

NCC Year 2000 Conference in San Diego Next Decade Planning Meeting

Defining the Issues for Japanese Serials and Newspapers

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I. Review of achievements since Hoover (1991)

The years since the Hoover meeting have been marked by tremendous changes in how researchers access and use Japanese serials and newspapers in North America. In particular, online access to periodical indexes and other reference tools, as well as to Japanese library catalogs, is now commonplace. International interlibrary loan and document delivery between Japan and the U.S. is increasingly a routine matter. One thing has not changed at all: budgetary constraints remain the primary reason for inadequate coverage of Japanese serials and newspapers in North America.

In the midst of all this change, however, steady progress was made toward objectives set forth by the task forces for national planning for serials and newspapers. For a brief period (1995-96) an emphasis was placed on Japanese scientific/technical serial literature. Due to complexities impeding progress in that limited area, attention was then shifted back to the more general problem of access to the full range of Japanese serial literature from North America. In 1997 the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project was initiated as part of the Global Resources Program. The Japan Project aims to improve access to Japanese journals in North America (union listing; cooperative collection development; retrospective conversion; use of document delivery sources) as well as in Japan (cooperation with Japanese libraries; NACSIS training; e-journals).

Early emphasis and focus was placed on 1) building the infrastructure to improve knowledge of holdings in North American libraries, and 2) expanding access to electronic resources and Japanese collections. As a result, collaborative collection development for current subscriptions to and back files of Japanese serials and newspapers recommended by the Hoover task forces has not yet been undertaken on a significant scale.

II. Summary of achievements

a) Union Listings

*National Union List of Current Japanese Serials in East Asian Libraries of North America, compiled by Yasuko Makino and Mihoko Miki with the assistance of Isamu Miura and Kenji Niki -- published by the CEAL Subcommittee on Japanese Materials, 1992.

*Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers 1998 - (under construction)
<http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu/uljsn/>

b) NACSIS and other training opportunities

* Several librarians have been sent to Japan over the past several years to attend training programs at NACSIS and the National Diet Library, allowing them to become familiar with use of Japanese databases and to train others in the U.S. and Canada.

c) Cooperation with Japanese libraries

* A project with Waseda University Library for expedited interlibrary loan and document delivery began in late 1998. As of late 1999, 17 U.S. and Canadian libraries are participating in the project and ordering books and photocopies from Waseda.

* A document delivery pilot project with 5 members of the Association of National University Libraries and NACSIS and 10 U.S. libraries to facilitate ordering and delivery of copies of journal articles and book chapters was initiated in 1999.

d) Retrospective conversion of Japanese serials

*survey undertaken (1997); results posted to the web site

*large Japanese collections now being input into bibliographic utilities (Harvard, UCLA, Washington)

*Waseda's WINE records added to OCLC

e) Online availability of tables of contents

*publishers making tables of contents (TOCs) increasingly available on their web sites

*NACSIS publishing TOCs for many kiyo and other academic publications

*libraries posting Japanese TOCs to web sites (includes projects initiated as part of the East Asian Libraries Cooperative WWW 1994-96 (funding from JUSFC& US Dept of Ed Title II-C) funding to 10 universities for development of web sites to promote resource sharing and remote access to resources

f) Several applications for funding to underwrite cooperative collection development for Japanese serials were unsuccessful for a variety of reasons.

Title VI Foreign Periodicals Program (1992), IMLS (1998), and VI Sec 606 (1999)

III. General Setting

Publishing: The number of serials published in Japan continues to increase, up from 18,081 titles published by 10,038 institutions in 1989 to 22,624 titles published by 13,048 institutions in 1998. (Zasshi Shinbun Sokatarogu 1990 & 1999 editions) Formats are increasingly varied, with some white papers and newspaper backfiles now being issued on CD-ROM or DVD. Comparatively

few publishers are marketing e-journals in a coordinated manner, the way US/European e-journals are now licensed. Behind the scenes, though, publishers are getting ready to issue electronic journals and/or versions of current journals. The National Diet Library is actively involved in coordinating this evolution. Some archival materials (Mainichi photo archives, for example) are accessible over the web.

