

## **From Hoover to 2000 an Assessment**

### **Review of the Hoover Recommendations and Accomplishments 1992-2000**

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In November of 1991, two organizations that have played major roles in Japanese Studies libraries and librarianship, the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership, sponsored a meeting at the Hoover Institute. Twenty-seven librarians from twenty-three U.S. libraries participated in the meeting along with three representatives from Japan and three faculty members. The NCC was founded in 1992 following the recommendations made at the Hoover meeting.

Today the NCC consists of a council, two standing committees and two task forces; in addition to a chair, there is a paid, half-time director. The Council includes two faculty members, one each in the social sciences and humanities, five Japanese Studies librarians from North American libraries, representing large, medium and small collections, a liaison from Japan and representatives of organizations interested in Japanese Studies librarianship – the Association of Research Libraries, Northeast Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies, the American Advisory Committee of the Japan Foundation, the Council on East Asian Libraries, and the Library of Congress.

At Hoover nine task forces made recommendations in three areas: collection development, access, and librarian training. Many of those recommendations have been implemented, either by the NCC or by other groups within the United States, but some are still pending. In addition changes in technology and the priorities of the field of Japanese studies may have altered demand as it was perceived ten years ago. This meeting, today and tomorrow, has been organized to give us an opportunity to review outstanding Hoover recommendations, to determine which remain matters that need pursuing, and to identify new or re-ordered priorities to guide the NCC in the next decade.

#### **Collection Development: Hoover Recommendations**

1. Japanese Regional Documentation  
Task Force #1 recommended expanding subject coverage and inviting more libraries to participate.
2. Multi-Volume Sets  
Task Force #2 recommended establishing a committee to identify expensive sets not being collected in this country, oversee their distribution and ensure access for all users.
3. Current Serials  
Task Force #3 recommended creating a plan to increase total subscriptions nationally, assuring the availability of important periodical titles and closing existing gaps in national holdings. Specifically, it called for establishing a national serials coordinator, reviewing duplication of peripheral serials and deciding which libraries should continue,

cancel or subscribe to them and preparing proposals to subsidize new expensive subscriptions and to fund filling in incomplete holdings.

4. Newspaper Backfiles

Task Force #4 recommended acquiring a complete file of five national newspapers in each region and extending coverage to other papers.

5. Future Areas of Collection Development

Task Force #5 included both short and long term goals. One focused on meetings to facilitate collaboration at both the regional level (every two years) and the national level (every 4-5 years). Other goals focused on the acquisition and processing of "gray literature", and the allocation of responsibility for developing and maintaining specialized collections.

### **Accomplishments:**

Since 1992, a number of initiatives have addressed collections issues:

The Multi-volume Set project was founded in 1993 and has received funding annually from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission for a project to acquire expensive research materials not routinely collected in this country. A commitment to rapid cataloging, cost sharing and free ILL are prerequisites for participating in this program. A total of 134 titles have been acquired by 23 libraries through this program.

The guidelines for the Japan Foundation Library Support Program were changed to emphasize resource sharing. New emphasis was placed on accessibility at a national level, to be done by adding acquired titles to OCLC or RLIN, the accessibility of the collection by and outreach to users at nearby institutions, and cooperation on a regional or national level, best exemplified by building specialized niche collections or building on existing strengths. In this way, libraries have applied for funding based on their own needs but have also addressed the national need for the division of responsibility for developing and maintaining specialized collections.

Another project begun in 1996 on the initiative of ACE-Japan (Japan Association for Cultural Exchange) is the Japan Art Catalog project. The objectives of the JAC project are to strengthen Japanese fine arts resources in the U.S. by systematically collecting currently published exhibition or collection catalogs from Japan, and providing national access to the materials acquired. The Freer Gallery is cataloging the catalogs in RLIN and providing free interlibrary loan and/or photocopy services. This project targets a valuable and difficult to acquire set of materials of much interest to U.S. scholars.

