

## **A Report from the Library of Congress**

### **The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources Meeting of August 19-20, 2008 The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

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#### ***Library-wide activities***

##### **Fiscal Year 2009 budget request:**

The Library submitted the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request to the Congress on March 5, 2008. It is a total of \$646.8 million, a 5.3 percent increase from \$613.5 million authorized for the current fiscal year. The 2009 budget request would support a total of 4,133 full-time employees, a drop of 5.8 percent from the 2008 authorized level, and more than 1,000 fewer staff than 20 years ago. The Library continues to face a difficult funding situation due largely to the government-wide budget cuts.

##### **The new “Library of Congress Experience”:**

The new “Library of Congress Experience” was launched on April 12, 2008. This new digital interactive exhibition, on-site in the Thomas Jefferson Building, and the myLOC.gov on-line are the core of the new developments in the interpretive presentations of the Library’s collections. The “Library of Congress Experience” exhibition is composed of *Creating the United States*, featuring the draft copy of the Declaration of Independence edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, and *Thomas Jefferson’s Library*, a display of the reconstructed 6,487-volume library. Jefferson sold his personal library to the Congress for \$23,950 in 1815 to replace the congressional library which had been destroyed in the Capitol fire set by the British in 1814.

##### **Notable visitors:**

Mr. Kōichirō Matsuura, the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) visited the Library on June 27, 2008 to discuss with Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, further collaboration between UNESCO and the Library of Congress to build the World Digital Library (WDL) [<http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org>].

Dr. Makoto Nagao, the Librarian of the National Diet Library (NDL) will visit the Library of Congress on August 11, 2008 to discuss establishing closer relationships between the two national libraries including forming a partnership for the WDL project with Dr. James H. Billington, JoAnn Jenkins, Chief Operating Officer, and other executive staff members at the

Library. Dr. Nagao's visit is a follow-up to continue NDL-LC's discussion on collaboration of the two national libraries that took place in July 2008 when Dr. Deanna Marcum, the Associate Librarian, visited NDL in Tokyo.

### *Asian and Japanese collection-related activities*

#### **Staff changes in the Asian Division:**

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee retired on March 29, 2008, after the completion of his five year tenure at the Library of Congress as the Chief of Asian Division. Dr. Lee made significant contributions in the following areas as he described in his memorandum to the Associate Librarian in February 2008. He:

- successfully re-organized the Asian Division during the first year and built a new esprit de corps and an organizational culture emphasizing user service, teamwork, and internal communication;
- recruited a new group of highly qualified and dedicated staff to replace some of the experienced professionals who had retired;
- worked diligently to build a fast growing collection with a view of balancing between printed and digital resources and between contemporary and special/rare publications among all five geo-political areas of Asia;
- established a number of collaborative digitization projects with major national libraries and research institutions in China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan;
- greatly improved collection management with special effort provided to binding previous unbound serials, converting manual serials check-in operation to computerized online check-in operation, inventorying a large number of unprocessed collections in the stacks, and moving a large number of less-used materials to the Ft. Meade Facility;
- extended library hours to Saturdays, even under the condition of a reduced staff size and a much-expanded workload;
- established the Asian Division Friends Society with increased community outreach and fundraising activities;
- created the Florence Tan Moeson Fund in support of research fellowships, internships, and special acquisitions;
- organized a variety of outreach programs to promote the Asian collections and services;
- launched a new initiative in building a national Asian Pacific American collection;
- strived for excellence through the Division's strategic planning 2003-2008.

The Library of Congress has been conducting a nation-wide search for his replacement. The Chief's position (vacancy number 080102) has been advertised with the opening period from July 2 to September 3, 2008 at the Library's website [<http://www.loc.gov>] and USAJobs [<http://usajobs.opm.gov>].

Upon Dr. Lee's retirement, Judy Lu, Head of Collection Services, and Mi Chu, Head of Scholarly Services, have been serving as the Acting Chief from March 30 to July 26, and July 27 to November 30, respectively, while the recruitment/search for the position is taking place.

### **Other recruitments related to the Japanese Collection in the Library Service, Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access Directorate:**

The recruitment of a professional librarian and three technicians for the Japanese/Korean acquisitions and bibliographic access in the Library Service, Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access Directorate has been conducted (Announcement number 080207 and 080179, both closed on Aug 5, 2008). All position announcements and online application forms can be searched and available at the Library's website and USAJobs also.

### **Conversion of serials check-in system from manual to online**

The Asian Division completed a multi-year project to convert manual serials check-in process to online for 13,660 titles including 6,228 Japanese titles in February 2008. The holding records of those are now available online through the Library of Congress Online Catalog [<http://catalog.loc.gov/>].

### **Asian Pacific American special lecture series:**

The Asian Division and the Asian Division Friends Society launched the Asian Pacific American Lecture Series on May 1, 2008 featuring Ambassador Christopher R. Hill, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs as the keynote speaker for the first of the series. Ambassador Hill delivered a special lecture "Bridging Homeland and Homegrown" centered on preserving America's relationships with her allies in Asia. The video-recording of the lecture is available at the Library of Congress Webcast site [<http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/>].

### **Notable new acquisition:**

*Genji Monogatari*, 54 v. The manuscript book, copied/written in late 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century, was completed by Gotsuji Moronaka (1487-1540) in Muromachi period (1336-1573), and authenticated later as Moronaka's hand writing by Kohitsu Ryōchu (1656-1736), a scholar, expert on manuscripts, and the third Master of the Kohitsu School. Ryōchu's hand writing in the early Edo period dates back to May 1711. The manuscript is one of the most significant additions to the Library's Japanese rare book collection, especially combined with the so-called, *Eiri Genji Monogatari* (1654), the illustrated printed edition of the *Tale of Genji* that was digitized in 2007. This newly acquired book provides scholars and researchers in the Japanese literature and history an invaluable resource for the study of the *Tale of Genji* to analyze the changes in the text and the story that occurred between the manuscripts and the printed editions that came out about a century later.

*Meiji, Taisho Showa no Yomiuri Shinbun*, CD-ROM/DVD. As a part of continuing effort to build a collection of digital resources and to subscribe to online databases, the Asian Division will acquire the Yomiuri Shinbun database. Also, the Library will soon start subscriptions of several online resources, including *Japan Knowledge*, *Kikuzo II* (Asahi Shinbun), and *CiNii* (NII Scholarly and Academic Information Navigator by the National Institute of Informatics, Japan).

**Articles on Japanese collection published:**

The following three articles on the Japanese collection at the Library of Congress were published by two scholars from Japan and one former librarian of the Library of Congress.

Okazaki, Satoko. 2008. "Senryōki hakkō zasshi shozō chōsa Beikoku Gikai Toshokan to Purange Bunko to no hikaku chōsa (jo)." *Riterashishi Kenkyū* 1: 7-32.

Wada, Atsuhiko. 2008. "Ryūtsū, shozō jōhō o toraeru bungaku kenkyū e, Bei Gikai Toshokan shozō no senryōki hisesshū bunken ni tsuite." *Nihon Bungaku* 57 (1): 56-67

Yoshimura, Yoshiko. 2008. "Beikoku Gikai Toshokan Nihonka no WDC Korekushon." *Intelligence* 10.