

**JAPANESE LIBRARY RESOURCES
GROUP OF AUSTRALIA FORMED:
LIBRARY-RELATED HAPPENINGS
AT THE 10TH BIENNIAL JSAA CONFERENCE**

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(Chair, Library Resources Lunchtime Forum)

The first of many exciting events at the conference occurred when a small group started what we hope will become a great force in the Japanese studies and teaching area in Australia.

The still tentatively-named "Japanese Library Resources Group of Australia" came about through the efforts of Ms Eiko Sakaguchi (Monash University Library), Mr Toshio Takagi (Australian National University Library), Ms Yumiko Tsuji (National Library of Australia) and Ms Michelle Hall (University of Melbourne Library). We felt that in order to have a voice in the library world, and in order to have a secure base for negotiating with government and other funding bodies, an especially Japanese group needed to exist. At present we are a sub-group of EALRGA (East Asian Library Resources Group of Australia), and members of EALRGA who have an interest in Japan, either information personnel, researchers or academic staff are automatically a member of JLRGA. We encourage others to join EALRGA and thereby strengthen our voice in this group. Our next step is to plan our activities to enhance the teaching and research done by scholars of Japanese Studies, and we look forward to being of assistance to you all.

Lunchtime Forum on Japanese Library Resources

On the last day of the conference a lunchtime forum concerned with library issues was held in the Baillieu Library. We were more than pleased with the number of attendees, and we are encouraged to know that so many of you support us in our endeavours. It was a crowded session, both in terms of lack of physical space and lack of time to hear all of the papers presented.

First to speak was Ms Eiko Sakaguchi (Japanese Studies Librarian, Monash University) who spoke of some specific cases and requests she had dealt with and outlined her approach to provide relevant information. In addition, she listed many searchable web sites linked through her home page and gave an outline of her experiences at the recent Japan Foundation and National Diet Library-sponsored Japanese Librarians' training course.

Next, Ms Chooi Hon Ho (Associate University Librarian - Information Services, Monash University) addressed the issues relating to the delivery of an effective service to support Japanese Studies research. Chooi Hon emphasised the importance of a client focussed service and highlighted the

features of a one stop shop, with fully trained language specialists at hand to assist with access to the collections and information sources.

Ms Yumiko Tsuji, from the National Chinese-Japanese-Korean (NCJK) Project at the National Library of Australia, gave an introduction to the NCJK Project and I am sure surprised many with the fact that cataloguing now takes place in the languages targeted as well as in Romanised forms. We were all happy to hear that bibliographic records from the National Diet Library have been downloaded to the NCJK system, and can be accessed and used in cataloguing and ordering for libraries in Australia.

Finally, Mr Toshio Takagi (Senior Librarian, Japanese Collection Development, Australian National University Library) spoke on the topic of Internet access and the resources available in Japan on the World Wide Web, and the current state of Internet usage within Japan.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints we were unable to have a formal question time, but many participants remained after the session to speak informally with the presenters. I am sure many people would have loved to hear more from the presenters, but time was at a premium in the packed conference schedule. We look forward to including further library sessions in future JSAA conferences.

