service be established by Monash University if there is a defined need.

Responsibility: Monash University Library is considering offering such a service.

Time frame: to be defined by Monash University Library. Second half of 1996, dependent upon implementation of the National CJK system.

Comment: participants accorded a high priority to the resolutions on bibliographic access, particularly Korean cataloguing backlogs and retrospective conversions, and strengthening the Korean component of the National CJK System with KORMARC data.

6. **Information networking:**

That improved communication between Australian libraries with Korean collections and Korean studies academics, researchers and users be actively pursued.

Mechanisms include: NLA has set up a home page to bring libraries, researchers and institutions into closer contact in order to maximise collaboration and access to all Korean collections (<http://www.nla.gov.au/dnc/korea/korea-html>); that electronic networking be used to distribute information and that meetings of interested librarians and academics be held regularly, the first one being in conjunction with the ASAA Biennial conference in Melbourne.

Responsibility: NLA, the Korean Working Group, the Korean Studies Association of Australasia and ASAA (in relation to their conferences).

Time frame: home page: by June 1996.

meeting of academics and librarians to be organised for the ASAA conference at La Trobe University in July 1996.

7. **Library staffing links with Korea:**

That library staff placements be encouraged between the collecting institutions in Australia and that library staff exchanges between Australia and Korea be encouraged.

Responsibility: Korean Working Group to consider and to liaise with NLA and other bodies such as the Australia Korea Foundation on setting up mechanisms to encourage this.

Time frame: 1997?

Korean Working Group

The meeting agreed to the setting up of a Korean Working Group to develop an action plan based on the resolutions in broad consultation with others. The Group would look at priorities among the resolutions and funding possibilities. The Group would consist of Cliff Law of the DNC Office (Chair); Marie Sexton, NLA; Dr Ken Wells representing the KSAA and ASAA, Chooi-Hon Ho of Monash University Library and the NKSC Library Advisory Committee and Janice Rickards of Griffith University Library.

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