

**Minutes for the Meeting of the  
North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources**

**Library of Congress, Washington DC  
Jefferson Building, Member's Room  
January 16-17, 2004**

Present: Chair Toshie Marra, Executive Director Victoria Bestor, Council Members: Robert Britt, Sharon Domier, Tomoko Goto, Sally Hastings, Mary Jackson, Hwa-Wei Lee, Yasuko Makino, Kuniko Yamada McVey, Akira Miyazawa, Yoshiko Samuel, and Michael Smitka; absent David McCann.

Observers: Carolyn Brown, Megan Caverly, Michiko Ito, Kio Kanda, Irene Laxis, Margaret Mihori, Kenji Niki, Takeo Nishioka, Sachie Noguchi, Thaddeus Ohta, Charlotte Ou, Lawrence Repeta, Eiko Sakaguchi, Hiromi Shimamoto, Keiji Shono, Tomoko Steen, Noriko Sugai, Isamu Tsuchitani, and Reiko Yoshimura

**Friday, January 16, 2004: Morning Session (9:00 to noon)**

The NCC's new Chair Toshie Marra welcomed new Council members, Prof. Michael Smitka, the new social science faculty representative, and Sharon Domier, a new librarian representative, and guests. She particularly thanked the Library of Congress for hosting the NCC's Meeting especially Dr. Carolyn Brown, LC's Assistant Librarian for Library Services and Director of the Area Studies Collection for joining the meeting.

The Minutes of the September 2003 NCC Council Meeting were approved as revised.

**Reports from Funding Agencies:**

**Japan Foundation** – (see Saturday Morning)

Margaret Mihori reported on behalf of the **Japan-United States Friendship Commission** and also on the recent CULCON Meeting on behalf of her colleague Pamela Fields. Ms. Mihori reported that the Commission's funding for its grants programs will most likely remain stable for the foreseeable future. The JUSFC board works well together and there is general support for the work of the NCC. Ms. Mihori passed out a draft copy of JUSFC's most recent Annual Report and a list of grants approved at the September 19, 2003 grantmaking session. Ms. Mihori then reported briefly on CULCON XXI which was held November 20 and 21, 2003 in Sendai, Japan. A good part of the plenary session focused on CULCON's Digital Culture Resources project, an Internet-based resource on US-Japan relations emphasizing educational and cultural relations over the past fifty years. This Web-based resource entitled, *Cross Currents* is nearly completed and will be available publicly online in the near future. Regarding CULCON's priority of "Library Cooperation and Access to Information," Ms. Mihori noted that the CULCON XXI Joint Statement officially noted deep appreciation to those organizations that have contributed to this effort: the National Diet Library; the Association of National University Libraries, Special Committee on International Scholarly Communication; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Research Promotion Bureau; the Japanese Coordinating Committee for University Libraries; the National Institute of Informatics; and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. Individual letters were sent by Eric Gangloff in the CULCON Chair's name to appropriate persons at organizations on the Japan side identified by the NCC including: Takao Kurosawa, Akio Yasue, Keiji Suzuki, Akira Miyazawa, Ikuo Sasakawa, Osamu Inoue, Hitoshi Hayase, Tetsuhisa Shirakawa, Kazuyuki Uzawa, Yukio Hamada, Syun Tutiya, and Yasubumi Tochitani. A copy of the CULCON XXI joint statement will be sent electronically to all members. Sachie Noguchi thanked the Commission for sending the letters. Victoria Bestor also mentioned that the previous day Sachie, Toshie,

and Vickey had visited Commission Executive Director Eric Gangloff in his office to formally introduce him to Toshie, to provide an update on NCC activities, to report on NCC's new part time staff hired with Commission funding, and to demonstrate the newly redesigned and expanded NCC web site.

### **Reports from NCC Representatives from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies:**

**The report from the Library of Congress (LC)** was given by Hwa-Wei Lee. He began by noting that due to the illness of Yoko Akiba progress on new plans had not been made as rapidly as he hoped. However, their treasured Japanese collections continue to grow. The latest statistics show that as of October 1, 2003, the Library has 1,142,382 volumes of monographs and 19,474 titles of serial holdings, including 5,800 titles which are either current subscriptions or exchanges. Dr. Lee also announced that LC has recently hired Eiichi Ito formerly of the Japan Foundation Language Center in Los Angeles.

Through the effort of Dr. Fred Harris, a successful American businessman, a recognized sumi-e painter, and a long-time resident in Japan, LC may host the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Japanese Contemporary Print Show in 2004 sponsored by the College Women's Association of Japan and be the recipient of the collection. The Library is also planning to have an exhibition of LC's collection of "The Floating World of Ukiyo-e" in Japan in 2005.

