

AUTOMATION OF EAST ASIAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARY

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The University of Melbourne Library entered the CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic libraries) computer-based shared cataloguing system in early 1980. The cataloguing of East Asian material was incorporated into CAVAL in fully romanized form as from January 1981. In January 1983, CAVAL joined the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) and moved from batch system to on-line cataloguing. The University of Melbourne Library has since catalogued on-line on ABN.

CAVAL, after joining ABN, became a resource user to provide bibliographic processing for its members, while at the same time continuing to operate as a regional data base. It provides ABN training, user support and "help desk" functions to its member libraries. It undertakes development of regional union catalogues and regional inter-library lending facilities such as the reciprocal borrowing program. It produces monthly CEILS (CAVAL Expensive Item Listing Service), listing expensive items ordered by CAVAL libraries, to facilitate cooperative purchasing and collection rationalization.

ABN was established by the National Library of Australia in 1981, using the Washington Library Network (WLN) computer program. The ABN data base contains MARC records produced by the Library of Congress, the National Library of Australia, the British Library, the National Library of Canada, and other WLN and ABN participants. It provides on-line AMRS for shared cataloguing and automatically creates a 'national union catalogue'. Holdings information for all ABN members is also available for on-line enquiry.

The standards adopted for use in ABN are: AACR2, LCSH and ABN MARC format which is based upon the U.S. MARC. The layout of the coded data varies significantly from that in the AUSMARC 3 used in CAVAL. ABN/WLN uses mnemonic alphabets instead of the numeric tags as in CAVAL. As to romanization systems, the Wade-Giles system has been adopted for Chinese material. For Japanese, Baillieu proposed the adoption of the revised version of the Hepburn system, which was issued by the Library of Congress in Cataloguing Service Bulletin no. 20 (Spring 1983). This library also proposed that the Harvard-Yenching Classification number be stored in the record. This will facilitate other ABN users sharing the classification number. The ABN Standard Committee agreed in principle with the use of the scheme but is seeking the endorsement of the East Asian Librarians Group, especially on the method of updating of the scheme.

The adoption of ABN has not made much impact on the East Asian cataloguing operation. At present, there are few MARC records for East Asian monographs. Therefore, we are doing mainly original cataloguing or transcribing and editing from the National Union Catalog (NUC) entry. Catalogued bibliographic data is typed on worksheets in transliteration by staff in the East Asian Collection. The worksheets are then sent to the Technical Service Division to be input by trained keyboard operators. There are about 5000 romanized MARC records, created by this library in the last three years. However, MARC records for East Asian serials are available from the WLN/ABN data base. We will gradually add our serial holdings to ABN. Eventually, our serial records will be included in the National Union Catalogue of Serials (NUCOS).

East Asian romanized records are inter-filed alphabetically with other language entries in the local COM catalogues and ABN catalogues. Computer printed cards of each title in the existing card catalogue with title and author in original script added manually. Hence, the title file of the card catalogue maintained in the East Asian Collection preserves a single unified record of the East Asian library holdings. It serves as the main tool for bibliographic checking and verification of unintelligible romanized names and headings. The preliminary cataloguing workslip or the NUC copy is retained and filed in the shelf list. This is the only record with full bibliographic description in original script.

Our experiences in using the ABN system and the romanized COM catalogues are summarized as following:

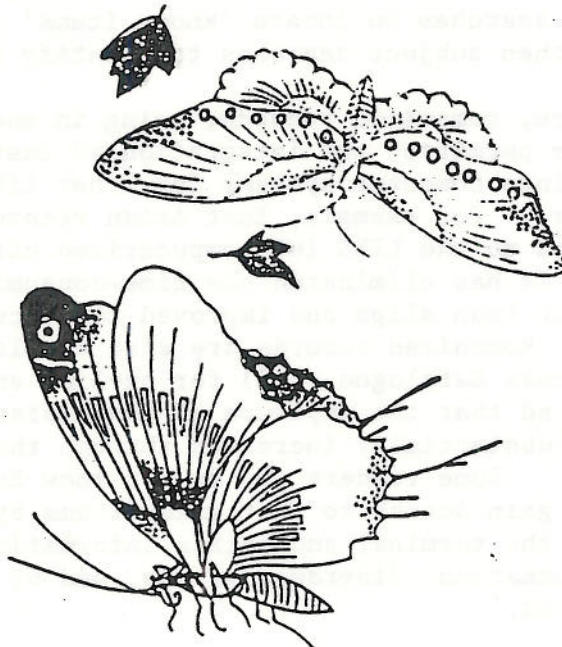
1. As we are the major participating library which catalogues East Asian material through ABN, there has been limited benefit to us in terms of 'shared cataloguing'. However, the situation is changing. Since last September, the Library of Congress has been entering CJK (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) cataloguing records into the RLIN (Research Library Information Network) data base in both vernacular script and in fully romanized form. The romanized portions of these CJK records are stripped off for addition to LC's internal system, for the NUC COM catalogue, and for MARC distribution to other libraries. Libraries in Australia now have access to fully romanized CJK MARC records through ABN. We have recently found a number of records and hope that the 'hit rate' will increase gradually when more and more Research Library Group (RLG) members become active.
2. Worksheet preparation is easier than catalogue card production which involves typing in English and original script. Filing staff time has been reduced by two-thirds. The labour and space costs of providing and maintaining a COM catalogue are far less than those for a card catalogue.

3. With an annual intake of 3000 titles each year, our operation is not big enough to warrant a terminal in our collection. Therefore, interim records, authority control work, records inputting and reviewing are done centrally in the Technical Services Division by staff with no special language skill. As a result, typographic errors are very often undetected. Personnel structure has been adjusted in line with the shift of work load and staff in the East Asian Collection has been reduced from three to two and a half.
4. We have experienced no difficulties with the various diacritics used in Chinese and Japanese romanizations, with the ABN system. The ABN terminal has more capacity in handling foreign language accents, such as high comma 'ˆ' and umlaut '¨'.
5. Catalogues in completely romanized form are usually rejected on the grounds that they are unintelligible and hard to convert back to the original characters. This is particularly true among Chinese native speakers, who are more accustomed to ideographs, and not familiar with the romanized spelling, as well as people who do not speak 'standard Chinese'. However, most patrons seem to acknowledge that the romanized records are useful in locating a given title, or books by a well-known author. Our observations appear to agree with the findings of overseas studies that in academic libraries, catalogue searches to locate 'known items' are more frequent than subject searches to identify items.
6. Furthermore, romanized records, being in machine-readable form, have permitted the integration of East Asian material into computer systems for other library operations. For example, East Asian records have been transferred to the LIBS 100 computerized circulation system. It has eliminated the time-consuming task of filling out loan slips and improved the accuracy of loan records. Romanized records are also displayed on the Public Access Catalogue (PAC) for on-line enquiry. We have noticed that the exposure of East Asian resources has been substantially increased through the PAC terminals. Some readers who do not know East Asian languages gain access to East Asian items by a subject search on the terminal and obtain information through English summaries, diagrams, graphs, and by commissioning translations.
7. The ABN Union Catalogue has provided other institutions with better access to our resources. An increase of inter-library loan requests has been noticed.

8. Above all, there are benefits in other important ways. For instance, participation in the national project has meant confronting the current national and international developments in cataloguing. This has been an invaluable educational experience for staff development.

#### REFERENCES

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