

AAS Activities**Open Meeting**

The NCC will hold an open meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies on Thursday, April 11, from 9-11 a.m. in Iolani 1&2, Tapa Tower. The Chair will review current NCC activities and lead a discussion of future directions and opportunities. All are welcome to attend, especially those who bring ideas for projects.

Booth Partnership

In partnership with the AAS, H-Net, and Indiana University's East Asian Studies Center, the NCC is staffing a booth for demonstrating electronic and Internet resources. The booth has been organized to allow users and faculty/librarian developers of electronic resources and services to meet at the AAS conference and display some of their wares. Support for the booth has been received from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission through a grant to the NCC, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership through a grant to H-Net, and the Association of Asian Studies. Check it out.

Preconference Workshop

A Workshop on the Global Information Infrastructure for Asian Studies begins immediately following the NCC open meeting. Organized by Maureen Donovan of OSU, three panels will cover a variety of topics:

- Panel 1: 11-12:30 Features Asian studies scholars and librarians developing electronic resources or services;
Panel 2: 1:30-3:00 Focuses on ARL's strategies for improving access to global information through the utilization of new technology and strengthening collaborative

programs with foreign institutions; Panel 3: 3:30-5 Still under development at this writing. The **Workshop** is not listed in the conference program, so be sure to transfer this announcement to your schedule.

MVS Project '96

The MVS Subcommittee has announced the funding of 25 sets held at eight institutions (one is a consortium of USC and the UCs). Through a grant from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, the NCC will fund 75% of the purchase price and the institutions will pay 25%. The libraries housing the materials must also provide prompt cataloging and agree to make the volumes available on ILL. MVS Project '96 made awards to UCSD, Hoover, Columbia, UCSB, Michigan, UCLA, Pittsburgh, Washington, Illinois, Indiana, USC. The NCC has applied for funding for MVS '97. For further information, contact the NCC Director.

JAC PROJECT UNDERWAY

The NCC and ACE-Japan (Japan Association for Cultural Exchange) are cooperating in a Japan Art Catalog (JAC) Project in which ACE-Japan will collect and send art exhibition catalogs to a U.S. depository library which will ensure bibliographic control and access for the catalogs in the U.S. Catalog records will be returned to Japan so that the cataloging is done only once. ACE-Japan has a specialist working to acquire the exhibition catalogs in Japan, and the NCC is currently (until Mar. 15) accepting applications from libraries interested in becoming the U.S. depository for these hard to acquire materials.

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.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

At the instigation of Keio's Masatoshi Shibukawa, who calls it the "old books" project, JAPUL (Japan Association of Private University Libraries) is working with the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials to collect materials which are duplicates or materials being withdrawn from their collections and make them available to U.S. libraries. Logistics are difficult because it is too expensive to list the available books. Mr. Shibukawa is hopeful that final arrangements for the project can be made at the April JAPUL meeting. NCC has served in an advisory capacity for the project.

ARL JAPANESE JOURNAL ACCESS PROJECT

Part of the Association of American Universities Research Libraries Project conducted in collaboration with the ARL, the initial focus of this project was on science and technology journals. It has now expanded to include access to Japanese journal literature in all disciplines. Initially the project is attempting to expand access to the target materials without expanding on-site collections in North American libraries by working to gain bibliographic access to journal files in Japan and to open up interlibrary lending and document delivery arrangements with Japanese libraries and other suppliers. The NCC Director is serving as a consultant to ARL, and the NCC was instrumental in expanding the focus of the project beyond the sci-tech literature.

JS-NET STUDY GROUP FORMED

The JS-Net Study Group was organized by the Japan Foundation to find ways to

coordinate various efforts among institutions and organizations in Japan providing information in response to queries from overseas researchers and librarians. Its goal is to develop recommendations for new services based on the use of the Internet. The NCC's Subcommittee on Electronic Resources is conducting a survey for the Study Group to determine priorities for the development of electronic resources for Japanese Studies.

JAPAN FOUNDATION LIBRARY PROGRAM SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Subcommittee met on January 15 to review 51 applications ranked on criteria provided by the Japan Foundation. Applications were ranked and forwarded to the Foundation. In addition the Subcommittee recommended the following to the Foundation: 1) Because of the importance of human resources in library service, names of the Japan specialist librarians should be listed in the application forms for categories LSB1 and LSB2; 2) Because of the lack of a program for the acquisition of specialized hardware required for Japanese library resources, a separate component for hardware acquisition should be added to the current library support program.