Libraries: Of the 33 U.S. and Canadian libraries reporting more than 100 titles of current Japanese serials in the CEAL survey for 1990 (CEAL Bulletin 92), only 8 showed a decline by the 1998 survey (JEAL 117). All others reported increases. Still, the extent of increase was relatively small when compared to the total output of serials in Japan. Overall, there has not been much progress made in expanding the total number of unique Japanese serial titles acquired nationally. Over the past decade, many libraries have improved their interlibrary loan/document delivery capabilities, in part because they are not able to collect as comprehensively as they would like.

Researchers: Scholars increasingly are familiar with and adept at using Japanese electronic resources. The range of primary and secondary sources being used by scholars continues to expand, especially into such areas as popular culture and local/regional studies. Many faculty and students are of a mindset that local ownership is still preferable to remote access, however well coordinated.

IV. Issues

a) Related to serials and cooperative collection development

***Funding**

Should funding for new titles come from canceling duplicated titles or from a competitive grant on a matching basis (like MVS)? The latter was recommended by the task force that produced a report on Japanese materials for the ARL Foreign Acquisitions Project in 1993. In the case of serials, what should the priorities be for external funding? Would Japanese collections be able to leverage additional support (from their own institutions or from funding agencies) by re-directing serial funds cooperatively to expand the number of unique titles available nationally for researchers to use?

***Licensing**

Already some databases are available (Nichigai Web Service, etc). We know that there will be more, along with electronic journals and other publications. Individual libraries will not be able to afford subscriptions to everything. We should begin to develop expertise in approaching Japanese publishers for cooperative licensing arrangements that make subscriptions to these services available as widely as possible in North America. Is there potential for applying funding from JUSFC/JF to help make such services more widely available?

***Core/periphery**

At the Hoover meeting there seemed to be general consensus on core and periphery with regard to journal publications. As scholarly interests expand and diversify, it becomes harder to determine those boundaries. Are these terms still meaningful and useful in this context?

***Commitment**

Coordinated collection development implies making a commitment to collect a particular title for a certain period of time, especially in the case of unique titles. Does this create problems when local priorities shift?

***National coordination/local initiatives/workgroups**

How to coordinate cooperative collection development of serials and newspapers is an issue. The Hoover serials task force recommended a task force that would evaluate the extent of duplication of particular titles, keep abreast of new titles, and actively encourage libraries to shift funds to new titles. Another alternative is to set a target of a specific amount of money/percentage of budget to be shifted at each participating institution on a voluntary basis. Yet another possibility would be to establish groups coordinating specific categories/topics.

***Should libraries provide table of contents as part of their commitment to collect unique serial titles in a national project?**

***Backfiles**

Should a special project to encourage filling in back files of serials be established (similar to MVS)? Recommended in the 1993 ARL task force report. Or should this continue to be included as part of MVS?

***Government documents *Regional documentation *Grey literature**

Should coverage of gov docs/local serials/grey lit be the focus of a special projects or be included as part of overall serial coordination? The Japan Documentation Center at the Library of Congress improved access to Japanese grey literature through acquisitions and abstracting services. Now that the JDC project is coming to an end should any initiatives be undertaken to reduce negative impacts?

***Gaps in collections**

Should there be a concerted effort to acquire missing volumes and issues to ensure complete runs of titles?

***Material not held in Japan**

Is there a need to identify and collect titles not held by Japanese libraries but of interest to scholars (such as popular materials)?

b) Related to the union list

***The current union list is a separate union list. Does it need to continue as a separate, stand-alone union list? Or, should it be merged into OCLC and/or RLIN?**

***Z39.50 access is making interconnections to library catalogs easier - should the union list exploit this technology as a basis for its development? Should patron-initiated ordering be added?**

*Union list was initiated largely to be a repository for decisions about cooperative collecting - it has yet to be used in this way - should it?

