

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources
Mayflower Park Hotel, Seattle Washington
September 5-6, 2003**

Present: Chair Sachie Noguchi, Chair-elect Toshie Marra, Executive Director Victoria Lyon Bestor; Rob Britt, John Campbell, Tomoko Goto, Sally Hastings, Naomi Kotake, Mary Jackson, Hwa-Wei Lee, Yasuko Makino, David McCann, Kuniko McVey, Akira Miyazawa, Yoshiko Samuel; Masaki Hirano of the Japan Foundation, and observers Eddy Harrison and Keiko Yokota-Carter.

Friday, September 5, 2003

NCC Chair Sachie Noguchi welcomed all the Council members especially the new members Hwa-Wei Lee, Chief of the Asian Division at Library of Congress and Yoshiko Samuel who has joined as the representative of the Japan Foundation American Advisory Committee (AAC); and also Tomoko Goto who joined the Council before the last meeting which she could not attend. She also welcomed the observers from the University of Washington, Eddy Harrison and Keiko Yokota-Carter.

The Minutes of the January 2003 NCC Council Meeting were reviewed and approved as revised.

Reports from Funding Agencies:

Masaki Hirano reported on behalf of the **Japan Foundation** (JF). He also welcomed the new AAC representative Professor Samuel of Wesleyan University. He began by noting that the forms and grant application guidelines will soon be available on the web with no major changes since the previous year. Regarding the library support grants he said that they expected the JF to adopt the reforms suggested by the New York Office. Also a new set of FAQ's will go on the web site and he asked the NCC to assist in reviewing the draft of the FAQ's.

Mr. Hirano then discussed the coming Japan Foundation reforms which officially takes place on October 1, 2003. However he noted that they expect the rest of the current fiscal year to continue basically unchanged with the major reforms in place at the beginning of the next fiscal year in April 1, 2004. He was not able to give a great deal of information about the content of the reforms which will be announced shortly.

The Japan Foundation will again fund a survey of Japanese Studies. Pat Steinhoff will conduct the U.S. study and Michael Donnelly will do the Canadian study. Mr. Hirano asked the NCC's assistance in reviewing the library-related questions in the survey. The survey will take three years to complete and will be published in the 4th year.

The new president of the Japan Foundation is Kazuo Ogoura, formerly of the Ministry of Finance and Aoyama Gakuin. His particular area of expertise is France and Vietnam.

The Japan Studies Information Specialist Training Seminar (formerly known as the JF-NDL Training Workshop) will include 14 participants, four from the U.S.; Tokiko Bazzell, Hawaii; Sanae Isozumi, UC San Diego; Beth Katzoff, Cornell; and Haruko Nakamura, Washington-St. Louis; and one from Canada, Tad Suzuki of Victoria.

Mr. Hirano's term in New York is coming to an end and he will soon return to Tokyo. His replacement will be Keiji Shono who was in the CGP Office in Tokyo and served in the Japan Foundation LA office. Mr. Hirano expressed his great enthusiasm for Mr. Shono's selection.

The **Japan-United States Friendship Commission** report was presented in written form because neither Eric Gangloff nor Margaret Mihori was able to attend the NCC Meeting. The Commission's revised guidelines have been published and they expect to receive a number of strong applications in new areas. Their budget is stable but has zero growth. The report noted that the Commission has funded two part time positions for the NCC which will greatly help in managing the NCC's growing range of programs and is exceptional given their tight funding situation.

Reports from NCC Representatives from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies:

Hwa-Wei Lee, the new chief of the Asian Division reported on behalf of the **Library of Congress (LC)**. He noted that the Asian Division has not been able to replace vacancies for the last six years and is in the process of filling five new positions including two related to Japan. He further noted that because of illness Yoko Akiba has been out and also one other resigned to take a new position so they are down to two people in the Japanese section. LC wants to engage in greater outreach activities once the new staff is in place. They have noticed a steady decline in onsite readership and LC looks forward to working with the NCC in developing new outreach directions.