Dr. Carolyn T. Brown, LC's Assistant Librarian for Library Services and Director of Area Studies Collections, and a member of the advisory committee of the AAU/ARL Global Resources Network (GRN) of which the Japan Project is a part spoke. She began by thanking Dr. Lee for the wonderful progress within the Asian Division which has taken place during his brief one year tenure. She emphasized her pleasure at his work and the wonderful collegiality growing in the division.

She then moved on to a discussion of activities in the AAU/ARL Global Resources Network during 2003. She suggested that everyone review the December 2003 GRN update and report on the ARL web page at <http://www.arl.org/collect/grp/index.html>. The new relationship emerging between ARL and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) for the Center to assume administrative responsibility for the GRN projects that seek such assistance is one of the current areas of activity. Eudora Loh of UCLA will soon replace Dan Hazen of Harvard as GRN Director. Dr. Brown distributed copies of the GRN vision statement which she regards as a clear summary of the directions the network would like to go in. In addition to the international, regional, and bi-national focus of the GRN, new projects might include topical projects with a focus on cross-national participation and she encouraged more thinking in that direction.

The **Association of Research Libraries** report by Mary Jackson was postponed to Saturday morning.

Kuniko Yamada McVey, Chair of the Committee on Japanese Materials (CJM) then gave the **Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)** report. She noted that since CEAL and CJM have not met since the last AAS meeting there is not much to report. She briefly reviewed the tentative agenda for the coming CJM meeting in conjunction with the AAS. She reported on the recent publication on the CJM web site of the directory of North American Collections of Old and Rare Japanese Books, Other Print Materials, and Manuscripts. She also mentioned the National Institute of Japanese Literature's Practical Workshop for Overseas Librarians on Early Japanese Books that will take place in Tokyo in February. She also mentioned her continued role in attempting to negotiate with Asahi Shinbun and reported on the meeting suggested by the Council at its last gathering in September which subsequently took place between Kuniko, Professor Andrew Gordon and Vickey Bestor. During the meeting of the three, they further discussed Professor Gordon's discussions with Asahi, reported to him on the discussions that took place at the September 2003 NCC meeting, and sought his advice about further strategies to pursue in those negotiations. Kuniko also noted that she has since been in Japan when she had the opportunity to again meet with people at Asahi who advised a wait and see strategy. She reiterated her pleasure at working

closely with the NCC, particularly in planning for the 2004 annual meetings in conjunction with AAS. On broader CEAL matters it was reported that CEAL will soon add a membership chair to the executive committee. Toshie Marra also noted with great regret the fact that the NCC's 2004 Open Meeting had to be scheduled at the same time as some of the CEAL Committee Meetings.

In the absence of **Northeast Asia Council** representative David McCann, Sally Hastings made the NEAC report. At the last meeting of NEAC Sally discussed the role of the NCC in the development of scholarly materials and pointed out the need for strengthening NEAC's relationship with the NCC by appointing a representative who is strongly engaged with the NCC and its activities. Margaret Mihori of the JUSFC noted that the Commission funds the Japan activities of NEAC and that they very strongly encouraged NEAC to follow Sally's recommendations to take more seriously their role and representation on the NCC. Margaret also said she will mention it to Eric Gangloff who will attend the NEAC meeting in San Diego. Vickey added that she and Toshie had recently discussed this question as well and noted that the NCC relies on NEAC to keep it abreast of emerging areas of scholarship through their grants program and to provide other important links to the scholarly research agenda of the field. Toshie reiterated her encouragement for such efforts to strengthen the ties between NEAC and the NCC.

**Japan Liaison** Akira Miyazawa presented his report speaking first about talks among NII and university libraries about future plans for the *Gakusōmoku* (union catalog) of online journals. Holdings data for online journals can be registered on the NACSIS-CAT union catalog, but few libraries do so. While title data is available on the publisher's site, individual libraries may have different accessibility to titles depending on the type of license their institution has. Also, due to complex license schemes and frequent changes in available titles within a given licensed package, a library may not know precisely which titles and which volumes are accessible to their users. To solve these problems NII is providing assistance to participating libraries using the NACSIS-CAT union catalog and is now seeking new ways to keep this information up to date. Thus a new project has been established at NII, the basic idea for which is to collect title data from publishers and aggregators, and license information through group licensing activities. This information will be kept in the NACSIS-CAT union catalog database, and upon the request of libraries, an easy-to-edit HTML page of a list of journal titles with available volumes (or years) can be obtained from the database.

He also spoke about the pending process of *Hōjin-ka*. Some ninety national universities and fifteen inter-university research institutes will become independent from the government as of April 2004. This transformation is called *hōjinka* 法人化, because they become independent bodies known as national university bodies 国立大学法人 and inter-university research institute bodies 大学共同利用機関法人. There will be 89 national university bodies and four inter-university research institute bodies. As reported previously, NII will be a division of the Information and System Research Organization 情報・システム研究機構 with three other institutes. According to the government, the key points of this reformation are: to promote more independency for each university, to develop private sector-like management, to introduce external specialists into management; faculty and staff will no longer be civil servants and that will allow for more freedom in their activities, and the introduction of an evaluation system will be reflected in budget distributions. The details of the actual management structure are still unclear. Recently, the government announced the plan for a five percent annual decrease in national university budgets. The Association of National Universities 国立大学協会 strongly opposes this plan.

