

## **The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources**

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Report from the Library of Congress

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Since the NCC last meeting 19-20 August 2008 at University of Hawaii, several Library of Congress projects reported at that meeting were successfully completed. The updates of these projects together with other significant activities are reported below. This report reflects substantial contributions from Eiichi Ito, Coordinator, Japan Team, Asian Division, Library of Congress. The Japanese collection grew to 1,171,466 monographic volumes and 6,079 active serial titles by the end of FY 2008 on September 30, 2008.

### ***LC-wide activities***

#### **New Chief of the Asian Division Appointed**

Peter R. Young, the Director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) since 2002, was appointed as the chief of the Asian Division to succeed Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee who retired in April, 2008. Beginning his new duties in early November, 2008 Young served as Acting Chief of the Asian Division, 2001-2002. As part of his new duties, Young will work with the Associate Librarian for Library Services, Deanna Marcum, to develop a collection strategy for digital science resources that is appropriate for a national library. He has held several managerial positions at the Library of Congress since serving as customer services officer in the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) in 1980. From 1984-1985, he served as assistant chief of the Library's MARC Editorial Division, and from 1985-1988 held the position of chief of the Cataloging Division of the U.S. Copyright Office. In addition, Young directed Academic Information Services at the Faxon Company from 1988-1990, and was executive director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) from 1990-1997.

#### **Fiscal Year 2009 budget**

The Library is currently operating under a Congressional Continuing Resolution from the start of FY 2009 in October 2008 which will extend to 6 March 2009. Under this CR, FY 2008 appropriation levels are continued. The Library's request for a total of \$645.8 million in FY 2009 represents a 5.3 percent increase from the FY 2008 authorized funding level of \$613.5 million for a total FTE of 4,133 employees. The Librarian of Congress James H. Billington on March 5 asked the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee to approve "...a very modest budget request for fiscal 2009..." to meet mandatory pay raises and price-level increases, sustain basic current services and "rescue from the brink of collapse" the national digital-preservation program that Congress mandated and funded in 2001 and then cut in 2007.

## **World Digital Library**

The National Diet Library, Japan (NDL) and the Library of Congress (LC) signed the World Digital Library Contributor Agreement in December 2008 to become partners in the World Digital Library (WDL). The Web-based WDL, slated to launch in April 2009, is an initiative of the Library of Congress and other cultural institutions around the world in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Other partners of WDL include national and major libraries from Brazil, China, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Russia, Serbia, and Sweden, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, the John Carter Brown Library, and the libraries of Brown and Yale Universities.

## ***Library Services Activities***

The Library Services unit issued the Library Services Strategic Plan FY 2008-2013 in December 2008. This Strategic Plan establishes the framework for achieving five major goals: 1. Collect and preserve the record of America's creativity and the world's knowledge; 2. Provide the most effective methods of connecting users to our collections; 3. Deepen the general understanding of American cultural, intellectual, and social life and of other peoples and nations; 4. Provide leadership and services to the library and information community; and 5. Manage for results. The plan results from the work of many working groups over the last several years and will be made available on the public Web site.

## ***Asian Division and Asian Division Friends Society activities***

### **Public lecture by Japanese Ambassador**

The Asian Division invited Ichiro Fujisaki, the Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. to address the Library on 2 December 2008. Ambassador Fujisaki's public lecture was entitled "Japan's Place in the World," in which he discussed the US-Japan relationship under the forthcoming administration with consideration of various current affairs including economic crisis, energy and environmental protection, and the war against terrorism. Ambassador Fujisaki cited the "shared interest" of both countries in matters of security and the rule of law; a similar stance on foreign policy, particularly the "high priority" of preventing terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan and nuclear proliferation in North Korea; and concern for climate change. His lecture was attended by an audience of over 75 and was hosted by the Asian Division Friends Society with support from Hitachi, Ltd. When asked by Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington what he would most like people to know about Japan, he cited information included on a handout with graphs showing "Japan's Place in the World."

### **Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship**

Japan Team, Asian Division hosted two Florence Tan Moeson (FTM) Fellows 2008, Elizabeth Oyler (The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Aaron Moore (Ohio University) during the summer. Two researchers used extensively the LC collections including unique resources in the Japanese Collection during their stay. Dr. Oyler's research project was entitled "The LC's Heike mabushi and Edo Period Amateur Heikyoku". She examined a manuscript book (Shahon), *Heike mabushi* from

the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a libretto used for sited amateur performers of Heike Monogatari (Tale of the Heike) recitation. Dr. Moore's research project was entitled "The Technological Imagination of Imperial Japan, 1931-1945". He studied the relationship between technology, ideology, and power in Japan and its empire during the wartime years, 1931-1945, using the LC's South Manchurian Railways Collection. Applications for the FTM Fellowship 2009 are currently under review by the external screening committee.

