

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

*Crowne Plaza Hotel
San Francisco, California
January 11 and 12, 2002*

Friday, January 11, Morning Session (9:00 to noon)

Sachie Noguchi, NCC Chair, welcomed members and guests. Kuniko Yamada McVey of Harvard, Ellen Hammond of Iowa, and Toshie Marra of UCLA attended portions of the meeting and participated in discussions as requested by the Chair. Present were Chair, Sachie Noguchi, Executive Director, Victoria Lyon Bestor, Laurel Cornell, James Huffman, Mary E. Jackson, Naomi Kotake, Lynne Kutsukake, Yasuko Makino, Stephen Miller, Akira Miyazawa, Hideyuki Morimoto, and observers; Masaki Hirano, Irene Lasis, and Margaret Mihori. Absent were John Campbell and Helen Poe (Yoko Akiba attended as her substitute).

Sachie reported that she will resume the practice of sending minutes annually to be published in JEAL (the Journal of East Asian Libraries) and asked that all Council members once more review the minutes from the January and September 2001 minutes which will be circulated one final time before publication.

Reports from Representatives of Funding and Collaborative Organizations:

Reports from Funding Agencies:

- Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) – Margaret Mihori briefly discussed the new membership of the Commission under the leadership of new Commission Chair Richard Samuels of MIT and Vice Chair Amy Heinrich of Columbia. She also noted that the Commission expected to have a budget largely unchanged from the previous year, with a continued increase in strong requests for support.
- Japan Foundation (JF), (Mr. Hirano arrived later and his report appears on the Saturday agenda, where it is reported in the context of other related discussions.)

Reports from NCC Representatives from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies: Each of the representatives of Collaborating Organizations summarized the reports circulated electronically before the meeting and fielded questions from the Council.

- Library of Congress (LC) – Yoko Akiba reported on the retirement of Helen Poe, Chief of the Asian Division. Yoko reported that Mr. Peter Young is currently serving as Acting Chief and that a full search for a new Chief will soon be conducted. However Mr. Young is also actively making changes during his interim tenure. She noted that she anticipates major changes in the future and was very encouraged by the direction discussions under Mr. Young have taken. Yoko also briefly discussed the soon ending Ukiyo-e exhibit, LC's new subscription to NACSIS database(s) (NACSIS-IR and –ELS –the Portals of the World project, and the completion of the Japanese Rare Books Project, a catalog of which will be published in March 2002 by Yagi Shoten.
- Association of Research Libraries (ARL) - AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project – Mary Jackson reported that the Japan Project has focused on ILL/DD issues during the past six months, particularly working to establish “regular ILL” using the ISO ILL Protocol. She reported on progress since the last meeting including the meeting in Tokyo on December 15th

which she and Chair Sachie Noguchi attended. She noted that ANUL (the Association of National University Libraries) and NII (the National Institute for Informatics) in Japan were both aggressively moving forward to realize the Global ILL Framework (GIF) which is scheduled to be launched later in the spring.

