

3. CJK SYSTEMS NEWS

a) A LOOK AT RLIN CJK AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

At the beginning of August last year, I visited the Library of Congress to look at the RLIN CJK system and also the Japanese section of the Asian Division, as I happened to be in Washington as part of a holiday. The visit to the Library of Congress was arranged by Ms Judith Baskin, Director, Networks Branch, National Library. She thought it would be useful to have someone who actually catalogued East Asian materials, and who had some familiarity with automation, look at the system.

I first met with Mr Hugo Christiansen, Assistant Chief, Shared Cataloguing Division who gave me a general description of the cataloguing process in the Library of Congress for East Asian script books.

Library of Congress has two systems running parallel: their own for European books and RLIN CJK for East Asian. Thus, in the latter case, they are part of a network.

Books arrive in the library by purchase or exchange. They are reviewed by selection officers who assign priorities for cataloguing, then they are sent to Preliminary Cataloguing who input the record into the RLIN and LC systems based on the book in hand. The book, with a print-out of the preliminary record, is sent to Descriptive Cataloguing for a full description - author and series are verified and the bibliographical description is corrected if in error. The record is then reviewed. Then it is sent on to the subject specialists who assign subject headings and a call number. Next it is sent on for shelf listing. Chinese books only have a Dewey number assigned in addition to the LC one, at this point. This does not happen with Japanese and Korean records, the reason being there happens to be a Chinese speaker in the DDC section.

The manuscripts of the records are sent back to Shared Cataloguing for checking and production mode. They are then sent to Tokyo for photo-composition. This usually takes three months. The cards are duplicated in the Card Distribution Service, when they are returned from Japan.

There are 60 staff involved with East Asian books and 150,000 to 200,000 such books are catalogued a year. The cataloguing of Chinese books is pretty up-to-date. Like many libraries in Australia, they have been flooded with material from the People's Republic of China as the National Library of China keeps sending them books without checking to see if they have already sent them. At one point they received a shipment of 300 titles of which 70% were duplicates.

Since the introduction of RLIN CJK, they have increased their output of Chinese cataloguing and that it is as up to date as they can make it so that we should have a higher hit rate on recent Chinese records.

With Japanese, there is a backlog of only 3,000 in Tokyo. This represents about 2 months. Mr Christiansen said that there would probably be a 25% difference between what the Library of Congress selects and what the National Library of Australia selects. So there will be titles we have for which there is no LC card and never will be. (A recent survey on German books selected by the Library of Congress and those selected by universities resulted in a similar discrepancy). Also, some lower priority titles take longer to catalogue so we could be waiting up to 5 months for some records.

Mr Christiansen then introduced me to Ms Beatrice Ohta and Mr Tsuchitani, cataloguers for Chinese and Japanese respectively, who demonstrated the RLIN CJK system, showing how records could be searched and input. I even had a go at it myself. It took me a while to find the keys I wanted as the arrangement is unfamiliar (the kana is not in the usual a-i-u-e-o or even iroha but some other system) but I got a great sense of achievement when I built a character and input it. There is a course and a sheet to familiarise users with the keyboard, however.

Mr Tsuchitani and Ms Ohta said that it took about one hour every day for a month before operators felt competent. Staff had initially felt it might be a bit complex, just from looking at the keyboard but they soon changed their minds because they found it interesting or a challenge. However, it is usually the Preliminary Cataloguing staff who do the inputting, when they create interim records for new books. One useful feature of the system is that the Descriptive Cataloguers can add these data, once verified, to the full record they are creating simply by hitting the 'save' key in the appropriate field which duplicates those characters without the need for retyping.

It takes 2 to 3 months for staff to get back up to normal level of cataloguing output, after 4 months, there is a slight increase. They said that with the National Library, this period might be less as they had 60 who had to be trained. Also at the National Library, at least in Orientalia, one person does the whole cataloguing from descriptive right through to subject, often preliminary as well, therefore staff would become more familiar with the keyboard more quickly as we use it more. The Japanese staff seemed very pleased with the system, saying it is a simple system once you are used to it.

There is a problem with the 'dictionary' but work is being done on this. Another problem was glare from the keyboard. They didn't think it was necessary for the keys to be so shiny. There was glare from the screen, too, a problem we also have in the National Library with the older Facom terminals. The RLIN CJK terminals' screens cannot be moved up or down which is a problem, too.

