

**NCC MEETING MINUTES**  
**PHILADELPHIA, SEPT. 12-13, 1997**

1. Welcome and introductions-K. Kahler

Present: K. Brazell (for A. Allison), A. Heinrich, K. Kahler, L. Kutsukake (for S. Noguchi), T. Miyakawa, H. Morimoto, I. Morita, H. Springer, P. Steinhoff, M. Tamanoi, K.K. Troost, D. Gregor

Absent: G. Hoetker

Guests: E. Gangloff (Friday), H. Inoue

2. Financial report-D. Gregor

Budget and expense spread sheets were distributed for the 1997/98 NCC operating expenses and for the grant from the Center for Global Partnership/Northeast Asia Council. Funding from The Japan Foundation has not yet been received, but is expected shortly.

3. Japanese liaison report-T. Miyakawa

T. Miyakawa provided information on the Japan Foundation's Training Program for Senior Japanese Studies Librarians, the NACSIS Training Program for North American Japanese Studies Librarians and the JAC Project which will be summarized elsewhere in these minutes.

The "Japan Culture Plaza" is a new homepage for The Japan Foundation with assistance from the Japan Association for Cultural Exchange (ACE Japan): <http://www.acejapan.or.jp/> There is also a homepage for The Japan Foundation: <http://www.jpff.or.jp> The URL for the homepage of JS Net (Japan Studies Network): <http://www.acejapan.or.jp/jsg/jsnet/> Because of budget constraints, adding and editing new data is slow, but steady.

Financial situation of funding agencies: Low economic growth and interest rates at historically low levels have resulted in very stringent cutbacks in the public sector. The Administrative Reform Council (Gyosei Kaikaku Shingikai) in the Prime Minister's Office is proposing a drastic reform of government ministries and agencies, including organizations in the public sector as well. The reorganization would have significant economic and social effects, and pressure groups are beginning to speak out. The outcome is not at all clear. What is clear is that funding agency capabilities will decline in the foreseeable future, e.g., CGP will lose nearly one third of its existing program support. It will be difficult, but not impossible to begin new projects with CGP support. With the new organization NACSIS and JICST (now JST) will be working much more closely together; the organizations may merge.

Also under consideration is Government Information Opening legislation, but there are no details at this time.

The membership of CGP's Committee for Information Access is as follows: Dr. H. Inoue, Deputy Director General, NACSIS; Mr. A. Kado, Direction, International Cooperation, National Diet Library; Mrs. Y.W. Kim, Professor, Surugadai University; Mr.

T. Miyakawa, Fellow, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Chair; Mr. S. Muta, Program Officer, Japan Center of International Exchange; Mr. M. Miwa, Syracuse University.

This Committee, consisting of librarians and information specialists, advises CGP on programs relating to the information flow between Japan and overseas users.

In response to a query about a Japanese equivalent of NCC, i.e., an organization representing both information professionals and users, T. Miyakawa responded that there was no equivalent. End user information is gathered by the Shijikai. There is, however, legislation under development to allow the formation of non-profit, non-governmental organizations. At present such organizations require ministerial oversight.

T. Miyakawa distributed copies of a list of Japanese library organizations which will be helpful to the NCC in making contacts with Japanese colleagues.

#### 4. Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission update--E. Gangloff

It is now clear that the Commission will not be leaving the federal government because it would mean a loss of funding on federal books. Dr. Gangloff is working to loosen the restrictions on investing the endowment so that, particularly for the yen portion, investment income can be increased. At present the yen investments are limited to Japanese treasuries which are yielding close to zero.

The Commission is proposing some follow-on work by the CULCON Working Group on Information Access with the creation of two subgroups, one dealing with connectivity issues and another with technical library issues. The NCC was asked to think about the language of the charges to these groups and of possible members.

#### 5. The Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Senior Librarians Training Program-K. Kahler

Discussion of selection criteria for future programs. The topic was broached because of the very short time frames afforded by The Japan Foundation for recommendations for participants in the training program. Unlike the CEAL Japanese Materials Committee, the NCC is not an elected organization, and it is felt to be particularly important to have an open application process.

If it seems as though there will be further training programs and that the NCC may again be called upon to make recommendations, applications could be taken in advance, with an announcement which includes the idea "anticipated that we will have the opportunity" along with the call for applications. Include in the qualifications 1) encouragement for librarians who have not had an opportunity to go to Japan; 2) geographic distribution of participants; 3) willingness to be a trainer upon return and give a workshop/short course at AAS or other large meeting; 4) assessment of Japanese language competency.

#### 6. JAC I--K. Kahler (from Y. Matsudo)

Mr. Taneichi of the Art Catalog Library in Tokyo reports that the third shipment (the first in 1997) was made on August 11 and included 316 volumes (193 exhibition catalogs published after 1995, 64 collection catalogs and 59 "others") for an estimated cost of 948,000Yen.

