

**Meeting of the North American Coordinating Council
On Japanese Library Resources
Mayflower Park Hotel, Seattle, Washington
January 7th and 8th 2000**

Friday, January 7th Morning Session:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as revised following a discussion of the Japan Foundation Librarian training program. There is one more year on the current grant. Amy suggested that a letter should be sent to the JF, a general thank you and update on Sachie and the Sakaguchi situation. A decision was made that NCC should request that CEAL also write a letter on this topic to the Japan Foundation Tokyo Headquarters, with a cc to JF's New York Office, to Dr. Heinrich, and to the NCC. **Action: Letter to JF Tokyo and to the AAC with a CC to the New York office, before the AAC meetings (which Kris has done).**

Reports:

1) Margaret Mihori reported on the **Japan-United States Friendship Commission's** current activities. Among Commission goals are the two upcoming discussions of Commission programs and priorities. One day will be devoted to policy-related issues and the other will look at next generational issues. Three members of the NCC, John Campbell, Amy Heinrich and Vickey Bestor will participate in one or both of the meetings. The meetings will make recommendations for consideration at the Commission's next meeting in April at which time there will be a review of Commission programs and priorities.

The Commission will also hold a luncheon at the AAS meetings to which the NCC and all other grantees are invited. The lunch meeting will be on March 11th.

The Commission also asks input for the coming meeting of the Digital Culture Working Group Subcommittee of CULCON in June. Margaret clarified that the Commission (founded in 1975) and CULCON (founded in 1961) have partially overlapping boards. CULCON's role is only advisory. One of its key priorities has been the Digital Culture Project, which was launched with Commission support to collect and digitize critical multimedia resources on US-Japan relations, and make the materials accessible in a variety of ways, to a broad array of audiences.

2) The Japan Foundation's report was made by Laura Potter who noted that a full report on Foundation priorities and plans for the future will be presented at the March Conference by Mr. Toshiki Ando. She noted that the Foundation is currently revising its guidelines for library support and new guidelines will be announced after the meeting of the American Advisory Committee at the end of January.

She also noted the Foundation's concern over the drop in the number of applications for library support. Laura speculated that possibly reasons might be; a) a fundamental change in the field of Japanese studies and the libraries that support the field; b) a shift to interest in other geographical areas such as China and Korea; c) an increase in other funding sources; or d) the possibility that interlibrary loan has eased demand.

NCC members discussed the possible reasons for a decrease in application numbers and agreed that the reasons were different than those suggested by Ms. Potter. The Council

advised that the extremely detailed and time-consuming nature of the Japan Foundation proposal and the relative decline in the dollar amount of grants may be a principal cause. The Council therefore suggested that the Foundation consider giving fewer grants of larger amounts. Another problem that was identified is the very long time-lag between application in November and grant decision, sometimes as late as June. It was noted that acquisitions needs are more immediate than that. In addition libraries are locked into the list they propose and by the time a grant is made some priorities may change and other books be in greater demand.

It was also noted that there is a need for more feedback from the Foundation. Samples of successful grant applications should be available and publicized. There also needs to be greater clarification of programs and of Foundation support of projects in general.

Action: It was agreed that the Council should write the Japan Foundation asking them to consider libraries on the A and B categories separately, to provide more money for B libraries, and to summarize the NCC's opinions on its discussion of the Foundation, its programs and the decline in applications. Specific recommendations to the Foundation should include their consideration of workshops at the AAS for potential grantees. Place on NCC web the names of previous Japan Foundation grant committee members.

Action: It was also noted that there should be a link to Eric's grantsmanship piece on the NCC web site.

3) Staffing: Kris officially introduced Vickey Bestor, the new director and announced the appointment of Sachie Noguchi as NCC chair-elect. Sachie will serve as a member of the NCC for one year and assume the chair in January 2001.

4) MVS: Stephen Miller announced that the MVS committee meeting will meet in Boulder on February 26th. It was suggested that samples of successful MVS applications should be posted on the NCC web site.

5) ARL/AAU/NCC Japan Projects: Mary Jackson announced that there are now 17 libraries participating in the Waseda Project using OCLC for ordering and payment. There is a piece in the OCLC annual report on the project.