The keyboard has 4 shift keys (kana, kanji, roman script and hangul) as well as a regular shift key. There is a half size kana shift key for such combinations as $\frac{1}{2}$ and a key to add, " or °.

With the kanji, common characters and radicals have their own keys. Other characters have to be built up, using a scratch-pad in the lower half of the screen, by adding elements, usually in the order you write them, e.g. 月 + 一 + 日 + 久 → 月復. So if you have a reasonable idea of how to write characters, you should be able to make 70%. For the remainder you have to try to second guess the person who did the original graphics.

The system is very flexible. It accepts variants e.g. 月 radical for 肉 radical. Some characters are made up of the same two elements but are in different order e.g. 一 + 王 gives 任 or 全. The system will respond with 'Choose' and you hit the key for whichever you want. If you make a mistake in the order of the components in building up a character, you will get an error message.

Another function is with simplified characters. Sometimes two different characters with different meanings will have the same simplified form e.g. (台 - Taiwan or 台 table). The both will be displayed with the command 'Pick'. Although the character will still appear the same in the text, it will be linked to the correct full form in the system.

It is also a very powerful finding tool for finding characters. If you search on the simplified form, it will retrieve all variant forms including the full form, and viceversa, unless you specify otherwise. You can search on the romanised form, too, and it will retrieve both characters and romanised form. But if you search on the kanji form, you will get only the kanji form. There are about 13,000 Chinese characters in the system. They expect this to rise to about 32,000 in the near future.

Unlike, ABN, the results of a bibliographic search automatically display the holdings records of participating libraries. (There are 34 in RLG). The records give author, title, edition, imprint, rid number as well. So there is no need to do a separate 'holdings' search.

Various levels of display of records are possible, as with ABN. Most levels include the holdings statements of libraries having the bibliographical item. Levels include a 'full' display with all MARC tags (equivalent to ABN's 'complete' display): another similar to what ABN calls 'full', that is, which resembles a catalogue card, but minus tracing notes. A third level is one especially requested by the Library of Congress, and is called 'lcc' which gives the LC card format display. Many libraries simply print this off the screen and reproduce it in

reduced form on a card copier instead of using LC cards. I saw some examples of this and they are quite clear.

One disadvantage of the system is that the authority file is not linked to the bibliographic file. You have to exit the system and sign on in another mode to go from one to the other (this would be like looking at the various collection views on ABN, going from pilprop 471 to alaskacatl). This seems very cumbersome. However, apparently WLN/ABN is the only network with the authority and bibliographic files linked. RLIN is working on this problem and hope to be able to have them linked in the future. Also in the future is a scheme to link up the authority files of RLIN, WLN & OCLC.

On the other hand, they said that if, say, the National Library joined RLG as a member with access to the rest of the network, we would probably find that there was an institution somewhere (if not the Library of Congress) which had acquired and catalogued already 80% or so of titles held by us, thus cutting down on our original cataloguing. Cards from these records could be created, if necessary, by printing from the screen and reproducing on a card-copier.

Two terminals at the Library of Congress are used for reference work. The system is not yet for public use. Searches can be done on quite a range of things including CODEN and publisher.

The system is not used for acquisition because there is no control over that end as records would be input by acquisitions section and not East Asian specialists which leads to errors. Library of Congress is developing its own acquisitions online programm. "Acquisitions are always a little slow", as regards automation, I was told.

There is also a working file in the system called 'local' where you can practise without interfering with the network or getting into its records. One screen is formatted, the other free. Characters can be put on the free screen, for example, as in a letter and (presumably) print off a copy, though not designed primarily as a word processor.

The RLIN/CJK system would seem to present many advantages - a powerful searching tool that is flexible enough to pick up variants and simplifications of characters; the bibliographic displays give holdings, thus removing the necessity of a 'holdings' search; access to a network of 34 East Asian libraries and their holdings, useful for both cataloguing and reference, to name the most obvious. In addition, it is not hard to learn how to use the keyboard and to input records and staff using it express a high level of satisfaction.

