

NCC Winter Meeting, 1998
January 9-10
Hotel Durant, Berkeley, California

Minutes

In attendance: T. Miyakawa, H. Morimoto (Friday only), H. Springer, P. Steinhoff, K. Troost, E. Krauss, I. Morita, S. Noguchi, A. Heinrich, D. Gregor

Absent: G. Hoetker, M. Tamanoi

Guests: E. Gangloff, M. Uchiyama

I. Introduction

Chair K. Troost welcomed the group and set the agenda.

II. Reports from funding agencies

A. Japan Foundation--M. Uchiyama

42 applications for the Library Support Program have been received and will be reviewed at the Library Support Advisory Subcommittee meeting on Sunday, January 11 (7 in category A1, 24 in category A2, 8 in category B1, 3 in category B2). The second Senior Librarians' Training Program will be offered later this month in Tokyo in cooperation with the National Diet Library. E. Okuizumi from the University of Chicago will be attending from the U.S. Unfortunately The Foundations's funding will probably be down further in 98/99, and it is difficult to know what impact that might have on library support. On January 11 the Subcommittee met and concluded its review of the 42 applications and the outcome was sent to the Japan Foundation New York Office.

B. Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission--E. Gangloff

There is no prospect for the privatization of the Commission; staff are working to create more flexible funding arrangements. At present dollars assets must be invested in treasury bonds and yen assets in Japanese government bonds, so returns are very low. In Japan the return is 0.5% which won't even cover the management of the funds. Congress is aware that the arrangement is antiquated, but change has been held up because the provision was included in the legislation for the foreign affairs budget along with other more problematic items which resulted in a veto. It is not clear when the change might be enacted.

Proposals to the Commission are down 50% from 10 years ago, but the proposals which are received are good ones and reflect a growing sophistication in the applicants. China studies are attracting more attention these days. The Commission's program priorities are the teaching of Japanese language and sending U.S. students to study in Japan.

The Commission is setting up a 501(c)3 foundation called the Bridging Foundation, in hopes of broadening its funding base.

III. CULCON's Working Group on Information Access--E. Gangloff, NCC members

Using a summary of the recommendations from the CULCON Working Group on Information Access as an outline for discussion, the group developed a status report for the Commission. Among the points brought out were the following:

--Japanese Bibliographic Databases

Zasshi Kiji Sakuin is now easily available on the Web through the Nichigai service which is inexpensive for individual subscribers. Nichigai service includes a document delivery capability, but no one in the group had experience with the service. The NACSIS-IR version is not available direct to individuals outside of Japan and the hours are very limited. Japanese Studies librarians want to be able to distribute passwords to individual users. Although the group is very pleased to have the NACSIS Webcat freely available, concerns were expressed about the lack of readings for names and uniform titles. The NCC will write a letter to NACSIS outlining the needs of U.S. users.

Although there are CD-Roms available for various resources, they pose service problems because of the need to insure compatibility between U.S. and Japanese hardware/software.

--Government Documents

The Japanese situation is much like that of the U.S. in that there is no centralized function for collecting and distributing official government publications. The various Ministries have home pages with varying amounts of information and functionality. the National Diet Library is expanding the information it has available, but it has a long way to go. The Minutes of the deliberations of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Diet are available on the Web. Discussion about access to government documents is sometimes less than clear because there is no widely accepted definition of the range of materials included in "government documents".

In the U.S. the Japan Documentation Center's scanning operation is changing over to the creation of PDF images which will be on the Internet. Because of copyright concerns bibliographic information will be made available, but full text can be used only in-house at LC until it is clear whether or not Japanese government documents are subject to copyright restrictions. There will be Table of Contents information associated with much of the bibliographic information provided.

CEAL's Japanese Materials Committee has selected Japanese government documents as the topic of the mini-seminar portion of its program and will have three presentations on them at the AAS meeting in Washington.