In addition, serial and newspaper backfiles not held in the United States have been acquired through MVS funding, Japan Foundation grants and regional efforts, including that of the University of California system which has acquired the complete backfiles of five national daily newspapers: Asahi-Stanford, Nikkei-UCB, Mainichi-UCLA, Yomiuri-Santa Barbara, Sankei-UC Davis.

Finally, the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership provided funding for the Japan Documentation Center at the Library of Congress to collect gray literature from 1992 to March 2000. Unfortunately, the JDC will close its doors on March 31, 2000. The Library of Congress has committed to maintaining JDC's database which includes an abstract of every item acquired and will continue to collect gray literature, but intends to provide only collection level cataloging rather than item records and does not intend to use expedited delivery for their acquisition. Hence, a problem which has been solved for the past eight years has resurfaced, and a long term, institutional solution is needed.

### **Services and Access: Hoover Recommendations**

1. Retrospective Conversion  
Task Force #6 recommended that we seek funding for retrospective conversion of card catalog records for Japanese books.
2. User Access to Materials  
Task Force #7 examined communication among librarians, interlibrary loan and access to bibliographic and holdings records in the United States and Japan.
3. Access to Japanese Databases  
Task Force #8 recommended the creation of a committee or task force to make recommendations about Japanese databases and to develop programs to acquire them

### **Accomplishments:**

While the NCC was unsuccessful in finding funding for retrospective conversion, many of the largest collections have begun and are close to completing recon with internal funding: Michigan, UCLA and Hawaii (finished), Harvard (only serials remain), the University of Washington at Seattle (about 80%), Columbia (about 90%), Yale and UCB (over 50%) and Chicago (less than 25%). This leaves only Stanford and Princeton who have not begun from the largest collections. Recon records have been loaded into RLIN and OCLC, aiding other institutions as they do their own recon, as well as scholars looking for books.

The creation of an electronic Union List of Serials and Newspapers at Ohio-State will, when complete, provide up-to-date access to holdings of current serials through the use of Z39.50 technology. NACSIS book and serial catalogs which are freely available over the web through NACSIS Webcat provide both bibliographic information and holdings records. Thus, these three advances, recon of Japanese collections in the U.S., the creation of a serials union list, and access to book and journal holdings in Japan have greatly expanded access to Japanese information.

Likewise, communication among librarians and scholars has been facilitated by the spread of computers and the growth of Listservs. For instance, while only 15 out of 51 Japanese Studies librarians surveyed had a personal computer in 1992, no one lacks such access today, and the East Asian librarians' listserv as well as H-Japan, J-lit, Easianth, SSJ-Forum, has facilitated access to information about materials not in OCLC and RLIN.

Interlibrary loan has improved greatly. Some of this has been aided by recon, but ARL has played an important role in improving national practices, particularly speed of delivery. The two pilot document delivery projects with Waseda and the Association of National University Libraries presently underway are providing an institutional framework for ILL with Japan while at the same time helping to address the issue of serials not held in the United States. They are also serving as models on how to facilitate borrowing across national boundaries.

Finally, Japanese databases provided by NACSIS and Nichigai have become widely available. The NCC and NACSIS signed a memorandum of understanding in 1998 to build closer working relations. The NCC through the AAU/ARL Global Resources Project received funding from the CGP and NEAC to train five librarians to instruct scholars and librarians in the use of NACSIS. CEAL's Committee on Japanese Materials and the Committee on Technology have provided information on the acquisition and use of Japanese databases.

### **Recruitment and Training of Librarians: Hoover Recommendations**

1. Task Force #9 considered methods of recruitment and possible programs of fellowship support, internships, mid-career training, group study, individual study and management training. It recommended the establishment of a Japanese studies librarianship program for library school students, the establishment of an outreach program to recruit new librarians, and the establishment of an annual summer workshop.

