

**NCC OPEN MEETING  
ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES  
CHICAGO, MARCH 12, 1997  
10 a.m. - 12 noon**

Chair Karl Kahler welcomed the attendees to the Open Meeting and encouraged participation in the discussions. He announced NCC and Subcommittee members so that attendees with suggestions would know with whom to talk. He reminded the audience that NCC is beginning its sixth year and outlined its history and activities.

**MVS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Hideyuki Morimoto, co-Chair of the MVS Subcommittee reviewed the work of the Subcommittee on the 96/97 MVS Project and discussed issues arising from the work of the Subcommittee. The 96/97 Project used the same guidelines as the previous year, including sets of ceased serial titles, but excluding backfiles of current serials because there was not Subcommittee agreement on including them. A point system was developed in order to rank the applications, including penalties for institutions which had not met the requirement for cataloging previously awarded sets in a timely fashion. The Subcommittee had not met face-to-face, but used e-mail to do the ranking.

Issues for next year's Project, should the NCC receive funding:

- Should backfiles of current serials be included? There was some support from the floor for this broadening of the scope of the Project.
- The current guidelines call for excluding titles held by 3 or more libraries. There was support for restricting support to titles held by fewer libraries.
- Should the minimum cost be raised from 100,000 Yen to 200,000 Yen?
- Should out-of-print materials be included in the Project?
- Should non-Japanese imprints of Japanese studies titles be included, e.g., titles published in Korea?
- There is a desire to include the Canadian libraries, and the NCC is seeking funding in order to expand the Project to include Canadian libraries.
- Should special consideration be given to particular subject areas?
- Should there be a price cap, e.g., over 2,000,000 Yen, as simply too expensive for the Project to support?
- Should the Project be changed so that it is a general acquisition project in order to support library acquisition budgets?

It was suggested that the 97/98 Subcommittee be formed immediately in order to begin addressing these issues.

**TRAINING**

Kristina K. Troost gave a report for Izumi Koide on the three weeks of training sponsored by the Japan Foundation:

The Training Program for Senior Japanese Studies Librarians, A Report for the NCC Meeting in Chicago, by Izumi Koide, Librarian, International House of Japan, March 10, 1997.

Dear Colleagues gathered at the NCC meeting,

As many of you will hear the reports from the U.S. Participants at the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials, I would like to report briefly about the training program from the organizers' side.

#### 1. Outline of the Program

The Training Program for Senior Japanese Studies Librarians, jointly sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the National Diet Library (NDL) in cooperation with the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) and the International House of Japan, was held for three weeks from February 17 to March 7 in Tokyo. Eleven participants were invited to join the program from 8 countries: Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States. All of them stayed at International House, and NDL provided transportation from the House to the training sites.

During the first two weeks, the following sessions were held:  
at NDL,

- Japanese academic publications and overseas Japanese studies libraries
- Cataloging of Japanese books and creation of Japan MARC
- Government documents
- Statistics
- Preservation
- Classical materials
- Japanese reference books
- Books on Japan in foreign languages
- Digital information and electronic library service of the NDL
- Acquisition of Japanese publications
- Networking activities of the overseas Japanese studies libraries
- LC Japan Documentation Center and its Tokyo Acquisition Facility
- International service of the NDL at NACSIS,
- NACSIS and NACSIS-CAT
- NACSIS-IR

at Hitachi System Plaza Shinsuna (arranged by the Japan Library Association, the publisher of the J-BISC),

- J-BISC

The third week was devoted to visits to the following institutions:

- National Archives
- Diplomatic Record Office
- National Institute of Japanese Literature
- Japan Science and Technology Corporation JICST Library
- Institute for Dissemination and Research of Government Data
- Mita Media Center of Keio University

#### 2. Networking and Sharing - A Major Feature of the Program

This program was characterized by the networking and sharing of experiences. These characteristics worked both in the organization as well as in the practice of the program, and I would like to mention three aspects here:

First, it was a joint program of the four organizations which formed the planning committee, the Japan Foundation, NDL, NACSIS, and I-House. All of them come from such different types of background: the JF is a governmental foundation, NDL is a branch of legislature, NACSIS has a ministerial background, and I-House is a private organization. I think it was the first program of such a cooperative nature, particularly joint sponsorship by the JF and NDL. It could not have been realized if any of the members of the planning committee members had not supported it. The four organizations each provided what they are good at: the JF provided funds and administrative work including carrying out the cumbersome invitation procedures; NDL greatly contributed in terms of classrooms, lecturers, study materials, and other resources necessary for training; NACSIS provided facilities and staff for NACSIS part of training; and I-House helped with the coordination of the program, particularly in conveying the needs of Japanese studies librarians. This team work produced a most desirable outcome.

Secondly, networking and sharing were very important keys not only to organizing this program, but also they were indispensable to the participants. Eleven trainees from eight countries had varying backgrounds and diverse expertise in Japanese studies librarianship. This diversity and expertise in various things helped mutual learning between the trainees. In these terms, the U.S. participants contributed greatly to the other participants in many ways, and I deeply appreciate the NCC's selection efforts. All the trainees were serious and active professionals who are facing various difficulties in dealing with Japanese information resources and in providing information service on Japan, and are struggling with them often in a local environment without colleagues. Now they found colleagues and friends who are willing to share various experiences and expertise in dealing with Japanese materials in a local environment.