Balanced against this, Australian libraries must ask themselves about the economics of joining RLG as an associate member to gain access to the network and its data direct. There is the time factor. RLIN/RLG operates on Pacific Standard Time and shuts down at 6 pm. It has not extended its hours to include Hawaii, what about Australia? RLIN/RLG is interested in extending operations to Hawaii, however.

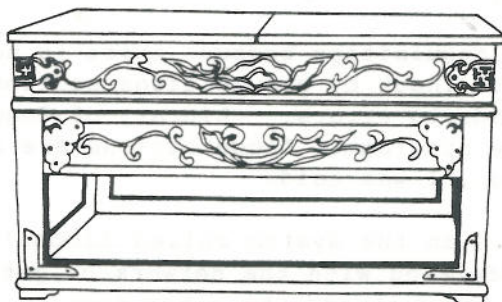
Then there is the question of backup. The Library of Congress staff said the hardware was pretty reliable. They only had minor things go wrong and nothing that caused a shutdown. However, the manufacturers are close to them physically. Backup could be a problem for libraries in Australia, they said. And that for software even more so.

Costs would be high, not only to join but for satellite connect time, which would be limited anyway. Even Library of Congress which is somewhat closer geographically to Stanford finds RLIN CJK more expensive than their own system, especially with the time problems.

Could a library like the National Library afford to run two systems parallel, as does Library of Congress, in our case, ABN and RLIN/CJK, especially when our cataloguing of CJK materials is so much smaller than that of the Library of Congress? This is an unpalatable consideration to be born in mind in these days of shrinking library budgets, no matter how attractive the system.

The British Library is also looking at RLIN CJK and is being sent a terminal and keyboard on trial. This raises another question - to what extent will RLIN CJK become a worldwide network? The answer to this may well affect questions of extended hours and backup for overseas members. Clearly further investigation with Stanford is needed before any decisions can be reached.

Nikki White



3. b) RLIN/CJK : the first year at Columbia University

James Reardon-Anderson of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University delivered his report in two sections, on cataloguing and financing. Since September 1983 the number of RLIN/CJK participating institutions has grown to twenty, and their records to over 50,000. A breakdown of the cataloguing figures showed that fifty-seven per cent were original and forty-three per cent were derived cataloguing. The latter figure should foreseeably increase as the data base grows. He projected an addition of another 47,000 original and 35,000 derived records in 1985, but emphasized that any projection of future growth of RLIN/CJK must include an analysis of the Library of Congress activity and intent. Then the Columbia experience was highlighted. Beginning in January 1983, all cataloguing at C.V. Starr Library was done on RLIN/Roman and after September 1983, on RLIN/CJK. Using statistics, Reardon-Anderson showed a steady increase in productivity after a slight decline during the first year and a sharp rise in the share of original cataloguing; most of all, he showed the enormous increase in the number of derived records, which demonstrates the advantage of shared cataloguing. In the second part of his report, Reardon-Anderson outlined the costs of RLIN/CJK, including start-up costs for hardware, fixed monthly charges for the service maintenance contract and communications, and variable monthly charges for RLIN transactions, record maintenance, and CPUs. As the Columbia experience indicates, the fixed cost per record has decreased because of the increased number of records, despite an increase in monthly charges effective September 1984. The increase in the share of derived records led to a decrease in staff costs which, in turn, will offset the RLIN charges. In conclusion, Reardon-Anderson pointed out that, in addition to the direct short-term savings, a number of other benefits, such as improvement in the quality of cataloguing, increase in original cataloguing and accessibility of records by RLIN participants, the great payoff is in the future when the data base grows rapidly and more records are available for derivation.

(CEAL Bulletin No. 77-78)
December 1985.

3. c) Growth of CJK Records in RLIN

In April 1983 the Research Libraries Group installed the first RLG CJK terminal cluster at the Hoover Institution. Two years later, nineteen institutions operating on sixty-four CJK terminals, have entered over 70,000 CJK records. [Editors note: As of August 1985, the figure was 100,000]. The following figures illustrate the impressive growth of CJK records in the RLIN data base. (1) During the first year of implementation (September 1983-August 1984), 28,874 CJK records were created on RLIN. This figure more than doubled in just the next six months. (2) In February 1984 the 10,000th CJK record was entered into the RLIN data base. In February 1985, the 60,000th vernacular CJK record was entered.