He also announced that the Japanese map collection will be digitized, 207 of the 214 maps are originals, and 160 are thought to be unique copies. So preservation is a big effort. Some of them will be sent to Japan to tour. LC is about to conclude a multi-year agreement with Nichibunken to have materials digitized. They also received the donation of 11,300 35mm color slides of Kabuki taken between 1957 and 1974 which will be digitized by 2005.

The **Japan Foundation AAC** report was made by Yoshiko Samuel who reported that the budget remained unchanged at 8 million yen. There were 33 applications this year; the total requested was 38 million yen. Nine grants were made; approximately 72% of the budget went to B2 category which gives up to 2 million yen each.

The Japan Foundation has decided to keep the A category to continue to support institutions just beginning to develop Japanese Studies programs. However they revised the guidelines for A2 to allow applicants to select up to 50% of the grant from materials not on the book list.

The application forms for the library support program are being revised to require applicants to provide clearer explanations on how they will use the requested materials. Institutions should emphasize the tie between the requested books and the curriculum. Applicants should be asked to demonstrate consultation with the faculty and other sources of support for books in Japanese Studies and to also address the reasons why they cannot make use of ILL to get the materials requested.

Kuniko Yamada McVey made the report on behalf of the **Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)** with particular attention to the Committee on Japanese Materials (CJM) which she chairs. She began by reporting on the CJM Meeting during the AAS annual meeting which has been reported on fully in the Journal of East Asian Libraries (JEAL).

She was particularly happy to announce that the Subcommittee on Japanese Rare Books will soon publish a directory of North American Collections of old and rare Japanese materials also in JEAL and she thanked them for their work. It was suggested that JEAL should publish extra copies of that issue that it should sell at the AAS booth. It will be online eventually but as Sally Hastings noted some people may want to buy a copy and she is anxious for the information to get outside the librarian community. At the least it should be publicized on H-Japan, J-Lit, JAHF, and EMJ and possibly sold at AAS.

The Subcommittee on Japanese Rare Books has also helped with the Practical Workshop for Overseas Librarians on Early Japanese Books which will be held at the National Institute for Japanese Literature in Tokyo in February 2004. 28 librarians from outside Japan will participate in the week-long workshop.

John Campbell suggested that it would be useful to have a small directory of Japan-related electronic mailing lists. It might be a NEAC project and David McCann said he was anxious to discuss this further.

Japan Liaison, Akira Miyazawa made his report focusing on three topics. The Union list of periodicals in Japanese libraries known as GAKUSŌMOKU (学総目: 学術雑誌総合目録), is the name of a series of publications spanning 50 years. Since 1986, the GAKUSŌMOKU project has been operated by NACSIS/NII, and the result is reflected in the serials part of NACSIS-CAT database.

He provided an update on Japanese copyright disputes. Whether or not to include the sending of copied pages through fax or e-mail as an exception to Article 31 of the copyright law (fair use) has been an issue between copyright holders and libraries. Legislation was committed to a committee (文化審議会著作権分科会法制問題小委員会) under the Cultural Agency for discussion, however the conclusion made in June was rather disappointing.

The Committee refused to act on the issue and referred it instead to direct negotiations between the parties. If copyright holders and libraries can continue to agree that fax or e-mail transmissions are a part of normal ILL services, negotiation should not be difficult. The debate between writers and libraries about the mass-lending of "best sellers" has developed into a debate over public lending rights. Both parties are now discussing the introduction of this right. The committee above is waiting for the conclusion of two parties' talks.

And finally he reported on the National Diet Library (NDL)'s new project for authority coordination which started this year. The project aims to establish a national authority file and a maintenance system for it. What's new in this project is that they are going to involve NII, university libraries, municipal libraries as well as the commercial sectors like TRC (Toshokan Ryutu Center). This year is the planning stage and NDL has set up a preparatory committee made up of representatives from concerned parties. System development is scheduled in the next fiscal year, and operation is scheduled to start in 2005.