--Reading Japanese Text on Non-Japanese OS Hardware

The latest version of Twinbridge supports more character sets. T. Miyakawa distributed a demo CD-ROM with software for surfing the Web

in multiple language fonts. E. Krauss mentioned "AsiaSurf" which allows Web surfing in Japanese.

--Newspaper, Journal Articles

Japan seems to be experience the same phenomenon we have seen in the U.S., i.e., that content providers are dropping out of aggregating services such as Niftyserve in order to provide their own service, making it more difficult for users to find what they need. Niftyserve is moving from telnet to the Web and will be easier to use. Table of Contents for Japanese serials are increasingly available, but do not seem to be archived. Strong support was voiced for gathering information on how to find articles n Japanese newspapers--what indexes to newspapers are available either in print or on-line?

--Translation of Japanese to English

I. Morita discussed the problem of wasted effort if the translation is not used, suggesting a staged strategy. First a quick and dirty translation of an abstract or partial text with full translation provided once it is determined that the item is of definite interest. For machine translation it was pointed out that the lexicon for the social sciences and humanities is very difficult to develop.

Additionally, E. Krauss spoke to the need to develop visual resource archives of e.g., television news and other TV programs, so that scholars could access current and historical news coverage.

IV. Japanese Liaison report--T. Miyakawa

A. Proposal of NACSIS to NCC on Memorandum of Understanding

The NCC responded enthusiastically to the NACSIS proposal for a MOU of mutual cooperation. The NCC prepared the English language version for the Chair to send to Dr. Inose along with an inquiry about whether a Japanese version will also be needed. The Liaison reported after the meeting that, as in the case of the British Library, the English language version of the MOU will be considered the official version.

B. NCC's ILL proposal and the response of ANUL and Waseda

T. Miyakawa described the situation in Japan with regard to the ANUL and Waseda responses to the invitation of the NCC to participate in the ILL component of the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project. Both parties have responded positively (and NCC has since also written to invite participation from Keio University). Universities in Japan are not organized as they are in the U.S. so there is no single counterpart organization to the ARL. Instead, there is ANUL (Association of National University Libraries) with a permanent secretariat at the University of Tokyo and JAPULS (Japanese Association of Private University Libraries) whose secretariat rotates from year to year. There is a "bridging committee" among the different library organizations, and NCC may be able to interact with that committee. However, there is no secretariat for the bridging committee, so it is not clear how it will function over time.

Prior to the time that NCC sent its invitations ANUL had formed two committees dealing with ILL to work on developing the NACSIS ILL subsystem and to work on improving the payment system.

I. Morita remarked that she hoped that the Library of Congress will be included in the Project so that LC's collections can be open to international ILL.

C. 1997 Training Program of Japanese Studies Senior Librarians by the Japan Foundation.

This program will be held from Jan. 18 through February 7 and will include 12 librarians from Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, China, Australia, Canada, Britain, France, and the U.S. (in the person of E. Okuizumi).

D. Basic Requirement for the selection of NCC Japan Liaison Member.

Although NCC members wished for a clone of Miyakawa-san as his replacement when his term ends June 30, 1998, requirements for a new Japan Liaison Member were discussed and included the following:

- Knowledge of the needs of Japanese studies users overseas
- Experience with the needs of librarians serving Japanese studies clientele
- Knowledge of Japanese language processing in a digital environment
- Ability to contact funding agencies in Japan
- Ability to serve as an intermediary with Japanese library organizations (probably the most important requirement)
- Willingness to fly to U.S. and deal with meetings in English

T. Miyakawa will work with Mrs. Togasaki (previous Japanese Liaison) and Dr. Inoue (of NACSIS) to recommend a replacement to the NCC by March 15. NCC will send a formal invitation and T. Miyakawa will contact personally.

IV. Financial report--D. Gregor

D. Gregor provided a summary spreadsheet of 97/98 funding and expenditures to date. It was noted that funding from the Japan Foundation was a bit late this year, but should be received in the next 2-3 weeks. The Philadelphia meeting was a little over budget, so it is hoped that the Berkeley meeting will be under budget.

V. AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project update--D. Gregor

A. NACSIS workshops

These workshops are part of the Project effort to spread the word about electronic resources available from Japan. The CGP/NEAC grant provided funding for sending 5 trainers to Japan and for supporting workshops by the trainers upon their return to the U.S. Several workshops have been given--4 at Berkeley, 1 at UCLA, and 1 at Mt. Holyoke. NACSIS sent two staff members to help with the first round of workshops which received good reviews. NCC members were encouraged to suggest

additional workshop sites so that we can introduce the NACSIS resources to scholars and students throughout the U.S.

B. ILL

As indicated above invitations to participate in the ILL component of the Project have been sent to ANUL, Waseda, and Keio. So far ANUL and Waseda have responded positively. ANUL libraries are working on developing an Ariel-like electronic messaging system and want to wait for its completion to begin. They are also working on simplifying payment mechanisms. Waseda intends to use the OCLC-ILL and IFM subsystems, but wants to load the rest of its retrospectively converted records before initiating ILL relations. It looks as though we will be starting this part of the Project in summer, 1998.

Although not enforceable, group sentiment was that the Project should require reciprocity, i.e., borrowers must also be lenders.

C. Union List of Serials and Newspapers in North American Libraries

The project outline provided by Maureen Donovan was reviewed and an argument made for including *kanji* for journal titles earlier rather than later in the project development. The ULS database is under development as part of the ARL Project site at OSU's East Asian Libraries Cooperative World Wide Web site. Holdings for OSU, the University of Oregon, and Harvard newspapers are already loaded. University of Toronto holdings will be loaded next. Since part of the funding for the Project is coming from the funds provided by the Commission for the development of a list of current newspaper holdings, priority will be given to including newspapers in the database.

In conjunction with discussion of the development of a newspaper and serials union list, E. Krauss stressed the need for access to indexes of Japanese newspapers and to the full text. What is indexed and for what periods? Where are the indexes located?

The NCC will set up a Task Force to develop a summary for searching for Japanese newspaper articles and post it on the Project Web site.

VI. MVS Project report--K. Troost, D. Gregor

The MVS Subcommittee will be meeting in Berkeley on February 14 at the Hotel Durant. Fred Kotas has arranged for very inexpensive airfares for attendees. Two issues have been raised by the Subcommittee for NCC discussion: 1) Should copies held at LC be considered "circulating" copies? 2) Should the Subcommittee award funds to purchase multiple copies of the Meiji microform set?

NCC agreed that copies at LC were no different from copies held elsewhere and that they should be considered as "circulating". In regard to microforms it is necessary to make sure that a microform copy does, indeed, circulate, but microforms should not be duplicated as long as a circulating copy is available in the U.S.

NCC also discussed the desirability of opening a bank account in Japan in order to increase the number of purchasing agents which could be used by the MVS Subcommittee for its awards. (At present all the MVS funds are deposited in an account with JPTC which serves as our agent in Japan.) Former members of the MVS Subcommittee expressed concerns about adding to the already heavy workload of the Subcommittee by increasing the paperwork involved in administering the funds. The conclusion was that should the Commission make further MVS Project awards to the NCC, we would ask the Commission to deposit the yen funds in Japan after it was ascertained whether all items could be purchased through a single vendor. We might, for example, request deposits at two different vendors, e.g., JPTC and Yushodo, if there were a number of requests for Yushodo microfilms and if Yushodo agrees to give the NCC a significant discount.

VII. Funding Proposals status report--D. Gregor

There was little to report since none of the proposals submitted to date have received support. D. Gregor will next try some of the larger foundations for funding the fellowship/intern proposal for training future Japanese Studies librarians. Nippon Zaidan was mentioned as another possible source, along with supplementary funding from NEAC.

VIII. NEAC report--E. Krauss

E. Krauss reported on NEAC's December meeting in Chicago where proposals were reviewed. Like the Commission's experience, the number of proposal received was down, but there were some of high quality. He also pointed attention to the teaching seminar-related portion of the competition as an area that NCC might want to keep in mind for possible submission of a proposal. E. Krauss will continue to be the NEAC representative to the NCC until Anne Allison (Duke) can serve (beginning fall 1998). Stephen Vlastos will be the next NEAC Chair.

