

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources**

**Mayflower Park Hotel, Seattle, Washington  
January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> Morning Session (9:00 to noon)**

Present: Chair Sachie Noguchi, Outgoing Chair Kris Troost, Director Victoria Bestor, Eddy Harrison (local host), Laurel Cornell, Tsuneharu Gonnami, Amy Heinrich, Mary Jackson, Naomi Kotake, Tamiko Matsumura, Mihoko Miki, Stephen Miller, Pat Steinhoff, absent Hideyuki Morimoto and Helen Poe (Yoko Akiba attended in her place). Observers: Robert Britt, Eric Gangloff, William McCloy, and Laura Potter.

Sachie Noguchi welcomed those in attendance including the two observers from the University of Washington, William Mc Cloy, CEAL President, and Rob Britt, Chair of the CEAL Committee on Library Technology and NCC Council member-elect. They were invited to this Council meeting to explore further possibilities for joint projects between the NCC and CEAL in light of the success of the ongoing EASyHelp project.

The Minutes of the September 2000 Council Meeting were reviewed and approved as revised.

**Reports from Representatives of Funding and Collaborative Organizations:**

**Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC):** Eric Gangloff reported on activities of the Commission noting that there will be a number of Commissioners rotating off this year, including Chair Dick Wood. Recommendations have been made for possible successors. He noted that it is not clear what the Bush administration's interest in the Commission, or international and scholarly exchange, will be.

Eric also reported that money for this year will be very tight because of the large number of strong proposals in hand. The Commission's spring meeting will be in LA in conjunction with CULCON. He also spoke briefly about the CULCON Digital Cultural Resources Project which is producing a multi-media archive of US-Japan relations, with a primary audience of K-12 teachers. It is modeled on the American Memory Project, and uses software from Oracle. The project will be the major focus of the upcoming CULCON meeting. The NCC has been asked to write a report to the US committee on other developments in the digital arena and Mary Jackson has been asked to write a background paper for the entire committee on copyright issues as they relate to the Digital Cultural Resources Project.

For the **Japan Foundation**, Laura Potter reported that the total number of library support applications is down from 30 to 26 however applications in the B category are up from 10 to 14. Now all categories can apply for monetary grants. Overall US program support is down and the library support category is expected to decline from 15 million yen to around 13 million (down about \$24,000). The Council discussed ways to provide more feedback to Japan Foundation Library Support grant applicants. It was suggested that grant writing tips should be contained on the Japan Foundation website along with FAQ's. Applicants should be reminded that it is a competition, not an entitlement, and if applications are rejected, applicants should seek feedback and reapply. The American Advisory Committee will meet January 27-28th. She also reported that approval had been received for the NCC's seeking of a successor to Amy Heinrich as JF-AAC representative to the NCC.

Laura congratulated those selected for the 5th JF-NDL training program and thanked the NCC for its efforts in recommending JF/NDL applicants, and surveying the field to determine future need and interest for the program. No formal training requests are yet being considered for future versions of the program,

at this time. She also reported that the JF Toronto office cannot provide funding to support a Canadian representative to the NCC.

**Japan Liaison** Tamiko Matsumura discussed the Japanese government's new structure. The Monbusho and the Science and Technology Agency are merged. Prof. Matsumura serves as a member of the National Copyright Council a working group established in September 2000. There will be another meeting in late January and they are expected to make a report with recommendations within one year. She discussed some of the Japanese objections to copyright law revisions in response to the Berne Convention, an international copyright treaty.

A discussion was held on candidates for her successor at the conclusion of her term in July. The list of candidates was developed based on recommendations made at the Council's request from past and current NCC Japan liaisons, Ms. T. Togasaki, Mr. T. Miyakawa, and Ms. T. Matsumura, for Ms. Matsumura's successor. The names that were mentioned were Izumi Koide of I House; Jun Wada, formerly of CGP and JCIE who is now in a university position; Makiko Miwa who is an advisor to the consortial licensing task force who is an executive of Epoch Research Corporation, an information consulting company in Japan; Haruki Nagata, who is a professor of information sciences, worked at NACSIS and then University of Tokyo ; and Akira Miyazawa of NII. Discussion focused particularly on Mr. Miyazawa who is well known to the NCC, very knowledgeable, part of the document delivery project, excellent on the technical side, working on the national union catalog, familiar with libraries, though not an academic librarian per se. He also attends international conferences on science and technology, designed the current system for the Kokubungaku Shiryokan and is a strong supporter of Unicode. Following a spirited discussion, the Council agreed to delegate the final decision on the Japan liaison to the chair, director, and the other members who will be in Japan in late January (Kris Troost, Amy Heinrich, and Mary Jackson).