### **New acquisition**

Asian Division acquired several multi-volume sets of Japanese material including the following titles with special funding during FY2008.

*Bandō Katsuhiko shiryō, sengo Nihon kōgai jiken shiryō shūsei (Niigata Minamatabyō Jiken hoka)*. [Historical records of Minamata disease and other major pollution disease]. Tokyo: Kashiwa Shobō, 2003. (75 microfilm reels + 1 CD-ROM).

This multi-volume set of 75 microfilm reels contains primary documents and legal case evidence of the Minamata disease compiled by Esq. Bando Katsuhiko, who was the leading attorney for the plaintiff, representing the victims of severe mercury poisoning caused by the Chisso Corporation in Japan. The Minamata disease was first discovered in the City of Minamata, Japan in 1956. This title is among the titles on the prescreening list of NCC Multi-Volume Set Project 2009.

*Gurahikku = The Graphic*. Tokyo: Kashiwa Shobō, 2005. (8 v.)

Originally published from 1909 to 1912, *The Graphic* provided Japanese readers news and information with photographs and illustrations from all over the world. Only a few institutions in Japan hold the original issues.

*Jogaku sekai*. [Women students' world]. Tokyō-to: Kashiwa Shobō, 2005-. (96 v.)

Reproduction of the periodical published between 1901 and 1925. The editors of *Jogaku Sekai* attempted to promote women's education in Japan. More than 2,500 well-known educators, authors, poets, politicians, and authors contributed articles to the magazine.

*Jūtaku*. [Housing]. Tokyo: Kashiwa Shobō, 1916. (52 v.)

Reproduction of the periodical published between 1916 and 1943. During this period, the Japanese began to adopt the Western living style. This magazine focused on the transformation of Japanese life style, especially from a viewpoint of housing and sociology.

*Nihon no modanizumu kenchiku* [Modern architecture in Japan]. Tokyo: Shōkokusha and Sony, 2005. (4 DVD + book).

The fifteen Japanese architects featured in the title made significant contributions to “modern movement” in Japan, and are internationally recognized in the field.

### **Holdings of the Japanese collection**

The Japanese collection grew to 1,171,466 monographic volumes and 6,079 active serial titles by the end of FY 2008 on September 30, 2008.

As part of a Division-wide effort to improve access to serial titles’ holdings information via the LCOPAC, holding card records of 5,539 Japanese serial titles were converted into the Library’s Integrated Library System (ILS). The holdings information of another group of 350 Japanese serial titles will be converted into ILS records shortly. In addition, an automated system has been set up in order to input all incoming issues of current serial titles.

### **Publications and presentations (FY2008)**

“A Talk on the South Manchurian Railways Collection in the LC Collections,” by Eiichi Ito (presented at the Institute of Developing Economies IDE-JETRO in Japan. March 8, 2008).

“Accumulating or collecting? Japanese resources at the Library of Congress,” by Eiichi Ito (presented at Yale University. March 26, 2008).

“Development of Access to Information Objects: Learning from Examples in the U.S.,” by Mari Nakahara, *Detail*, October, 2008, vol. 178, pp. 122-124.

### **Forthcoming program**

Asian Division and the Asian Division Friends Society (ADFS) plans to co-host with the Textile Museum, Washington, DC, and the Embassy of Japan, a one-day workshop/lecture by a textile artist Mitsuko Asakura during the National Cherry Blossom Festival on March 12, 2009. A book exhibition of Asian textile in the Asian Reading Room is also planned in conjunction with this event.

## The FY 2008 Asian Division Holdings

Area	Monographs (volumes)	Serials (Active titles)	Serials (Inactive titles)
China/Mongolia	1,024,968	5,197	10,962
Japan	1,171,466	6,079	9,451
Korea	263,072	1,688	5,598
South Asia	253,671	1,628	2,120
Southeast Asia	193,173	2,736	8,462
APA	460	622	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,906,810</b>	<b>17,950</b>	<b>36,593</b>

	Monograph Titles	Monograph Volumes	Journals Titles	Journals Issues	Inactive Journals	Microfilm Titles	Microfilm Reels	Microfiche Titles	Microfiche Sheets
China	908,507	1,010,131	5,079	87,144	10,826	1,980	16,429	119	4,646
Japan	1,056,661	1,171,466	6,079	56,885	9,451	294	11,695	276	21,045
Korea	238,343	263,072	1,688	36,318	5,598	268	3,020	1	32
Mongolia	3,777	4,097	68	263	99	38	58	2,213	3,626
South Asia	230,999	253,671	1,628	11,415	2,120	441	15,271	67,918	322,458
Southeast Asia	171,371	193,173	2,736	9,559	8,462	1,141	10,759	36,841	165,481
Tibet	9,545	10,740	50	252	37	336	760	7,292	14,481
APA	460	460	622	1,578	0	0	0	0	0