The following factors have contributed to this rapid increase. (1) Within the first twelve months of implementation, thirteen institutions had received CJK training; another six were trained in the next six months. (2) On December 3, 1984, the Library of Congress started cataloguing 99 per cent of its East Asian monographs in RLIN. In January 1985 alone, LC entered 2,517 CJK records. (3) CJK users take full advantage of RLIN's shared cataloguing by copying vernacular information from other members' records into their own. Twelve CJK institutions copy 50 per cent or more of their vernacular records from other RLIN records; eight copy 70 per cent or more. By January 1985, CJK monthly record production had reached 8,000 records per month. With three more institutions (University of Iowa, University of Southern California, and University of Hawaii) to be

trained in the coming months, we are bound to see the 100,000th CJK record enter RLIN within the calendar year.

(CEAL Bulletin No. 77-78,
December 1985)

3. d) RLG announces IBM PC version of RLIN terminal

The Research Libraries Group (RLG) announced recently that it is ready to distribute software which allows an IBM PC to operate as an RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) cataloguing terminal. This custom terminal emulation software is the first of three stages in RLG's development of further 'extended character set' capabilities for RLIN.

The RLIN software, available on disk, will enable libraries to use an IBM PC as a standard RLIN input terminal given the following IBM PC configuration :

IBM PC with 256 KB memory and two double-sided, double-density 360 KB disk drives or an IBM PC/XT with 256 KB memory
Standard IBM PC keyboard
IBM colour/graphics adaptor
Composite video monochrome monitor or IBM colour monitor
IBM asynchronous communications adaptor and cable
IBM synchronous data link control (SDLC) adaptor and cable
PC-DOS 2.0 or later version

The software will support the full Roman alphabet, including punctuation and other symbols. The second stage development will be completed later this year, when RLG will offer support on the IBM PC for Cyrillic alphabetic characters. In stage three, software to support other alphabets such as Hebrew and Chinese will be made available.

(The Electronic Library
July 1985)

3. e) Development of OCLC/CJK

The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) held a CJK Advisory Meeting on 28-29 March 1985 at its headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. Invited to participate in this meeting were over a dozen East Asian librarians, most of whom have not been associated with any East Asian online cataloguing system. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of OCLC's plan to provide expanded service to users who need access in the OCLC online system to Chinese, Japanese, and Korean records in the vernacular, and who need catalogue cards printed and OCLC-MARC records with vernacular characters.

The highlight of this two-day meeting was a speech by Rowland C.W. Brown, President of OCLC, in which he stressed the following points. (1) OCLC is fully committed to its CJK program. (2) OCLC/CJK is not intended to compete with any existing products, but to meet other needs of the library community. (3) For the maximum benefit to the library community worldwide, OCLC will take the initiative to cooperate with organizations like the Research Libraries Group (RLG) and the Library of Congress (LC) in all areas of CJK and other non-roman automation programs for which a cooperative approach is desirable. (4) OCLC has taken an approach to assure that its CJK system will be affordable, efficient, and have wide application.

There were enthusiastic discussions on online features which OCLC hopes to offer in the near future through the creation of a CJK library support package. This package will use the M300 Workstation and its keyboard (with some modifications) to input and output CJK records in both romanization and the vernacular. The items covered in the discussions included input methods, sorting and display, searching and word division, tapeloading and card production. As the planning goes along, OCLC is prepared to issue a CJK publication periodically in the form of a newsletter or an update to inform potential users. Those who wish to have more information about OCLC's CJK program may contact Andrew H. Wang, Manager, OCLC Online System Products and Services Department, OCLC, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017-0702. (Telephone : 614-764-6000).

(CEAL Bulletin
No. 77-78,
December 1985).

3. f) OCLC CJK Demonstration at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago.

The development of OCLC CJK library support functions will be completed before the end of December 1985. Beginning in January 1986, OCLC will undertake a three-month internal system testing. From April 1986 through June, about 10 CJK libraries in the United States will participate in the CJK field test. OCLC plans to make CJK available to all interested institutions beginning in July 1986.

During the ALA Midwinter Meeting to be held in Chicago in January 1986, there will be two identical sessions of OCLC CJK demonstration.

(Letter from Andrew H. Wang
dated 12 December 1985).