

**Revised Minutes for the Meeting of the
North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources
Chancellor's Suite, Bruce Hall, University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
September 13 and 14, 2002**

Friday, September 13: Morning Session (9:00 to noon)

Sachie Noguchi, NCC Chair welcomed the guests who included Rush Miller, University Librarian, Zhijai Shen, Head of the East Asian Library, and other library colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh.

The Minutes of the January 2002 NCC Council Meeting were reviewed and approved as revised

Reports from Representatives of Funding and Collaborative Organizations:

Reports from Funding Agencies:

- Japan-United States Friendship Commission – Margaret Mihori's report was delayed until Saturday to await the arrival of materials.
- Japan Foundation – Irene Lacis reported on behalf of the Foundation. She announced that from now on guidelines and application forms for Japan Foundation grants will be mounted on their web site and will not be sent by mail. These include the library support applications for which there are accompanying PDF files of book lists available in both US dollars and Yen. She also spoke of the Foundation's enthusiastic support of the NCC's Junior Library Training Seminar which took place in August and was attended by Mr. Hirano of the Foundation. Irene also announced that Hideyuki Morimoto and Sharon Domier have been selected to participate in the Japan Foundation-National Diet Library training program, and finally she announced that former NCC Chair Kristina Troost has been appointed to the Japan Foundation's American Advisory Committee.

Reports from NCC Representatives from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies:

- Karl Lo, Acting Chief of the Asian Division of the **Library of Congress** reported on behalf of LC. Karl reported that there has been a major shift in LC's policy and perspective on interlibrary loan. LC has the largest Japanese language collection in the US but thus far its loan rate has been low. The Japan group of the Asian Division is committed to responding quickly to ILL requests (within 2 working days). There was a general discussion of past policies and perceptions within the field. In the past, LC was often viewed as the source of last resort for ILL where as in the future LC hopes to be much more open and working toward becoming the lender of first resort. He admitted that it will take time to change that perception both within LC and among the ILL community and he specifically asked the NCC to help put pressure on all constituencies to bring about this change.

Karl reminded everyone that because of the increased government security following the anthrax problems all LC mail must be diverted for irradiation. He suggests that communications should be via email rather than US Mail.

He also spoke of LC's Kluge Fellows Program of visiting scholars and said that they are seeking nominations of Asian Librarians and Japanese Scholars. Those interested should contact the Kluge Center at LC.

And finally he spoke briefly about the recruiting process for the Permanent Asian Chief. The application deadline had just closed that day (September 13th) and he said the process is moving forward within the LC administration. His term as acting chief is ending and so this will be his only meeting representing LC at the NCC.

A general discussion followed, it was suggested that once things are finalized at LC the NCC Newsletter would be a good place for an article on changing policies and the changing of the guard at LC. Also it was suggested that the AAS Newsletter would be a good venue. It was also suggested that postings should be made on eastlib and other electronic mailing lists. It was also noted that the completion of LC's retrospective conversion of manuscripts and their over 6,000 serials is essential to making its collection more widely and openly available. Karl added that there is the hope that eventually LC will buy any materials for which there is a legitimate research need and he further noted that the Kluge Center sponsors scholarly conferences and that in the future the NCC might want to collaborate with LC on such a conference.

- James Huffman then made the report for the **Japan Foundation American Advisory Committee**. He noted that in general the overall JF budget is down and that increasingly priority is shifting away from projects in the US and other well developed countries. With regard to library grants he said that 80% of the funding has been in the B category and he asked about NCC recommendations to the JF-AAC, which will be further discussed at the January Meetings. He referred to his full written report, distributed to members. Questions raised included combining the A categories and expanding the list from which purchases can be made. Irene Lacin of JF asked for suggestions on how to restructure the A category. It was recommended that A-1 should continue, and under A-2 institutions should be able to buy up to half their purchase from the list.
- **Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)** was given by the Committee on Japanese Material's new chair Kuniko Yamada McVey. The new CEAL web site will be up in October. Hitoshi Kamada at Arizona is the webmaster. She reviewed the new members of CJM who include Keiko Higuchi of I-House as CJM liaison in Japan; also on the committee are Alban Kojima of Penn, Toshie Marra of UCLA returning, Kenji Niki of Michigan, and Hitoshi Kamada of Arizona (who as noted previously serves as webmaster for the CJM site).
- **Japan Liaison** Akira Miyazawa provided a report on recent activities among Japanese libraries. He noted that the Global ILL Framework (GIF) has now completed its first 6 months of operations. During that time he noted that there has been approximately a 50% fill rate, which by Japanese standards is low (their average is closer to 90%).