Mary Jackson reported on the **AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project** that the current phase of the Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers (ULJSN) update has been completed with all data at hand entered including those lists received from Duke and University of Massachusetts. The current Union List is not a database but flat files that have been put into XML. Eventually the list will need to migrate and be integrated into a proper database format. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) is a possible venue for the list, but any action on that awaits the appointment of the new CRL president. Ongoing considerations need to be made on the kind of management needed for the project: technical, logistical, and intellectual. A discussion followed on the future of the ULJSN and its purpose. Originally it was seen as a tool for cooperative collection development, but so far such efforts have not been productive. It is also meant to improve ILL. Mention was made of new cooperative efforts such as the Columbia, NYPL, Princeton offsite depository library being considered and other consortial arrangements such as the Columbia, Yale, Penn direct borrowing system.

Bi-national ILL Initiatives were reviewed in anticipation of the coming Conference on Improvement of Academic Information Access between the US and Japan which will review the Association of National University Libraries (ANUL) Document Delivery Service (DDS) pilot project in Tokyo on January 31 and February 1, 2001. The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership has funded the conference. NCC representatives will be Vickey Bestor, Amy Heinrich, Mary Jackson, Sachie Noguchi, and Kris Troost.

Discussion of Amy Heinrich's successor as NCC Representative from the **Japan Foundation American Advisory Committee** was followed by the suggestion that Amy discuss the role of the NCC liaison with the Institutional Support Subcommittee of the Japan Foundation AAC. Jim Huffman was suggested as an excellent candidate and Amy will talk to him first about joining the NCC. Future membership on the Japan Foundation Library grants selection committee was discussed in light of Amy's rotating off. Naomi Kotake also rotates off the Japan Foundation Library Support Selection Committee, after the 2001 meeting. If Jim Huffman agrees to replace Amy he will be asked to chair that committee. In addition Kuniko Mc Vey, Ellen Hammond and Hideyuki Morimoto (CEAL representative) will continue to serve as committee members. A new member needs to be nominated to replace Naomi Kotake, to begin serving for the 2002 term (to serve 3 years).

Eddy Harrison reported on behalf of **Council on East Asian Libraries Committee on Japanese Materials** Chair Hideyuki Morimoto summarizing activities of the CJM since its last report to the NCC in September 2000. The CJM annual session will be on Wednesday, March 21st, in the evening. Eddy also reported briefly on Japanese rare book cataloging efforts. Full details are contained in Hideyuki Morimoto's report.

Laurel Cornell reported that the **Northeast Asia Council** had received 13 grants for professional travel to Japan. Major fields of research applicants continue to be heavily in the humanities, art history, history, the study of political figures, and World War II continue to be major topics of interest.

Yoko Akiba, reported on behalf of Helen Poe, head of the Asia Division of **Library of Congress**. Yoko reported on her acquisition trip to Tokyo and Naha, the Japanese Rare Book Cataloging efforts, the Ukiyo-e exhibition scheduled for Fall 2001, and the Japan Documentation Center's collection since its closing in March 2000.

Tsuneharu Gonnami reported that the **Canadian Advisory Group** had been officially formed. Following the end of Mr. Gonnami's term on the NCC at the end of June, Lynne Kutsukake will succeed him on the NCC. The group's focus will continue to be on identifying particular needs and problems of Canadian Japanese studies collections, networking, and assisting the NCC with fund raising in Canada. It is hoped that Canada will be included in the MVS program from the beginning of AY 2001-2002, providing some funding can be found.

#### **NCC Administrative Updates:**

Vickey Bestor provided an update on NCC public information efforts. The NCC Web Site, currently at Duke has been assigned a PURL (persistent or permanent URL) and will be moving to Pittsburgh where it will be coordinated by Sachie Noguchi during her tenure as NCC chair. Vickey also reported on the NCC Newsletter, which recently came out in its new enlarged format. The next Newsletter will come out in late Spring 2001 and Vickey expects its length to continue at approximately the expanded length of 12 pages. Vickey provided a brief update on NCC finances noting that again the meetings budget will come in under that proposed because two members had been unable to attend the September 2000 meetings in New York City. And finally Sachie and Vickey discussed plans for the NCC's Annual Meeting at the Art Institute of Chicago on Wednesday, March 21st from 1:00 to 3:00.

#### **Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, afternoon session (1:00 to 5:00) Committee Updates:**

**Multi-Volume Sets (MVS) Project:** Rob Britt and Pat Steinhoff offered a report on the *MVS Project Review* which is nearly completed. Most of the recommendation made at the Year 2000 Conference have been implemented; these include posting the list of past applications, application guidelines, and a sample application on the NCC web site. Rob and Pat will work with the committee on getting the final report soon. It was reported that the MVS selection committee will meet at Harvard at the end of February. Yasuko Makino and the committee will draft revisions to the guidelines.