Thirdly, networking and sharing occurred not only among the trainees, but also between the trainees and the Japanese librarians who gave lectures and/or had chances to attend various sessions and receptions during the program. Japanese librarians learned about the activities and services the overseas Japanese studies librarians are involved in their environments, the difficulties facing them, and their needs. The trainees got acquainted with real experts on Japanese information resources in Japan and made contacts for the future.

### 3. Language Ability - A Focal Point of Discussion in Reviewing the Program

The working language used during the training was Japanese. This was determined considering the following practicalities: 1) Japanese is THE common language among Japanese studies librarians in a multinational setting; 2) Using Japanese as a working language expands availability of lecturers, which is a very important point in this kind of special program, and broadens choices for visits; 3) Information on Japan in Japanese is much more direct and ample both in quality and in quantity than information on Japan gained through a filter of translation/interpretation, and this is what the Japanese studies librarians require. There were two non-native speakers of Japanese in the trainees. They commanded the language well enough to participate in discussions after lectures. Their good command at Japanese sometimes made, I suppose, the lecturers forget that they were non-native speakers, and it may have caused some difficulties to the trainees: lecturers spoke too fast or talked unclearly, for example. The trainees and committee members discussed the language issue, and agreed on the importance of distribution

of written outlines and other materials to supplement lectures in order to facilitate understanding.

#### 4. Conclusion

The program went well, actually much better than the planning committee had expected. This success confirmed the needs for training, and brought confidence to the four organizations on the committee, each of which had some reservations at the beginning because of their unfamiliarity with the environments in which the Japanese studies librarians are working. There will be another program next fiscal year, I believe, although nothing concrete is decided yet. Through organizing this program, I have also learned that networking greatly facilitates our professional work. It makes what seems to be very difficult or impossible possible. The NCC is an excellent network for the various parties dealing with Japanese library resources in the U.S. including librarians, scholars, and administrators. I hope your activities see more successes in the future.

For the training program described in Ms. Koide's report, the NCC (Chair, Director, and Sachie Noguchi as CEAL representative formed an Ad Hoc Selection Committee) assisted with the program by selecting the two U.S. participants admitted to the program rather late in the planning. On a very short time frame the NCC, using e-mail communications, requested brief applications with statements of interest indicating how the applicant would share the training experience with colleagues in the U.S. The Japan Foundation required two years of experience and a ten year future career. The NCC also looked for geographic representation in order to facilitate sharing the information. Robert Britt (U. of Washington Law School) and Yasuko Makino (Columbia University) were selected and reported on their experience at the meeting of the CEAL Japanese Materials Committee.

The NCC Director reported that NCC had submitted a grant application to the Center for Global Partnership to support sending 5 librarians for training at NACSIS and NDL and for follow-on workshops for librarians and end users on their return. The outcome of the grant application should be known shortly.

The NCC Director led a discussion of the kind of fellowship/internship program which would be the most useful in recruiting Japanese studies students into our field. Although there was support for both training MLS graduates in Japanese studies and training Japanese studies graduates in library school, the group seemed to favor training Japanese studies graduates in library school and in providing a year's internship in a library.

A quite different suggestion was posed by Karl Lo who thought we would be more successful in making the field attractive to people if we could provide an award of, e.g., \$20,000, to someone already working in the field to provide an opportunity to develop a specialization, e.g., rare books, computer expertise.

#### JAPAN FOUNDATION LIBRARY SUPPORT ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Hisami Konishi Springer, Chair of this Subcommittee, reported on the review of applications for the Japan Foundation completed in Berkeley on January 9, 1997. Kristina K. Troost, subcommittee member, outline ways in which libraries could support the concept of building national collections required for a successful application: 1) by building strong niche collections, e.g., popular culture, 2) by providing outreach to users

beyond the applying campus, 3) by building on existing strengths, 4) by consortium building.

#### NEWSPAPER PROJECT

The NCC Director reported that a small grant had been requested to explore the development of a newspaper finding aid on the Web. Success of the application should be known some time in June.

#### JAC I (Japanese Art Catalog Project)

Yasuko Matsudo, Chair of the JAC Task Force, gave an update on the JAC Project and introduced Reiko Yoshimura, the cataloger at the Freer Gallery of Art responsible for cataloging the materials from Japan provided by the project. Over 300 catalogs have been cataloged on RLIN and already a number of the catalogs have been requested for use.

#### JAC II

The NCC Director outlined a reciprocal project in which the NCC will encourage museums, galleries and other organizations which have held exhibitions and produced catalogs to deposit them with the Art Catalog Library in Japan and with a depository library here in the U.S. Attendees were asked to provide the names of institutions and individuals who might be helpful to the project.

#### AAU/ARL Japanese Journal Access Project

The kick-off meeting for this Project will be held in Washington, D.C., at ARL Headquarters on March 28. Twenty-four ARL libraries have signed on as participants to develop a comprehensive approach to improving access to Japanese journals maintained in U.S. collections and to develop ways to access materials from Japan.

#### FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Kahler concluded the meeting with an announcement that Kristina Kade Troost would be the next NCC Chair, with a three year term beginning in January, 1998. Dr. Troost encouraged the attendees to speak with her directly and openly so that the NCC would be an organization responsive to the needs of the Japanese studies community in the U.S..