

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

***Association of Research Libraries  
Washington, DC  
September 21 and 22, 2001***

**Friday, September 21st Morning Session (9:00 to noon)**

Present: Chair Sachie Noguchi, Director Victoria Bestor, Mary Jackson (local host), Robert Britt, John Campbell, James Huffman, Lynne Kutsukake, Stephen Miller, Hideyuki Morimoto, Yasuko Makino, Absent: Laurel Cornell, Naomi Kotake, Akira Miyazawa and Helen Poe, (Yoko Akiba attended in her place). Observers: Masaki Hirano, Irene Lacin, Eiko Sakaguchi, Reiko Yoshimura.

The meeting was opened by Chair, Sachie Noguchi who welcomed members and guests. She particularly thanked those in attendance in light of the recent tragedies of September 11th. The continued closing of Washington's Reagan National Airport into which most international flights have been scheduled combined with other problems related to September 11th resulted in several members being unable to attend.

The Minutes of the January 2001 NCC Meeting were approved as revised.

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

Due to the overlap between the meetings of the NCC and the Japan-US Friendship Commissioners, neither Eric Gangloff nor Margaret Mihori were able to attend in person and a written version of the **Japan-United States Friendship Commission's** report was presented to the NCC. The report, which was distributed to members, announced that the Commission expected to have approximately \$2.1 million to allocate for FY 2002, a stable state from previous years. The report also included a list of new Commissioners. They include Pat Steinhoff and Amy Heinrich, both with long NCC experience, and Political Scientist Richard Samuels of MIT who has been named the new Chair of the Commission.

Masaki Hirano began his **Japan Foundation** report by introducing his new colleague Irene Lacin who replaces Laura Potter who resigned in July to work in Tokyo for JCIE. Mr. Hirano reported that the economy continues to impact the Japan Foundation and predicted continued tightness in program budgets. He reported that at their last meeting the Institutional Support Committee of the AAC recommended changes in application guidelines. Those recommendations have been accepted and new program guidelines will be circulated shortly.

**Reports from NCC Representatives from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies:** As of this meeting, all groups were asked to provide written reports in advance and to elaborate as needed during the meeting. Below is a brief summary of those reports, the written versions were sent to all members and will be available for future reference in NCC Meeting files.

Yoko Akiba reported for Helen Poe of the **Library of Congress (LC)**. The key points of her discussion were to announce the opening of the Ukiyo-e exhibition running from 9/27/01 to 1/5/02. She also mentioned that the National Book Fair had been held on September 9th with First Lady Laura Bush in attendance. She reported that the 3-year rare books project is now completed and an online catalog is in progress. She added that LC's project, Portals to the World links the Asian Collection to other LC digital resources and encouraged members to make use of it. There are two new additions to LC's staff, Tomoko Steen has joined in the Science and Technology Division and Mitsuko Anders is the new reference librarian in the Japanese Division.

Mary Jackson reported on **AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project**. Her report was principally devoted to providing an update on the bi-national ILL Initiatives with ANUL and Waseda. Progress

continues to be made on implementation of the ISO ILL protocol in the NACSIS ILL system. NII is working with OCLC and Mary joined the Japanese delegation in March during meetings with OCLC on specific program details. NII reports that things are on schedule and it seems that NII and OCLC are working well together. Once up and running anyone will be able to send and receive ILL requests in NACSIS's ILL system via OCLC. This will enable the ILL staff of OCLC ILL user libraries to search using a system with which they are totally familiar. Mary predicted that this innovation should greatly increase the flow of requests. The question was asked about how OCLC ILL using libraries would know the lending policies of individual Japanese libraries. Mary answered that it is hoped NII will develop a policy directory, based on the format being developed by the ILL Protocol Implementors Group, that will include ILL policies of Japanese libraries. Currently many ILL librarians simply ask if something can be lent without knowing individual policies. A policy directory would be extremely helpful to them.

Mary recapped the conclusions of the July 2000 meeting at ARL which recommended that a new home be found for the Union List's server because Ohio State is not willing to commit to providing ongoing technical support for the Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers, in the long term. CRL has been considered the best hope because they host the servers of other AAU/ARL Global Resources Program projects. CRL recently hired a new president, Bernard Reilly of the Chicago Historical Society. Shortly, Mary hopes to begin talking to CRL about the feasibility of taking on the Union List and looks forward to meeting with Mr. Reilly when he attends the ARL meeting in mid-October.