**JF/NDL Librarian Training Program and Future Training Needs:** Vickey Bestor reported further on the Survey of Librarian Training Needs and plans for Sachie and Vickey to discuss that and other training needs with the Japan Foundation in Tokyo and New York. The Council then discussed future training needs related to the JF/NDL program and the impact on the North American Japanese Studies library community should the program not be continued. There is also need for more training for a number of constituencies: (a refresher) for those who have participated in the past JF-NDL program; for junior librarians; for faculty and students; and for non-specialist librarians who serve Japanese scholars and students. Laura Potter noted that the Japan Foundation's professional conference category, which can fund up to \$40,000 per year, would be appropriate to fund new training initiatives. Vickey and Sachie will discuss all these questions further with the Japan Foundation's staff.

**Japan Art Catalog Project:** Vickey Bestor reported that she and Sachie will meet with representatives of ACE Japan and the Japan Foundation regarding the project on their upcoming trip to Japan. It is hoped

that the Japan Foundation will continue to support the shipping of materials to the Freer Gallery of Art. Prospects for the Western Art Depository were also discussed. The Art Institute of Chicago remains the leading candidate for that depository. Vicky also mentioned her concern about the size of the cataloging backlog at the Freer and the Council agreed that the content of JAC cataloging entries could be at a more basic level providing it includes at least one subject heading and Japanese characters.

A discussion of possible **NCC Bylaw Revisions** was held and it was agreed that for the time being, no revisions to the bylaws should be made. General guidelines to suggest to the nominating committee for librarian qualifications for Council membership included CEAL membership, activity in CEAL and NCC committees, leadership in those committees, and active participation in the field, were discussed.

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Morning Session (9:00 to 1:00) New Business and New Project Updates:** (additional observers present: Ellen Hammond, Kuniko Mc Vey)

**EASy Help Project** - Vicky Bestor reported that EASyHelp has been invited to participate in *Incubator* a new project of the Virtual Reference Desk (VRD) a part of ERIC (the Educational Resources Information Clearinghouse), which has Department of Education funding. EASyHelp will be the first scholarly reference project to use *Incubator* and the first multi-lingual project. The NCC will provide the limited funding needed to pay for customization of *Incubator* to EASyHelp's needs (funds come from the remainder of the Year 2000 Conference money given by the JUSFC). In addition EASyHelp will be introduced to the AAS at a poster session coordinated by Sharon Domier on Friday, March 25th.

**Report on Consortial Licensing Task Force and Survey** - Ellen Hammond, task force chair, reported on the survey of licensed database use in North America, noting the growth in licenses since Kris Toost's last survey in 1998. Ellen will be in Japan to take part in the JF/NDL program following which she will meet with database providers to discuss consortial licensing. In particular she looks forward to discussions with Nichigai.

**Report on Asahi Shinbun Digital News Archive** - Kuniko Yamada McVey reported that Asahi Digital News Archives (DNA) had refused all overtures regarding consortial licensing, however shortly after rejecting her negotiation efforts, DNA became part of the offerings of Nikkei Telecom, which has made DNA widely available to subscribers. It seems apparent that the NCC's efforts to negotiate with Asahi were an important factor in their decision to abandon their expensive and exclusive licensing plans. It is hoped that other consortial licensing efforts will yield similar benefits to users.

Further **Cooperative Collection Development** needs were discussed. The memo submitted by the collection development group of the NCC's Year 2000 conference was distributed as reference. Again there was skepticism about the productivity of such efforts. The Council asked chair Sachie Noguchi to form an advisory committee to determine what, if any, role the NCC should play on such efforts beyond the continuation of its very successful MVS project.

**Brainstorming Session on Future CEAL-NCC Collaborations** - Bill McCloy, CEAL President, who was an observer at the Council's meeting, led a discussion of prospects for ongoing and future collaborations. The EASyHelp project has been a wonderful example of the success such collaborations can bring and is encouraging for the future.

It was agreed that future areas of possibly fruitful collaboration between the NCC and CEAL include further Year 2000 Conference recommendations such as librarian training, user workshops, an AAS Panel on copyright and other topics, and efforts at seeking collaborative funding for joint projects.

In conclusion, it was decided that the September 2001 NCC Meeting will be at the headquarters of the Association of Research Libraries in Washington DC. If ARL is not available, Boulder Colorado will be explored as an alternate site.