David McCann made the report on behalf of the **Northeast Asia Council** following up on the discussion about creating a directory of electronic mailing lists. It was agreed that David, Kuniko and Vickey will get together to develop such a proposal to NEAC for a directory.

David also reported on the NEAC Small Grants program which primarily provides grants to individuals for travel, individual research and to small institutions trying to develop materials for teaching. He said that if funding is adequate they try to fund all requests for such materials. He also asked for any advice about how to reach the various groups that might be developing teaching materials on Japan at the undergraduate level. The question was raised as to whether librarians would qualify to apply for NEAC travel grants and David felt that they were qualified and encouraged librarians to apply.

The **Association of Research Libraries** (ARL) report was given by Mary Jackson. Now that she will no longer be reporting on the Japan Project she wanted to know what kinds of ARL information was most important to the NCC. She began by noting that there has been some reorganization of ARL programs and there has been a merger of the committees on Collections and Access for which she is the program officer. She also noted that the Special Collections Task Force is working on an action plan and will meet at LC. One of the questions they are looking at is how to define what a "special collection" is.

She then discussed Phase II of the GRP which is changing its name to the Global Resources Network (GRN) and the network is continuing to evolve. There is an effort to try to have some overall cohesion among GRN projects. She noted that the term "network" in this instance refers to a network of people not a network like OCLC or NACSIS. Mary will email us with an update on GRN activities discussed at the October ARL meetings.

Mary is also conducting an ILL study which she will be glad to share. The data is still preliminary and she asked that numbers not be put in the minutes at this time. As background she noted that ILL is 2% of normal circulation and ILL for all foreign languages combined is only 2% of ILL. One of the newer ILL-related areas she is looking at are the collaborative systems such as Ohio Link and Borrow Direct the effort of a group of northeastern libraries (Penn, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Cornell, Brown, and Harvard) which freely circulate materials among themselves and have special delivery procedures. These new systems have resulted in cutting ILL costs because ILL is user initiated, done with online requests forms, and most of the process is handled electronically. The software is easily expandable but the limiting factor is getting materials quickly from one place to another at greater distances. Mary is very interested to see how the Library Directors will regard these developments in comparison with "mediated" or traditional ILL. These kinds of networks also provide strong arguments for projects such as MVS.

NCC Administrative Updates:

Sachie Noguchi reported on her various efforts and active travel schedule over the past months. She reported on the July meetings in Japan which focused on the test of Phase II of the GIF initiative conducted in May and June. The July meeting also looked at various technical aspects (more is said about this in the later report on the transition of the Japan Project site).

Sachie also mentioned the NCC Open Meeting at the New York Public Library (NYPL) in March and particularly the reports taken over from CJM which did not have time for all these reports; those included a report from the

National Diet Library and Tomoko Goto's report on the JF-NDL Training Workshop. NYPL prepared a small special exhibition displaying a number of rare and valuable materials from the Spencer and Asia/Japanese Collections for members to view; a behind-the-scenes tour of the collection was also organized. The meeting ended with an open discussion on digital resources organized by the NCC's Digital Resources Committee (DRC) and moderated by Ellen Hammond.

During the summer Sachie spent three weeks in Japan during which time she met with people at the Japan Foundation and NDL where she expressed the need for continued training of U.S. librarians. Having heard that there is no guarantee of support beyond this year, she recommended that the JSIST program take four U.S. librarians. All four of those recommended were accepted.

Sachie also visited Waseda reiterating that the Waseda project is now fully independent and a memo will be issued announcing that this project has successfully become independent of the Japan Project (and the GRN) as mentioned earlier.

Vickey Bestor reported on **NCC Public Information** efforts in particular the new NCC web site migration and redesign. The Reischauer Institute at Harvard has agreed to house the NCC home page and its account has been set up. The NCC has hired a web designer who is working on the migration of the site and she currently has material from both Pittsburgh and ARL. For the time being those two sites are staying up until the NCC site is fully up at which point all the materials will run only on the new NCC site. Vickey also noted that eventually the NCC Newsletter will be distributed either in print or electronic format at subscriber option. There may also be a new series of NCC bulletins.