NDL's new project for authority coordination was announced at the Bibliographic Control Co-ordination Conference 書誌調整連絡会議, held on November 21st, 2003. Participants were from Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library 東京都立中央図書館, NII, Nippan Toshokan Service 日販図書館サービス, National Institute of Japanese Literature 国文学研究資料館, Waseda University Library 早稲田大学図書館, Committee of Cataloging of the Japan Library Association 日本図書館協会目録委員会, Japan Publishing Organization for Information Infrastructure Development 日本出版インフラセンター,

Toshokan Ryutsu Center (TRC) 図書館流通センター and Toyo University 東洋大学, as well as representatives from NDL. Authority control efforts in the individual organizations were reported upon and NDL's new plan for authority control was (officially) announced. Now, the plan is waiting for official endorsement and financial support 予算化 within NDL. The effort will be the responsibility of the Bibliographic Control Division 書誌調整課 of the Bibliography Department 書誌部. Next fiscal year's actual budget 実行予算 is unclear, so far, but the prospect is not optimistic and it is possible the schedule will be delayed due to budget constraints.

And finally he provided an update on the ongoing debate over public lending rights. The debate between writers and libraries continues. The latest information indicates that public libraries have almost agreed to the introduction of public lending rights similar to those in the UK system. Details have not yet been published.

**Japan Foundation AAC** by Yoshiko Samuel took place in the afternoon.

**NCC Administrative Updates** were presented by executive director Victoria Bestor who began with a discussion of public information efforts which included a demonstration of the NCC's newly migrated and redesigned Web Site now available at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/>, we still have our PURL at <http://purl.oclc.org/NET/ncc/index.htm> and own a domain name [nccjapan.org](http://nccjapan.org), all of which link to the site hosted by the Reischauer Institute at Harvard. She also passed out copies of the newest issue of the NCC Newsletter (#17) and discussed future new electronic publication strategies for the Newsletter and a series of NCC E-News Bulletins, the prototype for which she showed the Council. The NCC's new webmaster is working on the prototype design.

The update on **NCC Office and Administrative Activities** was also provided by Vickey Bestor. She reported on the hiring of Brigid Laffey as web designer and webmaster and of Yumija Heo as the new NCC program intern. She is also in the process of hiring a part time bookkeeper for the NCC.

Vickey gave a verbal financial update noting that the annual budget was on track and that because the finding of new part time staff members had taken time the personnel budget was currently in excess however by the end of the year she expects the personnel budget to be fully spent.

Vickey also passed around draft portions of the new NCC Council Handbook and a brief discussion of its contents followed. Several Council members asked questions and made suggestions.

### **NCC Committee Updates:**

Sachie Noguchi led a discussion of the NCC's new Training the Trainers (T-3) Project with the assistance of Sharon Domier, Toshie Marra, and Vickey Bestor. Prior to the meeting members had received a copy of Sachie's written report and a copy of the T-3 Proposal submitted to the Japan Foundation in November 2003. It is expected that the NCC will hear the results of the application in late March.

As Sachie's report noted the NCC's training of junior Japanese Studies librarians has already taken place with great success, and the training of the trainers for the electronic resources on Japanese Studies is naturally the next seminar which should be organized by the NCC. As Ellen Hammond rightly pointed out during the Council Meeting in San Francisco the shortage of well-trained trainers who can effectively teach a variety of available electronic resources to faculty and students is critical and must be addressed.

After submitting the User Training Task Force (UTTF) report in September Committee Chair Kristina Troost, introduced Ms. Emily Werrell, Coordinator, Library Instruction & Outreach, Perkins Library System of the Duke University to the NCC. Ms. Werrell has ample experience in library instruction and

will provide NCC valuable input and will be a facilitator and/or the principal instructor of the planned workshop.

To assist Vickey in writing the proposal, the Training the Trainers Planning Committee was established. The Committee was co-chaired by NCC Chairs, Toshie Marra and Sachie Noguchi, and other members were Sharon Domier, Kristina Troost, and Emily Werrell.

In early October, the questionnaire originally outlined by Kristina Troost was revised and posted to eastlib to solicit input from the potential workshop participants. The questionnaire asked what sorts of instruction respondents provide, the databases (English and/or Japanese) that they teach, the databases they wish to learn to use more proficiently, the databases they can demonstrate, and asked their interest in participating in the workshops if funded.

In addition to the committee members, Vickey consulted Ellen Hammond who has chaired the CEAL Information Literacy Task Force since 2002. The draft proposal was distributed to the committee and related individuals for comments and after a number of revisions the proposal was submitted to the Japan Foundation in advance of the November 1, 2003 deadline.

