Meetings and Conferences

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Association for Asian Studies Joint Conference of the Western and the Southwestern Conferences (Mexico City: October 22-23, 1993)

A library panel entitled "Issues on East Asian Library Services in North America" was held at the Joint Conference of the Western Conference and the Southwestern Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Mexico City, October 22-23, 1993. Gene Hsiao of the University of Arizona organized and chaired the panel. Four papers were given; they were:

"The Classification of Pre-20th Century Chinese Materials," by Gene Hsiao;

"Japanese Book Vendors Serving the Academic Libraries in North America," by Katsuko Hotelling, Arizona State University;

"East Asian Electronic Information: Retooling for the Future," by Robert Felsing, University of Oregon;


Using the "classified list of the collection of all four categories" (Ssu-k'u fen-wei tsung-mu) and examples, Hsiao illustrated the rationale and the special scheme adopted in Ssu-k'u for classifying the individual works contained therein. Hsiao concluded his presentation with two basic principles by which works were grouped in Ssu-k'u into the four categories of classics, history, philosophy, and belles-lettres. These rules are: (1) when a work includes articles dealing with several subjects, it falls in the category of belles-lettres; and (2) a group of works written in the same genre and dealing with one and the same subject is likely to fall into the category of that subject. Understanding how the works are classified in Ssu-k'u helps us appreciate the wisdom behind the organization of Ssu-k'u and gives us a better sense of where things belong in the huge scheme of compilation for Ssu-k'u.

Hotelling's presentation centered on the results of her survey on the Japanese vendors used by the East Asian libraries in North America. Despite the less than satisfactory return rate of 39 percent of the total number of seventy-nine questionnaires she had mailed out, she was able to gather at one place very current information of great use especially to a beginning Japanese studies librarian who has a responsibility for collection development and acquisitions of Japanese-language materials. Discount benefit, return privilege, turnaround time for purchases, and number and type of staffing support at the vendor's end were among her findings. (See Ms. Hotelling's article in this issue beginning on page 1.)

Felsing pointed out that the organizational politics of East Asian libraries was the politics of resistance to change, and reminded those present that the campus computing center had been able to slip gradually into the service of information provider because librarians were
not taking enough advantage of what the technology could do for them. He gave examples of the information that had become available electronically through Internet and other means; e.g., contents tables of Chinese journals, economic statistics from the People's Republic of China, Chinese operas, the recorded voice of Chou En-lai from the University of North Carolina, and CCCII from Taiwan which could be used to turn an ordinary personal computer into one capable of processing and displaying Chinese characters. He further suggested that we convince the campus computing center that, because there is a great deal of information available in East Asian characters on the networks, the center should provide a large amount of bit mapping for Chinese characters.

Wu's topic was prompted by a notion presented by two of the recently invited evaluators of the East Asian studies program at Arizona State University. The notion was that the Japanese-language collection should have the same number of volumes as the Chinese-language collection. Wu argued the lack of feasibility of this parity issue from two points: (1) library appropriations and (2) the historical background and current status of Chinese and Japanese collection sizes in North America. She was able to use most of the figures provided her by a number of colleagues who had responded to her request for information posted on Eastlib and the Research Libraries Group EAMEMNET, as well as the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) annual survey statistics published in issue no. 98 (February 1993) of the CEAL Bulletin. She discovered that the disparity in collection size between these two language areas continues to exist even though more funds have been channelled by libraries into acquiring Japanese-language materials. The amount of appropriations ranged from 3 times more for Japanese at the University of California (UC), Davis to 1.2 times more at UC-Berkeley. On the average, the Japanese-language holdings of American libraries equal only 66 percent of the Chinese; only seven of the fifty-six libraries that were able to report separate holdings for Chinese- and Japanese-language materials to CEAL have a larger Japanese collection. Securing more endowments and outside funding by institutions individually or collectively for purchase of Japanese-language materials is one solution while coordinated collection development and management is another. Instead of competing with each other for number of volumes added or of focusing on parity issues, we need to concentrate our efforts in making information located elsewhere available to our faculty and students.

(Ai-Hwa Wu)

Workshop on the International Resources for Japanese Studies in the United States

The "Workshop on the International Resources for Japanese Studies in the United States — Accessibility Issues in Social Sciences and Area Studies" was an International Joint Research Project funded by a grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Japan that convened on Tuesday, December 7, 1993, at the National Diet Library in Tokyo; Wednesday, December 8, at the University of Tokyo; and Thursday, December 9, at NACSIS. The list of papers presented at this workshop is as follows:
BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH

"Bibliometrics of Japan studies" (01) by Dr. Henry Small, Director of Corporate Research, Institute for Scientific Information.