- AAS Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) – Laurel Cornell made her final report as NEAC representative to the NCC. The last NEAC meeting took place at Yale in November. At that meeting the three major topics of discussion were Committee Reports, Grant Making, and a discussion of the question posed by the NCC; “How can faculty be induced to learn new online bibliographic technology?” Laurel noted that in response to her first question probing how much the members of NEAC use such systems or employ students who assist them with their use, she concluded that their lack of response indicated an apparent lack of familiarity with the systems in general and therefore a lack of use. However in response to her follow up question on “Who should be the target audience for such training?” and “Where should the training be conducted?” The members of NEAC recommended three target audiences: graduate students conducting their first fieldwork; faculty at all ranks to familiarize them with the systems currently available at their home institution; and faculty when beginning a new research project. On the question of where such training should take place the members of NEAC strongly felt that the AAS was the wrong venue for any detailed training because people do not have the time. They further suggested that it should be conducted at smaller regional conferences and other special events where faculty has more free time. The workshop scheduled to take place at Yale in May 2002 in conjunction with the JAWS workshop was noted as an ideal venue. Laurel also noted that incoming NEAC Chair Linda Lewis of Wittenberg University was especially interested in incorporating such training into the Midwest Council on Asian Affairs meeting. Vickey noted that Linda had been in contact with her (after the NEAC discussion) to ask about the possibility of the NCC coordinating such training at the next MCAA meetings in September 2002.
- Japan Foundation American Advisory Council (AAC) – James Huffman reported that the JF Library Support Committee will meet following the NCC meeting on Saturday afternoon. Library support applications increased by 4 this year, from 26 to 30, suggesting that application numbers seem to have stabilized. The numbers in the small Category A remained steady while those in the larger Category B increased. Of the 18 applying in the B category only 1 was a liberal arts institution and most were universities with a research orientation. Six of those applicants have never received JF library funds. Funds continue to decrease and the number of applicants for larger B category awards will make selection more difficult. The upcoming rotation of as many as three members of the JF library support committee was then discussed.
- Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) – Hideyuki Morimoto presented his last report as CJM chair, his term will end at the AAS in April. He reported on plans for the upcoming CJM session which had been posted on the CEAL Web site and sent to all Eastlib members. He also reported briefly on the CEAL workshop on rare book cataloging which is also available online. He also noted the continued efforts of CEAL and NCC to work together on projects such as AskEASL and expressed the hope that his successor as CJM chair will continue to work actively with the CEAL president and executive committee to further such collaborations.
- Canadian Advisory Group (CAG) – Lynne Kutsukake reported that there has been no meeting of the Canadian Advisory Group since September 2001. She reported that a mailing list of Canadian librarians working with Japanese materials has been compiled and will be maintained by Tomoko Goto of UBC. There are currently 17 individuals on the list. The new librarian from NDL at the University of Montreal is Yuko Nagano who arrived in the fall of 2001 for a three year assignment. Japan Foundation library support for Canada continues to decline and has been reduced by half to a maximum of ¥500,000. The subject of fund-raising to finally allow Canada to participate in MVS was again discussed without resolution.

- Japan Liaison –Akira Miyazawa provided a brief update on international ILL efforts and reported that preliminary tests demonstrated that the system works well. He noted that NII also participated in the I-House conference to be reported on later and NII is working with RLG, discussing the union catalog search link. Further discussions with RLG will be continued this spring. And finally he noted that NACSIS-CAT has adapted rules for Japanese old books which will be made available to the public once completed.

NCC Administrative Updates:

NCC Public Information Efforts:

- Chair Sachie Noguchi reported on the completion of the NCC Web Site's Move to Pittsburgh where it is now available at <http://www.library.pitt.edu/ncc/index.htm> (please note that "ncc" in the address should be lower case), Its PURL is: <http://purl.oclc.org/NET/ncc/index.htm>
- Sachie also reported on plans for the 2002 NCC Open Meeting to be hosted by the University of Maryland and held in conjunction with the Prange events including a tour of the Gordon W. Prange Collection. The meeting will include a roundtable on licensing issues presented by members of the Consortial Licensing Task Force to be chaired by Consortial Licensing Task Force (CLTF) chair Ellen Hammond.
- NCC Administrative Update – Vickey Bestor reported on the NCC office and thanked everyone for helping her with the recent grant proposal to the Japan Foundation for the Junior Librarians Training Seminar, scheduled to take place in August 2002, if funding is received. She also reported that NCC has recently developed a local access network with new XP software, Quick Books accounting software, and will install a dedicated phone line and a new e-fax line shortly.

Friday, January 11, afternoon session (1:00 to 5:00)

NCC Committee Updates:

Multi-Volume Sets (MVS) Project:

- A final discussion of the MVS Project Review was chaired by Rob Britt, Review Committee chair. The Council thanked Rob and his committee for successfully completing the task of review and agreed to take the committee's recommendations into careful consideration.
- MVS Co-Chair Yasuko Makino offered an Update on planning for the 2001-2 MVS Committee meeting, which following a Review Committee recommendation, will take place in Cambridge so that the NCC Executive Director can attend and better assume the role of the MVS's institutional memory for the future.
- The Council again discussed its wish to expand MVS to include Canadian participation and JUSFC representative Associate Executive Director Margaret Mihori provided clarification on the Commission's position. She noted that unless a sum equivalent to US\$2,500 can be raised from sources in Canada, she does not expect the Commission will be able to approve expanding the pool of applicants to include Canada.

Ellen Hammond, chair of the Consortial Licensing Task Force (CLTF) joined the meeting to provide an update on their activities, many of which are on hold until after the National Diet Library (NDL) completes expansion of freely available databases such as Zasshi Kiji Sakuin. Given the continued importance of digital resources the Council discussed the idea of establishing a permanent committee to deal with licensing issues and to provide advice on that subject. Following the discussion the Council decided to establish a standing committee of the NCC and asked Ellen to become its first Chair. NCC Chair Sachie Noguchi asked Ellen to propose a slate of members for approval. The committee will be known as the Digital Resources Committee (DRC).