The ANUL Project: is testing with document delivery of photocopies of journal articles and book chapters. Experimentally they have waived fees to test the project. Testing between the US and Japanese libraries has begun, with US libraries using Ariel and Japanese participants using EPICWin. Over the longer term, RLG is investigating the possibility of translating the Ariel software into Japanese.

The Union List Project: Mary noted that the project is moving toward adoption of the Z39.50 protocol with technical and staffing improvements at Ohio State. Joe Branin the new library director at Ohio State is very supportive of the project. Mary continues to be the official liaison with the ULJSN project for NCC and ARL.

6) The Japan Art Catalog Project: Kris reported on behalf of Karl Kahler the committee's chair. The key question for the NCC to address is the handling of Japanese language catalogs of Western art. ACE Japan would like to send those catalogs to a repository in the US from which they could be searchable and circulate, as the Japanese art catalogues do from the Freer. Council members asked that Karl and Reiko Yoshimura at the Freer

outline the original guidelines for the project so that a competition to select an appropriate repository for the Western art catalogs can be conducted. The problems for Western language catalogers in dealing with Japanese language materials were noted.

Devising a better method for tracking and sending American catalogs of Japanese art was also discussed. It was suggested that notices should be placed on various Japan-related listservs. It was also suggested that the American Association of Museum Directors should be contacted to seek catalogs.

Action: Kris, Karl and Vickey will follow up on the above recommendations.

Miscellaneous business: John Campbell asked the Council's advice about ways of expanding subscriptions to the Bibliography of Asian Studies (BAS). The annual fee for the BAS is \$500-1,200 per year based on the size of the institution. Tamiko Matsumura noted that solicitations should be focused on individual scholars rather than Japanese libraries because libraries do not have independent budgets separate from faculty and research centers. However faculty in those centers have the funds to allocate for such subscriptions. It was suggested that the AAS sending mailings to the Asian Studies Conference in Japan and also to all registered AAS members in Japan.

Afternoon Session for Conference Planning:

The afternoon was devoted to discussions of Conference format, speakers, and session chairs. Tamiko Matsumura reported on the Japanese participants who will participate. She also agreed to identify additional representatives of major Japanese publishing companies to be invited to attend. A copy of the conference program as drafted based on these discussions is attached.

Following an introductory session that will review the Hoover recommendations and reports from the field provided by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, the Japan Foundation, NACSIS, NDL, and LC, a faculty session will discuss their changing needs. Pat Steinhoff will give an overview of the topic of "How will your research needs be met at the end of the decade?" followed by 4 other brief case studies. Those suggested as speakers include Ellis Krauss who might touch on issues related to government reports (at all levels), newspapers and dealing with the media; Mary Brinton who could speak about social science survey data; Stephen Buzwell who could discuss Japanese materials for studying Chinese and Korean religion (Stephen Miller will ask him); Maggie Childs who could discuss classical literature and the religion and art history in that period. Others suggested were Julie Davis a junior art historian at Oberlin; Haruo Shirane, Laurel Robb, Susan Napier, and Hitomi Tonomura. **Action: Finalize list of faculty speakers, make invitations, and finalize individual presentations.**

Following the luncheon break, Mary Jackson will speak on Understanding the Global Potential in the 4th session. Her discussion will include a look at other ARL/AAU Global Resources Programs and their initiatives. The 5th-7th sessions will deal with Copyright Issues in the US, Japan and Canada; Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery issues; and Moving into the Digital Future.

The session on Moving into the Digital Future was expanded from a breakout session to one offered to the full conference audience. **Kuniko McVey's bullets on the subject should be fleshed out for the session and a series of reference articles should be identified.** It is important to coordinate the session with the Friendship Commission's

recently funded Digital Culture Project at San Diego State University and to have speakers from major projects both in the US and Japan, these include the Virginia Text Initiative, Nichibunken, Mr. Kitamura of Chiba University, Sarah Thomas of Cornell, and possible someone from the NEH's division of Preservation and Access. **Action: Talk to Kuniko McVey about her ideas, determine other participants and make invitations to them.**

The morning of Tuesday March 7th will be devoted to a set of three concurrent hour-long breakout sessions enabling participants to attend three of the five sessions on Monographs, Serials, Recruitment and Training, Service to Underserved Scholars, and Technical Services. The tentative list of moderators for those sessions are Eddy Harrison, Sachie Noguchi and John Campbell each for one of the sessions on serials; Amy Heinrich, Mary Jackson, and Hideyuki Morimoto each for a monograph session; John Campbell for the recruitment and training session, Stephen Miller for the session on isolated or underserved scholars; and Amy Heinrich on the session on technical services.

