

## **AAS in WASHINGTON-MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The NCC's open meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, from 10:30 am-12:30 p.m. in the West Dining Room on the 6th floor of the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. Everyone interested in library resources for Japanese studies is invited to attend and help set the NCC agenda. NCC members will report on current activities and introduce potential projects for comment and development by meeting attendees. This year we begin planning for a meeting at AAS in San Diego in the year 2000 which will set the framework for NCC activities for the next decade. (See section on Task Force on Next Decade Planning.) If there are projects and activities you feel would be useful to the Japanese studies community, bring the ideas to the meeting so we can begin to explore them.

## **CANADIAN LIBRARIANS- PLEASE NOTE**

NCC Chair Kristina Kade Troost recently posted the following message to eastlib to clarify Canadian participation in the NCC: "We welcome participation from Canadians and Canadian libraries; indeed we consider the NCC a North American organization, just as ARL is. There are significant Japanese collections in Canada, and we all benefit from the coordination of collection development efforts. The NCC is presently sponsoring several projects: the Multi-Volume Set Project, the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project and the JAC Art Catalog project. At the moment, Canadian libraries cannot participate in the Multi-Volume Set Project (MVS) because the funds are exclusively US funds from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission. It is our hope, however, to raise funds in Canada which would allow Canadian universities to participate in this project. Canadian libraries are participating in the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project and are included under the guidelines of the JAC project. In conclusion, we welcome Canadian participation in the NCC and hope that you will join us in our open meeting at the AAS meetings in March. If you have any questions, please contact me at [kktroost@acpub.duke.edu](mailto:kktroost@acpub.duke.edu)".

## **NCC AND NACSIS SIGN MOU**

In recognition of the increasing importance of the distribution and acquisition of Japanese information among those engaged in the study of various aspects of Japan, the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) in Japan and the National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) in the United States have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding with the following points:

- NCC agrees to support the operation and activities of NACSIS as much as possible as NACSIS promotes and expands its service in the United States.
- NACSIS agrees to support NCC as much as possible in its efforts to enhance procedures and systems for the acquisition and distribution of Japanese information for clientele in the United States.
- NACSIS and NCC agree to cooperate to the extent possible in expanding accessibility to Japanese information for researchers in the United States.

The idea of the MOU was initiated by NACSIS and brought to the NCC by our Japan Liaison, Miyakawa Takayasu. The MOU was enthusiastically endorsed by the NCC as a means of building closer working relations with important Japanese suppliers of information useful to students and scholars of Japan in the U.S. and Canada.

## **JAPAN FOUNDATION FUNDS SECOND YEAR OF JAPANESE STUDIES LIBRARIAN TRAINING**

The program was held in Tokyo from Jan. 18 through February 7 and included 12 librarians from Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, China, Australia, Canada, Britain, France, and the U.S. Eizaburo Okuizumi of the University of Chicago attended from the U.S. and will report on his experience at the AAS meeting in Washington, D.C. Izumi Koide, Librarian at the International House of Japan and one of the program organizers, will discuss the future of the program at the NCC meeting during AAS.

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The National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources is a standing committee which represents the community of Japanese librarians and scholars in North America. The NCC's mission is to mobilize library resources related to Japan toward the long-range goal of creating a comprehensive system of ready access to Japanese information throughout North America. Membership in the NCC is open to nominations and suggestions are always welcome.

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## **AAU/ARL/NCC JAPAN PROJECT REPORT**

Initiated jointly by the Association of American Universities and the Association of Research Libraries and coordinated by the NCC, the Japan Project had its first organizational meeting in March, 1997, and is approaching its first anniversary. The primary goal of the Project is "to make a quantum leap in improving access to the Japanese journal literature for users in the U.S. and Canada". In practice it is difficult to focus only on journals because bibliographic information is often tied to other formats and full text projects often include more than journal literature. So, while the primary focus is on journals, access to other formats is also included in the Project.

The Project is working in two directions at once: 1) to improve access to Japanese journals included in U.S. and Canadian collections, and 2) to improve access to sources of Japanese journals in Japan. Summarized below are the actions taken and progress made to date.

---*National Union List of Current Japanese Serials*. At the organizing meeting it was agreed that a Union List would be a useful tool, particularly a Web-based *List* which included the *kanji* for titles, but no one wanted to build such a list by keying entries from scratch. The *List* is currently under development at the Project's Web Site at OSU. The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission has provided funding for the development of a *List of Newspapers* and the development effort has been extended to include journal titles. Data for Harvard's file of current newspaper and for serial titles from OSU, Oregon, the University of Toronto, and the Center for Research Libraries have been successfully loaded from data provided by downloads from local systems sent to OSU on disk or via ftp. Dedupping is underway and the addition of *kanji* will begin shortly when new staff is trained. A call for participation will be issued when OSU is comfortable that more data can be successfully integrated with the holdings already available. The *List*

developers are eager for comments from users so take a look at <http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu/cgi-bin/ULJS/select.html> and send comments to [donovan.1@osu.edu](mailto:donovan.1@osu.edu).

---Also posted on the Project Web Site are links to Japanese journal lists and full text available on the Web. Readers are encouraged to report links to other useful sites to Maureen Donovan at the address above.

---With funding from the Center for Global Partnership and with the generous cooperation of NACSIS staff, the NCC sent five Japanese Studies librarians to NACSIS for two weeks of training on its systems and databases. The two weeks also included visits to other database providers in the Tokyo area. As part of the training opportunity Mihoko Miki, Hisako Halasz, Sharon Domier, Yuki Ishimatsu, and Fred Kotas are giving workshops in the U.S. to disseminate information about electronic resources from Japan. With the assistance of two NACSIS staff, Prof. Miyazawa and Mr. Nozue, well-received workshops were given in November at Berkeley, UCLA, and Mt. Holyoke. Additional workshops are scheduled at the Library of Congress during AAS, on March 27, and for the University of Hawaii on March 5-6. The NCC will support as many workshops as funding permits. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, contact [dgregor@mcn.org](mailto:dgregor@mcn.org).