IX. CEAL Japanese Materials Committee report--S. Noguchi

Unfortunately the JAPULS duplicate book project was aborted last year, although 12 applications were received from U.S. libraries. S. Noguchi received a letter dated Oct. 28, 1997, from Prof. T. Sakai, the University Librarian of Kyoto Sangyo Daigaku, currently the chair of JAPULS. The letter was a response to S. Noguchi's July, 1997, request to reinstate the gift book project between CEAL and JAPULS. Prof. Takai's letter stated that JAPULS is in the process of planning the activities of its international library cooperation programs, and a gift book program may be developed in the future. Although JAPULS as an organization has not mounted a program, about 30,165 volumes have been sent overseas from individual Japanese libraries.

CEAL will sponsor a miniseminar on government documents at the AAS meeting in Washington.

X. Library of Congress report--I. Morita

The bicentennial of the Library of Congress will be celebrated in the year 2000, and LC is soliciting ideas for how to celebrate its first 200 years. RFP responses for the development of an integrated automation system are due by the end of February. Although CJK capability is not a first round requirement, I. Morita has been trying to insure that its inclusion receive a high priority for second round development. The NCC will write to Winston Tabb supporting the need for a CJK capability. The Acquisition Directorate has been reorganized so that orders/receipts are no longer organized by format. James McClelland is the Head of Japanese, Korean and non-Chinese Asian materials processing. During AAS there will be a Friday afternoon program for scholars at LC. The processing of the Japanese serials backlog is progressing nicely with materials being sent to OCLC for minimal level cataloging. I. Morita thought that the International Gray Literature Conference held in November was quite successful; the Center for Research Libraries will probably sponsor the 4th such conference in two years.

XI. Nominating Committee report--K. Troost

Chaired by K. Troost, S. Noguchi (CEAL) and E. Krauss (NEAC) also serve on the Nominating Committee. Replacements are needed for two librarians (K. Kahler and H. Springer) and one faculty member (M. Tamanoi). Librarian candidates will be contacted in the following order: M. Miki (UCLA), S. Harrison (U. Wash), T. Gonnami (UBC), Y. Makino. R. Yoshimura (Freer) might represent the special library community should G. Hoetker be unable to continue. Faculty candidates will be contacted in the following order: S. Miller (U. color.), G. Bernstein (U. Ariz.), D. Smethurst (U. Pittsburgh)

XII. Stanford II Planning-K. Troost

A. Task Force appointment

The following people were or will be asked to serve as members of the Year 2000 Planning Task Force: K. Troost, Chair; S. Hastings, Y. Ishimatsu, Y. Matsudo, T. Miyakawa, P. Steinhoff

B. Organization and content

The planning meeting will be held at the AAS meeting in San Diego in the year 2000. Attendees should include Japanese Studies librarians (including some who attended the planning meeting at Stanford in 1991), Japanese Studies faculty, Japanese representatives interested in scholarly communication with U.S. counterparts (e.g., NACSIS, ANUL, JAPULS, CGP, JF), Japanese studies librarians and faculty new to the field.

The Planning Task Force will decide on the length and content of the meeting, but it will probably be a day and a half meeting held prior to the AAS meeting as a preconference.

Funding possibilities include NEAC and the Nippon Zaidan (formerly the Sasakawa Foundation)

D. Gregor will develop a draft charge for the Planning Task Force for review by NCC.

T. Miyakawa said it would be useful to have a concept paper for the planning meeting by the end of May in order to use it during June and July budget negotiations for 1999 Fiscal year (April 1999-March 2000) in Government and public organizations and meetings of library associations in Japan.

XIII. Next meeting place and date

The fall meeting will be held on September 13-14, 1998 at Duke University. Raleigh-Durham is the nearest airport.