The update on **NCC Office and Administrative Activities** was provided by executive director Vickey Bestor. A written report on the program budget for the year just completed was passed out to Council members and Vickey answered any questions raised by the Council. She also reported that the Commission has funded new part time NCC Staff positions. So far a web master/designer has been hired and she is currently interviewing people for a clerical/bookkeeping position that may also handle coordination of the Newsletter. Vickey also briefly mentioned the proposed NCC Council Handbook which is still in the planning stages.

NCC Committee Updates:

Sachie Noguchi reported that the NCC had again been asked by the Japan Foundation to nominate participants in the **Japan Studies Information Specialist Training Seminar** (formerly the JF-NDL training program). As Mr. Hirano noted earlier, this year the NCC's nominating committee put forward four names all of whom have been selected. (The Japan Foundation report earlier in these minutes contains further details.)

Kris Troost's **User Training Task Force** report was then discussed with regard to a planned application to the Japan Foundation in its Professional Conferences and Seminars Category. When it was constituted, the NCC's User Training Task Force (UTTF) was charged with reporting to the NCC on strategies for expanding training in new electronic materials for the broadest possible range of faculty and students. To achieve that goal the UTTF recommended a two-phased strategy: 1) providing additional training for librarians and other information specialists to enable them to become more proficient in the specialized skills needed for providing expert hands-on instruction in digital resources; and 2) developing models for User Training Workshops that may be offered collaboratively by the NCC with the librarians and information specialists trained in the programs outlined above; such workshops would likely be co-sponsored by local organizations and provide training to faculty and students in a given region or among members of a specific discipline or research focus at smaller professional meetings.

Due to the enormous proliferation of new Japanese electronic materials and the different range of instructional techniques needed for offering hands-on instruction in such materials many seasoned Japanese Studies librarians have expressed the need for receiving specialized training in the instruction of electronic resources. Librarians feel a need to be better trained in both the use of Japanese databases and in the methodology of training others. The UTTF envisions a pair of Training the Trainers Workshops, one each offered on the East Coast and the West Coast. The workshops would take place over a long weekend and would be taught in a computer classroom with each trainee working at a computer terminal. Sessions will combine those in a lecture/demonstration format, will include hands-on interaction between instructors and trainees, and will also require each trainee to present a training session

on a resource to the group and to receive personal feedback and advice on their presentation from a librarian who specializes in library instruction. Following the workshop each trainee would be required to make use of their training by offering workshop(s) as outreach, either offered at regional professional meetings in the field of Japanese Studies or as workshops at their home institution which are open also to outside faculty and students from their region or state as well as to those from their home campus. Once the number of those expertly trained in the instruction of electronic materials has been sufficiently expanded, a broad based effort to expand training for faculty and students can begin.

Over the last two years the UTTF has also studied strategies for offering instruction to faculty and students in new electronic materials. This process has included a number of *ad hoc* discussions among task force members and especially those who have taught sessions in electronic materials at venues that provide us with important models for offering future training. The second phase of this effort, possibly funded by a Japan Foundation grant applied for in a subsequent year, would include a series of training workshops co-sponsored by the NCC and regional consortia such as the Midwest Association for Asian Affairs, smaller professional groups such as JAWS (the Japan Anthropology Workshop), JAHF (the Japan Art History Forum), the Japan Sociologists Group, the Japanese Political Scientists Groups, groups of Japanese Historians, the regional conferences on Japanese Literature, or the numerous graduate student conferences in Japanese Studies. Also workshops might be co-sponsored by major institutions which have large Japanese Studies collections and extensive electronic classroom facilities which would make their facilities available to outside faculty and students from throughout their geographical region.

The UTTF recommends that NCC work to develop a proposal for the Japan Foundation that follows the basic outline summarized above. It is anticipated that the initiatives outlined will require multi-year funding, which no doubt must be re-applied for annually. The members of the UTTF expressed the desire to work closely with the NCC in the developing the initial proposal to enlarge the number of librarians and information specialist expertly trained in offering bibliographic instruction in electronic materials, and to continuing to advise the NCC on future efforts to greatly expand the options and opportunities for training in electronic materials for faculty and students in Japanese Studies throughout North America.

