

AAS OPEN MEETING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 1998
10:30-12:30
West Dining Room, Library of Congress

1. Opening remarks: KK Troost

Chair Troost welcomed the group and thanked Ichiko Morita for providing the meeting space at the Library of Congress. There was a round of applause to thank Karl Kahler for his tenure as Chair of the NCC.

The "Next Decade Planning" meeting was announced and participants were requested to think about topics for the discussion period at the end of the agenda.

2. Japan Foundation Senior Librarians' Training Program: Izumi Koide

Koide-san described the content of the second Japan Foundation Librarian Training Program held in Tokyo for three weeks in February, 1998. She stressed the cooperative nature of running the program with the Japan Foundation, the National Diet Library, NACSIS and the International House of Japan working together to make the program a success. The first year trainees also cooperated in providing helpful suggestions for this year's program. As a consequence of trainee suggestions, the presenters took a short course in speaking Japanese to non-native groups. Eizaburo Okuizumi was this year's attendee from the U.S.

Topics covered in the training included the following: networking activities in Japan, digital information and electronic library services, acquisition and distribution of electronic publications at the National Diet Library and NACSIS, international cooperative programs at NDL, preservation and rare books, and site visits to library-related organizations in Tokyo.

There will be third program in Jan.-Feb. 1999, so people should start thinking about the possibility of attending.

3. ARL Project--Union List of Japanese Serials: M. Donovan

Maureen Donovan announced the members of the Union List of Japanese Serials Working Group, part of the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project. This group set the requirements for the Union List of Japanese Serials available on the Cooperative East Asian Libraries World Wide Web site at OSU. In future the Working Group will continue as the advisory group for the further development of the ULJS. Members are: Lynne Kutsukake (Toronto), Chair; Naomi Findley (Hoover); Eddy Harrison (Washington); Kevin Lin (Texas); Susan Rabe (CRL). Hideyuki Morimoto provides technical advice and Maureen Donovan is ex officio as the provider of the ULJS.

Maureen described the development and current functioning of the list and encouraged people to provide feedback to improve the list and to contribute their data to increase its usefulness as a tool for librarians and end users.

This project has served as a model for at least one other area studies program developing a union list.

4. ARL Project--ILL and Electronic Resources Training: D. Gregor

Dorothy Gregor brought the group up to date on Project efforts to establish regular ILL relationships with Japanese libraries. Waseda University and the Association of National University Libraries have responded positively to the Japan Project's invitation to participate in ILL with U.S. libraries. International payments and copyright clearance are not yet fully resolved problems, but there is a lot of attention being paid to their resolution in Japan.

She also explained that funding was available from a grant from the Center for Global Partnership to present workshops on accessing electronic resources from Japan and encouraged the group to consider hosting a workshop for users on their campuses.

5. JAC Project: Y. Matsudo, R. Yoshimura, D. Gregor

The JAC Project was begun in 1995 in order to enrich information on modern Japanese fine arts. A U.S. depository was selected in Spring, 1996, and the first shipment of catalogs was made in September. So far 1,583 volumes have been sent in three shipments. 52% of the titles are on modern Japanese art, 8% on premodern Japanese art, 20% on Western art and 4% on Asian art. The Western art catalogs will be housed in the Hirschorn.

Yasuko Matsudo reported that there were over 800 records in RLIN created by Reiko Yoshimura and her volunteers at the Freer. Because the Freer collection is generally non-circulating, there is a separate ID for these items which must be available on ILL.

Dorothy Gregor reported briefly on JAC II, the NCC's effort to solicit catalogs of Japanese art exhibitions held in the U.S. To date 85 catalogs have been forwarded to the Art Catalog Library in Tokyo.

6. ACE-Japan: J. Kurita

Junko Kurita continued the JAC report with a description of the Art Catalog Library in Tokyo which now has over 7,000 items. She invited the group to subscribe to the Art Catalog Library's Bulletin as a way of keeping up with its collections and activities. The Bulletin also contains useful bibliographic articles.