The position papers for each session and their role were discussed and the following recommendations made to paper writers.

Monographs: Needs a framing of issues in light of change since the Hoover conference, needs to include more concrete recommendations, there needs to be reference to surveys such as those of ARL, and elaboration of monographs within the larger field. As an additional note, it was decided that that this session would be the appropriate place for discussion of JAPUL's plans for a duplicate donations program.

Serials and Newspapers: There are many cataloging problems in this area and there needs to be more cooperation with collections development staff. There also needs to be education of faculty on the subject since the increases in on line access to periodical indexes has led to a proliferation of faculty requests without understanding of the efforts involved for librarians.

With the retirement of Don Simpson, CRL has appointed an interim President, and until someone assumes the permanent position, CRL may not be in a position to commit to recommendations from NCC or stemming from the Conference.

Technical Services: There were no additional comments on the subject.

The Needs for Japanese Studies Librarians: As with other positions that have traditionally been held by Japan specialists, in the field of librarianship retirements have led to some positions being reclassified to non-Japan specific positions or eliminated entirely. Demographics of the field need to be presented and a greater understanding of director's expectations of the field and director's understanding of the positions themselves is needed.

Isolated or Underserved Scholars: The important advances in on line search and retrieval systems in aiding isolated scholars since the Hoover meetings prefaced these discussions. The importance of expanding such facilities was noted. It was suggested that Sharon Dornier be asked to prepare a set of FAQ's on the subject to be posted on the NCC web site was made. In addition further publicity of the NCC homepage and access to listservs was suggested. Improvements in ILL and document delivery have also benefited isolates scholars. In addition greater coordination of efforts among the NCC, CEAL, and ARL was advised. **Action: Talk to Sharon about FAQ's.**

Following lunch on the conference's second day a concluding session will focus on Reaching Consensus on Agenda Recommendations and Priorities, facilitated by George Soete.

Further Action: Invitations and confirmations need to be sent to all Japanese participants on Matsumura's lists. Mr. Tsujimoto of the Japan Foundation needs to be invited. Finalize list of session moderators. Finalize role of ARL directors.

Saturday Morning January 8th:

Reports from NCC representatives from other bodies:

Hideyuki Morimoto reported on CEAL activities noting that Bill McCloy had received a response letter from the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Billington, regarding the JDC closing. Morimoto will remind McCloy of NCC's suggestion that CEAL should write a letter to the Japan Foundation with regard to the JF-NDL Librarian Training Program. He also discussed the CEAL agenda and the CJM Web site.

Laurel Cornell reported briefly on NEAC noting that their application pool seems weaker than she expected. John Campbell reported on new support from the Korea Foundation.

No report was available from the Library of Congress nor any concrete details on the JDC due to Helen Poe's illness.

New Business:

Kris reported on the NCC web site and plans for its future update.

Amendments to the NCC by-laws were discussed and voted upon. The name of the NCC has been changed to the "North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources". The change was suggested to better reflect the fact that the NCC serves not only the US but all of North America. In addition the position of NCC treasurer was eliminated since the chair and director work together on financial oversight. The amendments were made and the revised by-laws circulated for the signatures of all present.

Reflecting the change of the NCC from a committee to a permanent council, discussions were had about the next level of structure needed to appeal to funders and demonstrate the NCC's long term goals. Plans for official affiliation with ARL were discussed and the hiring of a regular accounting firm and the advise of a lawyer were suggested. **Action: Vickey will explore ARL affiliation with Mary Jackson and once that is in place she will seek further accounting and legal advice as needed.**

Further logistics for the March meeting were discussed. Mary Jackson offered to investigate whether ARL could produce the name tags using ARL's program and John Campbell offered Karen Fricke's assistance as needed.

It was agreed that the September NCC meeting will again be held in New York over the weekend of September 8th and 9th. Amy offered Mihoko's help with getting Columbia's special rate at the Milburn Hotel, with reserving the Kress Room for the meetings, and with other local logistics.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.