In her absence a written report by Laurel Cornell was presented on behalf of the **Northeast Asia Council (NEAC)** of the AAS. That report was distributed to all members in advance of the meeting. Laurel's report noted that the applications for NEAC grants this year were strong, if on rather conventional topics with no true standouts. NEAC is now working on nominations for AAS President to follow the China nominations that have just taken place. Laurel mentioned new NEAC funding plans and asked if the NCC has a proposal that might fit into it. Sachie reported that we would probably be applying to NEAC for the Junior Librarian Training Program. Laurel's term on NEAC and the NCC ends with the coming AAS meeting and she noted that her most likely successor on the NCC will be Jim Fujii of UC Irvine. Further details and statistics on applications are contained in the report distributed.

The NCC was happy to welcome the **Japan Foundation American Advisory Committee's** new representative, James Huffman of Wittenberg University. Jim reported that he is happy to join the NCC and looks forward both to heading the JF Library Support Committee and to advising the NCC on its planned applications to the Foundation for future funding of training programs. His report focused mainly on the AAC meeting at the end of January. He noted the continued trend toward fewer applications in general and expressed concern; for example in 1997-98 55 applications were received, whereas last year there were only 26 applications. The largest decline has been in the A categories, that is institutions that have almost no Japanese focused collection and are applying for basic books; such applications are down from 43 to 12. Jim asked if the NCC had any insight on this trend? In the B categories the figures are better, B-1 is fairly stable, and the B-2 category saw an increase from 2-7 in last year. This indicates that major libraries seem to be doing better in general. Of the 12 applications in the A-2 category, 7 grants were given. Most of those were large universities that don't yet have significant collections. He also noted that guidelines have changed to allow libraries to purchase books in the US rather than being required to buy them in Japan. He also noted the importance of stressing dissemination and of focusing on cooperation with other libraries in an applicant's region as components to a successful application.

**The Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL's)** report was made by Hideyuki Morimoto, the Chairman of the Committee on Japanese Materials. His detailed report was circulated in advance. He summarized that report and also discussed planning for the 2002 CEAL Workshop. A Rare Book Cataloging workshop was strongly supported by CEAL members and LC had been asked to do such a workshop in 2002. The guidelines for rare book cataloging and future coordination with the NCC were also discussed. In particular the pros and cons of having separate electronic mailing lists for Japanese studies librarians or other special groups were discussed and it was recommended that a separate mailing list for Japanese studies librarians should not be created at this time.

Lynne Kutsukake reported on the growing activities of the **Canadian Advisory Group**, which had a second meeting organized by the Japan Foundation in Toronto. Nine individuals attended the second meeting including someone from the Japan Society in Toronto who is interested in becoming a librarian, and a consultant. In addition, the University of British Columbia, Royal Ontario Museum, Japan Foundation, McGill, and University of Toronto were also represented.

Because of the closing of National Airport following the September 11th bombings two weeks before the meeting, **Japan Liaison** Akira Miyazawa was unable to attend. A brief written report was presented on his behalf and distributed to members. That report provided an update on the ANUL project, the NACSIS/OCLC ILL schedule and protocol connection testing, and on other activities that NII specifically is involved with. Details related to these activities were summarized in Mary Jackson's report, above.

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

Sachie reported that Pittsburgh is in the process of transferring the NCC Web Site to their server. That process will be completed shortly.

Vickey reported that the next NCC Newsletter will be an expanded anniversary edition which will be completed this winter. She also discussed the process of mailing list updating and asked members to send her names of international individuals who should be added to the list. Vickey also reported on the conclusion of the NCC's fiscal year in June 2001.

The administrative updates were concluded with a brief report on Sachie and Vickey's participation in the CULCON meetings which took place in LA in May. Mary Jackson also attended CULCON as an observer.

#### **Friday, September 21, afternoon session (1:00 to 5:00)**

#### **NCC Committee Updates:**

Rob Britt presented a report on the **MVS Project Review** and a discussion followed regarding the final report that will be presented at the NCC's meeting in January 2002. He discussed all the components that are posted on the web site (<http://staff.washington.edu/rbritt/NCCMVS/>) and a discussion proceeded on the content of the final document to be circulated. One of the ideas the committee has put forward is the creation of an ongoing "grants coordinator" position. The idea would be to pay an individual Japanese studies librarian a small stipend to maintain files and provide the institutional memory of the MVS committee. Given that such a person would almost certainly be a current Japanese studies librarian, if not also a member of the NCC, the concern was raised about whether an application submitted on behalf of the institution of such a coordinator would be viewed as presenting some sort of conflict of interest. Further discussion of the position and the committee's recommendation on it will be discussed at the January meeting when a representative from the Commission will also be present to comment.

Yasuko Makino reported on **2000-2001 MVS Grant** competition noting that the first grant had been made for a faculty-written proposal to Creighton University. The Council also discussed the continuing problem of incomplete applications, even in the presence of detailed instructions and samples of successful applications now available on the NCC web site. Committee rotations were also discussed and it was announced that Eizaburo Okuizumi of the University of Chicago would be joining the committee for the coming year filling the position reserved for a member from a middle-western institution. Kazuko Sakaguchi of Harvard has rotated off the committee.