He also spoke of the restructuring of the Japanese National University and Research Institute systems which includes annual budget decreases of 1% for personnel costs. There is now legislation underway to create a national university *hojin* and an independent research institute *hojin* scheduled to be created April 1, 2004. The process will bring about the mergers of a number of institutions, including the University of Library and Information Sciences which is merging with Tsukuba. The first wave of mergers will occur in October 2003. In due time 4 umbrella groups (bodies) will be created; humanities research including Minpaku, Rekihaku, Nichibunken, etc; high energy accelerator research will be one body, 5

other natural science institutes will be grouped, and NII will be grouped with the Institute of Statistical Mathematics and several others.

He also spoke of the reorganization of NDL which took place on April 1, 2002 and the opening of the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature. He gave a general overview of what the new Kansai-kan will include and encouraged everyone to check the newsletters on NDL's site for further details.

Mr. Miyazawa also spoke of NII's plan of offering of NACSIS products free of charge to foreign users. Applications will be annual and monitored for usage. Sachie noted that signing up is very easy but use is somewhat difficult. This is currently a pilot on an annual basis and will probably continue 5 years. Registration is for the whole IP address of each institution. The idea of a link to EASL and a possible Newsletter article were discussed and will be pursued later.

- In Lynne Kutsukake's absence Sachie Noguchi and Vickey Bestor provided an update on the **Canadian Advisory Group**. Lynne Kutsukake has resigned from the NCC for personal reasons and we will discuss a replacement later in new business. Tad Suzuki the Canadian librarian who participated in the JLTS is writing a detailed report of the Seminar for the Canadian group and plans other programs to broaden the impact of his training.
- Because of David McCann's late arrival the report of the **Northeast Asia Council of the AAS** was made on Saturday.
- **ARL Representative** Mary Jackson was unable to attend and so a written report was presented on behalf of the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project which Mary coordinates. That report and others were distributed to Council members before the meeting. The central component of the ARL report focused on the end of the Global Resources Project grant and the current process reviewing all programs that were part of that project at ARL. The Japan Project components have been the extremely successful ILL/DD projects with Waseda and ANUL and the GIF project (reported upon by Mr. Miyazawa) which grew from the ANUL project, and the Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers (ULJSN).

At Mary's request a discussion was held about the Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers (ULJSN). Mary raised a number of questions: Is the Union List still needed; if so is the current Union List which is both incomplete and in need of a complete reengineering worth reworking or has technology now moved to the point that the needed data can be downloaded or harvested from other more technologically sophisticated sources?

Sally Hastings said that for scholars in institutions without Japanese Studies librarians the Union List has been very useful. However since there have been various technical problems she noted that she has not used it in some time. Rob Britt said it can be useful if complete and kept up to date, neither of which it is. Karl Lo said that if one is using a Z39.50 server, searching should be possible using that system. He wondered if OCLC would be willing to modify the system to make it more useful in this way. He noted that a Z-server costs \$20,000 and would therefore be difficult for many smaller institutions to afford. Karl further suggested that the old list should be OCR'd and mounted on the CEAL web site. Akira Miyazawa noted that the Japanese Union List is almost completely updated and the new conversion is easier and users can automatically update. Karl Lo asked if NII might be willing to provide data to LC in USMARC format or MARC21. Karl will carry this question

back to LC and LC and NII will discuss the feasibility with the goal of making a concrete plan. NII is helping Europe to make a Union List and might be able to cooperate with the US on this too.

The Council adjourned at noon to attend the Faculty Luncheon of the University of Pittsburgh Asian Studies Program as guests. The luncheon was an excellent opportunity to learn of the many activities of Pitt's Asian Studies Program and to meet and network with faculty, and staff of Pitt's various Asia-related programs.

Friday, September 13, afternoon session (1:30 to 5:00)

NCC Administrative Updates:

Sachie Noguchi made the **NCC Web Site Update** reporting on the progress of posting new materials to the site including the new MVS guidelines and materials from the JLTS. The Council discussed the future of its web site and the question was raised as to whether the NCC should have its own server and possibly pay to have the web hosted. Kuniko McVey and Vickey Bestor will look into this.

NCC Newsletter Update, Vickey Bestor reported on the contents of the most recent issue and plans for the next issue to come out at the end of the year. That issue, number 16 will include a photo essay on the JLTS. Margaret Mihori asked if the NCC will continue to produce its Newsletter on paper as well as in electronic format. The Commission is moving to electronic only. Several members said they strongly support continuing with both formats. Both Sally Hastings and Jim Huffman felt that paper versions were very valuable and used. Also it was noted that since the Newsletter is sent to a large number of scholars on the AAS Japan list, paper may be a better format.