The **Japan Project Advisory Committee's** first report was given by Toshie Marra and John Campbell, co-chairs. Following the discussion of the Global Resources Project (since renamed the Global Resources Network, GRN) held at the January NCC Meeting, the Japan Project Advisory Committee (JPAC) was formed with Toshie Marra (Japanese Studies Librarian, UCLA and NCC Chair-elect) and John Campbell (Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan) as co-chairs. Over the summer the committee conducted online discussions, researched new electronic initiatives, and John Campbell conducted two surveys of faculty and researchers using several professional electronic mailing lists. During the Meeting a lengthy discussion of the JPAC report was held. A summary of that discussion follows:

John Campbell began by reporting on the two surveys he conducted among faculty on various Japan-related electronic mailing lists asking about specific information needs that the Japan Project might facilitate. Because the surveys were conducted over the summer he noted that he did not receive a large number of responses but he did receive 19 substantive responses. Only two of the respondents were interested in an archive of Japanese web sites, a subject that had been strongly suggested at the January NCC Meeting and so little additional focus was given to that topic.

13 respondents expressed the need for greater access to statistical data sets (as has been discussed many times before Japanese privacy rules prevent the release of many forms of survey data except those in the most aggregate forms. Social scientists of Japan are anxious to gain access to the kinds of statistics that are widely available for research from most other countries. That extreme sense of privacy greatly inhibits the ability of many social scientists to use Japanese data to the extent they are able to use similar data from other countries). This is an ongoing issue that continues to be a problem. Related to this, John noted a long message he received from Madoka Nakamura a researcher who is in charge of the library at the Japanese think tank NIRA (National Institute for Research Advancement). His email to John commented upon the large body of information that has recently become available due to the Japanese Information Disclosure Act. As Nakamura-san noted these "e-gov" materials are organized differently from their US counterparts such as "First Gov" and they are not as user-friendly in format. John wondered if possibly some attempt to help organize or archive new data opened by the Information Disclosure Act might be a good initiative for the Japan Project to undertake or assist with.

10 respondents focused specifically on the need for better access to newspapers and in summary John said that the area upon which the Japan Project might have the greatest impact seems to be access to full text newspapers. A discussion followed about the problems and expense of using Nikkei Telecom in contrast to the LexisNexis model in which access is given to anyone within a certain IP address. Rob Britt noted that the DRC (Digital Resources Committee) continues to work on that problem but thus far there has been no positive movement from Nikkei. He also noted that the increased concern about copyright among Japanese vendors has led to further restrictions.

John reiterated that this issue is unquestionably one of the most important for scholars in the field and he wondered if possibly political pressure could be brought to bear by involving higher level individuals such as the president of the AAS. If the AAS president would take the case for the scholarly need for such materials directly to Asahi and Nikkei it might improve access to full text newspapers. The goal would be to develop an overseas academic rate for newspapers that would enable all library users to have access on an IP based license similar to LexisNexis rather than the pay-per-search licenses that now exists with some Japanese products.

Co-chair Toshie Marra then took over the discussion referring back to the JPAC report which was circulated electronically to all Council members prior to the meeting. As Toshie summarized there were four basic components suggested by the report; creating an open archive of web sites; providing more convenient access to Japanese newspapers; acting as a clearinghouse for Japanese government data; promoting digitization of rare Japanese holdings and making that information available on the web.

The discussion then opened up to the floor and the need for newspaper information continued to be the main focus of discussion. Mary Jackson mentioned that some of the other GRN projects are focused on newspapers and this might be a good area for the Japan Project to work with other GRN projects on.

