10-1-1980

Meetings and Conferences

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

I. International Association of Orientalist Librarians

The 1980 meeting of the IAOL was held in Manila, Philippines, August 17-23, in conjunction with the 46th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). This was the first time that IAOL had arranged a meeting under the auspices of IFLA (with which it is affiliated), and the writer believes that the decision to do so was a happy one. It was particularly appropriate that an IAOL program should be associated with the first occasion on which the IFLA General Conference had been held in Asia, and the attendance at IAOL sessions, averaging 40-50 per session, was considered excellent. Previous IAOL programs have been held as part of the International Congress of Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa (formerly International Congress of Orientalists). However, as these Congresses appear to have been indefinitely suspended, the IFLA Conference was regarded as the most suitable alternative for sponsorship of the IAOL meeting at this stage.

The program, which was organized by Dr. Sarah K. Vann of the University of Hawaii, was planned around the broad theme: "Interfacing: Area Collections and Information Exchange in the 80's." Some fourteen papers were presented during three days of sessions, which were grouped by area and included both internal and external appraisals. Not surprisingly, many of the same trends, issues, and problems which were being addressed on the larger IFLA stage were also discussed in the IAOL papers, and a recurring theme was the increasing interdependence of libraries in all areas of collections, services, and bibliographic systems.

The first day's sessions were all devoted to Southeast Asia, both general and specific. Professor Isagani R. Medina, a historian from the University of the Philippines, spoke on "Filipiniana Resources and Bibliographic Activities in the Philippines," outlining the continuing difficulties experienced by librarians in obtaining Philippine publications and describing the various activities undertaken on a cooperative basis to improve bibliographic control and accessibility of this material in libraries in and around Manila. Among these arrangements was a "Consortium of Graduate Libraries" which provides for the non-circulation of all Filipiniana in four major university libraries, but allows reciprocal access for all students and other registered users.

Mr. Ding Choo Ming of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Library presented a paper entitled "Problems in Acquiring Malaysiana Materials and Prospects for Resource Sharing in the 1980's." He too stressed the difficulties and challenges associated with the task of acquiring and maintaining a comprehensive collection of his country's published output, and referred to the efforts being made and still needed to achieve full coverage on a cooperative basis of both current and retrospective materials. A substantial list of bibliographies on Malaysia was appended to this paper.

Continuing the focus on Southeast Asia, but this time from outside the region,
Ms. Helen Jarvis spoke on BISA (Bibliographic Information on Southeast Asia), a machine-readable data-base being developed at the University of Sydney. She described the problems of creating bibliographic records meeting international cataloguing standards while attempting to develop an effective current on-line information retrieval service. Useful by-products of the project have been revisions and expansions of Library of Congress Subject Headings for historical periods of countries of Southeast Asia and of LC geographic area codes.

Dr. Hwa-wei Lee of Ohio University dealt with the topic "International Information Exchange and Southeast Asia Collections: A View from the U.S." After tracing the development of these collections, he attempted some projections on possible changes in the future role of area collection librarians in international information exchange, highlighting the dramatic reduction in telecommunication costs in recent years and its implications for information transfer both to and from Southeast Asia in the future.

The rich collections on Vietnam in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris were described against the historical background of events which have influenced Vietnamese publishing and book collecting in a paper by Mme. Christiane Rageau, read and translated by Mme. J. Tey. Certain problems of cataloguing entry and bibliographic description were pointed out as still remaining obstacles to better exploitation of this material, which is unquestionably the most important collection of its kind outside Vietnam.

Turning to the East Asian area, a paper given by Mr. Hiroshi Tanabe of Hitotsubashi University, entitled "Japanese Publications and Language Barriers", provided some interesting statistics on the flow of information to and from Japan, comparing the wealth of publications and other information constantly reaching Japan from the West with the very poor flow in the opposite direction. In the field of librarianship, he contrasted the widespread knowledge and discussion of AACR 2 in Japan with the almost total ignorance of the new edition of "Nippon Cataloguing Rules" outside Japan, even though the latter have something to contribute to the philosophical debate on cataloguing principles. It was obvious that much more effort would be needed if the still formidable linguistic barriers were to be overcome.

"United States and Chinese Library Cooperation" was the topic discussed in a paper by Dr. William Sheh Wong of the University of Illinois. After reviewing current developments on the Chinese library scene and in Chinese collections in the United States, he made several proposals for the future with the aim of benefitting both sides, including exchanges of personnel, establishment of an acquisitions office in China by the Library of Congress, and the provision of on-line communication between libraries of the two countries.