The T-3 Workshops project continues the NCC's series of training efforts and will develop a group of librarians specifically trained in instruction in digital information. This project will also develop a regional network to co-sponsor workshops to train scholars and students to make optimal use of valuable electronic resources for their research, teaching, and learning.

If the proposal is funded, there will be a small planning conference in May at which the committee members, lead instructors, and other specialist enlisted to provide advice for the project will finalize curricular components. It was also suggested that some potential trainees should attend the planning conference to provide additional input. The workshops themselves are tentatively planned for August 2004 at UCLA and January 2005 at Duke.

Sharon Domier reported on behalf of the **AskeASL Advisory Committee**. Sharon noted that there are currently about 60 volunteer expert librarians signed up for AskeASL of which approximately 30% deal with Japanese questions. There is the need for new volunteers and greater publicity of the AskeASL service especially among smaller libraries. Tomoko Goto asked whether she could step down from the co-chair position of the committee as now Sharon, the other co-chair, is joining the Council. Sharon suggested that Setsuko Noguchi of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign be designated the co-coordinator of AskeASL with Sharon, and the Council endorsed her selection.

Rob Britt gave the Report on the **Digital Resources Committee** handing out Ellen Hammond's written report. License negotiations was the first item discussed especially with regard to three products. *JapanKnowledge*: the vendor of this database (NetAdvance) has agreed to substantial changes in the license agreement. These changes allow for the definition of *authorized users* preferred by North American institutions, the removal of clauses requiring library responsibility for the actions of users, and the clarification of a number of other sections of concern. The final wording of the Terms of Use and the Addendum spelling out the changes agreed to by NetAdvance (an addendum to be separately concluded by each library contracting for the service) are in final draft form. After circulation to DRC members for comment and final approval from Net Advance, negotiations will be complete. An announcement will be made at the NCC Open Meeting in March about this development. *Web Oya*: an online periodical index created by the Oya Shoichi Bunko in Tokyo, did not excite as much interest among Japan Studies librarians as JapanKnowledge. Therefore, Ellen Hammond, on behalf of the East Asia Library at Yale University, negotiated an addendum to the original license (This license was deemed unacceptable by Yale.) This negotiation was assisted by Mr. Daikichi Mitake of Kinokuniya Shoten, the company that has the distribution rights for the database in North America. Out of this negotiation arose the idea of

creating separate addenda to supersede parts of the main contract. Japanese vendors seem to prefer this method and it was used successfully again in the negotiations with Net Advance for JapanKnowledge. With regard to ongoing efforts to negotiate a license with *Asahi Shinbun*: discussions with Jeff Strandberg, Director of Sales & Marketing at Eastview (the publisher that was instrumental in bringing the Chinese Academic Journal database to the U.S. market) took place at the East Coast Consortium of East Asia Libraries held at Harvard in October. Jeff agreed to consider representing *Asahi* in North America. Subsequently, he reported that discussions with *Asahi* were not encouraging. Kuniko McVey, however, conferred again with *Asahi* executives in Tokyo recently and there seems to have been some softening of the company's position. Kuniko will provide a full report to the NCC at the NCC Open Meeting in March. Jeff Strandberg has also indicated a willingness to approach *Nikkei* on behalf of North American libraries and the DRC will work with him on this issue.

It was also reported that the **DRC Home Page** has merged with the NCC site. The new DRC address is <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/index/drc.html>. The site will be used to post the addenda for Web Oya and JapanKnowledge. All Japanese studies librarians will be informed (through the Eastlib mailing list and at the upcoming NCC Open Meeting) to consult the site for the text of addenda to existing agreements that they can use at their home institutions.

Ellen's report also noted that DRC Member Tokiko Bazzell was able to discuss DRC issues extensively during the recent Japan Studies Information Specialists Training Program held in Tokyo. This has led to several offers of assistance to the DRC. In addition, Sachie Noguchi was also able to make contacts to further spread the concerns of Japanese Studies librarians within key circles in Japan. Those contacts were as follows: Database Promotion Center; Sachie, Toshie, and probably more librarians will visit the office with introduction by Prof. Atsushi Aiba of Nichibunken in February to explain some of the issues impeding our access to Japanese databases. NII; Mr. Hideo Ohba, the NII representative who helped coordinate the Training Program offered to assist DRC. He has contacts with licensing attorneys and an understanding of the electronic environment. [Reported by Tokiko.] Japan Database Industry Association; Mr. Kawamoto offered to provide assistance to the DRC on behalf of his organization, a trade industry group. [Reported by Tokiko.] All of the above developments are quite recent and may represent good opportunities for the DRC to obtain greater leverage with database producers.