The session continued with the addition of Mr. Mitake of Kinokuniya who was most anxious to work with the NCC in facilitating the licensing of database they represent in North America.

Saturday, January 23, Morning Session (9:00 to 1:00)

NCC Committee Updates (continued):

Vickey Bestor and Lynne Kutsukake provided a general update on the name change of the EASy Help Project, which has become known as AskEASL (short for Ask an East Asian Studies Librarian). Sharon Domier continues to coordinate the EASL site working with the Virtual Reference Desk group (VRD) of Syracuse University. They noted that following recommendations made at the last NCC meeting, there has been an effort to seek a wider array of EASL Guides to systems in East Asian Languages other than Japanese. A number of new Chinese guides have been produced. Since the Korean librarians are publishing a handbook, thus far they have not become involved in producing any quick reference guides for the EASL site. Vickey also noted that VRD is applying for major expanded funding that should benefit the EASL project greatly and that in turn EASL has made very important contributions to the VRD project which may be helpful with funding. There is still a need for broader promotion to raise the visibility of the EASL site.

Vickey Bestor reported that the Japan Art Catalog Project at the Freer continues basically unchanged despite the Freer Gallery's change in government reporting, since it is now considered part of the Smithsonian Institution. Vickey also reported that the University of Pittsburgh will explore the feasibility of housing the Western Depository in Pitt's East Asian Library. Sachie Noguchi will continue to discuss this matter with colleagues at Pitt and will report back to the Council at its next meeting.

New Business and New Project Updates:

Sachie Noguchi and Rob Britt reported on their participation in "An International Conference on the Enhancement of Information Availability for Scholarly Resources in Japanese Studies: Responding to the Maturation and Globalization of Japanese Studies" which took place in Tokyo and Kyoto in December 2001.

Librarian Training Program and Future Training Needs:

- Sachie Noguchi, Lynne Kutsukake, and Vickey Bestor reported on the planning, application, and schedule planning process for the Junior Librarian Training Program which if funded will take place at Harvard in August 2002. Both Nichigai Associates and NDL have preliminarily agreed to participate and Keiko Higuchi from the International House of Japan will be invited to participate as well. It is expected that approximately 15 junior librarians will be admitted to the program.
- Masaki Hirano of the Japan Foundation reported that there is no news but things seem to be progressing positively with the possible renewal of the JF/NDL Librarian Training Program for a period of possibly three years. He noted that any continued program would likely be smaller than the previous program.

Following up on Laurel Cornell's NEAC report and requests for other forms of user training, a general discussion of strategies for future faculty and student training was held. Vickey Bestor reported briefly on plans for a workshop at the May meetings of the Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS) at Yale in which Sharon Domier and Ellen Hammond will participate. And Jim Huffman expressed the hope that the NCC would be able to assist with a similar workshop for the MCAA meetings in late September at Wittenberg University. In light of the growing demand for such training the Council decided to create a User Training Task Force (UTTF) and to ask former NCC Chair Kris Troost to head that task force. In addition faculty members on the NCC will be expected to be members, including possibly one of them as Co-Chair. It was agreed that Sachie would ask Kris to serve as chair of the UTTF.

A general discussion of future Council and Committee slots was held. As was noted in Jim Huffman's report, the Japan Foundation Selection Committee will need as many as three new members in the coming year (to begin terms in January 2003). Jim will continue as chair until his term on the JF-AAC ends and Toshie Marra will continue as a member. Both Ellen Hammond and Kuniko McVey are scheduled to rotate off and Hideyuki Morimoto's term as CJM chair is ending, when he too will rotate off. In addition a new member of MVS must be found and a chair-elect must be designated at the next meeting to serve one year prior to the end of Sachie Noguchi's term, to assume the chair January 1, 2004.

At Mary Jackson's request the NCC by-laws and the official title appropriate for the NCC director were discussed. Following a detailed discussion the Council voted to change Vickey's title to that of Executive Director. And at the suggestion of Jim Huffman a general review of the by-laws was proposed for a future meeting.

Sachie Noguchi asked the Council's opinion as to whether the NCC should become involved in coordination of exchange program with Nihon Toshokan Kyokai. Given various problems that have existed with such programs in the past, the Council recommended against the NCC's assuming such a role.

Sachie Noguchi offered to host the next NCC meeting in Pittsburgh. The meeting will be the weekend of September 13-14, 2002.