The last series of papers were more broadly based and dealt with various aspects of Asian collections and services generally. Mrs. Patricia Polansky of the University of Hawaii provided a comprehensive picture of Soviet bibliography, publishing, and collecting on Asia in her paper "The Soviets in Asia," including some illuminating statistics showing comparative published output on the various regions of Asia. She surveyed the major Russian
bibliographies on Asia and also described the principal Asian collections in the Soviet Union. The evidence supports the view that Soviet publications on Asia, which are voluminous, are largely ignored by both Western and Asian scholars and little has been done to date by librarians and others to exploit them. Some useful tables and lists were appended to the paper.

Enid Bishop of the Australian National University presented a paper prepared jointly with her colleagues, George Miller and Y.S. Chan, entitled "Computer-based Information Services on Asia," describing a study aimed at assessing the relative value of U.S.-based on-line information retrieval services for study and research on Asia. A series of searches was carried out on the same topics for both China and Indonesia and the results compared. It was found that the range of subject/discipline oriented data-bases at present available is not particularly useful for Asian studies, the average relevant "hit" rates on the topics searched and on the criteria used being 23% and 27% respectively for China and Indonesia.

Dr. George Baumann of the University of Tuebingen recalled the 200-year history of Oriental studies in Germany and the tradition of seminar libraries, and then described the system of special subject and area collections which had been created more recently through the sponsorship of the German Research Association (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), comprising a form of inter-library cooperation and resource-sharing. The rich Asian collections and related services at Tuebingen were described, as well as some projections for future developments, including the possibility of computerized union catalogues and current awareness services.

Two papers dealt with library resources on Asia in Hong Kong: one by Dr. Kan Lai-bing on "Development of the Asian Collection at the Chinese University of Hong Kong" and a joint paper by Mr. H. Anthony Rydings and Mr. Peter Yeung of the University of Hong Kong on "Area Collections in Hong Kong and Availability of Information." Against the background of teaching and research on Asia at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Kan traced the development of the Asian collection building policies and activities of the University Library and indicated some of the problems arising from the dispersed nature of the library system. Among the solutions adopted for improved access to and awareness of Asian materials was the maintenance of a special catalogue for all Asian materials wherever located in the system.

The rapidly developing but relatively new Chinese University collection contrasted with the older University of Hong Kong Asian collections described in the paper by Rydings and Yeung. Endowments and donations of private collections have enriched the University's Asian holdings over many years, but the difficulties and challenges of maintaining and developing comprehensive Asian collections have been recognized and policies have been refined and modified in recent years in cooperation with other libraries in the area. An important responsibility which the Library has assumed, however, is for exhaustive collecting of Hong Kongiana, for which it has had the benefit of special funds for development.

Moving to resources in the United States as a focus of interest, Professor G.
Raymond Nunn presented a paper entitled "Retrieval of Unpublished Research Resources on Asia and the Pacific in the U.S. - A new Look." Professor Nunn drew attention to the general lack of control of unpublished sources on Asia held in various parts of the world and reported on a major project in which he has been involved, with UNESCO assistance, to produce the U.S. volumes on Asia-Oceania in the UNESCO series *Guide to the Sources of the History of Nations*. The project is an extensive one, since the United States is one of the world's principal repositories of manuscripts relating to Asia and Oceania. A new on-site study approach has been devised to identify and record under area the many collections of material not at present adequately covered in published guides. Details of a sample study on Philippines material illustrated the extent of such material and the need for such aids in making it accessible for research.

An assessment of the present state of Asian area collections in the United States and of their prospects in the 80's was given by Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, who spoke on "Orientalist Libraries in the U.S.: Emerging Issues in Information Exchange." He identified as the two key issues for Asian area librarians the development of national bibliographic controls and the rationalization of local collection development policies, with the objective of creating a national resource accessible to all scholars.

Dr. Tsuneishi reviewed the current state of bibliographic controls in traditional forms and weighed the prospects for future automated bibliographic systems for various Asian languages and types of materials. He concluded that for materials acquired during the past quarter-century, controls were adequate, but that for the earlier period they were not. He also questioned whether it would ever be economically feasible to automate bibliographic records in East Asian scripts in the United States.

