

EALGA ACTIVITIES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EAST ASIAN LIBRARIANS' GROUP OF AUSTRALIA HELD ON FRIDAY, 14 MAY 1982 AT 4.20 pm IN THE ROTUNDA AT MONASH UNIVERSITY DURING THE 4th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Present: Mr Wang, NLA (in the Chair)
 Mrs Cherry, University of Sydney
 Mrs Hu, University of Melbourne
 Mr Li, University of Adelaide
 Mr Chan, ANU
 Mrs Prentice, ANU
 Miss Nosaka, NLA
 Mr Tan, NLA
 Miss White, NLA
 Mrs Haldane, NLA
 Miss Flesch, University of Melbourne
 Miss Bishop, ANU
 Miss Bursztynski
 Mrs Mills, ANU

This meeting followed directly on from the Inter-regional Panel, "East Asian Library Services" convened by Miss White for the Group. At that panel, the following papers were presented:

"Automation of East Asian language catalogues: the CAVAL experience" by Mrs Lily Hu, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. The discussant was Mr H C Li of the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide.

"Automation of the Library Services in the National Diet Library" by Miss Kuniko Nosaka, National Library of Australia. The discussant was Miss Nicole White, National Library of Australia.

"Position and role of the National Library of China in the Library Services of China" by Mr Xiang-jin Tan of the National Library of China. The discussant was Miss Enid Bishop of the Australian National University Library.

"The Japanese collection - National Library of Australia" by Miss Nicole White.

"The Japanese collection in the Australian National University Library" by Mrs Yumiko Mills, Australian National University.

"The Chinese Collection in the National Library of Australia" by Mr Sidney Wang, National Library of Australia.

"Beg, Borrow, or Buy: Developing a Chinese Periodical Collection at ANU" by Mrs Susan Prentice, Australian National University.

The first topic of official business was the application of AACR2 in East Asian libraries and any problems encountered. Mr Wang stated that the National Library uses AACR2 because it uses Library of Congress cards. However, it does have modifications where a changed heading form would alter radically the catalogue as it stands. Also, AACR1 cards are still coming in from LC.

Miss White mentioned the problem of ". -" causing confusion with Japanese/Chinese names with the character "-" in them. It was suggested that a ".--" instead of ".-" might solve this problem.

Mr Wang said that it would only be a matter of time before Chinese character computers came into use here, so we should follow LC and AACR2 to make our cataloguing compatible. The NLA would adopt whatever LC did. Other libraries ought to conform otherwise their cataloguing would not go into the system.

2. Second survey of East Asian bibliographical control

Copies of the last survey questionnaire were distributed for comment among those present. Comments were to be sent to Mr Wang to be discussed at a meeting of the EALGA executive. The EALGA was to undertake this second survey, the first being done in 1977 by the National Library.

Mrs Haldane commented that EALGA can get advice from the Department of Statistics on how to formulate the questions to get the answers wanted. The National Library had used them for its own surveys. This was agreed to.

Miss Bishop asked when comments were to be in by. The comments should be in within a month from now. Miss Flesch suggested questions should be asked about budget and means of acquisition as people usually did not mind. This was agreed to. Miss Bishop suggested the results of the questionnaire be data processed and analysed. Mr Wang said the National Library should be asked to do this.

3. New draft for guidelines of romanising Japanese (LC)

A copy of the scheme was circulated as it turned out no one had seen it except NLA.

4. Word division of pinyin

Mr Wang pointed out that three libraries in Australia use pinyin, who contribute to the Union Catalogue of East Asian Monographs. He said that NLA prefers each word romanised separately, not joined up as it is easier for filing. He asked everyone concerned to think about doing this to make for greater consistency.

Mr Li agreed as there was not only no standard set by LC but none even in China for word division of pinyin. So the Barr Smith Library used separate, word-by-word romanisation right from the start as it seemed safer. When NLA made a decision on this, it should inform others.

Miss Bishop asked if there was going to be a system for joining words. Mr Wang said there may be in the future as ISO was going to ask China to provide standards. Miss Bishop remarked that even dictionaries were inconsistent.

5. Conference on International Cooperation in Chinese Bibliographical Automation, 29 August-1 September 1982. ANU

Y S Chan is the Secretary of the Conference. He distributed the leaflet to those who had not seen it. He wanted all present to pass the message on to those likely to be interested or in giving a paper. It was to be international, a first attempt to work out something so we get one system. At present there are too many systems, none of which are compatible so no exchange of tapes is possible, nor is there any consistency.

6. Reports on East Asian libraries by delegates

NLA and ANU had given reports on their collections in the Inter-regional Panel.

Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide: The East Asian collection was allocated funds for books for Asian Studies in Chinese, Japanese and English. The allocation between languages is internal. The budget has been the same for the past 7-8 years, so, in real terms, it had been cut.

There is a part-time assistant each for Chinese and Japanese who can also handle English material. If they had not enough work, they did general library tasks.

The library had to cut subscription but it still has money for new titles.

Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne: In 1978, the East Asian Library Committee proposed to expand the East

Asian collection to make it adequate for research projects. \$30,000 a year for the next 5 years was approved by the Librarian to expand the collection to 50,000 volumes. This has been maintained despite budget cuts elsewhere in the University. But it is still difficult to get all materials in all languages on China and Japan. In the last 2 years, the annual intake was 3,000 volumes in Chinese and Japanese.

It was difficult to cover current Chinese and Japanese periodicals, particularly Chinese. They could cover only selectively Chinese periodicals on history, literature, language. They can't cover all the local literary periodicals in China. So they have to rely on NLA and ANU. Because bibliographical control is poor (i.e. no union catalogue of East Asian serials), they hope the Canberra collections can be made more accessible soon.

There are three staff who have a hard time keeping up with work. They have a cataloguing backlog but they can keep up with current materials. They have temporary cards for everything. Their use of the computer (CAVAL) makes their task easier as they don't have to type and file cards.

They had to make a shelf-list and make cards when they started because the material was not properly accessioned.

Asian Studies Division, ANU Library: Mr Chan added a few remarks to what had been said in the Panel.

The number of books they can catalogue is the problem, not money. 12% of the collection is not catalogued in Chinese, 8% in Japanese, but the worst is Korean because the Korean librarian resigned. The Korean books will not be catalogued in the foreseeable future.

All the Chinese backlog is put on open shelves so readers can browse. If a book is needed urgently, it can be catalogued. This has worked well and has led to the system being adopted throughout the whole Library including western language material.

ANU's budget is sufficient. However, they have increased their gift and exchange activity which is now 10% of the intake. They have a separate budget for G & E. Sometimes they exchange monographs for serials.

Fisher Library, University of Sydney: The Korean collection is a small one that is building up but it has never been catalogued because Korean is not taught at Sydney University.

The Oriental Library supports the teaching programmes of Sydney University, thus it concentrates on philosophy, the classics, history and literature but it does accept other material. For example, they felt that they should have

a collection of technical dictionaries from China which came on G & E. This is used by the Prime Minister's Department and Trade.

The budget was \$8,600 last year and \$9,000 this year. This does not cover inflation. They get a lot of material from the National Library of Peking on G & E. Most of the budget goes on Japanese books because they are more expensive. Last year, they were only able to buy 142.

The collection is used by post-graduates. It has 69,000 volumes, mainly Chinese, with 13,000 Japanese and 951 Korean. There is only one member of staff who does everything except the romanised typing of cards. It is a very scholarly collection started in the 1950s with 100 Chinese books and 1,000 Japanese books. Operating on a tight budget, the books are selected by Professor Davies, the head of the Department of Oriental Studies, in his capacity as Honorary Curator of the Oriental Library. Reference books are bought from the General Reference budget to save money.

The Library is keen on reader education in the general collection as well as the Oriental. Usually this is done on a one-to-one basis in the Oriental Library as it is difficult to get all the students together.

Loans and reference queries have increased. This is frustrating because of the demand on staff.

755 titles were catalogued last year. They try to catalogue as much as they can of the current intake. With the backlog, they collect up the works of one particular author and do them. Harvard-Yenching is used as it is good for browsing.

Academic staff make suggestions for selection but the actual ordering is done by the Oriental Library.

The meeting ended at 5.40 pm, there being no further business.

1982 EALGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TAPE

The 1982 AGM was held at Monash University during the Asian Studies Association of Australia's biennial conference in May of that year. The session was recorded by the conference organisers and an audio cassette tape was sent to the Group. Enquiries about the tape should be sent to Ms Beatrice Tam, Secretary, EALGA, Orientalia, NLA, Canberra ACT 2600.

N White

Survey of East Asian Collections in Australia

EALGA plans to conduct a survey of East-Asian collections in Australia early in 1984. We hope to distribute the questionnaires in January or February so that the results can be submitted to the next meeting of EALGA in May 1984.

Forthcoming meeting of EALGA

The next biennial meeting of EALGA will be convened during the Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference to be held in Adelaide, 13-19 May 1984. It is hoped that the meeting can be held immediately following the panel on Information Resources. An application has been submitted to the Conference Planning Committee to that effect. The meeting will focus on recent developments in East-Asian bibliographical automation. Mr H C Li organized the traditional Chinese dinner for the group before his departure.

S Prentice



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The new editor has got off to a very slow start and wishes to apologize to all EALGA members and subscribers, and particularly to the contributors to this issue for the long delay in its publication.

All the articles in this issue are devoted to National libraries and were originally papers presented at a Regional panel on East-Asian library services held during the last conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. The cover and illustrations are taken from the Australian National University Library's copies of K'ang Ch'ien pan hua chi and Shih chu chai chien p'u which are both part of Chung-kuo pan hua shih t'u lu (A history of Chinese woodcuts). The collection was published in 1940 as a limited edition of 200 copies. The Library's copy is number 92.

The editor wishes to thank all the contributors to this issue as well as her colleagues at the ANU Library for their help and support in finally getting this issue to press. Although rather overwhelmed with other commitments, the present editor hopes to compile another issue before the next AGM in May. To make this possible EALGA members and others interested are invited to send contributions to the editor at the following address:

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