Rob again mentioned copyright problems and the need for political clout to open data to research. The idea of asking the AAS president-elect, Mary Elizabeth Berry (Japanese historian, UC Berkeley) to make calls next year (with DRC chair Ellen Hammond) was again raised. John suggested that the library community should come up with suggestions of the 3-5 major vendors to ask Beth to consider visiting during her term as president. Kuniko McVey mentioned that Andrew Gordon (Professor of History at Harvard) made such visits while in Japan in February last year but had so far had no success. Those visited said they were working on overseas contracts but there has been no progress and Kuniko was skeptical about how much they were interested in moving forward because the U.S. academic market is so small that vendors focus on the domestic Japanese business market. John said that maybe it would be useful to emphasize that vendors would not be giving up much business if they should provide a major discount as a service to the field of Japanese Studies.

Based on the Japan Project Advisory Committee's report and the subsequent discussion, the NCC recommended that a new project not be recommended immediately however, further research should be undertaken in several areas. 1) A standing Japan Project Advisory Committee should be created with some change in membership. 2) Newspapers appear to be the most productive focus for the first new project but the committee should continue to study various new projects and commercial products to see if there are other needs that can be filled by a Japan Project initiative. 3) The newspaper initiatives undertaken by other GRN projects should be examined. 4) With regard to Japanese government documents, the committee should continue to study the needs for these resources by scholars in North America with an eye to also evaluating existing services to fulfill such needs. To provide the NCC with further background on these needs the NCC should invite Professor Larry Repeta, a founding member of the Information Clearinghouse Japan, to the January NCC Meeting to be held at the Library of Congress. Professor Repeta could discuss his views on freedom of information, the importance of Japanese government documents, and issues related to access to such information. 5) And finally the NCC recommended to the GRN that the name be shortened to simply the "Japan Project" from the "Japan Journal Access Project" since its activities are now much broader than simply access to journals.

John also expressed the need to find a means of helping scholars to negotiate the maze of Japanese government web sites. It was suggested that such searching aids should be put on AsKEASL. Several librarians have already done some work on government web sites and it would be good to gather the materials they have created, update it, and post it among the EASL Guides.

Tomoko Goto reported on behalf of the NCC's **Canadian Advisory Group**. The group met for a third annual meeting in Toronto organized by the Japan Foundation's librarian, Mariko Liliefeld. She also congratulated her colleague Tad Suzuki of the University of Victoria on being selected for the Japan Studies Information Specialist Training Seminar in Tokyo in December.

The update on the management transition of the **AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project** to NCC was discussed by Vickey Bestor and Mary Jackson. Mary and Sachie reported further on their participation in the GIF evaluation meeting held in Tokyo in July. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate the canceled records of non-returnable requests, to review the book loan test results, establish the date for official beginning of the book loan, and discuss adding new members outside North America or Japan to GIF. Regarding the evaluation of canceled records, to know the reasons why the requests for non-returnables (i.e., copies) were refused/canceled, the canceled data from April to December 2002 was analyzed on both side before the meeting; the North American data by M. Jackson and S. Noguchi and the Japan data by I. Sasakawa, Y. Tochitani, O. Inoue, and K. Uzawa. A number of problems were found and the remedies were suggested or implemented after the meeting. It was agreed at that meeting that GIF should fully open the project to the loan of books. In addition the question of possible participation from other world areas was discussed following the request by an Australian library to join GIF. It was agreed that such requests should be accepted providing that the applicant libraries fully followed all GIF guidelines. Since the first such request was made to the NCC, the NCC was directed to communicate with the applicant and proceed following the guidelines. It was also noted that the Waseda University Document Delivery Project is now considered a fully independent project operating entirely on its own without further assistance needed from the Japan Project.

In addition Vickey Bestor, project manager, reported on other activities since January. The transition of administration from ARL to the NCC is proceeding. Thus far it has included a survey requesting Z39.50 access information asked for by the Japanese side to facilitate searching by their libraries. Vickey noted that she had not been surprised to find that some institutions do not yet have such access widely available however she was surprised to find the complexity of getting responses and the range of security concerns that seemed to be mentioned by some institutions. She also reported that all the Japan Project web files are being transferred to the NCC's new site at Harvard which should be fully up by the target date recommended by the NCC of January 1, 2004.