To provide further education of Japanese Studies librarians, the DRC sponsored an informal discussion group after the NCC Open Meeting in New York in the spring of 2003. It was well attended and the discussion was lively and useful, leading to a call to make this an annual event. The DRC will sponsor a similar session in San Diego in March. The DRC has gradually developed a method of operation that seems to be quite effective in helping it achieve its goals. First, it sponsors events in the U.S., actively makes contacts in Japan, and works directly with vendors to achieve better terms and conditions for database use. At the same time, it keeps in touch with Japanese Studies librarians around the country who are involved in their own database negotiations. As such, it has a role as a clearinghouse for information about what is happening in relation to negotiations and licensing of digital materials in North America. This dual focus allows the DRC to be much greater than the sum of its parts (only five members) and to better serve our community.

Mike Smitka reported that there is a new Cultural Affairs Attaché at the Japanese Embassy named Agawa Naoyuki who holds law degrees from both Tokyo University and the University of Virginia. He has a strong background and interest in such issues and might an important resource for the DRC.

Following lunch Yoshiko Samuel gave the **Japan Foundation AAC** report. She noted that there are only 17 applications for funding this year, one half the number received last year. (3 in A-1, 4 A-2, 6 B-1, and 4 B-2). A discussion followed on how to encourage more applications and members encouraged providing more feedback to rejected applicants and to provide greater encouragement for institutions to re-apply if they have failed to receive funding in a given year.

A brief Update on the **AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project**'s transition to the NCC was given by Victoria Bestor who is now responsible for managing the project. Vickey reported that there are now 87 Japanese libraries participated in Global ILL Framework (GIF) and 37 in North America. The Japan side recently offered two workshops for ILL librarians on the GIF project and NCC intern Yumi Heo was able to attend the Kyoto workshop. Vickey also reported on the efforts to provide more details on how library catalogs can be searched using the Z39.50 search and retrieval standard.

Sharon Domier mentioned that she and her ILL partner Kathy Ridenour (U. Mass Amherst) will be doing a poster session on GIF for the Northeastern ILL meetings and that she is making greater efforts to train students on how to do citations for submitting ILL requests.

The **Japan Project Advisory Committee** update was given by Toshie Marra. With the Committee's submission of recommendations to the Council on possible projects to consider for future Japan Project initiatives in September 2003, the charge to the current JPAC has been successfully completed (phase one). The JPAC's recommendations were:

- 1) Creating an open archive of Web resources
- 2) Providing more convenient access to Japanese language newspapers and magazines
- 3) Serving as a clearinghouse for Japanese government reports
- 4) Promoting digitization of rare holdings and making them accessible on the Web

Since the September Meeting, an additional dataset to consider for future Japan Project initiatives came to JPAC's attention. This information particularly addresses needs of researchers in Japanese Studies. Prof. Philip Brown conducted a survey in September 2001, Primary Source Use On-line Survey. A summary is posted at <http://emjnet.history.ohio-state.edu/JLibSurv.htm>. A report on this survey was presented by Prof. Brown at the International Conference on the Enhancement of Information Availability for Scholarly Resources (Nihon Kenkyu Gakujutsu Shiryo Joho no Riyo Seibi ni Kansuru Kokusai Kaigi) held at the International House of Japan on Dec. 17-18, 2001. The conference proceedings are available in a monograph entitled *Kenkyu to shiryō to johō o musubu* (Tokyo: Kokusai Koryu Kikin, 2002; ISBN: 4875400527). Prof. Brown also published an article based on this survey, "State of the Field: The Odd Couple? Digital Data and Traditional Primary Sources in Japanese Studies," in the *Asian Studies Newsletter* 48:1 (February 2003).

The survey was sent to some 4,000 e-mail addresses primarily in Japan, Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. There were a total of 326 responses, for an overall response rate of about 8%. In his *Asian Studies Newsletter* article, Prof. Brown pointed out the following trends: 1) broadening research subjects with greater interest in local and non-elite themes, 2) interest in digital and on-line resources, and 3) interest in handwritten manuscripts.

The survey also asked open-ended questions to ascertain the first and second priority among primary sources. Here it was clear that Japan specialists are interested in using resources on government politics and mass media including newspapers.

Toshie also noted that another projects of the Global Resources Network has a newspaper project, the **Cooperative African Newspaper Project**. The Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association (ASA) and the *Cooperative Africana Microforms Project (CAMP)* of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) are beginning a two-year project to create an electronic database of holdings information for newspapers (all formats and all languages) published in sub-Saharan Africa. Initially, this database, the Union List of African Newspapers (ULAN), which will be created and maintained at CRL, will consolidate holdings information for collections in North America, but will later expand to include holdings in Africa, Europe, and elsewhere.

At 3:30 the Working Meeting adjourned for a talk by Lawrence Repeta, Abe Fellow, National Security Archive titled "Accessing Government Documents through Japan's New Information Disclosure Law." Prof. Repeta discussed how the freedom of information law works and the activities of the Information Clearinghouse Japan, an NGO devoted to promoting transparent government, of which he is a founding director.

