

**KOREAN LIBRARY SESSION  
THE FIRST KOREAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA  
CONFERENCE**

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The first Korean Studies Association of Australasia (KSAA) Conference was held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, from 27 to 28 September 1999. It was supported by the Korea Research Foundation, the Australia-Korea Foundation, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, and the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) in Sydney.

The library session "Using Libraries for Korean Studies in Australasia" was held on Monday 27 September from 5 pm to 6 pm. The purpose of the library forum was to reduce limitations on the use of Korean studies materials. Mr Andrew Gosling, Dr Chung-Sok Suh and Jung Sim Kim organised the library session.

Attendees were combined with librarians and academics/researchers. An unexpectedly high number of attendees was pleasing and we noticed amongst them many academics and researchers who are using Korean collections in Australia and New Zealand.

Due to time constraints, the discussion centred on library needs from the users' point of view. The first speaker was Mr Andrew Gosling (Chief Librarian, Asian Collections, National Library of Australia) who spoke on Korean collections since the Korean User Survey. He also referred to the publication "Survey of Users of Korean Materials: The Australia-Korea Research and Information Profile" published by the Korean Working Group in 1998, which can also be accessed via Internet using the URL:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/asian/korus/>

Mr CP Tang (National Chinese-Japanese-Korean Service Team) provided information on the National Chinese-Japanese-Korean Service (NCJK) system and some examples of Korean bibliographic records which contained vernacular language (Hangul and Hancha) as well as romanised Korean. Academics/researchers can access these records through their library if the library is a member of NCJK. Most academics and researchers are not aware that this system is available in Australia.

Lastly, Jung Sim Kim (Korean Studies Librarian at Monash University Library) who chaired the meeting spoke and distributed a handout on Korean databases on the Internet. They can be accessed via

<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/hss/asrl/kordb.htm>

Jung Sim explained that some database sites in Korea use only the Korean language, and the Internet databases users should note that Web addresses change often and without warning.

These were the issues raised by attendees:

- Grants situation for libraries
- Secondary school materials difficult to access, especially audio-visuals
- Korean materials not easy to access for non-academics
- Romanised Korean not easy to use for Korean language materials by academics/researchers

During the conference, we had a chance to obtain valuable information on recent developments in Korean Studies in Australasia and to collect information on academics'/researchers' library needs.

The next KSAA conference will be held at Monash University in 2001. We hope library sessions held at the KSAA conferences will be equally well attended in the future.