The report on **Digital Resources Committee** was given by co-chair Rob Britt with Ellen Hammond's written report which was distributed to all members. Rob reported that the DRC is working with Kinokuniya which is the representative for a number of Japanese products to help amend licenses. The product, JapanKnowledge is serving as a model for these efforts. Kuniko McVey reported that she had heard from Mr. Mitake of Kinokuniya that he too is having difficulty in negotiations with some companies. It was suggested that Makiko Miwa of the National Institute of Multimedia Education and a DRC consultant also be consulted for advice about how to influence companies to open access to these materials. It was again recommended that Vickey talk to Ellen about the idea of going with AAS President-elect Beth Berry and also discussed the idea with Beth herself. The suggestion was made that the two of them along with someone like a cultural attaché from the U.S. Embassy might visit Asahi, Nikkei, Yomiuri, Mainichi, and Kinokuniya at least.

For the **AskEASL Advisory Committee** Tomoko Goto reported based in part on Sharon Domier's e-mail communication. One factor that was discussed in depth was the need for more publicity of the EASL project. It was also suggested that Ted Ota at LC be contacted since he handles such questions at LC.

The report of Keiko Yokota-Carter, the outgoing librarian co-chair of the **Multi-Volume Sets (MVS) Project** Committee was discussed with Keiko present to lead the discussion. She reported first on the initial year of the pre-screening process. She noted that some of the 47 titles submitted for the preliminary screening were unpublished titles, which is not allowable under MVS application guidelines.

In the end 23 titles were submitted in the final application round for the deadline of January 10, 2003. She noted two new decisions that the MVS Committee made; one was to give the University of Michigan and the University of California, Los Angeles both 50% funding for *Kaigai hikiage kankei shiryō shusei*, Yumani Shobo, 2000-2002, based on the diverse locations of each institution and the large local populations at each interested in the subject. Also the committee funded at the 50% level a request from Indiana University for *Showa zenki kyōshiron bunken shusei*, Yumani Shobo, 1992-1993. The set had been awarded MVS funding to University of Chicago before.

However, because Indiana University's collection is very strong in Japanese education and because Richard Rubinger is a leader in the field with a large number of students, the committee decided to grant this title to them at the 50 % level to enhance their Japanese education collection. In the end 17 titles were funded at 7 institutions.

She also discussed some problems encountered this year. While checking the holding status of requested titles it was discovered that JPT (Japan Publications Trading Co., Ltd. the purchasing agent of the MVS Project) was still holding funding for two as yet unpublished sections of major sets; of *Saigoku bushidan kankei shiryō* granted to the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1993, and *Nihon kindai kyoiku shiryō taikai* granted to Indiana University in 1993. Neither of those portions has been published and since current MVS policy would not allow such funds to be held, JPT was directed to return the funds to the MVS account where they will be used for next year's grants. It was recommended that the MVS guidelines be made more explicit so that these problems do not occur again.

She also reported that there were some problematic applications that lacked documents. Keiko had followed the examples of generous coordination by Yasuko Makino, former co-chair with whom she worked in the committee for previous two years. Following Yasuko's example she contacted the institutions with problematic applications and asked them to submit appropriate documents to complete the package, such as supporting letters from faculty members and endorsement letters from technical service and acquisition office. All of them submitted the requested documents before the final selection took place.

She concluded by noting that the cooperation of Japanese studies librarians was enthusiastic and much appreciated. The mission of the MVS Project can only be successful with the sincere efforts of the committee to select valuable resources, and with the earnest cooperation of librarians who check the holdings of each institution. She wanted to acknowledge gratitude to them in particular.

Sally Hastings raised a point that had come up in discussions at the February MVS meeting: Should MVS be funding applications that are very explicit in arguing for materials for classroom use? While acknowledging that teaching and research are closely connected, the Council reaffirmed that the primary purpose of MVS is to support scholarly research.