**Saturday, January 17, 2004 Morning Session (9:00 to 1:00)**

**Funder's Report: Japan Foundation (JF)** Because the Japan Foundation staff members were not able to attend the Friday portion of the meeting Keiji Shono, the new Deputy Director of the New York Office, made the report on behalf of the Japan Foundation first thing on Saturday morning. His report paid particular attention to the recent reforms within the Japan Foundation. He noted that in the future JF appropriations will be made on a 3-5 year basis which may result in more flexibility for the Foundation and also grants may be able to extend longer than one fiscal year. However overall funds are still diminishing, but on the plus side the Foundation is now allowed to purchase foreign bonds, which should help improve interest earning significantly. Yoshiko Samuel asked about anticipated program cuts and Mr. Shono encouraged advocacy for important programs.

**Reports from NCC Representatives from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies:** Mary Jackson gave the report for the **Association of Research Libraries** which had been postponed from Friday morning. She noted that ARL has identified its new core priorities which are Intellectual Property and Federal Relations; Scholarly Communications; and Collections and Access.

With regard to transitions in the AAU/ARL Global Resources Network (GRN) it was noted that the Japan Project's recent administrative transition is a good example of how to make GRN projects sustainable. The German and Latin American projects are moving to the Center for Research Libraries. For overall GRN initiatives there has been a modest reallocation of ARL dues and contributions from 76 ARL member libraries to fund the activities of GRN in 2004. Eudora Loh, UCLA, will become an ARL Visiting Program Officer and Director of the GRN in June. There may also be funds for new subjects programs. In particular GRN is looking at developing thematically based projects that cross geographic boundaries.

Key to the current efforts is a focus on the network concept to expand access to materials not held in North American libraries. Further efforts need to be made to reduce duplication in collections. With the use of rapid ILL/DD it should be possible for collections to better use the money that might be freed up from elimination of duplicate purchasing to focus future acquisitions on deepening existing collections in areas of special focus. Mary noted that while similar efforts have met with some resistance from the library and faculty community in the past there is now strong support for such measures among university presidents and provosts in the AAU. Efforts are being made to map the content of collections to better understand collection depth and to determine the number of duplicates. There are also efforts to better understand the publishing output of a given country, which is underway with the support from the OCLC Office of Research.

The ARL Special Collections Task Force meeting in Chapel Hill addressed various efforts including recruiting and training, at all levels. Mary also noted the renewed emphasis on providing special training to convert those with academic training into special collection librarians, and there may be parallels for the training initiatives of NCC.

Mary encouraged interested members to read ARL's annual program plan which appears early each year and its Activities Report which is published in September. Both are wide ranging reports of interest.

Two reports related to the **Multi-Volume Sets (MVS) Project** were given by Sally Hastings and Reiko Yoshimura. First Reiko reported on the prescreening process. 43 titles were submitted for prescreening from 13 institutions, of which 21 were found to be unique, in addition 5 were duplicated only by non-circulating materials. One title was requested by two institutions and one was requested by three institutions. One application was submitted for a single volume title, and the most expensive set proposed cost 7 million yen.

Sally Hastings reported that as of the time she departed to attend the meeting, not much had been received by way of applications, so she assumed pretty much everyone was waiting until the deadline to submit. She also noted that several faculty members had sent support letters separately from the applications and she suggested that the application guidelines should make clear that all materials should be sent in one packet.

She then referred to the question of the submission of a single volume title. She emphasized her belief that each year, once the guidelines have been published it is essential for MVS to abide by those guidelines. If revisions in guidelines are made they should apply only to future years but not retroactively to the current year. So she argued that at least for this year the single volume title should not be considered. She asked the Council to reaffirm that principle. And she also wondered if single volumes are to be considered for MVS whether a name change would be required for the project.

Former NCC and MVS Chair Sachie Noguchi agreed but expressed her concern that such a revision would be changing the essential nature of the project. She emphasized that such a change should be discussed within the Council and that the MVS Committee should not make such a decision alone without consultation with the full Council. It was further suggested that the MVS Handbook should be revised to reaffirm that principle.

Sally then discussed another issue that came up in the correspondence among MVS Committee members, the question of whether MVS should only entertain applications for works that had been fully published for a certain interval. She noted that this question has been discussed over the years with MVS and there is currently wording that says preference will be given to things that have been published at least two or three years ago. Sally supports the ideal of keeping the interval intact and as reason for that she cited the incidents this year of multiple prescreening of given titles. That indicated to her the high probability that those titles will be purchased by institutions even without MVS funding. She also felt that with recent titles the likelihood that an institution would spend the time to write the application only to find that by the deadline someone else had purchased or ordered the volume and their effort had gone to waste.

Yasuko Makino agreed in general and offered a different perspective for some titles. She noted that these days some titles are published in very limited print runs and that if the delay of two or three years is strictly imposed it is quite likely that the title would be out of print by the time that MVS allowed for its purchase and therefore North America might lose out on acquiring it.

