

Date: Fri, 24 May 1996 11:36:44 -0400 (EDT)
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Subject: Minutes of NCC Meeting

To: NCC

Final version.

(copy to others who reported at the meeting)

Minutes of the NCC Meeting during AAS
Thursday, April 11, 1996, Hlton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii

Karl Kahler, NCC Chair, welcomed a full room of attendees, stating that the goal of the meeting would be not only to report on current NCC activities, but also to have an open discussion about future steps the NCC should take. He noted that there would be no reports on three projects that the NCC is involved in: 1.) The Cooperative World Wide Web Project; 2.) The Book Exchange Project jointly undertaken by CEAL and JAPUL; and 3) The ARL Japan Journal Access Project. All three of these projects were discussed at other meetings during AAS.

Yasuko Matsudo reported on the JAC Project. This project arose from a concern about the lack of information on contemporary Japanese fine art in the United States, resulting in a cooperative effort between NCC and ACE Japan to collect, catalog, and house Japanese art exhibition catalogs in two depository libraries, one in the U.S. and one in Japan. Four institutions applied to be the American depository library: one research library and three museum libraries. Members of the review committee, Karen Brazell, Hideo Kaneko, and Yasuko Matsudo, recommended that the Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Galllery Library be the American depository library, and the NCC unanimously approved this recommendation.

Junko Kurita added that ACE Japan had sent letters to around 200 galleries and museums requesting catalog donations. Already some 800 titles have arrived from 84 institutions. ACE Japan will send the first shipment of catalogs to the U.S. in early June. In addition one copy will be held in Japan in a building in Akasaka. This new depository will open in the fall. The project is accredited by the Association for Corporate Support of the Arts (Kigyo Mecenat

Kyogikai) so the donation to this project can be done with preferential tax measures.

Isao Tsujimoto gave a background sketch of the work of ACE Japan as well as the JAC Project. He noted that ACE Japan is an independent organization that must raise its own funds. Core to the JAC Project are staff members Junko Kurita and Masaharu Taneichi. He hoped that additional funding from the U.S. would help support the project in the future.

Sachie Noguchi reported on the MVS.

This is the fourth year that the MVS has received funds from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission to support cooperative purchases of multi-volume sets costing more than Y100,000. All sets funded in the past have been cataloged and put into the national databases. This year's call for applications was distributed over e-mail, by regular post, and in the CEAL journal. Eight institutions and one consortium requested support to buy materials costing more than 29 million yen. Seven institutions and one consortium received funds to buy 447 volumes, 359 reels of microfilms, and 12,999 microfiches. All sets should be received and cataloged by June 1996.

The audience raised a question about the logistics of loaning these materials free of charge since the utilities have automatic billing systems. The MVS decided to write a letter to ARL about this problem, emphasizing that this is a resource sharing project with each institution acting merely as a custodian for the whole community.

Ichiko Morita reported on the Electronic Resources Subcommittee. The increasing number of information resources coming over the internet has resulted in an overlap of effort and a duplication of information. The Japan Foundation asked a group in Japan to assess information needs for the social sciences and the humanities. Members of this group included two information specialists, two managers, and one university professor, with ACE Japan acting as the secretariat. This group first designed a survey to assess current resource usage. Ellis Krauss reviewed the survey and suggested revisions. He and his assistant, Jeremy Lehrer, distributed a reformatted survey over e-mail to 60 scholars as well as to the library community. The results have been presented to ACE Japan for use by JS-Net. JS-Net will consider this survey when planning future projects. JS-Net will issue a follow-up report.

Dorothy Gregor lead an open discussion on librarian training. The Librarian Training Subcommittee has tentatively suggested that NCC organize a travelling workshop to be given at the national AAS meeting as well as at the four regional AAS meetings. Possible topics, among many others, would be: 1) how to use and put together computer hardware and software; and 2) use of NACSIS files.

Some audience reactions were: 1) Perhaps the Japan Seminars sponsored by the Japan Foundation could also be venues for this

project since people get some funding to attend these seminars, and they are usually build around a single theme each time.

2) The workshop must include hands-on experience with perhaps pre-workshop instruction and a post-workshop follow-up. It should include the goal of encouraging participation by teaching faculty. 3) Perhaps each regional organization could nominate someone to go to NACISIS for pre-workshop training.

Izumi Koide reported that the Japan Foundation has funded a new training program for senior Japanese Studies librarians. Specific planning is at a beginning stage, but the purpose of the program is to strengthen knowledge of resources, review new technology in Japan, and cultivate networks between Japanese librarians and others. The four-week training session will be in Japanese at the National Diet Library. Since the focus will be on librarians from Europe, attendees from America will need to seek their own sources of funding in order to take part.

A comment from the audience urged that the trainers distribute their teaching materials to others.

Amy Heinrich reported on the Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee advises the American Advisory Subcommittee which in turn advises the Japan Foundation. The NCC Subcommittee reviewed 51 applications for library grants from the Japan Foundation. The final selections were a compromise between the opinions of the two subcommittees. In addition the NCC Subcommittee suggested to the Japan Foundation that 1) it add a new category to support computer hardware needs with funds separate from book support funds, and 2) it ask applicants in categories AI and AII to select specific titles.

Michael Paschal announced that final notifications to all applicants would be slightly delayed.

Dorothy Gregor led a discussion of future user requirements. She noted tht a number of activities are going on in addition to the NCC efforts: the ARL Japan project; JS-Net studies; CULCON binational efforts; and JAPUL efforts. These diverse projects lead us all to focus our activities.

Conclusions of the open discussion were that the NCC should first focus on bibliographic access to Japanese books and other materials. Access should be both through databases and by means of ILL. Electronic access should strive for retrieval first of full-text journal articles and then of newspaper artices, documents, and government publications. Paper access should have a goal of opening up and improving ILL activities between the American library community and its Japanese counterpart.