7. MVS report: F Kotas

Fred Kotas was unable to attend the meeting. Hence, Kris Troost recognized the Subcommittee members and thanked JUSFC for providing funding for this valuable effort. She also reiterated the need for applications to respond to the criteria specified in the guidelines (price, publishing date, cataloging support, utility to local patrons, significance of title). Other members of the MVS Subcommittee filled in with comments on points useful to people in applying next year. There was agreement that it had been a good idea to change the guidelines to require that no other circulating copy be available, rather than the "no more than three circulating copies" which had been the previous requirement.

Yasuko Makino expressed concern about focusing too much on the details of proposals rather than on the original purpose of the Project which was to get the best of what's coming out--but how to do that? Could publishers be a source of useful information about what was not being acquired in the U.S. Should we put out a call on eastlib for suggestions from the user community?

Additional comments: Should we include OP materials? There was general agreement that it would be a good idea, but there are problems in figuring out how to handle OP materials--reimbursement after purchase? There also seemed to be general agreement that we should include retrospective newspaper files.

8. Newspaper Project: D. Gregor

Dorothy Gregor reported that at several NCC meetings faculty members have expressed a desire for better access to Japanese newspapers, and the NCC is trying a number of strategies to better meet the need. The Union List of Japanese Serials includes newspaper titles and has the capability of searching/browsing newspapers as a separate category.

She reminded the group of the previous discussion of the desirability of including retrospective newspaper files not held in a U.S. library as part of the scope of the MVS Project and encouraged the group to identify newspaper files needed in the U.S. which could be funded by the MVS Project.

She next suggested a third strategy--to compile on the Web a bibliography of indexes to newspapers, both print and electronic indices. The NCC Office will try to do the compilation with the help of the Japanese Studies librarians whose libraries may hold such indexes or who know about their existence. The NCC is a coordinating body, and here's a chance to use it to respond to an expressed needs of the user community to coordinate the construction of a bibliography of indices to Japanese newspapers.

9. Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Subcommittee: H. Springer

Hisami Konishi-Springer reported on the recently completed review of applications to the Japan Foundation's Library Support Program in which 42 proposals were reviewed and recommendations forwarded to the American Advisory Committee of the Japan Foundation. She encouraged the continued development of proposals which supported the concept of building national collections: by building strong niche collections, e.g., popular culture; by providing outreach to users beyond the applying campus; by building on existing strengths; and by consortium building.

10. Next Decade Planning Discussion: K.K Troost

Chair Troost led a discussion on topics to include in the NCC's strategic planning effort which would be the topic of a pre-conference meeting at the AAS meeting in San Diego in the year 2000. Topics suggested by the group:

- Review the scope of the MVS project
- Better define the role of LC in the national collecting effort
- Future of Japanese Studies librarianship in the U.S.
- Bi-national activities/projects to promote greater cooperation and communication with Japanese colleagues

In this regard the JSPS and Sherry Kanis at the SSRC were mentioned as resources.

- Collections and services issues for smaller libraries
- Collections and services for programs without librarians/libraries, "serving the underserved"
- Financial projections for the field--what funding will be available?
- Distance learning
- Future of technical services. Maureen Donovan reported that 60% of OSU's Japanese cataloging is original--why is it so high? Is OSU receiving unique materials or are others not cataloging promptly?
- Training for public services, keeping up
- What is a professional librarian in the field of Japanese Studies?
- Mentoring program for new professionals; advising on tenure and professional development (mentioned especially for younger librarians and for those who speak English as a second language, but applicable to all)
- Breaking down the area studies walls
- What can be done centrally, i.e., by an organization like the NCC?
- State of the art in Japan
- Development of Web based resources

Also discussed was the possibility of soliciting topics from users in the field through such online lists as SSJ-Forum, H-Japan, EA Anthro, and J Lit.