The other main issue of rationalization of collection development is now being tackled realistically by the Research Libraries Group in conjunction with the development of automated networks, and it is expected that this will include Asian materials. Detailed collection-building policy guidelines for individual libraries will be available on-line throughout the network, and certain "national" libraries, such as the Library of Congress, will act as backstops to absorb responsibilities which other libraries may not be able to assume. The Center for Research Libraries will play a more active part in coordinating Asian acquisitions on a national scale. The picture is one of long-mooted cooperation steadily becoming a reality.

Dr. Yukihisa Suzuki followed this topic with a paper entitled "Interfacing: Unknown Users: Unknown Resources?" in which he drew attention to the low level of use of foreign language collections in American libraries, which can be attributed to the very small number of people skilled in foreign languages who are able to use the materials. He suggested that greater encouragement of Asian language studies was needed, as well as more and better instruction in the use of bibliographical tools and reference works if Asian collections are to be properly exploited and thus fulfill their intended purpose of increasing American understanding of Asia.
In the final session, Dr. Tsuneishi summarised and synthesized the papers and what he regarded as the issues emerging from them for Asian area collection libraries in the 80's. He saw these as falling under four headings: (1) inter-library cooperation, (2) awareness of publications and access to them, (3) language problems, and (4) national patrimony, by which was meant the problem of collecting or repatriating the records of a particular country which had, through the vicissitudes of history, been dispersed throughout the world.

Other issues which had not been addressed in the papers but which it was felt would be important for Orientalist librarians in the 1980's were the conservation of library materials and the acceptance of international standards in Asian cataloguing and bibliographic systems.

All sessions were well attended and interest was sustained throughout. A full social program, a visit to the University of the Philippines, and a comprehensive day tour to Los Baños and other places of interest in and around the Manila area completed an intensive and highly stimulating week for IAOL participants. While some doubt had been felt about the wisdom of prolonging the existence of the IAOL, the consensus was that there was still definitely a need for the organization which provided, inter alia, an international forum not otherwise available, where those interested in Asian area librarianship could report to and interact with each other every three or four years. The next IAOL meeting is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the IFLA General Conference to be held in Munich in 1983.

(Enid Bishop, Australian National University)

[Editor's note: In addition to the above detailed report on the IAOL Meeting, which Miss Bishop prepared for this issue of the CEAL Bulletin, she wishes to call attention to the following six papers dealing with East Asian library problems, which were presented at the 46th General Conference of IFLA, which was held in Manila, Philippines, August 18-23, 1980.]

Okubo, Itsuo
(Musashino Art Univ., Tokyo)
The problems of the documentation on history of art in Japan

Kishida, Minoru
(National Diet Library)
UAP: East-West

Lee, C.F.
(Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong)
ISBD and Chinese cataloguing and its application in Hong Kong libraries

Fung, Margaret C.
(Library Automation Research Group, Taipei)
State of the art of automation in Taipei

Tamura, Kiyoko
(National Diet Library)
Japan MARC: Its present state and future prospects

Takahashi, Tokutaro
(National Diet Library)
A proposal for a standardized common use character set in East Asian countries.
II. Conference on the Opening of Chinese Archives

A conference held in Peking from May 27 to June 6, 1980, was devoted to the problems of opening to the public the archives at and above the provincial level. This conference was the subject of an article in the Jen min jih pao on June 7. A fuller account was published in the FBIS-PRC Daily Report, June 9, pp. L6-L7, from which the following excerpts are drawn:

According to what was revealed at the conference, there are various kinds of archives on the history of our country. There are archives about the history of the Chinese Communist Party and the revolution, archives of the Republic of China, the Qing Dynasty and the Ming Dynasty. In a few areas there are also preserved a small amount of ancient and valuable archives about the Yuan Dynasty and other periods. These archives are very rich in content, dealing with politics, economics, military affairs, foreign affairs, culture, education, public health and other fields.

Recorded in the archives on the history of the Chinese Communist Party and the history of the revolution are the history of the CCP and the government, army, trade unions, Chinese Youth League, and women's federation under the party's leadership, as well as the efforts of the masses of the people in the protracted revolutionary struggle and in the economic and cultural reconstruction. In the archives on the history of the republic, there are large collections of records pertaining to the 1911 revolution and to the Nanjing Provisional Government and Guangzhou supreme headquarters under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, records on the northern warlords, and records on the Kuomintang party, government, army and secret service organs and enterprises and undertakings before Chiang Kai-shek's betrayal. The historical records preserved in the approximately 2,000 archives throughout the country are voluminous. The historical archives kept in the No 2 Historical Archives of China alone number more than 910,000 volumes. According to the calculations made by some people, if all the volumes kept in this archives were stacked in single row, it would measure 47 li long.