NEW DIRECTOR NAMED

Dorothy Gregor has been named Director of the NCC effective October 1. Ms. Gregor has a long-standing interest in Japanese studies and is currently the Coordinator of the Association of Research Libraries' Japan Access Project and Special Assistant to the President of OCLC for Academic and Research Library Relations. She held positions as University Librarian at UC Berkeley and UC San Diego.

JAPANESE INFORMATION ACCESS

Readers interested in information from and about Japan will note several efforts underway to increase access to Japanese information. In other sections of this newsletter there are notes on the activities of JS-Net and the ARL Japan Project. Additionally, the Japan and U.S. CULCON (U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange) Panels have agreed to form the "Information Access Working Group" to address ways to improve the dissemination of electronic information on both sides. In order to advise the various groups working on this issue, the NCC has prepared a draft statement on "user requirements for Japanese information". We invite your comments and reactions in order to improve the draft. Please direct comments to either the NCC Chair or the Director. Addresses are provided on the cover of this mailing.

USER REQUIREMENTS FOR JAPANESE INFORMATION

The information requirements of researchers in the United States cover the full range of scholarly and professional interests and pursuits. Thus, information needs cannot be defined by subject or discipline, but range across all disciplines. Libraries and other agencies in the U.S. have collected and continue to collect materials selected to serve their users' information needs, but it has never been possible and it never will be possible for U.S. libraries to collect all the information of interest from Japan. U.S. libraries engage in cooperative collection development activities to broaden the base of information from Japan available within the U.S., but even cooperative collecting cannot hope to serve all U.S. information needs. U.S. libraries and researchers require access to information from Japan to complement the collection development of U.S. libraries and other agencies.

Japan's National Diet Library and other libraries and agencies create the bibliographic tools to provide access to materials published in Japan just as in the U.S. the Library of Congress and other agencies create bibliographic access to U.S. publications. U.S. libraries and related organizations should not duplicate access provided by Japanese libraries and agencies to materials published in Japan. As a consequence, U.S. users desire the same ready access to bibliographic files of Japanese materials that is available to Japanese researchers interested in U.S. published materials. U.S. users are willing to pay reasonable fees for ready access and use and do not require that bibliographic access to materials published in Japan be in English.

The first requirement of U.S. users is in bibliographic access to Japanese book and journal literature. "Access" here refers both to bibliographic access over the Internet and access to materials through interlibrary lending or document delivery services. Databases of particular interest include the bibliographic information in files such as JMARC, the Zasshi Kiji Sakuin, Table of Contents databases, and other journal article databases. Access to interlibrary lending and document delivery services for obtaining the materials is also a requirement; the preference is for electronic document delivery.

In both the U.S. and Japan there are an increasing number of electronic full text resources available. The first priority of U.S. users is for access to the full text of journal articles. Access to full text databases of Japanese newspapers, of Japanese literary and historical documents, and to the publications of the Japanese government which are made readily available to users in Japan are also of great interest in the U.S.

LIBRARIAN TRAINING

Part of the NCC's mission is "to coordinate, develop and locate funding for projects in...education in Japanese librarianship" and its Subcommittee on Librarian Training is working to prepare a workshop which could be presented at the national and regional meetings of the AAS. The tentative plans for a day long workshop are to review options for software for the display and retrieval of information resources and the use of e-mail in Japanese and to provide instruction in the use of files on NACSIS (Japan's National Center for Science Information Systems). NACSIS has a

number of files of interest to scholars and librarians working in Japanese Studies, including the *Zasshi Kiji Sakuin*, JP-MARC, Inventory of Japanese Historical Documents, etc., and also has plans for providing an online database of documents published by Japanese academic societies as part of its Electronic Library System scheduled for April, 1997. Those with access to the World Wide Web can check out the NACSIS home page for additional information about its offerings--
<http://www.nacsis.ac.jp> The NCC is interested in hearing whether or not these tentative plans would be useful to the Japanese Studies community and in receiving suggestions for other training events which might be developed.

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