Sally noted that she understood Yasuko's argument but still disagreed with her and she asked that both sides of the argument be duly noted in the minutes so that in future years as the question might need to be referred to again there would be a clear record of this discussion.

Kenji Niki noted that from the librarian's point of view we also need to give due recognition to the goal of ensuring that at least one copy of all important materials is held by a North American library. He noted that publishers generally provide a fairly detailed record of future publications planned and that from his perspective it is critical to have such longer term planning so that valuable titles can be purchased when they become available. Otherwise North American libraries lose out and may have to wait a very long time to be able to acquire the title if and when it becomes available on the used book market. Often things are published in runs of only 250 copies or even much smaller numbers, and in the event of such a

small run, at least one copy needs to be owned by a U.S. institution. Kenji expressed the view that the importance of having such valuable titles in the North American collection is well worth the risk of possible duplication once a title has been funded by MVS.

Sally suggested a “warning label” as a compromise. She suggested that the “warning label” should say that applicants should ask for recent publications only if they have reason to think that only their library would be likely to buy it. So that when a wonderful collection comes out on a hot field that many institutions will immediately snap up the MVS Committee should not fund it. Applicants should only ask for works for which their collection is the only likely buyer.

Yasuko reminded everyone that we are indeed working to build a national collection, not only through MVS but also through the identification of given institutions as the primary collector of materials within specific subjects. And she further noted that for those titles that are within Princeton’s identified areas of collecting, those purchased through MVS have not subsequently been duplicated regardless of the interval between their publication and the time that the title was funded by MVS.

Sachie Noguchi spoke to her years on the MVS Committee and encouraged applicants to note limited editions in the application to signal to MVS Committee members the importance of funding the set right away. However she encouraged leaving the wording that preference will be given to titles of a certain age. That way the MVS Committee is given the maximum flexibility in making their decisions.

Hwa-Wei Lee offered the suggestion that if there are important works for which there is still not a copy in North America he hopes people will inform him because LC should buy it. His comment was received with a hearty round of applause. He noted that while in the past the Asian Division’s budget has been severely cut, in the past months he has been lobbying heavily for major increases. From the 2005 fiscal year he was happy to note the budget will be increased by 50%, with additional smaller increases in subsequent years.

Sharon Domier asked how frequently faculty members applied without the assistance of a librarian. It was reported that to date only one, from Creighton University, had successfully applied, and Sally noted that the applying individual has since left for another institution (but the set remains at Creighton). Reiko Yoshimura noted that there appear to be such applications in the current year. Sharon further noted that she agreed with the need for very clear wording to help non-specialist librarians who may need extra help.

Kuniko McVey asked for clarification as to whether MVS specifically requires physical circulation or simply making the set accessible. The answer was that indeed circulation through ILL was required. Then Kuniko asked about the discretionary powers of the holding library, for example in the case of a journal article, to decide whether to send the actual journal or to make a copy of the requested article. Sachie Noguchi clarified by saying that indeed the ability of the title to circulate via ILL was critical however in the case of a journal article it was at the discretion of the holding institution as to whether they would choose to send the volume out via ILL or to make a photocopy of the requested article. Sachie further clarified that indeed while current journals generally do not circulate, most journals that were funded by MVS are compilations of older journals and, because there is not so much expectation that users will come to the library to read them, they can circulate via ILL.

Speaking from the perspective of the researcher Sally Hastings cited the example of the back issues of Ichikawa Fusae’s journals held by Duke University. She noted that if she knows the specific volume and number she can request the specific article, however many of the things that are purchased in reprints have not been indexed so that the researcher really needs the whole run to see what is out there. She added that it is most valuable for her to be able to browse the whole set.

Vickey raised the question of the MVS Access database and asked about ways to make the database more user-friendly. Rob Britt suggested the creation of a searchable web-accessible version of the database similar to what was set up for the CEAL membership directory. Sharon suggested that even better would be if the search could link to the OPAC of the holding library so that one could find out about the circulation status of the given set. In the application process also the URL could be given and then applicants could search the database. Rob also noted that the members of the MVS Committee could be given passwords so that they could work with the database and add new records from home. Vickey agreed that she would talk further with Rob on the subject and will ask her assistant Yumi to begin work on the modifications.

The Council then agreed that the MVS Committee should be directed to disqualify the single volume title for this year and further asked the Committee to make a recommendation regarding how such titles should be handled in the future for discussion at the next Council meeting. And any major change in guidelines should be reviewed with the JUSFC, MVS's funder. The question was also raised as to whether the list of unfunded titles should be reviewed to determine if any of them should be considered for funding again. That question too was referred to the MVS Committee.