* Comments and suggestions about how to develop the union list have been received - how should such comments (sometimes conflicting) be resolved? Would a more active advisory committee help? Distributing input of records/holdings has been suggested - how should the work of participants/volunteers be coordinated?

c) Related to newspapers

Hoover task force recommended: 1) acquire complete files of 5 national newspapers in each region of the US, 2) recommend microfilm instead of reduced print versions for newspapers, 3) extend coverage of backfiles to other titles. Is this still the best approach?

In 1993 the task force that prepared a report on Japanese materials for the ARL Foreign Acquisitions Project recommended that one complete file of each of the four major newspapers (Mainichi, Nihon Keizai, Sankei and Yomiuri) be ensured in research libraries of North America. They also suggested CRL increase its holdings of Japanese newspapers (only Asahi is held at CRL). Would CRL be a good location for holding all of the newspaper back files? Will the upcoming change of CRL's leadership affect our preferences? How should the funding of these titles be arranged? (foundations, CRL-type newspaper project, the responsibility of individual libraries?)

Electronic indexes to and full text databases of Japanese newspapers are becoming widespread, but often with price tags and/or pricing arrangements that put them out of the reach of most North American research libraries. Are consortial licensing arrangements possible? Which databases are of most interest to our users? What can we do to make these resources more widely accessible to our users?

d) Related to access

Is providing access to materials not held by North American libraries needed or important? If yes, is providing access to Japanese libraries as important as building local collections? Are there other libraries/subject areas/collections that could serve as future pilots? What about the technical infrastructure needed to request of and receive from Japanese libraries (not on OCLC, not using Ariel, etc.)? What about the Japanese copyright law that is interpreted to prohibit electronic transmission? How can we overcome the hurdles of payments in different currencies?

Is there a need to establish closer cooperation with the Japanese Information Center for Science and Technology? Are there other organizations with which we should establish ties?

Is a current awareness service a useful/necessary component to improve remote access to Japanese serials?

e) Other general issues

What about the scalability of any and all of these initiatives?

What are the financial implications of these initiatives and proposals? Who will finance the add-on costs of the administration of the various projects and initiatives?

How do we evaluate the success of the project? If the goal of the Japan Journal Access Project is to expand access to research materials published in Japan and to coordinate Japanese collection development activities in North American libraries, how can we measure the extent to which the Project is meeting that goal?

V. Proposals

a) Initiate a cooperative collection development project for Japanese serials

Is a cooperative collection development project still desirable and needed? Should the project identify subject areas not collected in the US and Canada? What about primary source materials? How extensive should this project be?

Assuming a project is needed, how do we go about deciding on the details such as Number of titles? Amount of money to be redirected? Other ways to participate? Type of management? Nationally coordinated? Individual initiative? Set by dollar amount or number of titles or other criteria, or group (subject, type of publication etc.)? Extent of commitment? Length of time? Responsibility for TOCs, etc.?

b) Initiate a project to collect Japanese newspaper backfiles

Is this a project that could be funded by JUSFC? Start with the major newspapers and continue to all others for which backfiles on microfilm are available? Keep at CRL? Keep in individual libraries?

c) Extend union list to include decisions made for cooperative collection development

Is it desirable to distribute development and maintenance of the union list to contributors? What information needs to be added to make the union list a useful tool for selecting/deselecting titles?

Should table of contents be included? If yes, how should they be posted? Centrally as part of the union list or in a distributed manner, according to the preferences of each institution -- is there a preferred methodology?

d) Develop one or more document delivery projects with Japanese libraries

Are there specific types of materials that are difficult to obtain from North American libraries? If yes, what types? Is there a need to borrow books and microfilm or should the projects be limited to photocopies? Should we consider libraries in other countries or document suppliers when thinking about pilots?

e) Set up a task force to investigate the possibilities for consortial licensing

There are a number of Japanese databases, such as Nichigai Web Service, or the various newspaper files that are not widely subscribed by North American libraries. Is there interest in developing a license for selected titles that would be available to the entire community? Can NCC negotiate on our behalf? Or is there another organization that could negotiate a successful license? What are the barriers that might prevent such licensing? Which titles are the best candidates for licensed access?