---International resource sharing: Recognizing that libraries in the U.S. and Canada will never be able to collect all the materials needed by their users, the Project has explored with colleagues in Japan ways in which interlibrary lending and borrowing can be improved between Project participants and counterpart libraries in Japan. We have issued invitations to participate in the ILL component of the Project to Waseda University and to the Association of National University Libraries (ANUL). Both Waseda and ANUL have agreed to work with the Project to develop effective ILL relationships among the participating libraries. Waseda incorporates the use of OCLC into its processing and is working on the retrospective conversion of its collections. OCLC users know that approximately 300,000 Waseda records have been

***AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project,  
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incorporated into the OCLC database with another 300,000 on the way. Waseda will use OCLC's ILL and IFM subsystems to take care of ILL messaging and accounting. The use of IFM is particularly helpful in dealing with the problems of international currency exchange.

Our invitation to ANUL was sent to its Secretariat at the University of Tokyo. The ANUL libraries are interested in working with the ARL Project, but want to have in place an ILL messaging system and the use of ARIEL, both of which are currently under development. They anticipate that the systems will be in place by summer, but there is also the knotty (for the national universities) problem of dealing with the accounting requirements of the Ministry of Finance. Certainly an indication of the ANUL interest in our project is the fact they have initiated discussions with the Ministry to evolve a way of dealing with the charges which can be involved in international ILL. Progress is being made, but there are no specifics to report at this time.

It is important to note that libraries in Japan are not organized as they are in the U.S., and there is no single counterpart organization to the ARL. Instead, there are several organizations for public and privately funded universities, among them ANUL with a permanent secretariat at the University of Tokyo and JAPULS (Japanese Association of Private University Libraries) whose secretariat rotates from year to year. There is a "bridging committee" among the different library organizations, but there is no secretariat for the bridging committee, so NCC coordination of the Project requires working with several libraries/organizations. Although it is not possible to report the date when ILL with our counterpart libraries in Japan will begin, we are hopeful that it may be during summer, 1998.

In preparation for developing the procedures for ILL with Japanese libraries, the ARL Project Coordinator has included the Heads of ILL Units in the mailing list for the ILL portion of the Project and conducted a brief survey to determine which libraries are

interested in participating in ILL with Japan and their operations preferences for doing so. Of the 29 participating ARL libraries, 13 responded to the survey and will be considered for the first stage of developing ILL relationships with Japan. The survey indicated that there is a clear preference for the use of ARIEL as the delivery mechanism for photocopies of articles. Only one library indicated an unwillingness to lend "returnables". The ARL libraries indicated they are using OCLC's IFM capability with two exceptions, one of which will soon begin IFM use. Most libraries indicated that they would charge, but quite a few indicated that they might reconsider this requirement if there were a mechanism for load balancing. With this survey as a basis, the Project Coordinator will initiate further discussions with the Japanese libraries to develop the beginnings of ILL operations with some Japanese libraries.

***NCC MEMBERS***

Dr. Kristina Kade Troost (Duke)-Chair  
kktroost@acpub.duke.edu  
Tsuharu Gonnami (UBC) begins 7/98  
g573@unixg.ubc.ca  
Scott Edward Harrison (Washington)  
begins 7/98  
seharris@u.washington.edu  
Glenn Hoetker (UMich)-Grad student  
ghoetker@umich.edu  
Mihoko Miki (UCLA) begins 7/98  
mmiki@library.ucla.edu  
Prof. Stephen Miller (Colo.) begins 7/98  
Stephen.Miller@Colorado.edu  
Takayasu Miyakawa-Japan Liaison  
mxh03272@niftyserve.or.jp  
Hideyuki Morimoto (UCB)-  
hmorimot@library.berkeley.edu  
Prof. Stephen Snyder (Colo.) begins 7/98 as  
sub for Prof. Miller  
Stephen.Snyder@Colorado.edu  
Dr. Hisami Konishi Springer (Hawaii)-  
springer@hawaii.edu  
Prof. Patricia Steinhoff (Hawaii)-  
steinhof@hawaii.edu  
Prof. Mariko Tamanoi (UCLA)-  
mtamanoi@ucla.edu  
Dorothy D. Gregor-Director  
dgregor@mcn.org

**TASK FORCE ON NEXT  
DECADE PLANNING**

As a preconference at the AAS meeting in San Diego in March, 2000, the NCC will sponsor a strategic planning meeting for Japanese library resources. A Task Force is being appointed to decide upon the agenda and length of the meeting and its general format so that funds can be procured for support of the meeting.

Some readers will recall the 1991 meeting held at Stanford sponsored by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and The Japan Foundation which established the NCC and set our agenda for the first years of operation. Major changes have occurred in the intervening years in both librarians and librarianship. It is now time to set the

agenda for the first decade of the 21st century. The charge to the Task Force is to design and organize the planning effort to set that agenda. Using the input from discussion at the open meeting at AAS, the Task Force will then structure the year 2000 meeting so that the NCC Director can develop a budget and seek funding to support the meeting. The Task Force will finish its work no later than January 15, 1999.

Readers interested in contributing ideas for Next Decade Planning should attend the NCC meeting at AAS in Washington, D.C., on March 25, in the West Dining Room of the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. We hope to see you there.

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**NCC**  
201 University Ave. H6  
Berkeley, CA 94710-1618