Finally, it was reported that the new members of the MVS Committee are Susan Matisoff, Professor of Japanese Literature at UC Berkeley and Haruko Nakamura, Japanese Studies Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis. They are replacements for Professor Bill Hauser and Keiko Yokota-Carter who rotated off the committee.

Reiko Yoshimura's report on the **Japan Art Catalog Project** was presented. The Library received the 12th shipment with 145 volumes in May 2003; the catalogs received since 1996 now total to 3,978 of which currently 3,259 records are cataloged in RLIN (as of Aug. 2003). Included in the latest shipment were 36 bilingual and western language catalogs of exhibitions abroad sponsored by the Japan Foundation. ACE Japan explained the decrease in the number of donated catalogs to the U.S. depository is due to the declining number of donations in Japan. In addition, the distribution of catalogs to other depository libraries contributes to the decrease. They estimate the future allocation for the U.S. depository will be 100-200 volumes per year. The Library also shipped 322 western art catalogs to University of Pittsburgh East Asian Library in November 2002.

The interlibrary loan activities of the JAC Project have been stable with a slight increase. 75% of the subject matter of the loaned titles was on modern (post-Kinsei) art; a small number of catalogs on Chinese and Korean art were also loaned this year. ILL Borrowers included Boston University, Brigham Young University, the Clark Art Institute, Cleveland Museum of Art, Dallas Museum of Art, Duke University, Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian, Middlebury College, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, New York University, Oberlin College, Rutgers University, Stanford University, Syracuse University, Texas Tech University, University of Arizona, UC-Santa Barbara, University of Chicago, University of Delaware, University of Illinois, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Tennessee, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. Other on site activities have included the visit of a collector of modern Japanese art who spent two full days in the stacks browsing JAC titles and a professor of Chinese art who noted that the Freer/Sackler Library has a near complete set of the catalogs of Chinese art exhibitions held in Japan.

Sachie Noguchi reported that the University of Pittsburgh East Asian Library has received two shipments of catalogs since the library was designated the JAC Western art catalog depository library in September 2002: 292 volumes

from Freer Gallery on Nov. 19, 2002 and 325 volumes from ACE Japan on April 30, 2003, 617 volumes in total. Pittsburgh has not begun cataloging the Western catalogs they received because their Japanese cataloger recently accepted another position. They will not be able to start the cataloging until a replacement is hired, but if there are inquiries about Western catalogs; Pittsburgh will make every effort to help researchers.

New Business and New Project Updates:

At the suggestion of several librarians, the Council discussed the importance of early Western works that were translated into Japanese in emerging scholarship on Japanese History. Emerging topics of scholarship was included in the 2001-2 MVS guidelines as follows: "Special consideration will be given to proposals for the purchase of sets that support important emerging areas of Japanese studies scholarship." It was suggested that this topic should be offered as an example of such emerging areas, which may attract more attention from potential MVS applicants. It was recommended that the MVS Committee reconsider the ways to include such works as examples of eligible sets for future MVS funding.

The Council also discussed the need for encouraging the English subtitling of Japanese educational DVDs and Videos but agreed that since the NCC's mandate is to focus on Japanese language materials; this is outside its area of focus.

The Council Nominating Committee made its report followed by a discussion of candidates to fill three positions coming open in the next fiscal year. Sharon Domier, East Asian Studies Librarian U-Mass Amherst was elected to the term beginning January 1, 2004, replacing Naomi Kotake. Eiko Sakaguchi, Curator of the East Asian and Prange Collections at the University of Maryland and Kenji Niki, Curator of Japanese Collections at the University of Michigan were elected to fill the two positions being vacated by Rob Britt and Yasuko Makino which come open July 1, 2004. All were elected to serve three year terms.

The January 2004 Meeting has already been scheduled to take place in Washington DC and the Library of Congress has offered to host the meeting which will take place on January 16th and 17th 2004.

A brief discussion was also held regarding the NCC 2004 Open Meeting to be held in conjunction with the AAS Meeting in San Diego. That meeting will be discussed in greater depth at the January meeting.