

Year 2000 Conference Summary

The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources' (NCC's) Year 2000 Conference brought together 102 library and information specialists from North America, Japan, and Western Europe to discuss continuing and emerging issues related to Japanese collection development, faculty research needs, librarian training, and access to Japanese and North American materials. Discussions on copyright, interlibrary loan, digital initiatives, and electronic document delivery, were central to the conference. Following an intense two-day program, conferees made a series of recommendations to the NCC. Task forces are being formed to study each issue in greater detail, to determine those to be undertaken in close collaboration with counterpart organizations in Japan, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Library of Congress (LC), and the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL).

Advancing Cooperative Collection Development in North America will continue to be a key priority. The conference participants recommended establishing a new project that would address emerging areas of need rather than filling gaps in existing collections. This new project, should be open to all formats, languages, and subject areas. Participating institutions should be required to commit a specified percentage of their annual acquisitions budget to receive funding. Institutions, regardless of type or size of current collection, should be able to participate providing they commit to specific standards and meet basic resource contribution guidelines. Additionally, institutions must be required to catalog new acquisitions quickly, and to make them readily available on interlibrary loan. Conferees noted with appreciation the Library of Congress' renewed willingness to participate in such national plans for collection development. Efforts are also underway in Canada to develop comparable programs.

To date, the **NCC's Multi-volume Sets Project (MVS)** has been an extremely successful effort at cooperative collection development, though there have been some criticisms of the project. To better publicize the program, to clarify its application guidelines and the characteristics of a successful application, a complete list of funded sets as well as sets proposed but not yet funded, is now available on the NCC's website. To evaluate its effectiveness, and to improve MVS, a task force is being formed to survey the program. Professor Patricia Steinhoff will conduct a survey on faculty satisfaction and solicit suggestions for new directions and the task force will seek opinions broadly throughout the library field. The MVS review will also review demand for the retrospective filling of gaps in existing collections and will seek the Library of Congress' interest in purchasing worthy sets not able to be funded through MVS.

Consortial Licensing of databases and other research products in Japanese was of keen interest especially among those representing smaller collections and isolated scholars, and among participants from Japan. The NCC proposes to convene a task force to study needs, gather information on products, disseminate specifications on the content and licensing of such products, and to advise on the feasibility of consortial licenses. In consultation with legal specialists, the task force may provide advice on contracts and negotiate on behalf of consortia, on an ongoing basis.

Research Technology Seminars are needed both by faculty at major universities with strong Japanese collections and by scholars working in isolation from major collections who do not have the services of Japanese Studies librarians. The NCC will gather further information on faculty needs and develop programs focused upon specific research tools, as well as those organized by scholarly discipline. Similarly, programs for librarians who are not Japan specialists, but who serve scholars of Japan, may be developed to address the acquisition and cataloging of Japanese materials.

Professional Librarian Training has long been a central concern of both CEAL and the NCC. The NCC will work closely with CEAL to advance opportunities for professional librarians both at the advanced and novice levels and to seek funding for those ongoing efforts. A task force to study training and research technology is being formed and will confer on future needs with an eye to seeking new funding.

An **Electronic Help Desk** was proposed as a service to faculty and staff at smaller institutions and those working without access to professional Japanese studies librarians. A task force is being formed to study the logistics, feasibility, and funding potential for such a service, working in collaboration with CEAL.

The **AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Journal Access Project** has been a collaborative effort of ARL and the NCC since 1997. It has developed two pilot projects for interlibrary loan and document delivery, with Waseda University Library and the Association of National University Libraries (ANUL) in Japan, that have become models applicable worldwide. These projects need to be expanded to include other ARL libraries, libraries not affiliated with ARL, and other types of materials.

The completion of the **Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers (ULJSN)** will also be supervised by the Japan Journal Access Project working closely with the NCC and CEAL. NCC conferees emphasized the need for completion of the project by 2001, expansion of records to include all formats, and the use of Z39.50 protocols to enable broader searching. Human resource demands for the project are high and additional funding may be required for completion. Pending funding, ARL, in association with the NCC, will convene a planning session within the next few months to review the successes and shortcomings of the ULJSN as it currently exists and to plan completion of the ULJSN. The Japan Journal Access Project will also be central to future negotiations between libraries in Japan and North America regarding **interlibrary loan fees, the expansion of participants, and an increase in the types of materials** provided through interlibrary loan.