Sachie Noguchi reported that the New York Public Library will host the NCC's 2003 Open Meeting in March to be held in conjunction with the New York City AAS meeting. The Open Meeting will include tours of the NYPL's Spencer Collection and of their Japanese Rare Books. The NCC meeting will also include a presentation from the National Diet Library.

Vickey Bestor provided an update on NCC Office and Administrative Activities reporting that the NCC has completed the filing to become listed as a Public Charity according to Massachusetts law. The Council is now using a Quick Books accounting system and has a new accountant who specializes in small nonprofits. The last fiscal year ended June 30th and the NCC's tax filing date is November 15th, from here on it will need to file federal and Massachusetts tax returns but will not longer file in New York or California.

NCC Committee Updates:

Multi-Volume Sets (MVS) Project: Yasuko Makino, outgoing MVS co-chair provided an update on planning for the new prescreening system for MVS. Ads have been placed in the AAS Newsletter and will be posted several times on Eastlib as well as on other relevant sites. Yasuko and Vickey Bestor also discussed the new MVS Handbook Draft and asked for any suggestions from members. The Handbook outlines the duties of all MVS Committee members as well as the duties of the director, chair, and the project vendor in Japan. It is hoped that the

new handbook will help insure year to year continuity and clear record keeping. The handbook was another recommendation of the MVS Review Committee which has now been completed.

Junior Librarian Training: Sachie Noguchi led the report on the Junior Librarian Training Seminar with additional information provided by Kuniko McVey and Vickey Bestor. The Seminar was an enormous success and Sachie will report again on it at the meetings of the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists in Paris later in the month.

Digital Resources Committee: A discussion of Ellen Hammond's written report on Digital Information Resources Committee was held and the committee members will be approved by the Council. Ellen Hammond will continue as co-chair and Council member Rob Britt will become the other co-chair. Other members will be Sanae Isozumi of UCSD, Kazuko Sakaguchi of the Reischauer Institute at Harvard, and Tokiko Bazzell of Hawaii.

User Training Task Force: Members of the UTTF are Kris Troost co-chair, David McCann co-chair, Sharon Domier of U. Mass. Amherst, Keiko Yokota-Carter of Washington, Laura Miller of Loyola, Chicago, and Jim Huffman.

AskEASL: Vickey Bestor provided a summary of her discussion with Sharon Domier, coordinator of AskEASL. EASL continues to develop and VRD will soon be implementing a new series of updates funded by their NSF grant. These are particularly tailored to EASL's needs. A story on EASL's role in VRD's receiving the NSF grant is contained in the last Newsletter # 15.

Saturday, September 14: 272 Hillman Library Conference Room

Morning Session (9:00 to 1:00)

Funder's Report: (postponed from Friday):

Margaret Mihori offered the **Japan US Friendship Commission's** report. She noted that JUSFC has not yet had its first meeting with the new commissioners so it is not fully known what the board will do. She expects Dick Samuels the new chair may want to support more substantive security and other policy-related projects. The wholesale grants in Japanese Studies to organizations like SSRC and NEAC will continue. No major changes are expected in the sub-category of Library support. The results of the meeting will be on the Commissions web site as soon as possible after October 1st.

Reports from Representative Organizations (Postponed from Friday):

NEAC: Sachie Noguchi welcomed the new NEAC Representative David McCann of Harvard. Since David is new and did not attend the last NEAC meeting he had little to report. He did note that the nominees for AAS President which come from Northeast Asian this round are Laurel Kendall, of the Museum of Natural History, a Koreanist anthropologist, and Beth Berry of UC Berkeley a Japanese historian.

NCC Committee and Project Updates (continued):

Japan Art Catalog Project

- Reiko Yoshimura's written report on the Japanese JAC Collection at the Freer was received without discussion.

- Sachie Noguchi reported that all has been approved for the opening of the Western Depository at the University of Pittsburgh. She will work directly with Reiko Yoshimura to arrange the transfer of Western books in the Freer Collection and will meeting with ACE Japan on a future trip to Tokyo.

New Business and New Project Updates:

A discussion of possible post Junior Librarians Seminar publications was held and it was agreed that the materials from the Seminar should be update as needed and posted on the NCC Web Site.

Discussions of future Council and Committee Members took place. Recommendations were made and Chair Sachie Noguchi was asked to contact candidates to invite them to serve.

- Toshie Marra of UCLA was chosen Chair-Elect
- Tomoko Goto of UBC was selected to fill the librarian position vacated by Lynne Kutsukake of University of Toronto
- Yasuko Makino of Princeton and Michiko Ito of Kansas were chosen to fill the two vacant positions on the Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Committee.

The January 10-11, 2003 Council Meeting will be held in New York City to convenience the Japan Foundation which has its American Advisory Council meetings in January and long distance travel is difficult for staff at that time. Vickey will investigate hotels and meeting spaces.