The Curators of the two **Japan Art Catalog Projects** made brief reports. First Reiko Yoshimura offered a brief update on the JAC Asian Collection at the Freer Gallery of Art. It was noted that there is an article on faculty use of the JAC Asian Collection in NCC Newsletter # 17. Sachie Noguchi also gave a brief update on the JAC Western Art Depository Collection now housed at the University of Pittsburgh. She noted that cataloging of the collection still waits the hiring of a cataloger.

The report from **Canadian Advisory Group** was given by Tomoko Goto. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the CAG was taking place on the same day as Tomoko's report at the Japan Foundation office in Toronto. She noted that there are now 26 members in the CAG, 13 from academic libraries, 2 public institutions, 8 special libraries, and 3 who are library students. Tad Suzuki of the University of Victoria was the Canadian participant in the JSIST Program for 2003. The group is considering updating Mr. Gonnami's 1990 article and directory to Canadian collections. She also noted that members are thinking of holding a workshop at the Japanese Studies Association of Canada meetings in May 2004 in Victoria.

#### **New Business and New Project Updates:**

Toshie Marra began new business by requesting that in the future all committees and task forces submit written reports prior to the NCC Meeting for circulation to all Council members. Members noted their appreciation for the new numbering system used to circulate reports and the list of attendees.

A discussion of candidates for the **Japan Liaison** position was led by current Liaison Akira Miyazawa. Following a discussion among Council members it was unanimously recommended that Syun Tutiya of Chiba University should be invited to become the next Japan Liaison. During the coming visit to Japan NCC Chair Toshie Marra and past Chair Sachie Noguchi will join Professor Miyazawa in discussing the position with Professor Tutiya who will be formally invited at that time. If he accepts, his term will begin on July 1, 2004 and run until June 30, 2007.

Candidates for positions on NCC Committees and Task Force were discussed. Now that Sharon Domier has become a member of the Council, Tomoko Goto asked to step down as co-chair of AskEASL but agreed to remain a member. Rob Britt will also remain a member. It was agreed that Setsuko Noguchi should be invited to become the other co-chair of the AskEASL Committee along with Sharon.

The membership of the **Digital Resources Committee** was also discussed in light of the end of Rob Britt's term on the Council in June 2004. There is a need for a Council member who will serve as co-chair. Tomoko Goto agreed to assume that position and her term will begin when Rob's ends on June 30, 2004.

Committee rotations for the DRC were also discussed and it was agreed that the co-chair Ellen Hammond should be consulted about staggering the terms of current members of the committee.

New membership for the **Japan Project Advisory Committee** was also discussed. It was recommended that Tokiko Bazzell and Karl Lo be asked to continue on the committee. Mike Smitka, Eiko Sakaguchi, and Beth Katzoff were suggested as members along with the new Japan Liaison. Sally Hastings suggested that it was important to have faculty members who train graduate students on the committee. Names suggested included Sheldon Garon of Princeton, Jan Bardsley of UNC, Alan Tansman of UC Berkeley, and Ann Sherif of Oberlin.

And finally the members of the **T-3 Planning Committee** were vetted by the Council. They include Sharon Domier, Kristina Troost, Sachie Noguchi, Emily Werrell and Ellen Hammond. The Co-Chairs are Sachie, Toshie, and Kris.

Past Chair Sachie Noguchi apologized for not having completed personnel reviews during the three years of her term as had been done in the past and suggested that a task force be created to advise the new Chair Toshie Marra and the Council as a whole on comprehensive personnel and job description updates for the NCC. Given the expanded range of NCC programs, the responsibilities recently added to the NCC's administrative office and to the job of executive director, and the creation of new staff positions, the redefinition of job descriptions is needed. The task force would be asked to make a review and report back to the Council at the coming meeting. Sachie proposed she would serve on the task force and that Mary Jackson and Sally Hastings be asked to join. Jim Huffman and Yasuko Makino were also suggested as members in addition to Chair Toshie Marra.

Sharon Domier and Sally Hastings also expressed the desire to form a task force to advise the NCC on further ways to reach out to isolated scholars and students and to work on devising ways for NEAC and the NCC to work more effectively on such ventures.

Continued planning for the 2004 Open Meeting took place with the discussion of an agenda outline distributed by Chair Toshie Marra. Mary Jackson noted that we hope Eudora Loh who will become Director of the AAU/ARL Global Resources Network will be able to attend the Open Meeting and CEAL. Unfortunately due to the venue of the 2004 AAS Meeting alternate sites for the NCC Open Meeting were not available and the NCC was forced to hold its meeting at the same time as other library related meetings of CEAL. Toshie and Vickey noted that they are already thinking of locations for the 2005 meeting in Chicago.

Members were reminded of the date of the fall 2004 NCC Meeting in LA. It will be August 6-7, 2004 at UCLA and has been timed to coincide with the first T-3 Workshop. Pending Japan Foundation funding the January meeting will also be piggybacked on a T-3 Workshop and will take place at Duke University.