Masaki Hirano of the Japan Foundation provided an update on ongoing discussions regarding the future of the **JF/NDL Librarian Training Program** or a successor program. He noted that the Foundation is concerned about continuing to provide training internationally and expressed the Foundation's concern about the need for allocating more of its scarce funding to places other than the US.

Sachie Noguchi, Lynne Kutsukake, and Vickey Bestor led a discussion on planning for a Junior Librarian Training program planned for the summer of 2002 at Harvard. They reported on a planning meeting held the previous day, on Michiko Ito's survey of junior librarian needs and interests, discussed an outline of the proposed seminar, and possible lecturers were discussed. Vickey will be coordinating the writing of a grant application to the Japan Foundation for this project to be submitted by their deadline of November 1st.

Sachie Noguchi, Rob Britt, and John Campbell reported on planning for "An International Conference on the Enhancement of Information Availability for Scholarly Resources in Japanese Studies: Responding to the Maturation and Globalization of Japanese Studies" to take place in Tokyo and Kyoto in December. Sachie and Rob will provide a full report on that conference at the January meeting.

Vickey and Reiko Yoshimura provided an update on the **Japan Art Catalog Project**. Reiko discussed the Freer's changed administrative reporting. The continued difficulty in finding a library willing to become the depository of Western art catalogs was also discussed. Sachie agreed to discuss the depository with Tom Rimer at Pittsburgh to consider the feasibility of creating such a collection within Pitt's East Asian Collection. The Royal Ontario Museum is also still considering whether they might house the collection.

## **Saturday, September 22, Morning Session**

### **New Business and New Project Updates:**

Vickey and Lynne Kutsukake provided an update on the EASy Help Project which has recently been renamed **AskEASL**, short for Ask an East Asian Studies Librarian. The excellent range of new Japanese AskEASL Guides were also discussed. Ways to encourage more Chinese and Korean language guides for the site were discussed as were means of broadening participation in the project and promoting its availability to the field. Vickey will discuss these issues with Gail King and Sharon Domier, in particular to encourage the production of more Chinese and Korean resource guides.

Lynne Kutsukake reported on **Consortial Licensing Task Force** which has coordinated the creation of the Japanese language AskEASL Guides and provided an update on other committee activities which await the broader availability of NDL materials after the opening of its Kansaiikan.

Candidates for **Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Committee** were discussed. A replacement for Naomi Kotake, who represents West Coast collections is needed. Several names were discussed and the Council recommended the appointment of Toshie Marra of UCLA.

Sachie Noguchi and Eiko Sakaguchi of the University of Maryland (UofM) led a discussion of plans for holding **2002 NCC Open Meeting** in conjunction with a tour of Maryland's Prange Collection. Friday afternoon April 5th has been selected for those events and both the CEAL Executive Committee and Helen Poe at LC have been informed of those plans. Eiko reported that she is working with administrators at UofM to plan transportation from the AAS hotel to the Maryland campus, to provide facilities for the NCC meeting, and to coordinating tours of the collection in conjunction with a reception. The division of labor between the UofM and NCC will be for the NCC to handle communications with related parties and UofM will handle on-site preparation and logistics.

Hideyuki Morimoto asked the Council as a whole to discussion of the need for English translations of Japanese electronic database licensing contracts for use by such individuals as University General Counsel's offices. It was suggested that this may be an area for the **Consortial Licensing Task Force**. It was decided that Sachie will ask Ellen Hammond, chair of the CLTF whether her group can take this issue on. Rob Britt pointed out the problems of non-lawyers appearing to give legal advice. Stephen Miller will provide the NCC with the name of a Japanese woman he knows who recently became a lawyer to check whether she might be able to provide advice on this matter. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting when Ellen Hammond, chair of the CLTF will be present. It was also decided to invite a representative from Kinokuniya's San Francisco office to the NCC's January meeting since Kinokuniya is

the agent for OCLC and other electronic resources and recently became the North American agent for Nichigai Associates. Sachie will contact Mr. Mitake of Kinokuniya regarding the January meeting.

Another discussion on ways the NCC can further assist with Cooperative Collection Development was held and it was agreed that MVS will continue to be the NCC's sole project working to support cooperative collection development for the foreseeable future.

San Francisco was decided upon as the site for the next NCC meeting. In light of the 9/11 disaster it is expected that hotels will be more readily available. Vickey will consult with the San Francisco Bureau of Tourism to locate the best site for the meeting which will take place January 11th and 12th, 2002.