During the middle of March this year the State Bureau of Files, in accordance with the needs of the new period and demands from various areas, issued a circular to all localities entitled "Some Points of View of Making Public the Historical Archives." In the just concluded conference, responsible comrades of the State Bureau of Files and archives workers from various localities further discussed and studied the questions of scope and method under which archives are to be opened to the public. Their unanimous opinion is as follows: Except for the part not yet sorted out, all historical archives dated before 1949, in other words, all records about the old regimes before the collapse of the rule of the Kuomintang, will be open to people in the field of historical study and the departments concerned; except for a very small portion, archives on the history of the CCP and the history of the revolution will be open to the departments engaged in the study of the party's history.

All those who want to use the archives may go directly to the relevant archives and contact the people there for use of the records as long as they have in their possession a document from their offices which certifies their status.
and their purpose. With the approval and under the arrangement of the archives concerned, they may enter a place to read, copy from or make duplicates of the records they want. However, no records in the archives may be published without approval.

III. CALA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Holds First Conference

On Saturday, August 2, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Chinese-American Librarians Association (CALA) held its first conference at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Twenty participants attended the half-day program of lectures, a membership meeting, and a luncheon. The conference was chaired by Chang C. Lee, Head librarian, Behrend College, Pennsylvania State University.

The morning session offered a presentation on "Administering a Learning Resources Center at a Community College: Chinese-American Librarians Can Do It, Too" by Peter C. Ku, director of the Learning Resources Center, Howard Community College, and on "Regional Library Networking" delivered by Paul Chi-Chin Chao, director of the library, King's College.

The membership meeting included a discussion of bylaws to be enacted and election of the executive board. The luncheon speaker was Bertrand Mao, deputy director, Cultural Division, Coordination Council for North American Affairs. His topic was "Chinese Culture and Libraries in Taiwan."

CALA is a nonprofit/nonpolitical organization, whose objectives are "to promote and improve communication among Chinese-American librarians in the United States; to serve as a forum for the discussion of mutual interest among Chinese-American librarians; and, to support development and promotion of Chinese and American librarianship. Membership is open to all nationalities who have an interest in Chinese culture and American librarianship, and who reside or work within one of the Middle-Atlantic states.

(Daisy Tagge; From Library of Congress Information Bulletin, Sept. 12, 1980)

IV. Announcements

The Asian/Pacific Librarian's Association was formally organized on July 1, 1980, at the 99th Annual Conference of the American Library Association in New York City. A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted at that time. The officers of the Association for 1980-81, and information regarding membership are as follows:

President: Sharad Karkhanis, Professor, Library Department, Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, New York
Vice President: John Yung-hsiang Lai, Associate Librarian, Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Secretary: Yvonne Lee, Linn Benton Community College Library, Oregon
Treasurer: Conchita J. Pineda, Citibank Financial Library, New York City.
Membership fees are: Regular member $10; Student member $5; Institutional member $25. Those who wish to join the Association should send their payment of membership fee to Conchita J. Pineda, APALA Treasurer, Citibank Financial Library, 399 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks must be made payable to APALA.

(John Yung-hsiang Lai)

The International Workshop on Chinese Library Automation will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, ROC, February 14-19, 1981. The following Plenary Sessions are scheduled: The Impact of Library Automation on Chinese Cataloging Rules; The Chinese MARC Format and the MARC Database; Chinese Character Code for Information Interchange; Computers and the Chinese Language; and International Cooperation on Chinese Library Automation. There will be exhibitions of the Chinese MARC Format and of Computer printouts in Chinese. The Workshop correspondence addresses are:

International Workshop on Chinese Library Automation
c/o Library Association of China
43 Nan Hai Road, Taipei, Taiwan ROC 100
Tel: c/o Mr. C. W. Wang
28164 NSCHSIP
Taipei

Feb. 11-20, 1981
International Workshop on Chinese Library Automation
c/o National Taiwan Institute of Technology
43 Keelung Road, Sec.4, Taipei, Taiwan ROC
Tel: (02) 341-3140 ext.240

(Margaret C. Fung)