"A view of research activities in humanities and social sciences in Japan with statistics on the scholarly databases" (02) by Prof. Masamitsu Negishi, Professor, R&DD, NACSIS.

National Diet Library tour and exhibition, "Nippon in the world, image of Japan in books."

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

"Accessibility to social science research materials on developing countries in the Japanese language" (03) by Mr. Shusaku Matsumoto, Senior Officer, Library, Institute of Developing Economies.

"Bibliographic control of English-language writings about Japan with particular focus on the social sciences and area studies" (04) by Dr. Frank Joseph Shulman, Bibliographer, Editor, and Consultant for Reference Publications in Asian Studies.

AREA CENTERS

"Japanese studies in the social sciences: information resources at Harvard" (05) by Ms. Kuniko Yamada McVey, Director, Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan, Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies, Harvard University.

"Transmission and reception of information on Japanese studies – information programme of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies" (06) by Prof. Hidehiro Sonoda, Associate Professor, International Research Center for Japanese Studies.

SURVEY REPORTS

"Towards the improvement of accessibility to Japan-oriented organizations in the United States: the case of Gateway Japan" (07) by Ms. Gretchen Shinoda, Manager, Gateway Japan.

"Issues of Japan as a field for American Japanologists – an interview survey and analysis of some current cases" (08) by Prof. Hitoshi Inoue, Professor, R&DD, NACSIS.

FIELD EXPERIENCES

"Stanford Japan Center" (09) by Dr. Ken'ichi Imai, Director of Research, and Dr. Terry Edward McDougall, Director of Education, Stanford Japan Center.
"The rock and the hard place – scholarly field experiences and the social sciences in Japan studies in the United States" (10) by Dr. Stephen J. Anderson, Department of Government and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia.

NATIONAL PLANS AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

"Circus acts: interdependencies in library cooperation" (11) by Dr. Amy Vladeck Heinrich, Director, C. V. Starr East Asian Library, Columbia University.

"The state of art of social science database compilation in Japan" (12) by Prof. Yoshiro Matsuda, the Information and Documentation Center for Japanese Economic Statistics, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University.

(From Maureen Donovan in a facsimile dated February 16, 1994.)

Japan Documentation Center of the Library of Congress Sponsors Workshop on Accessing Japanese Information

A workshop entitled "Technical Requirements for Accessing Japanese Information: Problems and Solutions" and sponsored by the Library of Congress Japan Documentation Center will be held Friday, March 18, 1994 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress to instruct people on how to access and work with Japanese-language information. Presentations will include understanding the needs for Japanese-language information, Japanese programming solutions dealing with coding and character sets, Japanese electronic media, Japanese software solutions, and networking.

Speakers will include Ken R. Lunde, Japanese Font Production, Adobe Systems Incorporated; Douglas Horn, Computer Editor, Mangajin; Dawn Talbot, Center for Magnetic Recording Research, University of California, San Diego; Hillary Handwerger, Manufacturing Information Research Center, National Center for Manufacturing Sciences; Glenn Hoetker, Scientific and Technical Information Program, NASA; Richard D. Schlichting, Department of Computer Science, University of Arizona; Carl Kay, Japanese Language Services; Stephen J. Anderson, Department of Government and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia; Scott Edward Harrison, Harvard Law School Library; Seth T. Schneider, Multilingual Computing; Ken Uchikura, Pacific Software Publishing; Cameron Momtaz, Database Analyst, International Liaison Office, MCC; Mindy L. Kotler, Japan Information Access Project; and Ken Love, CompuServe – The Japan Forum.

The workshop will be the inaugural event of the new Japan Documentation Center of the Library of Congress. The Center is a national resource assisting American policymakers to access Japanese information.

Workshop participants will strengthen their understanding of the hardware and software requirements for accessing Japanese information and learn about new developments in
Japanese electronic media (databases, CD-ROM) and networks. Beginners and experts should benefit from the workshop.

Attendance is free although reservations are necessary and space is limited. Each attendee will receive a workshop proceedings and a copy of Ken Lunde's book, *Understanding Japanese information processing.*

Please address all correspondence and questions to:

Secretariat  
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1706 R Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009-2410  
Voice: 202-332-5224  
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(Registration brochure from the Project postmarked January 31, 1994.)