Reiko Yoshimura of the Freer Gallery of Art reports that as of Sept. 9, 1997, Freer has cataloged 626 titles from the first 1996 shipment. These included exhibition catalogs

on Japanese modern art (published 1995-1996) and on Asian arts and museum collection catalogs. The catalogs for western art and pre-1995 exhibition catalogs have not yet been cataloged.

600 titles/year is the maximum number the Freer can catalog with its current staffing; the initial estimate of the number/year for the Project was 500. The Freer will seek funding to hire a half-time cataloger to assist with the Project. Reiko has been spending 1/3 time assisted by two volunteers for an additional 6-10 hours/week.

The second 1996 shipment breaks down as follows:

201 vols. Japanese art, 12 vols. Asian art, 43 vols. Western art, and 12 vols. collection catalogs for a total of 268 vols. An additional 31 vols. of pamphlets, etc., were also received.

The Freer has received occasional inquiries about the Project, primarily from museum curators. There have also been several visitors from out-of-town and one ILL request.

Policy issues: The Freer requests that the Project remain focused on its originally defined scope, i.e., currently published catalogs of Japanese art exhibitions held in Japan. Staffing does not allow broadening the scope, even if desirable. Discussion reminded the group that the original intent of the Project was to collect catalogs of contemporary Japanese art because much of it is held in private collections and access is available only through exhibition catalogs. The NCC supported the request.

The Hirshhorn Museum is interested in becoming the depository library for the catalogs of Western art from the Project. The NCC supported the request.

The Freer asked for suggestions for funding sources for a possible half-time project cataloger. The following were mentioned: Asian Cultural Council, New York; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the Freeman Foundation; the Luce Foundation; the Hearst Foundation.

#### 7. JAC II Report--D. Gregor

79 catalogs have been received from U.S. museums for the Project; all have been sent to the Art Catalog Library in Japan. Until and unless additional museums or other organizations with exhibition catalogs are identified, this Project will be on hold for awhile.

#### 8. NACSIS update--H. Inoue

Dr. Inoue reported that NACSIS will be adding the U.S. to its overseas projects; projects are already operational with the U.K. and Thailand. The U.S. Project will focus first on education and training; Dr. Hamada, Director of Human Resources Dept., will be the Head of the U.S. Project. (Dr. Ono is in charge of the Thailand Project.)

Beginning in 1998 NACSIS will permanently expand the hours of system availability so that overseas users are not inconvenienced. A system interface which will be more user-friendly is under development and should be installed in 1998. Webcat will continue to be available without charge. NACSIS fees are authorized by the Ministry of Finance; it may be that NACSIS will contract with another agency to handle payments. Personal NACSIS accounts are possible, but require authorization by a sponsoring

academic institution. Mr. Tsukada, Chief of the Education and Training Section, is the primary contact for questions concerning the NACSIS system and by the NCC trainees.

NACSIS has begun to look at Z39.50 implementation on its systems and at the ISO ILL protocols.

NCC faculty members stressed the need to become familiar with software which allowed searching and retrieval in kanji and the variety of starting points of academic users. Dr. Inoue was supportive of the CULCON Working Group Subcommittee concept because it is felt that CULCON Working Group itself is too high level and that working expertise is needed to address the agenda of the Working Group on Information Access.

#### 9. Electronic Resources Training Workshops (CGP grant activity)-D. Gregor

Planning for the follow-on workshops is underway; the workshops must be completed by Sept. 30, 1998, but we should do them during the 97/98 academic year

NACSIS has indicated that it can send a trainer to assist if we can schedule workshops for the week of November 17 in, e.g., Los Angeles, the Midwest and Washington, D.C. (After the meeting the schedule was set for 3 workshops, one at Berkeley (H. Ishimatsu), UCLA (M. Miki) and Mt. Holyoke (S. Domier).

Miyakawa-san has asked John Campbell about having one at AAS in Washington, D.C. H. Halasz is looking into possible sites in DC.

Other suggestions for workshop sites included the following:

- Columbia University: Henry Smith's Japanese bibliography class
- at Centers for Japanese Studies; U. Mich celebrates its 50th anniversary this year
- University of Michigan's Midwest Association for Japanese Literature Studies.
- possibility of Prof. Miyazawa stopping at the University of Hawaii en route (contact Sharon Minichiello)

#### 10. MVS Project guidelines-M. Tamanoi

Discussion of issues raised at AAS open meeting and under consideration by the Subcommittee:

##### --Scope of MVS Project

97/98 Project will include backfiles for both ceased and current serial titles. OP materials might be included in later projects, particularly if NCC sets up a Yen account in Japan from which to disburse funds. Materials published outside Japan are a possibility, but only if they can be purchased in Yen.

##### --Copy constraint

If there is one circulating copy in North America, the MVS Project will not fund another.

##### --Price cap

Maintain current cap of 100,000Yen so as not to put smaller libraries at a disadvantage.

##### --Subject specialization

Do not change current practice. Subject selection part of the judgment exercised by the MVS Subcommittee.