Expansion of Holdings Information includes issues related to retrospective conversion, the addition of holdings to serial records, and analytics for multi-volume sets. Accomplishing these tasks will aid cooperative collection development and users requesting materials through interlibrary loan. The first two issues require local library cooperation that can most effectively be encouraged through joint efforts of CEAL, the NCC, and ARL. The expansion of analytics can be addressed through the revision of MVS grant guidelines. The NCC should work to better publicize successful efforts at retrospective conversion, continue to focus attention on the need for completion of retrospective conversion throughout North America, and encourage the addition of holdings to serial records into the bibliographic utilities. A task force to encourage implementation of standard holding information would benefit the field, facilitate the speed with which processing takes place, and facilitate retrospective conversion of records. The NCC will discuss such a task force with representatives of CEAL.

Cataloging of Electronic Resources is a growing area of need on which cooperation will benefit all East Asian libraries. The cataloging of electronic resources is a quickly evolving field that requires efficient networking among the NCC, the CEAL Committee on Technical Processing, and major suppliers of cataloging technologies to avoid duplication of efforts. The NCC hopes to work with all interested organizations to facilitate training, publicize efforts, and to identify needed sources of funding.

The **Use of Japanese Scripts** in all aspects of library work from email to searching online catalogs is increasingly simple to achieve. However, there is a dearth of information about available technologies and about what systems many libraries are using. Conferees proposed a short survey to inventory the software used by librarians for email, word processing, database searching, and reading the web, and whether individual library online catalogs can display Japanese script (or expect to be able to display it in the near future). As this is an area of interest for all East Asian libraries, the NCC hopes to work closely with CEAL in this effort.

Preservation was identified as a growing need throughout the field. The NCC will work closely with CEAL, ARL, LC, CRL and libraries in North America and Japan to study the question and determine what, if any, role the NCC can meaningfully play in improving preservation of Japanese materials held by libraries in North America and Japan. A survey of needs, a mechanism for communication, and a CRL-supported microform project were proposed.

An **NCC Memo on Copyright** was recommended to emphasize the need for the free flow of information among scholars in North America and Japan. Recent technological innovations enabling the electronic transmission of text and documents have led to differing interpretations of copyright law. Japan and the US both face the need for reinterpretation of copyright laws and possible legislation regarding the use and transmission of materials electronically. These decisions will greatly impact how scholars conduct research in a globally-connected environment. Copyright also determines how libraries provide information to researchers. In consultation with other interested organizations, the NCC will express its concern for facilitating the flow of scholarly information among researchers worldwide, and will recommend CULCON's consideration of copyright related issues.

Digital Initiatives will play a key role in Japanese Studies Library Collections in the next decade. The NCC has yet to define its specific role(s) with regard to digital initiatives but expects to formulate such plans in the coming years. A short-term initiative may involve establishing a central resource for collecting information on digital sites.

The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) is an independent 501-C-3 organization devoted to supporting Japanese language collections and materials development throughout North America, to advancing collaborations with Japanese counterpart organizations, to serving the field of Japanese studies, and to broadening public access to Japanese information.

The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources' Year 2000 Planning Conference took place on March 6-7, 2000 at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego preceding the annual meetings of the Council on East Asian Libraries and the Association for Asian Studies. The two-day conference was attended by 102 individuals including 19 librarians from Japan, three directors of ARL libraries, five Japanese studies faculty members, a representative of the field of Japanese Studies librarianship from Western Europe, vendors, publishers, and a broad representation of Japanese Studies librarians from throughout North America. The Conference was made possible through the generous funding support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, with additional financial and in-kind support from ANUL, ARL, CEAL, and the 102 professionals who attended the conference, giving so generously of their time and expertise. For additional information on the Conference or on NCC programs and activities please contact Victoria Lyon Bestor, NCC Director at vl13@cornell.edu and visit the NCC's web site at <http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/eac/ncc/index.htm>.