### **Accomplishments**

A variety of programs have addressed the specialized training needs of Japanese Studies librarians and recruitment of new librarians has been less of a problem than initially assumed, despite the large number of retirements. Successful training programs include:

- The CEAL Committee on Japanese Studies conducted librarian training workshops coinciding with the AAS annual meetings in 1993 and 1999; in addition, mini seminars on electronic resources, government documents and image databases were held during the CEAL annual meetings.
- Mid-career or Senior Japanese librarians training was established up by the Japan Foundation and the National Diet Library in 1997, to continue for five years. The US and Canada have sent eight librarians.
- The Japan Foundation has also initiated a 6 month Japanese language program for librarians in Japan in order for them to improve their ability to manage Japanese language materials.
- Special programs such as the CGP-funded NACSIS training in Tokyo, or Freer's Rare Book workshop (January 2000).

### **Assessment**

This meeting provides a chance to take stock, to see what has been accomplished, what is pending and where we want to go. Are all of the Hoover recommendations relevant today? Are there other ways of achieving the same goals? What has changed since Hoover? Are there new initiatives, such as digitization, which we need to consider.

Reviewing what has worked, I come to the following conclusions. The most successful ways of cooperating have been voluntary, have met local needs (otherwise defined as institutional self-interest), have taken local academic and collection strengths into account and have been scalable. The Japan Foundation library support program, the MVS project and the JAC project have been successful because they have met local needs for materials and have built on local strengths. These projects have made it possible to deepen research collections in North America without unnecessary duplication. Each library in submitting an application has chosen the area or the requested titles. Clearly for cooperation to succeed, it must emphasize institutional advancement and enhanced service to users rather than saving money.

Another factor that has contributed to the success of various projects has been the vision and commitment of various people, especially those who helped to launch each project who saw what cooperation could accomplish and who had a commitment to pursue it— they drew up project guidelines, found funding and recruited others to help them. Throughout its existence the NCC has depended on the subject expertise, time and energy of volunteers who have served on top of full time jobs. As I look out into a room full of new faces who have joined our ranks since 1992, I see new recruits for committees. But as we consider implementing new projects, we need to realize that both projects and volunteer recruitment will be most successful when our time and energy will serve national AND local needs at the same time.

Of course, none of this would have as easy without improvements in communication. The spread of computers, the growth of listservs and the presence of shared online bibliographic databases in OCLC and RLIN have all facilitated the sharing of resources and knowledge, allowed libraries to specialize and made

The NCC has worked with a number of individual libraries and institutions to achieve its goals. As a national level organization it has been able to negotiate with NACSIS, Waseda and the Association of National University Libraries and to influence the programs supported by the Japan Foundation. None of these could have been addressed at the individual library level. One of the unspoken goals of the Hoover was to build institutional frameworks so we would not need to rely on personal connections to get materials from Japan – this has been done.

One other ingredient for success has been outside funding. Outside funding was the catalyst that brought cooperation into being and has been critical to its success. The ongoing support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the Japan Foundation has led to the hiring of a half-time director, provided funds for projects like MVS and the Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers, and facilitated the activities of the NCC. That support has made possible the creation of a formal organizational structure which has been central to the success of the NCC.

Now we must ask where can we use our strengths to achieve greater cooperation and greater access to materials. I can suggest a few possible areas of activity: development of a digital

library for Japanese Studies which might include consortial purchases of database subscriptions; this would provide access to databases for scholars not affiliated with a major research library; voluntary reallocation of 7% of collections budgets to support an area of local strength could increase the depth of collections held in North America, encouragement of other libraries to support Japanese recon and the addition of serial holdings to online catalogs, and working with ARL and Japanese database providers to produce licenses which can be signed by our research libraries. Serving under-served constituencies and international projects seem particularly suitable.

In conclusion, a history of successful cooperation leaves us poised to initiate new projects. By cooperating, we can build local, national and international collections that serve both our institutions and the world.