--Change Project to general acquisition project? No

D. Gregor has written 5 proposal to funding agencies in Canada in hopes of broadening the Project to include applications from Canadian libraries.

The NCC encouraged the Subcommittee to meet this year rather than trying to do the application review via e-mail.

#### 11. Newspaper Finding Aid Project--D. Gregor

In coordination with the ARL Japan Project the NCC is working with Maureen Donovan at OSU to allow the loading of bibliographic and holdings data for serials and newspapers into a union list database which would be accessible through the Web page of the East Asian Libraries Cooperative World Wide Web. The load procedure is now being tested by OSU.

#### 12. Outreach Librarian Position--K. Kahler

An agenda item from S. Domier of U. Mass., Amherst suggested seeking funding for an "outreach librarian" who would be available over the Internet and an 800 number to assist scholars with their information needs. The audience would be Japanese specialists in institutions without a Japanese librarian or an adequate supporting collection. Some document delivery, database searching, reference services and training scholars to be knowledgeable in their use of the Internet/Web are likely activities.

NCC agreed that the Outreach Librarian needed to be based in or near a large Japanese studies collection to use for reference, and the Library of Congress should be explored as a base. The person would need good Japanese language capability and should have some experience (although close to entry level should be adequate) along with energy and enthusiasm for publicity and outreach activities. Additional possible sites included the Japan Information Center at the University of Pittsburgh, Columbia, UCSD.

#### 13. Broadening NCC contacts with Japanese library organizations--T. Miyakawa, D. Gregor, and everyone

Mr. Miyakawa provided a list of Japanese library organizations who might be potential partners for the NCC for developing relationships with colleagues in Japan. There is no NCC counterpart organization in Japan. The Association of National University Libraries (secretariat currently at the University of Tokyo headed by Mr. Hiroyuki Amenomori) and the Japan Association of Private University Libraries (secretariat currently at Waseda University) are the most likely partners for NCC programs.

#### 14. AAU/ARL/NCC Japanese Journal Access Project-D. Gregor

##### --International ILL

Letters to Waseda University and to the Association of National University Libraries are being drafted to invite participation in this area of the ARL Project.

##### --Web sites for serial locating/document delivery

Several sites have been identified and made available on the Project Web site at OSU.

##### --Finding Aid for Serials and Newspapers (already covered above)

##### --Collaborative collection development (no progress as yet)

--NACSIS training (already covered above)

15. General meeting suggestion--K. Kahler

Agenda item from the 5 NACSIS trainees:

"Another general meeting among the Japanese studies librarians may be due. (Stanford 2.) It has been nearly eight years since we gathered at Stanford. Many of the people who attended the meeting either retired or died, new faces replaced them, and new technologies such as Internet have emerged, etc, etc. Some people have vague idea on what NCC is about, or have forgotten its spirit. It may be the time for another general meeting to identify problems and new programs.

NCC discussed the desirability of such a meeting and mentioned the development of new priorities and new leadership as possible outcomes. We need to create the agenda for the 21st century. Possible schedule is as a preconference to the AAS meeting. Invitations should be very open. NCC should seek funding for an extra night in the hotel, but not for travel expenses.

A second meeting possibility was also discussed in light of the activity of the Asia Section of the International Relations Committee of ALA. Chaired by Hwa-wei Lee, the Committee is looking at continuing the bi-national U.S.-Japan meetings of years past. NCC mentioned the need for an action agenda for such a meeting and that faculty needed to be involved in developing the agenda. The Director will contact Professor Beverly Lynch of UCLA about planning.

16. Reports

CEAL Japanese Materials Committee-L. Kutsukake

CEAL will present a workshop on government documents at the AAS meeting. Progress on the Duplicate Books Project is slow.

Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Subcommittee-H. Springer

H. Springer reported that K. Troost has been replaced on the Subcommittee by Sachiko Morrell of the University of Washington in St. Louis. JF program guidelines have been received, including some for non-book materials. The Subcommittee will be meeting in conjunction with the NCC meeting in Berkeley in January.

Library of Congress/Japan Documentation Center-I. Morita

NEAC-K. Brazell

K. Brazell and E. Krauss are substituting at NCC meetings for A. Allison (Duke) who is on sabbatical this year. She will join the NCC at its fall, 1998 meeting. K. Brazell stressed the importance of the education of the faculty in all of NCC programs, particularly those involving the use of electronic resources. Mentioned as "advertising" venues were H-Japan, the SSJ Forum, and the Japanese Literature list.

17. Japanese version of "NCC"

At the suggestion of our Japanese liaison, the NCC decided upon a Japanese version of our name so that there would be an "official" version, with kanji, to use to identify the organization to Japanese colleagues. The result of the discussion was Zenbei Nihon Kenkyu Shiryo Chosei I-inkai.

18. Next meeting--Durant Hotel, Berkeley, California  
January 9-10, 1998

19. Adjournment

The NCC thanked K. Kahler for his service as Chair and H. Inoue and T. Miyakawa for their many contributions to the discussions (and for coming so far to attend the meeting).